

A stylized illustration of an ancient Egyptian statue head and torso. The statue is shown in profile, facing left. It has a beard and a headband with a circular ornament. The torso is decorated with intricate patterns. The background is a solid yellowish-brown color. On either side of the statue, there are vertical panels with a brick-like pattern. A black banner with white text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

**BRICKS BEADS AND BONES**

- There were several archaeological cultures in the region prior to the Mature Harappan.
- These cultures were associated with distinctive pottery, evidence of agriculture and pastoralism, and some crafts.
- Settlements were generally small, and there were virtually no large buildings.



# Subsistence Strategies

- The Harappans ate wide range of plants and animal products.
- Animal bones found at Harappan sites include those of cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo and pig.
- The bones of wild species found suggest the Harappans hunted these animals themselves or obtained meat from other hunting communities. Bones of fish and fowl are also found.

# Subsistence Strategies

## *Agricultural technologies*

- Representations on seals and terracotta sculpture indicate that the bull was known, and archaeologists extrapolate from this that oxen were used for ploughing.
- Terracotta models of the plough have been found at sites in Cholistan and at Banawali. Evidence of a ploughed field at Kalibangan has also been found.



# MOHENJODARO: A planned urban centre

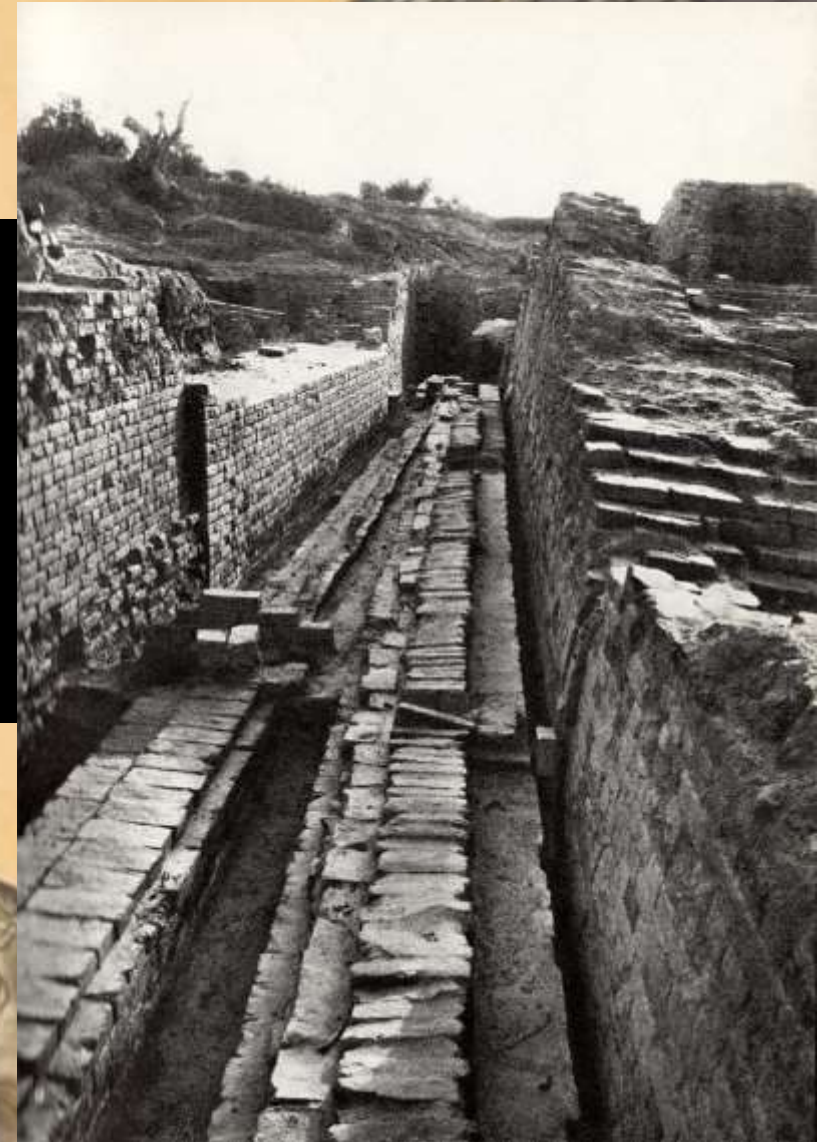
- lower. Archaeologists designate these as the Citadel and the Lower Town respectively
- lower. Archaeologists designate these as the Citadel and the Lower Town respectively
- The Lower Town was also walled. Several buildings were built on platforms
- Bricks were of standardised ratio, where the length and breadth were four times and twice the height respectively



# MOHENJODARO: A planned urban centre

## *Laying out drains*

- One of the most distinctive features of Harappan cities was the carefully planned drainage system.
- roads and streets were laid out along an approximate “grid” pattern, intersecting at right angles.



