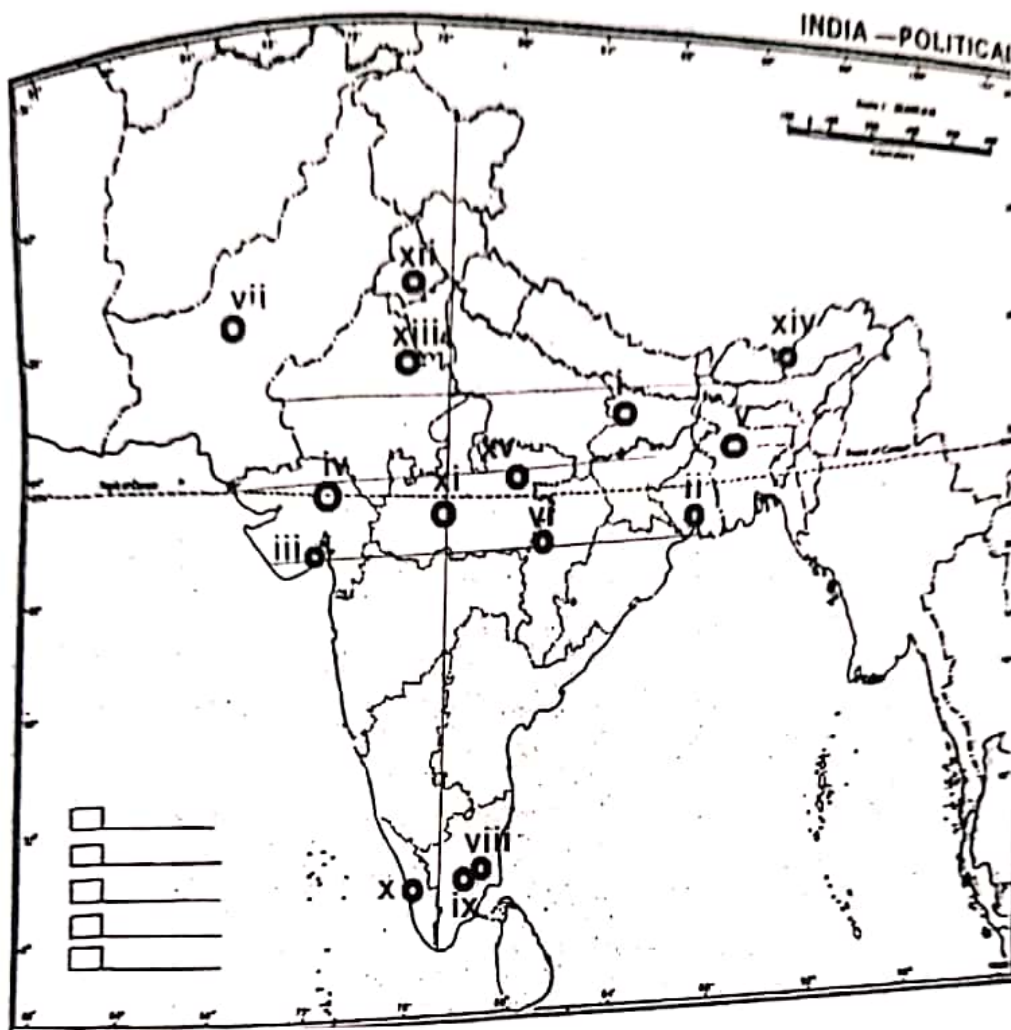


# Parth Gupta

Q.1 Identify the following places marked on the map supplied to you and write a short note of about 30 words on each of them in your Question-cum-Answer Booklet. Locational hints for each of the places marked on the map are given below seriatim. [15x2.5= 30 Marks]



(i) Neolithic and Chalcolithic site

Chirand

- In Rohtas distt, Bihar
- Rich bone tool industry of neolithic era.
- Evidence of rice cultivation
- ~~St~~ Polished stone, copper tools found
- Post holes indicate settlements.

(ii) Ancient port and NBPW site

~~Magazine's~~ Tamralipti  
Ancient

- Riverine port in ~~B~~ West Bengal
- Mentioned in texts - Arthashastra, Periplus of Erythraean Sea.
- Archaeological remains - ivory works, Roman coins, terracotta works.

