

# International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

## *Golden Research Thoughts*

Chief Editor  
Dr.Tukaram Narayan Shinde

---

Publisher  
Mrs.Laxmi Ashok Yakkaldevi

Associate Editor  
Dr.Rajani Dalvi

Honorary  
Mr.Ashok Yakkaldevi

---

## Welcome to GRT

RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2231-5063

Golden Research Thoughts Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

### **International Advisory Board**

Kamani Perera Regional Center For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Mohammad Hailat Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Carolina Aiken	Hasan Baktir English Language and Literature Department, Kayseri
Janaki Sinnasamy Librarian, University of Malaya	Abdullah Sabbagh Engineering Studies, Sydney	Ghayoor Abbas Chotana Dept of Chemistry, Lahore University of Management Sciences[PK]
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania
Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ilie Pinteau, Spiru Haret University, Romania
Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Xiaohua Yang PhD, USA
Titus PopPhD, Partium Christian University, Oradea,Romania	George - Calin SERITAN Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi	.....More

### **Editorial Board**

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade ASP College Devrukh,Ratnagiri,MS India	Iresh Swami Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur	Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur
R. R. Patil Head Geology Department Solapur University,Solapur	N.S. Dhaygude Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur	R. R. Yalikalr Director Managment Institute, Solapur
Rama Bhosale Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education, Panvel	Narendra Kadu Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune	Umesh Rajderkar Head Humanities & Social Science YCMOU,Nashik
Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University,Kolhapur	K. M. Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	S. R. Pandya Head Education Dept. Mumbai University, Mumbai
Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai	Sonal Singh Vikram University, Ujjain	Alka Darshan Shrivastava Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar
Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar Arts, Science & Commerce College, Indapur, Pune	G. P. Patankar S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka	Rahul Shriram Sudke Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary,Play India Play,Meerut(U.P.)	Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director,Hyderabad AP India.	S.KANNAN Annamalai University,TN
	S.Parvathi Devi Ph.D.-University of Allahabad	Satish Kumar Kalhotra Maulana Azad National Urdu University
	Sonal Singh, Vikram University, Ujjain	

Address:-Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India  
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.aygrt.isrj.org



## INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

**Deepak S. Vede**

Head-Department of History, S M N College, Pune.

**Abstract:**-The excavations carried in Western India have brought to light the important civilization of the Indus Valley. This is the most important civilization of the pre-historic period. The sites of this civilization are Mohenjo-Daro, meaning the Mound at the Dead, on the Indus in Sind and the other Harappa on the Ravi in the Montgomery district of the Punjab. The surrounding region of Mohenjo-Daro is wonderfully fertile and is called even today Nakhlistan or the "Garden of Sind". Here, the city built some five thousand years ago was successively destroyed and rebuilt no less than seven times, the inundation of the Indus being perhaps the chief agency of destruction.

**Keywords:**Indus Valley Civilization, Mohenjo-Daro, Indian History.

### INTRODUCTION

The Indus Valley Civilization was also known as the Harappa civilization. In spite of the urban nature of the civilization, the Harappa Culture was a part of the Village Cultures some of which survived even after the ruin of these cities. The discovery of this civilization has almost revolutionized our conception of Indian History. At a single stroke the antiquity of Indian Civilization has been pushed back to 3000 B.C, if not earlier still and India now ranks along with Sumer, Akkad, Babylon, Egypt and Assyria as a pioneer of human Civilization. The Indus Valley Civilization embraced the whole of Sind, South Punjab and Baluchistan. But no trace of it has been discovered in the valley of the Ganges.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

The Indus Civilization became known because of exploration conducted by Rao Bahadur Dayaram Sahani in 1921 at Harappa and Rakhaldas D Banerji in 1922 at Mahenjo-Daro. Both belonged to the Archeological department of India. Sir John Marshall undertook at the above sites extensive excavations from 1924 to 1937, till his retirement in India. During World WarII, excavations were suspended and again continued by Mortimer Wheeler in 1946-47. The excavations have brought to light buried remains of private houses and huge buildings, streets and drains and a Great Bath, Painted Pottery, Statues Jewelry, household tools and vessels, ornaments of metal and shell and other articles. Recent excavations made by Government of India (Mr. S .R. Rao ) have extended the area of Harappa culture in the North and South.

In 1931 John Marshall estimated the duration of the occupation of Mahenjo-daro between 3250 and 2750 B.C. Mr. C .J. Gadd published a paper listing a number of Indus or Indus-like seals discovered in Mesopotamian sites particularly Ur which seemed to indicate active trade contacts between 2350 and 1770 B.C. Albright concluded in 1955 that the end of the civilization must have been around 1750 B.C. In 1964 D.P. Agrawal came to the conclusion that the total span of the culture should be between 2300 and 1750 B.C. Taking the evidence from the material found at Ur, Kish and other places, the date of Harappan culture is fixed during 2500 to 1500 B.C. K.D.N. Sastry and Sreenivasachar would assign the beginning of the third millennium B.C. for the progressive stage of the Harappa culture.

