Twitter Thread by A■wapati



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Plan of a fortified Capital city as described by Kautilya in Arthashastra. #Thread ++

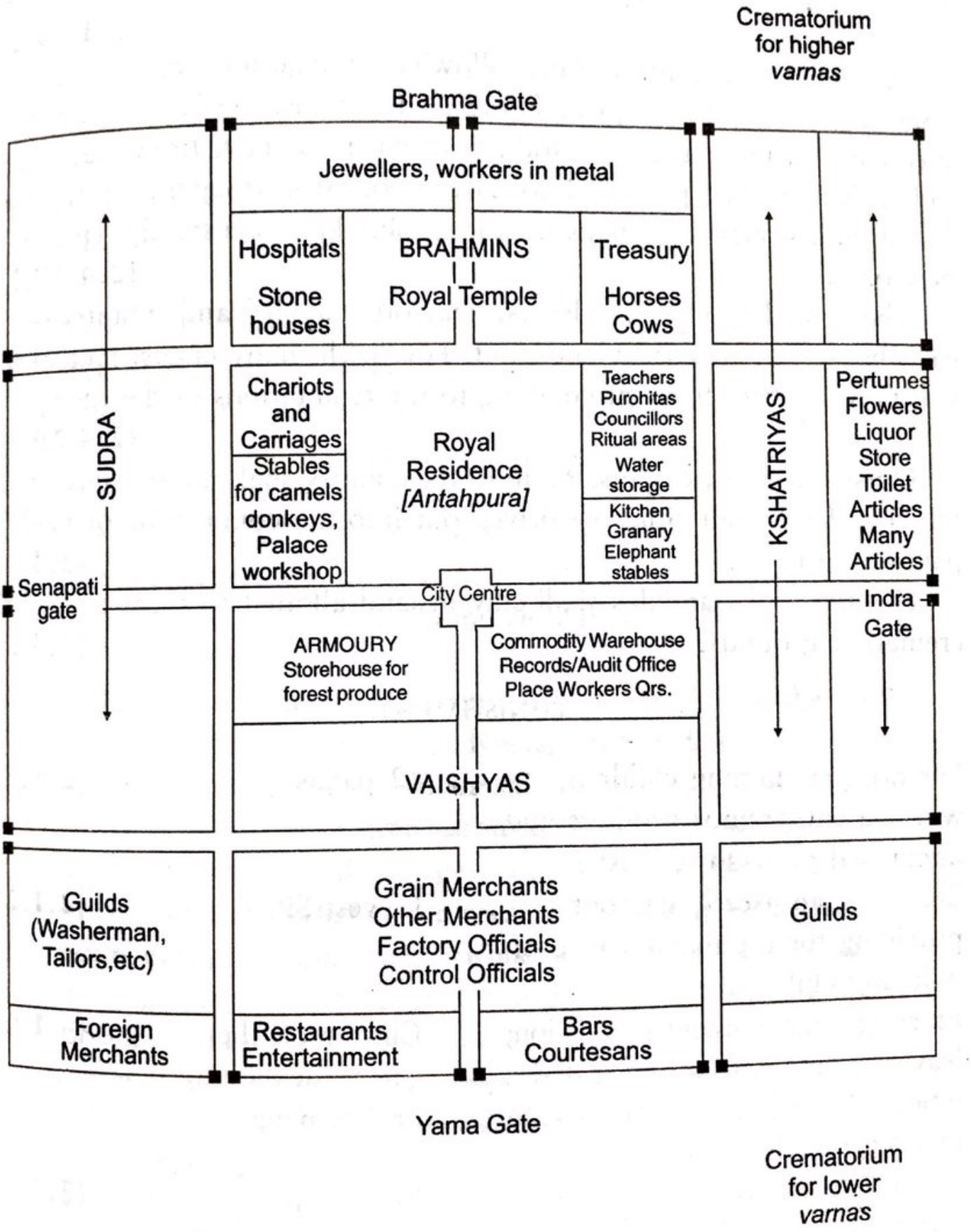


Fig. 15 Schematic Plan of Fortified City

The king shall build his capital at the center of his kingdom near a water source and fortify it with moats, Rampart and high Parapet walls encircling the city. ++

CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAPITAL—FORTIFICATION

He shall build his capital (as the seat of the Treasury) in the centre of the country. The site [or the capital] shall be chosen by experts in the science of building and be naturally best fitted for the purpose—[for example:] at the confluence of rivers or near a perennial lake; near an artificial tank (round, rectangular or square in shape, depending on the nature of the land) with canals to fill it. The place shall be well served by both land and water trade routes and [be capable of being] a market town. {2.3.3}

The fort shall be surrounded by three moats, either filled by natural springs or by water brought in from elsewhere; they shall have adequate drainage and be filled with lotuses and crocodiles. {2.3.4}

There shall be a rampart all round the fort, built up by earth obtained in digging the moats. The rampart shall be planted, [on the outward side,] with thorny bushes and poisonous creepers. Surplus earth shall be used to level up low-lying areas [inside the fort] or the palace grounds. The top of the rampart shall be covered with rounded stones with chariot tracks made of trunks of palm trees. {2.3.5,6}