# MOHENJODARO: A planned urban centre

## *The Citadel*

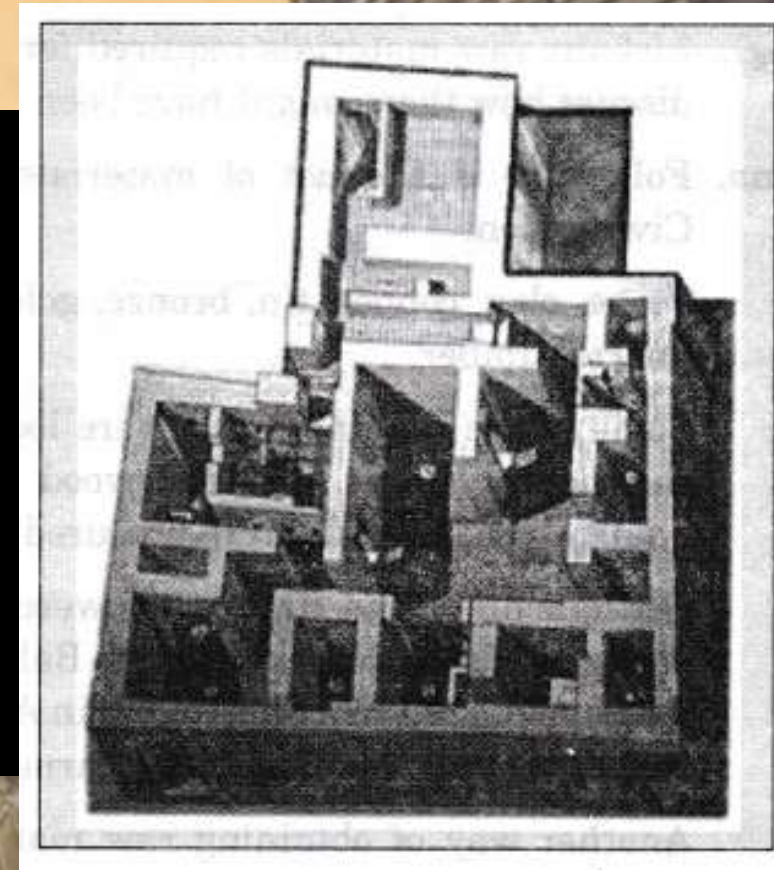
- It is on the Citadel that we find evidence of structures that were probably used for special public purposes.
- The Great Bath was a large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor on all four sides.
- There were rooms on three sides, in one of which was a large well.
- Water from the tank flowed into a huge drain.



# MOHENJODARO: A planned urban centre

## **Domestic architecture**

- The Lower Town at Mohenjodaro provides examples of residential buildings.
- Many were centred on a courtyard, with rooms on all sides
- there are no windows in the walls along the ground level.
- Some houses have remains of staircases to reach a second storey or the roof.





# Tracking Social Differences

## *Looking for “luxuries”:*

The artefacts are classified as utilitarian and luxuries by the archaeologists. Utilitarian objects are of daily use made fairly easily out of ordinary materials such as stone or clay. Luxuries are those items if they are rare or made from costly, non-local materials or with complicated technologies.



# Tracking Social Differences

## **Burials**

At burials in Harappan sites, the dead were generally laid in pits. Sometimes, there were differences in the way the burial pit was made. Some graves contain pottery and ornaments, perhaps indicating a belief that these could be used in the afterlife. Jewellery has been found in burials of both men and women.



# Finding Out About Craft Production

- Chanhudaro is a tiny settlement exclusively devoted to craft production, including bead-making, shell-cutting, metal-working, seal-making and weight-making.
- The variety of materials used to make beads is remarkable.
- Techniques for making beads differed according to the material.
- Nodules were chipped into rough shapes, and then finely flaked into the final form.
- Specialised drills have been found at Chanhudaro, Lothal and more recently at Dholavira.



