

## HISTORY

### HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION – (Video part: 3)

(Seal making – trade – script – religious – burial practices – political – decline)

#### SEAL MAKING

- Excavated: 2000 seals.
- Different shape & size – square, rectangle, few cylindrical, round seals.
- Made of steatite.
- Mohenjo-Daro - 2 silver seals.
- Lothal – copper seals.
- Average size: 2.5 cm; larger one: 6.3 cm.
- Seals were used for – authorship, decoration, trading activities (goods are packed with wet clay tablets in top & are stamped with seals), stamping purpose, amulets (to keep aloof from negative energies).
- Short inscription with images - unicorn, buffaloes, tigers, rhino, goats, elephants, crocodiles, antelopes.
- Seals gave ideas about the social culture life of Indus civilization.

#### WEIGHT AND MEASURES

- Used for trade & transactions. Exchange system.
- Chert / charcoal- articles are used as weight.
- Cubical shape.
- Sticks with measure marks are used as weights.
- A bronze stick with a metal rod on top & measurement marks in it, is used as weights.

#### STONE MASONRY

- Harappa – 16 copper furnaces, a hoard consists of copper tools.
- Lothal – copper workshop.
- Dholavira – stone slabs, fine polished pillars, Stone masonry.
- Alahdino - a hoard of jewelry made of gold, silver, semi-precious stones.
- Mohenjo-Daro – priest king, a seated ibex (malayad).
- Harappa – bronze dancing girl.
- Dholavira – stone lizard.

#### TRADE AND COMMERCE

- Granaries, seals, script, regular weight & measures are the evidences of regular trading activities.
- Inland trade & foreign trade existed.
- No use of metal money; Barter system - Finished goods (textiles, handicrafts) & food items were exchanged for metals.
- Used boats & carts for transportation – Afghan, Iran, Iraq, Mesopotamia, etc.
- Import items: Lapis lazuli from Mesopotamia – jade (gem stone) from Turkmenistan – tin from central Asia – copper, shell, chlorite from Oman.

- Beads & ivory objects was exported from **Harappa to Oman**.

### SCRIPT

- Language used for speaking & writing is mystery. Spoke different languages.
- Language is evident from the seals.
- Writing on seals – language of ruling class.
- **Historians view: belongs to Dravidian / Indo – Aryan languages.**
- 3700 inscribed objects.
- Inscribed on seals, seal impressions, copper tablets, Copper / bronze implements, pottery, stoneware bangles, gold jewelry, ornaments – scripts are written.
- **50% inscribed objects are obtained from Mohenjo-Daro.**
- **Mohenjo-Daro - Inscribed copper tablets.**
- **Dholavira – sish board**
- **1853 - Earliest specimen of script was discovered.**
- Mohenjo-Daro & Harappa together account 85% of all inscribed items.
- No long inscription. Only few signs. Average 5 signs. & Longest inscription has 26 signs.
- 400- 450 basic signs.
- Logo – syllabic – the script is called **each symbol represented a word or an idea or a sound** – not alphabetic but pictographic. From right to left.

### RELIGIOUS AND FUNERARY PRACTICES

- Many female figurines were excavated.
- Worshipped earth as fertility goddess, Phallus, female sex organs, Worshipped trees & animals.
- Male deity – Pasupati seals – yogic postures- three headed – surrounded by wild animals.
- **John Marshall – Harappans worshipped a god which is proto shiva.**
- **Kalibangan – fire altars**
- The great bath – rituals- for ablution
- Unlike Egypt & Mesopotamia we cannot find temples in Harappan civilization.

### CEMETRY

- Cemetery excavated from - Harappa, Kalibangan, Lothal, Rakhigarhi, Surkotada.

### BURIAL METHODS

- The body of the deceased placed in extended position.
- Simple bit or brick chamber grave goods.
- Food, pottery, tools, ornaments with no luxury or costly items.
- **Kalibangan – symbolic burials with grave goods but no skeleton.**
- **Lothal – multiple burial of men & women.**
- **Mohenjo-Daro & Harappa- urn burials.**
- **Mohenjo-Daro & Harappa - Fractional burials** – where the body was exposed to the environmental and the bones were then gathered & buried.

