



# **Geography and People**

## **200BC to 500AD**

### **The GoldenPeriod**

**Hardeep Mann**

# **GEOGRAPHY AND PEOPLE**

## **200BC - 500AD**

- **Period of Prosperity**
- **Security**
- **Well being**
- **Creativity**

# **GEOGRAPHY AND PEOPLE**

## **200BC - 500AD**

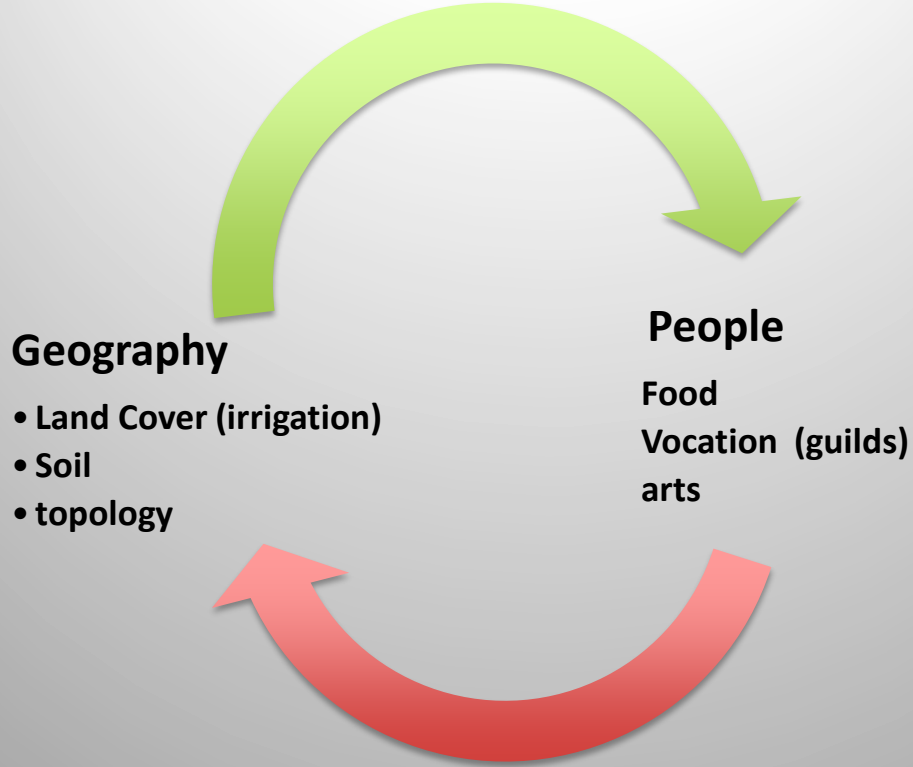
- **Period of Prosperity**
- **Security**
- **Well being**
- **Creativity**



