CHAPTER VI

COINS, SEALS AND SEALINGS
the sea-coast, the flourishing industry and trade in the
two regions contributed largely to their progress in various
fields.

The literary evidence, art relics and testimonies
of foreign writers throw welcome light on the economic adva-
nancement of Malwā and Bundelkhand (later name of Avanti and
Chedi respectively). This is confirmed by the numismatic
evidence.

The earliest coins of central India are, of course,
the Punch-marked. It may be observed that the number of
silver punch-marked coins, so far reported from various parts
of central India, is much less in number than the copper
punch-marked. The excavations at Ujjain, Vīdishā, Eran and
Tripuri have brought to light very few silver punch-marked
coins. On the other hand, the number of copper punch-marked
coins is pretty large. The local early coins from Ujjain,
Maheshwar, Vīdishā, Eran and Tripuri are mostly of copper.
It is interesting to note that in the case of Vīdishā and
Eran janapada coins, the earliest method of preparation
was the punch-marking device. It was followed by the die-
striking method. The later device, along with the casting
method, was more popular at Ujjain and Tripuri.

The coins from the above-mentioned sites, datable
from about 225 B.C. to 100 A.D., are usually of copper.
Their workmanship is indeed remarkable, indicating that adequate attention was paid to the minting of well-shaped coins marked with artistic devices. Numerous Janapada coins from Ujjain, Vidishā and Eran can be cited in this connection. The high artistic sense displayed in the Suṅga-Sātavāhana art of Bharhut and Śāncchī must have been imitated by the designers and makers of the contemporary coinage. The large-sized Sātavāhana coins discovered at Ujjain, Vidishā and Tripuri show this developed aesthetic sense, which is also discernible in the uninscribed and inscribed coins of the region. 1 A few coins of the early Sakas bearing names in Asokan Brahmī and symbols of the Avanti Janapada may also be mentioned here. 2

The mints at Ujjain, Vidishā and Eran produced a large number of copper coins. Copper was available in large quantities in the Mālavā area for the mints at Eran, Vidishā and Tripuri. For the mints of Avanti some quantity of copper must have come from the Madhyānā region not very far from Avanti.

It may be remarked here that the economic condition of the Mālavā and Bundelkhand areas must have been quite sound during the period of Suṅga-Sātavāhana supremacy. Gold coins were unknown in the area during this period and the silver currency in the form of punch-marked coins was also not much in use. All the same, the economy of the region stood at a
firm footing. Had it not been so, the construction of numerous artistic monuments at Bharhut, Sânsi and Vidishâ would not have been possible. Contemporary copper currency of central India must have had high intrinsic value and it must have played its part in building up a sound economy in this part of the country. The guilds of tradesmen contributed a lot to this economy.3

After the Sûnga-Sâtavâhana period, there was a political change in the region. Western Mâla was occupied by the Saka-Kshatrapas and remained under their rule right from the middle of the 2nd century A.D. till about the end of the 4th century A.D. The Sakas introduced their silver currency in western Mâla. For some time they also minted their coins in the mint at Eran, which was occupied by them, although for a short time.4

The Nâga dynasty had its hold in the present Gwalior-Shajpal divisions of Madhya Pradesh from about the beginning of the third to the middle of the 4th century A.D. Their centres were at Vidishâ, Pâdmâvatî (Pawâya near Gwalior) and Kâstipurî (Kâtha, district Morena). Several thousands of copper coins of the Nâga rulers have been discovered at these and a few other sites. The successors of the Sâtavâhana in the Tripurî region were the Bodhis,3 who also issued their coins in copper. Names of five Bodhis rulers are known from the excavations at Tripurî (1965-66 to 1970-71). The
rulers of the Nagha dynasty issued their copper coins in the South Kosala region. A few of these, assignable to the second half of the 3rd century A.D., have been discovered by Prof. K.D. Rajpāi at Bāndhagārh (dist. Shahdol).

The coins of the early Gupta rulers have been found at Eran, Vīdishā, Sānci and Ujjain. Mention may be made of a very large number of copper coins of Rāmāgupta from Eran and Vīdishā. These coins imitated the traits of indigenous Nēgā coins, rather than those of the Saka-Kshatrapas.

From the time of Chandragupta Vikramāditya the political situation of central India is changed. His conquests of Mālwā and, later on, of Gujarāt and Kāthiānār brought remarkable changes in the field of numismatics along with those of art and architecture.

The Gupta coinage of Central India, followed by the coins of the Rānas, furnishes interesting material for the study of economic history. Almost the entire region of Central India was under the Imperial Guptas. They succeeded in their efforts in extending the limits of their empire to the Arabian Sea (raṇnodādhi). This resulted in a remarkable fillip to industry and trade. With the introduction of a large quantity of gold and silver currency from the time of Chandragupta II a new era in the economic development dawned
upon central India. This is attested to by the development of great towns like Vidian, Ujjayinī, Taxhavana and Dasa-
para. The great achievements in the field of architecture and art during the Gupta rule in Central India also furnish an eloquent testimony to the political and economic stability in the region around of Vidian district.

