

# CHP -4 NEW BEGINNINGS CITIES AND STATES

## ANSWER KEY

### GEAR UP

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1. Name: Harappa  
Feature: Well-planned city with streets laid out in a grid, advanced drainage and sewer system.
2. Name: Mohenjo-daro  
Feature: Great Bath, residential buildings, and organised urban planning.
3. Name: Dholavira  
Feature: Large water reservoirs, sophisticated city planning, and fortified structures.

### PROGRESS

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1. monarchies
2. hereditary
3. sabha
4. voting
5. trading guilds

### PROGRESS

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1. (✗)
2. (✓)
3. (✗)
4. (✓)

### LET US PRACTISE

PAGES 67–68

- A. 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. 1. varn a      2. silver      3. Vajji      4. 1900      5. Vaiśha ĩ
- C. 1. Archaeological evidence and religious texts (Buddhist and Jain literature) are the main sources.  
2. Ganga and Yamuna rivers influenced early settlements.  
3. Cholas, Che ĩ ras and Pa ĩ n, d, yas rose to prominence around 400 BCE.  
4. Ja ĩ ti panchayats settled internal disputes and regulated social and occupational rules within each Ja ĩ ti group.
- D. 1. Iron tools such as ploughs, axes and sickles helped clear dense forests and prepare hard soil. This increased agricultural production and supported population growth, leading to the rise of cities and maha ĩ janapadas.  
2. Buddhist and Jain texts mention the names, capitals, rulers and political structures of several maha ĩ janapadas. They describe monarchies and republics, trade routes, fortifications and taxation systems.  
3. Assemblies like the sabha ĩ and samit ĩ made decisions collectively. They discussed policies, chose leaders, passed laws and ensured participation of clan members—showing early democratic principles.  
4. Vaiśha ĩ ĩ was the centre of the Vajji republic, considered the world’s earliest republic. It had elected leaders, councils and assemblies that practised collective decision-making.

5. Originally, varn, a was based on occupation and qualities, so movement between varn, as was possible. Later, it became rigid and birth-based, limiting social mobility. For example, people born into a varn, a could not change their occupation.

**E. 1. Factors leading from janapadas to maha-janapadas**

- Political changes: Stronger rulers, standing armies and fortified capitals.
- Economic changes: Agricultural surplus, taxes and growth of trade routes.
- Technological changes: Iron tools increased farming and population.

Together, these factors expanded small territories into larger, powerful maha-janapadas.

- 2. Monarchical and republican systems in the maha-janapadas differed greatly in their structure and functioning.** Monarchies were ruled by kings who held centralised power, and authority usually passed down through hereditary succession, making governance highly controlled by a single ruler. Magadha is a well-known example of such a monarchy. In contrast, republican states were governed by councils and assemblies in which decisions were made collectively. Leaders were elected rather than born into power, allowing wider participation in governance. The Vajji confederation is the best example of a republican system. Thus, while monarchies were more centralised and hierarchical, republics reflected early democratic practices with shared decision-making.
  - 3. The First Urbanisation, represented by the Harappan Civilisation, differed significantly from the Second Urbanisation that emerged along the Ganga Valley.** Technologically, the Harappans relied on bronze tools, while the Second Urbanisation advanced rapidly due to the use of iron, which made agriculture more efficient. In terms of governance, Harappan cities showed remarkable uniformity and town planning but left little evidence of kings or political structures, whereas the Second Urbanisation saw the rise of powerful kingdoms and republican states such as the Vajji. Socially, the Harappans were largely urban and organised around city-based life, while society during the Second Urbanisation became more complex with the development of the varn, a system and numerous ja-ti groups that shaped people's occupations and social roles.
  - 4. Trade routes like the Uttarapatha and Dakshinapatha played an important role in promoting cultural and economic integration in ancient India.** These routes connected different regions, allowing traders to move goods such as metals, textiles, grains and spices across long distances. As trade increased, cities and towns along these routes grew in importance and became centres of economic activity. The movement of traders, monks and travellers also helped spread new ideas, religious beliefs and cultural practices, bringing different parts of the subcontinent closer together. Thus, these major trade routes not only strengthened the economy but also helped unify ancient India culturally by encouraging interaction between diverse communities.
  - 5. In ancient India, social stratification developed through the varna system, which classified society into four broad groups based on occupation, and the jati system, which organised local occupational communities.** Initially, both systems were flexible, allowing some social mobility. Over time, they became rigid, restricting movement between groups and creating social inequalities, though early texts and edicts encouraged respect for all communities.
- F. 1. Conditions necessary for Vajji strength** Regular assemblies, respect for elders, honouring traditions, protection of women, maintenance of shrines and ensuring safety for worthy people.
- 2. It shows collective decision-making, respect for elders, rule-based governance and shared responsibility—key features of a republic.**
  - 3. Social unity, respect for rules and protection of people create stability and prevent**

conflict, making a state strong and unconquerable.