# Finding Out About Craft Production

## *Identifying centres of production*

- Archaeologists identified centres of production by looking for raw materials and tools used.
- Waste is one of the best indicators of craft work. Sometimes, larger waste pieces were used up to make smaller objects.
- These traces suggest that apart from small, specialised centres, craft production was also undertaken in large cities such as Mohenjodaro and Harappa.



# Strategies For Procuring Material

## **Materials from the subcontinent and beyond**

- The Harappans procured materials for craft production in various ways.
- Terracotta toy models of bullock carts suggest that this was one important means of transporting goods and people across land routes.
- Another strategy for procuring raw materials may have been to send expeditions, which established communication with local communities.



# Strategies For Procuring Material

## **Contact with distant lands**

- archaeological finds suggest that copper was also probably brought from Oman, on the southeastern tip of the Arabian peninsula.
- Mesopotamian texts datable to the third millennium BCE refer to copper coming from a region called Magan, perhaps a name for Oman.
- Other archaeological finds include Harappan seals, weights, dice and beads which suggests contacts with regions named Dilmun (probably the island of Bahrain), Magan and Meluhha, possibly the Harappan region.



# Seals, Script, Weights

## **Seals and sealings**

Seals and sealings were used to facilitate long distance communication. The sealing also conveyed the identity of the sender

