Question 7.

Give few features of the religion of Harappan culture which are still prevalent.

Answer:

The following characteristics of the religion of Harappan civilisation are still prevalent:

• Lord Shiva was worshipped by most of the people during the Harappan civilisation. He is still worshipped by millions of people.

• The people of the Indus Valley worshipped Mother Goddess. Even today, the Mother Goddess is worshipped all over India with utter devotion and dedication.

• Even today many people find the abode of Gods and Goddesses in peepal and other such trees.

• The people of the Harappan times worshipped an ox and many such animals. These days all such animals are considered as the carriers of different Gods and Goddesses.

• The worship of lingam is still prevalent in the Hindu religion.

• The people of the Harappan civilisation considered water as pious and sacred. They took bath in the Great Bath on all special religious occasions. This glory and piety of the water still find a prominent place in all the religions.

Question 8.

Describe the religious beliefs of Harappan people.

Or

Describe briefly how seals of Harappan period help in reconstructing their religious beliefs.

Answer:

1. **Religious customs:** Archaeologists found certain objects which may have had a religious significance. These include terracotta figurines of women, heavily jewelled, some with elaborate headdresses. People believe that Harappan people might consider it as the goddess of the fertility of the land.

2. **Male Gods of Indus Valley:** One seal found in excavation depicts a male God. Three horns are shown on his head. It has been shown seated cross-legged in a 'Yogic' posture, sometimes surrounded by animals. One buffalo and two dears are also shown nearby this picture. This may be the depiction of Pashupati (Lord Shiva). Many seals with pictures of 'Linga' and 'Yogi' have been found over there. Maybe people started to worship them at this age.

3. **Worshipping Trees and Animals:** One seal found here, depicts one God between the branches of 'Peepal' tree which shows that people of Indus region worshipped trees as well. One bull has also been shown on one of the seals.

Question 9.

Write the main features of the social life of the Harappan people.

Or

Describe the opinion of some of the archaeologists about the Harappan society.

Answer:

According to archaeologists, the following were the features of Harappan society :

1. **Dietary practice: T**he Harappans ate wheat, rice, vegetables and drank milk. Fresh fish and eggs were a part of their diet.

2. **Clothing:** People of Harappan culture used to wear both cotton and woollen clothes. Males wore 'Dhoti' and 'Shawl'. Females generally wore colourful clothes with designs of flowers. Males and females both liked to wear jewellery.

3. **Means of Entertainment:** People liked playing indoor games to entertain themselves. Children were provided with different types of toys.

Question 10.

What could be the possible reasons for the decline of Harappan civilisation?

Answer:

The following were the reasons for the decline of the Harappan civilisation:

1. **Floods:** Some scholars believe that many towns of the Harappan civilisation were destroyed because of the floods in the Indus River. With the passage of time, they were buried beneath the sands of time.

2. **Earthquakes:** It is also believed that many earthQuestionuakes might have jolted various cities. They might have dashed many towns to the ground.

3. **Droughts and Epidemics:** Some scholars think that the sites of Harappan civilisation might have been hit by acute droughts or deadly epidemics. These might have resulted in the destruction of various towns.

4. **Aggressions by the Aryans:** Many historians believe that the people of Harappan civilisation had to face many aggressions by the Aryans. The people of Harappa were defeated in many of these wars. It led to the decline of Harappan civilisation.