

## New Evidence of Harappan Culture in Vijaynagar Tehsil, Sri Ganganagar District, Rajasthan

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### Abstract

Present paper discusses the exploration of Harappan sites in Vijaynagar tehsil, Sri Ganganagar District, Rajasthan. The earlier surveys carried out by previous scholars were not systematic; most of surveys were focused along with the bed of river lost Sarswati. For the first time the systematic village-to-village survey was carried out present researcher. During the explorations 27 sites were explored. Except Chak- IKPM-II, Chak-15GB-III, Chak- 2 DM and Chak-7 APM most of the sites were placed on the archaeological map for the first time. Exploration yielded the Hakra ware culture, Early Harappan, Mature Harappan and Late Harappan culture remains from this region. During the exploration many various shape and type of pottery and antiquity chert, faience, bangle etc. are collected on surface. The middle Sarswati basin is one of the most important of the various urban centers of the Indus Valley Civilization and the evidence from this basin has provided significant information for our understanding of the various cultures.

**Keywords:** Chart, Harappan, Chak, Sarswati

### Introduction

The Vijaynagar is a tehsil headquarter of Sri Ganganagar district in Rajasthan state and situated 2 km north of bank on present dried-up lost Sarswati River. It touches and it Raisinghnagar tehsil in the north. The Suratgarh tehsil in east and Bikaner district in south. To the west of Anupgarh tehsil, study area shares boundary. Sri Bijay Nagar is old name related to prince of Bikaner State and in old time the center of tax collector's office. In this region 27 sites showing on map, 10 sites are reported first time. The tehsil is very rich in archaeological wealth, culture ranging from the Hakra ware to the Historical culture. Lt. Col. James Todd (1882), during 1916-19, L.P. Tessatori, conducted historical survey of Rajputana and take the trail trench at Rer. Sir Aurel Stein explored the area between Fort Derawar (Bahawalpur, Pakistan) and Hanumangarh district Rajasthan. Stein stated that there were no prehistoric mounds with pottery of Chalcolithic period, although he explored Kalibangan and gave records. Stein (1942: 173-182) writes:

*“...offer interest as marking an extensive site used mainly for burnt bricks and pottery. There composite almost entirely of kiln remains. The painted sherds found among them leave no doubt the kiln having been worked down to Kushana period”.*

Before independent, In India A. Ghosh (1952:37-45), explore dried Lost Sarswati river basin, Anupgarh to Hanumangarh and Sirsa, Haryana and placed 25 sites different culture on the archaeological map. After A. Ghosh, many scholars and archaeologists as like Katy Frenchman Dalal (1972) of Deccan College, Pune, Manmohan Kumar and Vivek Dangi (2010) of M.D. University, Rohtak explore this region, R.C. Thakran, V.S. Shinde, C.S. Singh, Asif Mohi Ud Din (2021), and focus only dried up Lost Sarswati River. Mandeep (2012) was conduct the village-to-village archaeological survey with present researcher participated the exploration during his M.Phil, A.I.H Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

