

Chapter - 6

The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation

Q.1 Facts that Matter

- 1. Indus-Sarasvati civilization :** Indus-Sarasvati Civilisation was the first civilisation that flourished approximately 2600–1900 BCE on the banks of the Indus river and the now-dry Sarasvati river region.
- 2. Structure of the civilization :** It was a well-planned, highly urban civilisation with sophisticated water management with reservoirs, wells, and drainage systems.
- 3. Features of Mohenjo-daro :** Elaborated bath or tank, a large residential structure, a massive granary, large assembly area.
- 4. Indication of vibrant society :** Crafted tools and ornaments, games, toys, and everyday objects (pots, tools) indicate a vibrant society.
- 5. Maritime trade :** People practised agriculture, using tools and evidences suggest that they also carried out maritime trade.
- 6. Causes of Decline :** Possible causes of decline could be climatic changes, including reduced rainfall and drying of the Sarasvati River. People may have moved from urban to rural living for better access to food and water.

Q.2 Multiple Choice Questions

- 1. Which of the following was a major achievement of the Harappan civilisation?**
b) Efficient water management and drainage system
- 2. What was the main reason for the decline of the Harappan Civilisation?**
c) Climatic changes and drying up of the Sarasvati River
- 3. What type of evidence suggests that Harappans were engaged in maritime trade?**
c) Large dockyard
- 4. _____ is the main feature of a Civilisation.**
c) Advanced urban planning
- 5. Some of the animals shown on Harappan seals are _____**
d) All of these
- 6. What was the primary purpose of the Great Bath in Mohenjo-daro?**
a) Bath for the royal family b) A temple for worship
c) A public bath d) Bath for religious rituals

7. **Why did Harappan cities have separate bathing areas in their homes?**
b) For water management and cleanliness
8. **Name the place where elites generally lived.**
b) Upper town
9. **Why are the inhabitants of the Indus Valley Civilisation called ‘Harappans’?**
b) The city of Harappa was the first to be excavated
10. **Which metal did the Harappans use extensively for their tools and ornaments?**
c) Bronze
11. **What is a reservoir?**
c) Large natural or artificial water storage

Q.3 Study the picture and answer the questions that follow.

- a. **Identify the object shown.**

It is a Seal.

- b. **What was it used for?**

Seals were used for trade activities.

- c. **What was it used for?**

The seals were generally made of steatite. They measure only a few centimeters. They generally depict animal figures with a few signs.

Q.4 Write the correct statement for each incorrect statement given below.

1. **The Harappans used copper tools and figurines.**

Bronze,

2. **The Sarasvati river is mentioned in the Rigveda only as a river.**

The Sarasvati river is mentioned in the Rigveda as both a goddess and a river.

3. **The term “Indus Valley Civilisation” is no longer widely used because the civilisation extended beyond the Ganga region.**

Indus,

4. **The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro was a large reservoir for storing drinking water.**

The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro possibly served as a public bath or a location for religious rituals.

5. **The Harappans may have imported gold in exchange of imported goods.**

Copper,

Q.5 Match the items given in Column A with their correct pair in Column B.

Column A	Column B
1. Upper sections of the society	d. Elite
2. Sarasvati	e. Ghaggar
3. Dancing girl	a. Mohen-jo-daro
4. Carnelian	b. Beads and ornaments
5. Lothal	c. Dockyard

Q.6 Assertion & Reason based Questions

- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- A is true, but R is false.
- A is false, but R is true.

Choose the correct option

- Assertion :** The Harappan civilisation were peace - loving and lacked weapons for warfare.
Reason : Archaeological evidence shows no traces of warfare or invasions.
- Assertion :** Writing formed an integral part of civilisation to keep records and communication.
Reason : Both internal and external trade were common within distant regions for exchange of all sorts of goods.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

Q.7 Case Study Based Question

Read the paragraph given below and answer the following questions.

- What does the presence of reservoirs and wells indicate about Harappan society?**

The presence of reservoirs and wells indicates the Harappans' focus on efficient water management and their high civic sense.

- Why was trade important for the Harappans?**

Trade was important for the Harappans to exchange goods and resources, such as importing copper and exporting beads and cotton.

- What is a reservoir? In which city has the largest reservoir been found?**

A reservoir is a large natural or artificial storage space for water.

Q.8 Answer the following questions.

