

## Prelims Master Program (2023-24) – Ancient, Medieval, Art and Culture

### Handout 2: Harappan Civilization

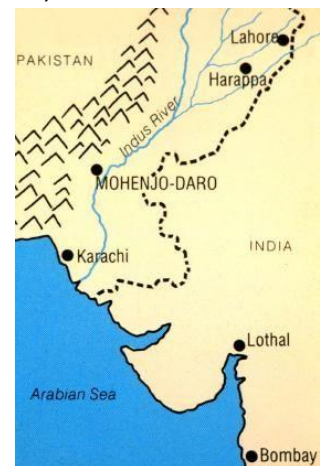
#### Discovery, Extent and Nomenclature

##### Early (non)-discoveries:

- Nothing in the long-recorded history of India gives even a faint hint of it having a beginning like the Harappan civilization.
- **Aristobulus**, a Macedonian general in Alexander's army that invaded India in the 4<sup>th</sup> c BCE seems to have been the first person ever to record seeing the Harappan ruins.
  - 'when he was sent upon a certain mission, he saw a country of more than a thousand cities, together with villages, that had been deserted.' Says Strabo.
  - These could only have been the abandoned Indus settlements. But we cannot be certain.
- Well-over 2000 years would still have to pass before we get the first authentic report. This was a travelogue of **Charles Masson**, an Englishman, who in 1826 noted that he saw in Harappa 'a ruinous brick castle having remarkable high walls and towers.' But there was no follow up on this discovery.
- Thirty years later, another Englishman, **William Brunton**, an engineer, came here after annexation of Punjab by British.
  - Now, British were engaged in laying a **railway line from Karachi to Lahore** and had great difficulty in procuring the ballast they needed for the track. Brunton came to know of Harappa and seized on it as **brick quarry**.
  - Besides local peasants had also been plundering the site for bricks to build their humble homes. (*vandalism*)
- Fortunately, not all was lost. Enough would remain to engage the curiosity of archaeologists for very many decades. By happy chance, **Alexander Cunningham**, an officer of the Royal Engineers (later, father of Indian archaeology), was then stationed at Karachi.
  - He was informed by Brunton about Harappa, he visited the site and collected several artefacts.
  - He was primarily interested in the **stupa at Mohenjodaro**, rather than small artefacts and seals, by which he was intrigued. He didn't realise the true value of the discovery.

There was no further exploration for the next 60 years. It was only in 1920s, during the tenure of Sir John Marshall, that the excavation began in earnest. Pure Chance →

- **Harappa** discovered on bank of **Ravi** (Montgomery/Sahiwal district, Punjab, Pakistan) in 1921 by **Dayaram Sahni**.
- Next year, **Mohenjodaro** was discovered by **RD Banerjee** in Sindh on the banks of **Indus** (Larkana District, Sindh, Pakistan) in 1922.



**John Marshal** (DG ASI) called it “Indus Valley Civilization” and announced its discovery to the world in **1924** in Illustrated London News. Not only Egypt and Mesopotamia/Sumeria but India had also big cities back then. It altered India’s civilizational antiquity by pushing back bronze age urbanism to 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE.

**Simultaneous great discoveries:** Tutankhamen’s tomb (Egypt), Sumerian city of Ur (Mesopotamia) and Harappa-Mohenjodaro (India) - all were discovered under directorship of various British archaeologists in 1922-24. All three were globally significant discoveries.

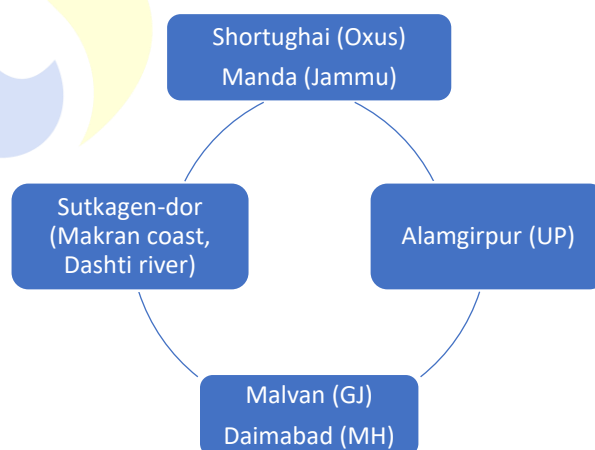


However, today, this name ‘Indus Valley Civilization’ is not appropriate.

1. Sites much beyond the Indus basin are found – almost 3000 sites **spread over a vast area.**
  - a. Geographical area covered about 13 lakh sq km, an area far more than today’s Pakistan (8 lakh sq km); from Himalayas to Gujarat and from Afghanistan/Balochistan to UP.
2. Since 1970s, more sites found on the banks of **Ghaggar-Hakra** (going into Runn of Kutch from Shivalik) than on the banks of Indus. But **Indus-Saraswati civilization** name is also controversial though.

Even this name is not enough now, many new sites are outside the two river valleys and even in arid regions. Makran coast in Balochistan, in Deccan region, in Jammu, there are features of this civilization present.

Thus, we ideally follow the age-old archaeological convention – naming the civilization after the first ‘type site’. Thus, **Harappan Civilization**.



### Important Features

- **Riverine civilization.** All the important sites were situated along important perennial rivers and their tributaries.
  - This was because the Harappans practised intensive agriculture and depended heavily on **flood irrigation**.
  - In agriculture: they were aware of wheat, rice, barley, cotton, date... but **no maize**
- **Bronze age.** They knew many other metals like gold, silver, copper **but not iron**.
- It was **(area-wise) largest** ancient civilization compared to its contemporary bronze age civilizations of Mesopotamian, Egyptian and Chinese civilisations.
- **First urban** civilization of India.
  - It is unique among contemporary civilisations due to its **extensive town planning**.
- The Harappan civilisation belongs to the **great tradition**, that is, **literacy** was widespread.
  - It is evident from its **public use** on seals, pots, sign boards etc.
  - However, only information available today is from **archaeology**. No Harappan literary records can be read as the script not deciphered yet. Thus, it is categorized into **proto-historic phase**.
- Thus, **trade** and commerce well-developed, highly organized art and crafts.
  - But **no coins** found so far. Seals usage was important for trade but not as coins.
- Followed many **different religious** traditions. Yet, no specific temples.
- Controversy whether they know **horses** or not.



### Script – why not deciphered yet?

Writing developed for the first time in around **6000 BC in Sumeria** and **Indus** people started using it **much before 2600 BCE**.

