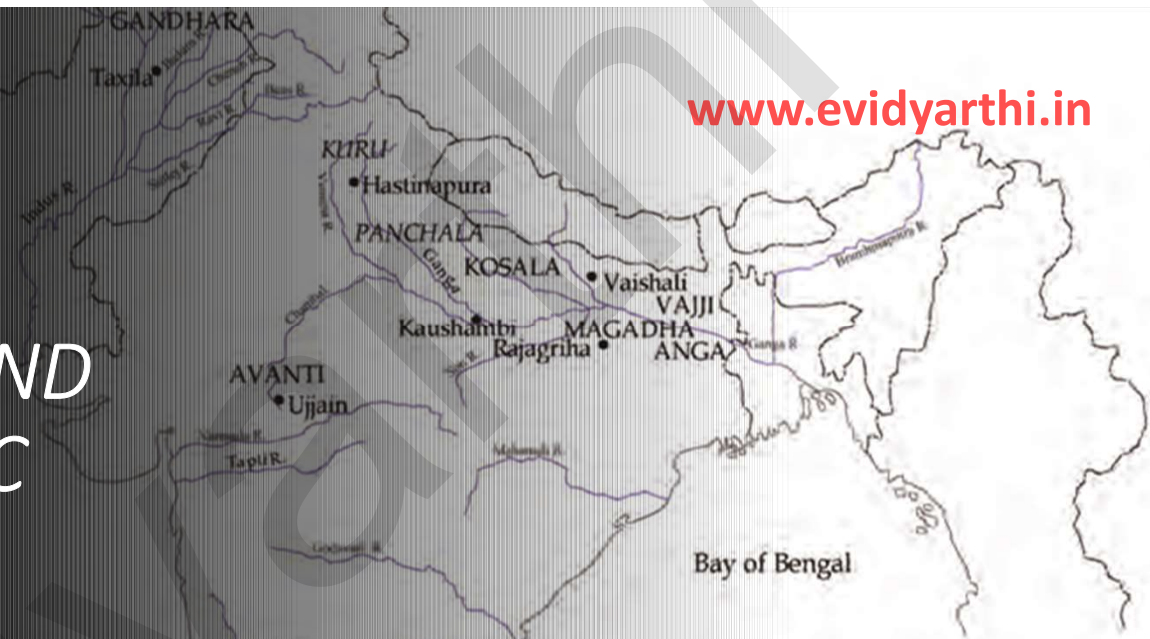
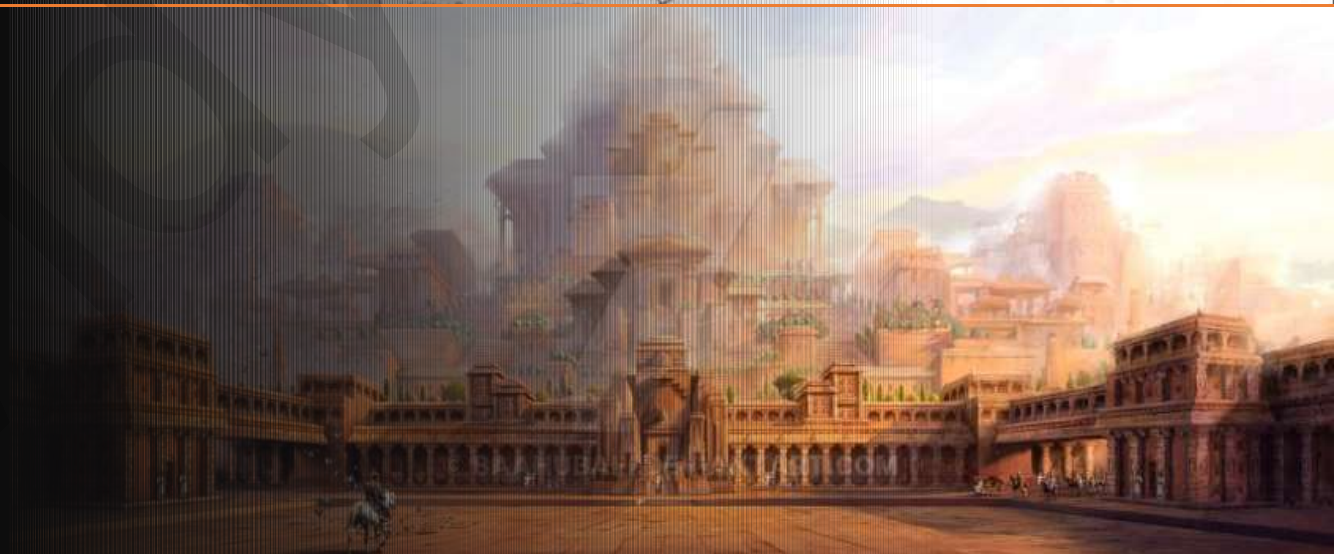


