

HISTORY L-1.

THE STORY OF THE FIRST CITIES

Harappan Archaeology: [Bricks, Beads and Bones]

Introduction :

The Indus Valley Civilisation was a Bronze Age civilisation in the northwestern regions of South Asia. This civilisation dated between 2600 BCE and 1900 BCE. Together with ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, it was one of the three early civilisations of the world, the most widespread, its sites spanning an area stretching from northeast Afghanistan, through much of Pakistan and into western and northwestern India. It flourished in the basins of the Indus river. Besides Harappa and Mohenjodaro the other important urban centres of this civilisation were Lothal, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, Dholavira, Nageshwar etc.

It was in 1920-21 that R.D Banerji, in the course of excavation work on a Buddhist Stupa, that stood at Mohenjodaro in Sindh (now in Pakistan), discovered this ancient civilisation. About the same time, Mr. Daya Ram Sahni also discovered similar remains at Harappa in Montgomery district (now in Pakistan). Later on, Sir John Marshall, the Director General of Archaeological Survey of India, personally took up this work and announced in 1924, that about 5000 years ago, a rich and highly developed civilisation flourished in the valley of river Indus.

Mohenjodaro (Mound of the dead) 1.
Notes of Chapter - 1

CHAPTER - 1. HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION.

Indus valley civilization is also called the Harappan civilization because it was first discovered in Harappa (presently in Pakistan). This civilization dated between 2600 BCE and 1900 BCE. There were earlier and later cultures discovered in same areas and are known as Early Harappan and Late Harappan.

Subsistence Strategies of Harappan Civilization. (what they ate).

The Harappans ate a wide variety of plants and animals. They ate wheat, barley, lentils, chick-pea, Sesame, millets etc. Animal bones of cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo and pigs suggests that some of the animals were eaten and some were domesticated (they were kept as pets). They also ate fishes. Bones of wild animals like boar, the deer and gharial have

been found at Harappan sites, indicating that they were hunted for meat.

Agricultural Techniques

The evidences of wide variety of food grains indicates that the agriculture was widely practised. In many seals of Harappan times, bulls were shown which suggests that they were used for ploughing.

At Kalibangan (Rajasthan) there are evidences of ploughed field in Harappan times. The structure of these ploughed fields suggests that ~~the~~ two different ~~of~~ crops were grown together.

There ^{are} also evidences of various agricultural tools of harvesting. Most of the Harappan sites are located in dry areas, where irrigation ~~was~~ necessary for cultivation. Evidences of canals have been found at various Harappan sites.

Water drawn from wells were used for irrigation. At Dholavira (Gujarat) there is evidence of water reservoirs, used to store water for agriculture.

Mohenjodaro [A planned urban centre]

The unique feature of Harappan culture is the development of urban centres. Mohenjodaro was the most famous urban centres. This city was divided into two sections:-

- a) Citadel
- b) Lower Town

a) Citadel → One small but higher section of the settlement was known as the Citadel. The structures over here were built on mud brick platform. This area was walled off from the rest of the city.

Structures built on the Citadel were for special public purpose. The Citadel have two structures

- i) Warehouse.
- ii) The Great bath.

4.
✓✓ Water House → It was used for storing, which was a massive structure. The lower portion of water house was made of bricks and the upper portion was made of wood.

✓.
Imp.

✓✓ The Great Bath → It was a large rectangular tank with the courtyard, surrounded by corridors on all four sides. The tank was made water-tight using special mortar. There were two stair-cases leading to the tank one in the north and the other in the south. There were rooms on 3 sides, one of the rooms had a well. To the north away from the tank there was a smaller building with 8 bathrooms. The Great bath was used by the public for ritual bathing.

✓✓ b) Lower town → In the lower town there is evidence of carefully planned drainage system. Roads and streets were laid out in a

grid pattern, intersecting at right angles. Streets with drains laid out first and then houses ~~were~~ built along them. In the lower town there were residential buildings ^{these buildings} were centered on a courtyard with rooms on all sides. The courtyard was used for cooking and weaving. Every house had its own bathroom with drains connected to the street drains. Some houses had a second storey. Many houses had wells. The people harappan people were also concerned for their privacy, so the main ^{entrance} ~~entrance~~ did not give direct view of the interior of the houses.

