

DON BOSCO SCHOOL, RANCHI- 2020-2021

CLASS- 9TH ABC

SUBJECT- HISTORY

CHAPTER- I

THE HARAPPAN CIVILISATION

Course Content:-

Sources: - Great Bath, Citadel, Seals, Bearded Man, Dancing Girl, Dockyard, Script

Origin, extent, urban planning, trade, art & craft, decline of Harappan Civilisation

Introduction

- ✓ Discovery of Harappan Civilisation around 1920
- ✓ Alexander Cunningham (a British officer in India) initiated excavation for the first time in 1872-1873 during Harappa.
- ✓ Cunningham reported a pictographic (symbolic form of writing) form unicorn (an imagery horse like animal) seal in 1875.
- ✓ Indian Archeologists: - R.D. Bannerjee & R.B.D.R.Sahni. excavated in Larkana & Montgomery districts.
- ✓ Sahni discovered the ruins of Harappa in 1921 & Bannerjee city of Mohanjodaro in 1922.
- ✓ Historians prefer to call it Harappan Culture or Civilisation for it flourished much beyond the region of the Indus Valley.

Great bath

- ✓ the bathing pool, 12 metres long, 8.5 metres wide & 2.5 metres deep was at the centre of quadrangle.
- ✓ pool was filled (from well) & emptied at regular intervals also periodic cleaning.
- ✓ wall was made of burnt bricks
- ✓ the entire construction reflected the engineering skill of those ancient days.

Citadel

- ✓ The elevated areas of the cities are called citadel.
- ✓ Important public buildings: - Great Bath, Granary, Assembly Hall etc. are found at citadel.
- ✓ residences of the ruling classes are here.
- ✓ the demarcation shows the division between the rich & poor classes on the basis of social & economic status.
- ✓ citadel carefully planned & emphasised as an urban planning.

Seals

- ✓ more than 2000 seals of soapstone, terracotta & copper were discovered.
- ✓ they are figures of animals, of mythical animals & some human figures. they are rectangular, circular or cylindrical in shape.
- ✓ seals were used by different associations of merchants for stamping their goods also used by people to put on their neck & arm.
- ✓ Seals indicate to the people:-

1) Dress, ornaments, & hairstyle.

2) Skill of artists & sculptors

3) Trade and commercial relations

4) Religious beliefs

1. The Pashupati Seal:- Lord Shiva being worshiped as the lord of animals
 2. The Unicorn Seal:- a mythological animal, believed that they produced imaginative creations of bird, animals etc.
 3. The Bull Seal:- humped bull of great vigour, artistic skill of animal anatomy (scientific study of structure of humans or animals).
- ✓ Bearded Man:- the stone sculpture of the bearded man was found at Mohenjo-daro
 - ✓ variously interpreted; 1) a priest-king (because of combed bearded, half-closed eyes & the way shawl is worn over.
 - ✓ found at the Assembly Hall near Great Bath.

Dancing Girl:-

- ✓ the statue of bronze of a dancing girl found at Mohenjo-daro
- ✓ excellent metal-casting skills of Harappans.

Dockyard:- It is rectangular in shape & surrounded by a brick wall.

- ✓ it had been situated at Lothal & connected with the Bhogavo river through a channel.
- ✓ it was then connected to the Gulf of Cambay.
- ✓ it was believed to be an important site for trading & centre for overseas trade.

The Art of Writing and Script:-

- ✓ it was to be believed that they had the knowledge of the art of writing,
- ✓ Documents on stone & baked clay tables were found.
- ✓ Seals of inscribed animals & humans give the idea of their script & their own language.

- ✓ seals are similar to that of Egypt, Sumer & other countries of Western Asia.
- ✓ script is pictograph & nearly 400 signs
- ✓ generally written from left to right but in some cases the opposite.
- ✓ phonetic script evolved to alphabetic pattern however they continued to be puzzle.

