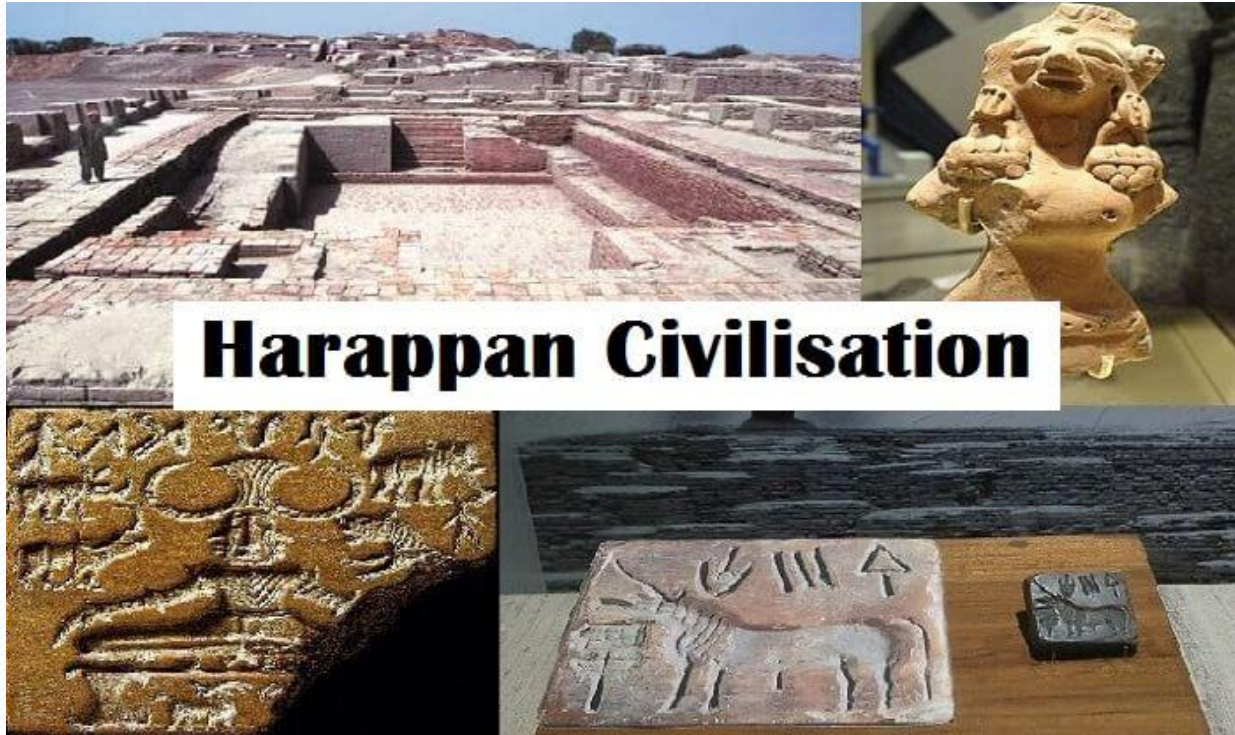


HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

2600B.C-1900B.C

INTRODUCTION

Around five thousand year ago an important civilization developed on the bank of river Indus, which latter came to be known as Indus valley civilization.



Harappan Civilisation

THEORIES REGARDING ORIGIN OF HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

- 1] The Aryan theory of origin.
- 2] Theory of Dravidian origin.
- 3] Theory of Sumerian origin.
- 4] Theory of Indigenous origin.
- 5] The archaeological studies classify the process into three broad phases-they are-
 - a] Pre-Harappan.
 - b] Early-Harappan.
 - c] Mature-Harappan.