#### **What we know about the Indus script so far?**

- So far total around **3000 inscriptions** found, of which **90% come from Harappa and Mohenjodaro alone**.
- Mostly incised on **seals** but also on metals, bone, ivory artefacts, pottery and stoneware.
- Relatively a **smaller number of symbols** (~**400 signs** consisting of 250 symbols and their variants) (Compared to 900 in Sumeria)
  - 400 is too many to be alphabetic (English has 26) and too few to be pictorial (Chinese has 2000 signs). Thus, it appears to be **Logo-syllabic** (mixture of words and phonetic signs).
- Written in **boustrophedon** method (alternative right to left and left to right)



#### **Why is it difficult to decode?**

- It **doesn't resemble any other script** in the world that we know.
- **No bilingual inscription.**
- No long inscription found (longest one is 20 or so, while avg is 5 symbols, thus **fragmentary nature**)
- We don't know the **language** also.
  - We don't know yet. There are various theories (*old-Dravidian, proto-Sanskrit, Finno-Ugrian family, cognate of Elamite etc*) and we should not commit to one theory yet.

*Today, we can be reasonably hopeful that in our lifetime it will be deciphered. We are just waiting for the crib today. It may be around the corner now.*

Ongoing debate.

- Diffusionist (foreign origin) theories – Sudden origin

Mesopotamian Origin – Colonial historians	Aryan Origin – Nationalist historians

- Indigenous origin – gradual evolution

According to most historians, the Harappan Civilisation **emerged gradually and was built by the indigenous people of India**. They point towards the existence of distinct **Pre-Harappan and Early-Harappan cultures** in the same region to prove the **gradual evolution of life from the Neolithic villages to Bronze Age towns**, which took place over more than 4000 years. This transition happened as local progression from hunter-gatherer to urban dweller by way of all the various stages of pastoralism, agricultural settlements, technological advance and cultural refinement. All these stages are today mapped.

- **7<sup>th</sup> Millennium BCE:** small communities of animal herders started practising **subsistence agriculture**, evidence of which are found from Nal, Zhob, Quli, Mundigak, Rana Ghundai etc. (all near Afghanistan-Pakistan border in Baluchistan)
- **6<sup>th</sup> Millennium BCE:** agriculture improved and population increased leading to emergence of large **neolithic villages** such as **Mehrgarh**, in the Bolan River valley near



Quetta in **Baluchistan**. This is the earliest evidence of early agricultural settlements on the edge of the Indus plan. These small farming communities lived there for around 2000 years.

- **5th Millennium BCE:** over time, people **migrated from Baluchistan**. Because of environmental pressure and growing population, these communities began to spread out **to the Indus valley**, advancing slowly and establishing settlements along the way. This process was quite slow.
- **3500 BCE:** By now, agriculture improved substantially. The gradual evolution of **farming communities in Indus plain gained momentum** due to
  - *Natural factors:*
    - Presence of fertile plains
    - Perennial rivers
    - Gentler climate
    - Abundant mineral resources
  - There was also *technological* change (eg irrigation technology like wells, **gabarband small check dams** etc) and plough cultivation.
  - Thus, there was **better surplus**.
  - More *trade* and increasing *population* all of which finally led to the **emergence of larger settlements with more urban character**.
    - For example, Amri, Kot Diji (both in Sindh), Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, Mohenjodaro, Harappa etc.
  - This is the **beginning of Early Harappa**. However, **trade was mostly local**, and there was **regional diversity**.
- **2600 BCE onwards-** this was the **Mature Harappan Phase** characterised by
  - Significant **population** increase.
  - Emergence of larger, **well-planned cities** such as Harappa, Mohenjo Daro, and Dholavira etc.
  - High **material prosperity** due to the favourable trade.
  - **Uniformity of material culture and standardized form across the larger region.**
  - Extensive inter-regional and inter-civilisational **trade networks**.

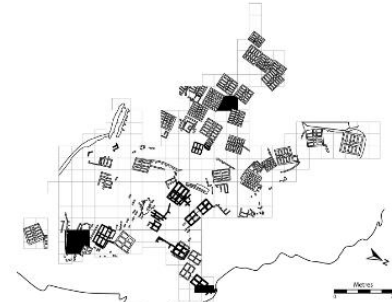


Figure 4.3. Plan of the site of Mehrgarh, Pakistan.



Figure 4.4. Mud-brick compartmentalised structure at Mehrgarh, Pakistan.

Thus, the presence of antecedent cultures indicates that the Harappan civilisation was indeed an indigenous civilisation which evolved gradually over several millennia.

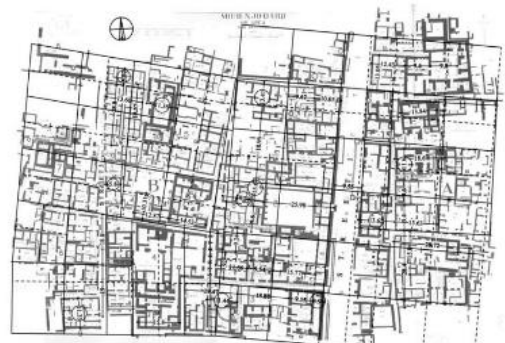
#### Phases of Harappan Civilization:

<b>Early</b>	3500 -2600 BCE	Formative signs of urban beginning. Slowly evolved over 1000 years.
<b>Mature</b>	2600-1900 BCE	Peak of urbanization, sustained for about 500 years
<b>Late</b>	1900-1700 BCE	Phase of relatively rapid declined withing 200-300 years

## Town architecture: Significant features

**Public Area:** Cities are divided into **two parts** – **upper town** and **lower town**.

- **Walls**
  - City wall that remains is **not very high**, so probably it was meant for more **flood protection** than for defence.
  - **Harappa** being on Indus **tributary**, the embankments here seem to have been adequate, for there is **no sign of serious flood damage**. But **Mohenjodaro**, on the **main river**, is layered at intervals with deep sections of alluvium, indicating that the city was **ravaged by floods several times**.
- **Network of roads**, cutting at right angle in grid/crisscross/**chessboard** pattern along E-W and N-S directions.
  - Mohenjodaro: **main street** is about 9 m wide, but **secondary** streets rather narrow, while some **lanes** just 1 m broad.
  - Kalibangan :1.8m, 3.4m, 5.4m width
  - **Corners** of the roads are **rounded**: easy to turn.
  - Streets are **not paved**. Nor were they tree-lined.
- **Planned city** → area divided into **sectors** (neat blocks, **zonation**)
  - **Upper town (= citadel)** was on a raised/high **platform** and surrounded by **walls**. It must have been an area of some **elite** class as all the **important buildings** are located here.
  - To the east of it, **slightly apart** from it, was laid out the **lower city**. It was **unfortified** and meant for common people. Lower city was a **mixed** zone of **residential** and **commercial** establishments.
  - **Polluting** industries like **brick-kilns**, **potters** as well as **cemeteries** were located **outside** the city.
  - Social differences marked by settlement **hierarchy**.
- **Shared community spaces**
  - Assembly halls, stadiums, markets etc.
- **Sanitation and hygiene** – most **wonderful, remarkable** concern for **sanitation** and **health**
  - **Mohenjodaro** was probably the **cleanest city** in ancient world and much cleaner than most modern Indian cities.
  - **Drainage** system - Height of **civil engineering**
    - Slope/**gradient**