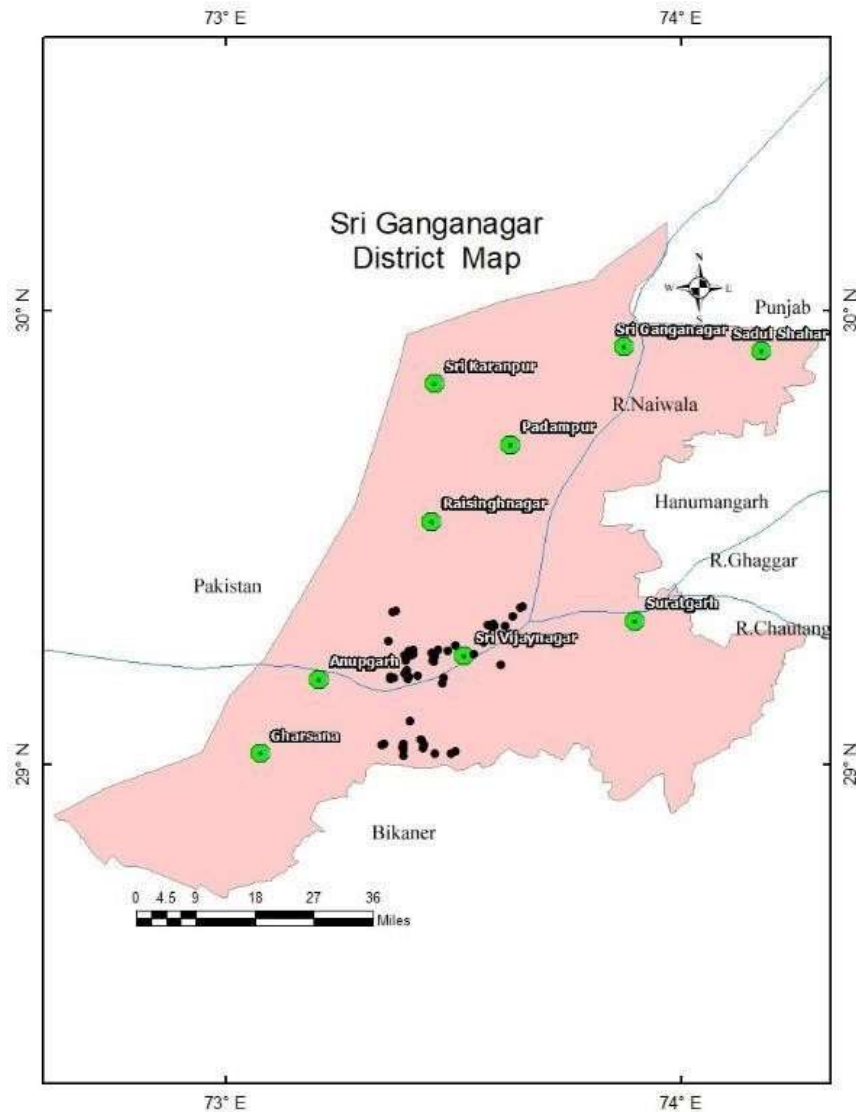
### **Geological Framework**

Tehsil Vijaynagar is view of geographical divided in the three join A) Northern part, low sand dune area, B) Middle Area, in dried-up bed of lost Sarswati River 5-7 km wide, C) Southern part, sandy area high around 10-15 m. The whole tehsil is plain with thick alluvium and wind-blown sand. It shows a general slope towards the south-west direction. In general, the sand dunes are 6 to 8m high, except in the south part where they are more intensely developed being sometimes 10 to 15m high. No hill exists in the tehsil. The height varies between 168 m and 227 m above the mean sea level (District Census Handbook 2011). In this area, the lost Sarswati River played an important role in attracting the early farming communities. It originates in the Sirmur hills and passing through Haryana it enters Rajasthan. Following through Hanumangrah, it enters the Sri Ganganagar district, a few kilometers north-east of Suratgarh and it continues further westwards below Fort Abbas, the Cholistan region of Pakistan, where it is called as Hakra or Wahind. After entering Sindh, it moves parallel to the Indus River and anciently flowed into the Rann of Kachchh. Soils play an important role in agricultural developments and planning of a region. The area under the present study consists of alluvial plain, flood plain and desert plain soils with widespread sandy, barren or well cultivated fields, sand dunes of varying heights and well-leveled plains for cultivation. Aeolian soils were formed by the deposition of fine loamy sand by wind and water erosion in the past. These soils are deep with sand to loamy fine sandy soil texture. The mainly two types soil of the study area. Desert soil, this type of soil is found in the entire study area, except the flood plain of River lost Sarswati. This soil contains a high percentage of Ph value (Singh, R.L. 1995:57). Alluvial soil, this type of soil is mainly found along the flood plain of the river lost Sarswati. In general, it has a red colour but is deficient in lime, phosphoric acid and humus. This type of soil is believed to be good for cultivation (Singh, R.L. 1995:57).

### **Methodology**

A GPD handset (Garmin, GPS map 60CSx) was used to record correct co-ordinates and photography (Canon D700) of sites. The archaeological remains consist of the pottery collected from sites surface, stone objects, metal objects and others antiquities. The estimation about the size of sites was made on the basis of the area, up to which cultural deposits were found and not on the basis of the distribution of the pottery. Cultural materials discovered from the survey and housed at different museums were also analyzed and studied. The available published literatures, research paper and survey reports were examined. Mostly sites are now disturbed due cultivation and soil lifting activity by heavy machinery as like bulldozers, JCB machines and Tractors.

**Map: 1** Explored sites of Vijaynagar Tehsil, District Sri Ganganagar.



### Bilochia

Village Bilochia is located about 7.5 km north of Vijaynagar town. This village is surrounded by high sand dunes. An approach road from Vijaynagar – Anupgarh state highway leads to the village. There are four archaeological sites in the revenue area of the village.

#### 1. Bilochia- I (29 14'38.66N 73 27'05.50E)

About 200 m south-west of village, site is *Bilochia-I* located and about 7.5 km north of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Brani* and ownership of this land is under jurisdiction of government. The site is situated on sandy area and undisturbed. It spreads over an area about 5 ha and high of one m from the surrounding ground level. Pot sherds of Late Harappan period were found during exploration.

#### 2. Bilochia- III (29 14'13.60N 73 27'25.32E)

The site is situated about 500 m south of village *Bilochia* and 5.5 km north to the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Tibba*. The site is on sandy area and it is undisturbed site. It spreads an area 6 ha and one m height from surrounding ground level. The owner of the land is *Sh. Rajaram Bisnoi*. During the exploration here researcher found Early Harappan and Historical ceramic industry.

3. Chak- 11 GB (29 18'12.35N 73 36'42.38E)

*Chak- 11 GB* site is situated about one km north of village and 12 km, north-east of the *Vijaynagar* tehsil. A cart track road from village *Chak- 11 GB* leads to the site. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is in alluvial plain with size is about 2.5 ha and height of one m from the ground level. The owner of the land is *Sh. Navdeep Singh s/o Amarjit Singh* where this site is situated and it is partly disturbed. During the exploration researcher the Hakra ware, Early Harappan (PL.-4.3, PL.-6.1), Mature Harappan (PL.-7.2) and late Harappan (PL.-10.2,4) (PL.-11.3) (PL.-13.2)(PL.-15.1) ceramic industry found here.(11 GB by A.Ghos, pp-91, as chak-11)

4. Chak- 14 GM (29 03'19.20N 73 25'40.80E)

*Chak- 14 GM* site is situated about 3 km, north of village *Gomawali* and 35 km, south-east of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is on sandy area with size is about 2 ha and high of one m from the ground level. The owner of this land is *Sh. Nandram Kichara s/o Krishan Kihara's* and it is partly disturbed. Here researcher found Hakra ware (PL.-1.2) ceramic industry.