Design of Ramparts, Parapets and towers on top of them is described in detail. ++

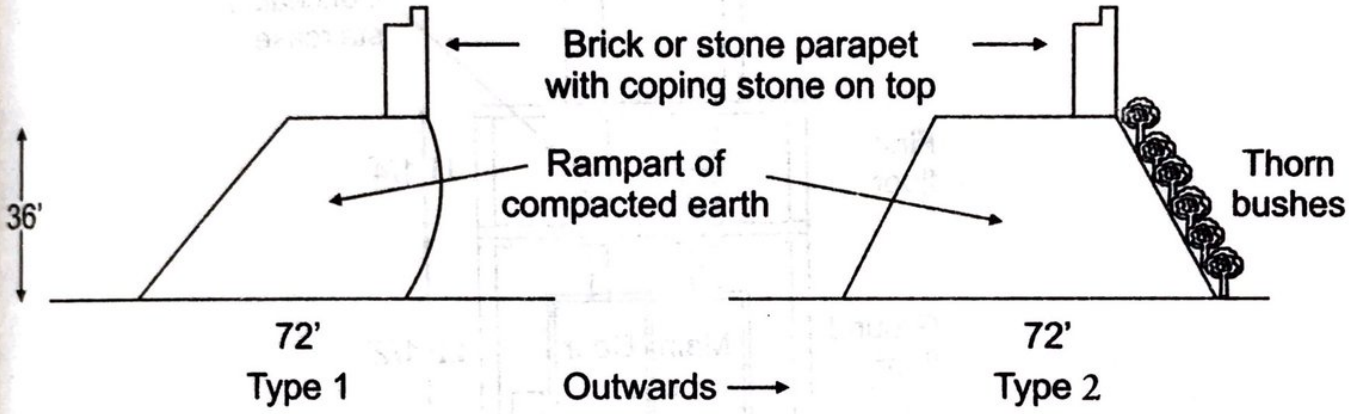


Fig. 9 Cross-sections of Ramparts and Parapets

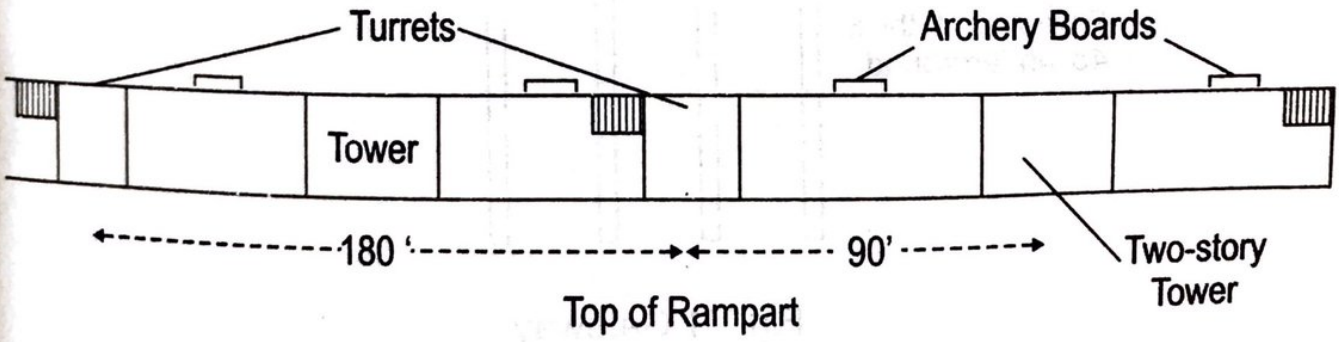


Fig. 10 Location of Towers, Turrets and Archery Boards

Inside of the fortification there will be roads, gates, aqueducts & drainages. The Royal residences and residential areas for different Varnas are also described in detail. See city plan image in first tweet of this this thread. ++

THE CAPITAL CITY—LAYOUT

The land inside the fort shall be demarcated by six royal roads, three running from east to west and three, from north to south, with twelve gates. The city shall be provided with water, drainage and covered passages. {2.4.1,2}

The royal buildings shall be erected, facing north or east, on a good building site, in the middle of the residential areas of the four *varnas*, to the north of the centre of the fortified city, occupying one-ninth of the residential area. {2.4.6,7}

Temples to gods like Siva, Lakshmi, Vaishravana, Ashvins & Kali are built at city center. Tutelary deities are installed at different parts of the city and guardian deities at the gates. ++

The Governor-General of the City shall make all those who work with fire [e.g. blacksmiths] live in one locality. {2.36.20}

Shrines to the gods of victory as well as temples of Siva, Lakshmi, Vaishravana, Ashvins and Kali shall be built in the centre of the city. Tutelary deities [of the people] shall be installed in different parts of the city and guardian deities at [each of the four principal] gates. {2.4.17-19}

Outside the city, at a distance of six hundred feet from the moats, sanctuaries, holy places, groves and waterworks shall be made. Cremation grounds shall be designated for the higher *varnas* in the northern or eastern part and for the lower *varnas* in the southern part. {2.4.20,21}

More details of security and welfare of the capital city are also given.