1. (a) Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A.
2. (d) (A) is false but (R) is true.

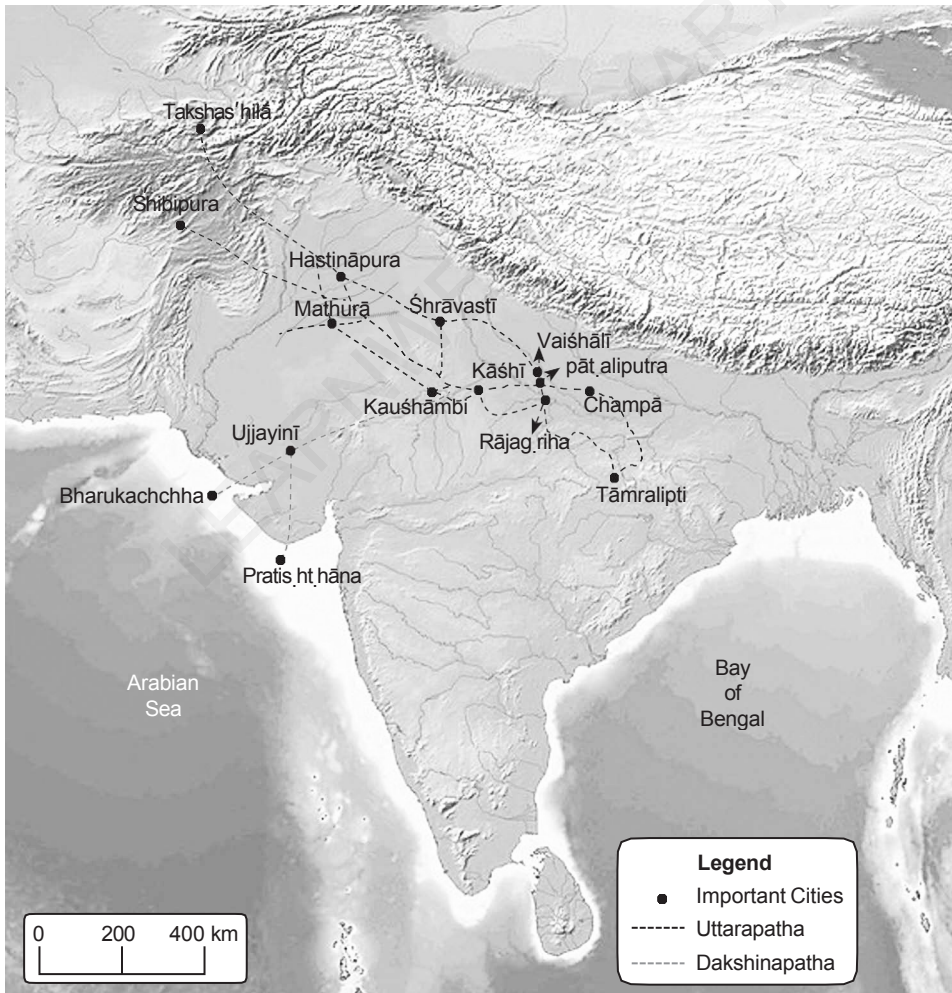
PICTURE-BASED QUESTIONS

1. The image depicts a punch-marked coin.
2. It is significant as one of the earliest forms of currency, showing the rise of a monetary economy.

MAP SKILLS

On the map of ancient India, the Uttarapatha connected north-western India with the eastern Gangetic plains, while the Dakshin āpatha started from Kauśhāmbi, crossed the Vindhya Range and linked northern India with South India.

The Dakshin āpatha was significant for South India as it promoted trade, led to the growth of cities and ports like Madurai and Kāverīpattinam, encouraged cultural exchange, and increased the economic and political importance of southern regions.



The Varn, a and Ja ti systems initially aimed to organise society by occupation and duties, which could promote social harmony by providing clear roles and responsibilities. For example, Brahmins handled religious duties, Kshatriyas protected society, Vaishyas engaged in trade, and Shudras did service work. However, over time, these systems became rigid and hereditary,

limiting social mobility and enforcing strict rules about marriage and occupation. This led to division and inequality, as seen in later periods when lower castes faced discrimination and restrictions. So, while the systems had a practical purpose at first, they eventually promoted social division rather than harmony.

I would invest in roads and irrigation systems. Roads improve trade and connectivity, while irrigation boosts agriculture. In the short-term, people get food and easier travel; in the long-term, these projects ensure economic growth, food security, and a prosperous society.

*(Answer may vary)*