



INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION (HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION)



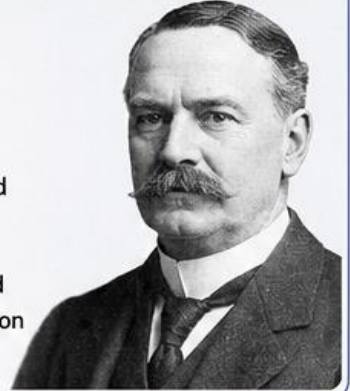
1 INTRODUCTION

- The Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) is also known as the **Harappan Civilization**.
- It was one of the **earliest urban civilizations** of the Indian subcontinent.
- The Mature Harappan phase is generally dated to **c. 2600–1900 BCE**.
- It was known for **planned cities, drainage systems, standardized bricks, weights and measures, and trade**.

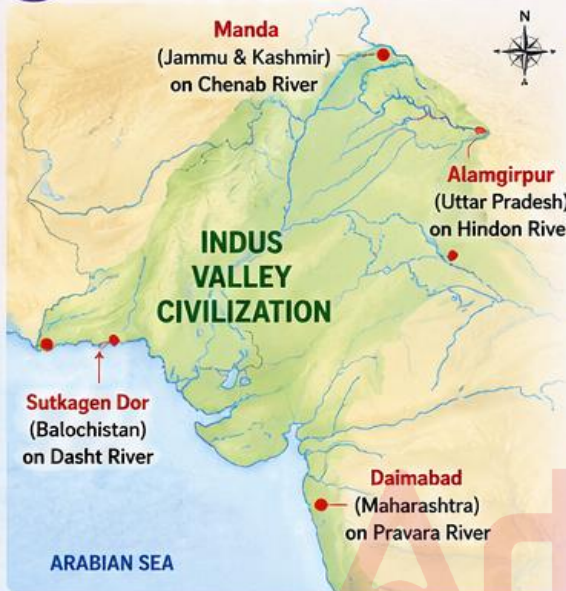


2 DISCOVERY

- Harappa was excavated by Daya Ram Sahni in **1921**.
- Mohenjo-daro was excavated by R. D. Banerji in **1922**.
- Sir John Marshall announced the discovery of the civilization in **1924**.



3 GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT



- Northernmost:** Manda — Jammu and Kashmir (on Chenab River)
- Southernmost:** Daimabad — Maharashtra (on Pravara River)
- Easternmost:** Alamgirpur — Uttar Pradesh (on Hindon River)
- Westernmost:** Sutkagen Dor — Balochistan (on Dasht River)

4 MAJOR SITES

	Site	Location	Important Feature
	Harappa	Pakistan (Ravi River)	Granary and cemeteries
	Mohenjo-daro	Pakistan (Indus River)	Great Bath
	Dholavira	Gujarat	Water management system
	Lothal	Gujarat (Bhogava River)	Dockyard
	Kalibangan	Rajasthan (Ghaggar River)	Ploughed field
	Rakhigarhi	Haryana	Largest Harappan site in India
	Alamgirpur	Uttar Pradesh (Hindon River)	Easternmost site

5 TOWN PLANNING



- Harappan cities had well-planned streets, often arranged in a grid pattern.
- Many cities had a citadel and a lower town.
- Houses were mainly built with standardized baked bricks.
- Many houses had courtyards, wells, bathrooms, and drainage facilities.
- The covered drainage system was a major feature of Harappan urban planning.
- The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro is an important example of Harappan architecture.



Great Bath, Mohenjo-daro

6 AGRICULTURE

- Agriculture and animal husbandry were major occupations.
- Important crops included wheat, barley, peas, sesame, and cotton.
- Evidence of a ploughed field has been found at Kalibangan.
- The Harappans are among the earliest known people associated with cotton cultivation.



7 TRADE AND ECONOMY



- Harappans practised internal and long-distance trade.
- They had trade relations with Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf region.
- Standardized weights and measures were used.
- Important trade items included beads, metals, pottery, shells, and semi-precious stones.
- Lothal was an important centre of trade and craft production.

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8. ART AND CRAFT

- Harappans were skilled in pottery, bead-making, metalwork, and seal-making.
- Most seals were made of steatite (soapstone).
- The Dancing Girl is a famous bronze sculpture from Mohenjo-daro.
- The Priest-King is a famous stone (steatite) sculpture from Mohenjo-daro.
- Harappans used copper and bronze for tools and other objects.
- **Important Note:** Iron was NOT known to the Harappan people.
- They were skilled in making ornaments and beads.



Dancing Girl
(Bronze)



Priest-King
(Steatite)



9. HARAPPAN SCRIPT

- The Harappan script has been found on seals, pottery, tablets, and other objects.
- It has not yet been conclusively deciphered.
- Most inscriptions are short.
- The language represented by the script remains uncertain.



Key Fact: The script is still one of the greatest mysteries of ancient India.

10. RELIGION

- Archaeological evidence suggests the importance of fertility and nature-related beliefs.
- Female figurines have been associated with fertility-related practices.
- The Pashupati Seal is an important religious artefact (surrounded by an elephant, tiger, rhinoceros, and buffalo, with two deer at his feet).
- **Important Note:** Lions were NOT depicted on Harappan seals.
- Trees and animals appear to have had religious significance.
- The Great Bath may have been associated with ritual practices.



Female Figurine



Pashupati Seal



Great Bath,
Mohenjo-daro

11. DECLINE

- The Mature Harappan urban phase declined around **1900 BCE**.
- The decline was probably caused by multiple factors.
- Possible factors include:
 - Climate change
 - Changes in river systems
 - Environmental changes
 - Decline in long-distance trade
- There is no single universally accepted cause of the decline.



No single cause is universally accepted.

12. BIHAR: IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE – CHIRAND



- Chirand is located in Saran district, Bihar.
- It is an important archaeological site associated with the Neolithic culture.
- Evidence of agriculture, animal husbandry, fishing, and hunting has been found.
- Archaeological remains include stone tools, pottery, and an abundance of bone tools made of deer antlers.

Chirand is not an Indus Valley Civilization site; it is associated with the Neolithic culture of Bihar.