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RECENTLY EXCAVATED HARAPPAN SITES IN HARYANA

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Abstract:-The present paper is based the recently published work on recently excavated sites of Harappan Civilisation in Haryana. These sites report Pre-Harappan to Late Harappan cultural sequence. Most of the Pre-Harappan and Early Harappan settlements are found in middle and lower Drisdvati valley and few of the settlements in middle Sarasvati valley. These excavations reveal the urban phase of Harappan civilization and Late Harappan cultural elements are also reported in this region. Excavation at Madina in Rohtak district of Haryana exposed the coexistence of Late Harappan and PGW culture.

Keywords:Harappan Civilisation , Harappan Sites , National Capital Region , lower Drisdvati valley .

INTRODUCTION :-

Haryana is a small and rich state of India. It is situated on 27. 390 to 30.550 North and 74.280 to 77.360 East. It came into existence on 1 November 1966 as a newly created state carved out of the Punjab state on the basis of language(News, 2010). The River Yamuna defines its eastern boundary along with Uttar Pradesh. It is bordered by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to the north, and by Rajasthan to the west and south. Haryana also surrounds the country's capital Delhi on three sides, forming the northern, western and southern borders of Delhi. Consequently, a large area of south Haryana is included in the National Capital Region for purposes of planning for development

The state of Haryana has played a very important role in the history of India since ancient times. Haryana give a very important contribution in origin and development of Harappan civilization. In the ancient it has been a part of the Kuru region in North India(Phadke, 1990). The name Haryana is found mentioned in the 12th century AD by the Apabhramsha writer Vibudh Shridhar (VS 1189–1230)(J. Cohen, 1989) In the times of British India, Haryana was administered as a part of the Punjab province and played a vital role in the politics of the Punjab region

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Translation: There are countless villages in Haryana country. The villagers there work hard. They don't accept domination of others, and are experts in making the blood of their enemies flow. Indra himself praises this country. The capital of this country is Dhilli.

First time Harappan civilization was came in to light in 1921 at Harappa, in Punjab province, in Pakistan by Daya Ram Shani after one year R.D. Banraji discovered Mohanjodara in Sindhan later many Harappan sites were explored by archaeologists like Chhunjdar, Gandirwala, Sutkgandor, Ranagundi etc but after the partition of India and Pakistan theses sites were came in the jurisdiction of Pakistan after that Indian archeologists were discovered many Harappan sites in our country like Kalibanga, Lhotal, Ragnur and Dolavira, in mean explorer discover the some major site in Haryana like Mitathal, Siswal, Balu, Banawali, Kunal Rakhighari. Mitathal is first site which was excavated (1968) by Prof. Suraj Bhan in Haryana(Bhan, 1975). But after the excavation of Mitathal, several sites were excavated by Archaeological agencies in Haryana. In the Last decade many Harappan sites were excavated in Haryana like Jognakhera, Bhirrana, Buraj, Bhola Khas,

Badli, Farmana, Girawad, Madina, Manheru, and Khirsola etc. These excavations brought new facts of the Harappan civilization and its culture.

JOGNA KHERA

Jogna khera is a small village in Kukshetra district. It is situated in west direction of Thanesar at distance of 5 km. on Kurukshetra to Pehwa road. Present village is owner of an archaeological site which is located in south-east of the village, on the dry bed of disappeared river Sarswati. An exploratory archaeological excavation at this site was conducted by the Madhava Acharya and R.S. Dahiya with the direction of Deputy Director D.S. Malik, Dept. of Archaeology & Museums Haryana, during the year 2003-05. This archaeological investigation was conducted under the Saraswati Heritage project of Archaeological Survey of India of Govt. of India. The Excavation yielded the three fold culture at the site like Bara culture and PGW culture.

The ancient site at Jognakhera (Lat 29° -59', Long. 76°-48' E) lies on the right bank of the Vedic river Saraswati. It rises to a height of 5m and occupy the land around 4 hectares. Present mound is in very bad condition, Clay robbers dug the mound and convert in the pond, now the villager is using of mound for pond. Remaining land of site is using for agriculture. Since most of the rise part of the site is removed by villagers, so the later cultural evidence are not recovered from this site.

OBJECTIVES

Excavation was carried out for mainly four purposes.

