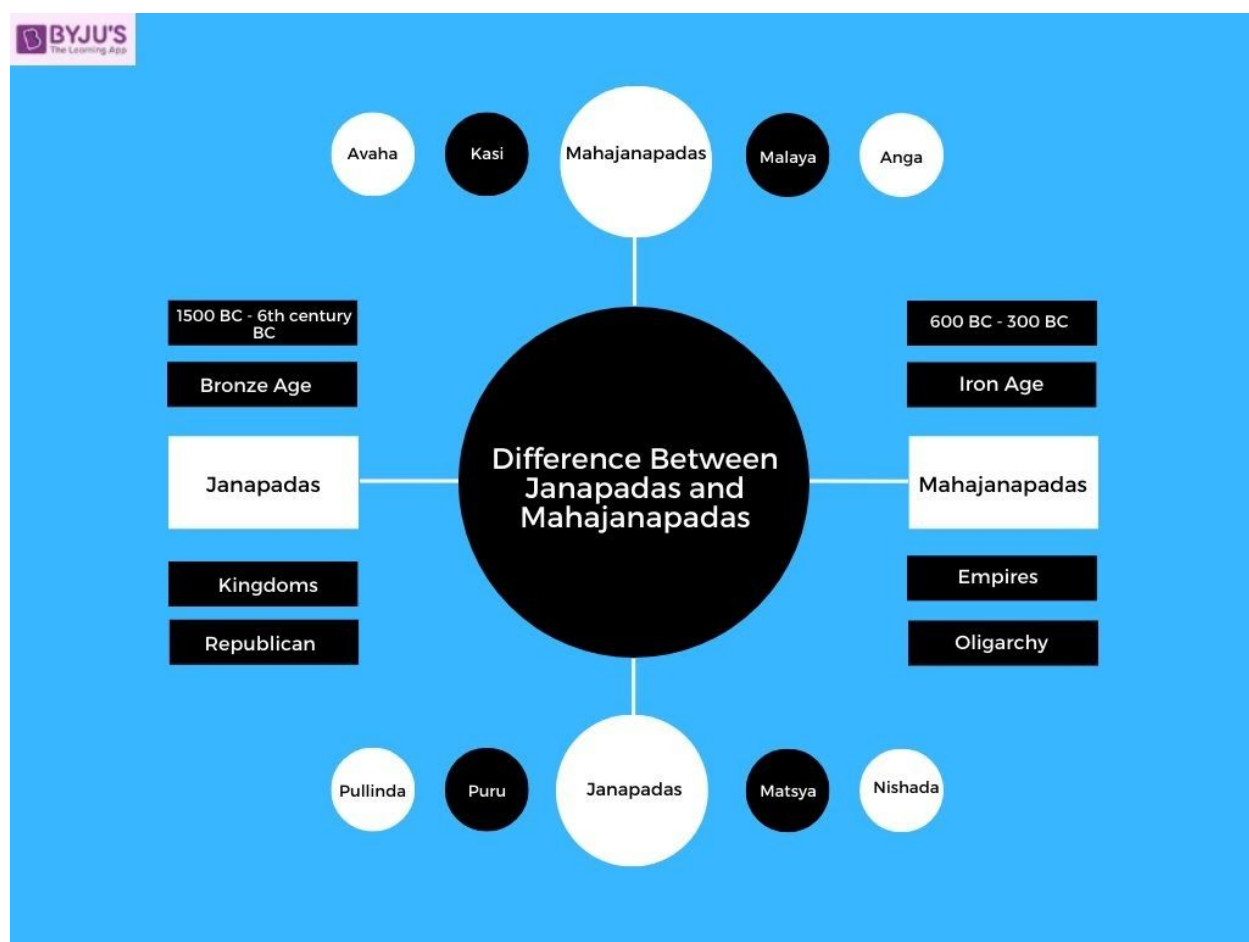


Difference Between Janapadas and Mahajanapadas

The Janapadas were small kingdoms of the Vedic Age period. With the development of iron in parts of Northern India, the Janapadas would become more powerful and evolve into the Mahajanapadas. The transition into Mahajanapadas marked a departure from semi-nomadic livelihood to a culture based on urbanization and permanent settlement.

This article will highlight the key differences between Janapadas and Mahajanapadas. The information gathered from this article will help candidates immensely in the IAS Exam.



The table below gives key differences between the Janapadas and Mahajanapadas in great detail

Differences Janapadas and Mahajanapadas	
Janapadas	Mahajanapadas

1500 BC to the 6th century BC	600 BC - 345 BC
The Sanskrit term " <i>Janapada</i> " compound term, made up of two words: <i>janas and pada</i> . <i>Jana</i> means "people" or "subject" The word <i>pada</i> means "foot"	Mahajapadas is a compound term consisting of <i>maha</i> meaning "great", and <i>janapada</i> meaning "foothold of a people"
The Janapada was the highest political unit in Ancient India during this period. They were usually monarchical in nature though some followed a republican form of government	The Mahajanapads still retained their monarchical nature while some of the republics came under the control of powerful oligarchs
The transition from the Bronze age (3000 BC - 1000 BC) to the Iron Age (1500–200 BC) happened during the time of the Janapadas	The era of the Mahajanapadas saw the emergence of India's first large cities after the demise of the Indus Valley Civilization, as well as the rise of Buddhism and Jainism which challenged the religious orthodoxy of the Vedic Period.
<p>As per Vedic literature, some of the following Janapadas were mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alina • Anu • Gandhari • Kalinga • Matsya 	<p>As per Buddhist and Jain sources, the following are some of the Mahajapadas are mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chedi • Gandhara • Kosala • Magadha