



# Introduction

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**CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS  
AND TOWNS : Early States and  
Economics**

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Introduction

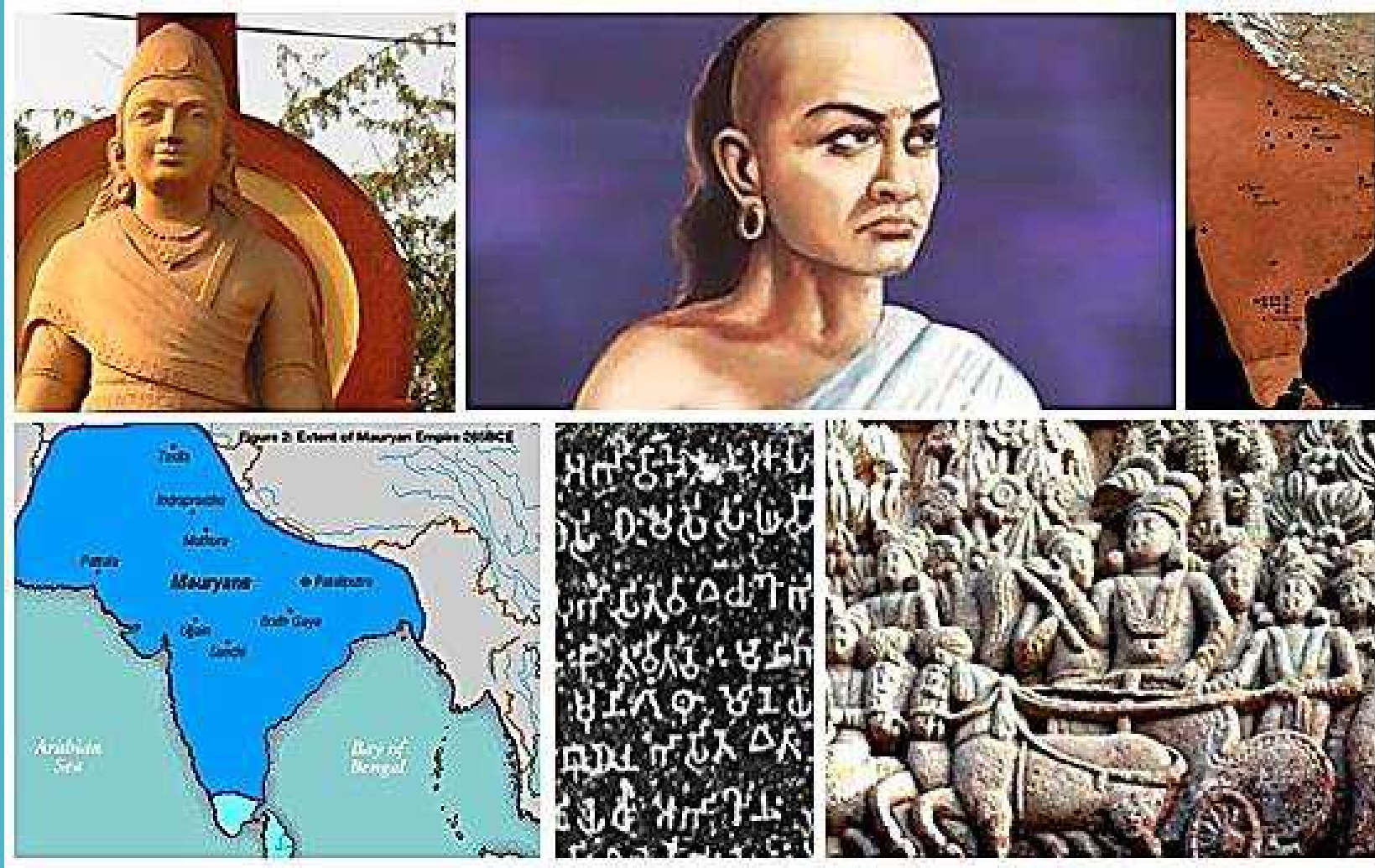
In this chapter we will discuss several developments that were established in different parts of the subcontinent during the long span of 1,500 years following the end of the Harappan civilization. This was also the period during which the Rigveda was composed by people living along the Indus and its tributaries,.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Introduction

Agricultural settlements emerged in many parts of the subcontinent, including north India, the Deccan Plateau, and parts of Karnataka. Besides, there is evidence of pastoral populations in the Deccan and further south.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS



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## Political And Economic History-How Inscriptions Tell a Story:

After the fall of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), the Indian subcontinent underwent several significant changes.

The Vedas (Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Vedas) and other religious and literary works are an invaluable source for learning the history of that period.



# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Political And Economic History-How Inscriptions Tell a Story:

During the 1st century BC, many changes took place in central and southern India regarding the burial of the dead. During this period, bodies were buried in tombs and around these tombs were large boulders called megaliths.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Political And Economic History-How Inscriptions Tell a Story:

In the 6th century BCE sixteen large kingdoms known as the Mahajanapadas came into existence.

Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa and Avant are the most powerful of these sixteen Mahajanapadas,

In the 5th century BCE, powerful Mahajanapadas became powerful kingdoms. Magadha is a very powerful Mahajanapadas. There are many reasons for this.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Political And Economic History-How Inscriptions Tell a Story:

Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of the Mauryan Empire. He defeated Mahajanapadas, the last ruler of the Nanda dynasty and established the Mauryan Empire.

The economics of Megasthenes Indica and Kautilya provided valuable information about the Mauryan Empire, After the death of Chandragupta Maurya's son, Bindusara became the next ruler from 298 to 272 BCE.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Political And Economic History-How Inscriptions Tell a Story:

After Bindusara, Ashoka ascended the throne in 272 and ruled until 231 BCE,

After the Battle of Kalinga, Ashoka abandoned the policy of war and expansion.

The inscriptions of Ashoka are the most relevant source for learning about the Mauryan period. These inscriptions are written in Brahmi (Prakrit) script.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Political And Economic History-How Inscriptions Tell a Story:

After the decline of the Gupta dynasty, many new dynasties came and ruled over many parts of India. Some dynasties were Satavahanas, Shakas, Pandyas, Cholas, Cheras and Kushans.

The emergence of the Guptas ushered in a new era in ancient Indian history.

Sri Gupta was the founder of the Gupta dynasty, He founded this dynasty in 275 CE and ruled until 300, After his death his son Ghatotkacha ruled from 300 CE to 320 CE.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Political And Economic History-How Inscriptions Tell a Story:

Ghatotkacha successor I Chandragupta ascended the throne in 320 and received the title of Maharaja, He ruled until 335 AD, Samudra Gupta was one of the great rulers of India and the son of Chandragupta. He ruled from 335 to 375 AD. After his death Chandragupta-II ruled till 415.

The Gupta ruler established a magnificent empire with his tireless efforts. His reign is known as the Golden Age in Indian history. This vast empire began to disintegrate in the late 5th century AD.

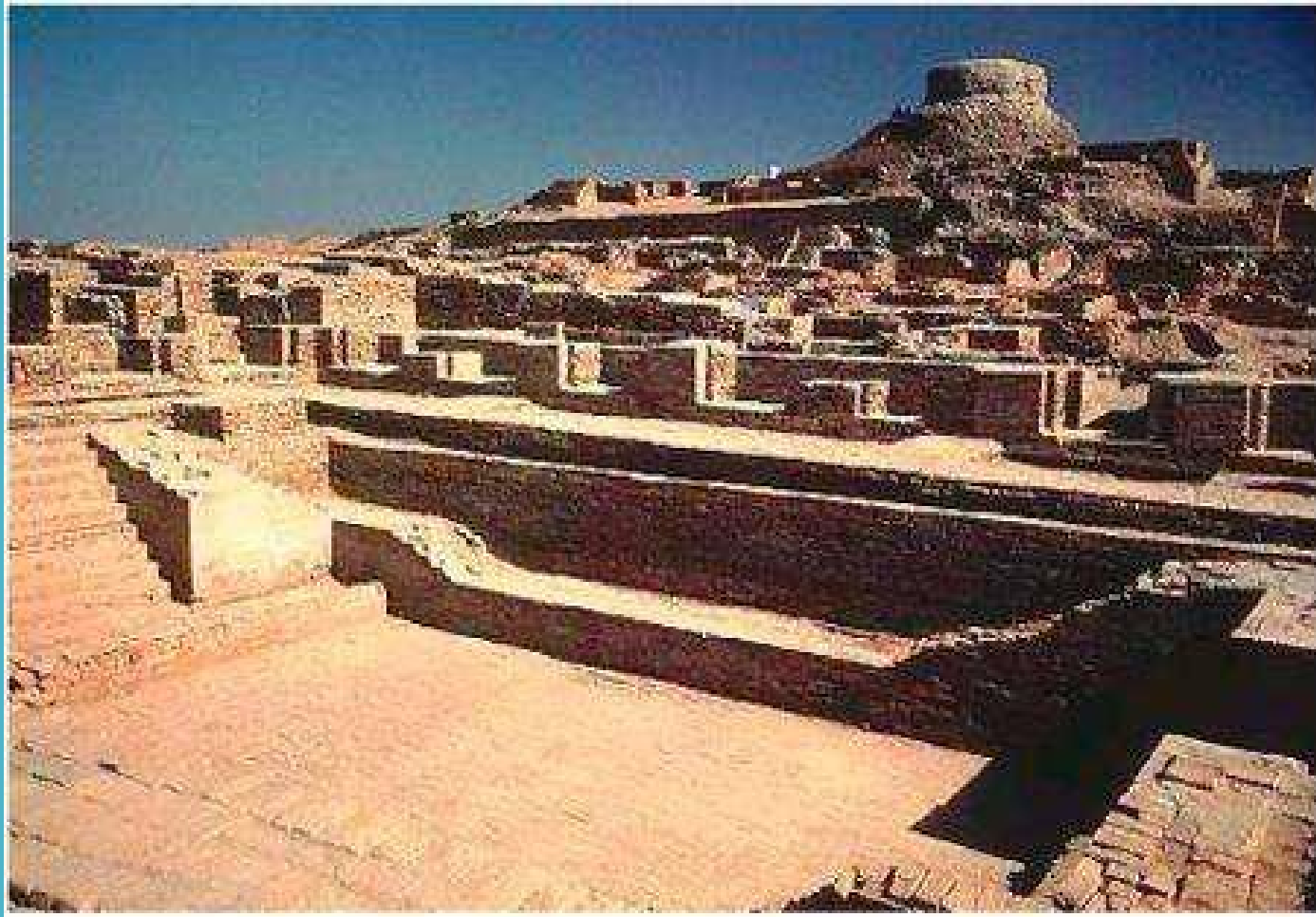
# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

