

Ancient and Medieval History Class 02

CHALCOLITHIC CULTURE (5:01 PM)

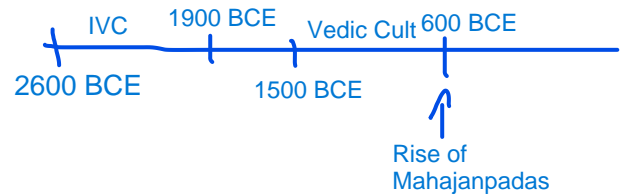
- The Chalcolithic people mostly used copper and stone objects. Towards the later phase, they also started using low-grade ~~bones~~ **bronze** and also iron.

- These settlements are spread across the Indian subcontinent namely:

- 1) Southeastern Rajasthan (Ahar(originally Tambavati), Gilund)
- 2) Western M.P. (Malwa region-Kayatha and Eran)
- 3) Western Maharastra (Jorwe and Daimabad)
- 4) West Bengal (Mahisadal and Pandu Raja Dhibi)

Chalcolithic cultures:

As long as 700 BCE



PROTO HISTORY (5:13 PM)

- **Harappan Civilization / Indus Valley Civilization:** (Imp. for both Pre & mains)

- Time Period
- Geographical extent

Town Planning:

- 1) Planning/layout
- 2) Drainage/sanitation
- 3) Granary
- 4) Artificial dockyard
- 5) Water reservoir, irrigation
- 6) Bricks and bricks layout
- 7) Great bath

→ Diverse means of subsistence of IVC people

IVC art and crafts:

- 1) Seals ~~and Sculptures~~
- 2) Pottery ~~Sculpture~~
- 3) Ornaments
- 4) Weights and measures

IVC religion: Burial customs

Internal and external contacts of IVC

- Comparative analysis ~~of~~ **with** contemporary civilization- Mesopotamian and Egyptian
- Harappan continuity
- Decline of IVC

Sources of Information:



1) Archaeological

- a) Excavations made in important IVC sites(Harappa, Mohanjodaro, Kot diji, Chanhudaro, Rakhigarhi, Dholavira, Lothal, etc.)
- Evidence: Houses, Town planning, art and craft, sculpture, grave goods, pottery, seals, and sealing.etc.

2) Literary

- a) Indigenous- IVC script(yet to be deciphered)
- b) Foreign (Mesopotamian texts referring to Meluhans(identified with IVC people))

TIMELINE (5:34 PM)

- IVC: Between 2600 BCE to 1900 BCE. Climax was at 2000 BCE
- Phases:**
- 1st Phase: Early / Pre- Harappan - 3200 BCE - 2600 BCE
- 2nd Phase: Harappan Phase- 2600 BCE - 1900 BCE
- 3rd Phase: Post Harappan Phase- 1900 BCE - 1300 BCE

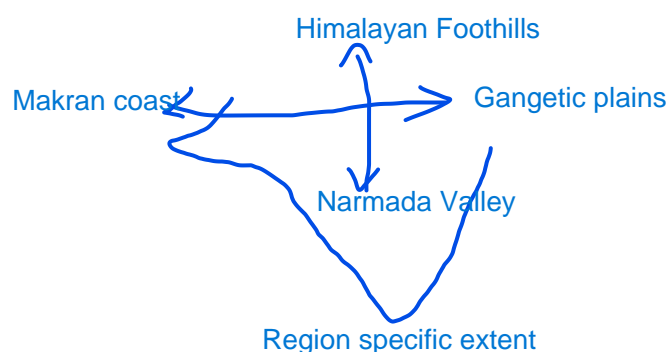
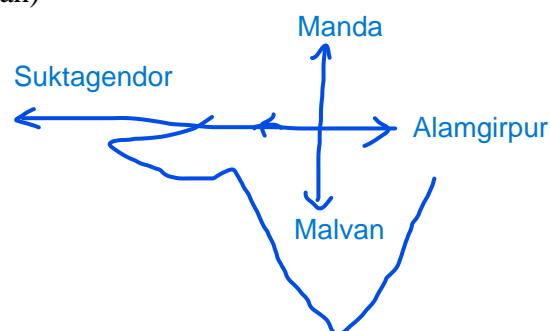
GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT (5:45 PM)

Site specific:

- Eastern most: Alamgirpur (U.P.)
- Northernmost: Manda (J&K)
- Southernmost: Bhagatrav (Gujarat), Malvan (MH), and Daimabad (Maharastra)- late Chalcolithic site showing signs of urbanization.
- Westernmost: Suktagendor (Pakistan)

Region specific:

- North- Himalayan foothills
- South- Narmada valley
- West- Makran coast(Pakistan)
- East- Gangetic plains
- > Sortugai (Afghanistan)

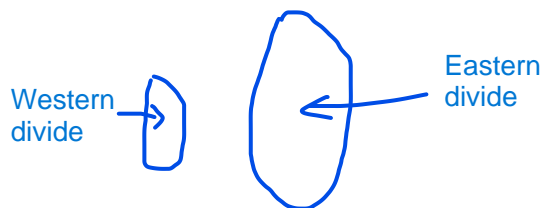



IMPORTANT IVC SITES (5:59 PM)

- Large Sites: Harappa, Mohanjodaro, **Rakhigarhi**, Dholavira, etc.
- Small settlements: Chanhudaro, Ropar, Kot diji, ~~Shortigai~~ **Sortugai**, etc.