Authority of Minting Coins:—various problems relating to the coinage in Ancient India have been discussed by several scholars. It is now generally accepted that the early Indian punch-marked coins were current in different parts of the country. Recent archaeological excavations have shown that the manufacture of coins was well advanced in the Maurya Period. The recent studies of punch-marked hoards from different regions of the country tend to indicate that some of the country tend Janapadas in the Buddha's time and afterwards were issuing the silver and copper coins with definite marks of their own.

It is also known to us that during the Nanda-
Maurya epoch it was the state which was mainly responsible for the minting and circulation of coins. There is no deny-
ing the fact that in ancient India, besides various states themselves minting coins, the authority was vested in the guilds of traders and silversmiths. V.A. Smith thought that a large number of the ancient silver punch-marked coins was issued by the moneyers, who impressed their own symbols
on them. This is supported by the literary evidence.

Two works of Buddhaghoṣha, viz. Visuddhimagga and Sāmaṇṭa Prāśūdhikā and their commentaries, point out that the silversmiths, both in towns and villages, were empowered by the State to manufacture punch-marked coins. From these works, it also appears that the symbols put on the coins represented the particular village, town, hill or river-bank where they were made. A detailed study of the various regional hoards and the distinctive symbols on the coins of those hoards may prove quite fruitful in ascertaining the exact locations where the coins were minted.

It has been argued, on the basis of a passage in the Arthasastra that the state coined money for the use of the Paurāṇa and Janapada. Some scholars take to it mean that the state minted the money in gold and silver for the corporate bodies. But this is far from being correct. The passage only means to say that the state goldsmiths were assigned the duty of preparing silver and gold ornaments for the people of towns and villages.

That the guilds or corporations of traders were empowered to issue coins is attested by the Negamā coins from Taxila. The word Negamā (Sanskrit Naigamāḥ) here should be taken to mean "the Śraṅga" or corporations of merchants.

Tribal Coins:— The ancient Indian coins, known as 'Tribal
coins', form an important series of indigenous coinage covering a long period of over five centuries. The bearing of these coins on political and cultural history of the country, ranging between C. 200 B.C. and the middle of the 4th century A.D., has been acknowledged by scholars. Cunningham, Smith, Allen, Bajpai and a few other scholars have studied these coins in their various aspects and have also attempted their classification. 12

The nomenclature 'Janapada' occurring in ancient literature seems to be more appropriate. The word Janapada used in the later Vedic texts (e.g. _Aitareya Brahmana_, VII, 14; _Taittiriya Brahmana_, ch. II, _Satapatha Brahmana_, ch. XIII), by Pāṇini and others signifies a community or people of a particular geographical and cultural unit. Apart from the republics or autonomous states, the term janapada was used for the monarchial states also.

The word Naigama occurs on some coins are known to have been issued by the guilds or corporations. Similarly, quite a good number of city-names are known to us as occurring on coins. These names are of Kausānabha, Tripura, Vidisa, Airikina, (Erna), Mahishmati, Madhyanikai, etc. The coins with the names of cities or Naigamas were presumably issued by the respective city corporation or guilds of tradesmen. They can be termed as _naagara-naigama_ or Naigama coins.
Nicara Coin from Vidiśā—The early punch-marked coin acquired by Prof. Bajpai,\textsuperscript{13} is described below:

Copper, almost square 0.5"x0.425"; wt. 20.3 grains.

\textbf{Obverse:} In an incuse, half sun-symbol. Brāhmaṇa legend......

\textbf{Kānāḥ.}

\textbf{Reverse:} Taurine symbol at one corner.

It appears that the complete die, containing the Sun-symbol and the legend ending in Kānāḥ could not be accommodated on the flan of the coin due to the smaller size of the latter. The complete legend would have given us the name of the people who issued this coin. It is clear, at any rate that this coin also was issued by a corporation of merchants, probably of Vidiśā, whose name unfortunately is lost due to the incomplete legend.

The three copper coins described below were acquired by Prof. Bajpai\textsuperscript{14} from Vidiśā. The first two of these bear the name of Sīva-gupta, a new king. The third coin is that of Sakhadeva (or Sukhadeva).

\textbf{1. Coin of Sīva-gupta—}

Copper: round, 4"; wt. 8.72 grains.

\textbf{Obverse:} Legend Sīva-gupta in rectangular incuse.

\textbf{Reverse:} Indistinct symbols.

The name of a king called Sīva-gupta (or Sīva-gupta) is not known from numismatic sources. On the palaeographic
ground in the coin can be placed in the 2nd century B.C.
The issuer of the coin appears to be a local ruler of Vidisa.

Another copper coin from Vidisa bearing the name of Siyamuta has been deciphered by Prof. Bajpai. This coin is of a different type from Vidisa. The description is as follows:

2. Copper: die struck; almost square; 0.6"x0.5"; 44 grains

**Obverse:** Above at the left corner, part of the shadachakra symbol; at the right corner wavy line. In the centre Brahma legend raño savagata (sa).

**Reverse:** Prominent 'Ujjain symbol' with double circles; between two balls, a turining symbol (looking like a human figure).

