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Indus Valley Civilization

Mindset Making: Let's execute our model of learning
history.

- Intro &
a) Geography b) political System c) Social System
d) Economics e) Summary (Observations)

To know about a, b, c, d, e ;

(Resources to know) → Inscriptions, Coins, Sculptures,
Architecture, Literature, Foreign travellers

As far as Indus Valley Civilization is concerned :-

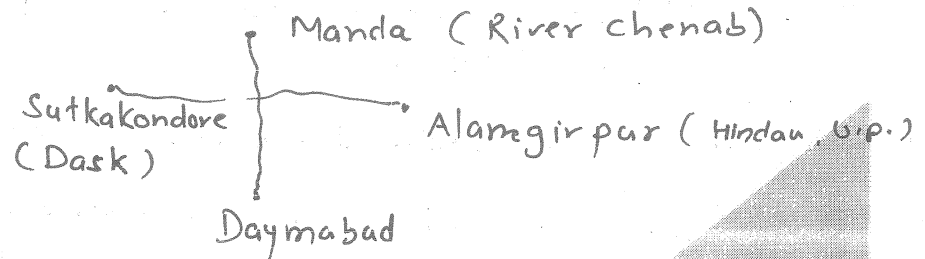
We will study this topic according to different sites of this civilization. The reasons are - Historians found different places at different times and so they themselves classified it; basis on those cities sites.

Also analysis of PYQs suggests us to prepare this chapter for sites specific study. For every site, there is one/two specifications added. We need to remember that speciality about that specific site. It will help us to pick the right option.

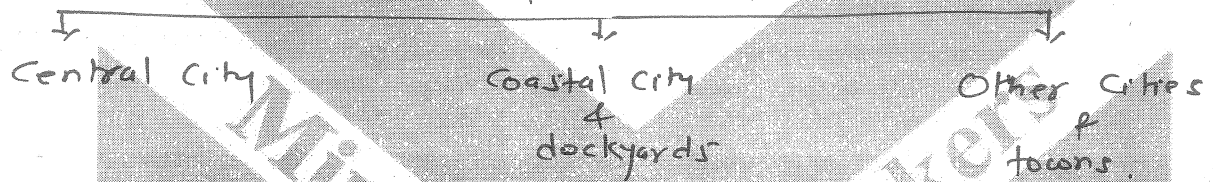
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Geography: • parts of Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, Gujarat, Rajasthan and fringes of Western Uttar Pradesh.

Roughly:



• Cities Classification



3 - Major Cities: Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Dholavira

→ Harappa: → Montegomari (Pakistan, left of Ravi river)

→ Eastern side mound (called city mound)
Western " (called castle ")

→ Remnants of Granary

→ Seals (stone): unicorn, animal symbols and writings

Pictures of - elephant, rhinoceros, tiger, deer, sheep etc.

But 'cow' was not depicted on seal.

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- Mohenjodaro: ("Mound of Dead men"), Right of Indus river
(Sindh province)
- Great Bath (may be for rituals/occasions)
 - A large building (officials/priests)
 - Grid roads, Rajpath
 - Artefacts :
 - Mother goddess idol,
 - dancing girl statue
 - A seated male soapstone (Priest-king)
 - Pashupati (Shiva) seal
 - bones of elephants, teeth of horses
 - Evidence of cotton clothes
- Chanhudaro: (South-east of Mohenjodaro,
(Remnants of Jhukkar and Jhaggar culture))
- may be an industrial hub
 - shell making, bangle making, bead making
- Lothal: (Bhogava River (Ahmedabad))
- Dock-yard
 - Micro harappa or micro mohenjodaro
 - Rice husk, Metal Workers, shell ornament, beads, terra cotta figurine of a horse, terracotta model of a ship, Persian seal, painted jar.
- Kalibangan: (Hanumangarh, Rajasthan)
- "Ploughing field" surface
 - Pieces of evidence of mesopotamian seals, fire altars etc.