Note: The superimposed grid lines are at 19.20 m (1/2) interval. The dimensions measured are of the cluster blocks not coinciding with the superimposed grid net. The measurements marked by circle are close to the multiples of danda. The measures close to 9.60 m (1/2) and its multiple are in bold. The values may be checked to the following scale:

Danda	16	20	24	48	56 (1/2)	64	72	84	96	108 (1/2)	112	120	136	144	176
metre	1.92	2.88	3.76	7.68	9.60	11.52	13.44	15.36	17.28	19.20	21.12	23.04	24.96	26.88	28.8

Fig.3a. Grid Pattern of HR Area, Mohenjodaro (Excavation Plan: Marshall, 1933, v. 3; Original Scale 1:250)

- **Service drains** from houses.
- All these drains are **covered** with **burnt brick**
- **Sewage** from houses was not permitted to flow on street drains directly but had to first enter a **sump or cess-put** in which it **deposited** solid matter. When the sump was  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, the water flowed into the **main drain** and by this method, the streets drains were prevented from overflowing.
- Drains were, however, **not carried outside the city but emptied in soak-pits**. Which were cleared periodically.
- **Garbage**
  - System of **disposal** for household garbage
  - There were **public dustbins** on side streets
- **Safety concern**
  - To ensure civil regulations, there were **police check-posts along the main streets**, small single rooms placed at regular intervals.
  - There was provision for **street lighting** at regular intervals.
- **Uniform Bricks**
  - **Ratio 1:2:4** – universal



A staircase in a Mohenjo-daro house. Such stairs are a common feature of the Indus architecture

### Domestic architecture

- **No ornamentation – stark utilitarianism.**
  - Everything was efficient and well-ordered but little scope for artistic flourishes or individual creativity. All houses, though they **varied greatly in size, were of similar design**.
- **Diversity of structures**
  - **Class differences** – Poor people lived in tiny one/two room tenements, very poor lived outside city maybe, while merchant princes houses were palatial mansions of over 300 sq m (around **3300 sq ft**).



A private bathroom at Mohenjo-daro. These 'bathing platforms', appear to be a standard feature of Mohenjo-daro's residential houses



- Some larger houses were perhaps for **joint-families** or **residential-cum-commercial facilities**, with business/manufacturing along the street while residential quarter at the back around the back.
- The city probably also had **caravan-sarais or lodges** for itinerant merchants.



Figure 6.22. Bathroom and drain in the Lower Town of Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan.

- **Features of houses**

- **No door/window opening on the main road.** They opened in rear or on side.
- Inside the house – open **courtyard**
- **Low ceilings** – 1.8 m high.
- **Doorways** – like today – 1 m wide.
- **Not a single piece of furniture**, which was all perhaps wooden, has survived.

- **Water and sanitation inside house**

- **Bathing place**
  - **Nearly all houses** have bath area – shows **personal hygiene**.
- **Private toilets** with **slope** to throw down the lane.
- Many houses had their **own wells** in Mohenjodaro.
- Rich people had **private wells** in the houses, but most people used **public wells** which were **numerous** and often places in the blind alleys between two houses.



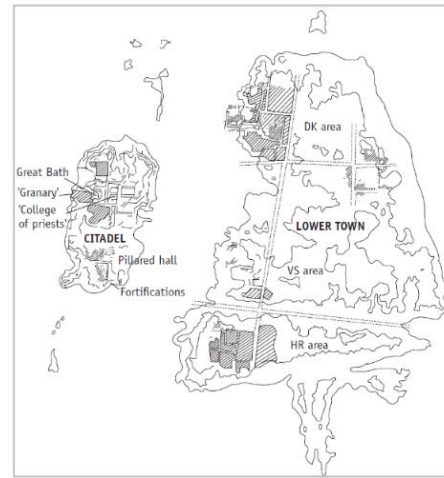
A latrine at Mohenjo-daro

**Survey of sites: Important features and structures**

**Mohenjodaro (Larkana district, Sindh, Pakistan)**

**Great Bath (12m \* 7m \* 2.5m)**

- Prehistoric engineering marvel: Watertight walls and floor to stop seepage – two layers of close-fitting, carefully trimmed baked bricks set on an edge in gypsum mortar with a 2.5 cm thick skin of bitumen sealer between the two layers.
- Not only important for engineering but also for ritual purposes.



**Massive State Granary (over 1000 sq m)**

- They were the **state treasuries**, in which tax and tributes in grain were stored.
- It indicates existence of **taxation system**, sort of a civic body to collect taxes, **food surplus**, and also practice of **emergency planning**.
- It also indicates **crop diversity**.
- It also indicates mastery over **transportation and storage technology**.

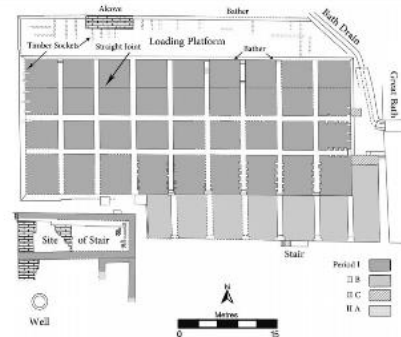


Figure 6.5 Plan of the Granary at Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan

**The college of priests.**

- 10 sq m, 13 openings on sides, possibly for windows
- May be the residence/college of high priests.



**Other structures:**

- **Workers' barracks** or coolie-lines
- **Multi-pillared assembly hall** – governance-related structure?