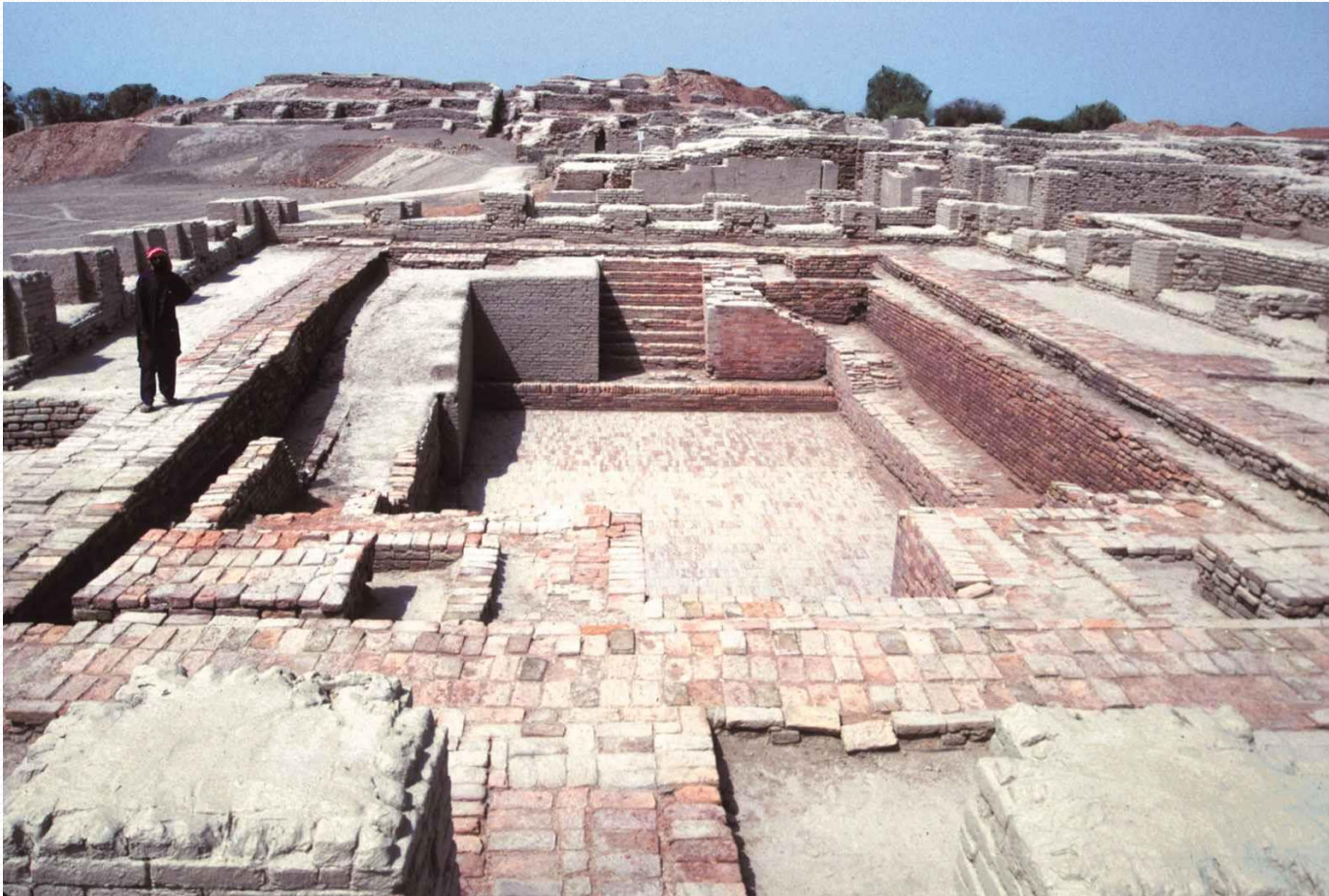
Extent of Harappan civilization



Chief Characteristics Of Indus Valley.

- A. Town Planning.
- B. Trade And Commerce.
- C. Use of Bronze technology.
- D. Art and Architecture.
- E. Religious life of people.
- F. Tools And Implements.
- G. Pottery.
- H. Science And Technology.

TOWN PLANNING



MAIN Points about Town planning

1. The most remarkable feature of Harappan civilization was its town planning.
2. Historians like Stuart Piggott and Wheeler believed that the Harappan town had a remarkable unity of conception.
3. The Harappan towns were divided into two parts, the upper citadel and the lower town.
4. The upper citadel was inhabited by the ruling class, and was fortified, while the lower town was occupied by the common people.
5. The areas of Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Kalibanga show certain uniformities in their planning.

