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Q6(c)

Discuss the significance of Harappan Civilization sites from India

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Anthropology GS 2 · 15 marks · Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization

1.1 Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization-Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic-Chalcolithic), Protohistoric (Indus Civilization). Pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan cultures. Contributions of the tribal cultures to Indian civilization.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss the significance of **Harappan Civilization** sites from India
- Keep the answer to a 15-mark length of about 200 words

Revision summary

Rakhigarhi, **Kalibangan**, **Dholavira**, and **Lothal** are major Harappan sites in India.

They show planning, craft, docks, and reservoirs as regional urban forms.

They support local growth from Early Harappan villages.

Gujarat marks sea trade; the Ghaggar belt marks river farming.

Late levels argue transformation rather than a clean end.

Introduction

Harappan sites in present-day India show that the civilisation was not only a Pakistan-Indus story. They prove a wide urban and village web from Gujarat to Haryana.

Body**Urban and regional centres**

- **Rakhigarhi** and **Banawali** in Haryana, **Kalibangan** in Rajasthan, and **Dholavira** and **Lothal** in Gujarat are Indian type sites of Mature Harappan planning, craft, and water.
- **Harappa** the name-site lies west of the present border, but the Indian cluster shows docks, reservoirs, fire altars, and street drains as regional variants.

Significance

- They argue endogenous growth from Early Harappan villages, against a single foreign transplant.
- Gujarat sites show sea trade. Ghaggar-Hakra sites show a dried river farm belt.
- After 1900 BCE, Late Harappan and village successor sites in India explain continuity into later cultures, not a total vanishing.

For Indian anthropology

- **H. D. Sankalia** and the Archaeological Survey made these sites the backbone of Indian proto-history.

- They give Paper II a dated urban past that tribal and village India later inherit as landscape, not as a racial myth.

Flow diagram

Harappan India -> Rakhigarhi Kalibangan
Harappan India -> Dholavira Lothal
Harappan India -> Craft trade continuity

Conclusion

Indian Harappan sites establish a subcontinental urban civilisation with regional faces. Their significance is origin, trade, and continuity on this side of the border.

Facts & figures

Dholavira

Kachchh city famous for reservoirs and a staged urban plan.

Lothal

Gujarat site interpreted as a dock and craft centre.

Rakhigarhi

Large Haryana settlement with a long pre-urban to urban sequence.

Kalibangan

Rajasthan site with Early and Mature Harappan levels, including ploughed fields.

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