

National Webinar

Organized by

Department of History

BSR Govt. Arts College Alwar (Rajasthan)

in association with

Archaeological Survey of India,

Jaipur Circle, Jaipur

Date- March 08, 2021

Time- From 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM

100 YEARS OF HARAPPA IN CONTEXT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Department of History, in association with Archaeological Survey of India, Jaipur Circle, Jaipur is celebrating 100 years of the discovery of the Harappan civilization in 1921.

In 1829, Charles Masson, a British soldier who was enrooted to Afghanistan with his troops, deserted them and fled. He came across large exposed brick structures near small town of Sahiwal in Punjab, now in Pakistan. What Masson had found was Harappa but it remained buried for next 45 years.

In 1912 John Fleet of ASI brought Sahiwal site to the notice of Marshall who sent Hiranand Shastri, Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni and M.S.Vats to conduct systematic archaeological excavations in 1921. This

finally led to the true discovery of Harappan Culture and thus started an altogether new fascination in Indian Archaeology. Between 1924 and 1947, a large number of Harappan sites Kot-Diji, Nal, Amri, Chahundaro etc. were discovered and excavated.

Partition in 1947 gave a blow to our activities of exploration but on the other hand loss of Harappa and Mohenjodaro provided a momentum to search for new sites in India. Exploration and excavation programme by the ASI resulted in the discovery of hundreds of new sites in Gujrat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Ropar(1953), Kalibanga(1953), Rangpur(1953-56), Lothal(1957), Surkotada(1964), Dholavira(1967), Banawali(1974-77), Kuntasi, a port site in Morbi(1991), Padri in Bhavnagar(1995), Daimabad culture, Bhagwanpura near Thaneshwar and many contemporary cultures were revealed.

The recent Harappan excavations have now concentrated on the sites of Bhirrana, Farmana and Rakhigarhi in Haryana. Binjor and fortified sites like Kanmer, Bagasra, Kotada and Bhadli in Gujrat.

With the finding of 925 Harappan sites in India, we can say that the discovery of the Harappan civilization has enriched the Indian subcontinent by adding 8000 years to its history.

These discoveries widened the scope of research, added quantitative data and increased our understanding of local and regional cultures. It also

provides an important insight into a civilizational collapse. Harappan civilization was way ahead of its time, it offered an excellent example of expertise - in town planning, water management and harvesting system as well as the drainage system. The civilization has a relevance in today's society as suitable planning for building of towns and water management is taken from it.

To enhance the knowledge of the students and update all of us about the new excavations, the Department of History is organizing a webinar with distinguished and experienced archaeologists who themselves conducted excavations. We invite them to share their experiences.

Professor Alok Tripathi-A distinguished archeologist and the founder of Underwater Archeological Wing of the Archeological Survey of India.

Professor J. S. Kharakwal-Professor of Archaeology at Sahitya Sansthan, Member of Indo Japanese archaeological research project at Kanmer, Gujarat.

Dr. Praveen Singh- Superintending Archaeologist with ASI, vast experience in excavation at Rakhigarhi, Dhalewan, Gillund etc. and specialized pottery studies.

Dr. Madan Lal Meena-Associate Professor (Indian Archaeology) Government College Patan (Sikar). Member of excavation team Dholavira and Rakhigarhi. Also an expert of Rock Painting.