- 1.To ascertain whether there existed a Harappan substratum, and how it was related to the post Harappan Bara which was predominated at the site;
- 2.To understand the nature and purpose of kilns;
- 3.To ascertain striate-graphical/cultural relationship between the Bara and the PGW cultures as the potsherds of the latter together with those of the former were noticeable along the southern margin of the mound;
- 4.Lastly to determine the extent of the settlement of each of periods;

Excavation yielded the two cultural periods.

Period-I (1500-1000BC) First period of site is related to post Harappan culture which is called Bara culture. First of all this culture was found at Bara (Punjab)(Acharya, 2008). But Sanghol (Punjab) also has the elements of this culture. This period has deposit of 4.25m and total 15 layers came into light in the vertical section. No regular occupational layers were found in reported deposit. The layers were formed of promiscuous earth mixed with ash, charcoal, potsherds, bone and a good variety of antiquity. Many kilns were also found which were used for pottery baking(Acharya, 2008).

Pottery

Thus most of the pottery of Bara period is essentially the red ware. Recovered ceramics were well-levigated with clay, baked red; these pots were treated by red slip. Several type of decoration like geometric, vegetal and animal motifs was found on pottery which was executed in black and purple pigments. Some pots have the incised design. The forms of pots are cooking vessel, simple vases dish on stand, bowls and other miniature pots etc(Acharya, 2008).

Antiquity

A larger number of antiquities were recovered during the archaeological digging in this phase. These were used in deferent purpose. Includable copper objects are razor, bangle, ring etc. Few example of faience which was used for ornaments are also found. Many semiprecious and terracotta beads were unearthed to Bara period. Several types of bone points also reported from there. Some terracotta animal figurine were found like bull, deer etc(Acharya, 2008).

Period-II (1000-800BC) this period was identified by Painted Grey Ware culture (PGW). This culture is represent by Bgwanpura(Joshi, 1993) Daulatpur, Sugh, Rattak(IAR)etc in Haryana. Excavation revealed many pots, dishes and bowls in this deposit. Pottery has familiar painting and designs of PGW culture. A sufficient collection of antiquity was recovered from period II, like animal figuring, beads, bangle, dishes, T.C. balls and lids etc(Acharya, 2008)

Bohla Khash

Site of Bohla Khash is situated in Nilokheri block, Karnal district. Mound is located on dry bed of Choutang Nala (ancient Drisadvati). Mound is spreaded over 400 sq meters area. Local name of site is Tida Bud Teela, the survey of this mound was done in 1975 by the Haryana Archaeology department. Site was excavated in 2012 by Prof. Arun Kumar Pandey from BHU and C. Patrick from Cambridge University London. Excavation yielded two culture period at this site. First culture period

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belongs to the late Harappan culture and second to PGW culture. "The relics include pottery, bones, mud wall, grain store and red-coloured utensils, which are believed to have been used by people belonging to the late Harappan era. Many components and pottery fragments of PGW period were found(article 1-839503.aspx).

Badli

This ancient site is locally known as 'khera' - the deserted ancient habitation mound or 'Baba Sarang Dev-ka-khera' or 'Purana Gaon-ka-khera', located at Badli Village of Bahadurgarh Tehsil in Jhajjar District of Haryana. According to the general perception among the people, this is the parent village settlement of the people of Gulia Gotra. Site is situated at Long. 28° 32' 49" N and Lat. 76° 50' 50" E. First time the site was explored by Suraj Bhan in 1967-68 AD(Bhan, 1975).Excavation at Badli was conducted by prof. R.C. Thakran (DU) and prof. Amar Singh (MDU) in 2008 and 2009. The purpose of excavation was to get the archaeological remains from the site to study the culture sequence and to understand the cultural composition and life of people at a small-sized rural settlement far away from the big centers of the Harappa civilization in order to have a better understanding of the urban and rural life styles.

6.5 feet deposit of occupational layers were exposed in the excavation. Upper part of habitational deposit was removed by the villagers. Remaining deposit has two culture periods(R.C. Thakran, Amar singh, 2009).