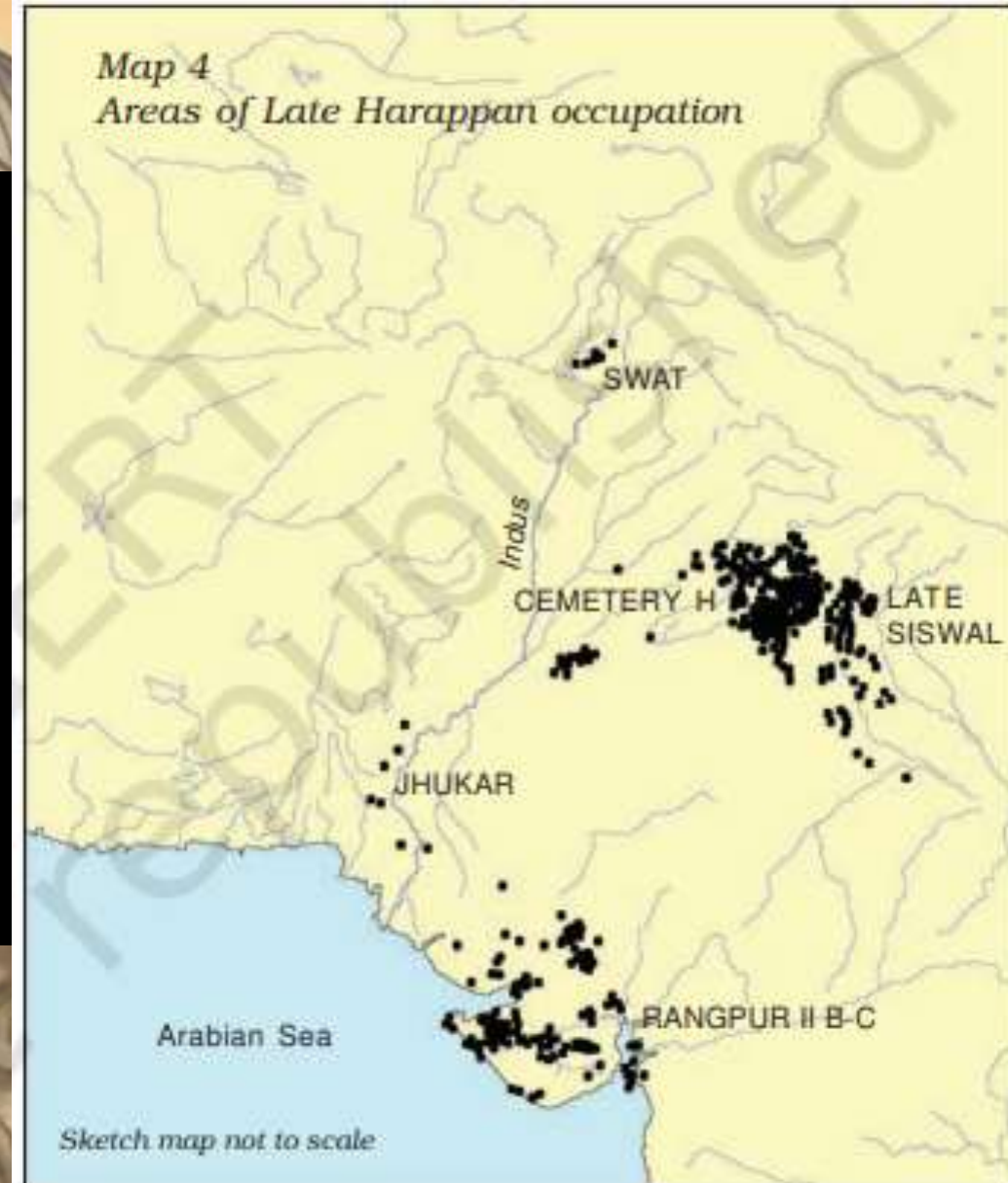


## **An enigmatic script**

- Harappan seals usually have a line of writing, probably containing the name and title of the owner. Scholars have also suggested that the motif (generally an animal) conveyed a meaning to those who could not read.
- Most inscriptions are short, the longest containing about 26 signs. Although the script remains undeciphered to date, it was evidently not alphabetical as it has just too many signs – somewhere between 375 and 400. The script was written from right to left.

# The End Of The Civilizations

- There is evidence that by c. 1800 BCE most of the Mature Harappan sites in regions such as Cholistan had been abandoned. Simultaneously, there was an expansion of population into new settlements in Gujarat, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh.
- Several explanation for the decline of Harappan civilisation are climatic changes, deforestation, excessive floods, the shifting and/or drying up of rivers.

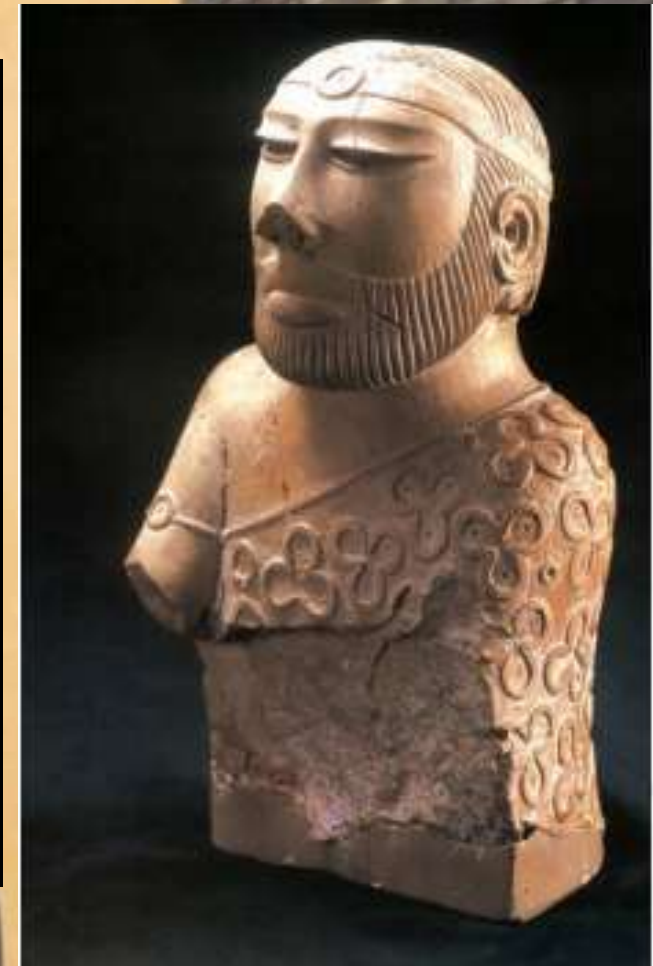




There are indications of complex decisions being taken and implemented in Harappan society.

## **Palaces and kings**

- A large building found at Mohenjodaro was labelled as a palace by archaeologists but no spectacular finds were associated with it. A stone statue was labelled and continues to be known as the “priest-king”.
- Some archaeologists are of the opinion that Harappan society had no rulers, whereas other archaeologist feels that there was no single ruler but several rulers, Mohenjodaro had a separate ruler, Harappa another. While some believe that there was a single state.

