

## CLASS:--12<sup>TH</sup>, HISTORY NOTES, CHAPTER:- 01

### 1. Discovering the Harappan Civilisation

- When Harappan cities fell into ruin, people gradually forgot all about them.
- **Cunningham's confusion:** The first Director-General of the ASI, Cunningham used the accounts left by Chinese Buddhist pilgrims who had visited the subcontinent between the fourth and seventh centuries CE to locate early settlements. A site like Harappa, which was not part of the itinerary of the Chinese pilgrims and was not known as an Early Historic city.
- A Harappan seal was given to Cunningham by an Englishman. He noted the object, but unsuccessfully tried to place it within the time-frame with which he was familiar. It is not surprising that he missed the significance of Harappa.
- **A new old civilisation:** In 1924, John Marshall, Director-General of the ASI, announced the discovery of a new civilisation in the Indus valley to the world.
- It was then that the world knew not only of a new civilisation, but also of one contemporaneous with Mesopotamia.
- Marshall tended to excavate along regular horizontal units, measured uniformly throughout the mound, ignoring the stratigraphy of the site. This meant that all the artefacts recovered from the same unit were grouped together.
- **New techniques and questions:** Since the 1980s, there has also been growing international interest in Harappan archaeology.
- Specialists from the subcontinent and abroad have been jointly working at both Harappa and Mohenjodaro.
- They are using modern scientific techniques including surface exploration to recover traces of clay, stone, metal and plant and animal remains as well as to minutely analyse every scrap of available evidence.

**These explorations promise to yield interesting results in the future.**