(iii) Early and Mature Harappan site

Rangpur

- In Kathicwar region, facing Gulf of Khambhat, in Gujarat.
- Black on Red ware pottery, weights and measures of Harappan era found.
- lustrous red ware belonging to late Harappan phase.
- Evidence of rice, cotton cultivation.

(iv) Mesolithic site

Langhraj

- In Gujarat
- Found evidence of burials, burial goods - indicate belief in after life.

- Microliths found - triangles, trapezes
- Ornaments found, pearls etc.
- Animal bones found - indicate practice of open fire cooking.

(v) Ancient capital city

Mahasthangarh

- In Bangladesh
- Capital of Pundrajanapada
- Prominent trade centre - part of Uttarapatha.
- Provincial capital under Mauryas. Mauryan inscription found here tells of relief works.

(vi) Temple Complex dedicated to Shiva

Achanakman - Amankantak

- A forested hilly region in the trijunction of MP, Maharashtra, Chattisgarh
- Temple dedicated to Shiva built under local patronage.



(vii) Neolithic and Chalcolithic site

Mehargarh

- In Kachi plains, Baluchistan, Pakistan.
- One of the earliest sites of agriculture in Indian subcontinent - 7000 BC.
- Early, Mature Harappan culture flourished here.
- Evidence of composite tools, charred wheat, barley grains.

(viii) UNESCO World Heritage site

Thanjavur - Brihadeswara temple

- In Thanjavur distt, Tamil Nadu.
- Built by Rajaraja Chola;
- Further evolution of Pallava/Dravida style of architecture -  
lefty Gopuram, Vimana; Dwarapalakas;

(ix) Jain site

Sittanavasal

- In Tamil Nadu
- Jain caves, patronised by the local people here
- Shows the widespread popularity of Jainism

in deep south.

- Mural paintings inside caves.

(x) Place of oldest Mosque

Cheruman Juma Mosque

- In Kerala
- Was built by local rulers for Arab traders in 7<sup>th</sup> century AD.
- Destroyed by Portuguese
- Recently restored and opened for public.

(xi) Paleolithic and Mesolithic site

Bhimbetka

- In Raisen district M.P.
- Has cave paintings of paleolithic, Mesolithic, Chalcolithic etc phases.
- Paleolithic paintings show dancers in red, hunters in green.

- Mesolithic themes include marriage, child birth, family, hunting etc.
- Humans are stick like; animals - anatomically accurate representation.

(xii) Site of Coin and Seal Moulds

Ropar/Rupnagar

- In Ropar district of Punjab
- A PGW, NBPW, Harappan site.
- Many coin moulds of NBPW period found here.
- It indicates deeper penetration of money economy.

(xiii) Painted Grey Ware site

Viratnagar/Bairat

- In Jaipur district of Rajasthan
- It has evidence of PGW culture - Iron tools, charred grains, PGW and BRW pottery etc.
- Capital of Matsya mahajanpada
- Ashokan inscription (major edict) found.

(xiv) Famous Buddhist Monastery

Tawang

- Tabo monastery in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Important centre of Tibetan Buddhism.
- Chinese incursions and aggression are witnessed here.

(xv) Palaeolithic site

Baghor

- In M.P.
- Tools like choppers, Boreis etc found here.
- Triangular stone believed to be a religious object, found here.



Q.2 (a) How did the agriculture help in the rise of Harappan towns and cities? Discuss. [15 Marks]

Recent studies, like that of Prof. V K Shinde, have shown that harappan towns emerged due to progress of agriculture.

### Role of agriculture



Due to growth of agriculture in the river valleys - Indus, its tributaries, Saraswati, people began exploring other opportunities. This led to Craft specialisation - Many types of crafts are seen - Boat making, Bead making, seal making, Brick making, terracotta art, copper smith, carpenter etc

Also, the people had rich diversity of subsistence. Crops like Wheat, Barley, rice, lentils, gram etc have



been found in Harappa, Mehargarh, Rangpur etc.

As more population could be supported, it led to growth of population. There emerged social hierarchy, evidenced by different houses, divisions in cities etc.

