

CUET History: Themes in Indian History

Advanced notes • Harappa to the national movement • timeline and practice • CUET UG • History

1. Harappan civilisation

- Harappa was excavated in 1921 (Daya Ram Sahni); Mohenjodaro in 1922 (R. D. Banerji).
- Great Bath — Mohenjodaro; dockyard — Lothal; ploughed field — Kalibangan.
- Planned towns with a citadel and a lower town; standardised baked bricks; drainage system.
- Seals mostly of steatite; the script is still undeciphered. Decline began around 1900 BCE.

2. Kings, inscriptions and texts

- Chandragupta Maurya founded the Mauryan empire around 321 BCE; Kautilya's Arthashastra and Megasthenes' Indica are key sources.
- Ashoka's inscriptions are mostly in Prakrit, in Brahmi script (Kharosthi in the north-west). James Prinsep deciphered Brahmi in 1838.
- Rock Edict XIII describes the Kalinga war. The Prayaga Prashasti of Samudragupta was composed by Harishena.
- The critical edition of the Mahabharata was started in 1919 under V. S. Sukthankar at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune.

3. Buddhism and Jainism

- Buddha's teachings are compiled in the Tipitaka (Vinaya, Sutta, Abhidhamma).
- Mahavira was the 24th tirthankara of Jainism.
- The Sanchi stupa was preserved with the support of the Begums of Bhopal (Shahjehan Begum and Sultan Jehan Begum).

That was a preview.

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