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- Dholavira : Second largest city of Harappan Civilization
Rann of Kutch
 - Great bath & Reservoir, Advanced Water Management
 - Rectangular shaped town
 - Divided in three parts : fort, central, lower
- Surkotada : Kutch
 - horse bones, pot burials
- Daimabad : (left bank of Pravara river) Ahmed Nagar
- Rakhigarhi : (Hisar, Haryana) : Ghaggar-Hakra river plains
 - largest site of IVC in India
- Ropar (Rupnagar), Satluj River
- Rangpur : (Saurashtra, Guj.)
 - large vegetative remains.
- Dadheri : (Ludhiana, Punjab)
 - Painted grey ware culture, which is supposed to be associated with the Arrival of Aryans.
- Banawali (Fatehabad, Haryana);
 - 'Toy plough'
 - Clay figures of mother goddess.

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Final Remarks (Observations) about IVC :

- The IVC was a 'Bronze age Civilization'. They were not familiar with Iron. Silver from mines of Zawar and Ajmer (Rajasthan).
- The drainage system was advanced and covered with slabs.
- The trade and commerce were in an advanced stage. (Internal and External both). Cotton (Hindan) trade.
- Mother Goddess, God Shiva (Rudra) or Pashupati, The Pashupati seal in which three faced male god (buffalo, elephant, tiger, rhino surrounded by) : Yogic posture.
Linga, Yoni symbols found.

Other Civilizations (World) :

- Egyptian (Nile river) ; IVC and Mesopotamian of Egypt are contemporary.

Aztec
|
Maya
|
Muisca
|
Inca

North
to
South
↓

- Aztec (Northern Mexico)
- Maya (Guatemala)
- Muisca (Columbia)
- Inca (Highlands of Peru)

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- Sumerian: first; in art of writing in a proper system

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Que. 1: The earliest evidence of silver in India is found
[1994] in the -

- (a) Harappan culture
- (b) Chalcolithic cultures of western India
- (c) Vedic texts
- (d) Silver-punch-marked coins.

level 1: keyword evidences for silver

level 2: Analysis: As far as our knowledge (Historical) is concerned - Harappan is before Vedic and we've studied well that Harappan is also called Bronze age. Zawar, Ajmer mines in Rajasthan. So option (a) is correct.

Que. 2: Which of the following animals were not represented
[2001] on the seals and terracotta art of Harappan culture?

- (a) Cow
- (b) elephant
- (c) Rhinoceros
- (d) Tiger

level 1: keyword , animals on seals

level 2: We've studied that specially it was mentioned that cow was not on seals. So even if we don't remember all animals, we must remember exceptions and so option (a) is correct.

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Que. (3) Match List-I (Ancient site) with List-II (Archaeological site) and select the correct answer using the given code below the lists:
[2002]

List-I

- A. Lothal
- B. Kalibangan
- C. Dholavira
- D. Banawali

List-II

- 1. Ploughed field
- 2. Dockyard
- 3. Terracotta replica of a plough
- 4. An inscription comprising ten large sized signs of the harappan script.

Code :

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	2	3	4
(b)	2	1	4	3
(c)	1	2	4	3
(d)	2	1	3	4

level 1: Keyword : sites and their specifications (if any)

level 2: We must remember specialities of sites (Big sites).

If there is any symmetry in different sites, then we must have a clear mindset for that. For example - Kalibangan (terracotta replica of plough) and Banawali (ploughed field).

Lothal (Dockyard very famous). So option-(b) is correct with this much knowledge.

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Que. (5) [2011] Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements

1. It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.

2. During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

Which of the following statements given is/are correct?

- Ⓐ 1 only Ⓑ 2 only
Ⓒ Both 1 and 2 Ⓓ Neither 1 nor 2.

Level 1: Special remarks (observations) about IVC.

Level 2: On studying IVC, we feel that nowhere we found extremism / religion. It was just based on connection with nature and female domination (seals & sculptures; beads; ornaments). So we can say it was secular kind. So Ⓐ is correct. Trade and commerce observation, very specifically mentioned about cotton trade (kinds). So statement Ⓑ is correct. So option Ⓒ is correct.