Town Planning

- The streets ran from north to south in the lower city and cut each other at right angle.
- The Harappan used baked and unbaked bricks of standard size.
- This shows that it was not the individuals house owner who made their own bricks, but bricks making was the organized on a large scale.
- SANITATION –There were excellent arrangement for sanitation, the waste water from houses would pass through small drains which joined the margin of the streets.
- This again indicates the presence of a civic administration which took decision for the sanitary requirements of the towns.

ECONOMIC LIFE

- The Harappan had established an extensive network of inter and intra regional trade.
- They had trade relations with the contemporary west Asian civilization .
- FOREIGN TRADE OF HARAPPA –Archaeological evidences like presence of two dozen seals, belonging to Harappa and Persian gulf have been discovered from Susa and Mesopotamia clearly indicate the presence of trade contact between the two.
- The Mesopotamian merchants,mostly centered at Ur carried on trade with contemporary civilization areas from the time of sargon of Akkad.

Economic life

- The three zones which gets the most frequent reference in the contemporary texts are **dilmun, makan and meluha**.
- *The identification of dilmun with Baharain, Makan with Oman and the third place Meluha with the region of the Indus valley.*
- *The import from Meluha were timber, black wood, copper, gold etc.*

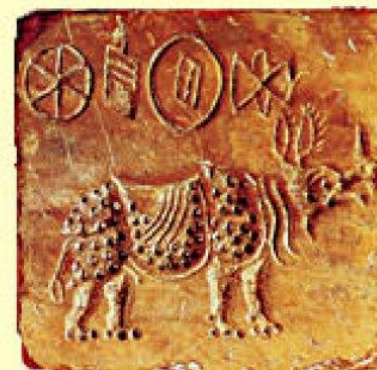
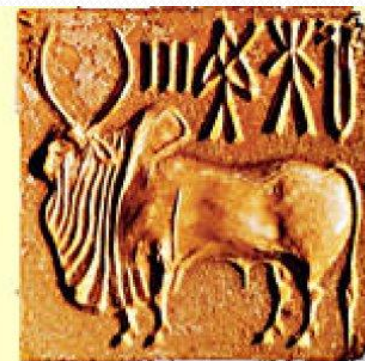
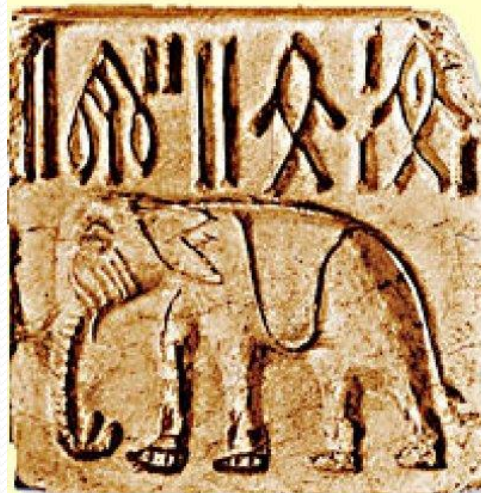
Internal Trade

- *The Harappan carried out inter regional trade in metal and stone from different parts of Indian sub-continent like-gold from karnataka, silver from Afghanistan, copper from Rajasthan,etc.*
- *They used weights and measures of different types to assure the quality and quantity of goods.*
- *The Harappan used weight of binary digits.*
- *Thus the Harappan had an extensive network of trade which formed backbone of the economy*

RELIGIOUS LIFE

- The harappan people had many features of latter hinduism, such as worship of mother goddess, Pashupati shiva, animal worship, tree worship etc.
- The chief female deity was mother goddess, who was representative of fertility.
- Many of harappan rituals like worship of phallus, female deities, animals and trees are followed in India till date.

