

3 . INDUS CIVILIZATION (3250 BC - 2750 BC)

In the year 1922, archaeologists dug up a few places in the Indus valley and carried out excavations at Mohenjodara (meaning a mound of dead) in Sind (in Pakistan) and at Harappa on the river Ravi in Punjab. They found traces of a very ancient civilization, which flourished more than five thousand years ago. They observed that the people utilized the pots, utensils and ornaments. These cities were built along the river Indus and hence this civilization is known as Indus valley civilization. It is also known as Harappan culture and occupied the areas stretching from Delhi to Gujarat.



During this period the people identified the importance of ploughing for the proper sowing of crop (i.e) soil has to be stirred and seed has to be covered. Ox-drawn wheel cart was used for transport. The people cultivated wheat, barley, gram, peas, sesamum and rape. They also cultivated cotton and also devised methods of ginning, spinning and weaving. Animal husbandry was also given more importance during this period. They domesticated buffalo, cattle, camel, horse, elephant, ass and birds. They utilized them in agriculture and also for transport.

The most remarkable discovery in Harappa is the Great Granary used for storing food grain. These granaries, each 50x20 feet overall, are arranged symmetrically in two rows of six in each row with central passage and 23 feet wide. From the size of the granary it can be concluded that the peasants paid their dues to the Government in kind, used the kinds in granary for payments to employees. The artisans, carpenters and others received their wages in kind from the farmers.

The Vedic civilization

The word “Veda” is derived from “Vid” which means “Knowledge” Veda is the only literary source from which we know about the Aryans in India. Aryans were more prevalent during Vedic time which extends from Eastern Afghanistan, Kashmir, Punjab and Parts of Sind and Rajasthan. The land of Aryans was called land of seven rivers i.e., (Satlaj, Beas, Ravi, Chennab, Jhelum, Indus and Saraswathi). The Rig-veda was the oldest book of Aryans.

Pastoralism

The Vedic Aryans were primarily pastoral. When they settled in the Punjab, they cut the jungles and built their villages. They grazed the animals in jungles and cultivated barley near the houses to protect from wild animals.

Vedic people realized the importance of off-season ploughing and they started ploughing as and when the rain was received. The first ploughing of the season was inaugurated amidst much ritual. The plough used was large and heavy. Bullocks and ox were used for ploughing. With regard to irrigation, channels were dug from the rivers. Wells were in use for supply of drinking water and irrigation called kucha wells, which were just holes dug in the ground. Even now such wells are in use in the river rain areas of northern India.

Crops cultivated in Vedic period

In early Vedic period there is no mention of rice and cotton though they were cultivated in Harappa period. In the later Vedic period (1000 - 600 BC) agricultural implements were improved and iron ploughshare also improved. The people possessed the knowledge of fertility of land, selection of seed, seed treatment, harvesting, manuring and rotation of crops. Barley, sesame and sugarcane were the main crops. Cucumber and bottle gourd were also mentioned in Vedic period. Aryans were accustomed to barley diet. Barley is good for men, cattle and horses. Barley is used in Hindu rituals even today. For cloths, wool and cotton were used.

The agriculture implements mentioned in vedic literature include the plough (langala - a

lase pointed type having smooth handle, Sira - a large and heavy plough).Sickle was used for harvesting and sieves were used for cleaning.

Civilizations in other parts of World

LEMURIA CIVILIZATION

Lemuria was originally the name given to a vast hypothetical sunken continent or a land-bridge or landmass stretching from Ceylon to Madagascar all the way to the central Pacific Ocean across the Indian Ocean and Indonesia. Ancient Lemuria-map of India in 30,000 B.C. The lemurs derive their name from that of the Lemurs (or "Ancestors"). Man descends from the apes. Hence, the name of Lemuria can be interpreted as "Land Ancestral" or "Land of the Ancestors". The ancient land tying India and Australia together that sank incrementally over time, is referred to as 'Lemuria'. The Tamil bark writings in Southern India tell of the gigantic Southern part of India, which used to connect to Australia cataclysmically sinking incrementally over a long period of time. This was ancient Lemuria or Kumari Kandam. The great flood would have sunk Lemuria or Kumari Kandam before the Ramayana period (10,000 BC).