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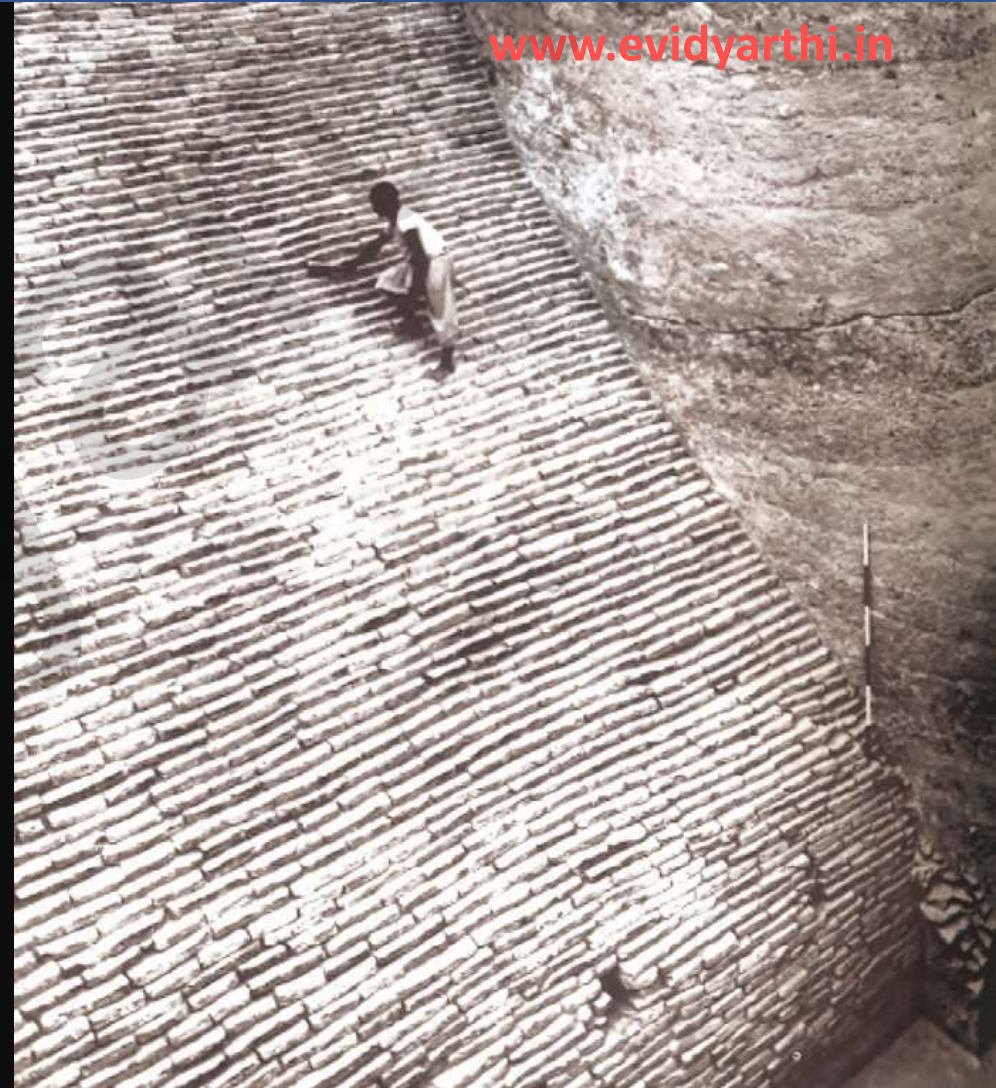
CLASS VI



