

## Ancient and Medieval History Class 03

### INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION OR IVC: (5:00 PM)

#### I. DIVERSE MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE:

- *Here are the important factors to be taken into consideration:*
- *Diverse geo-climatic conditions.*
- *Topography.*
- *Geography.*
- *1. Non agrarian means of Subsistence:*
- *Trade and Commerce (Inland and Maritime).*
- *Art and Crafts (Pottery, Seals and Sealings, Ornaments, sculptures, **Weights and Measures**, etc).*
- *2. Agrarian activities and Dietary preferences.*
- So,
- The IVC was scattered around a vast territory throughout the Northwest of the Indian Subcontinent dominated by diverse climatic conditions.
- Naturally, they were dependent on a wide range of animal products.
- Remains of **grave goods**, especially **Charred grains**, provide details regarding dietary practices.
- **Harappan** sites include wheat, **Barley**, **Lentil**, **Chickpea**, and **sesame**.
- Millets are found in Gujarat. Rice though available seems to be rare.
- Animal bones at the IVC site include **cattle**, sheep, goats, buffalo, and pigs (*domesticated*).
- We also find evidence of wild species such as Boar, Bear, and Gharial.
- The coastal people were dependent on Fish.
- The Harappan people also practiced Agriculture.
- At **Kalibangan**, we find evidence of **ploughed** fields.
- At **Banwali** and **Cholistan**, we find Terracotta replicas of **Ploughshare**.
- As compared to contemporary Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilizations, the Harappan people did not have irrigation facilities (with the exception of Sortughai in Afghanistan).

## **II. ART AND CRAFTS: (5:47 PM)**

### **1. Pottery:**

- *The earliest purpose for the use of wheels is pottery (Not for transportation).*
- *Initially, it was handmade, and then it was made of the wheel.*
- *Black and Redware.*
- *Also evidence of Miniature pottery.*

### **2. Sculpture:**

- *Lost wax method/ Cire Perdue: The method used for making bronze sculpture.*
- *3. Ornaments: Stone, Copper, Bronze, Terracotta.* -> Method used for making metal sculpture was known as 'Cire Perdue' or this was also known as Lost Wax Method.

## **III. RELIGION: (5:54 PM)**

- *If we overlook the Great Bath, there is no strong evidence of Religion in the IVC.*
- *Evidence of Joint burial is probably indicative of the institution of marriage.*
- *Seals provide an image of Proto-shiva (The rudimentary form of Shiva) surrounded by a Buffalo, Elephant, Rhino, and Tiger, which can be taken as man-animal co-existence.*
- *Peepal trees on seal images are indicative of religious structures.*
- *Terracotta images of Female goddesses.*
- *No evidence of Cremation (It is mainly attributed to Vedic culture).*
- *Class divide was not present.*

#### IV. EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL CONTACT OF IVC: (6:07 PM)

- **Sources of information:**

- **1. Archeological Remains:**

- *Seals and Sealings.*
- *Pottery, sherds.*
- *Terracotta toys, Ornaments, Sculptures.*

- **2. Literary Sources.**

- **3. Mesopotamian texts.**

##### **Internal Contact:**

- The Harappans imported raw materials from inside as well as outside of the Indian Subcontinent.

for ex:

- **Nageshwar** and Balakot were the sources for the supply of **shells**.

- Settlements such as Shortughai in Afghanistan were the source for importing bluish semi-precious stone Lapis Lazuli.

- Settlements such as Lothal <sup>was near</sup> ~~were~~ the source of **Carnelian**.

- Steatite was procured from Gujarat and Rajasthan.

- Copper was brought from the **Khetri** region of Rajasthan, (probably inhabited by Ganeshwar, Jodhpura, and Chalcolithic Culture.)

- Gold was procured probably from the Kolar region of Karnataka.

- Zinc also was procured from Rajasthan.

- Tin was procured from the Tosam region of Modern Haryana.

