

CHAPTER – III

INDUS CIVILIZATION

I.ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN A WORD OR A SENTENCE EACH.

Q.1. In which year was the Department of Archeological Survey of India established?

A: 1861.

Q.2. What does the word Mohenjodaro mean?

A: Mohenjodaro means 'Mound of the Dead' in Sindhi language.

Q.3. Where is the Greatbath of the Indus Valley Civilization located?

A: Mohenjodaro.

Q.4. Where is the dockyard of the Indus Valley Civilization discovered?

A: Lothal in Gujarat.

Q.5. Mention the important diety of Indus people.

A: Mother Goddess.

II.ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN TWO WORDS OR TWO SENTENCES EACH.

Q.1. Who discovered Harappa and Mohenjodaro?

A: Dr.R.B.Dayaram Sahani discovered Harappa and Mohenjodaro was discovered by Dr.R.D.Banerjee.

Q.2. Name any two cities discovered in Indus Civilization.

A: 1) Harappa.

2) Mohenjodaro.

Q.3. Mention the methods of disposal of the dead by Indus people.

A: The Indus people disposed their dead by cremation or burial.

Q.4. Mention any two imports of Indus people.

A: 1) Precious stones.

2) copper

Q.5. Mention any two exports of the Indus people.

A: 1) Ivory.

2) Gold.

Q.6. Mention any two causes which brought an end to Indus Civilization.

A: 1) The rivers must have changed their course and ruined the cities.

2) The decreased rainfall must have turned the land into desert.

III. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN 15 TO 20 SENTENCES EACH.

Q.1. Explain the town planning of Indus Civilization.

A: a) Town Planning: This is a unique feature of the Indus Civilization which proves that they lived a highly civilized and developed life. Every city had a separate fortified area built on higher grounds and a separate residential area, both surrounded by a massive brick wall. Indus people were the first to build planned cities with scientific drainage system.

b) Streets: The streets were straight and cut each other at right angles. They divided the city into rectangular blocks and had lamp posts (street lights) at regular intervals. Dustbins were also provided on streets indicating a good municipal administration.

c) Drainage system: No other contemporary civilizations had such an excellent closed drainage system like that of the Indus Civilization. Each house had its own drainage and soak pit which connected to the public drainage. They had perfectly covered underground drainage system with manholes intervals for cleaning and clearing purposes.

d) The Great Bath: This consisted of a large quadrangle in the centre of which is a large swimming pool with galleries and rooms on all four sides. It has a flight of steps at either end and is fed by a well, and had a huge drain to discharge water. This solid construction has successfully withstood the natural savages for 5000 years.

e) Granaries: These were buildings for storing grains probably collected as revenue or acted as storehouses to be used in case of emergencies. They have been found in Harappa and Mohenjodaro.

f) Buildings: The people of Indus built terraced houses, made of burnt bricks by the side of roads. The houses were designed around an inner courtyard and contained bathrooms, pillared halls, kitchens, well etc. Some elaborate structures that might have been a palace, temple or hall have also been found. Workmen quarters, public wells, dockyard etc. have also been found.

Q.2. State the social and economic conditions of Indus people.

A: Social condition: The society was divided into four divisions based on occupations. They were the learned class, warriors, traders, and workers.

Wheat was their main food. Barley, rice, fruits, vegetables, dates, milk, fish, beef, poultry, flesh of tortoise etc. were also used.

They used cotton and woolen clothes. Both men and women wore ornaments made of gold, silver and precious stones. Girdles, nose studs, earrings and anklets were worn only by women. Women knew a variety of hairstyles and owned ivory combs, face paints, lipsticks etc. Toilet jars have also been discovered.

People enjoyed indoor and outdoor games like dice, hunting, bull fighting, cock fighting, clay modelling etc. They knew the art of dance and music.

They used earthen vessels, vessels made out of copper, bronze, porcelain and silver. Children's toys have also been found in abundance. Weapons made of copper and bronze in the form of daggers, axes, spears have also been found.

They disposed their dead by cremation or burial. Many urns and burial grounds have been found.

Economic condition: Agriculture was the main occupation followed by cattle rearing and dairy farming. They grew wheat, barley, peas, sesame and cotton. They also domesticated animals like dogs, elephant etc. Many handicrafts like spinning, dyeing, pottery, carpentry etc.

Indus people used weights and measures like shell scales and bronze scales. They actively involved in internal and external trade, mainly through barter system. Harappa, Lothal, Kalibangan etc. were centres of trade. They had trade contact with West Asia, Egypt, Mesopotamia. Ivory, gold, timber and beads were the main items of export. They imported precious stones, tin, and copper. Internally they had trade with Rajasthan, South India etc. The Indus people had knowledge about the decimal system.

IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN 30 TO 40 SENTENCES.

Q.1. Enumerate briefly the salient features of the Indus Civilization.

A: *all points from III Section (questions 1 & 2) and :*

Political condition: Historians guessed the existence of a strong administration with uniform and strict laws based on the systematic town planning, drainage system, water supply and maintenance of streets.

Religious condition: Mother Goddess was the chief deity of the Indus people. They also worshipped nature, Shiva in the form of Pashupati and Linga.

Art and Sculpture: The seals, figurines, amulets, pottery, the bronze idol of a dancing girl, statue of bearded man, figurine of Pashupati, terracotta toys and jewellery are examples of the artistic skills of the Indus people.

Seals and Scripts: More than 3000 seals made of terracotta, ivory, stone or steatite have been found. They are square or rectangular in shape and contain finely engraved figures of animals and other pictorial writing.

