

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES

The archaeological sources played an important role in constructing or/and reconstructing the history of a region.

The archaeological source of Indian history is only about two centuries old.

The archaeological source enhanced our knowledge about our past and also provided important materials, which we could not have been obtained otherwise.

up to 1920, Indian civilization was considered to have begun about 6th century B.C. However, the excavations of Mohenjodaro, Kalibangan and Harappa prove

Its antiquity to be of 8,000 B.C.

Prehistoric artifacts found in the excavations have shown that human activities had started here as early as about two million years ago.

Epigraphy and Numismatics are the important branches of the study of history, which has greatly enhanced the knowledge of India's past.

Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions and Numismatic is the study of coins, medals or paper money.

Coins are an important numismatic source that tells us about the Indo-Greek, Saka-Parthian and Kushana kings.

Inscriptions of Ashoka and Samudragupta provide valuable information about social and political status of the people of that period.

The study of these inscriptions reveals the record about Ashoka's views on dharma (religion) and conquests of Samudragupta.

Archaeological Monuments

The temples and sculptures display an architectural and artistic history of the Indians from the Gupta period up to recent times.

During the Gupta period, the large caves, i.e. Chaityas and Viharas were excavated in the hills of western India.

The Kailasa Temple of Ellora and Rathas of Mahabalipuram have been carved out of rocks from outside.

The excavations of the cities of Mohenjodaro and Harappa prove the antiquity

of Indian culture and civilization, which are more than two thousand years old.

The historic sites such as Kalibangan, Lothal, Dholavira and Rakhigarhi are the contemporary of Mohenjodaro and Harappa civilizations.

The Harappan civilizations cover the area ~~the~~ of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (In India).

The Dark age of Indian history was the period between 1500 and 600 B.C. This is known as Dark Age because not much is known about this period.

The archaeological discoveries of Black-and-Red-ware, Painted-Gray-ware, Malwa and Toran culture have filled the chronological gaps as well as covered the geographical extent.

Some of the important points that Archaeological discoveries display are —

i) Indian had domesticated Sheep and goat and started agriculture about — 8,000 years ago and Iron Metal came in regular use about — 1,600 B.C.

ii) The tradition of rock paintings in India is proved to be more than 12 thousand years old.

iii) Tools and remains found in the Kashmir and Narmada Valleys show that — the human activities started in the Subcontinent — as early as two million years ago.