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Subject: - General & Environmental
Studies (GES)
B.COM part III (Group A)

Social life of the people class

Though there was no caste system, still the society was divided into two classes - the rich and the poor.

① Food

The people were both vegetarians and non-vegetarians. They cultivated wheat, barley and rice. The diet of the people consisted of fruits, vegetables, fish, milk and meat of animals, mutton and poultry.

② Dress

The dress of men and women consisted of two pieces of cloth - one resembling a dhoti, covering the lower part and the other worn over the left shoulder and under the right arm. Men had long hair designed differently. Women wore

a bun-shaped head dress, covering their hair. The discovery of a large number of spindles showed that they knew sewing and spinning. Similarly, by the discovery of needles and buttons the people of this age knew the art of stitching.

③ Ornaments

Both men and women wore ornaments of gold, silver, copper and other metals; men wore necklaces, finger rings and armlets of various designs and shapes. The women wore a head-dress, earrings, bangles, girdles, braceletts and anklets.

④ Cosmetics

Materials made of ivory and metal for holding applying cosmetics prove that they knew the use of face paint and collyrium. Bronze oval mirrors, ivory combs of various shapes, even small dressing tables, have been found at Mohan-jo-daro and other sites. Toilet jars, discovered at Mohan-jo-daro, show that women took interest in cosmetics.

⑤ Furniture and utensils

The beautifully painted pottery, numerous vessels for the kitchen, chairs, beds made of wood, lamps of different materials, toys for

children, Marbles, balls and dice, indicate that
People Manufactured in those days.

Economic life

Agriculture was the main occupation of the Indus valley people. Crops such as wheat, barley, peas, bananas were raised.

① Domestication of animals

The Indus valley people domesticated animals like oxen, pigs, buffaloes, goats and sheep, camels and asses were used as means of transport. Dogs and cats were kept as pets. The humped bull was considered a great asset in the farming community.

② Crafts

People used to spin and weave. Goldsmiths made jewellery of gold, silver and precious stones, people were engaged in brick-laying and in the art of sculpture. The making of seals was developed during the period. Bronze-smiths made various types of weapons and tools such as knives, spears, saws and axes which were used in daily life.

③ Trade

Traders carried on trade in the country as well as with other countries like Egypt, Babylon and Afghanistan. The people of the Indus valley used weights and measures in their business transactions. They used 16 and its multiples 64, 160 and 320, in measurement and weight.

④ Religious life.

The numerous seals and figurines discovered point out to the religious beliefs of the Indus valley people. They worshipped the Mother Goddess, Pashupati or the Lord Shiva, the Trees. They had faith in magic, charms, sacrifices and life after death.