Period - I - Early Harappa/Early Siswal

Period - II - Mature Harappa

Period -I This period belongs to the early Harappan culture/ Early Siswal. Site was dominated by the early Siswal tradition ceramic. Presented period was furnished by the polychrome and bichrome ware. Many types of pottery are notice vases, jars, handis, cups, bowls, dish-on-stand, etc. while surface decorations consist of paintings and incisions. The former includes lines, bands, parallel bands, oblique and horizontal strokes, broad bands in black over plain and red slipped surface whereas the latter represent simple and parallel zigzag lines, slashes and cross-hatches, so on and so forth. It is interesting to note the presence of graffiti marks, usually on the outer surface of the vases. These are post firing executions and are of varied forms but usually consisting of some lines, especially engraved, forming different shapes. Such graffiti marks do occur at other sites of this period. A good number of antiquity was recover during the excavation from this period like beads, bangles, These are made of a variety of raw materials such as clay, terracotta, .steatite, faience, carnelian, bones, etc. terracotta discs also found form this deposit. Few copper objects were also reported(R.C. Thakran, Amar singh, 2009)

Period- II This period was distinguished by mature Harappan culture. Present period is representing the familiar ceramic of mature Harappan period. This bi-chrome ceramic tradition presents a different variety of pottery. Excavator noticed the use of a thick sturdy, well fired and decorated ware. The characteristic of mature Harappan types (dish-on-stand with nail headed rim, goblets, beakers) and painting designs (natural and geometrical) are witnessed in circulation. The pottery is usually applied with a fine red slip and the paintings are executed in fast jet black colour(R.C. Thakran, Amar singh, 2009). Quantity of antiquity is increasing in this period. Several types of ornaments like beads bangles etc were reported during the excavation. Evidence of Copper Smelting and U shaped hearth were come in the light from this period(R.C. Thakran, Amar singh, 2009).

Structure

It appears that people constructed a wattle and daub house which were thatched and perhaps destroyed by fire and that is why we get uniformly ashy deposit in these levels in almost all the trenches we exposed. However this needs to be further ascertained. Next phase (mature Harappan) has the clear evidences of bricks structure which was built by the mud bricks and occasionally made by the brunt bricks. Bricks ratio 1:2:4 this is the standard ratio(R.C. Thakran, Amar singh, 2009) .

Manheru

The Harappan site of Manheru in Bhiwani District was first discovered by Suraj Bhan in the early seventies of the last century (Bhan, 1975). Manheru was excavated by R.C. Thakran (D.U.) and Amar singh (M.D.U) in 2009. The site (28° 57' 49.9" N; 76° 19' 40.0" E) is located in the Chautang (Old Drisadvati) valley. Main objectives for excavation were to find out physical remains of ancient civilization for culture sequence and put them on the archaeological map of this area(Thakran, R.C. Amar Singh, 2010). Excavation yielded the 2 major culture remains which is respectively, pre-Harappan culture and mature Harappan culture, total occupational deposit is 1.70m(Thakran, R.C. Amar Singh, 2010). Upper level of site was scraped by villagers so any later culture evidence was not come in the light.

Pre-Harappan – This period's culture is comparable to Mithathal-I(Thakran, R.C. Amar Singh, 2010) which is defined as pre Harappan. The first period has a very rich collection of the early Harappan polychrome ware, though the occurrence of actual polychrome shreds is strictly restricted. Likewise the circulation of fabric D is also limited like the site of Badali in Jhajjar district of Haryana. Other pre-Harappan ceramic however, dish-on-stand in grey ware, vases, basins, bowls, etc. These were decorated with linear and black block painted designs, especially on their neck portion. Among the antiquities

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the largest ever hoard of thirteen thousand micro-steatite beads is worth mentioning.

Mature Harappan – last period is succeeding by mature Harappan. The deposits of this period are damaged to a great extent and we could only identify mere three courses of a mud brick (1: 2: 4) wall above the early Harappan deposits. Interestingly the wall is about 17m. long and northeast to southwest oriented. During the succeeding mature Harappan period the ceramic industry experienced positive changes in the form of the introduction of bi-chrome ware, dishes-on-stand with nail-headed rim, terracotta triangular cakes, bi-conical barrel-shaped long carnelian bead, wheel-shaped wafer thick steatite beads, terracotta cart wheels with central hub and the ratio of mud bricks from 1:2:3 to 1:2:4. (Thakran, R.C. Amar Singh, 2010).