On the basis of the Palaeography the coin can be assigned to early 2nd century B.C. Dr. Altekar has also described a similar coin. The coin belonged to B.M. Vyas collection and said to have been acquired from Kausambi. The coin is roughly rectangular (0.5"x0.4") and weighs 48 grains. From its fabric and type, Altekar felt rather different in ascribing the coin to Kausambi. The legend was wrongly read by him as jagabhadasa or Savabhasasa. Prof. Bajpai examined this coin and correctly read the legend on it as (ra)na savagata.
The letter after गः, due to a little encrustation, appears like भा. In fact it is Asokan गः. It is followed by तः and not by दः or झः. The last letter झः is only partly visible.

On this newly discovered coin from Vidissā the legend is very clear, which is read as ‘रानो सावागत(स)’ of Śivagupta. Altekar’s coin may have travelled to Kausāmī from Vidissā.

The main features, besides the fabric and size, which distinguishes the present coin from the coin of Śivagupta already published by Prof. Bajpai, is the title of रानो, absent on the previous coin, which only bears the name Śivagata. It appears that he issued at least two types of coins, one circular with his name only, and the other square with the title of rano before his name.

That the title of rañ̄o was used by some kings on their coins in the 2nd and 1st century B.C. is now known to us.

We also know that at the close of the 3rd century B.C. or in the beginning of the 2nd century B.C., some independent kings ruled over Eastern Mālwa. Besides, Dhamerāla two other kings bearing Gupta ending names are known to us.

It is hoped that the further investigations in Vidissā, Eran and some other adjoining places in Eastern
Mālwa will provide us more reliable evidences in this connection and will help us more definite to place Indragupta and Sīvagupta.

3. Coin of Sakhadeva:
   Copper; round, 55", wt. 47.43 grains.
   **Obverse:** A good or staff with flag, below which is a spear.
   Brahmi legend on the edge Sakhadeva.
   **Reverse:** Blurred; faint traces of tree within railing.

H.V. Trivedi has published a similar coin in JNES. He read the legend as Sakhadātā. But on a close examination, Prof. Bajpai read as Sakhadeva. The coin should be assigned to the late 2nd or early 3rd century A.D., and not to the Sunga period, as Trivedi thinks.

The name of king Sakhadeva or Sakhadeva is not so far known. Trivedi found the coin published by him, in the coin-cabinet of the Archaeological Museum, Gwalior. The coin along with several others was according to him found at Pava (ancient Padmavatī), whereas the present coin comes from Vīdishā.

Sātavāhana Coins:— Recently two copper coins of the Sātavāhana rulers have been acquired by Prof. K.D. Bajpai, from Vīdishā and published by him. They are said to have been discovered in the bed of the river Bētwā, near the old mounds of Beenaqar (Vīdisā).
Coin No. 1 - (in the collection of Prof. Bajpai)

Copper; square; 1.85 cm; 72.50 grains

Obverse: The centre has three symbols:

(i) Three-arched hill,

(ii) Vajra (the so-called Ujjain symbol),

(iii) tree-in-railing.

Below is shown river with fish, etc.

At the top is brāhmi legend

(ra)n(a) siri Śatākarni(sa).

Reverse: Blank.

It is remarkable that the technique used in the preparation of this coin is the punching device found in the punch-marked Brāh-Vidisha coins of the Karṣapaṇa type. The provenance of the coin is significant in this case.

The discovery of this new coin from Vidisha may lend support to the theory that eastern Mālwā was occupied by the Śatavāhanas in the middle of the 2nd century B.C. This Śatākarni I, known from the Śinchī and Māneghat inscriptions and from coins, may rightly be taken to be the contemporary of Khāravela of Kalinga. The recent excavations conducted at Tripuri (dist. Janalpur) under the direction of Prof. K.D. Bajpai, have also indicated that the hegemony of the Śatavāhanas was spread up to the Tripurī region during the 2nd-1st centuries B.C.
Coin No. 2 - (In the collection of Prof. Bajpai)

Copper cast; circular; 2.20 cm., wt. 100 grains.

Obverse: In the centre, a female figure stands on a circular floral platform. She stands erect facing. Her right hand is held down straight. To her right is the Vajra (Ujjain symbol) having a crescent on top. The Brahmī legend starting at 10 O'clock reads -

rañō(o) sa (si)ri sātasa.

Reverse: Elephant walking to right between two arched hills, behind the tail of the animal is a long arch. Over the elephant is a flowering tree within railing.

On this new coin from Vidisa the figure is clearly that of a female, as is evident from her breasts and slender waist. Her arms fall down straight, but the palms are held horizontally. This figure can be identified with that of Lakshmi.

A few Sātavāhana coins resembling this type have previously been published. The legend rañō siri sātasa (or Sātisa) can be identified with the Sātavāhana ruler Sri Sakti.

A unique Sri Satakarni, recently published by Prof. Bajpai, was discovered at Vidisa. This is the earliest example of a punch-marked coin bearing an inscription 'rañō siri sātakarānasa' in the Mauryan Brahmi characters.
Prof. Bajpai has identified Satakarni of this coin with Satakarni-I of the Sātavāhana dynasty, whose inscription is known from Sānchī. Prof. Bajpai has recently acquired two copper coins from Vidiśā bearing the legend 'Kanyakula'. The Palaeography indicates that the coins can be assigned to the later half of the 1st century B.C. These coins may be assigned to the well-known Kanya dynasty which, according to the Purāṇas, succeeded the Suṅgas.

