

STATEMENT - I

The thesis is mainly based on the new data collected by the author through systematic explorations and excavations in the Sarasvati and Drisadvati Valleys in Haryana. The field work has placed ninety new sites on the prehistoric map of the region in addition to seven others, known previously and revisited by the author. The excavations conducted at Siswal, Mitathal and Daulatpur by the author have for the first time established a continuous sequence of prehistoric cultures in the region ranging from c.2300 B.C. to c.1500 B.C. and represented by the Kalibangan I, Late Siswal, Harappa and Late Harappa cultures. In the broader context of North Indian archaeology the above field work has not only corroborated but also supplemented the sequences of Kalibangan, Ropar and Bara by providing the first clear stratigraphic evidence for the survival of the Kalibangan I culture in Siswal B, designated as the Late Siswal culture and the Harappa culture in Mitathal IIB, called the Late Harappa culture. The work has thus helped bridging the gulf of the 'Dark Age' in North India.

The distribution of the ceramic industries of the various cultural periods in the region has helped determining the north-eastern extent of the Kalibangan I, Late Siswal and the mature Harappa cultures and the south-western extent of the Late Harappa culture. The excavation at Siswal and Mitathal threw light on the relationship between the Kalibangan I culture and the Harappa culture or their derivatives besides evidencing the nature and character of the two cultures in the region. A comparative study between

the Mitathal IIB ware and the Bara and the O.C.P. wares and the Metal tools of Mitathal and those of the Copper Hoards of the Ganga-Yamuna Doab provided perspective to the enigmatic problems of the Bara ware, the O.C.P. and the Copper Hoards.

The evidence on the hydrology of the region obtained from the exploration of the ancient courses of the Sarasvati, Drisadvati and the Yamuna by the author also threw new light on the end of the Harappa culture in the Sarasvati Basin.

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