
Chapter – 4 History

In The Earliest Cities

- Man's lifestyle changed significantly after he learnt the art of using metals.
 - Copper was the first metal to be used by man. It was followed by bronze which was made by mixing tin and copper.
 - The earliest cities in the Indian subcontinent emerged around 4,700 years in the region drained by Indus and its tributaries in the North-West.
 - **The Story of Harappa:**
 - (i) British discovered a mound while building Railways.
 - (ii) Archaeologists were informed.
 - (iii) Harappa was the first to be discovered, it became Harappa Civilisation.
 - **Architectural Features:**
 - (i) Harappan cities were well-planned.
 - (ii) All houses were build of burnt bricks and were of good quality.
 - (iii) The most imposing construction of Indus valley was the Great Bath at Mohenjodaro.
 - (iv) The Harappan settlements had small citadels. It was in citadels that structures were built for special public puroposes.
 - (v) The largest building excavated at Harappa was the Great Granary.
 - (vi) The most striking feature of Harappa was the well-planned drainage system.
 - **Life of the Harappa People:**
 - (i) The Harappan people used common food items like wheat and barley. Animal bones found at Harappa include sheep, goat, pig, etc.
 - (ii) Pots of fine clay were made.
 - (iii) Many kilns for baking bricks have been discovered.
 - (iv) Of the various articles, seals were the most puzzling.
 - (v) Necklaces, armlets, finger rings and bangles were worn both by men and women. Both men and women seemed to be fond of ornaments.
 - **Trade:**
 - (i) Trading thrived in Harappa.
 - (ii) It suggests that long-distance trade existed.
 - (iii) Goods coming from outside, include copper from Rajasthan, gold from Karnataka and precious stones from Iran and Afghanistan.
 - (iv) Seals of Mesopotamia have been found in Indus.
 - (v) Seals of Indus Valley have been found in Mesopotamia.
 - **Harappan Cities in Gujarat:**
 - (i) Two famous Harappan cities of Gujarat were Dholavira and Lothal.
 - (ii) Dholavira was full of traces of fresh water and fertile soil.
 - (iii) Lothal was an important centre for making objects out of stone, shell and metal.
 - **Decline of the Indus Valley Civilisation:**
 - (i) It lasted from 2500 BC to 1500 BC.
 - (ii) Perhaps Indus Valley Civilisation was destroyed by earth quakes, floods or change in the course of the Indus.
 - (iii) Some historians sat that the invasion of Aryans led to the decline of Harappan civilization.
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