Period of the Civilisation:-

- ✓ sir John Marshall (archaeologist) thought H.civilisation belonged between 3200 BCE & 2750 BCE but it was not.
- ✓ H. Civilisation belonged to the period between 2500 BCE to 1800 BCE.
- ✓ between 3200 BCE & 2750 BCE Egyptian, Babylonian, & Mesopotamian civilisation flourished.
- ✓ the civilisation not confined to Harappan & Mohenjo-daro alone but rather Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan, Rajasthan, UP, Gujarat etc.
- ✓ believed to be extended 1600 km from west to east & 1100 km from north to south.
- ✓ but recent research shows more than that of 11,300,000 square km.

Important Sites:-

- 1) Mohenjo-Daro- a Sindhi term meaning '*Mound of the dead*', located in Larkana district of Sind (now in Pakistan), a big city was found buried.
- 2) Harappa:- situated on the bank of river Ravi in Montgomery district of west Punjab (now in Pakistan), features the similar as Mohenjo-Daro.
- 3) Other Important Sites:- chanhudaro (Sind), Lothal (Gujarat), Kalibangan (Rajasthan), Alamgirpur (UP), Ropar (Punjab),

Features of the Harappan civilization

The Drainage system:

- ✓ it was very advanced.
- ✓ covered with slabs.
- ✓ water flowed from houses into drains,
- ✓ manholes at regular intervals for maintenance.
- ✓ used pits for heavier parts of rubbish.
- ✓ every house had a well-constructed sink(deep hole in the ground) that water flowed through to sewers into the street.
- ✓ this elaborate drainage system shows the fully aware with the principles of health & sanitation.

Houses

- ✓ houses different in size, varying from tall building to two small rooms.

- ✓ every houses had a well, a bathroom & a covered drain.
- ✓ used burnt bricks (preserved even today).
- ✓ roofs were flat & made of wood.
- ✓ special feature was- rooms were built around an open courtyard.
- ✓ some houses were double-storeyed & stairs.

Great granary

- ✓ it was about 45mtrs long & 15mtrs wide.
- ✓ It was meant to store food grains, had smaller halls & corridors.
- ✓ to facilitate to meet food requirements of its population.

The Assembly Hall

- ✓ it had a pillared hall with five rows with four pillars.
- ✓ Kiln-baked bricks were used.
- ✓ It was used for public assemblies

Arts & Crafts

Ornaments:- men & women used.

- ✓ gold, silver, copper & other metals.
- ✓ men- necklaces, finger rings & armlets.
- ✓ Women- headdresses, earrings, bangles, bracelets & anklets.
- ✓ rich- used gold whereas poor shell, bone or copper.

Furniture & Utensils:-

- ✓ shows high degree of civilisation.
- ✓ painted pottery, kitchen vessels, chair & beds made of wood, toys, marbles, balls, dice etc.

Cosmetics

- ✓ objects made of ivory.
- ✓ use of face paint & *collyrium*, oval bronze mirrors, ivory combs dressing tables, hairpins of ivory.

Toy Carts:- terracotta toys

Crafts:- discovery of spindles- spinning & weaving was done

- ✓ jewellery, seals, weapons, tools, knives, spears, saws & axes.

Sculpture:- bearded man, dancing girl, mother goddess.

- ✓ bronze figures of buffalo & humped bull.

Pottery and painting

- ✓ found in large quantities with potter's wheel.
- ✓ designs were painted on the pots like figures of birds, animals, men etc.

Economic activity

Agriculture:- main occupation.

- ✓ crops- wheat, barley, peas & bananas.
- ✓ with wooden plough was drawn men & oxen.

Domestication of Animals:- animals like oxen, buffaloes, pigs, goats & sheep.

- ✓ camels & asses for transportation.
- ✓ dogs & cats as pets.
- ✓ humped bull for farming community.

Trade:- trade activity was done inside & outside the country like Egypt, Babylon & Afghanistan.

- ✓ Harappa seals found in Mesopotamia.

Decline of the Harappan Civilisation

The civilisation declined sometimes around 1800 B.C. some of the likely causes for the decline:-

1. Overuse of natural resources or deforestations
2. Floods & earthquakes
3. Attacks by the Aryans

Conclusion:-

- ✓ Harappan civilisation showed the world its earliest cities, town planning, architecture, concern for health & sanitation, scientific drainage system.
- ✓ There is not much difference even today's culture art etc.