Each household shall be allotted the land necessary for its work. They shall be allowed, if so authorised, to grow flowers and fruits and to store grains and other commodities. Each group of ten houses shall be provided with a well. {2.4.24-26}

Appropriate quantities of the following, enough for a number of years' consumption, shall be kept in storage: oils, grains, sugar, salt, perfumery, medicines, dried vegetables, fodder, dried meat, hay, firewood, metals, hides, charcoal, gut, poisons, horns, bamboo, yarn, strong timber, weapons, shields and stones. Old items in storage should be constantly replaced by new ones. {2.4.27,28}

The armed forces—elephants, chariots, cavalry and infantry—shall each be under more than one chief. For, with many chiefs, mutual fear will prevent them from succumbing to the temptations of the enemy. {2.4.29,30}

Outsiders who can cause harm to the country shall not be allowed into the city. They shall either be driven out into the countryside or made to pay all the taxes. {2.4.32}

Heretics and Candalas shall stay in land allotted to them beyond the cremation grounds. {2.4.23}

Administration of the city.

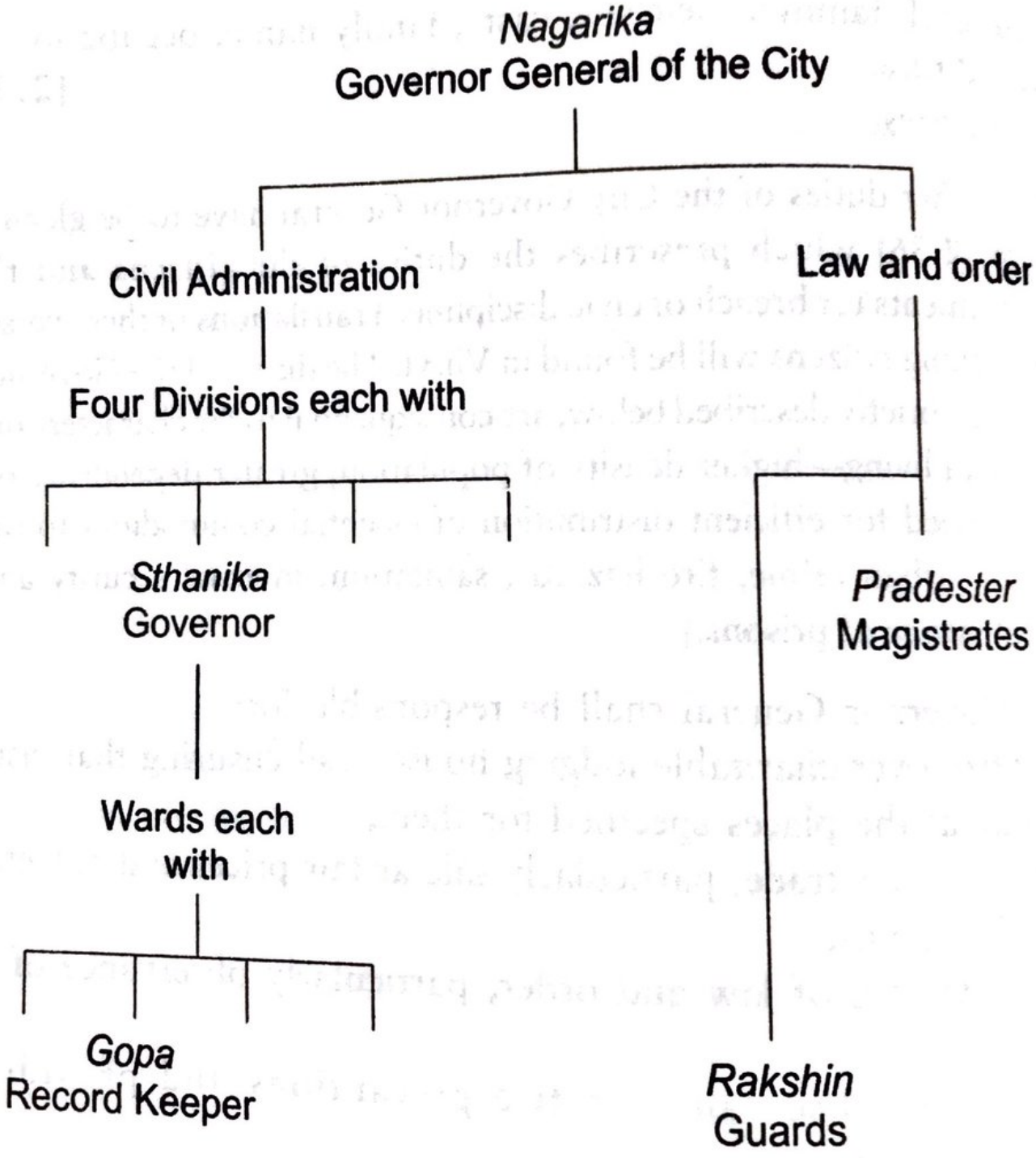


Fig. 20 City Administration