Cotton cultivation formed basis of textile production, which was chief export item. <sup>Sumerian</sup> ~~Akkadian~~ records tell of Sindon, the cotton from this region. Thus promoted long distance trade.

Many Harappan towns emerged in areas of agri-production like Harappa.

Even though nature of state is disputed, a strong agri-base would have helped in providing resources for widespread state structure. Great grainery at Mohenjodaro indicates importance of agri produce in state affairs.

However, in addition to this, the growth of technology, trade, crafts, ~~etc~~ contact with other cultures too would have helped in growth of Harappan towns.

~~Prof. R S Sharma~~ Historians have different views over the impact of iron technology in post Vedic India.

For Prof. R S Sharma and others, it was the chief force behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> urbanisation. Factors:

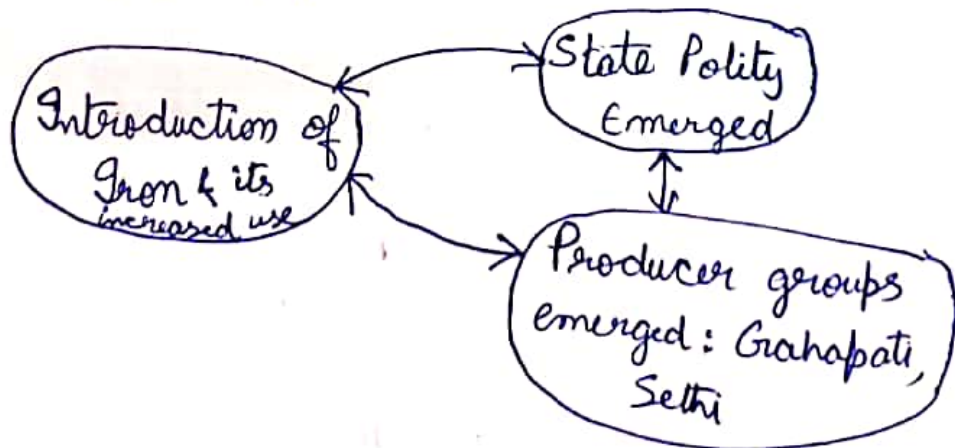
- i) It led to clearance of forests and expansion of land under plough, thus increasing state resources.
- ii) Use of iron plough began from 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. It too increased production.
- iii) Use of iron weapons on large scale led to stronger states.. eg., one factor behind strength of Magadha was its iron resources.
- iv) Due to emergence of powerful states with enough surplus, revenue, there emerged towns and trading groups leading to urbanisation.



However, while iron did induce these changes, its scale and scope seems limited as analysed by Prof. Upinder Singh:

- i) Forests were cleared mainly by burning. The legend of Khandwa Vana burning indicates this.
- ii) Wooden plough were used since later Vedic. Term langala in texts. Indian soil doesn't need deep ploughing.
- iii) Magadha emerged powerful due to many other factors.

It was a combination of factors which helped each other:





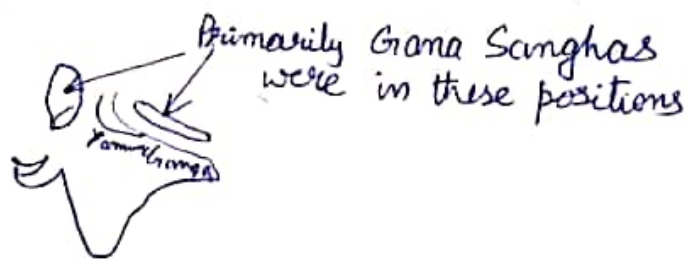
Hence iron technology did lead to tremendous changes in post Vedic times, ~~but~~ it leading to 2nd urbanisation, but it wasn't the sole driving force.

Q.2 (c) What were the factors responsible for the rise and decline of the republics (Ganas or Sanghas) during the time of Gautam Buddha? Were they democratic in nature? [20 Marks]

Gana Sanghas or Republics of 6<sup>th</sup> century BC and later were the non-monarchical states like Madra, ~~to~~ Vajji etc.