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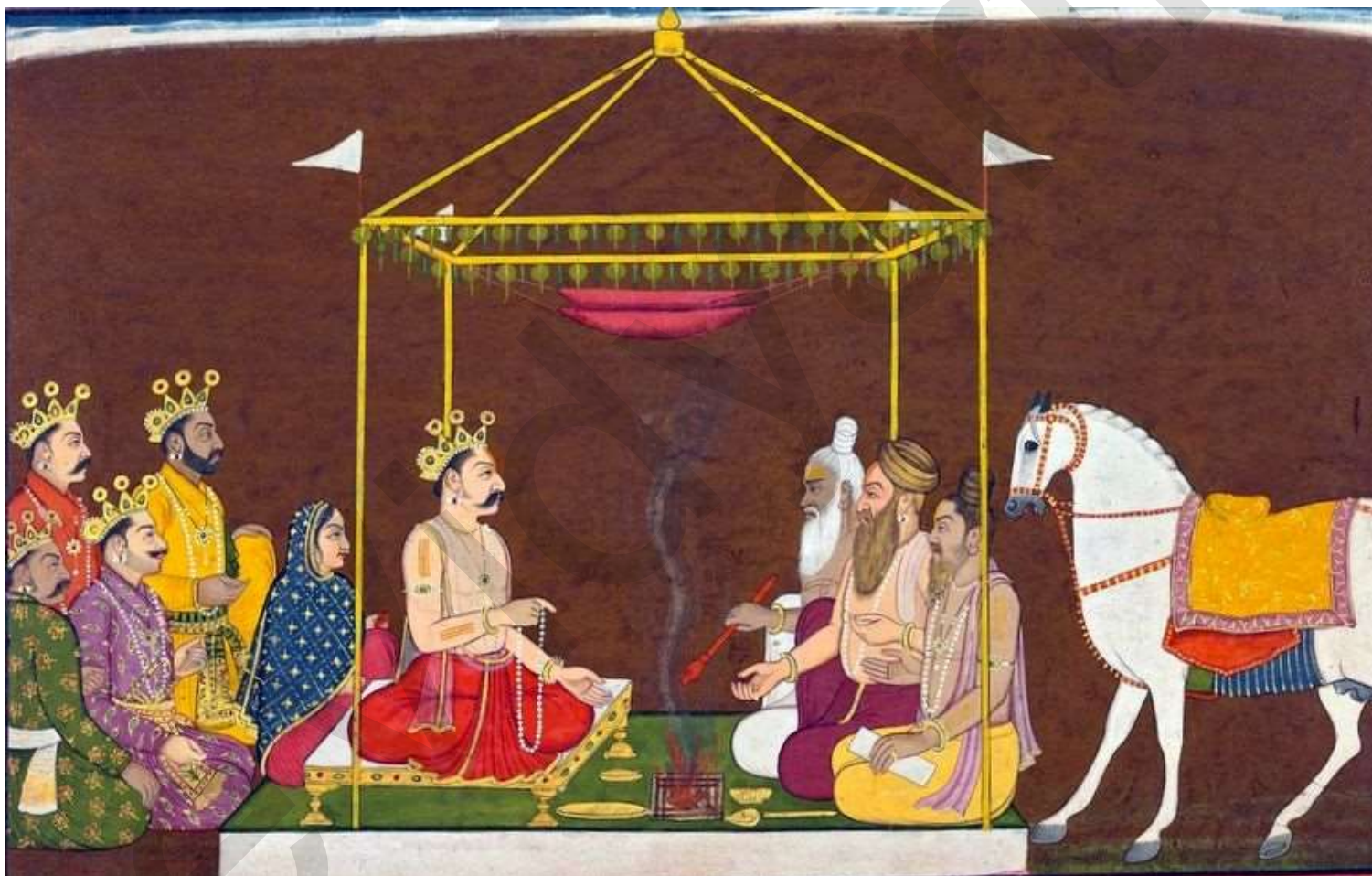
- How some men became rulers
 - Varnas
- Jana Padas
- Mahajanapadas
- Taxes
- Changes in agriculture
- A closer look — (a) Magadha
- A closer look — (b) Vajji