Buraj

The ancient settlement of Buraj (Lat. 29° 39' N Long. 75° 38' E) is located on dry bed of Rangoi Nala, it is in North of Bhirana and near to Kunal in Fatehabad district of Haryana. This site was first time visited by Prof. Suraj Bhan in 1966-67 and collected the late Harappan and PGW culture Remains (Bhan, 1975). Excavation at Buraj was undertaken in 2009 under the direction of R.N. Singh and C.A. Petrie. During the land water and settlement project (<http://www.com.ac.uk/rivers/>). Chief objective of excavation was to recover the evidence for palaeoenvironment, subsistence behavior, absolute culture sequence and chronology,

Excavation at Buraj was brought in the light four occupational phases first phase was related to the Early Harappan culture, second phase has the PGW culture material, third phase was represented by Black slip culture last period culture have a long time gap it was related to later medieval.

Early Harappan culture represented by A,B,D,E, Kalibangan ceramic, Good amount of PGW and Black slipped burnished pottery were recorded during the course of excavation. Many example of later medieval pottery were recovered. Total 93 antiquities were unearthed from excavation. Most of these are common antiquity of early Harappan, PGW and Black slipped period. Like Beads bangle and stone grinder etc (Singh, R.N. C.A. Petrie, 2010).

Bhirrana

Ancient mound Bhirrana (Lat. 29° 33' N; Long. 75° 33' E) in Fatehabad district of Haryana is situated on the dry bed of Saraswati river. The mound measuring 150m north-south and 190m east-west rises to a height of about 5.50 m from the surrounding of flat alluvial sollar plain. Site was excavated by L.S. Rao Superintending Archaeologist, archaeological survey of India, Excavation branch I Nagpur, under the Sarasvati heritage project from 2004-2006 AD.

Aim of Excavation

The excavation had mainly three objectives (L.S. Rao N. S., 2003-04.).

1. Determining the regional identity of the Harappans in the Sarasvati valley.
2. Understand the culture sequence and chronology of the site
3. Settlement pattern of early Harappan in the Sarasvati river valley.

After the end of excavation in session 2004-05 excavator proposed the new culture sequence about the site on the base of archaeological findings during the excavation. The total occupation deposit is 4.20m which is representing below four culture period (L.S. Rao N. B., 2005).

Period IA- Hakra Ware Culture
Period IB- Early Harappan Culture
Period II A- Early Mature Harappan Culture
Period II B- Mature Harappan Culture
Period IA- Hakra Ware Culture

People of this period were using pottery similar to Hakra pottery, reported ceramic discovered by R. Mugal in Cholistan region. Similar pottery was found at neighboring site Kunal, here also used these ware by the early settlers. Some Hakra ware as know as Bi-chrome. Explainable ceramics of this periods are mud appliqué ware, Incised ware, Tan slipped/Chocolate slipped ware, Black Burnished ware, Brown on Buff ware, Black on Red ware, Red ware. These people live in the pit-dwelling. Total nine pits-dwelling was unearthed these are having the varying sized like depth is 34 to 58 cm with diameter 230 to 240 cm, maximum pits were used for living but some example were found that few pits were used for sacrificial/industrial purpose. A good wealth of antiquity was found in the pits like bead of semiprecious stone. Terracotta bangle, sling balls, Bone points, chert blades and unbaked clay cake etc (L.S. Rao N. B., 2005).

Period I B- Early Harappan

Ceramic of this period was comprised by already known pottery which is called Kalibangan A to F fabric. Some bi-chrome and chocolate shard were also reported. The structures of this phase were exposed on the southern slop of the mound. These building remains were built by the mud bricks (ratio 1:2:3). Exposed structures of the period were found in very bad condition because of later activity. Includable antiquities are button shaped seal made on shell, arrowheads, rings, and bangles of copper, semi-precious stone beads, bull figure, rattle, cake, terracotta objects and bone antiquity etc.