# **Geography and People 200BC – 500AD**

- **Agriculture**
- **Trade**
- **Services**
- **Administration**

**Village Community and Joint family were the bulwark of  
this Society**



**Karakoram**



# Indian subcontinent

**Deccan Plateau**



**Thar Desert**



**Western Ghats**



## Landscapes

**Odisha**



**Himalaya**



**Eastern Ghats Mountain Range**



# Rivers



Indus River



Kaveri Delta

Ganges



# Forests



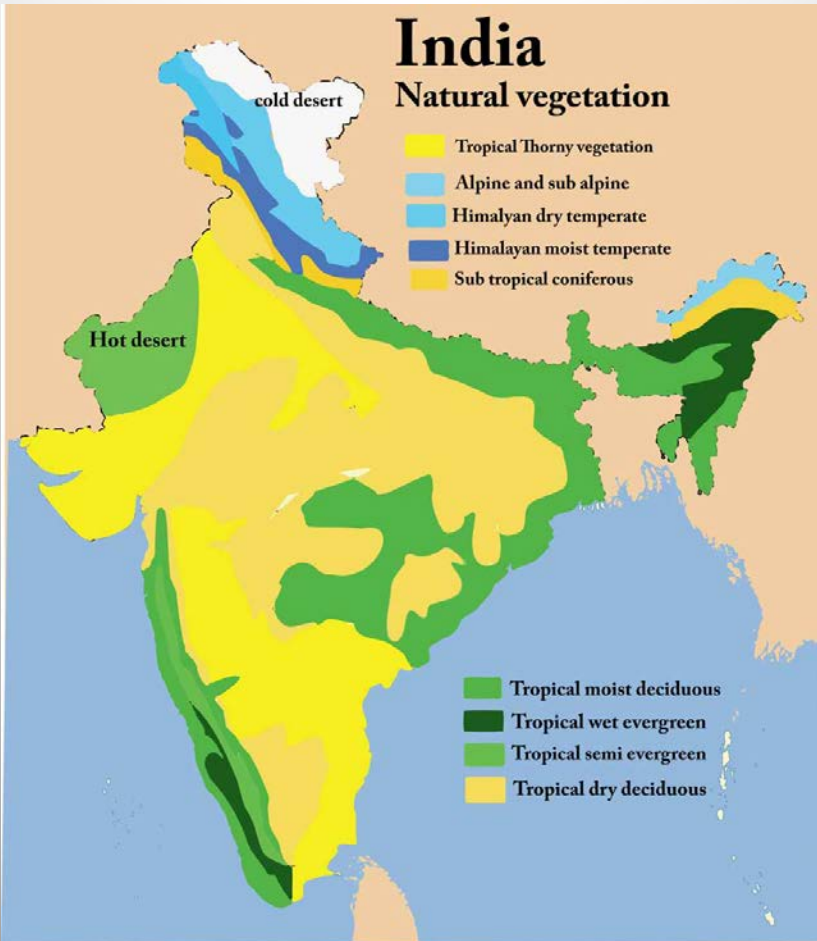
Tropical evergreen



South Western Ghats



Tropical rain forest



Tropical dry deciduous



Tropical moist deciduous





# Geography 200 BC to 500 AD

- Kingdom states strengthened and began to be independent after the fall of the Mauryan Empire.
- Regions began to develop agricultural and, trade, and started to govern independently.
- New nations were created. Language, culture and economies began to have separate historical identities.

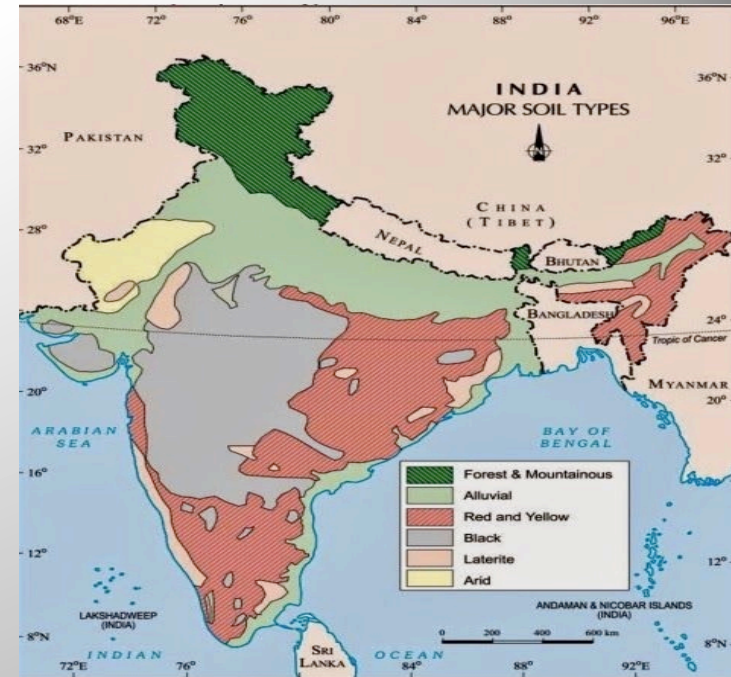


- Superstructure of empires still existed, but in absence of the centralized force and impact of the Nanda and Maurya Empires.

