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INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

CULTURE OF INDIA

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INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

Introduction

- ❖ The Indus Civilisation represents the first phase of urbanisation in India.

Nomenclature, Phases and Chronology

- ❖ The civilisation that appeared in the northwestern part of India and Pakistan in third millennium BCE is collectively called the Indus Civilisation.

The Early Beginnings

- ❖ The Indus region (Mehrgarh) is one of the areas of the world where agriculture and animal domestication began very early.

Geographical Area and the Settlements

- ❖ The Indus Civilisation and the contemporary cultures covered nearly 1.5 million sq. km area in India and Pakistan.

Subsistence and Economic Production

- ❖ Agriculture was an important source of subsistence for the Harappans. The Harappans cultivated diverse crops such as wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, sesame and various millets.

Animal Domestication

- ❖ Pastoralism was also practised by the Harappans. They domesticated sheep, goat and fowl.

Pottery

- ❖ The Harappans used diverse varieties of pottery for daily use. They use well-fired pottery. Their potteries have a deep red slip and black paintings.

Metal, Tools and Weapons

- ❖ The Harappan civilisation belongs to the Bronze Age civilisation and Harappans knew how to make copper bronze tools.

Decline

- ❖ The Indus Valley Civilisation declined from about 1900 BCE. Changes in climate, decline of the trade with the Mesopotamia, and the drying of the river and water resources due to continuous drought are some of the reasons attributed by historians for the decline.

