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- Month: April
  - Class: XII
  - Subject: History
  - Module: 4/4
  - Chapter: One ( Harappan Civilization)
  - Topic-Discovering the Harappan Civilization
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## Recapitulations: on the previous topic

- Mention any two difficulties faced by Historians in deciphering the Indus script?
- Why the script of Harappan culture was considered as mysterious?
- Explain the caste system in Harappan civilization?
- What would be the possible reasons for the decline of Harappan civilization?

## Cunningham and his confusion:

- Cunningham, the first Director-General of the ASI.
- He was known as father of Indian Archeology.
- Cunningham's main interest was in the archaeology of the Early Historic period.(6<sup>th</sup> century BCE – 4<sup>th</sup> century CE ) and the later periods.
- He used to account left by Chinese Buddhists pilgrims who had visited the subcontinent between fourth and seventh century.
- Harappan seal was given to Cunningham by an Englishman.
- He missed the significance of Harappan civilization.

# Cunningham's sketch of the first known from Harappa



## A new old civilization:

- Seals were discovered at Harappa by Archeologist Daya Ram Sahani in the early decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Rakhal Das Banerjee found similar seals at Mohenjodaro.
- In 1924, John Marshal Director –General of the ASI announced the discovery of new civilization.
- John Marshal stint Director- General of the ASI mark a major change Indian Archeology.
- He was professional archeologist.

## New Techniques and Questions:

- The frontier of the Harappan civilization have little or no connection with present day of India.
- An extensive survey in Kutch has revealed a number of settlements.
- Explorations in Punjab and Haryana have added to the list of Harappan sites.
- These exploration promise to yield interesting results in the future.

# Problem of piecing together the past:

## Classifying finds:

- Recovering artefacts is just beginning of the archeological enterprise.

### Two principals:

- One simple principle of classification is in terms of material, such as stone clay, metal, bone etc.
- The second and more complicated is in term of function: Archeologists have to decide whether for instance an artefacts is tool or ornaments or boths something meant for ritual use.

## Problem of Interpretation:

- Problem of archeological interpretation are perhaps most evidence in attempts to reconstruct religious practices.
- These included terracotta figurines of women heavily jeweled , some with elaborate head dresses. These were regarded as mother goddess.
- Some animals such as the one horned animal, often called unicorn.
- In some seals , a figure shown seated cross- legged on a yogic posture, sometimes surrounded by animal.



## Problem of interpretation

- The earliest religious text, Rigveda mentions a god named Rudra.
- Rudra which is name used for Shiva in later Puranic traditions.
- Unlike Shiva , Rudra in the Rigveda neither depicted as Pashupati nor as yogi.


# A proto-Shiva seal



## Timeline 2

### Major Developments in Harappan Archeology :

- **Nineteen Century**
- 1875 Report of Cunningham on Harappan seal
  
- **Twentieth century**
- 1921 M S Vats begins excavation at Harappa
- 1925 Excavation begins at Mohenjodaro
- 1946 R.E.M.Wheeler excavates at Harappa
- 1955 S. R. Rao begins excavation at Lothal
- 1960 B.B. Lal and B K Thaper excavations at Kalibangan
- 1974 M R Mughal explorations in Bahawalpur

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- 1980 A team of German and Italian archeologists begins surface exploration at Mohenjodaro.
  - 1986 American team begins excavations at Harappa
  - 1990 R. S. Bhist begins excavations at Dholvira.

# Home assignment.

- Who was Cunningham? Mention any one account by him to locate early settlements of Harappan Civilization.
- Describe how did the Archeologists classify their finds?
- Describe the contribution Sir John Marshal Director – General of ASI?
- What were the problems of Archeological interpretation in reconstruction of the past?



**Thank you.**