What remains of the pillared hall today

**• Sculptures**

- Dancing girl
- Bearded priest wearing a robe with trefoiled designed embroidery and fillet around the forehead.
- Mother goddesses

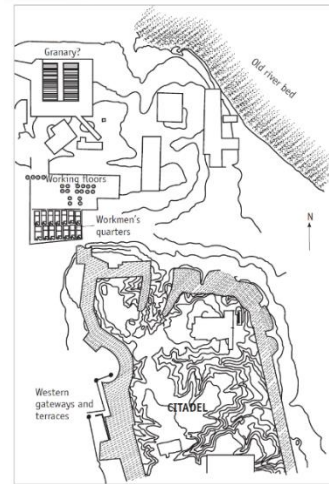
**• Cotton cloth and various tools (spindle, whorls and needles)**

- Flourishing cotton textile industry – Household/Cottage industry

**• Large collection of seals: Pashupati seal**

### Harappa (Bank of Ravi river, Montgomery district, Punjab, Pakistan)

- Twelve **Granaries** (*outside* the citadel, but near the river)
  - Nearby circular platform as husking area.
- **Sculpture**
  - Red sandstone male torso – socket holes for attachment of limbs and head.
- Various **burial** practices – direct, urn, coffin, partial, etc.
  - R 37
  - Cemetery H



### Kalibangan (Hanumangarh District, Rajasthan, on the banks of the dried Ghaggar river)

- Large number of black bangles discovered – craft specialization. Thus, it was an industrial site.
- Continuous occupation since pre-Harappan era.
- **Fire altars** indicating some kind of ritual sacrifice.
- **Ploughed field**. But no sign of any ploughing equipment

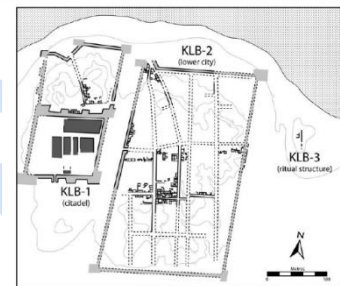


Figure 6.11. Plan of the site of Kalibangan, India.

### Lothal (Gujarat, on the banks of the Bhogwa)

- **Dockyard made of burnt bricks**: It is the first man made dockyard in India; it indicates the existence of maritime activity.
- **Mesopotamian seals** indicating cultural contacts between the two civilisations.
- **Rice husk** indicating cultivation of rice.
- **Double Burial**: the practice of burying 2 people together.

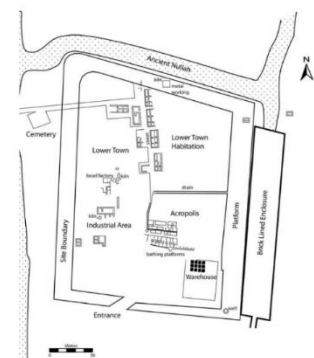


Figure 6.12. Plan of the site of Lothal, India.

### Chanhudaro (Sindh, Pakistan on the banks of the Indus.)

- **Industrial site**: Factories of **beads** and **bangles** have been found here.
- Tools for polishing and grinding stone have been found along with large quantities of coral, shells, semi precious stones and semi processed bangles and beads.
- Single area – **no citadel**.
- Use of **lipstick**.

### Dholavira (Kutch, Gujarat, on the banks of the Luni)

- **Sign Board:** consisting of 10 large pictographic symbols.
- **Water conservation system** - consisting of tanks, reservoirs, drains and channels.
- **Stone** was the primary building material, instead of burnt brick.
  - Two **polished stone pillars**.
- **Three areas** - unlike typical Harappan settlements it was divided into:
  - Citadel
  - Middle town
  - Lower town
- The **funerary practices of Dholavira** are unique:
  - No grave had any skeleton/bodies but they had grave goods, especially pottery. They are merely representative.
  - In addition, the ASI found seven **semi-circular or hemispherical graves**, two of which it excavated.

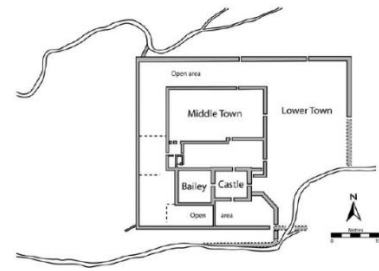


Figure 6.10. Plan of the city of Dholavira, India.



Signboard



### Dholavira: UNESCO Citation

The ancient city of Dholavira, the southern centre of the Harappan Civilization, is sited on the arid island of Khadir in the State of Gujarat. Occupied between ca. 3000-1500 BCE, the archaeological site, one of the best preserved urban settlements from the period in Southeast Asia, comprises a fortified city and a cemetery. Two seasonal streams provided water, a scarce resource in the region, to the walled city which comprises a heavily fortified castle and ceremonial ground as well as streets and houses of different proportion quality which testify to a stratified social order. A sophisticated water management system demonstrates the ingenuity of the Dholavira people in their struggle to survive and thrive in a harsh environment. The site includes a large cemetery with cenotaphs of six types testifying to the Harappan's unique view of death. Bead processing workshops and artifacts of various kinds such as copper, shell, stone, jewellery of semi-precious stones, terracotta, gold, ivory and other materials have been found during archaeological excavations of the site, exhibiting the culture's artistic and technological achievements. Evidence for inter-regional trade with other Harappan cities, as well as with cities in the Mesopotamia region and the Oman peninsula have also been discovered.



### Rakhigarhi (Hisar, Haryana, on the banks of the Ghaggar)

- **Largest** excavated site of the Harappan civilisation
  - Rakhigari – 500 ha, Harappa – 150 ha, Mohenjodaro – 300 ha
- **Animal sacrifice pit**
- **Fire altar**
- **DNA study** – proves indigenous origin of the Harappan Civilisation.

### Ropar (Punjab, on the banks of the Sutlej)

- First Harappan site excavated in independent India.
- **Dog buried** with human in oval burial

### Surkotada (Gujarat)

- **Horse remains** (horse teeth have been excavated but the finding remains unsubstantiated)
- 

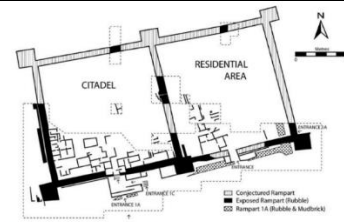


Figure 6.18. Plan of the site of Surkotada, India.

### Banawali (Haryana)

- Toy plough
- Lapis Lazuli
- Oval shaped settlement - only city with **radial** streets instead of perpendicular.

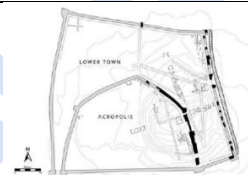


Figure 6.12. Plan of the site of Banawali, India.