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❑ How some men became rulers

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❑ How some men became rulers

- Around 3000 years ago, some men became recognized as rajas by performing very big sacrifices.
- The later rajas gained recognition by performing very big sacrifices.
- Ashvamedha or a horse sacrifice was an important ritual for a raja.

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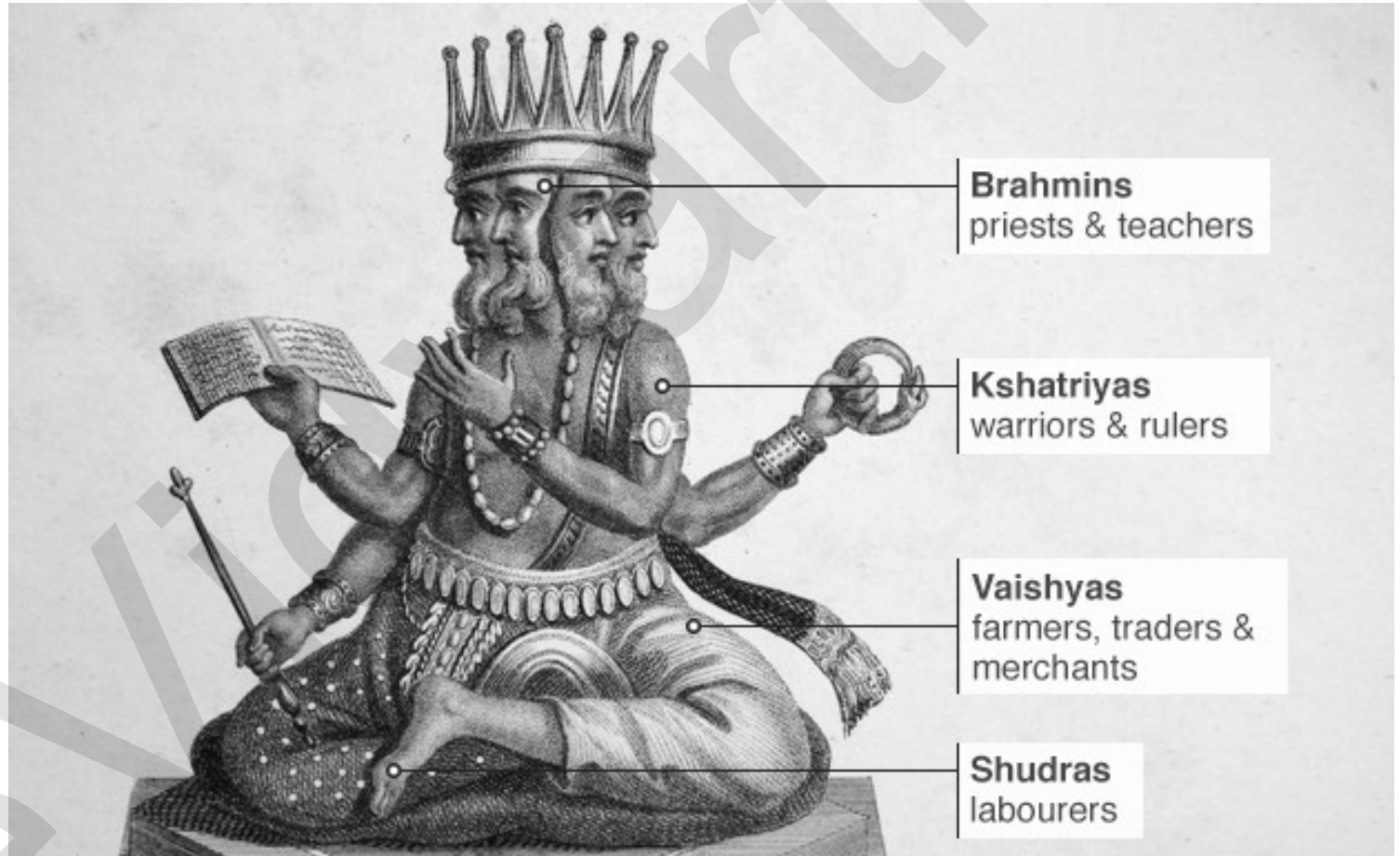
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- The raja who organized the sacrifice was recognized as being very powerful, and all those who came brought gifts for him.
- His charioteer, who was his companion in the battle field and witnessed his exploits, chanted tales of his glory.
- His relatives, especially his wives and sons, had to perform a variety of minor rituals.