## RESEARCH METHOD AND SOURCES OF DATA

This research paper based on qualitative research methodology. Information collected is in qualitative nature. Under qualitative research, methodology data collected cannot be quantified, due to quantification may be because of very small sample size or exceptional occurrences. It is more related to the phenomenon in perspective.

This research focuses on Indus valley civilization in general. I had collected data from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected from the different offices including discussion with various historians, geographers, economists, political scientists, and experts working on this issue.

Secondary data were collected from published books, research reports, journals, articles, and leading international and national newspapers

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE PEOPLE

The remains of Harappa, and especially those of Mahenjo-Daro tell us a good deal about the Indus valley people and provide us a very useful information regarding the social and economic life of the Indus valley people.

### Food

Wheat was the main food, but barley and palm-date were also familiar. They also used mutton, pork, fish, and eggs.

### Dress and Ornaments

Cotton fabrics were in common use. Wool was also used, evidently for warm textiles. Their dress was simple, men used a shawl which was drawn over the left shoulder and under the right, so as to leave the right arm and in the sitting posture came down to the feet. It formed the upper garment. The lower garment was like a modern dhoti. Men kept short beards and whiskers.

Ornaments such as Necklaces, fillets, armlets, finger rings etc were worn by men and woman and girdles, nose-studs, ear-rings and anklets, bangles by women alone. The rich made the ornaments of gold, silver, ivory, faience and other semi-precious stones like lapis lazuli, jasper, carnelian, agate or onyx; the ornaments of poor were made of copper, bone, shell and terra-cotta.

### Amusements

Among amusements, dancing to the accompaniment of the drum, marbles and some kind of game played with a marker board and dice pieces appear to have been practiced. Hunting was indulged in people were interested in fishing

### Toys

Children toys were various, interesting and ingenious. Usually they were clay models of birds, animals, whistles, rattles, men women etc. There were wheeled carts and chairs.

### Weights and Measures

People used large number of weights. Cubical weights were most common. The unit weight had the value of 8750 gms, the largest weight being 10970gms. Copper pans were used as a scale. The decimal system was known to the people of the Indus.

### Funeral Customs

The archaeological discoveries show three kinds of disposal of the dead such as :

- 1). Complete burial of the dead body.
- 2) Exposure of the body to beasts and birds and then burials of bone.
- 3) Cremation and burial of ashes in urns.

### Agriculture

The basic economy of the Indus people was necessarily agricultural. Cultivation was on an extensive scale, facilitated by the presence of rivers. The principal food grains were wheat, barley, peas and sesamum. Cotton was

also grown. They domesticated animals for agricultural purpose.

### **Trade**

They maintained trade contact with the outside world. Trade between the Indus region and Iraq was carried on through the island of Bahrain in the Persian Gulf. There was an intermediate trade centre, Magan or Makan, Identified with Oman or some other part of South Arabia. Trade contacts were maintained with Sumer, Egypt and Crete.

### **Import and Export**

For the import of various metals, precious stones and other articles they had connections with southern and Eastern India, Kashmir, Mysore and the Nilgiri Hills, as also with the countries immediately to the west and central Asia. Besides copper, the Indians exported peacocks, ivory and ivory particles made of apes, pearls and cotton textiles.

### **Art and Architecture**

The Indus people had made great progress in the field of art.

#### **Architecture**

The Indus people made plain and solid buildings rather than beautiful and decorative. They had constructed three types of buildings - dwelling houses, shrines or public-halls and public baths. Most of houses were double storied. made of baked bricks and mud-mortar. The roofs were made of mud, reed and wood. The most imposing structure in Mohenjo-daro is that of the Great Bath. The actual bathing pool is about 139 feet in length, 23 feet in breadth and 9 feet in deep. This bath was used by the general public on certain religious festivals.

#### **Art of sculpture**

Many statues and figurines of animals and men found in the Indus valley prove that people made great progress in the art of sculpture. Among these statues, a young bull, a strong watchdog, a shawl-wearing yogi, a dancing girl are worthy of note. They look quite life-like and realistic.

#### **Art of Pottery**

Indus people made great progress in the art of pottery. Indus valley skilled potter could give colour, shape and delicacy to his pots. The glazed pottery which he turned out is generally regarded as the earliest example of its kind in the ancient world.”

#### **Art of painting**

Indus people were found of painting. Different kinds of figures and designs were drawn on earthen wares and utensils. They achieved great skill in drawing the figures of men, animals and various other subjects of nature.

#### **Art of carving**

People were fully conversant with the art of carving. Their engravings of various animals on the numerous seals are very remarkable. These figures on ivory, soap-stone, leather, metal & wood possessed the artistic skill of a very high order in carving.