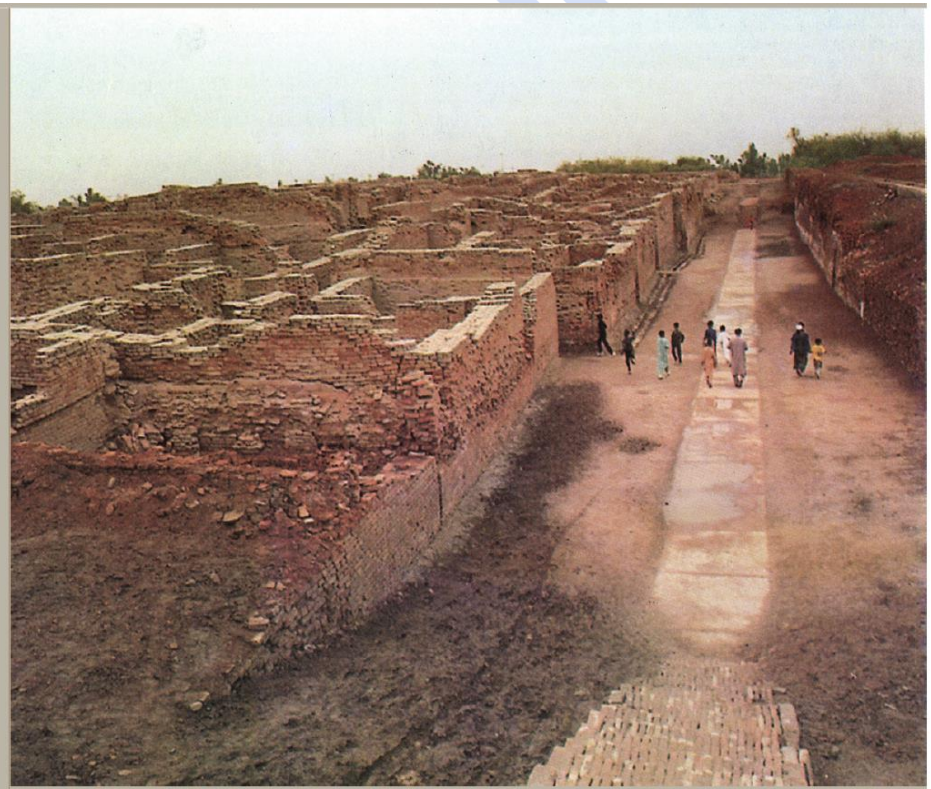




Mohenjo Daro  
Aerial View of  
"Bath"



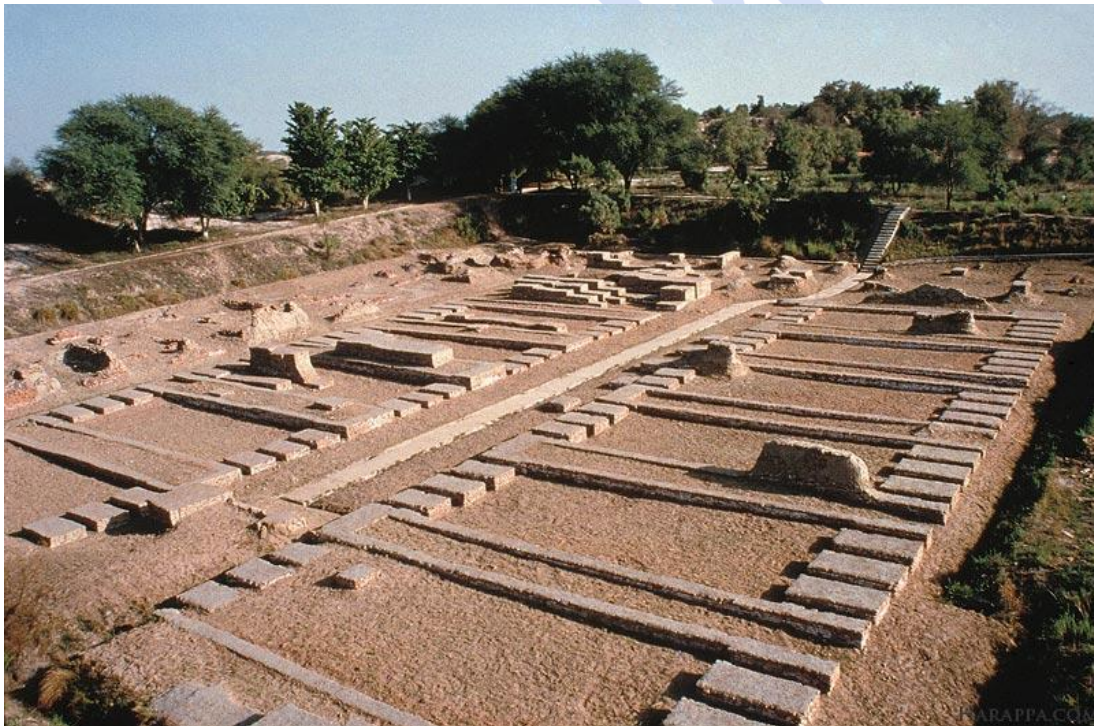
Mohenjo Daro  
Broad Street



Slide 8



Mohenjo Daro  
Well



Granaries of Harappa

### Political structure?

Indus **rulers** have left their mark on every facet of life in the valley, but have themselves remained **anonymous**. We are not certain of their form of government.

(A) **Hereditary monarchy?** – Not probable. It is **ruled out**.

- Kings by nature are self-exalting and express themselves in grand palaces, mausoleums, and other monumental structures – **no evidence of tomb/pyramid/royal grave** here.
- **No indication of dominant military presence.** Surprising absence of warfare. Inferior military technology than that of contemporary civilizations

Then? There are other speculations/hypothesis.

- Possibility that **each city was ruled by mercantile class**. Various groups with totemic symbols are represented in seals.
- Harappan government was a **theocracy**, a rule of a small, endogamous, socially exclusive, priestly class, headed by **priest-king** or a **council of high priests**.

(B) **Nature of state?**

Earlier we thought that it was an **Empire**, ruled by a king, with **two capitals**. Vast geographic area with uniformity of material culture and near total identity in the layout of the two cities. Now this view is rejected. The whole region is **too extensive** to be ruled effectively by a centralized authority in prehistoric times.

Some scholars therefore postulate that the region was divided into **two or more independent city-states** with their own bureaucracy (as in Mesopotamia). But this view also has its own difficulties. Why is there no evidence of conflict between them (aggrandizement is a universal characteristic of political authority). How could such total uniformity of culture and civic regulations over the vast region have prevailed in a competitive political environment, that too, over several centuries?

There was **some sort of unified socio-political authority** over the entire area to enforce **order** and **uniformity**, but the region was probably divided into autonomous (but not independent) units like city-states.

### Economy – Agriculture

One thing is certain – that there was prosperity, which was rooted in the agricultural surplus.

- **Intensive agriculture** to maximize production and generate surplus.
- **Great ecological variety** (alluvial plains, mountains, plateau, sea-coast) led to regionally diverse crops and farming techniques.
  - Major food crops – wheat, barley, millet, rice seems less, mustard, sesame etc (no maize).
  - Non-food crops – cotton
  - Jowar and Bajra: two major crops came from Africa – Late Harappan era.
- Techniques
  - **2 growing seasons:** both summer and winter crops are found.
  - **Ploughing**
    - **Kalibangan:** Only site with ploughmarks. Very interesting criss-cross pattern – double cropping.
    - **Banawali:** terracotta plough toy model.
  - **Irrigation**
    - Farmers must have built **bunds** (embankments) of mud or stone to divert river water, as they do today in areas like Baluchistan. (**Flood irrigation** was more prominent)
    - **Irrigation canals** have been found at **Shortughai**, a trading outpost. But it was rare and exceptional.
  - Probably use of animal manure as fertilizer.