TOWN PLANNING (6:02 PM)

- Nearly 3000+ IVC sites have been identified throughout India and Pakistan amongst which a number of sites ~~are~~ **have been** well excavated.
- The earliest site Harappa was excavated by **Dayaram Sahni**. The civilization thus later termed the Harappan civilization.
- Also initially most of the sites were spread around the river ~~Indus~~ **Indus** and its tributaries thus the civilization was also known as the **Indus Valley civilization**.
- **Western divide:**
- **Upper town** ~~citadel~~.
- Smaller and built on a raised platform.
- Inhabited by upper sections of the society
- **Eastern divide:**
- Lower town
- Larger - inhabited by the general population
- **Dholavira:** 3 divisions- **upper**, **middle**, and **lower**
- **Chanhudaro:** no division- factory settlement inhabited by artisans.
- Excavations of the Harappan cities provide information regarding excellent town planning. By looking at the Harappan cities it seems the roads and the drainage were constructed before the construction of the houses(suggestive of the presence of municipal corporation as well as town planning).
- Generally, the cities were laid on a grid pattern where the roads met each other at **right angles**.
- The cities were generally having an East-West divide. The Western part is also known as the upper town or the citadel. it was generally built on a raised platform(constructed using bricks).



- The Eastern part was often larger known as the lower town. It is worth noting that important constructions such as the **Great Bath, Granary**, etc. were constructed within the citadel.
- It seems the citadel was inhabited by the upper sections of the society whereas the lower town was inhabited by the general population s/ artisans.
- In some cases the upper town was fortified.
- In rare instances, **both upper and lower towns were fortified**. Sites such as Dholavira had 3 divisions, whereas **Chanhudaro** had none(probably an industrial town inhabited only by artisans).
- **Bricks**- ~~length, breadth, and height~~ ^{height, breadth and length} were in the ratio **1:2:4**
- Brick laying technique is known as the "**English Bond Style**". 
- The IVC houses were uniform, constructed using primarily bricks and stones. By looking at the construction the houses within the citadel look more **affluent** as compared to constructions in lower town.
- For sites such as Mohanjodaro, wells were constructed in each household(archeological evidence suggests the construction of nearly 700+ wells). By looking at the construction it seems the wells could be accessed by passersby/travelers individuals.
- Bathrooms were constructed in every household.
- No windows opened directly at the street indicating the presence of a strong enforcement agency.
- In IVC, bricks were uniform, the standard ratio being 1:2:4. Sun-dried bricks were mostly used for the construction of houses whereas **terracotta bricks** were used for the construction of sewage.
- Throughout the IVC we find 2 categories of bricks.
- The bricks of smaller size were used for the construction of houses having the dimensions of 7cmX14cmX28 cm.
- The larger bricks on the other hand were used for the walls 10cmX20cmX40cm. the bricks were laid using the English Bond Style.
- The Harappans didn't know the art of constructing a **true arch**. The arches were constructed using the method of **corbelling**. We also find evidence of carved as well as **ornate bricks**.

Sanitation: (7:20 PM)

- The Harappans were famous for excellent drainage and sanitation, more advanced than any other contemporary civilization.
- **Cesspits** were constructed in every household to collect liquid and solid waste. From here liquid waste was carried away via efficient drainage that finally discharged into the nearby water body.
- IVC sites marked by **scanty** rainfall had efficient systems to harvest rainwater underground.


Granary:

- At Mohanjodaro, the granary was the largest building constructed within the citadel.
- In Harappa, we find as many as 6 granaries. The existence of granaries indicates the probability of taxation and distribution as wages(contemporary Mesopotamian civilization distributed food as wages)

Great Bath at Mohanjodaro:

- It was constructed using finely fitted terracotta bricks using gypsum **mortar**. For waterproofing there was a thick layer of bitumen(thereby making the earliest evidence of waterproofing in the world).
- The Great Bath had entry and exit channels suggesting periodic maintenance.
- There are constructions adjacent to the Great Bath probably used for changing attire. The usage of the Great Bath is still a matter of debate and different historians have speculated on it. A number of historians associated the Great Bath with ritual bathing.

Artificial Dockyard: (7:43 PM)

- Maritime contact of IVC:
 - 1) Mesopotamians refer to Meluhans as excellent seafarers.
 - 2) Pyramidical seal containing an image of a boat. 
 - 3) Artificial dockyard at Lothal.
- It was found at Lothal. It was a trapezoidal basin that operated using high and low tide. The loading and unloading of the ships were carried out using sluice gates and a spill channel.

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS: CONTINUATION OF THE IVC (DIVERSE MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE)