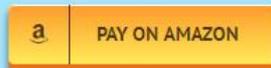


January 13th, 2019 Sample Current Affairs

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1. Harappa grave of ancient 'couple' reveals secrets of Marriage

- What are the key takeaways of the excavation?
- Was marriage legally accepted in Harappan society?
- What does this couple grave indicate about Relationship and economic status of Harappans?
- What types of graves did the researchers find in Harappan sites?

GS paper 1 (Art and culture)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

ANJALI

MARAR. (2019, January , 13). What a Harappan grave says about marriage. Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-a-harappan-grave-says-about-marriage-5531050/>

What is the context about?

- First anthropologically confirmed joint burial of a couple has been excavated by a team of Indian and South Korean researchers in a Harappan cemetery.
- The 'couple's grave' was found in the Harappan settlements excavated at Rakhigarhi in Haryana, some 150km northwest of Delhi

- ❑ Archaeologists say that the evidence points to the fact that the couple was buried simultaneously or about at the same time following their deaths which could have occurred about 4,700 years ago.

What are the key takeaways of the excavation?

- ❑ Except for the foot bones, the two skeletons have been found almost entirely intact.
- ❑ Of the 62 graves discovered in Rakhigarhi, only this one had more than one skeleton — and of individuals of the opposite sex, together.
- ❑ The researchers believe the couple was buried at almost the same time, perhaps even together, following their deaths which could have occurred about 4,700 years ago.
- ❑ They believe the male was around 38 years old at the time of his death, while the female was around 25.
- ❑ Most archaeological recoveries show individuals were buried separately in Harappan times.
- ❑ Joint graves have been very rare, and almost none have been found containing a couple.

Was marriage legally accepted in Harappan society?

- ❑ The Harappan people were generally known to strictly adhere to only legal relations, and the fact that the couple were buried in the same pit together could be an indication of societal acceptance of their relationship.

- The researchers were inclined to believe that they could have been married which would in turn suggest the possibility that the institution of marriage originated in the Harappan civilization.
- Excavations of cemeteries so far have found that graves of women were positioned in the centre of the cemetery, and surrounded with bangles, jewellery, and other ornaments.
- This could mean that the Harappan society gave a higher status to women.

What does this couple grave indicate about Relationship and economic status of Harappans?

Relationship Status

- In the present case the skeletal remains were found in a supine position (lying face upwards) with arms and legs extended.
- The head of the male was found facing towards the female's, possibly indicating an intimate relationship.

Economic Status

- Remains of pots and stone-bead jewellery found close to the burial site of the couple point to the possibility of a ceremonial burial with rituals.
- These remains also suggest they belonged to a middle-class family.

What types of graves did the researchers find in Harappan sites?

- Broadly, three types of graves have been discovered at Harappan sites. In the most common type, known as the primary grave, archaeologists have found full-body remains of the person placed inside a pit.
- Secondary pits were those that contained partial remains of a few bones placed in the pit.
- In the third type of the grave, skeletal remains were completely missing in the burial pit. Instead, there were some accessories, presumably the belongings of the deceased person.