Chak- 17 BLD

*Chak-17 BLD* is located about 22 km, west of *Vijaynagar* tehsil headquarter. An approach road from *Suratgarh – Anupgarh* state highway leads to the village. In the revenue area of the village, three archaeological sites are located.

5. Chak- 17 BLD-I (29 11'22.60N 73 22'00.60E)

*Chak-17 BLD-I* site is situated about 200 m, south of village *Ramsinghnagar* and 22 km, West of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Yadav ki Dani*. The site is on sandy area with size is 6 ha and at one m high from the surroundings. An approach road from village *Ramsinghnagar* leads to the site. The site is locally known as *Yadav ki Dani* and it is highly disturbed site due to cultivation. Here researcher found late Harappa ceramic industry during exploration.

6. Chak- 17 BLD-II (29 11'17.46N 73 21'35.49E)

*Chak-17 BLD-II* site is situated about 600 m, south-west of village *Ramsinghnagar* and 23 km, west of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is on sandy area with size is 13.4 ha and at 3 m high from the surrounding ground level. A cart track road from village leads to the site. The ownership of this land is under revenue jurisdiction of government and it is undisturbed site. Here researcher found Hakra ware (PL.-2.6,7,8,9,10,11), Early Harappan, Mature Harappan and Late Harappan (PL.11.1, PL.-13.1)(PL.-14.2) (PL.-15.2) (PL.-16) ceramic industry during exploration.

7. Chak- 17 BLD-III (29 11'34.62N 73 21'34.41E)

The site is situated about 500 m, west of village *Ramsinghnagar* and 24 km, west of the *Vijaynagar* tehsil headquarter. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is on sandy area with size is about one ha and is about 5 m high from the surrounding ground level. The ownership of this land is under revenue area of village and undisturbed site. Here researcher found Mature Harappan pottery.

Chak- 2 DM

*Chak-2 DM* is located about 38 km, south-west of *Vijaynagar* tehsil headquarter and about 130 km south of *Sri Ganganagar* district headquarter. An approach road from *Suratgarh – Anupgarh* state highway leads to the village. In this, area two archaeological sites are situated.

8. Chak- 2 DM-1 (29 02'39.80N 73 20'49.90E)

*Chak-2 DM-I* site is situated about 100 m, east of Village *Dhandhra* and 38 km, southwest of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is on sandy area with size is about 5 ha and is about one m high from the surrounding ground level. The owner of this land is *Girdas Singh s/o Kamar Sahab Bajigar* and highly disturbed under cultivation. Here researcher found late Harappan ceramic industry during exploration.

9. Chak- 2 DM-2 (29 02'31.10N 73 20'33.30E)

The site is situated about 100 m, south-east of Village *Dhandhra* and 37 km, south-west to the *Vijaynagar* Tehsil

headquarter. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is on sandy area with size is 1.5 ha and is about 3 m high from the surrounding ground level. The ownership of this is land under revenue jurisdiction of Government and undisturbed area. During the archaeological exploration researcher found here Harka and Early Harappan ceramic industry.

**10. Chak- 23 GB (29 16'08.20N 73 33'55.70E)**

The *Chak-23 GB* is situated about 6 km, east to the *Vijaynagar* tehsil which whole area occupied by village. An approach road from *Vijaynagar* leads to the site. The site is locally known as *Jaurinwala Ther*. The site is in alluvial plan of dry bed of Lost Sarswati River with size is 4 ha and is about 4 m high from surrounding field level, is most of part disturbed. Here researcher found Early Harappan, Mature Harappan (PL.-8.1) and Late Harappan (PL.-17) ceramic industry during the exploration. (*Chak-23 GB* by A. Ghosh, pp-91)

**11. Chak- 25 GB (29 14'29.90N 73 32'33.50E)**

*Chak- 25 GB* site is situated about 3 km, south to the *Vijaynagar* town whole area occupied by village settlement. The site is locally known as *Mathula Tibba*. The site is in alluvial plan area with size is 4 ha and about 4 m high from the surrounding field level, is most of part disturbed. The researcher found here Early Harappan (PL.-3.4, 5, PL.-6.4), Mature Harappan and Late Harappan (PL.-10.4) (PL.-14.1) ceramic industry during the exploration. The site is reported as *Mathula Tibba* by L.P. Tessatori. (25 GB-A by (*Mathula Tibba* by Tessatori and A. Stein, A. Ghosh, pp-91)

**12. Chak- 33 GB (29 15'00.80N 73 29'13.11E)**

*Chak- 33 GB* site is situated about 100 m, south of village and 5 km, north-west of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is on sandy area with size is 3ha and high at ground level. The owner of this land is *Santi s/o Ashok Baghel* (Grains Store) and highly disturbed under cultivation. An approach road from *Suratgarh - Anupgarh* state highway leads to the site. The researcher found here Mature Harappan ceramic industry during the exploration. The site is reported as BLC-II-A by A. Ghosh. (BLC-II-A by A. Ghosh, pp-1383)

