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(Compilations of the Multiple Choice Questions)

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(Indus Valley Civilization)

1. The Harappans ate a wide range of plant and animal products. Consider the following statements with respect to the same.

1. The harappans grew wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and sesame.
2. Fish eating was common for people in the coastal sites of Gujarat.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Harappans ate a wide range of plant and animal products, including fish.
- Archaeologists have been able to reconstruct dietary practices from finds of charred grains and seeds.
- These are studied by archaeobotanists, who are specialists in ancient plant remains.
- Grains found at Harappan sites include wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and sesame.
- Millets are found from sites in Gujarat.
- Finds of rice are relatively rare.

2. Consider the following statements with respect to Dholavira site.

1. It is the only Indus city without citadel. Chanudaro.
2. There is a cascading series of water reservoirs present at this site.
3. Evidence of double burial (male and female together) is found at this site. Lothal
4. Funerary architecture like Tumulus is one of the unique features of this site.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

Answer: D

Explanation

- Dholavira, the archaeological site of a Harappan-era city, received the UNESCO world heritage site tag.
- While Dholavira became the fourth site from Gujarat and 40th from India to make the list, it is the first site of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) in India to get the tag.

- After Mohen-jo-Daro, Ganweriwala and Harappa in Pakistan and Rakhigarhi in Haryana of India, Dholavira is the fifth largest metropolis of IVC.
- The site has a fortified citadel, a middle town and a lower town with walls made of sandstone or limestone instead of mud bricks in many other Harappan sites.
- Other important features
 - ✓ Cascading series of water reservoirs
 - ✓ Outer fortification
 - ✓ Two multi-purpose grounds
 - ✓ Nine gates with unique designs
 - ✓ Funerary architecture featuring tumulus hemispherical structures like the Buddhist Stupas

3. Consider the following statements:

1. During Harappan civilisation, copper was brought from Oman.
2. Carnelian and steatite are some of the stones used for making beads.
3. Exchanges were regulated by a precise system of weights.
4. There is substantial evidence that coins were used to pay for goods obtained from African regions.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only

- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: C

Explanation

- The variety of materials used to make beads is remarkable: stones like carnelian (of a beautiful red colour), jasper, crystal, quartz and steatite; metals like copper, bronze and gold; and shell, faience and terracotta or burnt clay.
- Recent archaeological finds suggest that copper was also probably brought from Oman, on the southeastern tip of the Arabian peninsula.
- Chemical analyses have shown that both the Omani copper and Harappan artefacts have traces of nickel, suggesting a common origin.
- Exchanges were regulated by a precise system of weights, usually made of a stone called chert and generally cubical with no markings.

4. Consider the following pairs: Metals :: Source Region

1. Gold :: Afghanistan
2. Steatite :: South Rajasthan
3. Lead :: Shortughai
4. Silver :: Mesopotamia

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: C

Explanation

Metals	Source Region
Gold	Afghanistan, Iran, Kolar (South India)
Copper	Khetri (Rajasthan), Baluchistan, Oman
Tin	Afghanistan, Iran
Jade	Pamir (Central Asia)
Lead	South India
Silver	Jwar Mines of Rajasthan, Mesopotamia
Steatite	Tapi Chahya (Iran), South Rajasthan

- Harappan seals usually have a line of writing, probably containing the name and title of the owner.
- Scholars have also suggested that the motif (generally an animal) conveyed a meaning to those who could not read.
- Although the script remains undeciphered to date and it bears no resemblance to the Egyptian and Mesopotamian Scripts.

5. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Temples and religious structures are found in Shortughai site.**
- 2. Female terracotta figures are more than that of male figures.**
- 3. Script used by Harappans resembled more with Egyptian scripts.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 3 only

Answer: B

Explanation

- Chief male deity was Pashupati Mahadeva (proto-Shiva) sitting in a yogic pose on a low throne, having 3 faces & 2 thorns.
- Chief female deity was Mother Goddess, depicted in various forms but there are no signs of temples.