# Soils of the Indian Subcontinent



Pottery from clay soil



- Alluvial Soil
- Laterite soils
- Black Soil
- Red & yellow soils
- Arid Soils
- Forest Soils





# Irrigation and Wells

- The basic structure of the Kallanai Dam, across the main stream of the Kaveri River in Tamil Nadu, dates to the 2nd century

## Kallanai Dam

( The Kaveri river in Trichy District in the state of Tamil Nadu in South India )



- Wells and Ponds were constructed in villages



# Farming



Paddy Fields



Women at work



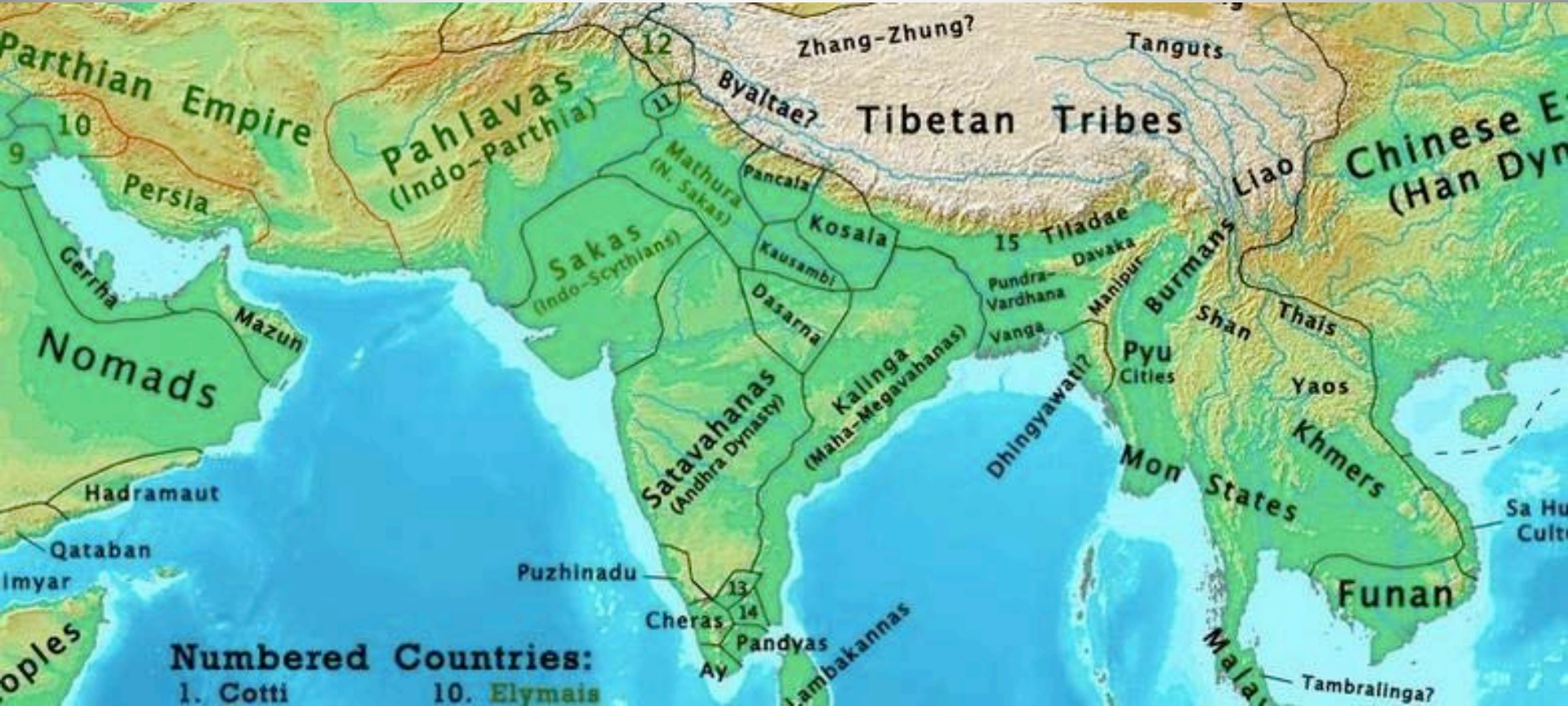
Agriculture and People



Tools



# People



# People lived in Mahajanapadas



# Villages

## Village People

- Landholders
- Cultivators
- Landless agricultural laborers
- Craftsmen weavers, potters, smiths, carpenters,
- Petty traders, brahmanas
- Milkmen, barbers, washermen, cowherds, entertainers, hunters.
- Chandalas and other aborigines
- Women
- Children

## Joint family headed by Patriarch

- The Patriarch (eldest male)
- Younger brothers of the patriarch
- Children
- Grand Children
- Wife of Patriarch
- Wives of all brothers and male children
- Grand Parent



