

Harappan people used exquisite beads made of precious and semi-precious stones such as onyx, turquoise, red stone and soapstone (selkhadi). Worksites of bead making factories have been uncovered from Chanhudaro and Lothal. Gold and silver beads have also been found. A pile of jewelry has also been found at Mohenjodaro. It also includes gold beads and other ornaments. Apart from this, silver plates have also been found.

A large number of terracotta (baked clay) sculptures have been found in the Indus Valley Civilization. Clay idols were used as toys. These idols were also made as idols of worship. Other than humans, the figurines of animals and birds, ox, buffalo, sheep, goat, tiger, boar, rhinoceros, bear, peacock, monkey, parrot, duck and pigeon have also been found in Harappan culture. The figurines of human beings are solid while those of animals are hollow inside.

Metal sculptures have been found from Mohenjodaro, Lothal, Kalibanga and Chanhudaro. An idol of a dancer made of bronze has been found from Mohenjodaro, with a necklace around her neck and bangles and bracelets in her hands. A stone statue of a priest has been found in Mohenjodaro. This idol does not have a moustache but has a beard. A shawl has been made on the left shoulder of the idol.

The Harappan civilization was underdeveloped in stone art. Available stone sculptures are made up of alabaster, limestone, soapstone, sandstone and gray stone. All the idols have been found in almost ruined state.

Apart from this, a piece of hand-woven cotton cloth has been found from Mohenjodaro. Signs of woven cloth on clay soil have been found from Alamgir in Uttar Pradesh. Evidence of the use of boats has also been found in Indus Valley Civilization. Limestone industry was located in Balakot and Lothal.

On the basis of the above points, we can say that there was good progress in the development of crafts and arts in the Indus civilization. But when we compare it with the other contemporary cultures, such as Mesopotamia and Egypt, we find many differences in it. In fact, the Mesopotamian culture was superior to Harappan culture in terms of technology and art. There most of the people lived in towns which were built around worship homes on the basis of a certain planned system. Their sculpture was more developed than the Harappan. Apart from this, a clear writing system had also developed there. In conclusion, it appears to be an exaggeration to say that the Harappan culture was superior to other contemporary cultures in terms of the development of arts and crafts.

(b) With a vast expanse under its rule, the Mauryan Empire was arguably one of the largest contemporary empires. Do you agree?

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Approach:

- ❖ Introduce the Mauryan empire
- ❖ Enumerate few basic reasons for the vast expanse of the Mauryan empire.
- ❖ Discuss the details with respect to the geographical extent of the empire.

Answer: The Mauryans established an empire that extended over almost the entire subcontinent and covered parts of the region beyond the northwest.

Reasons for the large expanse:

1. **Military rejig:** The Mauryas were successful because they made calculated military alliance. For example, Chandragupta made a military alliance with Parvataka, a powerful ruler of the Himalayan region and attacked Magadha. This marked a strong foundation for the Mauryas.
2. **Urbanisation:** Urban development led to trade and unification of the regions in the subcontinent, adding to the expansion of the empire.
3. **Centralised bureaucracy:** This also the first time that a bureaucracy was so deeply centralised and efficient which kept the empire intact for a long time.

Expanse of the Mauryan empire:

1. **The extent:** Chandragupta Maurya ruled vast territory extending from Asia Minor to Indus and included Babylonia, Bacteria and Afghanistan in it.
2. **Acquired territories:** Seleucus surrendered four provinces of Herat, Kandhar, Kabul and Baluchistan to Chandragupta Maurya.
3. **In South:** In South, the presence of the Ashokan edicts at Sidhapur, Brahmagiri, Jating -Rameshwar, Maski and other places suggest a significant extent of the empire.