- Believed in after life.

### POLITY (Historians & their opinions)

Stuart Piggot & Mortimer wheeler	<p>“The state has highly <u>centralized empire</u> ruled by the <u>priest king</u> from Mohenjo-Daro &amp; Harappa”</p> <p>This argument was based on: urban planning, buildings, use of common script, standard weight &amp; measures. Mesopotamian cities were ruled by the priests.</p>
Walter Fairservis	<p>“The Harrapans <u>did not have an empire, not even a state</u>”.</p> <p>Mohenjo-Daro was a ceremonial centre, not an administrative one. Absence of standing army, court officials, slaves, priest kings, royal places, tombs, temples. No evidence on the existence of a state.</p>
S C Malik:	<p>Chieftdom is a <u>transitional stage</u> from kingship society to state society. There was no elaborate polity in Harappa.</p>
Jim Shaffer	<p>The level of homogeneity / uniformity in Harappan civilization could have been the result of well-developed network of trade relations rather than a centralized government. (Homogeneity: common script, standardized weight &amp; measures)</p>
Possehi	<p>Harrapans may have ruled the councils rather than kings.</p>
Kenoyer	<p>Urban elites, merchants &amp; priests had controlled over land &amp; resources.</p>

### DECLINE

- The civilization continued till 1800- 1700 BCE.
- The pace of decline varied.
- The settlements in Mohenjo-Daro came to an end by 2000 BCE.
- Mohenjo-Daro & Dholavira gave a picture / stage by stage of gradual decline.
- Kalibangan & Banawali – ended all of sudden.

### INVASION THEORIES

Ramprasad Chanda 1926	<p>Harapan Civilization was destroyed by Aryans invaders.</p>
Mortimer Wheeler 1947	<p>Aryan invasion of the Harappan cities.</p> <p>(Reference in the Rig Veda: attacks on walled cities &amp; the name ‘<b>Purandara</b>’ / fort destroyer are given to the God Indra - reflects an Aryan invasion of Harappan cities.</p> <p>Rig Veda mentions the name – ‘<b>Hariyupiya</b>’. Hariyupiya is identified as Harapan.</p> <p>Wheeler point to the Skelton remain found at Mohenjo-Daro as proof of the Aryan massacre. Result of massacre.</p>

	Later on, he modified his argument. He said that, the other factors like floods, decline of trade & over utilization of resources may have had a role.)
P V Kane, George Dales, K A R Kennedy, B B Lal	Discarded the invasion theory. No evidence of any kind of military attacks at any sites.  Dales in his article ' <i>The Mythical Massacre at Mohenjo-Daro</i> ' describes that, the 37 skeletal remains at Mohenjo-Daro do not belong to the same cultural phase. There is gap between the phases.
M R Sahini, Dales, Robert Raikes	Natural disaster, flood at Mohenjo-Daro.
H T Lambrick	Indus changed its course. Mohenjo-Daro & its inhabitants faced scarcity.
Gurdip Singh	Climatic change & lack of rainfall effected the agriculture.
Sherren Ratnagar	Decline in the lapis lazuli trade with Mesopotamia.
J M Kenoyer, K A R Kennedy, J R Lucacs, Nancy Lovell	Studied about skeletons & conducted laboratory analysis. Studied about diseases, nutritional inadequacy. Arthritis: common disease. No other major diseases are found.
K A R Kennedy	Identified the incidence of malaria among the Harappans.

Alexander Cunningham- first director general of Archaeological Survey of India – Father of Indian Archaeology.

Lothal & Kalibangan – fire altars.

Harappa – coffin burial.

Shortugai – Omani copper & Harappan artifacts with nickel content, canal system.

Coastal settlements – Lothal, Sutkagendor, Balakot.

Dholavira – stadium, excavated largest inscriptions.

Lothal & Dholavira – entire settlement is fortified.