RELIGIOUS LIFE



ARCHITECTURE

- GREAT BATH –In harappa,mohenjodaro and kalibanga, the citadel area contain monumental structure which is know as the GREAT BATH.
- This brick build structure measures 12m by 7m and 3m deep.The bed of the bath is made water tight by use of bitumen. water is supplied from a large well situated in an adjacent room.
- The bath is surrounded by porticoes and set of rooms. Scholars generally believe that the place was used for ritual bathing of kings or priests.

The great granary

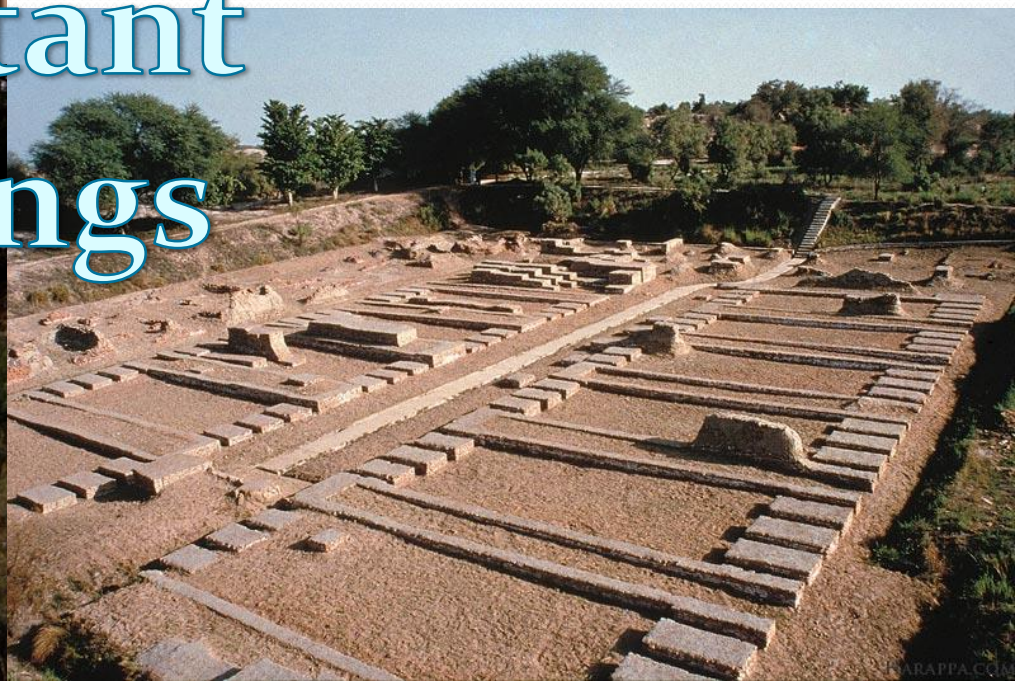
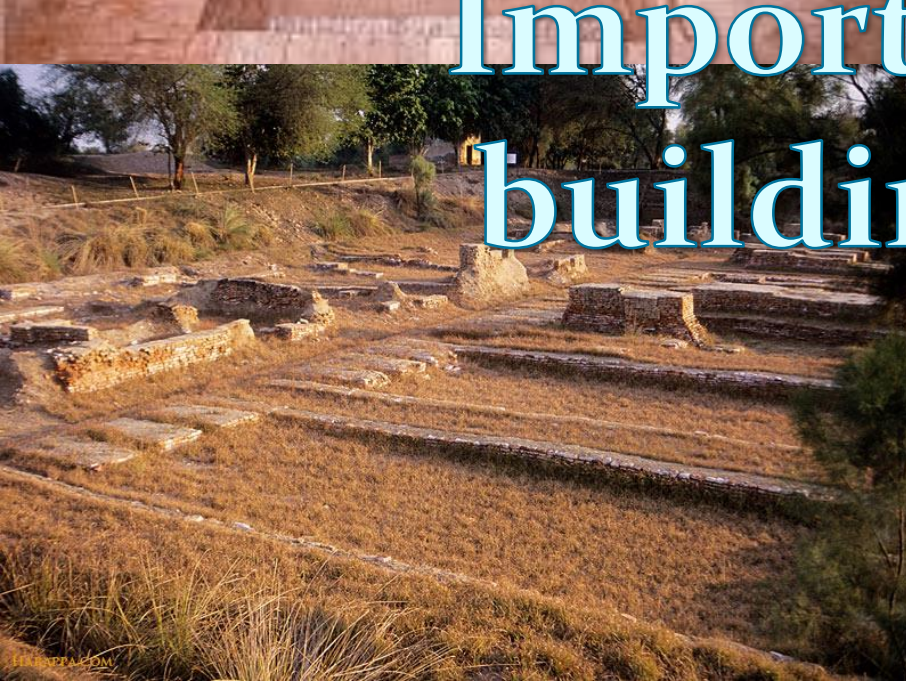
- Another important structure discovered in the citadel mound of Mohenjo-Daro is the GREAT GRANARY.
- It consists of 27 blocks of bricks criss-crossed by ventilation channels.
- Below the granary were the brick loading bays from which grains were raised into the citadel for storage.
- Apart from Mohenjodaro, there is a great granary at Harappa as well. It consists of a series of brick platform forming the base of two rows of 6 granaries.
- To the south of granary were found rows of circular brick platforms, used for threshing grains.

