

Chapter 4: New Beginning: Cities and States

A. Tick the correct option.

1. (b) Iron metallurgy
2. (b) Great janapada
3. (c) Hereditary succession
4. (b) North to south across Vindhya Range
5. (b) They had standardised symbols for trade

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. varna
2. silver
3. Vajji
4. 1900
5. Vaishali

C. Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Archaeological evidence and religious texts (Buddhist and Jain literature) are the main sources
2. Ganga and Yamuna rivers influenced early settlements
3. Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas rose to prominence around 400 BCE.
4. Jāti panchayats settled internal disputes and regulated social and occupational rules within each Jati group.

D. Short Answer Type Questions

Ans. 1.

- a) During the period of the Second Urbanisation, the use of iron tools like ploughs and axes made it easier to clear dense forests and cultivate new land.

b) This helped increase the area under farming which improved agricultural productivity and led to surplus food production, supporting population growth and the rise of cities.

Ans. 2.

- a) Buddhist and Jain texts mention the names, capitals, rulers and political structures of several mahajanapadas.
- b) They describe monarchies and republics, trade routes, fortifications and taxation systems.

Ans. 3.

- a) During the Mahajanapada period, assemblies like Sabha (council of elders) and Samiti (general assembly of people) played a key role in decision-making and governance of republican states.
- b) They helped limit the power of rulers by discussing policies, approving major decisions, and sometimes even selecting leaders, thus promoting a more democratic system.

Ans. 4.

- a) Vaishali was one of the earliest republics in ancient India, where governance was not controlled by a single king but by elected representatives, showing an early form of democracy.
- b) It was the capital of the Vajji Confederacy, where assemblies and councils made important decisions collectively, promoting participation of people in governance.

Ans. 5.

- a) In the early Vedic period, the Varna system was flexible and based on a person's work (karma) and qualities. For example, a person could change their occupation like a warrior becoming a sage, as seen in stories of Vishvamitra.
- b) In later times, the system became rigid and birth-based, where a person's varna was fixed from birth. For example, a person born in a Shudra family could not move to another varna, and strict social rules limited interaction between groups.

E. Long Answer Type Questions

Ans. 1. Factors leading from janapadas to mahajanapadas

- a) **Political Changes:** During the Later Vedic period, small tribal states (janapadas) began to unite or conquer each other, forming larger and stronger kingdoms called Mahajanapadas.
- b) **Economic Growth:** Increased agricultural production created surplus food, which supported population growth, trade, and urban development. This economic strength made it possible for janapadas to expand into larger states.
- c) **Use of Iron Technology:** The use of iron tools improved farming and clearing of forests, leading to more land under cultivation. This supported larger populations and stronger economies.
- d) **Development of Trade and Cities:** Growth of trade routes and emergence of towns led to wealth accumulation. This economic prosperity strengthened certain janapadas, allowing them to develop into Mahajanapadas.
- e) **Military Strength and Organization:** Better weapons (especially iron weapons) and organized armies helped some janapadas conquer neighbouring regions, leading to the formation of larger political units called Mahajanapadas.

Ans. 2.

(a) Head of State

- **Monarchical:** Power was in the hands of a **king (raja)**, usually hereditary (passed from father to son).
- **Republican:** No single ruler; power was shared by a group of people or clans.
- *Example:* Magadha had kings like Bimbisara, while Vajji had no single king.

(b) Decision-making

- **Monarchy:** King made major decisions, sometimes with advice from ministers.

- **Republic:** Decisions were taken collectively in assemblies like Sabha and Samiti.
- *Example:* In Kosala, the king decided policies, while in Vaishali, decisions were made through discussions.

(d) Stability and Control

- **Monarchy:** More stable and centralized, as power was with one ruler.
- **Republic:** Less centralized and sometimes slower decisions due to discussions.
- *Example:* Magadha became powerful due to strong kings, while republics like Malla were less centralized.

Ans. 3. The First Urbanization, represented by the Harappan Civilization, differed significantly from the Second Urbanization that emerged along the Ganga Valley.

Technology

- **First:** During first urbanisation people used bronze tools, advanced drainage systems, and had well-planned cities.
- **Second:** Introduction of iron technology during second urbanisation improved agriculture through better ploughing, clearing forests.

Governance

- **First:** There is no clear evidence of kings during first urbanisation, possibly a centralised but unclear authority.
- **Second:** Second urbanisation had clear political systems i.e. monarchies like Magadha and republics like Vajji developed.

Urban Organisation

- **First:** Highly planned cities like Mohenjo-daro with grid patterns and drainage.
- **Second:** Cities were less uniformly planned but became centres of trade, politics, and religion.

4. Trade routes like the Uttarapatha and Dakshinapatha played an important role in promoting cultural and economic integration in ancient India.

- a) These routes connected different regions, allowing traders to move goods such as metals, textiles, grains and spices across long distances.
- b) As trade increased, cities and towns along these routes grew in importance and became centers of economic activity.
- c) The movement of traders, monks and travelers also helped spread new ideas, religious beliefs and cultural practices, bringing different parts of the subcontinent closer together.
- d) Thus, these major trade routes not only strengthened the economy but also helped unify ancient India culturally by encouraging interaction between diverse communities.

5. Evolution of social stratification in ancient India:

- a) In early Vedic society, the varna system divided people into four groups i.e. Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras. It was based on work (karma) and qualities, not birth, so people could change their roles.
- b) Over time the varna system became hereditary and more rigid. Social mobility reduced, and strict rules about duties and behaviour were formed.
- c) As society became more complex, many jatis (sub-castes) developed based on occupation, region, and community. Each jati had its own customs and rules, making the system more detailed.
- d) Religious texts like the Manusmriti supported and justified the caste hierarchy, giving higher status to upper varnas and limiting lower groups.
- e) During the time of Mahajanpadas (e.g., Magadha), agriculture, trade, and urbanisation increased. This led to new occupations, which further expanded the jati system.