While they had considerable strength, in the beginning, over a period of time, they weakened due to multiple factors:

i) Geographical location



These locations were agriculturally less productive hence state had less resources compared to monarchies.

ii) They focussed more on philosophical and other aspects and less on military strength and thus lost to Monarchies.

iii) Internal dissensions in multi clan Gana-Sanghas like Vajjis. Magadha used this to defeat Lichhavis.

iv) Had no standing army, well defined revenue system, unlike monarchies.

v) All land owned by Kshatriyas. No scope for rise of productive groups - Gahapatis. Hence less productivity.

Various factors for their rise:

i) A reaction to Brahmanical orthodoxy and superiority in Monarchies. In Gana Sanghas, upanishadic thought was more strong.

ii) An attempt to preserve the tribal setup of Vedic times.

iii) Many members of ruling clan in monarchies were sidelined in their kingdom as the kin based assembly system weakened. Thus they migrated to form Gana Sanghas eg, Sakyas were believed to have branched out of Kosala.

iv) less rigid caste structure meant faster mobility and merit oriented society.



## Nature - Democratic or not

Yes:

- i) They had assemblies which elected king (in case of single clan) or chose the chief - Grama Raja, from most powerful clan. ~~It~~ Could be removed by assembly.
- ii) Well developed judicial system. Mention of 7 levels of judicial setup in Likhavis.
- iii) Developed norms - Quorum for assemblies was ensured, voting through salakas (wooden sticks) etc.
- iv) Freedom of expression, less orthodox. led to rise of Buddhism, Jainism etc.

No:

However, the ruling members ~~were~~ only participated in the assemblies and they weren't elected. Also, Kshatriyas claimed superior status and others were treated as commoners.

Despite these shortcomings, they were much ahead of their contemporary systems and democratic strong democratic tradition of India finds its roots



Q.3 (a) Analyse Vedic sacrifice as a ritual and a form of social exchange in ancient India. [15 Marks]

Sacrifices were a very crucial aspect of Vedic period (1400 - 600 BC). These were the ceremonies, both public and private, aimed at placating gods, for various benefits. eg., Ashwamedha.

Sources - ~~Sutras~~ Shrautasutras, Grihyasutras, Vedas etc.

### Sacrifice as a ritual

Sacrifices were done by ruling class and commoners.

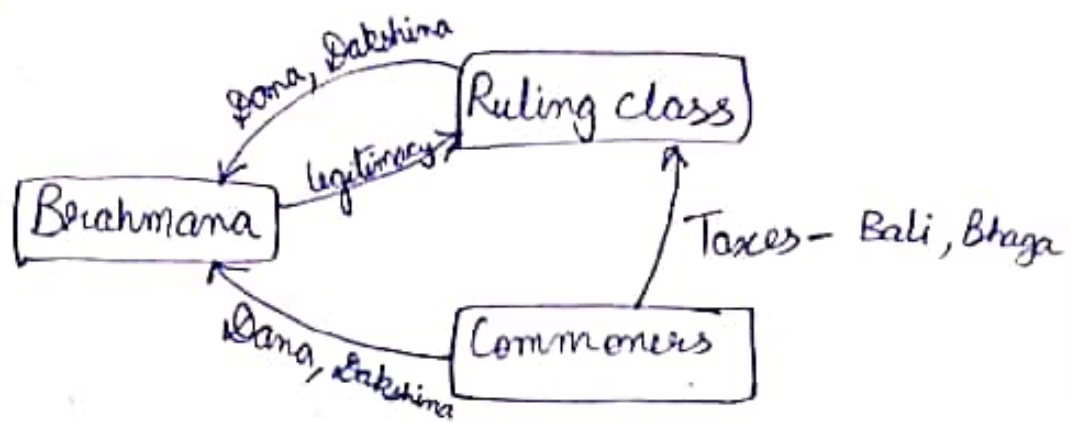
Ruling class did it to gain legitimacy, victory in wars, increase overall wealth.

Commoners did it for birth of sons, rich cattle wealth, seasons supportive for agriculture etc.

eg., Rajasuya sacrifice for coronation of king.

Ashwamedha Sacrifice for claiming sovereign authority over land.

## Sacrifice as a form of Social Exchange



Sacrifices formed crucial exchange mechanism in vedic period. Overtime we see the rules for donations in sacrifices becoming more elaborate and formal.

