

availability of land. It is important to note that land during this period was highly stratified. On one hand, there were big peasants, who carried out cultivation on its own management (khudkasht). They employed laborers for various cultivation activities for which they paid them wages, while on the other hand small peasants who engaged in cultivation but depended upon borrowing for subsistence and food, seed and cattle. Though size of agricultural product and per capita product in the Mughal India was better, the growth rate of agriculture was slow. This was due to heavy dependence on monsoon and defective land revenue system.

## **TOWNS DURING PRE-BRITISH PERIOD**

Due to absence of data and other statistical information about the towns during pre-British period, it is difficult to comment on growth of towns and their linkages with rest of the world. Following are some of the observations. - Most of the towns were non-industrial in character - Every town had an industry but it was not the cause of its survival. – (a)The old towns owed their existence to Places of pilgrimage, (b) Seats of courts or capital of province and (c) Commercial depots. The Mogul period had been very much important for the urbanization, especially for northern and central India. The political unification of so vast area under a single ruler stimulated commercial and urban life, as obstacles to the movement of the people and the goods were removed, greater transport facilities were provided, etc. The monetization of land revenue helped in the growth of urban areas. So also the availability of raw materials provided additional incentive to the development of urban centres. The main towns during Mogul period were Delhi, Agra, and Lahore. The other growing towns were Banaras, Luckhnow, Jaunpur etc. The size and endurance of individual towns depended largely on their activities. Certain towns had been purely industrial, or commercial, or administrative unit. While Mathura and Banaras were the centres of pilgrimage. Some towns prospered more than others since they had an access to river communication which met large demand of European countries for Indian goods, for instance, the textile industries in Patna and Banaras benefited from the rivers like Ganga and Hugli. During the Mogul period, there was steady shift in the intensity of urbanization from west to east. As a result of prosperity, central and western parts of Uttar Pradesh started coming into their own towns and town ships were developed by direct government patronage. By the middle decades of 18th especially Awadh, were prospering, and thus leading to more favorable conditions for urbanization. Thus it is clear that most of the urban centres depended heavily on political conditions for their development and prosperity. Similarly, new Maratha capitals, Poona, Nagpur, and Baroda etc. led to the growth of towns. New port cities were quite immune to the political disorders such as Calcutta, Pondicherry and Bombay. It is because of the development of administrative headquarters also, that the cities (capitals) in their respective regions were developed. These included Agra, Delhi, and Lahore in the north and muslim capitals in the south—Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmednagar and Hyderabad. Some cities grew up because of their religious importance, such as Banaras, Ujjain, Mathura, Chidambaram and Tanjore. Cities like Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Pondicherry, Surat, Cochin and Calicut were important centers of trade with other countries. Thus it is difficult to state the exact cause for the development of cities during pre-British period. Towns were developed with the combined causes like trade, pilgrimage centres and administrative headquarters etc.