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➤ Varnas



➤ Varnas

- There were several different groups in society at this time — priests and warriors, farmers, herders, traders, crafts persons, labourers, fishing, folk, and forest people.
- The priests divided people into four groups called Varnas.
- According to them, each Varna had a different set of functions.
- These groups were decided on the basis of birth.

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- **Brahmin:** They were expected to study and teach the Vedas, perform sacrifices and receive gifts.
- **Kshatriyas:** They were the rulers and were expected to fight battles and protect people.
- **Vish or the Vaishyas:** They were expected to be farmers, herders and traders.
- **Shudras:** They had to serve the other three groups and could not perform any rituals.

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□ Jana Padas



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□ Jana Padas

- The rajas who performed these big sacrifices were recognized as being rajas of janapadas.
- The word janapada literally means the land where the Jana set its foot and settled down.
- Archeologists found that in janapadas, people lived in huts, kept cattle and other animals.

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- ✓ They grew a variety of crops — rice, wheat, barley, pulses, sugarcane, sesame and mustard.
- They made earthen pots. Some were grey and others were red.
- ✓ A special type of pottery found at these sites is known as Painted Grey Ware.



Painted Grey Ware.

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❑ Mahajanapadas

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❑ Mahajanapadas

- About 2500 years ago, some Janapadas became more important than others and were known as Mahajanapadas.
- Most mahajanapadas had a capital city, many of these were fortified which means that huge walls of wood, brick or stone were built around them.

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- Forts were probably built because people were afraid of attacks from other kings and needed protection.
- It is also likely that some rulers wanted to show how rich and powerful they were by building really large, tall and impressive walls around their cities.

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The fortification wall at
Kaushambi.