### Animal food – hunting and fishing too.

- **Bones of wild animals** – Deer, pig, boar, sheep, goat, ass.
- Remains of **domesticated** animals – humped and humpless cattle, buffalo, sheep, and goat.
  - **Rakhigarhi** has given abundant data for cattle bones, which implies importance of animal husbandry.
- Represented in paintings on **pottery** – Rabbits, peacocks, pigeons, ducks, monkeys, and wild fowl.

Thus, **diverse subsistence base**, taking into account the ecological diversity and technology for adaptation and resilience.

Skeletal study – health of people good. No undernourishment.

### Economy – Art and Crafts

**Earlier** writings tended to contrast the **plainness** of Harappan artefacts with the opulence of their Egyptian and Mesopotamian counterparts. **Nowadays**, the **technological sophistication and beauty** of some of the Harappan artefacts are recognized.



## 1. Standardization – impressive level

- a. Brick and Pottery
  - b. Units of weights and measure.
    - i. The system is binary in the smaller weights (1:2:8:16:32:64) and decimal in the higher weights (with a ratio of 160, 200, 320, and 640).
    - ii. Cubical weights made of chert, chalcedony, black stone, etc. have been found at all excavated sites, and their **accuracy all over the Harappan culture zone is remarkable.**
      1. The largest weight found at Mohenjodaro weighs 10.865 g.
  - c. A **shell scale** was found at Mohenjodaro and an **ivory scale** at Lothal; a shell object found in Saurashtra was probably used to **measure angles**.
2. There is a **great variety** of standardized, **mass-produced craft items** at Harappan sites.
  3. An important feature of urbanization was **highly organized** art and craft. Harappan artists made very delicate and beautiful objects using different kinds of material including metals/stones/terracotta/ ivory/seashells.
  4. **Craft specialization** in settlements – **localization**
    - a. Lothal – bead factory
    - b. Gujarat sites – shell working – Nageshwar, Kuntasi, Rangpur
    - c. City planning
      - i. No major workshop in Mohenjo-daro
      - ii. In Harappa, industrial area for copper working in north of citadel
      - iii. Bricks – huge consumption but no kiln found inside any city. All outside. May be polluting industry.

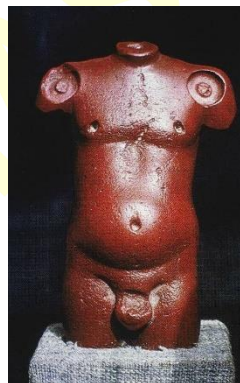



### Brief Survey of important crafts:

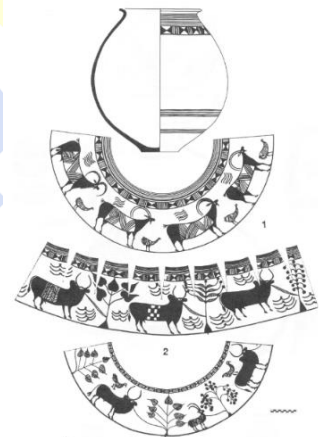
<b>Textile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cotton</b> cloth was a <b>major item of manufacture and trade</b> – numerous spindle-whorls found.</li> <li>• <b>Mesopotamian texts</b> mention <u>cotton as one of the imports from Meluhha</u></li> <li>• <b>Silk</b> fibres also found in Harappa, around a copper alloy neckless.</li> </ul>
<b>Ivory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established</li> <li>• Couple of elephant tusks found with skeletons of group of people</li> </ul>
<b>Metal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great number of <b>copper</b> objects found.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Artefacts out of pure copper, as well as alloyed copper with arsenic, tin, or nickel. <u>The number of pure copper artefacts was far greater than alloyed bronze ones.</u></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Harappan people used <b>silver</b> and <b>gold</b> basically for <b>ornaments</b> while copper was used for implements and tools.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A hoard of jewellery made of gold, silver, and semi-precious stones was found at the small village site of <b>Allahdino</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>






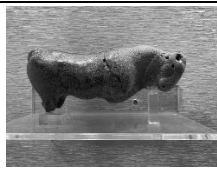






	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most important craft was bronze work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dancing girl – Mohenjodaro.</li> <li>Bronze bull – Kalibangan</li> <li>Copper bird and dog – Lothal</li> <li><u>Daimabad articles</u> – ox-cart, elephants, buffalo, and rhino.</li> </ul> </li> <li>These articles were fashioned using the technique of <b>lost-wax</b> which we use even today.</li> </ul>
<b>Stonework</b>	<p>Important craft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relatively <b>rarer</b> + high <b>efforts</b> → <b>elite</b> work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stone quarry – <b>Rohri Hills and Sukkur</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Variety of stones: sand-stone, grey stone, limestone, steatite etc.</li> <li>Stone Masonry and fine polished <b>pillars</b> at <b>Dholavira</b></li> <li>Sculpture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Very few</b> of the stone sculptures are found in the Harappan zone, less than 15. All are <b>small</b> in size.</li> <li><b>Bearded man</b>.</li> <li><b>Torso</b> of male made of redstone from Harappa. Very beautiful, nature-like, anatomy of muscle, subtle realism, tactile delicacy etc are quite alien to Harappan art in general.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> 
<b>Bead ornaments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi-precious stones: Lapis Lazuli, Agate, Jasper, Jade, Carnelian, Onyx etc.</li> <li>Hard material processing: Cutting, rounding, polishing (cylindrical), then drilling.</li> <li>Prestige work + Great demand world over</li> <li>Elite consumption, status symbol</li> </ul> 
<b>Seal-making</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These are not coins.</li> <li>Some as amulets.</li> <li>Most as stamp seals for commercial purpose.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Maximum seals are found in Mohenjodaro.</li> <li>Material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Soft</b> stone <b>steatite</b> – carving not possible on hard stone.</li> <li>Sometimes <b>Faience</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly squarish in shape. Or rectangular.</li> <li>Average size is about 2.5 cm but some as large as 6cm.</li> <li><b>"Intaglio"</b> carving</li> <li>Carving of humans, animals, script: Remarkable engraving of animals:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complex designs on some like mysterious rituals, narrative and myths.</li> <li>Mortimer Wheeler: 'little masterpieces of controlled realism'</li> </ul>
<b>Faience sculptures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Costly composite material</u>: Manufactured material out of <u><i>paste of crushed quartz, which is coloured with various mineral sands and then coated with glaze</i></u>.</li> <li>Animals, little masterpieces carefully executed.</li> <li>Also bangles, rings, pendants, miniature vessels</li> </ul>
<b>Woodcarving</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have been experts but nothing survived</li> </ul>
<b>Terracotta (popular art)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Found all across Harappan civilization.</li> <li>Mixed of both religious and secular</li> <li><b>Figures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human and animal figures. Female figurines with decorated ornaments.</li> <li>Children toys.</li> <li>About 75% of the terracotta represent cattle, generally humped bull, most of the rest are of women (like mother goddess).</li> <li>But these are all <u>crudely made</u>, perhaps reflecting the culture of the <u>common people</u>.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Imitation jewellery</b> made of terracotta.</li> <li><b>Pottery</b> – mediocre artistic merit, mostly plain and severely utilitarian. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-fired, wheel-turned Harappan pottery</li> <li>Highly glazed (shining even today)</li> <li>It is called <b>black-on-red</b> (black paintings on red pottery) – thus decorative painting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Pottery decoration Nausharo