Other important buildings

- Another important building was an **assembly hall**. It had four rows of five bricks plinth upon which wooden columns were erected.
- To the west of it, was found a seated male statue.
- Another significant discovery was the large no of fire altars found at kalibanga.
- There was a series of brick platforms, on one of them was found a row of seven fire altars as well as a pit containing animals bones .



Important buildings



ART AND CRAFTS

- POTTERY-
- Among the remains discovered in Harappa settlements pottery forms an important category.
- It represents the blending of the ceramic tradition of Baluchistan and the cultures east of the Indus system.
- Most of harappan potteries are plane, but a substantial parts are treated with a red slip and black painted decoration.

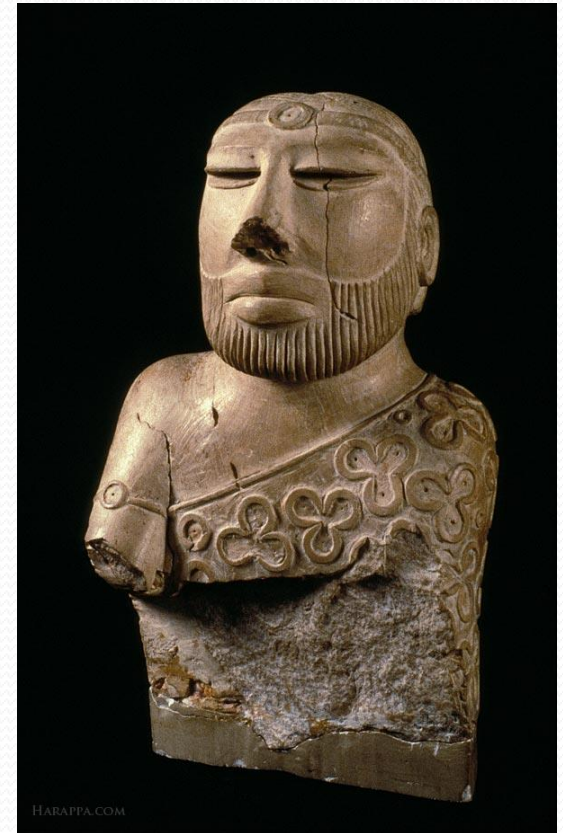


Harappan Burial Pottery

ART



ART



DECLINE OF HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

- There are various theories regarding the decline of Indus civilization. Some of them are –
 1. It was destroyed by massive flood.
 2. The decline took place because of the shift in the course of rivers and the gradual drying up of Ghaggar-Hakra.
 3. Barbarian invaders destroyed the cities.
 4. The growing demands of the centers like Harappa, etc disturbed the ecology of the region and the agricultural produce was not sufficient to support the people.
 5. Recent research done by students of IIT suggests that prolonged drought was the main cause of the decline. This theory was supported by Nature Magazine too.