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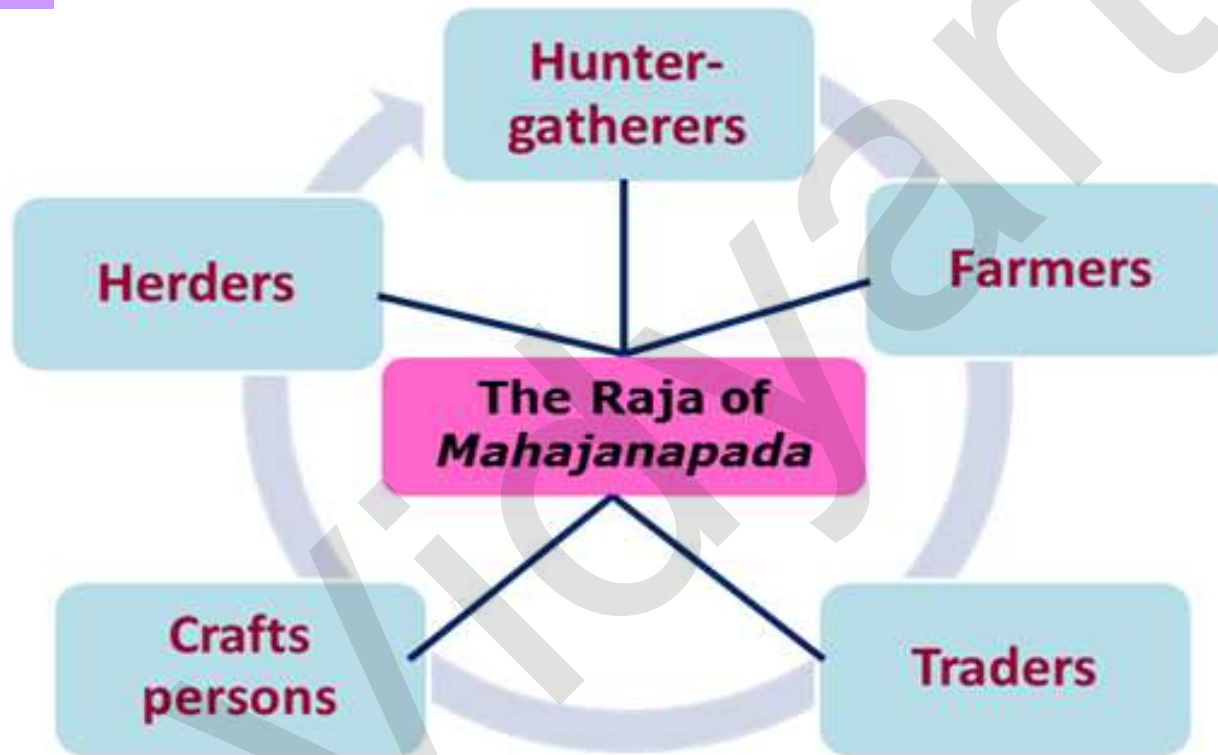
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- Also this means that the land and the people living inside the fortified area could be controlled more easily by the king.
- The new rajas now began maintaining armies.
- Soldiers were paid regular salaries and maintained by the king throughout the year.
- Some payments were probably made using punch marked coins.

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❖ Taxes



❖ Taxes

- Rulers of the mahajanapadas needed more resources for building huge forts and maintaining armies.
- The started collecting regular taxes.
- Taxes were collected from farmers, craft persons, herders, traders, hunters as per their skills.

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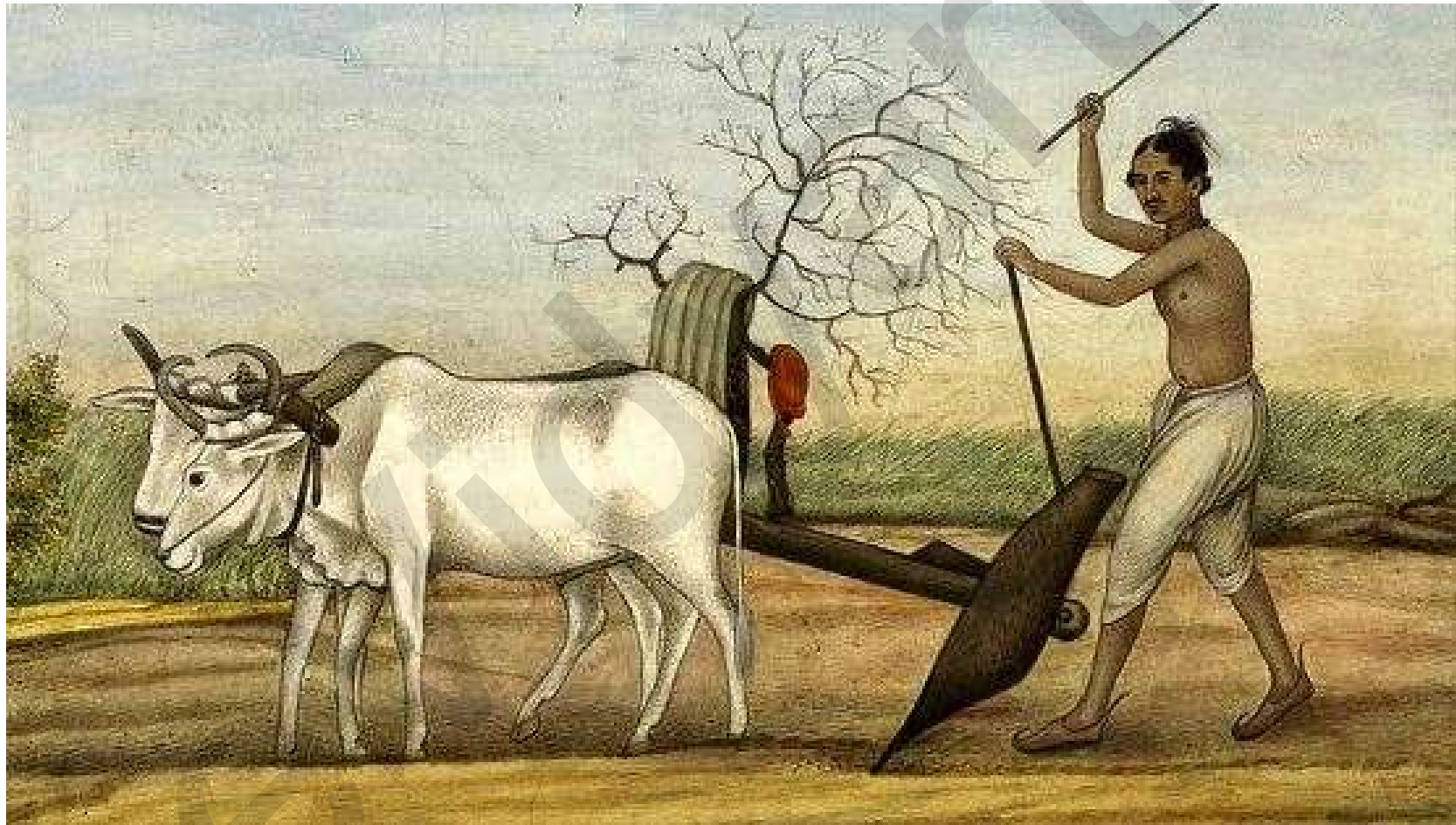
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- ✓ Taxes on crops were the most important. This was because most people were farmers. Usually, the tax was fixed at $\frac{1}{6}$ th of what was produced. This was known as bhaga or a share.
- ✓ There were taxes on crafts persons as well.
- ✓ Herders were also expected to pay taxes in the form of animals and animal produce.
- ✓ There were also taxes on goods that were bought and sold, through trade.
- ✓ And hunters and gatherers also had to provide forest produce to the raja.

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❖ Changes in agriculture

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❖ Changes in agriculture

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Two major changes happened in agriculture:

a. Use of iron ploughshare: Use of iron ploughshare helped in increasing the area under cultivation. This helped in improving the crop yield.

b. Plantation of paddy saplings: Plantation of paddy saplings gives better results than scattering the seeds.

Dasas, dasis and landless labourers were employed for this purpose. The landless labourer was called the kammakara.

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❑ A closer look — (a) Magadha

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□ A closer look — (a) Magadha

- Magadha became the most important mahajanapada in about two hundred years.
- Many rivers such as the Ganga and Son flowed through Magadha which helped in transport, water supplies and making the land fertile.

