Archaeology and Living Cultural Legacy of Harappa Civilization

The extent and age of the Harappa Civilization has been established by recent archaeology and culture studies as being more than 10,000 years old covering area beyond the immediate Indus Valley to Gujrat and Helmand region of India and Afghanistan. Language is one of the major living carriers of cultural traditions and its study has thrown up important clues to the understanding of history of the Punjab, a sector of the region.

A child is born to a specific mother, language and culture carrying a genetic code that determines its biological and psychological progression. Within these parameters of inheritance and objective circumstances the child has ample opportunity to grow, evolve
and shape the future till the struggle ends. Culture is the story of that life, both individual and societal.

Harappa Culture is the label now in common use to define the broader Indus Valley Civilization that with every new archaeological discovery and insight from culture studies never ceases to amaze with its beauty and complexity. The residents of this region are the inheritors of this unique culture that shows an unbroken link through centuries. There are present day facets of culture, belief systems, language that can be traced back to pre-Harappa times and help explain the particularity of our region and social behavior. The land of 5 (7) rivers, Punjab, seems to have been the cradle of this phenomenon.

The Tantric culture of the Meluha, as the residents of the Harappa culture have been called by the Mesopotamians, was based on an agro-commerce economy. Its land and maritime trade links along the Persian Gulf to Bahrain down to Kutch Kathiawar have been unearthed. The agro-commerce mode of economy led to a prosperous, relatively equitable, and peaceful, gender balanced social structure which resisted class and caste divisions till the Aryan penetration from the North-West. The pastoral mode of production of the Aryans needing pasture lands in contrast to rivers trained for navigational depth, led to destruction or neglect of the river embankments thus decay of the commerce based culture. In contrast to the Indo-Gangetic Valley evolution, the Buddhist and Jain belief system found general and greater lasting acceptance in the Harappa region in the 9th-10th Century. The pacifist tradition continued with the coming of the Sufi schools from the West as contrasted with the violent invasions of the Turks and Pathan from the 10th century onwards. History of the Kings, Conquerors and Rulers began to be recorded wherein the people and their story was not mentioned. Recent work of Dr Manzur Ejaz (2019) on the Peoples History of Punjab Punjabi sheds new light on this important aspect.

Yet there are gaps in the knowledge. The language script remains to be deciphered, there is no sustained long term program of archaeological investigation, there is lack of political coordination among the three countries that house the remains, and there is hesitation to accept Harappa Culture as a common heritage.

After a forced hiatus of two years due to the pandemic THAAP has decided to hold the **THAAP Conference - 2022**, in November 2022 on the following theme:

**Archaeology and Living Cultural Legacy of Harappa Civilization**

Scholars are invited to research, write, and present papers at the conference to be held on November 25,26 & 27, 2022. Please send us an abstract of no more than 300 words outlining the thought, research and presentation that you will make at the Conference by March 1st. The paper to be presented shall be 3000 to 4000 words.

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