

discovered in present-day Pakistan and parts of northern and western India.

The Indus Valley civilization was the largest among the four ancient civilizations. Two main Indus cities—**Harappa** and **Mohenjo-daro**—were unearthed in the early 1920s in present day Pakistan. The Indus Valley civilization is also known as the **Harappan civilization** as Harappa was the first city to be unearthed.

Daya Ram Sahni and Rakhal Das Bandyopadhyay, both working with the Archaeological Survey of India in the early 1920s, played a leading role in the discovery of the two main cities. Some of the discovered Harappan sites are: Shortugai (Afghanistan), Manda (near Jammu), Ropar (Punjab), Banawali and Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh), Kalibangan (Rajasthan), and Amri, Chanhu-daro and Kot Dijian (Pakistan). Coastal settlements of the Indus Valley civilization extended from Sutkagan Dor in western Balochistan to Lothal in Gujarat.

Well-planned Cities

The advanced architecture of the Harappans is seen in their impressive dockyards, granaries, large baths, flat-roofed brick houses, warehouses and protective walls. But, no large monumental structures were found in the Indus cities.

The well-planned cities were laid out in a grid-like formation. They had broad roads and streets. The roads ran parallel to each other and cut at right angles. They were rounded at the corners for easy turning of carts. Different types of houses lined both sides of the streets.

grid-like: a design in which straight lines cross each other to form squares

citadel: fort on high ground in a city where people could go in case of an attack

Know This

The Sindhi word Mohenjo-daro means 'mound of the dead'. It is a combination of three Sindhi words—*moan* or *moen* meaning 'dead', *jo* meaning 'of' and *daro* meaning 'tomb'. The Mohenjo-daro ruins lie in Larkana district of the Sindh province of Pakistan.

Citadel: The cities were divided into two parts: the upper part in the west was a fortress-type area called the **citadel** and the lower part in the east was called the **lower city**. The lower city surrounded the citadel. The citadel was built on a raised platform of mud and bricks. Public buildings, granaries, baths and quarters for important persons were built within the citadel. A wall surrounded the citadel and contained notches from which people could look out and defend the area. In Mohenjo-daro, craft workshops have also been unearthed in both the citadel and the lower city.

The Great Bath: The citadel in Mohenjo-daro had a large rectangular tank called the **Great Bath**. The tank with six entrances resembled a large swimming pool. It had

