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The table gives you the details about 16 Mahajanapadas:

16 Mahajanapadas	Capital of 16 Mahajanapadas	Modern Location of 16 Mahajanapadas	Facts about 16 Mahajanapadas
Anga	Champa	Munger and Bhagalpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anga Mahajanapada finds reference in the Mahabharata and Atharva Veda During the rule of Bimbisara, it was taken over by Magadha Empire. It is situated in present-day Bihar and West Bengal.
Magadha	Girivraja Rajagriha	Gaya and Patna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magadha finds mention in the Atharva Veda which conveys that Magadha was semi-Brahmanical habitation. It was located in present-day Bihar close to Anga, divided by river Champa. Later, Magadha became a centre of Jainism and the first Buddhist Council was held in Rajagriha.
Kasi	Kasi	Banaras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was located in Varanasi. This city got its name from rivers Varuna and Asi as cited in the Matsya Purana.
Vatsa	Kausambi	Allahabad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vatsa is also known as Vamsa This Mahajanapada followed the monarchical form of governance. The capital is Kausambi. This was a central city for economic activities. There was a prosperous trade and business scenario in the 6th century BC. After the rise of Buddha, the ruler Udayana made Buddhism a state religion. Vatsa was located around the present-day Allahabad.
Kosala	Sravasti	Eastern Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was located in modern Awadh region of Uttar Pradesh. Its capital was Sravasti
Saurashtra	Mathura	Western Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This place was a centre of Krishna worship at the time of Megasthenes. Also, there was a dominant followership of Buddha here.



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Panchal a	Ahichchatra a and Kampliya	Western Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its capital for northern Panchala was Ahichchatra and Kampilaya for its southern regions. • It was situated in present-day western Uttar Pradesh. • Later the nature of governance shifted from monarchy to republic.
Kuru 	Indraprastha	Meerut and Southeastern Haryana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area around Kurukshetra was apparently the site for Kuru Mahajanapada. • It moved to a republic form of governance.
Matsya	Viratnagar	Jaipur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was situated to the west of the Panchalas and south of the Kurus. • The capital was at Viratanagar • It is situated around present-day Jaipur.
Chedi	Sothivati	Jaipur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was cited in the Rigveda • The capital was Sothivati. • It located in the present-day Bundelkhand region.
Avanti	Ujjaini or Mahismati	Malwa and Madhya Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avanti was significant in relation to the rise of Buddhism. • The capital of Avanti was located at Ujjaini or Mahismati. • It was situated around present-day Malwa and Madhya Pradesh.
Gandhara	Taxila	Rawalpindi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capital was at Taxila. • Gandhara is cited in the Atharva Veda • The people were highly trained in the art of war. • It was significant for international commercial activities.
Kamboja	Pooncha	Rajouri and Hajira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capital of Kamboj is Poonch. • It is situated in present-day Kashmir and Hindukush. • Several literary sources mention that Kamboja was a republic.
Ashmak a or Assaka	Pratisthan/ Paithan	Bank of Godavari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capital of this Mahajanapada was located at Pratisthan or Paithan. • It was located on the bank of Godavari.
Vajji	Vaishali	Bihar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the capital of Vajji was • The main races residing in this Mahajanapadas were Licchavis, Vedehans, Jnatikas and Vajjis. • Malla



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Malla	Kusinara	Deoria and Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It finds a reference in Buddhist and Jain texts and Mahabharata. • Malla was a republic • Their capital was Kusinara situated around present-day Deoria and Uttar Pradesh.
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Magadha – The Most Powerful Mahajanapada

Magadha faced competition from Avanti, Kosala, and Vatsa for supremacy, however, over the years (600–400 BC), Magadha gained sovereignty and became the **most powerful Mahajanapada**. To read in detail about the rise and growth of the Magadha Empire (<https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/ncert-notes-rise-and-growth-of-magadha-empire/>), candidates shall check the linked article.

What is the difference between Janapadas and Mahajanapadas?

‘Jana’ in both terms means people. These people denoted a tribe or an ethnic group or a tribal political organization. Indo-Aryans, as mentioned in the early Vedic texts, used to live in the semi-nomadic tribal states. This tribal-state organization called ‘Jana’ transformed into Janapadas towards the end of the Vedic period. Janapadas then meant, a foothold of a tribe. And when the Janapadas started growing, they transformed into Mahajanapadas.

To read the main differences between the Janapada and Mahajanapadas (<https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/difference-between-janapadas-and-mahajanapadas/>), you can refer to the linked article.

Features of Mahajanapadas

There are seven features or main constituents of a Mahajanapada and they are listed below:

1. The King
2. The Minister
3. The Country
4. Fortified City
5. Treasury
6. Army, and
7. Ally

16 Mahajanapadas – UPSC History Notes:-

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The mentioned details are relevant for UPSC 2023 (<https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/upsc-2023/>) and aspirants are advised to read them carefully.

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