

Ancient and Medieval History Class 02

23rd December, 2023 at 9:00 AM

A BRIEF REVISION OF THE PREVIOUS CLASS (09:08 AM):

CIVILIZATION (09:10 AM):

- Surplus of agriculture - Barter trade - Barter traditions - Trade centers - Utility sector, settlements, Storage, Roads, transportation, etc, - Human density increased - Urbanization - Rules and Administration - Civilization.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION (IVC) (09:20 AM):

- The survey of **Mortimer Wheeler** in the **1840s** postulated that there might be some underlying civilization in Punjab province.
- Later in the **1870s** when the railway line was laid down between **Lahore** to **Karachi** something unusual was found by people who reported it to the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.
- But in this direction, no decision was taken.
- Finally, it is in the **2nd decade** of the **20th century**, ASI head **John Marshall** decided to go ahead with excavation in the **Montgomery** district of **Punjab** and **Sindh** province.
- As such Indian archaeologist **Dayaram Sahni** excavated the site of **Harappa** in **1921** and **R.D. Bannerjee's** site of **Mohenjodaro** in **1922**.
- With the discovery of these two sites, it was clear beyond doubt that IV was the most advanced civilization of the world.
- This is mainly attributed because of use of **burnt brick** for the first time in the world.
- These bricks were of the same shape and size in a ratio of **4:2:1**.
- Another reason is its immaculate **urban planning**.
- **Boundaries of IVC:**
- **Southern-most:** Daimabad
- **Western-most:** Suktagendor.
- **Eastern-most:** Alamgirpur.
- **Northen-most:** Shortugai (Manda earlier).
- **Sites of IVC (09:37 am):**
- **(Note:** Refer to the map on the smart board).
- Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Kotdiji, Chanudaro, Amri, Suktagendor, Shortugai, Manda, Ganeriwala, Suttakoh, Balakot, Allahdino, Dholavira, Desalpur, Ropar, Rakhiharhi (Bhirana), Kalibangan, Lothal, Rangpur, Surkatoda, Patan, Daimabad, Balathal, Mithavali, Amri.

- **General features of IVC (09:53 AM):**
- Generally, Indus towns were divided into **two parts** ie **upper town** and **lower town**.
- In the upper town area, administrative buildings were created along with the provision of common baths and storage for grains known as **granaries**.
- The lower town was meant for the habitation of commoners.
- People of all income categories lived inside the centers of the lower town.
- It was well planned out and there was a very good network of roads in the lower town.
- Moreover, roads used to cut each other at a right angle.
- On both sides of the road, drains were created which were covered with stone slabs or brick slabs.
- **Polity:**
- IV **pictographic script** is still not deciphered as such most of the inferences are not conclusive but just a probability.
- From the urban planning of IV, it seems that there was **no monarchical system** but there was a **definite centralized administration**.
- It is believed that IV is ruled by a **group of rich merchants** and **traders**.
- It also seems that there was **no standing army** in IV.
- **Note:**
- **Dholavira:** The site of Dholavira on **Runn of Kacch** was an exception in many ways.
- It had **three layers of urban planning** ie upper town, middle town, and lower town.
- It is believed that the middle town of **Dholavira** was a **military garrison** where the army was stationed.
- Another unique feature of Dholavira was the **Radial Drainage System**.
- Recently it was included in the **UNESCO Heritage Site** list.
- **Economy during IVC (10:07 am):**
- The IVC economy was mainly dependent on agricultural produce.
- They cultivated a variety of crops like **Cotton, Wheat, Barley, Peas, Sesamum, Mustard, Rye, and Melons**.
- Rice was cultivated in the stretch of **Lothal, Rangpur, and Surkotoda**.
- The **cotton textile industry** was heavily developed in the area of **Mohenjodaro** and **Harappa**.
- **Chanudaro:** Bead production.
- **Kalibangan:** Bangle production.
- **Lothal:** Dockyard of IVC and shipbuilding.
- **Mohenjadoro + Daimabad:** Bronze casting.
- In almost all the towns **terracotta** and **pottery** production was happening.
- **Metals known to IV people: Copper, Tin, Silver, Bronze, and Gold.**
- IV had very good long-distance trade with the areas like **Kolar** (Karnataka), **Afghanistan**, **Magan country** (coastal area of Persian Gulf), **Mesopotamia**, **Sumer** (Baghdad), **Dilmun** (Bahrain), and **Oman**.
- Agricultural commodities and cotton textiles were the major items of export from IV and they imported metals like **Copper, Gold, Silver, Tin**, and Semi-precious stones like **Jade, Zasper, Amethyst, Carnelian, and Lapis Lazuli**.