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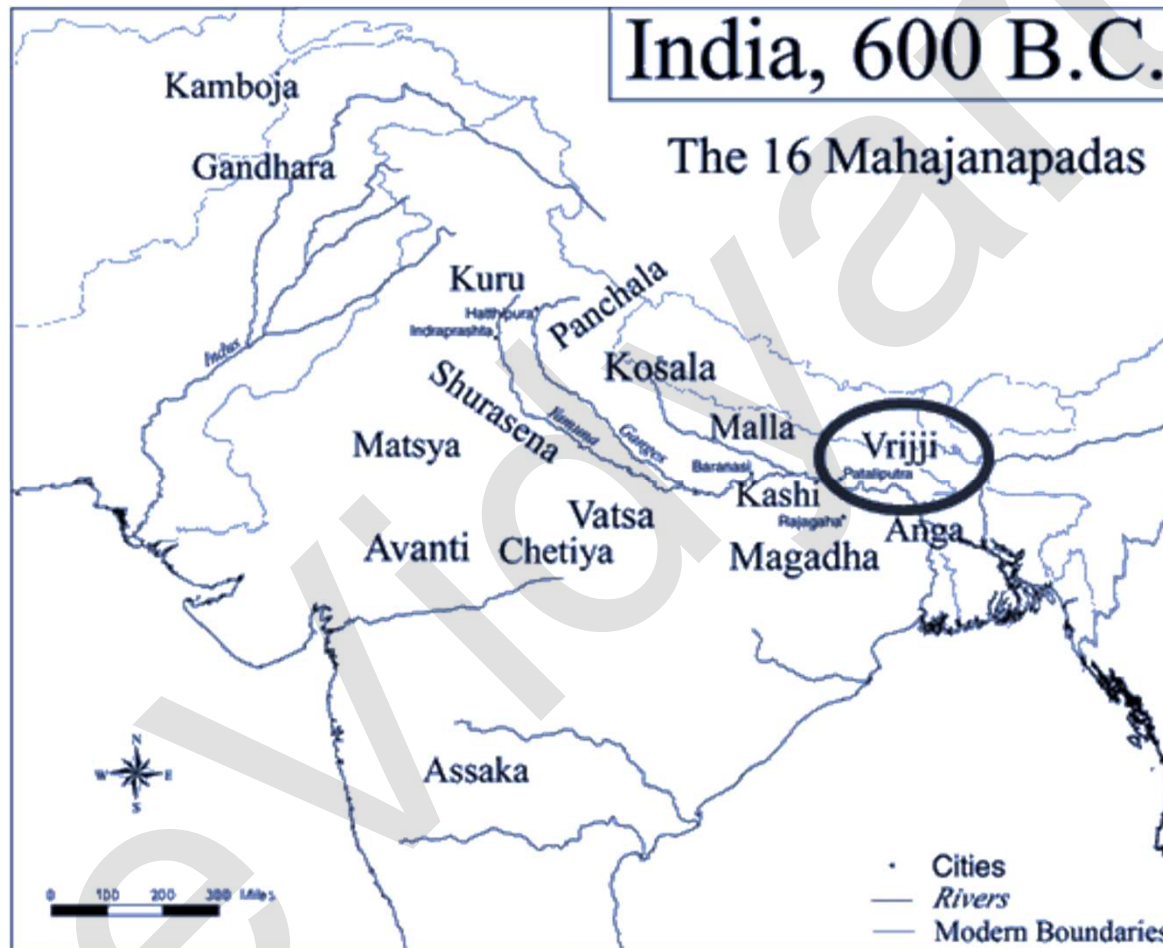
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- Two powerful rulers of Magadha were Bimbisara and Ajatasattu.
- Mahapadma Nanda was another important ruler. He extended his control up to the north-west part of the subcontinent.
- The earlier, capital of Magadha was Rajagriha in Bihar, but later shifted to Pataliputra.

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❑ A closer look — (b) Vajji

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❑ A closer look — (b) Vajji

- Vajji, with its capital at Vaishali (Bihar), was under a different form of government, known as gana or sangha.
- In a gana or a sangha there were many rulers, each one was known as a raja.

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- The rajas performed rituals together and met in assemblies.
- Women, dasas and kammakaras could not participate in these assemblies.
- Both the Buddha and the Mahavira belonged to ganas or sanghas.
- The last of the sanghas were conquered by Gupta rulers around 1500 years ago.