**13. Chak- 4 JST (29 20'39.97N 73 38'43.00E)**

*Chak-4 JST* site is situated about 500 m, west of village *Jaitsar* and 24 km, north-east of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. A cart track road from village *Jaitsar* leads to the site. The site is in alluvial plain area with size is around 2 ha and is about 4m high from the surrounding field level. The owner of this land is *Dulichand Jhakhar s/o Lalchand Jhakhar* and partly disturbed under cultivation. Here researcher found Harka ware, Early Harappan (PL.-4.1, PL.-6.5), Mature Harappan (PL.-7.1, PL.-9) ceramic industry, faience (PL.-20), terracotta (PL.-22) and shell bangle (PL.-21). The site is reported as Bugian by A. Ghosh. (A. Ghosh, 1989:86 as Bugian)

**Chak- 43 GB**

*Chak-43 GB* is located about 9 km, south-west of the *Vijaynagar* tehsil headquarter. An approach road from *Vijaynagar* town leads to the *Chak-43 GB*. In this village boundary, two ancient archaeological sites are located here.

**14. Chak- 43 GB-I (29 11'22.50N 73 28'35.90E)**

*Chak-43 GB-I* is situated about 9 km, south-west of the *Vijaynagar* town whole site occupied by village. The site is locally known as *Mallawati Ther* or *Kharuwala Ther* and most of part is disturbed. The site is in alluvial plain area of dried-up bed of Lost Sarswati River with size is 7 ha and is about 3 m high from the surrounding field level. Here researcher found Early Harappan (PL.-3.6), Mature Harappan and Late Harappan (PL.-12) ceramic industry during the exploration. (43 GB-I-A by (*Mallawati Ther* by Tessatori) A. Ghosh, pp91, Stain called *Kharuwala Ther* pp-36).

**15. Chak- 43 GB-2 (29 10'39.51N 73 28'26.64E)**

The site is situated about 2 km, south of village and 11 km, south-west of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Mala Tibba*. The site is on sandy area with size is 2 ha, is about 3 m high from the surrounding ground

level and the site is highly disturbed under cultivation. Here researcher found Early Harappan and Mature Harappan ceramic industry during the exploration. The site is reported as MTS-I by L.P. Tessatori. (MTS-I by Tessatori) (A. Ghosh, pp-272)

16. Chak- 48 GB (Rer)

The site is situated about 2 km, south of village and 14 km, west to the *Vijaynagar* tehsilheadquarter. The site is locally known as *Their, Rer or Rera*. The site is in alluvial plain area with size about 3 ha and 5 m high from the surrounding field level. The ownership of this land is under *Vakph Board* and surface is disturbed by Graveyard. Here researcher found Early Harappa (PL.-5.1,2,), PGW (PL.-20.3,11), NBPW, Historical and Medieval pottery during the exploration. (48 GB (Rer)-A by (Rer Arul Stein) and (Rira Tessatori) A. Ghosh, pp-375).

The excavation at Rer start dated 16-11-1950 and during the excavation one jar PGW and Kushana coins are founding.

Layer (1) : loose top soil.

Layer (2) : Loose dirty soil.

Layer (3) : Hard compact clay

Layer (4) : Loose sandy soil

Layer (5) : Hard compact clay, evidently laid to level the sloping top. Layer Layer (6) : Thick deposit of ashes and burnt material with fairly large amount of pottery. The fall of the burnt house was from the south to the north as the layer prominently sloped in that direction.

17. Chak- 48 GB-B (29 11'44.00N 73 25'09.80E)

The site is situated about 3 km, west of village and 12 km, west of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is in alluvial plain area with size is about one ha and is about 2 m high from the surrounding ground level. An approach road from *Anupgarh-Suratgarh* state highway leads to the site. The owner of this land is *lakhvinder Singh s/o Balwant Singh* and most of part is disturbed. Here researcher found Early Harappan, Mature Harappan and Late Harappan ceramic industry during the exploration. The site is reported as Chak-50 by A. Ghosh. (A. Ghosh, pp-91, as chak-50)

18. Chak- 5 GB-B (29 19'36.80N 73 37'43.73E)

*Chak-5 GB-B* site is situated about 100 m, west of *Dhigampu* and 10 km, east of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is in sandy area with size is about one ha and is about 2 m high from the surroundings. The owner of this land is *Malkit Singh s/o Bhagwan Singh* and most of part highly disturbed is this site due to under cultivation. A cart track road from village *Dhigampur* leads to the site. The researcher found here Early Harappan ceramic industry during exploration. (5 GB-B A. Ghosh, pp-139)

19. Chak- 5 GM-1 (29 01'21.80N 73 27'28.00E)

*Chak-5GM-1* site is situated about 5 km, west of village *Dhigampur* and 37 km, south of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Barani*. A cart track road from village *Dhigampur* leads to the site. The site is on sandy area with size is about one ha and high about 2 m from the surrounding field level. The owner of this land is *Babulal s/o Daman Barani* and mostly part is disturbed due to under cultivation. Here researcher found Hakra ware pot-sherds during the exploration.

20. Chak- 9 GM (29 02'43.20N 73 23'19.90E)

*Chak-9 GM* site is situated about 2 km, north of village and 42 km, south of the *Vijaynagar* tehsil headquarter. The site is locally known as *Tibba*. The site is on sandy area with size is about 2 ha and high about 7 m from the surrounding field level. A cart track road from *Gharsan-Gomawali* district highway leads to the site. The ownership of this land is under revenue jurisdiction of village and undisturbed site. Here researcher found Hakra ware ceramic industry during the exploration.