**After the Harappan civilization:**

**After the decline of the Harappan civilization, many developments took place in the Indian subcontinent, including the creation of the Rig Veda. Evidence has been found for the emergence of new methods of disposing of farmland, religious communities, and the dead.**

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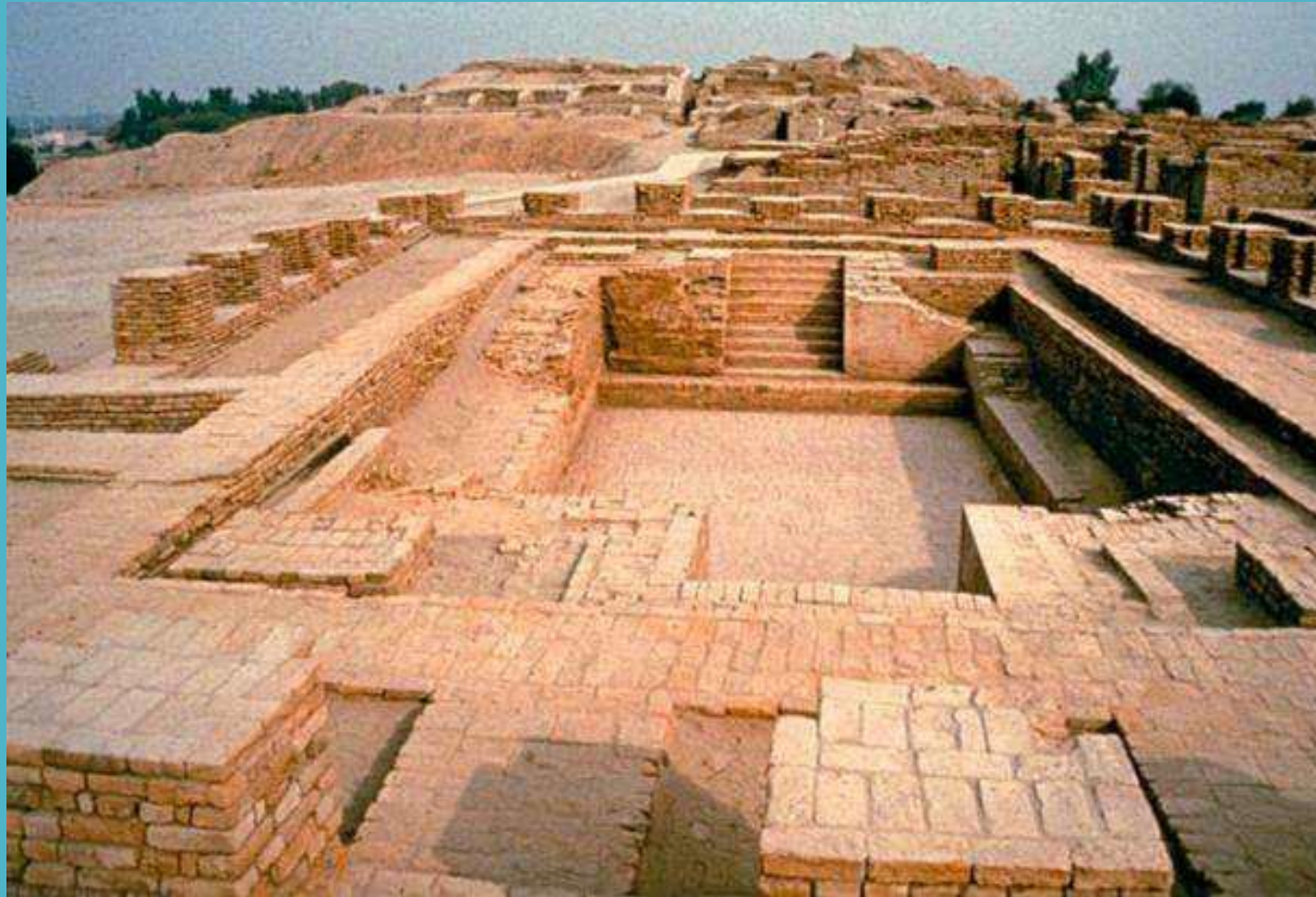
After the Harappan civilization:





# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

After the Harappan civilization:



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**After the Harappan civilization:**

**The most significant development took place in the wards when different kingdoms and empires emerged from the sixth century BCE. In 1830, James Prince understood the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts used in early inscriptions and coins.**

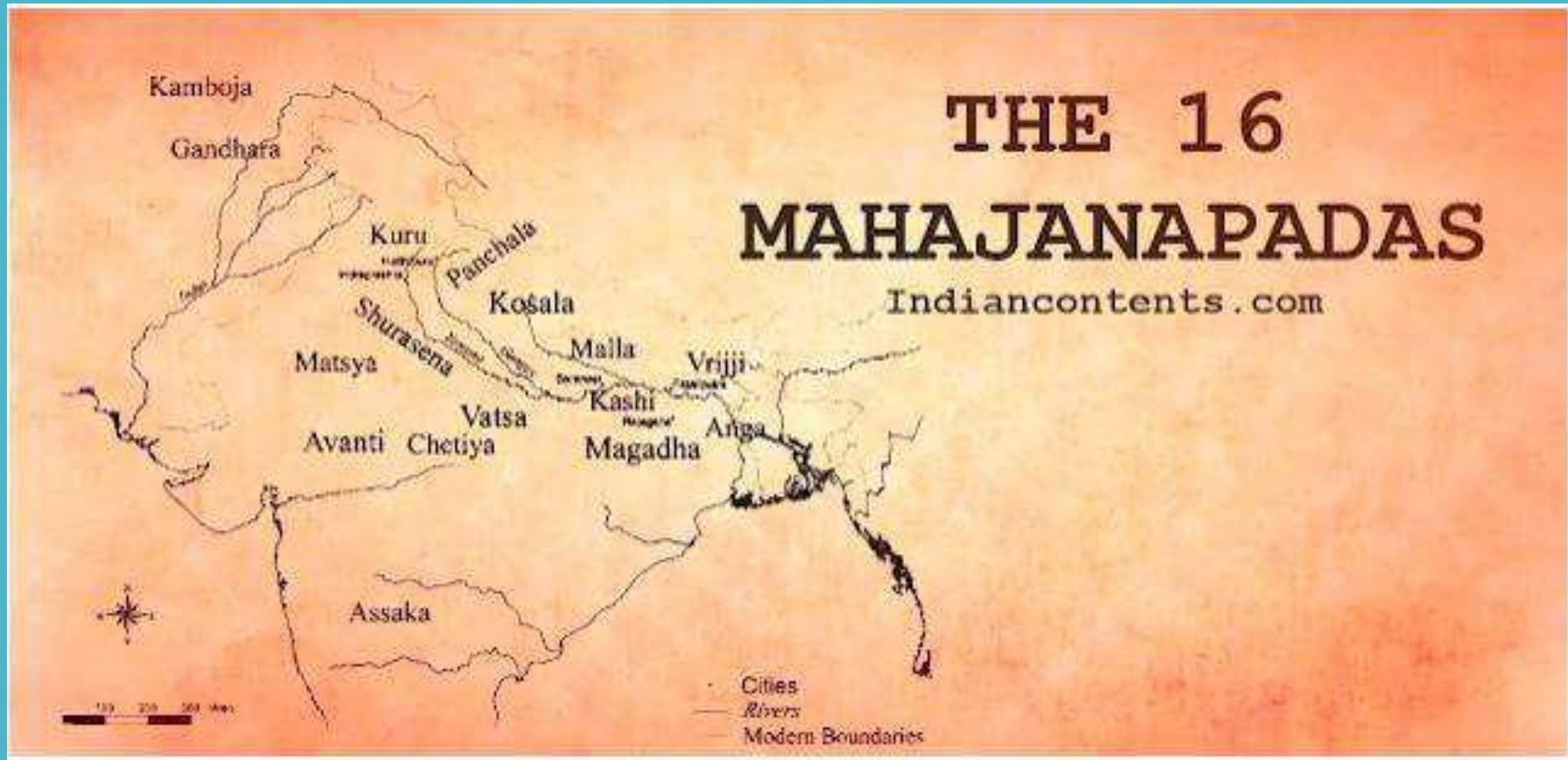
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**After the Harappan civilization:**

