

The [Bronze Age in the Indian subcontinent](#) began around 3300 BCE.^[citation needed] The Indus Valley region was one of three early [cradles of civilisation](#) in the [Old World](#); the Indus Valley civilisation was the most expansive,^[3] and at its peak, may have had a population of over five million.^[4]

The civilisation was primarily centred in modern-day Pakistan, in the Indus river basin, and secondarily in the [Ghaggar-Hakra River](#) basin. The mature Indus civilisation flourished from about 2600 to 1900 BCE, marking the beginning of urban civilisation on the Indian subcontinent. It included cities such as [Harappa](#), [Ganweriwala](#), and [Mohenjo-daro](#) in modern-day Pakistan, and [Dholavira](#), [Kalibangan](#), [Rakhigarhi](#), and [Lothal](#) in modern-day India.

Inhabitants of the ancient Indus River valley, the Harappans, developed new techniques in metallurgy and handicraft, and produced copper, bronze, lead, and tin.^[42] The civilisation is noted for its cities built of brick, and its roadside drainage systems, and is thought to have had some kind of municipal organisation. The civilisation also developed an [Indus script](#), the earliest of the [ancient Indian scripts](#), which is presently undeciphered.^[43] This is the reason why [Harappan language](#) is not directly attested, and its affiliation is uncertain.^[44]

Three [stamp seals](#) and their impressions showing Indus script characters alongside animals: **unicorn** (left), **bull** (centre), and **elephant** (right); at [Guimet Museum](#)

After the collapse of Indus Valley civilisation, the inhabitants migrated from the river valleys of Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra, towards the Himalayan foothills of Ganga-Yamuna basin.^[45]

Ochre Coloured Pottery culture

[Sinauli](#) solid-disk wheel cart, photograph of the [Archaeological Survey of India](#).^[46]

During the 2nd millennium BCE, [Ochre Coloured Pottery culture](#) was in Ganga Yamuna Doab region. These were rural settlements with agriculture and hunting. They were using copper tools such as axes, spears, arrows, and swords, and had domesticated animals.^[47]