# Village and Production

## Producers

- **Farmers**
- **Craftsmen weavers, potters, smiths, carpenters**

## Service Providers

- **Petty traders**
- **Brahmanas (priests)**
- **Milkmen, barbers, washermen, cowherds, entertainers, hunters**
- **Chandalas and other aborigines**
- **Forest Dwellers**
- **Families**
- **Teachers**
- **Healers**





# Cities

## Production

- Artisans
- Guilds

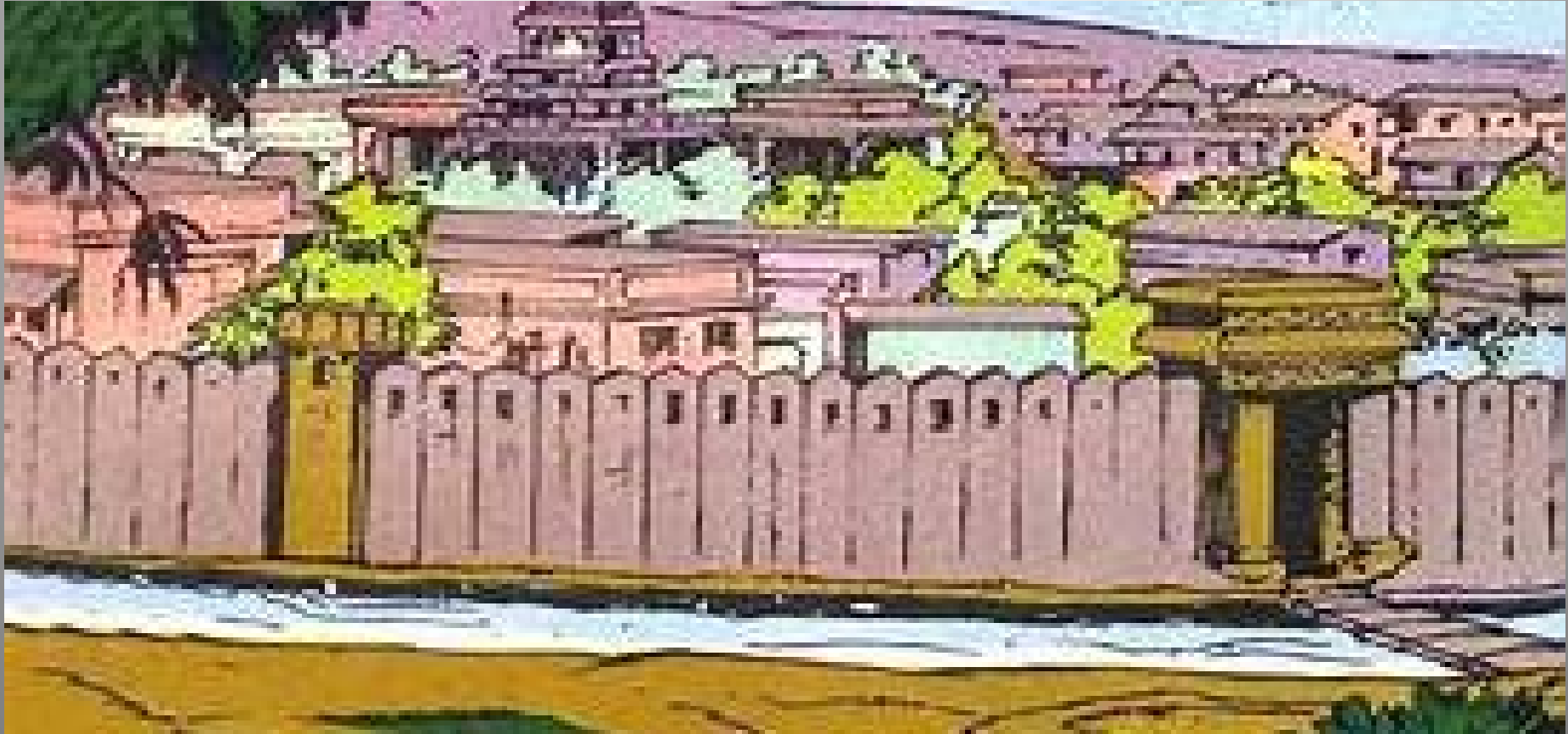
## Service Providers

- Kings, Queens
- Ministers
- Royal Priest
- Military
- Doctors
- Teachers
- Courtesans
- Traders
- Maids
- Sweepers

