

History Ch 1 → BRICKS, BEADS AND BONES.

[इंटे मनके और अस्तित्वों]

- Harappan seal → most distinctive artefacts.

made of steatite (stone). motif of animals. the script can't be read (undeciphered)

HARAPPA

late harappa
(mature)

Early harappa.

↓
before harappa there is another culture or civilisation too.

SUBSISTENCE STRATEGIES

- Harappan ate → plant product, animal product, fish.
- * Archaeologist able to reconstruct dietary practice → charred grains and seeds.
↓
studied by archaeo-botanist.
- Grains → wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, millet, sesame, rice (rare).
(GJ)
- Domestic animals → cattle, sheep, goat, pig, buffalo.
- Hunting → boar, deer, gharial, bones of fish and fowl.
(लशह)

Agricultural Technologies:

- Representation on seals and terracotta indicate that bull was known.
- Oxen → used for ploughing.
- Terracotta models of plough → Cholistan, Banawali.
- Ploughed field → Kalibangan (RJ).

- The field has two sets of furrows at right angles to each other, suggesting that two different crops were grown together.

* Irrigation:

- Traces of canals found → Shortughai (Afghanistan)
- Water drawn from wells.
- Water reservoirs → Dholavira

III. Mohanjodaro:

(A) A planned urban centre.

- Settlement $\begin{cases} \text{lower towns (middle class)} \\ \text{citadel (rich)} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{raised platform.} \end{cases}$

- Planned → Sundried / Baked Bricks of standardize ratio were used.

(B) Laying out drains.

- Planned drainage system.
- Roads and streets were laid out along an approximate "grid" pattern.
- Waste water had to flow into the street drains → every house needed to have one wall along a street.

(C) Domestic Architecture:

- Mohanjodaro provides example of residential buildings.
- Entered on a courtyard with rooms on all sides.

~~Part~~

Looking for luxuries:

→ Study artefacts → to identify social differences.

Utilitarian

- objects of daily use
- made of clay, stone.
- e.g.: querns, pottery, needles, flesh-splinters.

luxuries → pot of faience
• gold.

made of costly and non local materials or complicated technologies.

e.g.: pots of faience

(silica + colour + gum + fired)

- Harappa and Mohenjodaro.
- gold recovered from hoards

5. Finding Out Craft Production

- Chanhudaro is a tiny settlement devoted to craft production — Bead making, metal working, shell cutting, weight making.
- materials → stones like carnelian, jasper, quartz, steatite, crystal.
- metal → copper, bronze, gold, shell, faience, terracotta.
- Shapes → disc shaped, ~~spindle shaped~~ cylindrical, spherical, barrel shaped, segmented.

- decorated by incising or painting and some had design.
- Techniques differ according to material.
- Specialised drill/ → chanhudaro
and finish product. Lothal
Dholavira.
- Nageshwar and Balakot → making shell objects.
e.g: bangles, ladles and inlays.

Identifying centres of Production

Stone nodules, whole shells, copper ore, tools, unfinished objects, reject and waste are indicators of craft work.

Strategies for Procuring Metals



- locally available.
- procured from outside the alluvial plain.

Transport :

(i) Bullock Cart.

(ii) Riverine routes along Indus and tributaries.

Materials from Subcontinent and Beyond

I. Establish settlement :

- Nageshwar and Balakot → Shell
- Shortughai → Lapis Lazuli (a blue stone)
- Lothal → Carnelian, Steatite
- ~~Makli~~ Rajasthan → metal.

II. Sending expedition to areas :

- Khetri region of Rajasthan → Copper
- South India → Gold.

Contact with distant land:

(magan) Oman → Copper

Omani copper Harappan artefacts

↓
Nickel (common origin)

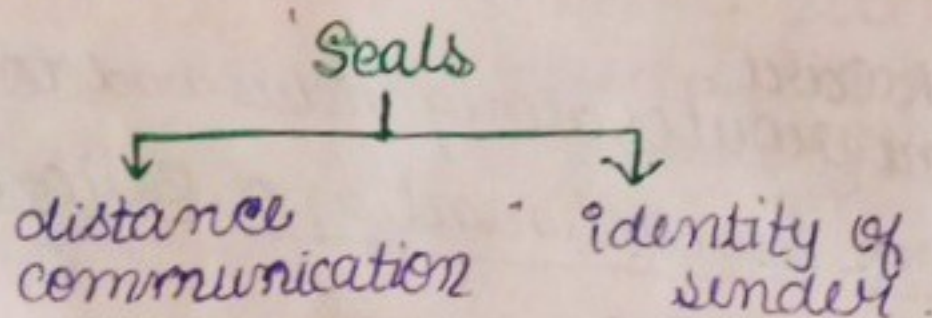
Omani → A pot/vessel/jar coated with a thick layer of black clay.