Kushana Coin: A New Sīga Type Coin of Vima Kadphises:

A rare gold coin of Vima Kadphises, the Kushāna monarch, was published by Sarneer in his catalogue of the British Museum. The coin bears on the obverse the figure of the king seated in a two horse chariot moving slowly to the right. The name of the king with his title is written as 'Basiliscus Osano Kadphises'. On the reverse stands the figure of god Śiva wearing a lion-cloth and tall head-dress. He holds a trident in right hand. There is a Kharoshthi legend on the reverse similar to that on the copper coins of the king.

Recently a coin of this ruler has been acquired and published by Prof. K.D. Bajpai from Vidiśā. The coin was coated with rust.

Metal: Tin with admixture of lead and nickel in small quantities;
Shape - Round; size 1.190 cm.
weight 31.50 grains; slightly broken at the left bottom.

Obverse: The king in his usual dress is seated in a Biga
drawn by two horses. He holds a club in the right
hand and is looking to right. Figures of the
two horses, the back wheel and the seat of the
king are very clear on the coin. Of the border
Greek legend, the name *kadhikes* can be clearly
read. Traces of tānā are also discernible in
front of the Chariot.

Reverse: Standing figure of Siva with the left hand held
akimbo. In the right hand the deity holds a long
trisula. The border shows only a few traces of
the Kharoshthī legend.

Biga types coins of *vimakadhikes* are extremely rare. The
newly discovered alloy coin of this ruler is a welcome
addition to the rare Kushāna coins, so far known to us.

Copper Coins of Rāmagupta:— All the coins of Rāmagupta are
of copper, varying in weight from 20 to 30 grains. The
coins are circular in shape and their fabric is very similar
to that of Nāga coins, which have been discovered in large
number at Bār, Vidišā etc. The name of Rāmagupta is clearly
written on some of the coins. The symbols Lion, Garuda and
Garudadvaja - are also quite distinct on them. The Brāhmī
legend on the coins is clearly Gupta.
The excavations at Vīdisā conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India have also brought to light copper coins of Rāmagupta. In size and fabric they resemble the Bān coins of that ruler.

Rāmagupta can be called the originator of the copper currency in the Imperial Gupta dynasty. It is true that the monetary issues of Rāmagupta were minted in Eastern Mālwa, specially in the mints at Bān and Vīdisā. Prior to the conquest of Vīdisā area by Samudragupta, the mints at Bān and Vīdisā used to coin the money of the local Nāga rulers. It is a well-known fact that several Nāga chiefs were conquered by Samudragupta. It was in the fitness of things that the coins of Rāmagupta, after the conquest of the Nāga territories and after the death of Samudragupta, were prepared in the mints of the region previously occupied by the Nāgas. The same procedure was followed by Chandragupta-II and Kumāragupta-I also, whose coins of Mālwa type are too well-known.

The depiction of three-headed Garuda on certain coins of Rāmagupta reminds us of the multi-headed figures of Śiva and Kārttikeya found on the Kushāna and certain Tribal coins.

Recently three inscribed stone images of Jaina Tīrthankaras have been discovered at Vīdisā. The Brāhma inscriptions incised on their pedestals mention Mahārājā-
dhirāja śrīRāmagupta. On palaeographic and artistic grounds the statues can be assigned to the last quarter of the 4th century A.D. The numismatic evidence is thus supported by the newly discovered inscriptions. This new evidence has given weightage to the historicity of Rāmagupta. Coins of Rāmagupta have been discovered from surface in large numbers from Vidisa and region around.\(^{23}\)

Some copper coins of Rāgupta (bearing the legend Rāmagupta or maquta on one side and a lion figure on the other) have already been known to us.\(^{29}\) All the coins of copper and are round in shape. A few of these obtained from Vidisa, are described here:

A. **Lion Type**

**No. 1 - '45''; wt. 16.13 grains.**

- **Obv.** : At bottom, Brāhmī legend *maquta* in early Gupta characters.

- **Rev.** : Lion to left with tail upraised.

**No. 2 - '45''; wt. 14.39 grains.**

- **Obv.** : In the centre, *maquta* in large Gupta Brāhmī letters. Traces of crescent above the legend.

- **Rev.** : Within dotted border, lion standing to left with mouth wide-open and tail upraised.

**No. 3 - '42''; wt. 9.45 grains.**

- **Obv.** : In the centre, Gupta Brāhmī legend *rāmagu*
(the triangle in ma is rather large);
crescent above.

Rev. : Lion standing to left as above.

No. 4.  .45"; wt. 9.89 grains.

Obv. : In the centre, legend in bold Brāhmi
       characters rāmagū; crescent above.

Rev. : Within beaded border, lion to left standing
      as above.

B. Garuda Type-

No. 5.  Thick round, .3"; wt. 12.38 grains.

Obv. : Within dotted circle in Gupta Brāhmi
       characters Rāma, with a triangular design
       over ka.

Rev. : Seated Garuda with out-stretched wings
       similar to the figure on Garudadhvaja of
       Gupta gold coins and various copper coins
       and various copper coins of Chandragupta-II.

No. 6.  .35"; wt. 6.55 grains.