### **Religion**

Among the materials discovered in the cities of the Indus valley, there are no temples, shrines altars. But on the basis of articles discovered at different sites in the Indus valley suggest that there people indulged in some sort of image worship. They worshipped Parvati or Durga who is represented as a horned deity seated under a Pipl tree with a devotee. The figurines have been identified with “Shakti” or “Mother Goddess”.

Lord Shiva was the chief male god of the Indus people. In seal Shiva is sitting in a yogic fashion surrounded by animals. Some stones resembling the Linga and signs of spastics are also got from the excavations. These suggest

that the Indus people were the Hindus devoted to the worship of Shiva and Parvati.

It also appears that the Indus people worshipped trees, rivers, birds and animals. The elaborate bathing arrangement marking the city of Mohenjo-daro would suggest that purification by bath formed a feature of the religion of the Indus valley people. It will be seen from these characteristics that modern Hinduism is greatly indebted to the Indus valley culture. There is an organic relationship between the Hinduism of today and the ancient culture of the Indus valley.

## CONCLUSION

The people of Indus valley had a highly developed culture and civilization as far back as 5000 years. It is not human how the cities of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa got buried under the earth, or how exactly the civilization of the Indus valley came to an end. It is believed that the overflowing Indus river destroyed these cities several times. A sudden wave of barbarian invasion might have put an end to this great civilization.

## REFERENCES

1. Prof. C. M. Kulkarni, Prof. K.K.S. Tatacher & Prof. Nirmala Gupta "Ancient Indian History and Culture" Bombay 1959.
2. K.A. Nilakanta Sastri & G. Srinivasachari. "Advanced History of India" Bombay 1970.
3. I.C. Mujumdar. H.C. Raychaudhari & Kalikinkar Datta "An advanced History of India" New York 1965.
4. R.C. Mujumdar. "Ancient India" Delhi 1960.
5. S.N. Rao. 'Lothal and the Indus Civilization, Calcutta 1973.
6. S.N. Sen 'Ancient Indian History and Civilization' New Delhi- 1988.
7. R.C. Mujumdar and P.N. Chopra 'Main Currents of Indian History,' New Delhi 1985. 8. B.N. Luniya "Indian Culture", Agra 1960.
9. Sir Mortimer Wheeler C.F.E. 'The Indus Civilization', Cambridge 1960.
10. Moriwalla "Mohenjo-daro" Bombay 1957.
11. D.N. Jha 'Ancient India' New Delhi 1977.
12. K.N. Sastri. 'New Light on the Indus Civilization' Delhi 1957.
13. D.H. Gordon 'The pre-History Background of Indian Culture' Bombay 1958.
14. Prof. S. S. M. Desai and Prof A. S. Nadkarni 'Ancient Indian History and Culture' Bombay. 15. S.V. Venkateshwara 'Indian Culture through the Ages' Delhi 1986.
16. By Rene Grousset. "The Civilizations of the East" Delhi 1969.
17. Edith Tomory 'A history of Fine Arts in India and the West' Madras 1982.
18. D.P. Singhal 'India and world Civilization' Calcutta 1972.
19. K.A. Nilakanta Sastri and G. Srinivasachari 'Advanced History of India' New Delhi 1970. 20. K.c. Sagar. Foreign Influence on ancient India" New Delhi, 1992.
21. Dr. C.V. Rangaswami 'A political and cultural History of India up to 1206 A.P.' Gadag, 1980.

- 
1. Bronze Age civilisation (3300–1300 BCE; mature period 2600–1900 BCE), Sailendra Nath Sen - 1999
  3. Indus Water Treaty A Geo Political Study by Raja Nazkat Ali Khan, 31-Dec-2013, University of Kashmir
  4. Mr. Cyaz Kohjoo (Dean Academics "GVEI"), Juno & Qadri, Indus valley civilization
  5. Indus Valley Civilization: Town Planning, Art, Social Life and Religion, By : Anand
  6. Indus Valley culture,, Anushri Kapur

# Publish Research Article

## International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

### Associated and Indexed, India

- ★ International Scientific Journal Consortium
- ★ OPEN J-GATE

### Associated and Indexed, USA

- ✍ EBSCO
- ✍ Index Copernicus
- ✍ Publication Index
- ✍ Academic Journal Database
- ✍ Contemporary Research Index
- ✍ Academic Paper Database
- ✍ Digital Journals Database
- ✍ Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- ✍ Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- ✍ Directory Of Academic Resources
- ✍ Scholar Journal Index
- ✍ Recent Science Index
- ✍ Scientific Resources Database
- ✍ Directory Of Research Journal Indexing

Golden Research Thoughts  
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra  
Contact-9595359435  
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com  
Website : www.aygrt.isrj.org