

'Women have been using vermilion since Harappa'

Says ex-DG of ASI while talking about the roots of Indian civilisation at IITGn

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Ahmedabad: Clearing some of the most common doubts among students about Harappan civilisation, former Director General (DG) of Archaeological Survey of India, Professor BB Lal said, "Many Indian cultural practices trace their roots back to the Harappan civilisation of the 3rd millennium BC, if not earlier. The Harappans and the Vedic people were one and the same. Vedic people were not invaders but indigenous."

Professor Lal was delivering a lecture titled 'How deep are the roots of Indian civilisation? An archaeological and historical perspective' at the Indian Institute of Technology in Gandhinagar.

"The practice of applying vermilion by women on the medial line of partition of the hair above the forehead after marriage was also practiced during Harappan times. We have come across terracotta female figurines from a site called Nausharo in Pakistan, dating back to c. 2800-2600 BCE, which depict this very feature.



Professor BB Lal, ex-DG, ASI

These figurines are painted with three colours: the ornaments in yellow, indicating that these were made of gold; the hair in black, which is its natural colour and the 'maang' with red, representing the application of sindur," said professor Lal.

He further added that evidence of games such as chess have been found at Harappan sites as well as in Lothal in Gujarat.

He concluded the session by saying, "To work out a better correlation between material remains as brought out by archaeology and the Vedic and later texts, a competent team of archaeologists and Sanskrit scholars should work together for about five years."