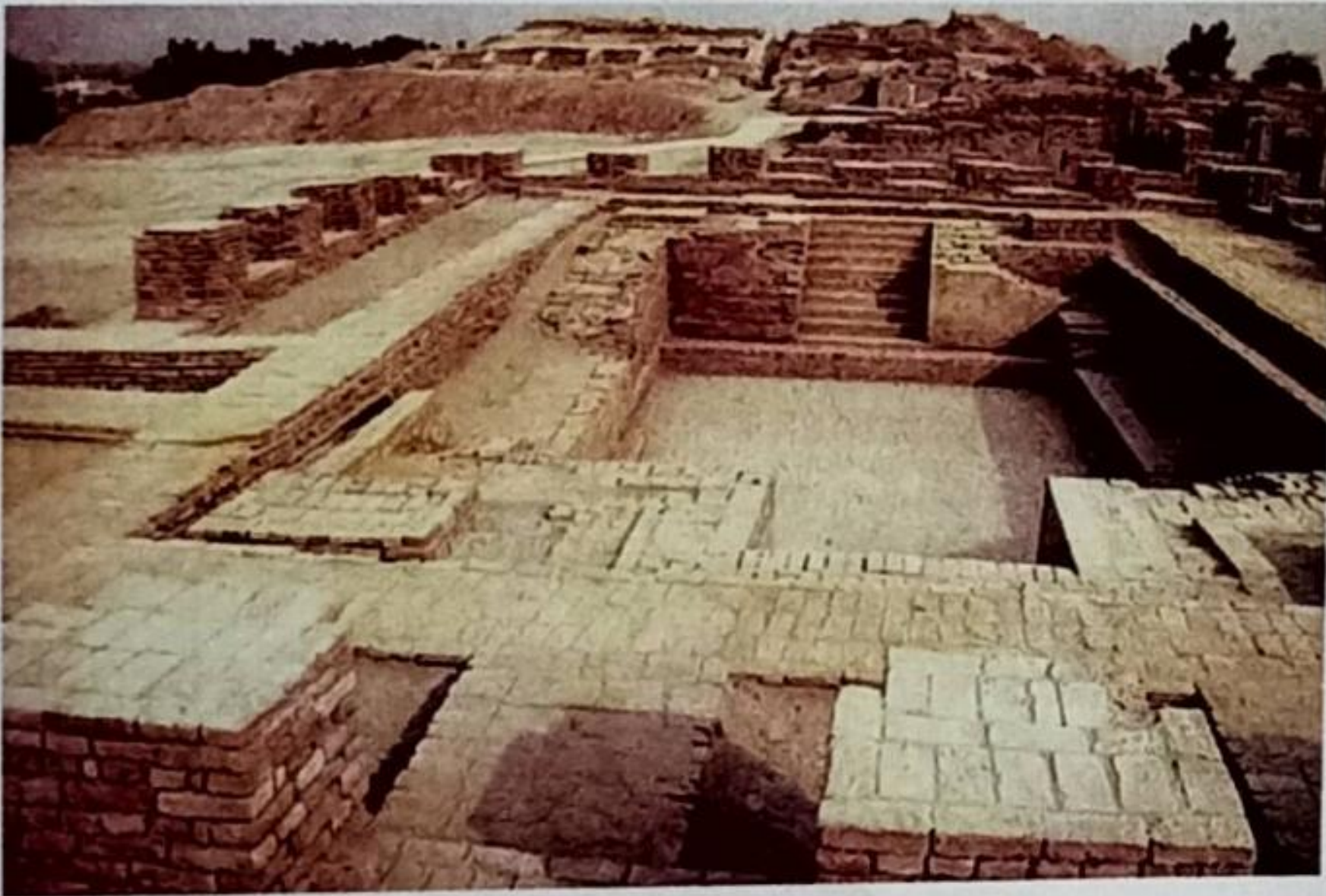


A corridor of the citadel at Dholavira

Know This

The Harappan city of Dholavira was in the form of a parallelogram surrounded by a protective wall.

two flights of steps to reach the bottom. The tank was supplied with fresh water from an adjacent well. It was probably a public bath used by the people for ritual bathing on special occasions or for religious ceremonies.