# Taxila City: a Trading Post and Higher Learning Center for the Indian Subcontinent and the world



# Pataliputra City



# Forests

- **Forest Dwellers**
- **Hunter Gatherers**
- **Animal Husbandry**
- **Timber**
- **Medicinal Plants**

# Ayurveda Herbal Medicines

- The oil of the Jatamansi has been used over centuries as a perfume, a traditional medicine, or in religious ceremonies across wide territories, from India to Europe (used in Churches)



Himalayas



Jatamansi



# Sangha

Men and Women

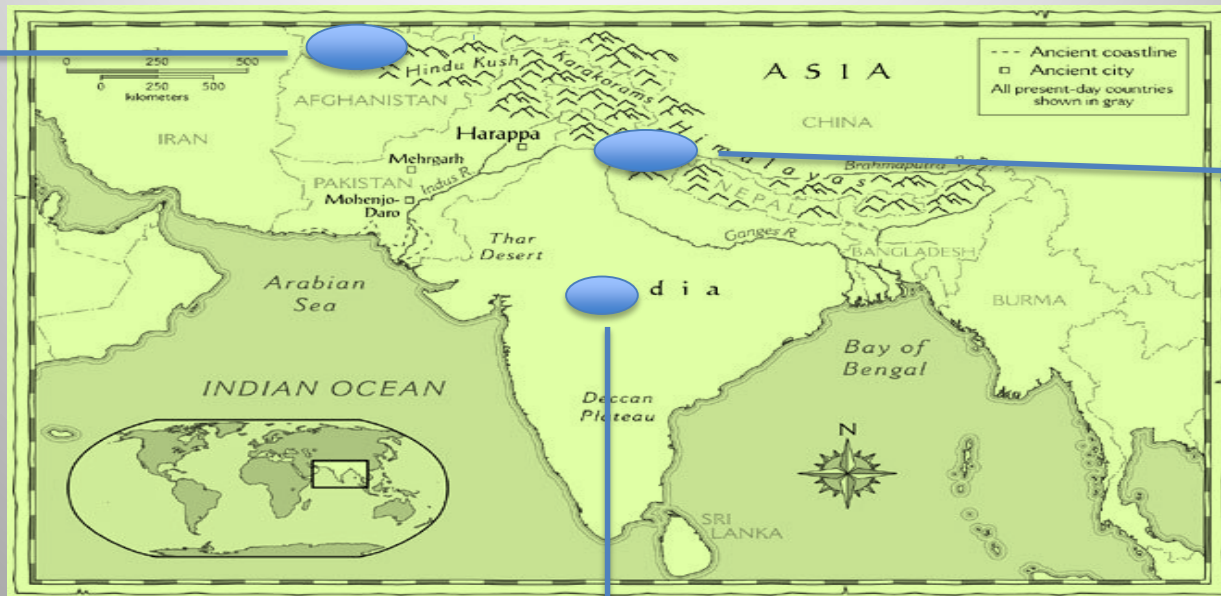
- **Jain Monks**
- **Buddhist Monks**
- **Others**

# Flowering of the Indian Civilization

## 200 BC to 500 AD

### PHASE 1 of agriculture

North West  
Afghanistan,  
Punjab



PHASE 2  
Gangetic  
Plains

PHASE 3  
Indian Peninsula

Geography and People 200BC to 500AD





# Conclusion

- **Farmers, Craftsmen, Service providers, and Rulers generated a great deal of wealth, which provided stability, security, and well being, and led to great creativity and individual expression,**



# Questions for further research

- How prevalent was untouchability - Mention of Chandalas in literature.
- What was the position of women? There are strong anti-woman statements in  
Arthasatra, Manusmriti, Panchatantra, Naradsmriti, Vishnusmriti.
- How widespread was the practice of Sati? Mahabharata mentions

?

# Resources

- **Arthasastra** by Kautilya
- **Kama Sutra** by Vatsayana
- **Charaka smhita** by Charaka
- **Mahabharata**
- **Sushruta Smhita**
- **Panchatantra**
- **Nardasmriti**
- Kiran Kumar Thaplyal
- Hermann Kulke
- Balbir Singh Sihag
- A. L. Basham
- R. S. Sharma
- R. C. Majumdar
- Various internet resources