By claiming legitimacy, Kshatriyas could collect taxes, and lead armies. For this they paid Brahmanas in dana, dakshina. Aitareya Brahmana tells the gifts to be given to brahmanas including land.

Even Vaishyas, Shudras and women participated in sacrifices. But latter two's role was more passive, as spectators, dependents respectively.

Vaishyas are said to be gift givers, exploited at will in Aitreya Brahmana. This indicates heavy burden of sacrifices on them.

Overall, the religious-social significance of sacrifice made it important politico-economic activity, but it also saw reactions in the form of rise of Upanishadic thought.



Q.3 (b) "On circumstantial evidence Indra stands accused." Discuss the given statement in the context of the decline of Harappan Civilisation. [15 Marks]

Among the various theories on Harappan decline, Aryan invasion theory by Mortimer Wheeler remained most controversial.

### Indra - accused

Various references to Indra as Purandara or destroyer of forts indicates in Rig Veda indicate Aryan invasion of Harappan cities.

Inscriptional evidence of Aryan migration from Anatolia region - Hittite, Mittani inscriptions.

Archaeological remains from Mohenjodaro of dead skeletons were believed to be due to invasions.

Mention of Dasyus as fort dwellers, worshippers of phallus, and their enmity with Aryans seen in frequent mention of Dasyahatya.



## Indra - Not accused

Despite these reasons, there have emerged various other evidences, pointing to flaws in the theory:

- i) Time gap of about 400 years between decline of Harappan mature phase and ~~arise~~ rise of Vedic culture.
- ii) Sites like Sanauli indicate chariots, other ~~Archa~~ PGW artefacts associated with aryaans thus negating large scale migration.
- iii) Rakhigarhi skeletons' analysis by Prof UK Shinde, shows Harappan DNA as the major source of Indian ancestry. Hence no large scale migration.
- iv) Skeletal remains from Mohenjodaro don't testify to large scale invasion.
- v) Dasyus could be descendants of Iranian Dasyus. Perhaps, such references to Indra were to eulogise him, raise his status above ~~others~~ Gods. But alone these references are

no proof of his role in decline of  
Harappan cities when other evidences are  
non-conclusive.

Q.3 (c) Give a brief account of the social organisation, settlement pattern, political system and religious beliefs & practices of Megalithic period. [20 Marks]

Megalithic period refers to the cultural phase of humans when they began to use iron implements and erected big stones in various forms, to mark their identity. It is roughly

1200 - 500 BC :- pastoral megalithic  
500 - 300 BC :- Agrarian megalithic

### Social organisation

Social hierarchies had emerged - ornaments, pearl necklaces in burial sites like Hallur, Alagarai.

It was patriarchal society as most of megalithic burials are for men and ~~only~~ mostly hunting tools kept, which were used mainly by men.

~~Households~~ Housing structures not very common, but found in Alagarai, Hallur. Wooden houses were used.

Evidence of family, marriages from group burials.



## Settlement pattern

Distributed throughout India, but most common in Peninsular, South India. Sites:

Buryahom (Kashmir), Mirzapur (U.P.), Junapani (Maharashtra), Hallur, Maski, Kupgal from Karnataka, Adichannalur, Paiyampalli etc.

Lived closer to hill slopes, with supply of perennial water, food resources, near stone, iron resources for tool making.

Hierarchy seen in settlements. Shows social stratification.

## Religious beliefs

Strong belief in afterlife as inferred from burial goods.

Sites of Menhirs, cairn stones & circles etc seem to have served ritualistic significance.

Perhaps, they practiced ancestors worship.

## Political System

Not much information available due to lack of literary evidence. Hierarchical settlements point to chiefdom like structure.

Prevalence of weapons rather than agri-tools indicates that looting would have been a common practice which continued even in Sangam period.

Great uniformity in use of Menhirs, Cap-stones, Cairn circles etc indicate greater regional influence of Chiefs.

<sup>Presence of foreign artefacts indicate long distance contacts, trade.</sup>  
<sup>eg, Gold in Jorwe.</sup>  
However in absence of more evidence we can't comment about the exact nature. For this the Tamil Brahmi inscriptions in Adichannalur belonging to Megalithic period need to be studied.