Kalibangan Bronze Bulls			
			
Daimabad Treasure			
			

## Trade Economy

- Extensive trading networks.
- A fair amount of **craft production** was for trade and not for domestic consumption.
  - Even a small settlement had craft industries whose output exceeded local needs and was meant at least partially for export.
  - It was an important **factor in Harappan urbanization**.
- There was a great degree of centralized control: standard weights and measures, systematized production techniques.

Everything is not locally available. Thus, various raw materials were procured from various regional and external centres.

	Material	Internal	External
Metal	Gold	Kolar?	Central Asia
	Silver	Jowar Hills (Rj)	Mesopotamia
	Copper	Khetri mines	Oman
	Tin		Ferghana in central Asia
Semi-precious stones	Agate/Carnelian	Gujarat	
	Lapis Lazuli	Shortughai (near Kabul)	
	Jade		Turkamenistan

**Foreign trade:** Important trade with Mesopotamia.


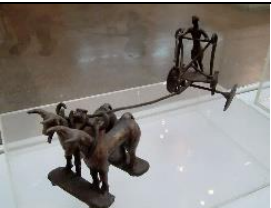




- We don't know when the trade with **Sumerian** civilizations started but by Akkadian period in Sumer (2370-2100 BCE) it was well established.
  - The cities like Ur and Nippur have Harappan artifacts.
  - Mesopotamian script is deciphered – it used to get goods from 3 places.
- It is also quite likely that a group of Harappan **merchants settled there**, for their seals are found there.

<b>Dilman</b>	Bahrain
<b>Magan</b>	Oman
<b>Meluha</b>	A port generally believed to be at the mouth of Indus but could well be Mohenjodaro itself or even entire Harappan civilization.

## Commodities in external trade:

Export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cotton</b> was probably a major item of export from India. Cotton in early historic times was known as <b>sindhu</b> in Mesopotamia.</li> <li>• Other items: Copper, beads of agate/carnelian, ivory boxes and combs, wood of different varieties, peacock.</li> <li>• We also exported lots of jewellery.</li> </ul>
Import	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not much data unfortunately. Most probably some <b>perishable</b> items.</li> <li>• Since it was possibly a barter trade, <b>silver</b> was imported in large quantity.</li> <li>• <b>Bitumen</b> was not available locally, perhaps imported from Iran.</li> </ul>
<b>Balance of trade</b> was evidently in favour of Harappans.	

## Transportation Technology:

		
Toy Ox-cart found in Harappa	Daimabad	Terracotta toy cart from Nausharo (Balochistan)
		
Boat engraving from Mohenjodaro	Boat engraving from Mohenjodaro	A close-up of a modern flat-bottomed Sindi boat on the Indus near Sukhar

- **Riverine transport**
  - Indus was a treacherous river to sail on, because of its shifting sand-banks, but there would nevertheless have been considerable river transport.
- **Ports**
  - **Makran Coast:**
    - **Sutkagendor** (Dashti river)
    - **Sutka Koh** (Shadi Kaur river)
  - **Lothal** dockyard – harbour facilities with wharf.

### Social condition?

- Rich-poor gap
  - Based on **house** size and location
  - **Grave goods** reveal information about food/jewellery/social distinction etc.
- **Various professional groups:** specialization of architects, peasants, traders, transporters, sanitary workers etc. We don't know what was their inter-relationship.
- Sati: we don't know.
- Slavery: we don't know.
- Yet, it must have been a well-organized society.

However, **on the whole, it was a good life** in the Harappan cities. The people probably lived a more **orderly and secure** life than in any other prehistoric civilization.

**We know nothing about the intangibles of the life**, nothing about their dreams and fears, the songs they sang, the stories they told, the lore of their gods and heroes.

One thing that is certain is that **male-female enjoyed life**. They were not joyless automatons. Even the scanty evidence we have indicates that there was **music, drums and dance** in the cities, and also **wine** and **revelry** in the taverns. Indus people also amused themselves with **games** like dice and marbles. Perhaps they gambled also.

- Dice game
- Marbles
- Chess (Lothal – game pieces)
- Terracotta games for children mostly made of baked clay
  - Birds, animals, oxcarts, men/women
  - Sliding monkey, whistles-shaped like birds, models of household articles
- Cats and dogs were kept as pet animals. Terracotta cages as toys have also been found.
- Hunting must have been a common sport, for engravings show men shooting antelopes and goats with bows and arrows



A Harappan dice of chance found in the rubble at Harappa (Kenoyer)

Clothes	Ornaments/Jewellery	Beautification
<p>Little is known about the clothes of the people, but they seem to have dressed differently according to their social status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most people went <b>virtually naked</b>. <b>Terracotta figurines</b> show women naked except for short loincloth, and men even without that.</li> </ul>	<p>They wore hardly any clothes but were loaded with ornaments for both men and women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bangles</li> <li>• Necklace, Choker necklace</li> <li>• Anklet, nose-studs, earrings</li> <li>• Girdle – kamarband – typically Indian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large number of oval/circular copper <b>mirrors</b></li> <li>• Ivory <b>combs</b></li> <li>• <b>Antimony</b> rod (Lothal) –</li> <li>• Terracotta figures – <b>sindoor</b> like parting?</li> </ul> <p>Both men and women wore their <b>hair long</b>. The high fashion among the men was like in the <b>bearded man</b> stone sculpture. Many</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Elites</b>, if we are to go by sculptural evidence, wore embroidered <b>robes</b>.</li></ul>	<b>The rich</b> had ornaments of gold, silver, ivory, faience and semi-precious stones while <b>the poor</b> had to make do with copper, shell, bone and terracotta.	<b>razors</b> of different shapes have been found, probably used by men as well as women.
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**(A) No temple has been excavated at any site**

A couple of structures in Mohenjo-daro are thought possibly to be temples, but the identification is highly doubtful. Temples apart, not even any clearly identifiable major religious structure has been found anywhere in the region.

