

## NCERT - CLASS 6 - CHAPTER 5: KINGDOMS, KINGS AND AN EARLY REPUBLIC

### Choosing Rulers

- Ashvamedha - Horse sacrifice → horse set loose - Guarded by raja's men
- Horse wanders in to next raja's kingdom
- If next raja allowed it → he accepts superiority of this raja → rajas invited to horse sacrifice → priest perform yajna - rewarded → gifts for the king
- If next raja men stopped it → they have to fight

### The Ritual event

- Raja - central figure
- Special seat, throne or tiger skin
- His charioteer - companion - praise glory
- His relatives - minor rituals
- Other rajas - spectators
- Priest - sacred water on king
- Ordinary people - wish/vaishya - gifts
- Priests excluded shudras

### Varna

- Later Vedic books - Samaveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda, etc...
- Composed by priests - about rituals - rules about society

### Groups -

#### Rich:

- Priests
- Warriors
- Farmers
- Traders

#### Poor:

- Herders
- Craftsperson
- Labourers
- Fishing folk
- Hunter gatherers

- Priests divided people into four groups - Varnas
- Different set of functions

### Brahmins

- Study/teach Vedas
- Perform rituals
- Receive gifts

**Kshatriyas:**

- Fight battles
- Protect people

**Vaishyas:**

- Farming
- Trading
- Herding

\* Kshatriyas and Vaishyas can perform sacrifice

**Shudras:**

- Serve other groups
- Not perform rituals

\* Shudras and Women not to study Vedas

**Untouchables**

- Craft persons, hunter-gatherers
- People → burials/cremations
- Priest said “contact → polluting”

**North-east and South India**

- Did not accept Varnas
- Kings superior to priest
- Birth not basis for Varnas
- No difference by occupation
- Everybody perform ritual
- Condemn untouchability
- Not much social/economic difference
- No influence of priests

**Janapadas**

Raja-Sacrifice-Jana-Janapadas → jana set foot & settle

Excavate -

- Purana Qila, Delhi
- Hastinapur, Meerut
- Atranjikera, Etah
- Huts, cattle
- Rice, wheat, barley, pulses, sugarcane, sesame, mustard
- Earthen pots - grey, red
- Special pottery

**Painted Grey**

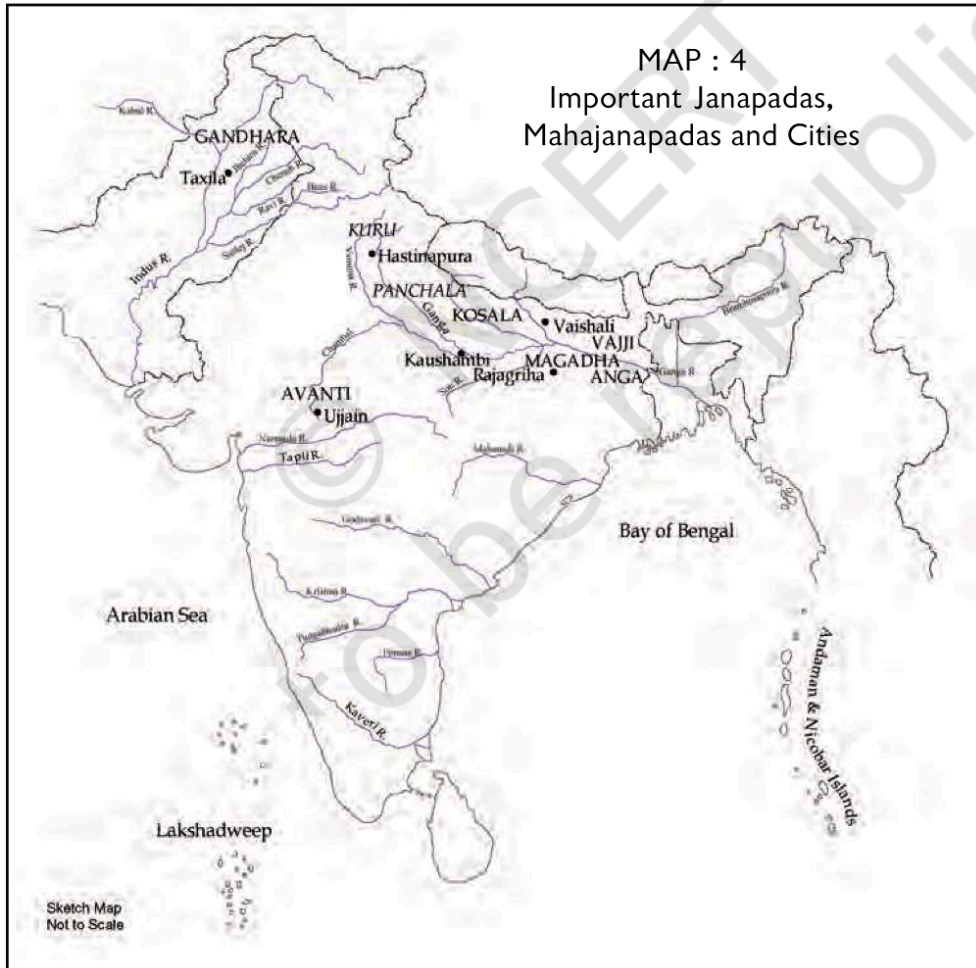
- Lines, geometric pattern
- Plates, bowls
- Special occasion