Period II A- Early Mature Harappan

This phase was distinguished as the transitional phase of the culture. In this period the major change in the settlement was exposed as fortification wall. Lower town and citadel type settlement pattern came in the light in this period. Some new kind of ceramic shapes were unearthed in this deposit and mixture of early Harappan and mature Harappan pottery like dish-on-stand, perforated Jar, vase and vessels etc were found. In the antiquity context this phase is very rich. This period is present 940 short, bi-conical carnelian beads, 40 circular shall beads, 17 terracotta and 17 lapis lazuli beads. Other antiquities are arrowhead, fishhook, chisel, antimony rod of copper; terracotta and faience bangles; chart blades; t.c. cot etc.(L.S. Rao N. B., 2006).

Period II B- Mature Harappan

Fortification wall was extended in this phase and city lay-out pattern modified once again. Used bricks sizes are 1:2:4 ratio in house other complex and fortified wall. Familiar street pattern of mature Harappan culture was exposed in this period. The Ceramic assemblage of period includes red ware, light red ware, black-on-red ware and grey ware, some time chocolate and purple slip was encountered. Main shapes are vase in red colour, storage jars, 's' shape jar. Convex sided and bluntly carinated bowl in red and grey shed. Pottery was bearing the common designs, motifs and paintings of Harappan period. Notable antiquities are broken rectangular seal, semiprecious stone beads and other terracotta beads and bangles etc. Several copper objects also found like bangles, chisel, ring, rod, etc, chart blade and bone pins etc.

Dancing Girl: A Shard of a thick sturdy red ware bear the incised figure of dancing girl. It is like to famous bronze dancing girl which was from found from Mohan-Jodaro.

Inscribed terracotta cake: An inscribed terracotta cake was unearthed from the mature Harappan level. It is bearing the few horizontal line and some symbol like human and animal figurine(L.S.Rao, 2008).

Dating: On the bases of c14datesfromthese sites archaeologist suggested that this site is 6700BC old(K.N. Dikshit, 2012).

CONCLUSION

It is very important site of Indus-Saraswati civilization. This site has all the phase of Harappan civilization. Present site exposed the early villager and farming community of Harappan civilization it goes back 7th millennium BC according the c14 dating. Excavation exposed the development of culture and civilization. It is furnished to the example which shows that how a villager culture changes in the urban community.

FARMANA

This site is known as Daksh Khera first time explored by Prof. Suraj Bhan in 1974(Bhan, 1975). Visitor reported the early Harappan, Harappan, Late Harappan, OCP, PGW, and Early historical remains at the site. Habitation area spread over 18.5 hectares. Site is fall in jurisdictions of three deferent villages Farmana, Seman and Bhaini Chanderpall of Meham Block in Rohtak district of Haryana. It is one of the most important Harappan site in Haryana.

This site was excavated under the direction of Vasant Shinde of the Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Pune. The project was financed by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, which also provided technical expertise. The Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak and Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Pune under the aegis of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) are the Indian partners of the project. Chief purpose of excavation was to know the cultural development from pre-Harappan to mature Harappan in this region and determine the contribution of the pre-Harappan in the making the Harappan regional light spot in the Ghaggar basin.

Excavation at Farmana was yielded only tow culture period; period-I -Hakra (early Harappan) culture and period-II -Mature from two meter occupational deposit. Not any later periods evidence were recovered from site like Late Harappan, OCP, PGW and early Historical period because upper deposit was scraped by farmer from agriculture land. Only 8 habitation layers were found during the excavation from upper surface to natural soil. On the base of cultural material of layer no 8,7and 7B these layers were belong to the Hakra phase. Layer no 6 is presenting the remains of transitional period of between the

Hakra and mature Harappan period. Upper five layers have the relation to mature Harappan period(Shinde Vasant, 2008).

Period-I

Present period has the 50 cm cultural deposit. Lead features of this phase are ceramics and pit-dwelling, similar features were found at Girawar (Rohtak) and Bhirrana (Fatehabad) from Hakra level. So this period was defined by Hakra period. This phase was furnished by storage pot, medium size globular storage pot in red ware, incised ware and other pottery. Describable other culture components like micro and disc beads of steatite, terracotta beads and bangles, shell bangles.

Period-II

Mature Harappan period was marked by the classical ceramics and other culture material of mature Harappan period. Structures also have the speciality of mature Harappan phase and brick sizes (1:2:3) are also available of period II.

