

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **KINGS, FARMERS AND TOWNS**

#### **Early States and Economics (About 600 BCE-600 CE)**

Q4. Discuss the evidence for craft production in early historic cities. In what ways is this different from the evidence from Harappan cities ?

Ans. Excavation have been conducted at a number of early historic cities. We have got several evidences for craft production in these cities.

- i) People make bowls and dishes of every fine type of pottery with a glossy finish. These pottery is know as the northern black Polished ware (NBPW).
- ii) The fine earthen pottery was probably used by rich people in towns.
- iii) In early cities ornaments, tools, weapons, vessels, figurines, made a wide range of materials such as gold, silver, copper, bronze, irory, glass, shell and terracotta.

#### **Differences :**

- i) Traces of houses and different structures have also been recovered in early historic cities. However they are unlike the Harappan cities.
  - ii) The Harappan did not know the used of iron. Therefore we can say they did not make different tools and implements of iron. On the other hand we get sufficient evidences that iron was used by the early historic cities people.
- Q5. Examine the sources of knowledge with us to know about India of the Maurya Age ?

- Ans. 1. **Indica of Magasthenese** : Indica is an important text by Magasthenese which serve as the source of information about Mauryan India. It depicts the contemporary administration, society, political and economic condition of India in the most significant way.
2. **Kautilya's Arthashastra**: Kautilya's Arthashastra too throws light on the various phases of contemporary India.
3. **Vishakh Dutta's Mudrarakshas** : This significant text delineates the destruction of Nanda dynasty at the hands of Chandragupta Mayurya.
4. **Jain and Buddha Literature** : The literature of both of these religious bears information regarding the contemporary Indian society along with it politics etc.
5. **Inscriptions of Asoka**. The **Inscriptions** of Asoka located at several places also throw light on the administration, religion, society, caste system etc. of the Mauryan age.

Q6. This is a statement made by one of the best known epigraphists of the twentieth century, D.C. Sircar: There is no aspect of life, culture and activities of the Indians that is not reflected in inscriptions. Discuss.

Ans.

- I. **Introduction** : Inscriptions are very important as a source of history reconstruction. D.C. Sircar has correctly urged that there is no aspect of life, culture and activities of the Indians that is not reflected in inscriptions. Generally , inscriptions were commissioned by those whose achievements / activities / ideas were recorded in them.

Inscriptions are virtually permanent records. Some inscriptions carry dates. Others are dated on the basis of paleography or styles of writing with a fair amount of precision. For instance the letter was written like this c.250 BCE by C. 500 CE it was written like 500 A.D.