## Mahajanapadas

Some janapadas → Mahajanapadas

- Capital city
- Fortified → attacks - powerful - control → planning, labour, resources
- Kaushambi, U.P - 2500 years ago
- Maintain armies - soldier's salary - punched mark coins



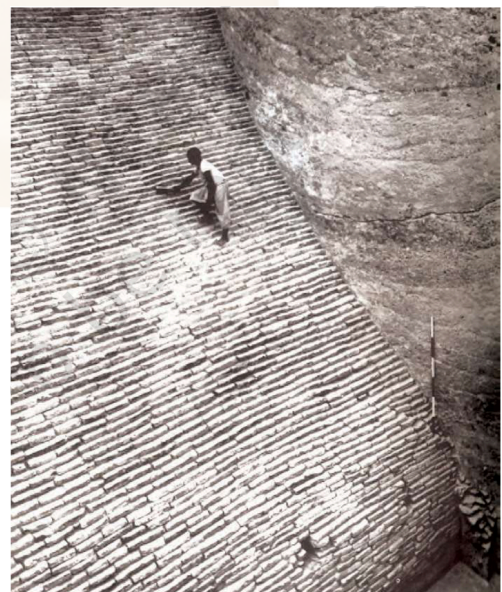
## Taxes

Building forts, maintain army → money needed - officials

Janapadas gifts were not enough

Hence collected tax

- Tax on crops - farmers - 1/6th produce → bhaga/share
- tax on craftsperson - labor to king
- Tax on herders - animal/animal produce
- Tax on traders - their goods
- Tax on hunter-gatherers - forest produce



### **Changes in agriculture**

- Use of iron plough share
- Heavy soil - turned over better
- More grain
  - Transplanting paddy
  - No scattering - sapling
  - Increased production
- Heavy work
- Slave men/women - Dasa/dasi
- Landless agricultural workers - Kammakaras

### **Magadha**

Powerful in 200 years

River Ganga, Son:

- Transport
- Water supply
- Fertile land

Forest land

- Elephants trained into army
- Wood for house, cart, chariots
- Iron ore - tools & weapons

### **Two powerful rulers**

- Bimbisara
- Ajatasattu

Mahapadma Nanda

- Upto North-west of Indian subcontinent
- Rajagriha, Bihar - capital for several years then → Pataliputra - Patna

### **Alexander**

- 2300 years ago
- King of Macedonia
- Conquer entire world
- But only Egypt, West Asia
- Reached India, River Beas
- Soldiers scared of Indian rulers
- Foot soldiers, chariots, elephants

### **Vajji**

Capital

- Vaishali, Bihar
- Different form of government

Gana - group with many members

Sangha - organisation/association

**Even if many rulers**

- Each are raja
- Rituals together
- Meet in assembly, discuss
- No women, dosas, kammakaras
- Buddha, Mahavira
- Descriptions in Buddhist books

Rajas → Sanghas - lasted till Guptas - 1500 years ago