Part 1 (Short Answer Questions)

1. State the probable period during which the Harappan Civilization flourished in India?

Ans. The probable period during which the Harappan Civilisation flourished in India is 2500 BCE to 1700 BCE which is on the basis of the radiocarbon dating technique.

2. When and how did the Harappan Civilisation come into light?

Ans. Alexander Cunningham, a British officer in India is credited with carrying out the preliminary excavations in Harappa during 1872- 73. He visited the place many times and published a report with a plan of the site and some information about selected artefacts including a pictographic unicorn seal from Harappa in 1875.

In 1921 Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni discovered the ruins of Harappa and in 1922 Rakhal Das Banerjee dug out the ruins of the city of Mohenjodaro.

3. Name two famous sites of the Harappan civilisation. State where these sites are located?

Ans. Harappa and Mohenjodaro are the two famous sites of the Harappan civilisation. Harappa is located on the banks of the river Ravi in the Montgomery district of west Punjab (now in Pakistan) and Mohenjodaro is located in the Larkana district of Sind (now in Pakistan).

4. Which evidence shows that the people of Harappa were familiar with the casting of bronze?

Ans. The statue of a female dancer (or the bronze statue of the dancing girl) found at Harappa shows that the people of Harappa were familiar with the casting of bronze.

5. Name a piece of Harappan sculpture that suggests that the sculptors of this culture were experts?

Ans. Bearded man in stone [Or Bronze statue of a dancing girl. Or the torso of a human male in red stone or the terracotta figure of the Mother Goddess] suggests that the sculptors of this culture were experts.

6. Mention one piece of art discovered at Mohenjodaro which suggests that men of this culture had a small trimmed beard?

Ans. The bearded man in stone [or statue of a priest - king] discovered at Mohenjodaro suggests that men of their culture had a small trimmed beard.

7. Name and describe stone sculptures recovered from the ruins of Mohenjodaro.

Ans. Bearded man – a stone sculpture of a man with beard was found in Mohenjodaro. His beard is well kept and his eyes are half closed. It is also interpreted as the statue of the priest - king. It is draped in shawl and ribbon like band tied around his head.

8. Mention one piece of art cast in metal which shows that sculpture had reached a high standard in the Harappan civilisation.

Ans. Bronze figure of a dancing girl.

9. Name and describe one seal which shows the worship of Lord Shiva.

Ans. The Pashupati seal shows the worship of Lord Shiva. It depicts a figure seated cross - legged in a yogic posture, crowned with a pair of horns on his head and surrounded by a rhino, a buffalo, an elephant and a tiger. Under his throne are two deer.

10. Name one of the seals found among the ruins of the Harappan

civilisation?

Ans. The Bull seal

11. Mention the major occupations of the Harappan people?

Ans. Agriculture, domestication of animals and trade were the major occupations of the Harappan people.

12. Name the foreigner who was associated with the discovery of the Harappan Civilisation.

Ans. Alexander Cunningham, a British officer in India was associated

Part II (Structured Questions)

1. With the reference to the Harappan Civilisation:

a. Describe briefly the extent of this civilisation.

Ans. The Harappan Civilisation extended to Punjab, Sind, the Northwest Frontier Province, Baluchistan, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and some parts of South India as well.

It was believed that this civilisation spread over an area of about 1600 kilometres from west to east and 1100 kilometres from north to south. But a recent excavation shows that this civilisation spread over an area of 11,300,000 square kilometres.

Mohenjodaro is located in the Larkana district of Sind (now in Pakistan) and Harappa in the Montgomery district of West Punjab (now in Pakistan) are the biggest centres of this civilisation.

Other important sites were Chanhudaro in Sind, Lothal in Gujarat Kalibangan in Rajasthan Alamgirpur in UP and Ropar in Punjab.

b. State how the discovery of the Harappan Civilisation changed the picture of ancient India?

Ans. Up till about a hundred years ago it was believed that the history of India began with the advent of the Indo Aryans. However the discovery of the Harappan civilisation around 1920 proved that a highly developed urban civilisation had existed in India much before the arrival of the Indo - Aryans.