Obv. : Above, circle and crescent Below 'macupta'.
       Cluster of dots below ma. Beaded border.

Rev. : Within dotted border seated Garuda with
       prominently outstretched wings.

No. 7.  .3"; wt. 5.42 grains.

Obv. : Under straight line, rāmagū; cluster of
dots.
Rev. : Seated Garuda without stretched wings.

No. 8. 27"; wt. 5.00 grains.

Obv. : Above, crescent; in the centre *Gupta* (very clear); traces of border of dots.

Rev. : Garuda as on No. 7.

No. 9. 32"; wt. 3.94 grains.

Obv. : Above, crescent and circle. In the centre, *maqupta*; cluster of dots below *ma*.

Rev. : Within circle of dots, Parts of Garuda figure visible.

No. 10. 3"; wt. 3.27 grains.

Obv. : Within dotted border *maqupta*; cluster of dots below.

Rev. : Garuda with prominent circular head.

No. 11. Thick type, .25"; wt. 10.5 grains.

Obv. : Rāma in bold letters written in slightly different form (at the top of *ra* is a cross and *ma* has a crescent at its top).

Rev. : Within border of dots, seated Garuda (only lower part visible).

The above-mentioned varieties in the two types of coins of Rāmagupta are worth notice. In so far as the Lion-type is concerned, some coins from Vidiśā show the animal standing to right. The Garuda type of coins are
much larger in number and they are of different sizes, weights and varieties. The palaeography, it may be pointed out, is definitely early Gupta. The letter ma occurs in both forms. Some letters exhibit ornamental devices.

C. Garudadhvaja Type Coins— The coins of Rāmagupta coming under this type indicate a number of interesting features. The bird on the reverse is sometimes shown with three heads (instead of one) in the human form. In some cases Garuda, in the human or bird form, is shown holding a serpent in each of the outstretched hands. On some coins the Garuda in human form is seated cross-legged. The obverse shows garudadhvaja in the centre. The letter ra occurs on the left side and ma on the right side of the garudadhvaja. On some coins the face of the bird seated on the standard is represented by a thick dot. Two coins of this type found at Vidiṣā are described below:

(1) Copper, round, .70 cm.; wt. 6.50 grains.

Obv. : Inside bead-border, in the centre garudadhvaja, to its left ra, to the right (ma).

Rev. : Inside bead border, Garuda in human form seated cross-legged like a yogi.

(2) Copper, round, .9 cm.; wt. 10 grains.

Obv. : In the centre Garudadhvaja surmounted by a three-headed Garuda Legend Rāma.

Rev. : Inside circular border, Garuda with three heads and in complete human form (shown upto the waist) with the right hand raised.
D. **Border Legend (Sri Rāmagupta) Type** :- This type shows a close imitation of the Nāga coinage in so far as the legend is concerned. Like the Nāga coins the legend here is written on the border of the coin with the affix Sṛī before the name of Rāmagupta. One coin of this type is described here:

**Locality - Vidisā**

Copper; round .9 cm.; wt. 7.5 grains.

**Obv.** : The border legend Sṛī Rāmagupta. In the centre, sketch of Garuda with the beak turned to right.

**Rev.** : Inside beak border seated Garuḍa with outstretched wings.

Several copper coins mentioning the name of Rāmagupta, are in the collection of Sri Rajmal Madavāya, a resident of Vidisā.

**Copper coins of Chandragupta-II** :- After Rāmagupta, the copper currency was continued by Chandragupta-II, and after him by Kumāragupta I. No copper coins of Skandagupta or his successors are so far known. But it can be said that certain features of the earlier Gupta copper coins were retained by the later rulers on their silver currency. Some later kings with Gupta ending names, like Jayagupta, Indragupta and Harigupta, adopted a motifs found on the copper and gold coins of the Guptas.
Dr. Altekar in his catalogue has published six types of copper coins issued by Chandragupta II. These are as follows:

I - Chhatra type (with two varieties)
II - Standing king type
III - Archer Type.
IV - Bust Type (with five varieties)
V - Chakra Type
VI - Vase Type.

Two very clear coins of Type-II have been acquired by Prof. Bajpai from Vidisha:

1. Copper, oval, 1.12 cm.; wt. 11.25 grains.
   Obv. : King's face to left, wearing a peaked Persian helmet with a star in the centre.
   Traces of Greek letters at the back of the head.
   Rev. : Inside head border above, Garuda with outstretched wings. Below, Brahmī legend 'Chandragupta'.

2. Copper, circular, 1.6 cm.; wt. 10 grains.
   Obv. : King's head to left wearing close-fitting gear similar to that on the western Kshatraka coins. Fillets falling on the back. Traces of collar on the neck and of moustaches wears heavy ear-ring.
Rev. : Inside bead border above Garuda nimbat with outstretched wings. Below, Brāhmi legend Chandragupta.

Prof. Bajpai has classified these coins as a special variety of 'king wearing a peaked Persian crown'.

Altekar's type No. IV (Bust type) coin is also found from Vidisa. The description is given here under:

Copper, circular, broken at the right top corner and at the bottom; 1.50 cm., wt. 20.25 grains.

Obv. : Bust of king facing to left.

Rev. : At the top, Garuda seated on pedestal, holds in hands snakes on both sides.