Chak-I KPM

*Chak-I KPM* is located distance about 40 km, south of *Vijaynagar* tehsil headquarter. A cart track road from *Gomawali- Gharsan* approach road leads to the site. In this village area boundary, three archaeological sites are

situated here.

**21. Chak- I KPM-I (29 01'05.90N 73 23'19.20E)**

*Chak-I KPM-I* site is situated about 5 km, west of village *Gomawali* and 40 km, south of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is on sandy area 5 ha and high about one m high from the surrounding field level. The owner of this land is *Jaipal Bambhu s/o Khubram* and partly disturbed due to cultivation. Here researcher found Harka pottery and one sandstone pestle (PL.-19) during the exploration.

**22. Chak- I KPM-II (29 01'58.30N 73 23'18.80E)**

The site is situated about 4.5 km, west of village *Gomawali* and 39 km, south of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is on sandy area with size is about one ha and high about 4 m from the surrounding field level. The owner of this land is *Balram s/o/ Udaram* and partly disturbed. During the archaeological exploration researcher found here Harka Ware (PL.-1.1), Early Harappan, Late Harappa (PL.-1.1.2) ceramic industry and antiquities of chert blade (PL.-18).

**23. Chak- I KPM-III (29 02'15.00N 73 23'13.90E)**

The site is situated about 4 km, west of *Gomawali* and 38 km, south of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is in alluvial plain area with size is about 2 ha and is about one m high from the surrounding field level. The owner of this land is *Teja Singh*.

**24. Chak-7 APM (29 14'22.67N 73 23'28.76E)**

The site is situated distance about 3 km, south of village *Dabjal* and 25 km, north-west of the tehsil *Vijaynagar*. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. A cart track road from village leads to the site. The site is on sandy area size around 3 ha and is about 2 m high from the surrounding field level. The owner of this land is *Madan Khichara s/o Rajiram* and partly disturbed. Here researcher found Early Harappa and Mature Harappan ceramic industry during the exploration.

**25. Gomawali (29 02'37.80N 73 25'59.60E)**

The site is situated about 100 m, west of village *Gomawali* and about 37 km, south of the *Vijaynagar* town. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is on sandy area. The owner of this land is *Chanduram s/o Pataram* which size is about one ha, is about one m high from the surrounding ground level and site is highly disturbed under due to cultivation. The Researcher found here Harka Ware and Early Harappan ceramic industry during the archaeological exploration.

**26. Jaitser (29 20'48.58N 73 39'01.55E)**

The site is situated about 100 m, east of Village *Jaitser* and is about 23 km, east of the *Vijaynagar* tehsil headquarter. An approach road from *Anupgarh- Suratgarh* state highway leads to the village. The site is locally known as *Thedi*. The site is in alluvial plain area with size around one ha and high at ground level. The owner of this land is *Jile Singh s/o Maman Ram* and highly disturbed under due to cultivation. Here researcher found Mature Harappa pottery. (A. Ghosh, pp-184)

**27. Purani Kupli (29 05'41.20N 73 24'12.00E)**

The site is situated about one km, south of Village *Kupali* and is about 27 km, south-west of the *Vijaynagar* tehsil headquarter. The site is locally known as *Purani Kupli*. The site is on sandy area with size is around 7 ha and is about 2 m high from the surrounding ground level. The ownership of this land is under jurisdiction of village and partly disturbed. Here researcher found Early Harappan pottery during the exploration.

**Pre-Harappan Pottery**

The earliest group of the ceramic industry of this region, belong to the Pre-Harappan pottery. This pottery of the region is genetically akin to 'Hakra Ware'. Rafique Mughal reported this type of the pottery from Cholistan for the first time (Mughal 1982:90). The Hakra Ware assemblage represents a crucial period, often associated with the early and formative stages of the Harappan civilization. The regions of the Indus and the Saraswati rivers

have been explored by many scholars in Context of Hakra ware culture. Hakra culture can be divided into four regional traditions viz. Cholistan Hakra phase in Cholistan domain, Northern Hakra phase of Harappa Domain in Punjab province and Sindhi Hakra phase in Sindh Domain of Sindh Province in Pakistan respectively and the Eastern Hakra phase in the Eastern domain of India. These regional traditions highlight the geographical and cultural diversity within the Hakra culture, demonstrating the spread and influence of the early phases of the Indus Valley Civilization across different regions. In India this type of pottery was firstly reported from Kunal as the pottery of the earliest settlers (Khatri and Acharya 1995:84). The evidence of Hakra ware culture at the site of Chak 14GM, Chak 17BLD II, Chak 4 JST, Chak 5 GM1 and Chak 9 GM indicate the expansion of Hakra ware culture up to this area. Amarendra Nath also reported the same type of pottery from Rakhigarhi (Nath 2001) and from Bhirrana these types of sherds founding association with dwelling pits (Rao et al. 2005; 2006)

Mughal classified the Hakra pottery into several classes viz. mud applique wares, incised ware, black slipped ware, black burnished ware and buff ware (Mughal 1997: 63-67) Rao categorized the ceramics recovered from the lowest level at Bhirrana into eight groups i.e. Mud Appliqué ware, Incised ware, Tan Slipped/Chocolate Slipped ware, Black Burnished ware, Brown or buff ware, bi-chrome ware, and Black-on-Red ware (Rao et al. 2004-05: 612). Shinde et al. (2008: 123-130) has classified Pre-Harappan pottery recovered from Girawad into seven classes, i.e. mud appliqué ware, chocolate/black slipped ware, red ware, incised ware grooved ware, periano reserve slip ware and grey ware. The classification in the studies of Hakra pottery might be some slight differences due to the local influences. Recently this ceramic industry has been studied in detailed and named it Ghaggar-Hakra pottery, showing some variations in the pottery of Cholistan region, northern Rajasthan and Haryana. During exploration, 10 sites have yielded pottery of the Ghaggar-Hakra traditions. In the region, mud appliqué, red ware, incised ware, bi-chrome ware and black burnished or grey ware are common.