Alexander Cunningham, a British officer is credited with carrying out the preliminary excavations in Harappa during 1872-73. He published a report with a plan of the site and some information about selected artifacts including a pictographic unicorn seal from Harappa in 1875.

Later two officers of the archaeological Survey of India R.D Bannerjee dug out ruins of the city of Mohenjodaro in 1922. The ruins of these two cities showed that a rich civilisation had flourished in the regions around 3000 BCE. As the sites of the excavations were situated in the valley of the River Indus and its

tributaries historians named it the Indus valley civilisation. However the modern historians prefer to call it Harappan Culture or Civilisation as Harappa was the first site to be discovered and archaeological evidences points that the civilisation flourished much beyond the Indus valley.

The harappan culture was a landmark in the history of man's struggle for better ways of living. Its discovery proved that some five thousand years ago highly civilised people lived in the region.

2. With references to the sources used to study the Harappan culture what conclusion can be derived from the:-

a. Seals

Ans. The seals give us useful information about the Harappan culture and civilisation. It indicates in particular:-

- I. The dresses ornaments and hairstyles of the people.
- II. The skill of the artists and sculptors
- III. Trade contacts and commercial relations of the people
- IV. The religious beliefs of the people
- V. The script used by the Harappan people.

b. Statue of the bearded man

Ans. It is probably the statue of a priest - king. Priest it is because of his combed beard, half closed eyes and the shawl worn over the shoulder. At the same time, as king because he has a ribbon like band tied around his head.

c. Citadel

Ans. Citadel was on an elevated area. It was on the western part of the city. It had been used as essential institution of civic life and places for public rituals and had defence walls and bastions with elaborate entrances around it. Citadel indicates that the Harappans had remarkable skill in town planning and organisation.

3. With the reference to Harappan culture name and describe one object of sculpture in each of the following!

a. Stone

Ans. I) Statue of the bearded man (already discussed)

II) The torso of a human male. It is made of red stone. The head and arms of the figure were carved separately and socketed into holes drilled in the torso.

b. Metal

Ans. The statue of a female dancer (or bronze figure of dancing girl). Her eyes are large while her nose is flat and lips pendulous.

She is wearing a necklace and bangles almost covering her one arm. Her hair is

neatly arranged.

c. Terracotta

Ans. Terracotta figure of the mother Goddess. She was the symbol of fertility or the source of all creation.

4. State briefly the nature and importance of the seals of the Harappan civilisation.

I. Nature of the seals

Seals are made of soapstone, terracotta and copper. Have figures of real animals or of mythical animals and human figures. The seals are rectangular, circular or even cylindrical in shape. They have an inscription of pictorial writing; Knobs at the back through which runs a hole.

II. Importance of the seals

These seals give us useful information about the Harappan culture and civilisation.

They were used by different associations of merchants for Stamping their goods. They were also, quite possibly worn by the people around the neck or on the arm. In particular they indicate:-

- I. The dresses ornaments and hairstyles of the people.
- II. The skill of the artists and sculptors
- III. Trade contacts and commercial relations of the people
- IV. The religious beliefs of the people
- V. The script used by the Harappan people

5. Describe the following seals:

a. The Pashupati seal

This seal depicts a figure seated cross - legged in a yogic posture with a pair of horns as crown on his head and is surrounded by a rhino, a buffalo, an elephant and a tiger. Under his throne are two deer. This seal shows that lord Shiva was worshipped as the lord of animals.

a. The unicorn seal

This seal shows that at a very early stage of civilisation humans had started producing many imaginative creations in the shape of bird and animals motifs that survived in later art.

6. Picture

This is the image of the Harappan script. Write the special features of the Harappan script. Why is the script still a puzzle for the historians?

Ans. The script found on the Harappan seal is similar to the one used in Egypt, summer and other countries of the West Asia. The script is

pictographic and has nearly four hundred signs. It was written from left to right but in some cases it was in the opposite direction i.e. right to left.

The Harappan script is still a puzzle for the historians because it is undeciphered.

a. Give evidence to show that the people of Harappa: Knew the art of painting and the art of weaving.

Ans. Painted pottery with different designs of birds, animals and men show that the people of Harappa knew the art of painting.

The discovery of spindles at various Harappan sites show the people used to spin and weave clothes.

b. Had trade with other far - flung regions.

