



Chapter 4: New Beginnings: Cities and States

Questions and Activities

Que 1. Consider the quotation at the start of the chapter and discuss in several groups. Compare your observations and conclusions on what Kautilya recommends for a kingdom. Is it very different today?

Answer: According to Kautilya, in an ideal state—

1. There should be a strong security system.
2. There should be fertile land and adequate agriculture.
3. There should be resources such as forests, minerals and livestock.
4. Rivers and other sources of water.
5. There should be good roads and transport system.
6. Have a strong and prosperous economy.
7. Have the ability to face disasters.

Is it different from today?

No, these things are still important today. Today, along with them, education, health, technology and environmental protection are also given importance.

Conclusion: Most of Kautilya's ideas are still useful for a good and developed state

Que 2. According to the text, how were rulers chosen in early Vedic society?

Answer:

1. The position of king was usually hereditary.
2. The ruler was elected with the approval of the tribe's prominent people and assemblies.
3. Institutions such as the Sabha and the Committee advised the king.
4. The king had to work in the interest of the people

Que 3. Imagine you are a historian studying ancient India. What types of sources (archaeological, literary, etc.) would you use to learn more about the mahājanapadas? Explain how each source might contribute to your understanding.

Answer:

source	Information obtained
Archaeological remains	Information about cities, buildings, forts and lifestyles
Coins	Information on Business, Economy and Rulers
rock inscription	Information on Administration, Governance and Important Events
Buddhist and Jain Texts	Information about Mahajanapadas, society and religion
Vedic and other literature	Information on political and social life

Conclusion:

With the help of all these sources, the political, economic and social life of the Mahajanapadas can be understood.

Que 4. Why was the development of iron metallurgy so important for the growth of urbanism in the 1st millennium BCE? You may use points from the chapter but also from your knowledge or imagination.

Answer:

- Iron tools were strong and durable.
- Using them made it easier to clear the forests.
- Agricultural production increased.
- The population increased as more food was available.
- Trade and industry developed.
- New cities and markets were established.
- Therefore, the development of ferrous metallurgy was very important for urbanisation.

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