Structures

The site has four complexes and so far one complex has been excavated which has 26 rooms, 3 to 4 kitchens, an equal number of bathrooms and a courtyard in the centre. Terracotta toys, whistle, wheels and seals, copper bangles, a small ornament of gold and large amount of pottery has been retrieved.

Burials

The cemetery at Farmana has revealed 70 burials so far and has been assigned to the Mature Harappan phase (2500–2000 BC), whereas the burial site at Sanauli, in the Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh, which revealed 116 graves, belongs to a later stage of Harappan culture. Most of the graves are oriented northwest-southeast, though there are some with north-south and northeast-southwest orientations as well. A skeleton of a middle-aged woman has been found, which had three shell bangles, two copper bangles, copper earrings, beads and ornaments on the feet, indicating her wealthy status(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farmana>).

Madina

Village Madina in Meham Block of Rohtak District, Haryana has the 7 sites of different's cultural and time period. Excavation was conducted on Madin-3, Excavation was undertaken by The Maharshi Dayanand University in collaboration with the Deccan College in 2008. During the exploration Late Harappan and PGW culture components were found so the excavations at the site were undertaken in order to study any linkage between the Late Harappan and PGW cultures and to know about the settlement pattern of the PGW culture in this area(Manmohan Kumar, 2008). A large part of the site had been removed by agricultural activities, but a central portion of the site was preserved by the time of excavations. The excavation itself was not large-scale, but interesting results were revealed. Eight occupational levels were exposed with structural remains consisting of pits, hearths and post-holes. These features indicate small hut-type houses made by wooden posts and a thatched roof for the occupations.

One of the most interesting results of the excavation was the occurrence of the Harappan traits and the PGW elements side by side from occupational deposits. The coexistence of the Harappan (exactly speaking the Late Harappan) tradition and the newly emerged PGW traits has been a subject of controversy since 1970s, because it bears a historical significance on the transition from the Harappan tradition to the Early Historic periods in the second millennium BCE. Among the Harappan elements, the Bara pottery, a ceramic style transformed from the Harappan ceramic style, faience ornaments and some other terracotta artefacts like wheels and cart-frames. The new elements are represented by the PGW shards, iron tools and some other terracotta artifacts. Although it is not easy to tell how two different cultural traditions existed side by side and what kind of social structure was there, the archaeological evidence from Madina brought new light to the controversy(Manmohan Kumar, 2008).

Girawar

The early Harappan site Girawar (28°58'41" N and 76°28'47" E), is situated in meham block, Rohtak district in Haryana. Site was explored by Vivek Dangi in 2006 with culture sequence of Early Harappan, Harappan, and late Harappan. But during excavation only early Harappan culture came in the light on the site excavation was conducted by Manmoh Kumar and Vasant Shinde. Archaeological dig brought the typical Hakra ware, early Harappan pottery, larger number of pit-dwelling and mud bricks house remains(1:2:3) which were related to the early Harappan period, and other antiquity which was the familiar of early Harappan period(Shinde Vasant, 2008).

CONCLUSION

Above Archaeological excavations show that Haryana has a rich wealth of Harappan settlements. Among Harappan Settlements these belong to different Harappan culture period like Pre-Harappan, Early Harappan, Mature Harappan and Late Harappan. After the study of all these newly excavated Harappan sites, one thing is clear that middle and lower Chutang valley and middle Saraswati region has the major component of the first rural culture which called Hakra and early Harappan. Saraswati and Drishdvati River in the past provided fertile land and water for agriculture to the above early farming community. Present rural culture was the mother of great Harappan civilization. C14 dating of Bhirrana, Pre-Harappan culture goes back to 7 millennium BC. which is older than Mehargarh. These excavations confirm the existence of urban phase of Harappan civilization in this region. Plains of Drishdvati and Saraswati provided ample opportunity to promote Early Harappan phase to Mature Harappan. Few sites were excavated in upper Chautang and upper Saraswati valley these sites have only late Harappan and PGW culture remains. Madina is a late Harappan and PGW culture site. Some evidences show that people of both the cultures used to live together. These excavations play an important role for further research on Harappan Archaeology to understand cultural, social, economical, aspects. They can help in understanding the origin, expansion and decline of the Harappan civilization.

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