

Class VI - Social Science

Exploring Society India and Beyond  
The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation

# CBSE NOTES

## The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation - Revision Guide

*Revise faster with structured summaries, key points, and important ideas.*



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## 1. Define Civilization.

Civilization is an advanced society with governance, urban planning, and culture.

## 2. Characteristics of a Civilization.

Includes governance, urbanism, craftsmanship, trade, writing, culture, and agriculture.

## 3. Indus-Sarasvatī Civilization.

Also known as Harappan civilization, it's one of the oldest in the Indian subcontinent.

## 4. Significance of Harappa.

First city excavated in 1920, marking the beginning of urbanization in India.

## 5. Key Cities: Mohenjo-daro.

Another major city, known for its advanced urban planning and drainage systems.

## 6. Role of the Indus River.

Provided fertile land, supporting agriculture and settlement in the northwest region.



## 7. Agricultural Practices.

Harappans cultivated cereals, pulses, and were the first to grow cotton in Eurasia.

## 8. Urban Planning Features.

Cities had wide streets, systemized layouts, and were fortified for protection.

## 9. Water Management Systems.

Advanced drainage and well systems were crucial for urban life in Harappan cities.

## 10. Craftsmanship in Harappan Culture.

Diverse techniques in crafting, including jewelry and pottery, were prevalent.

## 11. Trade Networks.

Involved local and long-distance trading of goods like cotton and ornaments.

## 12. Seals in Trade.

Used for trade identification, these indicate a structured economy in Harappan cities.



## 13. Cultural Expressions.

Art and architecture reflected societal values; evidences through seals and pottery.

## 14. Decline of Civilisation.

Factors include climate change and the drying up of the Sarasvatī River impacting agriculture.

## 15. Sarasvatī River's Importance.

Once a significant river, now referred as 'Ghaggar' in India; mentioned in the Rīg Veda.

## 16. Dholavira's Discoveries.

Revealed insights into Harappan water conservation and urban design strategies.

## 17. Social Structure.

Distinct segregation of areas for elites and commoners within city layouts.

## 18. First Urbanization of India.

Set the foundation for future civilizations; influences are visible in modern urbanism.



## 19. Excavation Sites.

Key cities and artifacts were uncovered through archaeological efforts; revealing history.

## 20. Harappan Maritime Trade.

Engaged in maritime activities, evidenced by dockyard discoveries like at Lothal.

## 21. Long-lasting Influence.

Cultural and technological achievements of Harappans persisted into later Indian civilizations.



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