Early Harappan pottery

The ceramic differences have led archaeologists to classify Early Harappan cultures into four categories: Kot Diji, Sothi-Siswal, Amri-Nal and Damb Sadaat (Possehl, 2002). The second group of pottery in the study area belongs to the Early Harappan period, which has predominantly the Sothi-Siswal ceramic tradition. During exploration many sites of Early Harappan period were identified. The analysis of the Early Harappan pottery in the study area indicates its generic developments from the Pre-Harappan pottery. In this ceramic tradition, the most dominating pottery type/ware is chocolate/black slipped ware, and other

features of Pre-Harappan pottery like incised decoration, bi-chrome ware, grey ware, etc. also continues in this period. A. Ghosh was the first scholar who pointed out the regional divergence in the ceramics of this area (Ghosh, A 1987:101), and designated it as the Sothi ware. For the first time this type of pottery was found in the stratigraphical context at Kalibanga. B.K. Thapar classified it into six fabrics; A, B, C, D, E and F (IAR 1962-63:20-23). According to Thapar, Fabric A' is dull red ware having red to pink colour in section and black paintings on surface. Most importantly, the pottery of this fabric is made on slow wheels having irregular striation marks. Fabric B' is red slipped pottery which is rusticated up to the shoulder with clayey solution mixed with sand and has black horizontal bands on the slipped portion. Fabric C is again red on slipped pottery with fine and smooth textured surface in shades of red and plum or purple red colour with carefully executed paintings in black colour. Fabric D' is pottery with thick sturdy section and red slipped surface. The main distinguishing feature of Fabric D is incised designs on the interior as well the external surface. The shapes of this fabric are also peculiar, heavy jars, basins and troughs. Fabric E comprises vessels with buff or reddish buff slip painted in black and sometimes in white pigment. Fabric F consists of grey pottery painted in both, black and white. J.S Nigam reclassified the ceramic assemblage of the early Harappans level of Kalibangan broadly into three major wares viz. red, buff, and grey. He included Thapar's Fabrics B, C and D in the category of the red ware. According to him, the wares share the mode of manufacturing, decorations and some popular shapes. The red ware included bowl with vertical, internally bevelled, everted, out-turned or out-curved, thickened rims and convex or tapering profiles, with a ring pedestal base, and vases of various size with out-turned and out-curved rims. The shapes in buff ware were limited to chalice in a few vases. The paintings are rendered in black, occasionally using white pigment also. The grey ware consists of bowls with vertical rim and vases with flaring mouth. Although painted pottery is rare, some examples show black and white paintings (Nigam, J.S. 1996:67). Katy Frenchman prefers to use

terminology as 'Sothi Culture' for the Early Harappan cultural complex present at Sothi, Kalibangan, Binjor, etc. She has classified the Sothi pottery as redware, plain and painted black incised red ware, black and red slipped incised red ware, ridgedware, black and white painted red ware, incised and red painted buff ware, black slipped redware and plain and black slipped red ware (Frenchman 1972:159-189). Suraj Bhan carried out explorations in Haryana between 1967 and 1970 and conducted small-scale excavations at Mitathal and Siswal. (Suraj Bhan 1972:315). He brought to light a new ceramic industry parallel to Kalibangan-I ware, and he designated it as Siswal ware. (Suraj Bhan, 1975:103-109). The pottery collected and studied from the present study area shows the presence of Early Harappan culture. Some scholars use various term for these ceramic traditions viz. Sothi-Siswal ware, Kalibangan-I ware, Siswal-A ware, and Sothi-Siswal. In order to see the regional variation in the Early Harappan ceramics, the present researcher carried out an extensive exploration in the study area and in the adjoining areas. The ceramics recovered from the Early Harappan sites are usually made using the slow wheel; the rim and neck portion are finished by smoothening with rotation whereas the body portion is finished without rotation as striations and finger impressions of smoothening and scraping are observed on the surface in an irregular way. Usually, the wall of the pottery has an uneven thickness. The ring base loop-handled pots are quite common.

The shapes represented in these wares are vases, bowls, basins and handled pots. There common geometric designs are hatched triangles, circles, and criss-cross lines. In the Case of bowls and basins, the inner surface is decorated with comb-incised parallel grooves, either straight or wavy or criss-cross. A few sherds decorated with reserved slip technique were also found in the area and are included in the study. In this technique, after painting the body of the vase with a black slip, only the slip is incised in wavy way by a comb-like tool. During exploration, 17 sites Bilochia-III, Chak-11GB, Chak-17BLD-II, Chak-2 DM-2, Chak-23 GB, Chak-25GB, Chak- 4JST, Chak-43 GB-I, Chak-43 GB-2, Chak-48 GB (Rer), Chak-48 GB-B, Chak- 5 GB-B, Chak- I KPM-III, Chak-7 APM, Gomawali, Purani Kupli etc. have yielded pottery of the early Harappans. Chak-43 GB-2, 5 GB-B are the sites where Early Harappan ceramic industry has found.

