

## Harappan Civilisation - Introduction :

The Harappan Civilisation is not only one of the greatest civilisation of India but also that of the whole bronze period whole. It was a well-developed urban civilisation and was a contemporary of the civilisations of Egypt and Mesopotamia.

The Harappan civilisation originated in the north western part of India in Chalcolithic background. First of all R. B. Daya Ram Sahani found the remains of an ancient civilisation at Harappan (in modern Pakistan) in the Montgomery district of Punjab in 1921. Rakhal Das Banerjee came upon some ancient remains at Mohenjodaro in Larkana district of Sindh in 1922. The scholars named this discovery as 'Indus civilisation' or the 'Indus valley civilisation' because at first many of its sites were found around the valley of Indus and in the plains of many of its tributaries. Therefore, the scholars named it as Harappan civilisation after the name of its first ever known site Harappan.

## Period of the civilisation:

At first the period of this civilisation was ascertained by Harappan seals found at Ur and Kish in Mesopotamia. On this basis Sir John Marshall opined that this civilisation flourished during the period 3250-2750 B.C. Wheeler dated it to 2500-1500 B.C. With the passage of time radiocarbon dating method was invented and on the basis the chronology of Harappan civilisation emerged as (i) Early Harappan Phase: c. 3500-2600 B.C. (ii) Mature Harappan Phase: c. 2600-1900 B.C. (iii) Later Harappan Phase: c. 1900-1300 B.C. In candid and simple words, it can be said that this civilisation is about 5,000 years old.