Ans. Many seals from Harappa have been found in Mesopotamia. This shows that they had trade with other far flung region.

7. Give an account of Harappan Civilisation with reference to :-

a. The planning and building of cities.

Ans. The city was divided into two parts-

A smaller citadel is covering the western part and a larger residential area to the east. The essential institution of civic life and places for public rituals were generally located in the citadel area which had defense walls and bastions with elaborate entrances around it.

The main streets and roads were straight and wide and paved with fire burnt bricks.

Houses of various sizes were on either side of the street but none of them protruded into the street.

The main street intersected at right angles dividing the city into the squares or rectangular blocks each of which was further subdivided lengthwise and crosswise into lanes.

Some buildings also had lamp posts and wells.

b. The great granary of Harappa

Ans. The great granary was about 45 metres long and 15 metres wide.

It was meant to store food. It had lines of circular brick platforms for pounding grain.

The granary had smaller halls and corridors too. Evidence of such big granaries supports the belief that Harappa was an urbanized site.

c. The building of house

Ans. Harappan houses were of different sizes, varying from palatial buildings to houses with two small rooms.

Each house had a well, a bathroom and a covered drain connected to the street drain.

The buildings were made either partial or wholly of burnt bricks.

Sundried bricks were used for the foundation of the buildings. The roofs of the houses were flat and were made of wood.

Rooms were built around an open courtyard. Some houses were double storeyed and had stairs leading to the upper floors.

8. Write short notes on any three occupations of the people of Harappa?

I. Agriculture

Ans. Agriculture was the main occupation of the Harappans.

Crops such as wheat, barley, peas and bananas were raised.

People used to plough the land with wooden ploughshares drawn by men and oxen. From the existence of granaries it is concluded that there was surplus food grain production.

II. Domestication of Animals

Ans. The people of Harappa domesticated animals like oxen, buffaloes, pigs, goats and sheep.

Camels and asses were used as means of transport.

Dogs and cats were kept as pets. The humped bull was considered a great asset in the farming community.

III. Trade

Ans. Harappan traders carried on trade inside the country as well as with other countries like Egypt, Babylon and Afghanistan.

Many seals from Harappa have been found in Mesopotamia shows that the trade existed between the two regions.

The seals were made of terracotta and were used by merchants to stamp their goods.

9. Describe briefly the ornaments used by the Harappan people.

Ans. Ornaments were made of gold, silver, copper and other metals.

Men wore necklace and fingers rings and armlets of various designs and shapes.

Women wore headdress, earrings, bangles, girdles, bracelets, and anklets.

Rich people wore expensive ornaments made of gold while the

poor used ornaments made of shell, bone or copper.

I. Write the references to the Harappan Civilisation, write short notes on the following:-

a) Cosmetics

Objects made of ivory and metal for holding and applying cosmetics have been excavated proving that they knew about the use of face paint and kalyan.

Oval bronze mirrors, ivory combs of various shapes and even small dressing tables have been found at Mohenjodaro and other sites.

Women tied their hair into a bun and used hairpins made of ivory. These show that women took interest in cosmetics.

b) Furniture and utensils

The furniture and utensils found at Mohenjodaro show a high degree of civilisation because of their variety in kind and design. The beautifully painted pottery, the different kinds of kitchen vessels, the chairs and beds made of wood lamps fashioned out of different materials indicate what people manufactured and used in those days with the discovery of the Harappan Civilisation.

1. Name two officers of the Archaeological survey of India who were associated with the excavations at the two most important Harappan sites.

Ans. R.D Bannerjee and Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni were the two officers of the Archaeological survey of India who were associated with the excavations at the two most important Harappan sites.

2. Why is the Harappan civilization so called?

Ans. Harappa was the first site to be discovered and Archaeological evidence points that the civilisation flourished much beyond the region of the Indus valley.

3. Give some probable reasons for the decline of the Harappan civilisation?

Ans. Harappan civilisation declined because of:

- I. Overuse of the natural resources which led to desertification of the area making it unfit for habitation.
- II. Continuous floods
- III. Foreign invasion
- IV. Earthquakes and epidemics

THE END