**Many inscriptions refer to the king as Piyadassi, which means 'pleasant to look at' and some inscriptions describe the king as Ashoka, one of the most famous rulers known from Buddhist scriptures. It gave a new direction to early Indian political history, economic and social development research.**

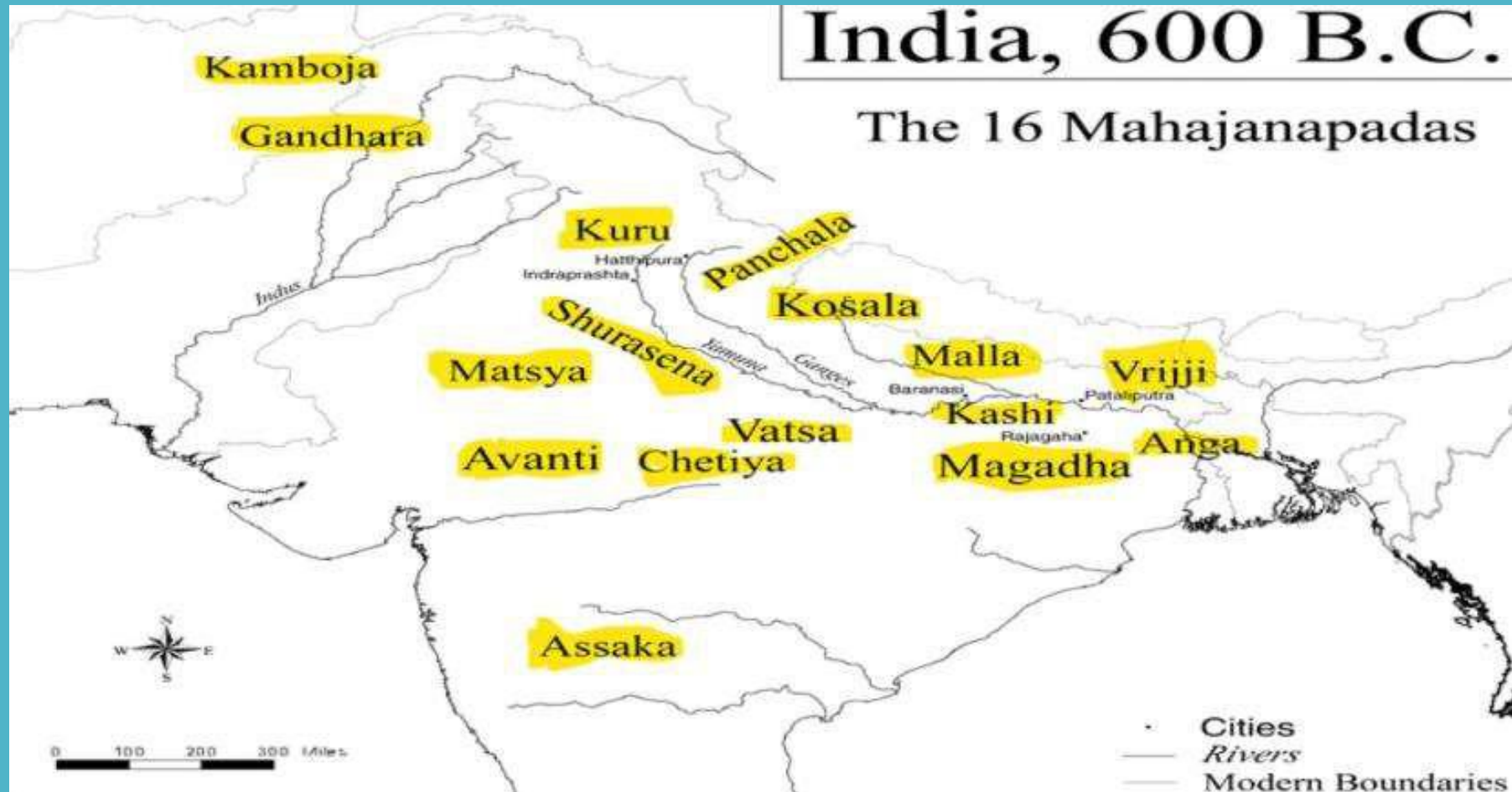
# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## 2. Mahajanapadas:



