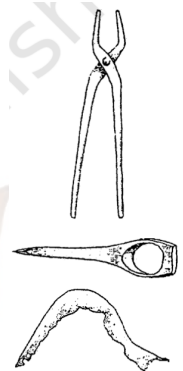


## NCERT - CLASS 6 - CHAPTER 8: VITAL VILLAGES, THRIVING TOWNS

### Iron:

- Usage began 3000 years ago
- Largest iron collections found in megalithic burials
- 2500 years - evidence for use of iron tools
  - axe → clearing forest
  - plough share → agriculture
  - sickle
  - tongs



### Irrigation:

Kings and Kingdoms flourish due to villages

New tools and system of transplantation increased production

Irrigations work built → canals, wells, tanks and artificial lakes

### Stages in construction of irrigation works:

1. Kings need money for armies, palaces, and forts.
2. They demand taxes from farmers.
3. Farmers have to increase production to pay taxes.
4. This is possible with irrigation.
5. Kings provide money and plan irrigation works.
6. Labour is provided by the people.
7. Production increases.
8. So does revenue.
9. Farmers also benefit because crop production is more certain.

### Who lived in Villages?

#### Tamil region:

- Vellalar → large land owners
- Uzhavar → ordinary ploughmen
- Kadaiyyar & Adimai → landless labourers - slaves

#### North India:

- Gram Bhojaka → village headman → hereditary
  - largest land owner
  - had slaves, and workers to cultivate
  - powerful - collected tax for king
  - judge - policeman
- Grihapatis → Independent farmers, small land owners
- Dasa Karmakara → no land, works on other's fields

**Most villages in India** → Craft persons

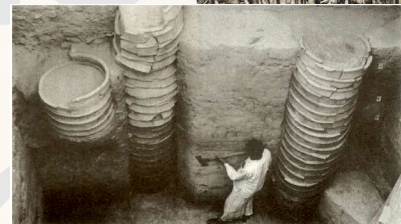
- Blacksmith
- Potter
- Carpenter
- Weaver

**Earliest Tamil composition:**

- 2300 years ago → Sangam literature → earliest Tamil work
- Sangam → composed/compiled in assemblies of poets → Madurai

**Finding about cities:**

- Jataka Tales - composed by ordinary people
    - written down, preserved by Buddhist monks
  - Other evidence → Sculptors - Scenes → people's lives in towns, villages, forest
    - Sculptures → decorate railings, pillars, gateways
  - Many cities → Capitals of Mahajanapadas
    - Surrounded by fortification walls
    - Ringwells
      - rows of pots or ceramic rings
      - may have been used as toilets,
- drains, garbage dumps
- usually found in individual houses
- Remains of palaces, markets, homes of ordinary people hardly found
    - yet to be discovered by archaeologists
    - may not have survived → if made of wood, mud brick and thatch
  - Accounts of sailors and travellers
  - Unknown Greek Sailor → described all ports he visited
- Story of Barygaza:
- Barygaza is Greek name for Bharuch
  - narrow gulf, hard to navigate via sea → Ships steered by skilful, experienced local fishermen employed by king
  - Imports into Barygaza → Wine, copper, tin, lead, coral, topaz, cloth, gold, silver coins
  - Exports from Barygaza → plants from Himalayas, ivory, agate, carnelian, cotton, silk, perfumes
  - Special gifts by merchants for king → silver vessels, singing boys, beautiful women, fine wines, fine cloth



**Coins:**

- Wealth measured in terms of coins
- Archaeologists found thousands of coins
- Punch marked coins



- rectangular, square or round in shape
- either cut from metals sheets or made from metal globules (balls)
- not inscribed but stamped with symbols → using dies or punches
- found in most parts of Indian sub-continent
- used for 500 years till early centuries of CE.

### **Mathura:**

- Important settlement for 2500 years
- Located at crossroads of two major trade routes → North-West to East & North to South
- Fortifications → around the city, several shrines
- Farmers, herders → provided food for the city
- Centre for fine sculpture
- 2000 years ago → became the Capital city of Kushanas
- Religious Centre
  - Worship of Krishna
  - Buddhist monasteries
  - Jaina shrines
- Inscriptions on stone slabs, statues
  - gifts → monasteries, shrines
  - made by → kings, queens, officers, merchants, craft persons → goldsmiths, blacksmiths, weavers, basket makers, garland makers, perfumers

### **Crafts & Craft persons:**

#### **Northern Black Polished Ware:**

- found in the northern part of the subcontinent
- hard, wheel-made, metallic look with a shiny black surface
- exposed to high temperature for blackening of the surface
- fine black slip applied → for a mirror-like shine

#### **Cloth manufacturing:**

- Famous centres → Varanasi in north  
Madurai in south
- both men and women worked here

### **Shreni:**

- Associations of crafts persons & merchants
- Shrenis of crafts persons:
  - provided training
  - procured raw material
  - distributed finished product
- Shrenis of merchants: organised trade
- As banks:
  - rich men and women deposited money
  - the money → invested
  - part of invested money → returned or used → for religious institutions



### Rules for spinning and weaving:

- From Arthashastra
- Spinning, weaving - workshops - supervision → Special official
- Widows, differently abled young women, nuns, courtesans' mothers, retired women servants of the king, temple service retired women → for processing wool, bark, cotton, hemp and flax
- Paid according to quality & quantity of work
- Women who are not permitted to leave home send maid servants
  - to bring raw material from the superintendent
  - to take the finished product back
- Women who can visit workshop
  - go at dawn
  - work, receive salary
  - enough light to work
  - if the superintendent misbehaves → punished
  - if work is not complete → fine/thumbs cut off

### Arikamedu:

- In Puducherry
- Coastal settlement between 2200-1900 years ago
- Ships unloaded goods from distant lands
- Massive brick structure - probably a warehouse
- Pottery from the Mediterranean region:
  - Amphorae → tall double-handled jars → contained wine or oil
  - Arretine Ware → stamped red-glazed pottery - named after an Italian city → made by pressing wet clay into a stamped mould
- Roman pottery → made locally using Roman designs
- Roman lamps, glassware, gems found
- Small tanks → probably dyeing vats
- Beads → semi-precious stones, glass
- Inscriptions on pottery → Brahmi - used to write Tamil