- **Society of IVC (10:27 am):**
- It is believed by the majority of historians that IV society was **matriarchal** in nature.
- It was inferred on the basis of the most abundant image found from Indus towns ie **Mother Goddess**.
- On the basis of urban planning, it is inferred IV society had **inequality** but it was discriminatory.
- There was mobility in the society.
- From the evidence, it seems IV people had a very good fashion sense.
- They used a variety of ornaments and jewelry like **necklaces, pendants, earrings, bangles, rings for fingers, waistbands**, etc.
- They also used a variety of **cosmetics** like **lipstick, soap, sindoor**, and **kajal**.
- They also used tincture for cleaning and healing the wounds.
- **Religious practices during IVC (11:06 am):**
- One of the most important sources of information about IVs is seals.
- Different **images**, and **symbols** on the seals provide clues about religious practices of IV.
- Nature worship was prevalent which was depicted in many of the artifacts.
- The male deity was also worshipped, the best evidence is the **Pashupati seal**.
- The abundance of images of the mother goddess confirms the practice of the goddess.
- **The mother goddess** was also regarded as the **goddess of fertility**.
- **After death practices:**
- Dead bodies were buried in many ways.
- There are instances of **full burial, fractional burial, partial burial**, and **Urn burial**.
- On some of the sites, bodies were buried in the middle of the house and at other places outside the house.
- Direction sense was not developed in the burial practices.
- Moreover, along with dead persons, his used materials were also buried in the pots.
- It is indicative of the **otherworldly beliefs** of the IV people.
- **Decline and disintegration (11:20 am):**
- A good number of theories were proposed explaining the decline of IV.
- One of the prominent theories was the **Aryan invasion**.
- As per this theory in the **battle of Haryupiya** mentioned in **Rigveda**, Aryans defeated IV people and started their rule.
- But in the light of new incidences, this theory was also rejected.
- Modern historians and archeologists believe that decline happened in a long phase due to many phenomena like **climate change, flood, inundation**, and **frequent changes in the course of rivers**.
- It is said that at the height of its culture IV was inhabited by **60 lakh people**.

CHALCOLITHIC CULTURE (11:31 AM):

- Chalcolithic culture (CC) started in India from the **Neolithic age** only and it existed till the end of the **early Vedic age**.
- It is noted for the simultaneous use of **copper** and **stone**.
- In many areas, bronze implements were also created.
- CC was not developed like IV and it was **rural** in outlook.
- **Agriculture** was the main profession of people,
- Apart from that, they were also involved in **animal husbandry, stock raising, fishing, and textile making**.
- **Copper smelting** was also practiced in almost all the sites of CC.
- There were **five important pockets** of CC in India ie:
- **Ahar-Banas** (Rajasthan), **Malwa** (Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Rajasthan), **Kayath** (Madhya Pradesh), **Swadaha** (Maharashtra), and **Jorwe** (Maharashtra and Telangana).
- **Copper** was mainly obtained from the **Khetri** mines and the **Jhunjhunu** mines of Rajasthan.
- A place named **Gilund** was referred to as **Tambavati** (copper capital).
- Chalcolithic people used three different kinds of pottery ie **ochre-colored pottery, redware pottery, and red-on-black pottery**.
- One of the unique features of this time was the development of direction sense during death burials.
- In the northern sites of CC, dead bodies were buried in a **north-south direction** and in the southern sites, dead bodies were buried in an **east-west direction**.
- Moreover, another interesting feature was the **chopping of the feet** of a dead person before burial.
- It is indicative of their **otherworldly belief** and maybe they wanted to prevent the rearrival of dead spirits in their world.

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS:Advent of Aryans.