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## 2. Mahajanapadas:

Early kingdoms originated in the 6th century BCE and are mentioned in early Buddhist and Jain texts, The early 16 states were known as the Mahajanapadas. The most important of these are Viji, Magadha, Kosala, Kuru, Panchala, Gandara and Avanti. There was a capital for the Mahajanapadas, which was often solid.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## 2. Mahajanapadas:

Brahmins started writing Dharma Sutras from the 6th century BCE. Magadha became the most powerful Mahajanapadas, Bimbisara, Ajatashatru and Mahapadam Nanda were the most prestigious kings of Magadha. The capital of Magadha was at Rajagriha (Rajgir), which was fortified and later shifted to Pataliputra (Patna).

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## DO YOU KNOW?

**600-500 BC: Emergence of Mahajanapadas**

**544-492 BC: Bimbisara rule**

**492-460 BC: Ajatashatru period**

**269-231 BC: Reign of Ashoka**

**201 BC: The battle of Kalinga took place**



# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## DO YOU KNOW?

**335-375 BC: Samudra Gupta rule**

**375-415: Reign of CE Chandragupta-II**

**1784: Asiatic Society (Bengal) founded**

**1810: Colin McKenzie collects 8,000 inscriptions in Sanskrit and Dravidian languages.**

**1838: James Prinsep Understanding the Brahmi Script.**

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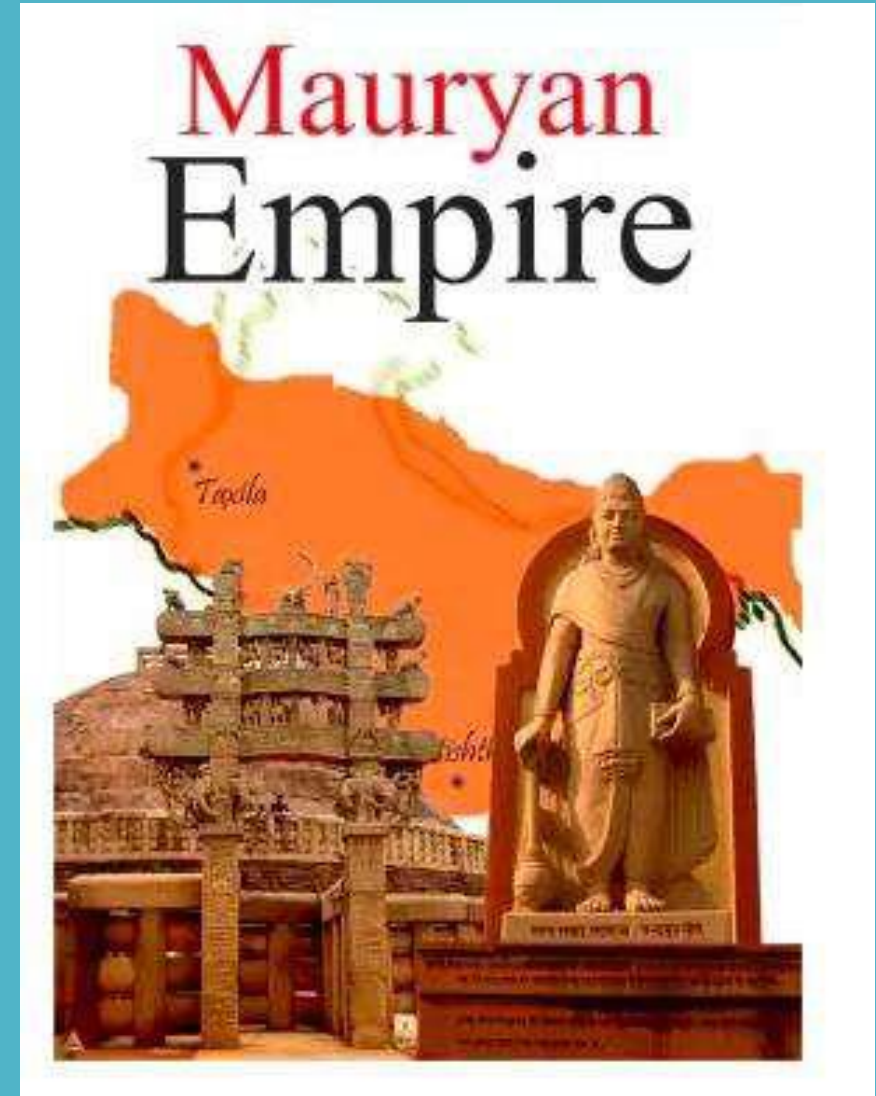
## 3. Mauryan empire:



# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## 3. Mauryan empire:

The development of Magadha resulted in the formation of the Mauryan Empire founded by Chandragupta Maurya in 321 BC. Apart from sculptures, historians have used various sources such as Megasthenes, Kautilya (economics), Buddhist, Jain and mythology, and the inscriptions of Ashoka to reconstruct the history of the Mauryan Empire.