Burial System of Harappa :-

The Harappans used to bury their dead. The Dead were laid ~~out~~ on pits. Some of the pits were lined with bricks. Some graves contained pottery and ornaments, suggesting that the harappans may have believed that these could be used in after life.

Jewellery has also been found of men and women.

In some cases the dead were buried with copper mirrors.

V.
Imp.

Craft Production in Harappan Civilization
Chanhudaro, was a tiny settlement which was exclusively devoted for to craft production like bead making, shell cutting, metal work, seal making and weight making.

✓
V. Imp.

Bead Making → Variety of materials were used for bead making. Stones like carnelian (Red in colour), Jasper, crystal, ~~st~~ steatite, Metals like copper, bronze, and Gold were used for bead making. ~~Some then~~ Sometimes shell and terracotta (^{burnt} clay) were used for bead making. Different shapes were ^{given} to the beads like disc, cylindrical, spherical etc. Some beads were painted and some were ^{carving} carved into them.

Gujarat ^{Pakistan} Nageshwar and Balakot which were near the seacoast were centre of making shells objects - Bangals. Finished products

from these centres were ^{taken} taking to large urban centres like Mohenjodaro.

How materials ^{were} procured.

Some materials like clay were locally available. Many stones, timber and metals had to be procured from outside. In excavated ^{pottery} ^{sites} we find terracotta models of bullock ^{cart} ^{sites} suggesting it was an important means of transport across land routes. There is also evidence that materials were procured along river routes and sea routes.

Lapis lazuli (a ~~blue~~ blue coloured stone) used for bead making came from Afghanistan. Carnelian and steatite came from Gujarat.

Expendition were sent to ~~Khleri~~ Khetsi in Rajasthan for copper, it was also brought from Oman. Many Harappan artefacts ~~artifacts~~ have been found in Oman which shows trade links. Gold was procured from South India.

There is also evidence that many harappan seals, weights and beads were found in Mesopotamia (Iraq),

suggests that the Harappan had trade link with Iraq.

V.
Imp.

Harappan Seals.

Seals were often used for distance communication. When goods were sent to long distances, they were kept in bags, whose mouths were ~~were~~ tied with ^{ropes} ~~ropes~~ and ^{on the} ~~an~~ knot. Some wet clay was pressed ~~being~~ leaving a impression. This ensured the identification of the centres senders.

Harappan seals had a line of writing probably indicating the name of the owner. The script ~~was~~ used was written on a variety of objects like seals, copper tools and terracotta tablets. This indicate that literacy was wide spread. The seal had a motif ~~motif~~, generally an animal conveying a meaning to those who could not read.

Weights

Transaction were regulated by a precise system of weights.

made of stones. The lower denomination of weights were binary (1, 2, 4, 8, 16 upto 12800) higher denomination of weights were followed decimal system. Scale pans made of metal were also found in the harappan sites.

Ancient Authority archaeological

There is no clear archaeological evidence of kings in harappan civilization. But since there was uniformity in Harappan artifacts like pottery, weights, seals, bricks etc. It was evident that orders were being ^{given} and was followed by the people. Some authority was controlling the labours for making houses, platforms and massive structures. Thus, it is clear that a ~~ruler~~ ^{ruler} or some ~~sorts~~ ^{sorts} rulers must have existed.

Some archaeologists feel that harappan society had no ~~single~~ ^{ruler} and everyone enjoyed equal status. Others ^{felt} that there were no single ruler but each place had a separate ~~sorts~~ ^{sorts} ruler. Most historians

believed that there was a single authority who controlled and planned everything.

V. Imp.

Asked in
2017 question
paper

End of Harappan Civilization

The Harappan civilization

flourished till 1900 BCE. By 1800

BCE most of the sites of this
great civilization had been

abandoned. There is however

evidence of late harappan sites in

gujarat, haryana and U.P. there

is but the distinctive

features of harappan civilization

like weights, seals, beads and

long distance trade disappeared

In these late harappan

civilization, there was deterioration

of house construction techniques

and there was no public

structure like great bath.