- Name the first city of the Harappan civilisation to be excavated.**

The first city of the Harappan civilisation to be excavated was Harappa.

2. Name any one crop grown by the Harappans.

The crops grown by the Harappans were barley, wheat, millets etc.

3. What was the purpose of the dockyard at Lothal?

The purpose of the dockyard at Lothal is to receive and send boats for transportation of goods.

4. Define the term 'Civilisation'.

Civilisation refers to an advanced stage of human societies, characterized by urban planning, governance, agriculture, trade, and cultural development.

5. Name the major cities situated in the Saravasti basin.

The cities located in Sarasvatī basin are Rakhigarhi in Haryana and Ganweriwala in Pakistan.

6. How did Harappan culture survive after the cities ended?

After Harappan cities emptied around 1900 BCE, their culture didn't vanish. Rural settlers kept using their farming tools, like ploughs, and practised crafts like pottery. Traditions, seen in bangles or stories like the thirsty crow, passed down too. Though the government dissolved, these skills and ideas flowed into India's next phase, proving, their ways outlasted the urban decline.

7. Dholavira was different from other cities found in the Harappan civilisation. How?

Housing area in Dholavira had perpendicular streets whereas in other cities streets were oriented to the cardinal directions. It had three distinct zones-Upper town, Middle town, Lower town, not two as in other cities. Also, the foundations of most buildings were made with stones whereas in other cities they were made with bricks.

8. What were the factors that contributed to the development of the Harappan civilisation?

The following factors contributed in the development of the Harappan civilisation.

The Harappan civilisation developed in the fertile plains of the Indus and Sarasvati rivers, which provided ample water for agriculture and supported a growing population.

The availability of raw materials, the development of trade networks and advancements in metallurgy and craftsmanship contributed to its growth.

The society had a form of governance to manage urban planning, trade and public utilities, which further facilitated the civilisation's development.

9. Explain the cultural and technological legacy of the Harappans.

Cultural Legacy :

A bronze figurine from Mohenjo-daro, The "Dancing Girl", where her bangles cover an entire arm, a practice still visible in parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

A terracotta figurine seated in a 'namaste' pose, depicting the greeting style still followed in India.

A design on a pot which seems to tell the story of the thirsty crow, who finds a clever way to drink water at the bottom of the pot (from Lothal). A story still told in modern times.

Technological Legacy :

Advanced drainage systems, water reservoirs, and bronze metallurgy influenced later Indian societies.

They made farming tools like the ploughs, continue to be used by modern day farmers.

Then as now, the cities could survive only if enough agricultural produce from rural areas reached them on a daily basis.

10. What factors contributed to the decline of the Harappan civilisation?

Rural Transition : Around 1900 BCE, this Sindhu-Sarasvatī civilisation, began to fall apart. The cities were abandoned one by one. If any inhabitants remained, they adopted a rural lifestyle — it appears that the earlier government or administration no longer existed.

Climatic Changes : 2200 BCE onwards reduced rainfall and a drier climate made agriculture difficult, reducing food supply to cities.

Drying of Sarasvati River : This led to the abandonment of cities along its basin, like Kalibangan and Banawali.

Lack of Evidence for Invasion : Archaeological findings do not suggest warfare or external invasions as causes.

'Dive deep'

The beginning of Indian Civilization

A) Major sites- Harappa and Mohenjo-daro

Area- 1.3-2 million sq.kms.

Pakistan- Sindh, Punjab & Balochistan

India- Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, U.P and Jammu

Afghanistan- Northern sites like Shortugai

B) 1) Excellent drainage system

Highly sophisticated

Provision for managing waste water

Drains were mostly covered and hidden underground.

2) Planning of town

Grid based urban planning

Elevated western citadel

Private wells in houses

Standardized building materials

C) The Great Bath

Large waterproofed, rectangular believed to be the world's earliest public water tank.
likely used for sacred, ritual bathing.

D) A vast network of trade

Mohenjo-daro was a central hub in a vast, highly organised trade network connecting the Indus valley to Mesopotamia, Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia.

E) Well planned water management

Advanced, highly planned water management system was prevalent.

Brick lined walls, the iconic Great Bath

Sophisticated covered sewage drains.

Every home had a private bathing area connecting to street drains.

F) Decline of the Civilization

Combination of environmental changes and natural disaster.

Shifting course of the Indus river.

Catastrophic flooding

Deforestation

Decline of trade