
Chapter – 09 History

Vital Villages Thriving Towns

- Rise of new kingdoms and towns led to an increase in agriculture and trade.
 - It resulted in the growth of new towns.
 - **Rapid Increase in Agricultural Production:**
 - (i) The discovery of iron tools led to rapid rise in agricultural production.
 - (ii) It made it easier to bring more land under cultivation by clearing forests.
 - (iii) The use of iron ploughshare made it possible to dig deep in those areas where the soil was fertile.
 - (iv) It led to significant rise in agriculture production first in North India and then in South India.
 - **Growth of Crafts and Craftsmen:**
 - (i) Art and crafts flourished in every village.
 - (ii) Each village had weavers, dyers, potters, blacksmiths, basket-weaver, goldsmiths, carpenters and other skilled craftsmen.
 - (iii) Silk weaving, dyeing, coin-minting, ivory-carving, cloth-making and bead-making became the popular occupations.
 - (iv) Archaeological sources show extremely fine pottery called the Northern Black Polished Ware.
 - (v) Most craftsmen organized themselves into organisations called Shrenis.
 - **Increase in Trade:**
 - (i) The rapid rise in agricultural production and crafts led to surplus production. This surplus in villages was supplied to towns.
 - (ii) All this led to growth of trade.
 - (iii) Merchants and traders participated in both the internal and external trade.
 - (iv) All trading communities were organised into guilds.
 - (v) Use of money gave rise to punch marked coins.
 - (vi) Taxes collected from trade acted as an important source of revenue for the king,
 - **How did People Live:**
 - (i) Very little information is available about the life of the people.
 - (ii) The main sources to know about them include stories from books, the accounts of sailors and travellers and sculptures which show scenes from the daily life.
 - **The Second Urbanisation: Town and Cities:**
 - (i) Large-scale agricultural production, growth of crafts and increased trade and commerce led to emergence of new towns and cities.
 - (ii) It led to growth of urban centres and is called the Age of Second Urbanisation.
 - (iii) Some important towns of this period were Vaishali, Ujjayani, Hastinapur, Pataliputra, Mathura, Arikamedu, Bodhi Gaya, Rajagriha and Kaveripattanam.
 - **Functions of Towns:**
 - (i) Each town was famous for some particular activity.
 - (ii) Some towns were religious while others were administrative.
 - (iii) Several towns like Sopara were trading towns.
 - (iv) Two such famous towns were Mathura and Arikamedu.
 - (v) Mathura was the second capital of Kushanas and a centre of temples monasteries, arts and crafts. The Mathura School of Art grew here.
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- (vi) Arikamedu was an important coastal trading centre, a port and a centre for export and import. Traders from Rome came here.

- **Life of People of Tamil Nadu: Under the Cholas and the Pandyas:**

- (i) Most people lived in villages and were farmers.
 - (ii) Towns were near the coast.
 - (iii) Trade went as far as Rome and China.
 - (iv) People like amusements, games and gambling.
 - (v) The administration was headed by a king. There was even a general assembly known as the Sabha.
 - (vi) The most popular God was Murugan (Kartikeya in North).
 - (vii) The Chola Kingdom was situated between the Pennar and the Velur rivers and its centre of power was Uraiyar, a famous cotton centre.
 - (viii) The Pandya kingdom with its capital at Madurai was known for its pearls. It is mentioned by Megasthenes and the Sangam literature.
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