#### Mature Harappan Pottery

The third group of ceramic industry in the region belongs to the classical Harappan pottery. The standard specimens for the identification are adopted from Harappa in western Punjab (Vats 1940; Wheeler 1947; Jenkins 1994, 1997, 2000) and Mohenjo-Daro in Sind Marshall 1931; Mackey 1938; Dales and Kenoyer 1986) in addition to the published data from Nausharo periods II and III. (Quivron 1994, 1997, 2000). The pottery dominates at the above-mentioned sites providing good specimens for identification and classification of the Harappan pottery. There are some regional variations in the form, manufacturing technique in assemblage of the Harappan pottery. The basic elements can be identified as a single style which is called the classical Harappan pottery or in more exactly word Harappan ceramic style. The Harappan pottery has generally a red surface and is wheel-turned, although handmade specimens are also present. The clay is well levigated. Both smoothening and scraping techniques were used for surface finishing; scraping or trimming with fast rotation leaves sharp and subtle striation marks on the surface. Paintings in black pigment are invariably arranged in horizontal registers on a carefully-prepared red-slipped ground. The designs are horizontal bands, dots, arch, linear and geometrical patterns, diamond or chess-board pattern, dividing the panel into a number of compartments in which human Figs, birds, fish, animals and trees design are depicted. Fish-scales, loops, chain patterns, intersecting circles are also the main features of this pottery. During exploration, Chak-11 GB ci, Chak-17 BLD-(II), (III), e Chak-23 GB, Chak- 25 GB, Chak- 33 GB, Chak- 4 JST, Chak- 43 GB-I, Chak- 43 GB-2, Chak- 48 GB-B, Chak-7 APM, Jaitser etc. are 17 sites yielded pottery of the Mature Harappan phase. Chak 43GB-2 and Chak-7 APM are the ceramic industry.

#### Late Harappan Pottery

In the upper Indus Valley, the Late Harappan Period is recognized by a group of pottery found with the burials of Cemetery called 'H' at Harappa and on the uppermost occupation levels of Harappan Mound AB, at the site of Chak Purbane Syal, and at 50 sites in Cholistan (Mughal 1980; 1982; 1984: 1990a; 1990b and 1990c). In eastern Punjab, northern Rajasthan, Haryana and the western Uttar Pradesh (India), a number of archaeologists (Suraj Bhan 1975; Shaffer 1986; Dikshit 1982, 1984; Joshi 1978; Francefort 1985) have brought to light more than one

thousand sites (Joshi et al. 1984). In India, a total of 563 sites have been assigned to the Late Harappan Period, though it is not clear if all the sites represent assemblages precisely comparable to those of Harappa and Cholistan. The fourth group of the ceramic industry in the region is the Late Harappan pottery. The standard specimens for the identification are adopted from Mitathal and Bhagwanpura (SurajBhan 1975; Joshi, J.P. 1993). The term 'Late Harappan period', in comparison to the early and middle stages of development of the Harappan culture, implies a stage of decline and decay from the viewpoint of the cyclic concept of cultural developments. The pottery of the Late Harappan period is of medium fabric, slightly inferior in levigation in comparison of the classical Harappan period. It is predominantly wheel-thrown and a tendency towards thicker and sturdier vessels can be clearly discerned. It is treated with light or dull red slip, and the bright slip of the classical Harappan pottery are absent. Some sherds of Late Harappan pottery recovered during survey from 9 site i.e. Bilochia-I, Chak-11 GB, Chak- 17BLD- (I), (II), Chak-2 DM-I, Chak-23 GB, Chak-43 GB-I, Chak- 48 GB-B, Chak- I KPM- II etc. Chak- 11 GB, Chak- 25GB, Chak-43GB-I are the ceramic industries.

