

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

### Question 1.

**Discuss the terms, places and times of Harappan culture.**

Answer

The Indus Valley Civilisation is also known as the Harappan culture. According to archaeologists, the term 'Culture' is used for a group of objects which are distinctive in style and are generally found together within a particular geographical area and time period.

- In the case of Harappan culture, these distinctive objects include beads, seals, stone blades, weights, baked bricks, etc. They were found from the areas of Jammu, Afghanistan, Gujarat and Baluchistan (Pakistan).
- **Term and Times :** This civilisation was named after the place called Harappa as the first site of this culture was discovered over there. This civilisation is dated between C. **2600 and 1900 B.C.E.** There exist earlier and later cultures, generally called early Harappan and late Harappan culture. This civilisation is sometimes called as the Mature Harappan culture to distinguish it from these cultures.

### Question 2.

**What were the main subsistence methods of the Harappan people?**

Answer:

1. The Harappan people got food from a wide range of plants and animal products. Fish was their main food.
2. Their food included grains like wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and sesame. From many Harappan sites, charred grains and seeds have also been found.
3. The people also ate rice and millet. The grains of millet have been found from many sites in Gujarat. Rice was perhaps not used much because the grains of rice are relatively found rare.
4. Bones of deer and gharial have also been found. From this, one can imagine that the people of Harappan civilisation also ate flesh and meat. But it is not known whether the people of Harappan culture themselves hunted or they got meat from other hunting communities. They also ate a few birds.
5. They also got food from many animals like sheep, goat, buffalo and pig. All these animals were domesticated by them.

### Question 3.

**Explain, while describing the spread and centres of Harappan culture, why is it known as Harappan culture?**

Answer:

- Harappan culture spread in a great deal and in a larger area. It was spread in 12,99,600 km . area. Punjab, Sind, Rajasthan, Gujarat, some parts of Baluchistan and bordering areas of western Uttar Pradesh were included in it.

- In this way, it was spread from Jammu in the North, up to banks of river Narmada in the South, from Makran Sea shore of Baluchistan in the West and till Meerut in the North-East.
- Its main centres were Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Lothal, Kot Diji, Chanhudaro, Azamgarh, etc.<sup>8</sup>
- None of the cultures of that age had spread to such a large extent. This culture has been given the name of Harappan culture because Harappa was the first site where this unquestioned culture was discovered. Now this place is situated in Pakistan.