↓
prevent percolation of liquids.

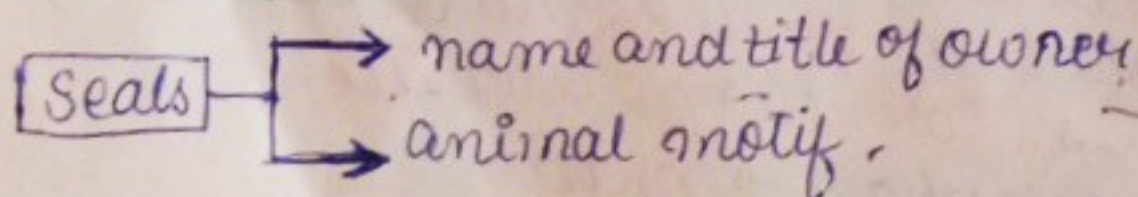
- ~~in~~ Dilmun
- Meluhha → carnelian, lapis lazuli, gold, copper.
- Magan.
- Mesopotamia.

7. Script, Seals, Weights

- * Seals and sealings → facilitate long distance communication.
- * Sealings also ~~also~~ conveyed the identity of the sender.



→ An enigmatic (ऀहस्यमय) script :



- * most inscriptions are short, the longest containing about 26 signs.

- * Script remain undeciphered to date, it was evidently not alphabetical.
- * ~~So~~ Script was ~~is~~ written from right to left.
- * Writing has been found : seals, jars, copper tools, jewellery, terracotta tablet, bone rods, ancient signboards.

Weight

is chert

- * Made of stone called chert and generally cubical with no markings.
- * Lower denomination of weights were binary.
(1, 2, 4... upto 12,800)
- * Higher denomination followed ~~the~~ decimal system.
- * Smaller weights used for weighing → jewellery and beads.
- * Metal scale pan have also been found.

Ancient Authority

8.1 Places and kings

To know about the centre of power or for depiction of people in power, archaeologist have no answer.

- * A large building found at Mohanjodaro labelled as a palace. — but no spectacular finds.
- * A stone statue was labelled and continues to be known as the "priest-king".
- * Some archaeologists felt that → society has no ruler, and that everybody enjoyed equal status.
- * Others felt that no single ruler but several that Mohanjodaro had a separate ruler, Harappa another, and so forth.

* Others argue that there was a single state.

* Last theory was → it is unlikely that entire communities could have collectively made and implemented such complex decisions.

→ The End of the Civilisation

* Overall, artefacts and settlements indicate a rural way of life in what are called "Late Harappan" or "successor culture".

* Climatic change, deforestation, shifting or drying up of the rivers, excessive land use.

* Natural calamities, floods.

• Mixed causes — Aryan invasion, political pressure, etc.

Discovering the Harappan Civilisation

→ Cunningham's confusion..

- Director General of ASI
- Used the accounts that were left by Chinese Buddhist pilgrims who had visited subcontinent.
- He excavated sites, tended to regard artefacts as cultural value.
- He missed the importance of Harappa.

The end of Civilisation

- (1) Climate change
- (2) Outdated technology →
 - increase in population.
 - Pottery, weights, crafts, seals, disappeared
 - House construction techniques deteriorated
 - Decline of culture
- (3) Deforestation → on account to provide fuel to kiln producing burnt bricks.
 - ↓
 - rainfall decrease.
 - ↓
 - fertility decrease cause salinity of soil.
 - ↓
 - arid areas.
- (4) Deterioration in environment condition →
 - growth of slums
 - congested house.
 - culture has exhausted its energy.
- (5) Natural calamities → Mr. Sahni
- (6) Aryan invasions → K. E. M. Wheeler.
 - ↓
 - skeleton remains in deadman lane
 - evidence with that of Rigveda.
- (7) Change in river course
- (8) Mixed cause →
 - political pressure
 - break in trading activities
 - not to any invasion