Below Brāhmi legend Chandragupta.

Chandragupta's coins of type V (Chakra Type) are very rare. Altekar has published one circular coin of this type. A rectangular coin, with the Chakra symbol clearly indicated, is in the collection of Prof. Bajpai, which is reproduced here:

(From Vidisa)

Copper, rectangular, 1.00x375 cm.; wt. 9.25 grains.

Obv. : Chakra, Below the central straight line.

Brāhmi legend Chan(dra).

Rev. : At the top, Garuda seated; below, the Brāhmi legend Gup(ta).
Coins of Kumāra-gupta:—Dr. Altakar in his catalogue has described the following types of the copper currency of this ruler:

1. Chhatra Type,
2. Archer Type,
3. Standing King Type, and
4. Garuda Type.

Prof. Bajpai has acquired three coins of this ruler from Vidisa, which are described as follows:

(a) Kalasa Type
(b) Garuda with 'Ku'
(c) Peacock Type.

(A) Kalasa Type —
Copper; circular, .75 cm.; wt. 9 grains.

Oby. : Below a crescent, thin-necked Kalasa.
Rev. : Garuda, below Brāhmī legend kumā(var). 

(B) Garuda with 'Ku'—
Copper; circular, .62 cm.; wt. 2.50 grains.

Oby. : Inside border letter 'Ku' with crescent above.
Rev. : Garuda with outstretched wings seated on a raised pedestal.

(C) Peacock Type —
Copper; round, .6"; wt. 19.25 grains.

Oby. : Crowned head of king to right (much worn out).
Rev. : In centre, dancing Peacock. Border, almost full Brāhmī legend: *vījitaśvānī*... (as on the Madhyadesa silver coins).

No successor of Kumāragupta I is known to have issued any copper currency.

Prof. Bajpai has also identified a rare Gupta coin found from Sāncī (near Vidishā, and now in the collection of Sri Pardeshi of Indore). The description is given hereunder:

**Metal**: Copper; shape: round;
**Size**: 1.7 cm. x 1.45 cm.;
**Wt.**: 59.50 grains.

**Obv.**: Inside an oval enclosure is written Brāhmī legend in two straight lines:

'Jitāṁ Bhagavatā Padmanābhena'
(i.e. 'victorious is the lord Padmanābha (Vishnu)').

**Rev.**: Figure of Kalpavriksha in an ornamental form.

The script on the coin is clearly Gupta of Central India resembling the Characters of the Sāncī inscription of Chandragupta-II.

The name of ruler, locality, etc. are conspicuous by their absence on the coin. The tribute paid to Padmanābha (Vishnu) on the coin is indeed a novel feature in so far as
the Gupta numismatics is concerned. Any way, the question of assignment of the Śānci coin can be left an open until we come across a definite conclusive evidence in the matter. 38

A New Silver Coin of Skandagupta:— The Madhyadesa type silver coins of Skandagupta have been described by John Allan in his Catalogue (pp. 129–33, pl. XXI, 13–22) and by A.S. Altekar in his corpus (pp. 257–58, pl. XVIII, 19–23).

The dates so far read on the obverse of these coins are Gupta Era 144, 145, 146 and 148 (i.e. A.D. 463, 64, 65 and 67 respectively.).

The new coins recently discovered at Vidiṣā. 39 Both the obverse and reverse of the coin are very clear. The date given on the obverse, in front of the face is 100. 40 1, i.e. 141 (= 460 A.D.). This date has been found for the first time. It shows that the minting of the Madhyadesa type coins of Skandagupta has been started at least in the Gupta year 141 (= 460 A.D.).

Other Unusual Coins from Vidiṣā:— Some copper square punch-marked coins were recovered from excavations at Besnagar (Vidiṣā) during the years 1913–14, 1914–15 and 1963–66. 40 Twenty eight silver and a number of copper punch marked uninscribed cast coins were obtained from Vidiṣā and are now in the collection of M.G.M. Museum, Raipur 41 in M.P.

Twenty one Tribal coins bearing the name of Vediṣa
of Veddisa, two copper coins of Śivagupta and one of Sakhadeva deserves special mention. The copper coin of Śiva-
mitra (Sivamitra) and another rare coin bearing the legend in Brāhmī script '......kanam', which probably had been
issued by the Traders of Vidiśa, are also known to us.

Coins of Sātavāhana Rulers:

(a) Besnagar Excavation, 1913–14

Read coin of 'Gautamiputra vaiṣṇavī sātakarni'.

(b) Vidiśa — coins of—
1. 'Gautamiputra vaiṣṇavī'.
2. Read coin of 'vasisthiputra Pulūmāvi'.
3. Silver coin of 'vasisthiputra Pulūmāvi (in the collection of Late Sri Adwani of Indore).
4. 'Sri sātakarni' copper punch-marked type.
5. 'Sri Sāta' — copper coin

($n$ nos. 4 and 5 are in the personal collection of Prof. K.D. Bajpai).

Coins of Western Saka-Kshātrapa Rulers:

(a) Besnagar —
1. Copper coin of western kṣātrapa ruler 'Isvardatta' of Saurāstra.
2. Two silver coins, one of 'Mahākshātrapa Vīradāmana' and another of 'Rudrasena-II'.
3. Excavations at Besnagar, 1913–14 and 1914–15:

Three silver coins of 'Mahākshātrapa Vīradāmana and
his son 'Rudrasena-II', copper coins of 'Mahākshatrapa
Iśvaradatta and Dānapura'. 51
4. Eight coins of western kshatrapas of Saurāstra. 52
5. Three copper coins mentioning the name of 'Hamigama' and 'Valēka'. 53
6. Forty one silver coins of western kshatrapa rulers were recovered from Sānci near Vidiśā. These coins are of 'Rudrasena-I' and II, Bhartridāmanā, Visvasena, Rudra-
singh-II and Rudrasena-III, etc. 54

Kushāṇa Coins:

1. A rare 'Bīgā type' coin of the Kushāṇa emperor Viṃa
Kadphises made of silver alloy. 55

Coins of Nāga rulers:

1. Copper coin of Nāga ruler 'Vṛṣa Nāga' (Gwālior Museum). 56
2. Copper coin of 'Gaṇapati Nāga' and 'Gaṇendra Nāga' from
Excavations at Besnagar during 1913-14 and 1914-15. 57
3. Coin of Nāga ruler - Besnagar Excavation (1963)

   Obv. : Nandi
   Rev. : Name of the Nāga king with the title
          'Maharāja'.

4. Eight coins of Nāga rulers. 58

Coins of Imperial Gupta:

1. Coin of Chandragupta-II. 60
2. Six coins of Rāma Gupta. 61
3. Four coins of Rāma Gupta. 62
4. Sixteen coins of Rāmagupta from Vidishā - Four copper coins of Rāmagupta of 'Lion type' and twelve of Garuda type, all with clear legends. ⁶³
5. Other copper coins of Rāmagupta from Vidishā. ⁶⁴
6. A New silver coin of Skandagupta of Madhyadesa type. ⁶⁵
7. Copper coin mentioning the legend 'Jītaḥ Bhagavatā Padmanabhena' from Sānci. ⁶⁶

Coins of Kalachuri Rulers of Mahishmati:

1. Seven silver coins of Kalachuri ruler 'Krishna Rai' have been found in excavation at Basnagar during the year 1913-14. ⁶⁷
2. A number of Repousse coins, coins of Sivagupta and Sakhadeva are displayed in the Government Museum, Vidishā. ⁶⁸

The State Archaeological Museums at Vidishā, Bhopal, Indore, Raipur, Gwālior, Sānci and a few others; the university Museum at Ujjain & Sagar have a rich collection of Punch-marked, Tribal, Sātavāhana, Ksatrapa, Kushāna, Nāga, Gupta (particularly the copper coins of Rāmagupta) and the later Gupta coin-collection from Vidishā region.

The personal collection of coins from Vidishā with Dr. Nagu, Sri Umarao Simjā, Sri Padma Singh Shyamsukh (all of Indore city) and Sri Rajmal Jain Madavaiya, a resident of Vidishā, have a very rich surface collection of coins.
from Vidishā. The Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal should have to acquire all these treasures from the private coin-collectors and also to publish the brief inventory of the entire coin-collection to facilitate the researchers working in the fields of Numismatics of the Central India.

SEALS & SEALINGS

Recently two baked clay sealings of unusual importance have been acquired by Prof. Bajpai from Vidisā. They are made of red baked-clay and both of them are inscribed.

1. Sealing giving the evidence of an Ancient Custom House:

The first sealing is circular and measures 3.6x3.4 cms. The oval seal impression on it shows an ornamental Chakra above flanked by two wavy lines. Below the Chakra are two straight lines under which is written a Brāhmī inscription in two lines, which read as:

Line - 1 : Ṫrī Viśālakūpa
" - 2 : Ṫaulkikānām

(i.e. of the custom-officer of stationed near
the big well (at Vidisā).

The back of the sealing shows clear impressions of a broad string with which it was tied.

The inscription indicates that the sealing belonged to the office of the Tax-Collector's, located near a well-
known big well which was probably in the outskirts of ancient Vidisā town. Vidisā was one of the great trade-centres of ancient India.

In ancient Indian literatures and inscriptions numerous references to the Custom-officer and tax-Collectors are found. A very interesting description is found in the Arthasastra of Kautilya (II, 21, 1-2). It reads as follows:

"Sulkadhyaksah Sulkaśālaṁ

dhvajān ca prāṃukham ucaimu-kham vā mahādvārabhyase nivesavet.
Sulkadāvināscattvārah pānca vā
sārtthopavatān vanijo likheyūḥ
ke kuṭastvān kivatpanyān
kva cābhi j nāmaṁ mudra vā kritaḥ, iti."

This extract indicates that it was the duty of the chief Custom officer to see that the Custom-house was properly be located and the banner of his office was put at the main entrance of the Sulkaśāla. In each custom-house four or five tax-collectors were engaged to record the full details of the trader and their commodities, viz. Who the trader were, from where they came, what article they carried and what their value was. The traders were also required to tell about the profits made by them on their transaction.