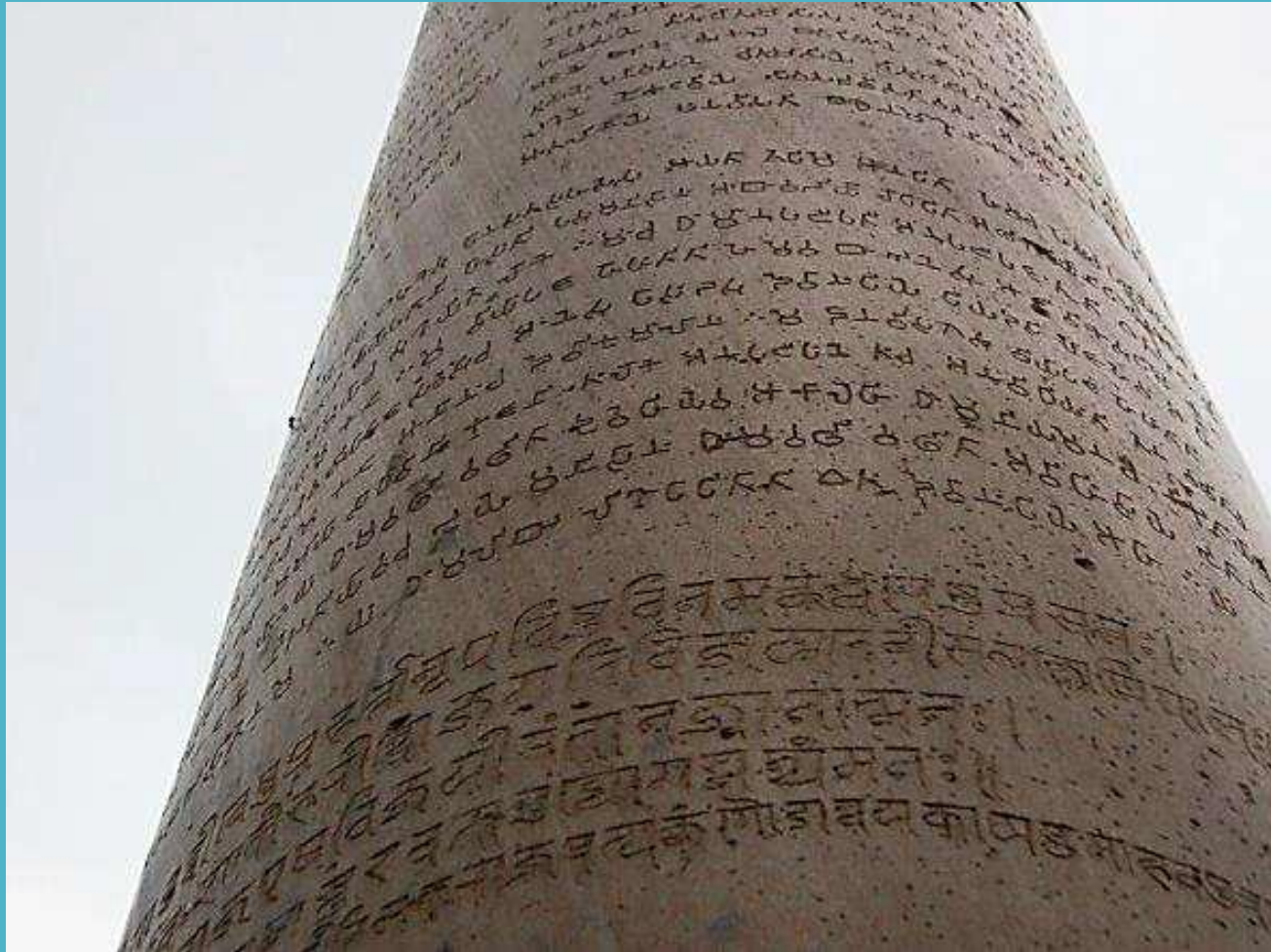
# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## 3. Mauryan empire:

Pataliputra, Taxila, Ujjain, Tosali and Suvarnagiri were the five major political centers of the Mauryan Empire. The vast empire was not controlled by a uniform system of government. Ashoka tried to keep his vast empire together by preaching Dharma. He appointed special officers called Dhamma Mahamattas to spread the message of Dhamma.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## 4. Ashoka's edicts:



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In understanding Brahmi, European and Indian scholars have compared the Devanagari and Bengali scripts to the Brahmi script. In 1838, James Prinsep worked hard and succeeded in understanding Ashoka Brahmi.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## 4. Ashoka's edicts:

Kharosthi was understood by studying the coins in the Greek and Kharosthi scripts. The inscriptions refer to Ashoka as 'Devanampiya' which means 'beloved of God' and 'Piyadassi' which means 'pleasant to see'.

Ashoka's edict describes the ruler's suffering and the change in his attitude towards war. These inscriptions were found in Orissa.



# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## DO YOU KNOW?

**Folklore:** Land inhabited by a clan or tribe.

**Dhamma Mahanatta:** An officer appointed by Ashoka to spread his message of Dharma,

**Marriage:** This term is used when identifying lineage by mother,

**Tamil:** Name of an ancient Tamil country comprising parts of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## 5. Legislative Limitations:

Archival evidence has technical limitations, such as indistinctly engraved, damaged, or missing letters. Sometimes what we consider to be politically and economically important is not recorded in the records.

The content of the statutes always reflects the perspective of the person who appointed them.

The statutes fail to reflect the lives of various social groups, including the lower classes. Therefore, new strategies of analysis must be followed.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Concept Rise of Monarchy:

Different rulers established their empires in different parts of India. It gave birth to new states, new communities and towns. Growth of new states:

New kingdoms emerged in the Deccan and further south, including the Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas. Satavahanas and Shakas were those who earned income through long distance trade.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Concept Rise of Monarchy:

The Kushans ruled over a vast kingdom and received the title of Deva Putra (Son of God) and considered themselves gods.

The history of the Gupta rulers has been reconstructed from literature, coins and inscriptions, including the title, The Prayag Prasasti (also known as the Allahabad Pillar Inscription) by Harisena is the most important source of knowledge about the Gupta rulers.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Growth of new communities:

Historians examine horoscopes and Panchatantra stories to find out about the attitude of the common people towards the rulers. Strategies have been developed such as the use of plows with iron tips and the use of irrigation through wells and tanks to increase agricultural production.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Growth of new communities:

The progress of agriculture led to the emergence of different sections of the population such as large landowners, small farmers and landless agricultural laborers, From early Tamil literature and Pali texts, groups of people known as Ganapati (landlord), Weller (large landlord), Ujavar (Jotwala) and Adimai (slave) were known.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## Growth of new communities:

The inscriptions give details about the allotment of land to Brahmins and farmers, Chandragupta II's daughter Prabhavati Gupta acquired the land, which she later granted, but ordinary women had no access to the land. Some historians view land grabbing as a strategy to expand agriculture to new areas; Others saw them as a sign of weakening political power.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

Growth of new communities:





# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## 6. Towns and trade growth:

Many urban centers have sprung up on the subcontinent since the 6th century BC. People living in these areas traded fine polished utensils such as northern black polished utensils, jewelry, tools, utensils, utensils, gold, silver, copper, bronze, ivory, glass, shell and terracotta figurines.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## 6. Towns and trade growth:

The guild or shrine collects the raw materials, controls the production and markets the final product, Trade extends beyond the subcontinent, Central Asia, East and North Africa, Southeast Asia and China.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## 6. Towns and trade growth:



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## 6. Towns and trade growth:

It was established by successful merchants called Masattuvan in Tamil and the Satavahanas became very rich in Prakrit, The introduction of silver, copper and gold coins facilitated the exchange.

The first coins bearing the names and images of the rulers were issued by the Indo-Greeks, who established control over the northwestern part of the subcontinent in the 2nd century BC.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## 6. Towns and trade growth:

The first gold coins were minted in AD. Issued in the 1st century; the most luxurious gold coins were issued by the Gupta rulers, The use of gold coins declined from the 6th century CE.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## DO YOU KNOW?

**Megaliths:** Stone structures built on the tombs of the dead by some communities in South India,

**Waler:** Big landlord.

**Agrahara:** Land allotted to Brahmins.

# CHAPTER 2 KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS

## DO YOU KNOW?

**1877:** Alexander Cunningham publishes Asoka's set of statutes.

**1886:** First edition of Epigraphical Cometica, Journal of South Indian Legislation.

**1888:** The first issue of Epigraphical Indica.

**1965-1966:** The government has published Indian Epigraphy and Indian Epigraphical Glossary.



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