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Que. 4 [1998] What is the correct chronological order in which the following appeared in India?

1. Gold coins
2. Punch-marked silver coins
3. Iron Plough
4. Urban Culture

Select the correct answer using codes given below!

(a) 3, 4, 1, 2

(b) 3, 4, 2, 1

(c) 4, 3, 1, 2

(d) 4, 3, 2, 1

level 1: We should remember chronology of coins, culture!
Economic practices!

level 2: When we study about history, the first keyword we get is - Harappan was urban culture and for us Harappan is origin (historically). So Urban Culture should be at first in chronology. Gold coins and punch-marked coins were not in Harappan and Vedic. But in later Vedic iron knowledge was a crucial factor. So 3rd (iron plough) should come at second. ~~But~~ Since silver was first known so logically before gold coins, silver punch-marked coins should come in chronology (logically only not exact knowledge here, But in later chapters, we'll come to know information about coins too). So option (d) must be correct.

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Que. (6) [2013] Which of the following characterizes/characterize the people of IVC?

- ① They possessed great places and temples
- ② They worshipped, both male and female deities.
- ③ They employed horse-drawn chariots in warfare.

Select the correct answer given below

- ① 1 and 2 ② only 2
- ③ All of these ④ None of these

level 1: Key characters.

level 2: great temples!!! not looking correct. So

Statement 1 is wrong. Statement 2 is correct because we found Shiva & mother goddess so logically without any hesitation, we can say it's correct. We did not study any kind of such warfare in Harappan Civilization. So statement ③ we'll eliminate. So option ② is correct.

Que. (7) [2019] Which one of the following is not a Harappan site?

- ① Chanbudaro ② Kotdiji'
- ③ Sohgauro ④ Desalpur.

level 1: Remember all sites!

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level 2: Chanbudaro is symmetric with Mohanjodaro, so logically is a Harappan site. For others we may be confused. Basically

In Mauryan period, Sohgauro is a famous site so it can be eliminated easily not as Harappan site). ③ is correct option.

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Que.(8) Which one of the following ancient towns is well-known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelizing water into connected reservoirs?

- (a) Dholavira (b) Kalibangan
(c) Rakhigarhi (d) Ropar

level 1: Major sites of IVC

level 2: As we have already cleared that special feature of Dholavira is drainage and water management. So option (a) is correct.

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Main Exam PYQs (An outlaw to understand & prepare)

#1. Up to which extent, the Indus Valley Civilization has provided present age urbanization? Discuss (150 words)

Answer: From evidences it is well clear that IVC was an urban civilization and there were many big cities like Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Dholavira, Rakhigarhi etc. which can be seen as giving inputs to present urban cities planning.

Based on different elements of urbanization like house designing, water management system, spatial settlement, sanitation, we can put our observation over the above topic. For example -

- In present time we may find a structure in maximum cities.
Posh areas — Normal (middle men colonies) — Slumms
Such categorization could be found in IVC cities too (Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Dholavira)
- Spatial : Cities based on the banks of rivers.
As it gives availability of water, low cost transportation. It can be found in present cities planning too. (Namami Gange, Panchayats on the bank of river Ganga are being developed)
- Roads : Grid system could be seen in Mohenjodaro, Dholavira and it's present in current Urban planning too.

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- Sanitation: Rectangular shaped towns, better drainage system, Advanced water management, covered holes on roads like Parameters can be seen as giving inputs to current system.
- Trade | Market Areas, Warehouse could also be seen as connecting dots.
- Some architectures like great bath and swiff swimming pools in current system.

Based on above systems, we can say that IVE has provided inputs. But we have to accept one component of development planning that is regular updation and innovations like cities in round shape, managed to fight with global warming, different model ways of transportation etc.

Therefore we can say that IVE has provided some inputs in current urban planning too and we must be keep learnings out of this history for our sustainable cities and better livelihoods.

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Note: Don't write everything what you studied. Just re question twice and address question's demand straight forward. (For further discussion, you can attend 100...51)