In the śārañī literature (e.g. Yajñāvalkya, II, 173) and other texts references to the custom officers and tax-collectors are found.
The epigraphical evidence in this connection is also quite interesting and valuable. In the Bihar stone pillar inscription of Skandagupta⁷¹ there is a reference to the *Saulkikas* (tax-collectors) along with the *Agrahārikas*, the *Gautamikakas* etc. In several other inscriptions of the Gupta and post-Gupta period references to such tax-collectors and custom-officers are discernible.

The Brahmī letters on the sealing are of the Northern style and are assignable to about 500 A.D.

2. Second Sealing:- The second sealing⁷² is oval in shape. It measures 3.8x2.7 cms. Inside the rectangular incuse of the sealing. The Brahmī legend written in two lines has been deciphered as:

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Line 1 - maha-raj-a mahā -
    -"- 2 - senapati sena
i.e. (of Sena, king and commander-in-chief).
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On palaeographic grounds this sealing can be assigned to the later half of the second or early third century A.D.

The contents of the inscription are important indeed. The titles 'Mahāraja and Mahāsenapati' had become well established by C. 200 A.D. Several rulers in the North and South India has assumed these titles, which later on came to be used by the feudatories of powerful monarchs.
The personal name of the chief given on the sealing is only 'Sena'. The two titles assumed by him leave no doubt to indicate that he was a ruler with the additional assignment of chief of his army.

In the present state of our knowledge, it is not possible to identify this ruler called Sena. It may be that some local chief named Sena emerged into power in Central India sometimes at the end of the 2nd century or in the beginning of the 3rd century A.D. But nothing, with certainty can be said about his dynasty or other relevant details about him.

3. **Stone Seal:** (Nikumbha Nāgasya)

From the excavation at Besnagar by the Archaeological Survey of India, Central circle, Bhopal, one stone seal was obtained. It bears the name 'Nikumbha nāgasya', in the Brāhmī characters of the 1st century B.C. Nikumbha of this seal may be a personal name. It may also be surmised that the seal belonged to the shrine of a Nāga deity called 'Nikumbha'. Similar temple of a Nāga deity called Dadhikarna existed at Mathura.

Twenty six inscribed clay-sealings were recovered from Besnagar excavations conducted during the year 1913–14. One of the clay sealings bearing the legend 'Mahārāja Visvāmitra' probably this sealing belongs to the Sūnga ruler. The
remaining clay sealings are of the officials or bearing the personal names of the reputed persons.

4. **Sealing of Varaha-datta from Vidiśā:**

A clay sealing with the Brāhma legend 'Varaha-dattasa' in Gupta Brāhma characters was discovered by Prof. Bajpai.75
REFERENCES TO CHAPTER - VI


2. Bajpai, 'New Discovered Rare Coins of Early Sakas' *JNSI*, vol. 28, pp. 46-50 and pl.


7. See D.R. Bhandarkar, *Carm. Lec.* 1921, pp. 98 ff.;

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*JNSI*, XX, pp. 111 ff.; Lallanjji Gopal,

*JNSI*, XXII, pp. 38 ff.; D.C. Sircar,

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*JNSI*, XXV (1963), pp. 17-21; *INS*, pp. 1-5.


9. See D.R. Bhandarkar, *Carm. Lec.* , pp. 29-100;


10. II, 14.


17. Kings Sātā (or Sāda) – Vāhana of Telangāna and Dharmapāla and Indragupta of Eran, are known to have used this title on their coins.


22. See Footnotes: New Sātavāhana coins and consideration of some Problems; *INS*, pp. 115-117.

23. Misra, Veena: त्रिपुरी उत्तमन के सातवाहने‘ के चलनास पर मति; *Prakāsha*, p. 153-157, पुरवण-पुरिंभा, भोपाल, ओळ 9-10; Pl. also see the references.


28. Bajpai, K.D.: *INS.* pp. 120-122 (Gupta coins from excavation); Fire-Altar (?) on silver & copper coins of the Guptas (*INS*) pp. 123-124; A New copper coin of Rāmagupta, (*INS*), pp. 125-126; Rāmagupta a Gupta King (*INS*) pp. 127-131; Fresh Light on the Problem of Rāmagupta; *INS*; pp. 132-137; Copper coinage of the Imperial Guptas (*INS*), pp. 139-149. (Pl. also see plates and footnotes).


35. Altekar, pp. 236-39; Pl. XVIII, 1-5.
37. Bajpai, *INS*, (A Rare Gupta coin from Sanchi), pp. 150-151; Pl. IX, 15.
   *Indian Archaeology, A Review*, 1963-64, pp. 16-17.
   *JNSI*, vol. X, p. 80;
42. *JNSI*, vol. XXIII, pp. 307-38;
   *Ibid*, vol. XXII, pp. 132-33;
   *JAR*, 1960-61, p. 55;
   *JNSI*, vol. XXV, pp. 104-5.
53. **JNSI**, vol. XVIII, p. 46;
56. **JNSI**, vol. XV, 121-23.
57. **ASIR, 1913-14**, pp. 186-226;
61. **JNSI**, vol. XII, pp. 103-111.


66. Bajpai, K.D.: *INS*, A Rare Gupta coin from Sāncī, pp. 150-151, Pl. IX, fig. 15.


70. These two sealings have been acquired by Prof. Bajpai and deciphered by him.


72. This sealing also deciphered and published by Prof. Bajpai.