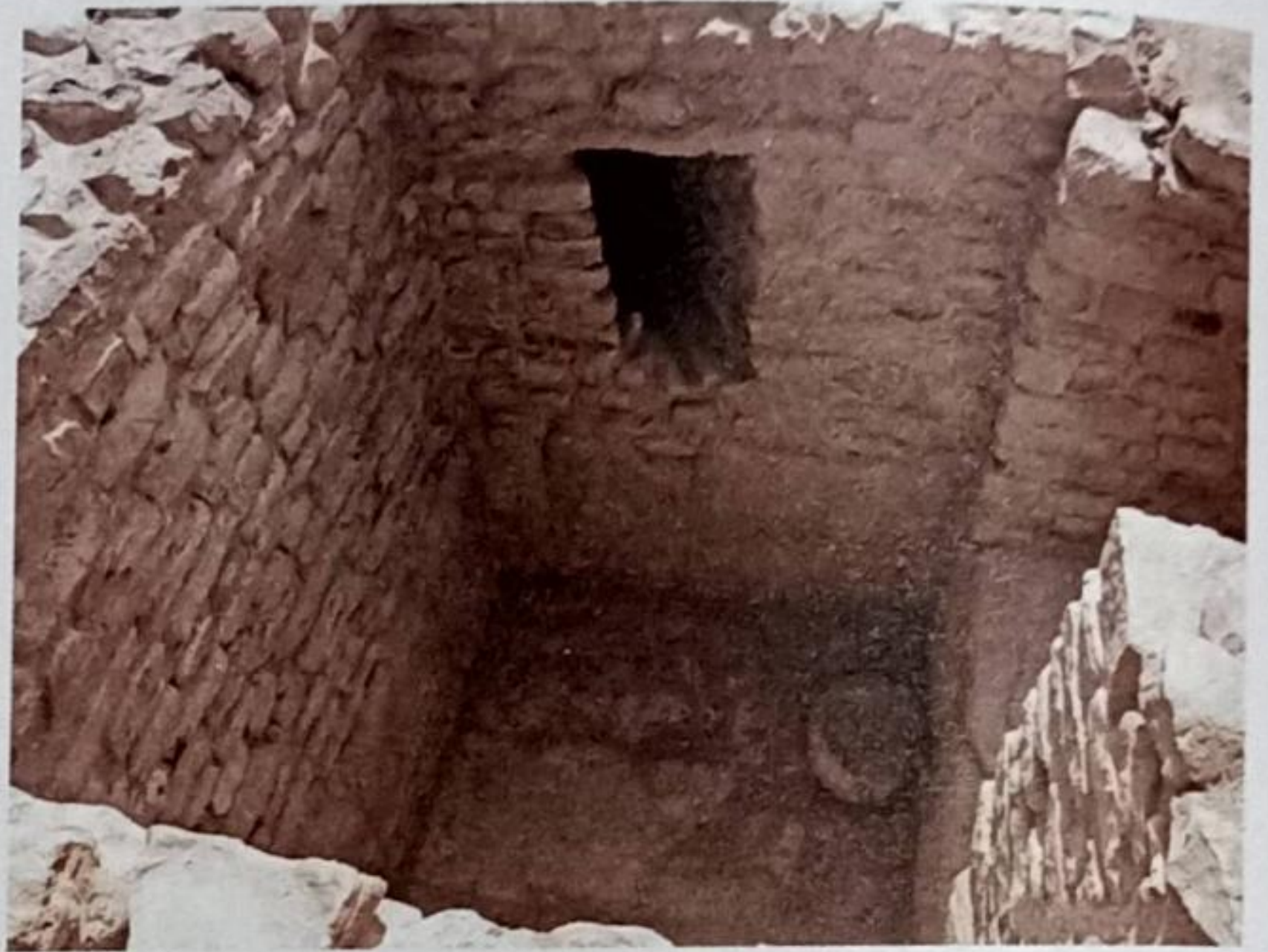


The Great Bath found at Mohenjo-daro

Granary: Large granaries have been excavated at Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Lothal and Kalibangan. These granaries were used to store surplus grain. The granaries were built in the citadel. The granary, excavated at Harappa, is called the **Great Granary**. It had two rows and each row had six small granaries. The granaries were built near the rivers for easy transportation of grain.

Lower City and Houses: The lower city consisted of houses of the common people. Their flat-roofed houses were one or two-storey high. A staircase led to the upper storeys. The house walls were made of baked bricks of uniform size, wood and stone. Most houses had a kitchen, a

courtyard, a bathroom and a well. Houses opened only to inner courtyards and small lanes.



The bathing area of a dwelling place in Dholavira

Sanitation and Drainage: The drainage system built by Harappans was highly advanced. Their houses either had individual wells or they obtained water from public wells. The Harappan houses had separate rooms with sloping floors for bathing and washing. Waste water from these rooms was directed to covered drains, which lined the major streets. The drains, made of brick slabs, had manholes.



A part of the drainage system at Lothal

SOCIAL LIFE

Social Division

In the Indus Valley civilization, the society was divided into four classes. The

KRISHNAGAR ACADEMY.

CLASS - VI, SUBJECT - HISTORY.

CHAPTER - THE INDUS VALLEY

06.06.2020. CIVILIZATION.

TOPIC - WELL-PLANNED CITIES.

PART - II.

SHORT QUESTIONS.

1. Write four features made by of the well-planned cities made by the people of Harappans.
2. What does the Sindhi word Mohenjodaro means?
3. What do you mean by citadel?
4. Discuss any four features of the Great Bath.
5. Describe the Great Granary of the Harappan people.
6. Write any four features of the houses of the common people.
7. Write a short note on the Sanitation and drainage system made by the Harappan people.

Answers of Part - I Questions published on 02.06.2020.

A1. The word civilization means an organised culture of many communities of a people or of a nation. It is to raise people from a primitive state to an advanced and ordered stage of development in politics, society and culture. Civilization is commonly used to mean people who are savages or barbarians but possess refinement and culture and have a high level of cultural and technological development.

A 2. 4000 BCE and 600 BCE.

A 3. The first civilizations or ancient civilizations are called River Valley Civilizations because they grew near river banks where it was conducive for agriculture. Rivers served as a constant source of water for agriculture and the soil on their banks was highly fertile due to recurrent floods. Besides, the rivers were an easy mode of travel by boats and rafts.

A 4. The two early River Valley civilizations were

(i) The Egyptian civilizations in the Valley of the Nile river.

(ii) The Mesopotamian civilization in the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates.

A 5. Two main cities of the Indus valley civilizations — Harappa and Mohenjodaro.

A 6. Two historians — Daya Ram Sahni and Rakhaladas Banerji.

A 7. Some of the discovered Harappan sites are: Shortugai (Afghanistan), Manda (near Jammu), Ropar (Punjab), Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh).

A 8. Coastal settlements of the Indus valley civilization extended from Sutkagan Dor in western Balochistan to Lothal in Gujarat.

Our next class shall be on the Social life in the Indus Valley Civilization. Also we shall discuss the Answers of part-II Question given today. Next class shall be on 09.06.2020 (TUESDAY).