

# JPSC

## 6th JPSC Combined State Civil Services Main Examination

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*Completely revised Study Materials*

## Social Sciences

(History & Geography)

PAPER - III



# History of India

## SOCIAL SCIENCE (History and Geography)

Total Marks: 200 Time: 3 hours

*The question-paper of Social Science shall have two distinct sections; one of History and the other one of Geography; each of 100 marks. The candidates will be required to answer one compulsory and two optional questions from each section i.e. six questions in all. The compulsory question of each section, covering the entire syllabus of the concerned section, shall have ten objective type questions, each of two marks (10×2=20 marks), in addition, there shall be four optional questions in each section of History and Geography. Since there are four distinct sub-sections, both in History and Geography, one question will be drawn from each sub-section as to make a total of four optional questions in each of the two distinct sections of History and Geography; of which candidates will be required to answer only two questions; each of 40 marks. The optional questions shall be answered in the traditional, descriptive style, requiring long-answers.*

### The Indus Valley Civilization : Origin, antiquity, extent, authorship and main features;

#### INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION (2500 BC -1800 BC)

Indus Valley Civilization also called Harappan (discovered first at Harappa) Civilization was discovered first in 1921 by Dayaram Sahani. It was known as Meluha to Mesopotamians.

Mohenjadara (city of dead) and Harappa are the two main sites of Indus Civilizations and acted as its nodal centre. The most important and interesting feature of Harappan Civilization are their planned cities-well planned & covered drainage system, double storied houses made with burnt bricks, cities planned on grid system, roads cutting at right angles resulting on the city being divided into blocks. The people were mainly agriculturists, the main crops being wheat and barley except Lothal (Gujarat) where rice was the main crop. The Indus people were the earliest people to produce cotton. The earliest evidence of ploughed field on the world comes from Kalibangan (Rajasthan). Domesticated animals included buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs, cats, dogs, camels, asses and even elephants (in Lothal). Horse was not on regular use. Evidence of horses comes from a superficial level of Mohenjodaro

and from a doubtful terracotta figurine from Lothal. Remains of the horse have been found in Surkotada. Clothes were woven (a piece of woven cotton has been discovered from Mohenjodaro) but were not stretched. Wheels and carts were in use and navigation was practised on the coast of Arabian sea. Mother Goddess and a male deity probably Shiva or Pasupati were worshipped. Evidence of fire worship comes from Lothal. People believed in spirits as lots of amulets were found. They also worshipped trees, specially Pipal trees, believing that spirits reside in them. However no temples were found. Animals were also worshipped, the most important being humped bull.

Some other important features of Harappan Civilization are Great bath from Mohenjodaro (probably used for bathing before performing religious duties. This practice is still continue),

Great Granary, Assembly hall and bronze dancing girl: At Harappa, 6 small granaries (total area = area of the granary at Mohenjodaro) at Lothal a dockyard indicating sea-facing activities was found. The Harappans knew the art of measurement and in weighing mostly 16 or its multiple were used (This practice was continued in modern forms also 16 annas made one rupee).

They did not use metal money. Most probably they carried on all exchanges through barter.

Harappa was possibly ruled by a class of mer-

chants. The Harappan script is not alphabetical but mainly pictographic.

The Harappans culture was 'Bronze Age' culture i.e. they used Bronze, and they were not aware of iron. Their pottery were generally decorated with the designs of trees & circles. The greatest artistic creation of theirs was the seals (made of steatite) having short inscriptions with pictures. Many fire baked earthen clay (terraotta) figurines & toys were discovered. Seals were mainly used by upper classes and terracotta figurines were used by common people indicating existence of class distinction. Evidence also points towards the existence of slaves. The script of

Harappans is unique in the world, and so far the script has not been deciphered.

#### **Decline of Harappan Culture**

There are different theories for the decline of Civilization. Some of them are (i) Decrease in fertility on account of the increasing salinity of the soil caused by the expansion of the neighbouring desert.

(ii) Sudden subsidence or up-liftment of the land which caused floods-tectonic movement.

(iii) Earthquakes was the another cause of decline.

(iv) Attack of Aryans:

#### **Vedic & Later Vedic Periods**

There are various theories about the origin of Aryans. Some important theories & their propounder are as follows :

- (1) Indian Origin- (a) Saptha Sindhu Saraswati, (Indus & its 5 tributaries)-Dr. A. C. Das  
(b) Foot of Himalayas-Pandit Lakshmidhar Shastri.
- (2) Foreign Origin-(a) Central Asia-Prof. Max Mueller, (b) South-east Europe-Prof. MacDonnel & Gibs, (c) Russian Steppes-Prof. Belfy supported by Prof. Nehung North of Black Sea. (d) The Artic Region-Bal Gangadhar Tilak (in his book The Artic home in Vedas).

The generally accepted view is Russian Steppes North of Black Sea as propounded by Professor Belty.

#### **Harappa Civilization (2700 - 1700 BC)**

In 1921-22, archaeology revealed the existence of a vast civilisation in the north-west of India, with its two urban centres at Harappa and Mohenjodaro. The men behind the excavations were Sir John Marshal, Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India, and

his colleague R.D. Bannerji. Later archaeologists like Sir Mortimer-Wheeler and others dug out many more cities; prominent ones are: Ropar near Chandigarh; Lothal near Ahmedabad; Kalibangan in Rajasthan; Kot Diji and Chanhudaro in Sind; Dholavira in the Kutch district in Gujarat; Banwali in Hissar district in Haryana; and Sutkagendor near the Makran coast in Pakistan and the region along the river Hakra (Ghaggar-Saraswati course called so in Pakistan territory) in Cholistan.

#### **Origin and Evolution**

Named after Harappa, the first site where the unique urban culture was discovered, the civilization is dated between 2600 and 1900 BC. There were earlier and later cultures, often called Early Harappan and Late Harappa in the same area. The Harappan phase characterised by distinctive objects such as seals, beads, weights, stone blades and baked bricks is called the Mature Harappan culture to distinguish it from these cultures.

The transition from the early Harappan to the mature Harappan is best evidenced at Amri, where, at the beginning of third millennium BC, a distinctive culture complex to the south-east of Baluchistan appeared. Here people lived in houses of stone or mud-brick. They had constructed some kind of a granary too. They painted such animal motifs as humped bulls on thin pottery. It gave way after a series of evolving stages, to what is known as the Harappan civilization.

#### **The Extent**

The Harappan culture was spread over Afghanistan, Sind, Baluchistan, and Jammu, almost the whole of Punjab, northern Rajasthan, Kathiawar and Gujarat. The climate of north-west India was moist and humid, while Sind and Rajasthan were not the desert areas as they are today.

Scholars generally believe that the Harappa Ghaggar (Kalibangan)-Mohenjodaro axis represents the heart land of the Harappan civilization. Most of the Harappan settlements are located in this region. Why then did the Harappans try to occupy such faraway places as Shartughai in north-eastern Afghanistan or Surkotada in Gujarat? The plausible answer is that it was because of the wide trade-network and the economic independence of each Harappan region.

Recent Carbon-14 datings indicate the period of