Many theories have been

put forward to explain the

decline of harappan civilization.

The reasons highlighted by

the historians were climatic

changes, deforestation, excessive

floods, shifting or ^{drying} drying up of rivers. But none ^{of these causes} can clearly explain the end of such a great civilization.

It now appears that the actual cause may be was the collapse of the ~~administration~~ ^{administration} which ^{led to} ~~led to~~ gradually chaos and ^{lack of} ~~the~~ end of the ^{unifying} ~~unifying~~ effect of the state.

Ques

Ans

Discuss how archaeologists ~~reconstruct~~ ^{reconstruct} the past

- There are several way of archaeological reconstruction of the past:

i) Material evidences like pottery, tools, ornaments, house hold objects etc. Mostly these were made from stone, burnt clay and metal which survived and organic materials like cloth, leather and wood decomposed.

ii) After the artifacts are found, archaeologists have to find out the use of these items for example ^{whether} ~~whether~~ it is a tool or an ornament, or something meant for ritual use.

iii) Archaeologists try to find out the function of the artifacts by investigating the

- context. in which it was found i.e. in a house or field or drain, grave etc.
- iv) Sometimes indirect evidences were taken for example to know about the clothing of the Harappan people archaeologists used indirect evidences like pictures, sculptures etc.
- v) Archaeologists have to develop time frame for reference. for example when similar artifacts were found in Mesopotamia, it is obvious that Harappan civilisation flourished around the same time and that trade was prevalent / practised amongst them.

Problems of Interpretation ✓

★ Archaeologists often try to interpret artefacts from the past by assuming that tradition in later civilisation parallel with earlier ones. Sometimes it may not be true when archaeologist try this method in context of religious practices. Any unfamiliar objects is thought to be of religious significance for eg. terracotta figures of women were regarded as

goddess, which may not be true.
 Similarly structures like the great bath have been assigned ritual used, which may not be true. Many conical objects of stones have been regarded as ~~ligas~~ lingas. Though we do not know if ^{lord} Shiva was known to the inhabitants of Harappan era people.

Suggestion of Map.

- (i) First site to be discovered - Harappa
- (ii) Site of Great bath - Mohanjodaro
- (iii) Name two sites where evidences of agriculture has been recovered -
Kalibangan, Dholavira.
- (iv) Three sites of Craft production - Balakot, Chanhudaro, Nageshwar.
- v. Port settlement of Harappan civilization - Lothal.
- vi. Post Kotdigi, Rakhiyahi (major Harappan sites)
 1100 km away from Mohanjodaro.

iv
Read the chapter - 1 notes thoroughly and write the answers of the following questions in your History notebook or register. —

I. Very short Question - Answers —

- (a) Why is Indus Valley civilisation called the Harappan civilisation?
- (b) Who was Sir John Marshall? What was his contribution?
- (c) Give the names of the archaeologists who made excavations at Harappan site between 1920-25.
- (d) Write the names of any five cities of Harappan civilisation.
- (e) Where is Lothal? What activities were done here during Harappan civilisation?
- (f) What objects have been found in the city of Harappa?
- (g) What is the date of Harappan civilisation?
- (h) Where the evidence of ploughed field has been found?
- (i) List the items of food available to the people in Harappan cities.
- (j) Which settlement was almost exclusively devoted to craft production? Name the crafts too.
- (k) Which settlements were the specialised centres for making shell objects?
- (l) Describe why and how seals were used by the Harappans.
- (m) Describe the system of weights in the Harappan civilisation.

II. Long Answer type Questions —

- (i) Describe the features of the Harappan script.
- (ii) Write a note on the Citadel.
- (iii) Would you agree that the drainage system in Harappan cities indicates town planning? Give reasons for your answer.

iv > Describe the causes of the disappearance of the great Harappan civilisation.

(v) Discuss how archaeologists reconstruct the past.

(vi) Describe some of the distinctive features of Mohenjodaro..