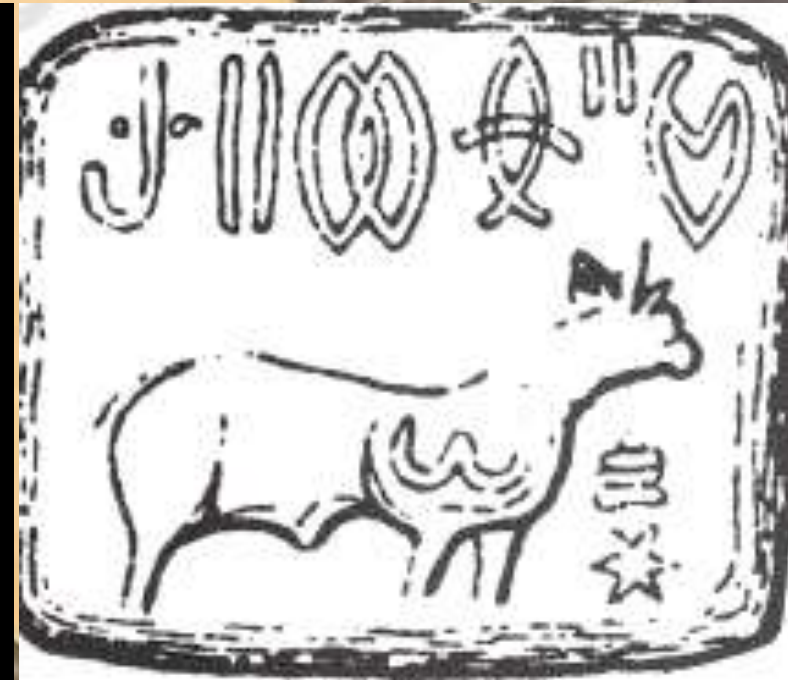


# Discovering The Harappan Civilisation

When Harappan cities fell into ruin, people gradually forgot all about them.

## ***Cunningham's confusion***

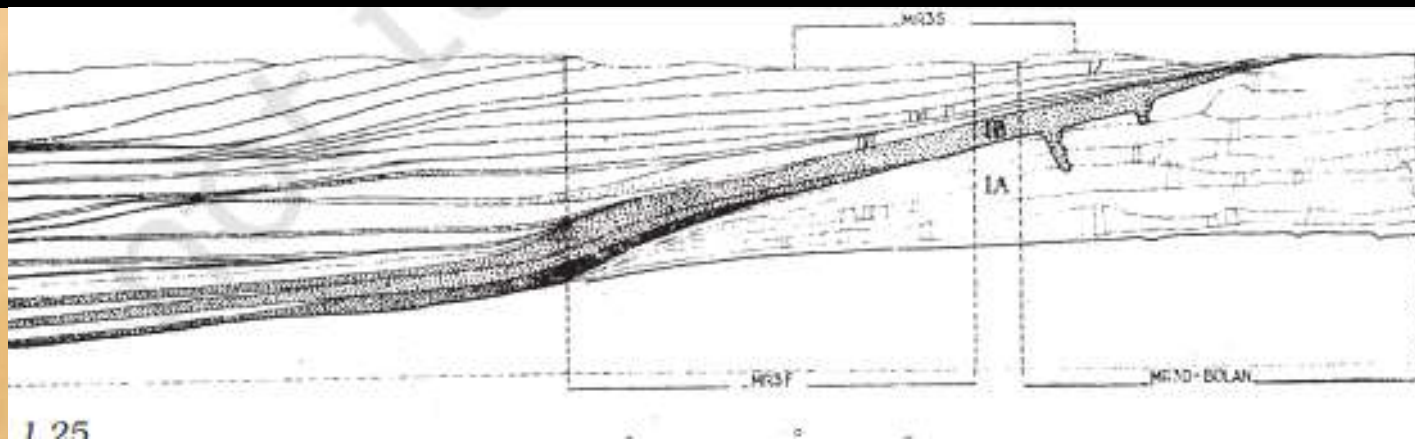
The first Director-General of the ASI, Cunningham used the accounts left by Chinese Buddhist pilgrims who had visited the subcontinent between the fourth and seventh centuries CE to locate early settlements. A site like Harappa, which was not part of the itinerary of the Chinese pilgrims and was not known as an Early Historic city.



# Discovering The Harappan Civilisation

## ***A new old civilisation:***

- in 1924, John Marshall, Director-General of the ASI, announced the discovery of a new civilisation in the Indus valley to the world.
- It was then that the world knew not only of a new civilisation, but also of one contemporaneous with Mesopotamia.
- Marshall tended to excavate along regular horizontal units, measured uniformly throughout the mound, ignoring the stratigraphy of the site. This meant that all the artefacts recovered from the same unit were grouped together.