##### **External Contact:**

- The Harappan people maintained contact with the outside world via land-based as well as maritime contact.

- Availability of **pottery sherds**, seals and Sealings, **Ivory dice**, metal objects, etc established contact between Harappans and West Asia ~~in~~ (Regions such as Oman, Bahrain, Turkmenistan, etc.)

- The artificial dockyard at Lothal and images of boats on a seal indicate Harappans as seafarers.

- Mesopotamian texts also refer to commercial contact with the Meluhans.

The Harappan settlement in

## **IVC POLITY AND GOVERNANCE: (6:30 PM)**

- **Sources of Information:**

- ***Polity:***

- *Town Planning.*
- *Sculpture: Soapstone image of a priest.*
- *Standardization: Bricks, Weights and measures,*
- *There was no elaborate association between the state and religion.*

- ***Society:***

- *Class division.*
- *Ruling elite.*
- *Labor force.*
- *Position of women.*
- *Institution of marriage.*
- *Sacrifice.*

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH CONTEMPORARY CIVILISATION: (6:47 PM)**

<b>Nature and Character</b>	<b>IVC</b>	<b>Egyptian and Mesopotamian Civilisation</b>
1. Time period	All 3 civilizations are contemporary to each other.	Mesopotamian civilization was relatively older.
2. Geographical location	North Western Part of Indian Subcontinent.	Egyptian: North Africa. Mesopotamian: West Asia.
3. Extent of this civilization	Largest among all contemporary civilizations.	They are relatively smaller.
4. Presence of Monarchy	Absent	Present
5. Usage of Cotton	Present	Absent
6. Class divide	Relatively absent	Strongly Present.
7. Sanitation and Hygiene	Present	Absent
8. Irrigation facility	Absent (Sortughai was an exception)	Present.
9. Language and Script	Present but yet to be deciphered	Present and Deciphered.

**CONTINUITY OF IVC: (7:28 PM)**

- 1. Religion. **and Philosophy.**
- 2. Art and Craft: Ornaments, Pottery, Sculpture, Textile, etc.
- 3. Town planning: Drainage and Sanitation.

10. Artificial  
Dockyard

present

absent

## **DECLINE OF IVC: (7:33 PM)**

### **1. Aryan Invasion Theory:**

- a) Site of Mohenjodaro (**Mound** of death).
- b) Rig Vedic literature: Celebrated Indra as the most powerful god.
- c) Terms such as **Das/Dasyu** etc. vanquished with the war.

### **2. Decline of Trade: Theory**

- By Shereen Ratnagar.
- He argued that the decline of trade in Lapis Lazuli led to the decline of civilization.

### **3. Natural Disaster: Theory**

- By HT Lamtrick.
- It is a site-specific analysis.
- The direction of the Indus changed and started moving eastwards, depriving the city of water resources.
- They argued that due to tectonic shifts, the Indus turned into a lake drowning the city.

### **4. Ecological Imbalance theory: (most plausible theory)**

- It was given by **Fairservis**.
- He calculated the growing requirements of essential resources for the rising human and cattle population in Harappan cities.
- Growing urbanization contributed to deforestation, leading to microclimatic impact.
- Also, uniform discharge of sewage might have contributed to recurring floods.
- Among all the theories, attempting to justify the decline of IVC, the ecological imbalance theory seems to be the most logical.

### **5. Monsoon link theory:**

- By Ranajay Adhikari.
- It is the recent most theory that attempted towards the decline of IVC.
- As per the theory, the intensity of the monsoon fluctuated in India's Northwest.
- Prior to the rise of the Indus Valley Civilisation, the ~~agroclimatic~~ **geoclimatic** condition reached optimum levels.
- However, soon by 2000 BC, the intensity of monsoon started weakening.
- Naturally, the cities were abandoned by their inhabitants contributing to the decline of the civilisation.

## **TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS: VEDIC CULTURE.**