

PRE MAURYAN AGE

500-300 BC



RISE OF URBAN ASPECTS

- Ganga Valley urbanized bringing near about 60 urban centers into prominence
- Clearing of forest increased for agriculture
- **Rajkula** & **Gahapati** names for prosperous landholder who cleared forests who were later also called **Sethi**
- **Dasa** (Slave) & **Karmakar** (work for money)
- Land was measured as **Karisa**, **Nivartan** & **Kulyavapa**
- Ploughs increased and were called **Praviradant**, **Pravira**, **Langala** and **Sir**
- Buddhist text called plough as **Ayovikar Kusi**
- Irrigation began with use of minor dams (also mentioned in Ramayan)
- Rice was further developed into two varieties
 1. **Vrihi** (Normal low yield rice)
 2. **Sali** (Specialty of Magadha)

GUILDS

- Guilds started to emerge that protected the interests of their artisans and craftsmen
- The guilds were called **Sreni**
- The president of these guilds were called **Pramukh, Pammukh, Jyesth, Jetthaka & Pravara.**
- **Srenidharma** were rules governing the sreni
- **Srenibala** were armed guards of the sreni to protect traders on long distance trade
- **Sreninyayalaya** were courts of these guilds to rest disputes

TRADE

- **Sartha** were caravan traders whose heads were called **Sarthavaha**.
- Famous sarthavahas are Anathapindak (Sravasti), Yash (Kashi) & Mendak (Rajagraha)
- Caravan Guides were called **Niyamka**
 1. **Thal Niyamk** – Land Guide
 2. **Jal Niyamk** - Water Guide
- **Dishakak** were birds used by niyamkas for getting directions

ECONOMY

- State demanded **Bali**, **Bhag**, and **Shulka** by force
- The ideal Bhag allowed by brahmanical text was 1/6 or 1/12
 1. **Sad Bhag** – who collected 1/6 or 1/12
 2. **Asad Bhag** – who collected more than allowed (Magadha)
- **Purana** always mention Magadha rulers as **Asadbhagi** and deterred people from traveling or conducting trade with them
- Brahmins like **Budhyayin** didn't like urban life and called urban center as **Apavan Bhumi**
- Due to high level production and long distance trade a need for coins began to emerge
- **Punched Marked coins** thus began to emerge in urban centers
- Coins were called **Niskha**, **Shatman**, **Krisnala** and **Karshapana**
- **Karshpana** was standard silver punched coin
- Sreni started providing **Hundi** for trade



IMPORTANT CENTERS

- Rajgriha
 - 2nd capital of Magadha
 - **Jivak** was a great Physician from here, **Bimbisar** sent him to cure **Chandapradhyot** (Ujjain)
 - **Salavati** was a great Courtesan (**Gadnika**) from here
 - **Bimbisar** donated **Velucan Vihar** to Buddhist order
- Champa
 - Capital of Anga
 - Kashi was a famous town of the mahajanpada
 - **Yasha** was a famous Seth from here
 - Sarnath was situated near Kashi, another trading city

- Sravasthi
 - Kosala was its capital
 - Anathapindak was its prominent Sethi
 - Anathapindak donated Jetvanavihar to the Buddhist order
 - Vishaka daughter of a prominent sethi donated Puvaramvihar
 - Angulimar lived in the forests of Sravasthi during king Prasanjit's time
- Vaishali
 - Capital of Licchavi and Vajji Confederacy
 - Famous Gadhika Amrapali was from here
 - Amrapali donated Mahavanvihar

- Kaushambi
 - Capital of Vatsa republic
 - **Udayan** was its ruler and converted to Buddhism, later donated **Ghositramvihar**
- Mathura
 - Capital of Sursen janapada
 - **Andhak-Vrishni** confederacy ruled over it
 - Lord Krishna belonged to this confederacy
 - Panini mentions Mathura as a **Ganasangha**
- Ujjain
 - Capital of Avanti janapada
 - **Chandapradhyot** was its powerful ruler
 - He too later converted to Buddhism