# Discovering The Harappan Civilisation

## ***New techniques and questions:***

- Since the 1980s, there has also been growing international interest in Harappan archaeology.
- Specialists from the subcontinent and abroad have been jointly working at both Harappa and Mohenjodaro.
- They are using modern scientific techniques including surface exploration to recover traces of clay, stone, metal and plant and animal remains as well as to minutely analyse every scrap of available evidence. These explorations promise to yield interesting results in the future.

# Problems Of Piecing Together The Past

- It is not the Harappan script that helps in understanding the ancient civilisation. Rather, it is material evidence that allows archaeologists to better reconstruct Harappan life. This material could be pottery, tools, ornaments, household objects, etc.
- Organic materials such as cloth, leather, wood and reeds generally decompose, especially in tropical regions. What survive are stone, burnt clay (or terracotta), metal, etc.



# Problems Of Piecing Together The Past

## ***Classifying finds***

- One simple principle of classification is in terms of material, such as stone, clay, metal, bone, ivory, etc. The second, is in terms of function. Archaeologists have to decide whether, for instance, an artefact is a tool or an ornament, or both, or something meant for ritual use.
- Sometimes, archaeologists have to take recourse to indirect evidence. For instance, though there are traces of cotton at some Harappan sites, to find out about clothing we have to depend on indirect evidence including depictions in sculpture.



# Problems Of Piecing Together The Past

## *Problems of interpretation*

- Early archaeologists thought that certain objects which seemed unusual or unfamiliar may have had a religious significance.
- Attempts have also been made to reconstruct religious beliefs and practices by examining seals, some of which seem to depict ritual scenes.
- Others, with plant motifs, are thought to indicate nature worship.
- Several reconstructions remain speculative at present.



New Product available on Adda247 App

Adda247

**BILINGUAL**

**CUET 2023 Samarth 2.0 Batch**

for Section 1 (English/Hindi)  
Section 2 (History, Polity, Geography & Economics)  
SECTION 3 (GENERAL TEST)

• Live Classes



Start Jan 13, 2023 8 AM to 11 PM

CUET 2023 (SAMARTH 2.0 Batc...

₹ 5999

Offers available

**Bilingual**

**CUET HUMANITIES/ARTS MAHAPACK**

Live Classes, Video Courses, Test Series, eBook

CUET HUMANITIES MAHAPACK BY...

₹ 6999

Offers available

**Bilingual**

**CUET HUMANITIES/ARTS MAHAPACK WITH BOOKS**

Live Classes, Video Courses, Test Series, eBook

CUET HUMANITIES MAHA PACK BY...

₹ 8399

Offers available

**BILINGUAL**

**CUET 2023 निपुण Batch**

for Section 1 (English/Hindi),  
Section 2 (History, Polity, Geography & Economics),  
SECTION 3 (GENERAL TEST)

• Live Classes



Start Dec 20, 2022 8 AM to 11 PM

CUET 2023 Online Live Classes (Nipun...

₹ 5999

Offers available

**Live Classes** **BILINGUAL**

**CUET 2023 Delta Batch (Class 12 Boards)**

for Section 1 (English/Hindi),  
Section 2 (History, Polity, Geography & Economics), SECTION 3 (GENERAL TEST)



Start Nov 10, 2022 8 AM to 10 PM

CUET 2023 Delta Batch Live Classes |...

₹ 4999

Offers available

Use this Code  
to get 17% off on  
All the Courses



**COD**  
**E**



New Product available on Adda247 App

Adda247

ENGLISH

UG 2023  
CUET  
ARTS  
80 Mock Test

CUET ARTS MOCK  
2023 | Online Test...

₹ 1499

Offers available

ENGLISH

NTA  
CUET DOMAIN  
SAMPLE PAPER 2022

NTA OFFICIAL MOCK  
TEST 2022 Online...

₹ 49

Offers available

ENGLISH

UG 2023  
CUET  
ARTS  
E-BOOK

CUET Arts 2023 |  
Online E-BOOK By...

₹ 699

Offers available



Use this Code  
to get 17% off on All  
the Courses



**COD**

**E**

**17% OFF**

THANKS FOR

# Watching

## Adda247

**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**  
**या ही कोई CONFUSION**



Ask your doubt &  
Talk To Teachers



Fill this Google Form

Link in Description and Comment pinned

LIKE



SHARE



COMMENT



SUBSCRIBE