### Discussion

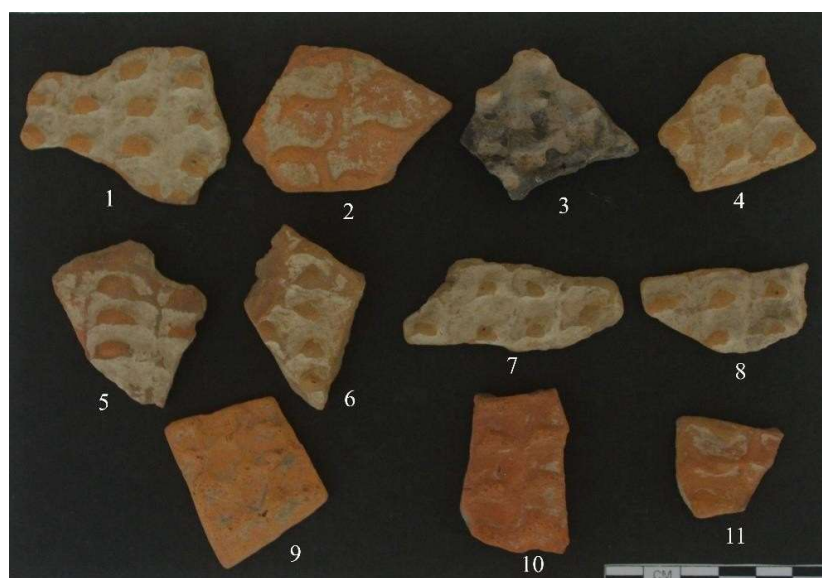
During the reconnaissance the researcher collected the Archaeological remanent from 27 sites in which 10 sites are reported for the first time. Information gathered during our exploration it is possible to confirm that in this region the habitation process started during Pre-Harappan phase of the civilization. Some of the site like Chak-17 BLD-II. Chak- 11 GB are showing continuous cultural continuity from Pre Harappan phase to late Harappan Phase. The evidence of Hakra ware culture at the site of Chak 14GM, Chak-17BLD II, Chak 4 JST, Chak 5 GM-I and Chak-9 GM indicate the emergence of Harappan in this area. Next culture sequence in this region belongs to the Early-Harappan peoples who settled here and 17 sites belong to these people and at the culmination Early-Harappan peoples developed themselves in classical Harappan. Only 7 sites associated with the late phase of the Harappan culture in this region. It seems that after the decline of the Harappan culture, PGW using people settled in this region but on very small scale. Only 2 sites are recovered during the reconnaissance associated with the PGW people.

### Acknowledgment

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PL.-1 Hakra Ware



PL.-2 Hakra Ware



PL.-3 Early Harappan pottery



PL.-4 Early Harappan pottery



PL.-5 Early Harappan pottery



PL.-6 Early Harappan pottery



PL.-7 Mature Harappan pottery



PL.-8 Mature Harappan pottery



PL.-9 Mature Harappan pottery



PL.-10 Late Harappan pottery



PL.-11

Late Harappan pottery



PL.-12

Late Harappan pottery



PL.-13      Late Harappan pottery



PL.-14      Late Harappan pottery



PL.-15 Late Harappan pottery



PL.-16 Late Harappan pottery



PL.-17

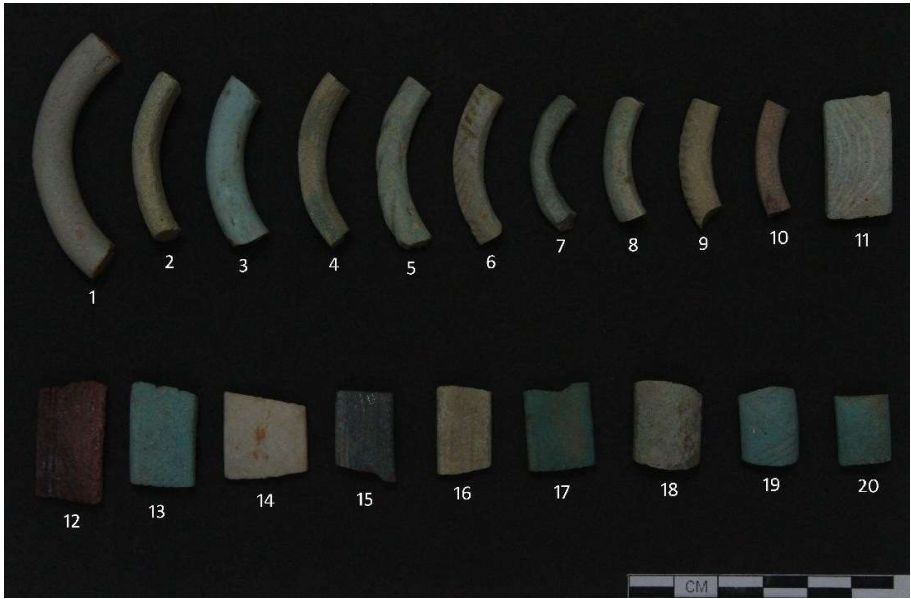
Late Harappan pottery



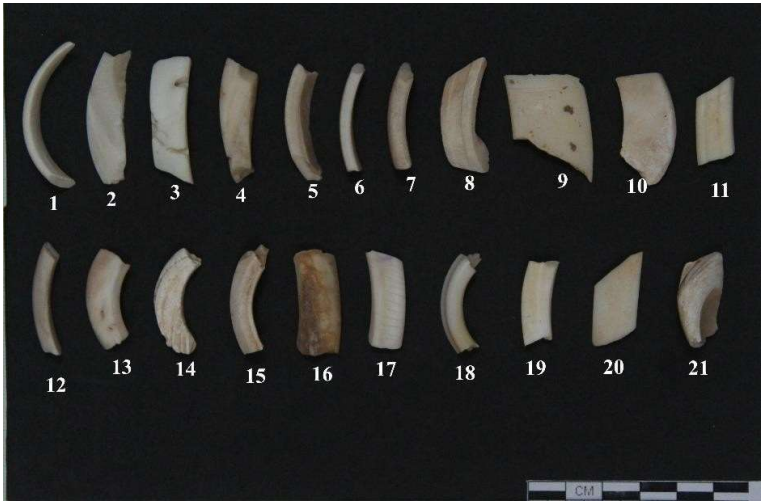
PL.-18 Chert Blade



PL.-19 Sandstone Pestle (Mandeep, 2012)



PL.-20 Faience Bangles



PL.-21 Shell Bangles



**PL.-22 Terracotta Bangles**

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