**Several unconvincing reasons** have been advanced to explain this anomaly:

- Temples were built of **wood** and have perished.
- Religion was based on **magical rites and sacrifices** like in Vedas etc.
- Indus religion was centered on **household shrines**, and it **didn't play any public role**.

One possible explanation is that the **citadel itself was a religious complex**, from which the priest-king or a conclave of priests operated.

- Processional ways, ceremonial terraces: Harappa, Mohenjodaro Kalibangan citadels.
- The Great Bath in the Mohenjo-daro citadel possibly had some ritual purpose.

**(B) Fertility Cult**

- Many terracotta female figurines – some with head fans.
  - John Marshall identified them as **mother goddesses**.
  - Significantly, male terracotta figurines are rare.
- **Linga worship (phallus worship)**
  - Marshall also mentions Linga worship, but it is not certain.
  - Stylized representations of linga and yoni – prevalence of fertility cult.
- **Pashupati Seal**
  - The most tantalizing source of information is the variety of **seals** but these are subject to varying **interpretations** as their **script** remains undeciphered.
  - 4 traits: Proto Shiva?
    - Yogic posture



Wheeler speculated a staircase leading near the Granary is going to a temple. But it is not confirmed.



Mother Goddess



Fig. 2. The Kalibangan "yoni-lingam".  
Photos by Praveen Singh, Archaeological Museum, Kalibangan, 2016.

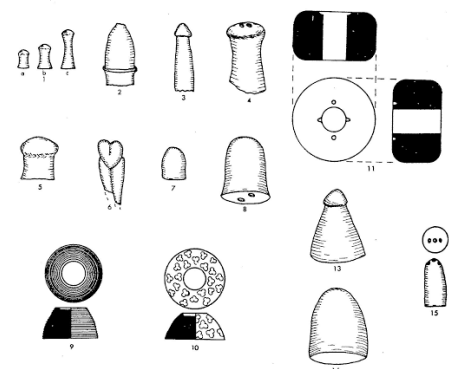


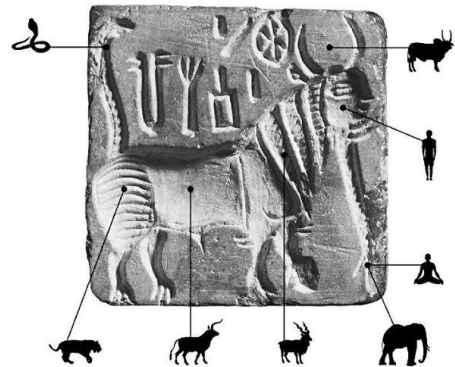
Fig.12.1. Harappan stone objects usually identified in terms of sex-worship symbols

- Surrounded with animals
  - Rhino, Elephant, Tiger, Buffalo around + 2 deer at the base.
- Three faces with horn
- Ethyphallic



### (C) Nature worship

- **Animal as objects** of veneration, were important components of Harappan religion:
  - Out of around 5000 inscriptions, around 1500 have animals (Ir. Mahadevan)
    - **1159 Unicorns** – Most remarkable
    - 95 hump-less bull (bison)
      - 55 elephants
    - 54 humped bulls (zebu)
    - 21 tigers
    - 15 hare
    - 14 buffalo
    - Also, rhinoceros, monkey, elephant, and occasionally birds but never cow.
    - **Snake** was also a cult object, often represented in *pottery paintings*.
  - Animals sometimes have baskets in front of their mouth, is it for ritual feeding like today?
  - Many animals depicted are **mythical** in nature or **composite** creatures.
- Harappan seals also clearly indicate that **plants were venerated**.
  - **Tree worship (tree spirit may be) – peepal**
  - Some seals show men making offerings and women dancing around a goddess who emerges from a tree.



### (D) Mythology?

- **Cultic symbols: Auspicious Swastika**



- Evidence of **Yoga** – maybe. Many terracotta figures.
  - At **Balathal** (Rj), a skeleton in Yogic posture was discovered.
- **Horned deity?** – terracotta masks, pottery paintings, sealings.
- **Amulets** – indicate belief in superstitions (charms, spells to protect from bad spirits)



#### (E) Rituals and practices?

- **Animal sacrifice, Human sacrifice**
- **Ritual bathing** – Great Bath
- **Fire pits → altars?**
  - Kalibangan, Banawali, Lothal, Nageshwar but **not in Harappa/Mohenjodaro**



Clay-plastered line pits in public/homes with charcoal (some with residual elements of oxen bones)

**(F) Burial system – belief in afterlife.**

- Important cemeteries: Harappa (R37), Kaligangan, Farmana, Lothal, Dholavira and now Sanauli and Rakhigarhi.

**Diversity of funerary practices:**

- Burial of the **whole body** was the practice. But some **partial** burials (of skeletons removed from elsewhere) are known.
- Most common type of burial in Harappa was **extended** burial (with N-S orientation)
- Fragmented, **secondary** burials.
- Kalibangan - **Symbolic** burial. Rare. Indicates rituals.
- Lothal – three **twin** burials.
- Rakhigarhi – **Couple burial**
- Harappa and Sanauli – **Wooden coffin**

**Grave goods** - generally pottery with 15-20 pots, (rarely upto 40) presumably making provisions for afterlife.



The Rakhigarhi Couple (2019)  
Joint burial practice in exceptionally rich Rakhigarhi cemetery



## Decline

(subject of great debate – various views)

Various theories emerged over the last few decades. Initially, British talked about **Aryan invasion**. This view was forwarded by DG ASI in 1940s Sir **Mortimer Wheeler**.

- Punjab/Haryana was the route of invading Aryans and thus the fight between the two took place. The arguments he fashioned were:
  - Hariyupiya in Rigveda is Harappa city.
  - It was destroyed by Purandhara Indra a war-god.
  - Evidence of massacre at Mohenjodaro.

This view continued for the next 30 years. But now it is totally rejected.

- No evidence of fighting. The so-called massacre – the skeletons don't belong to the same period. Some of them seem to have recovered after injury and some deaths seem to be caused by some water-borne diseases.
- The entire theory of Aryan Invasion itself is now discarded.

Then there are a host of local factors like:

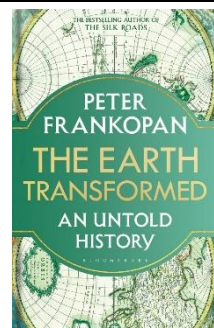
- **Flood theory**
  - Floods affected only Mohenjodaro and *not the entire civilization*.
- **Tectonic theory**
  - Earthquake of very high intensity → river capture → drying of Ghaggar-Hakra river → people migrated → cities declined?

The reason for the decline must be something which spans the entire area and not just one or other locality. Today, the most acceptable theory → long span of mighty draught (climate change).

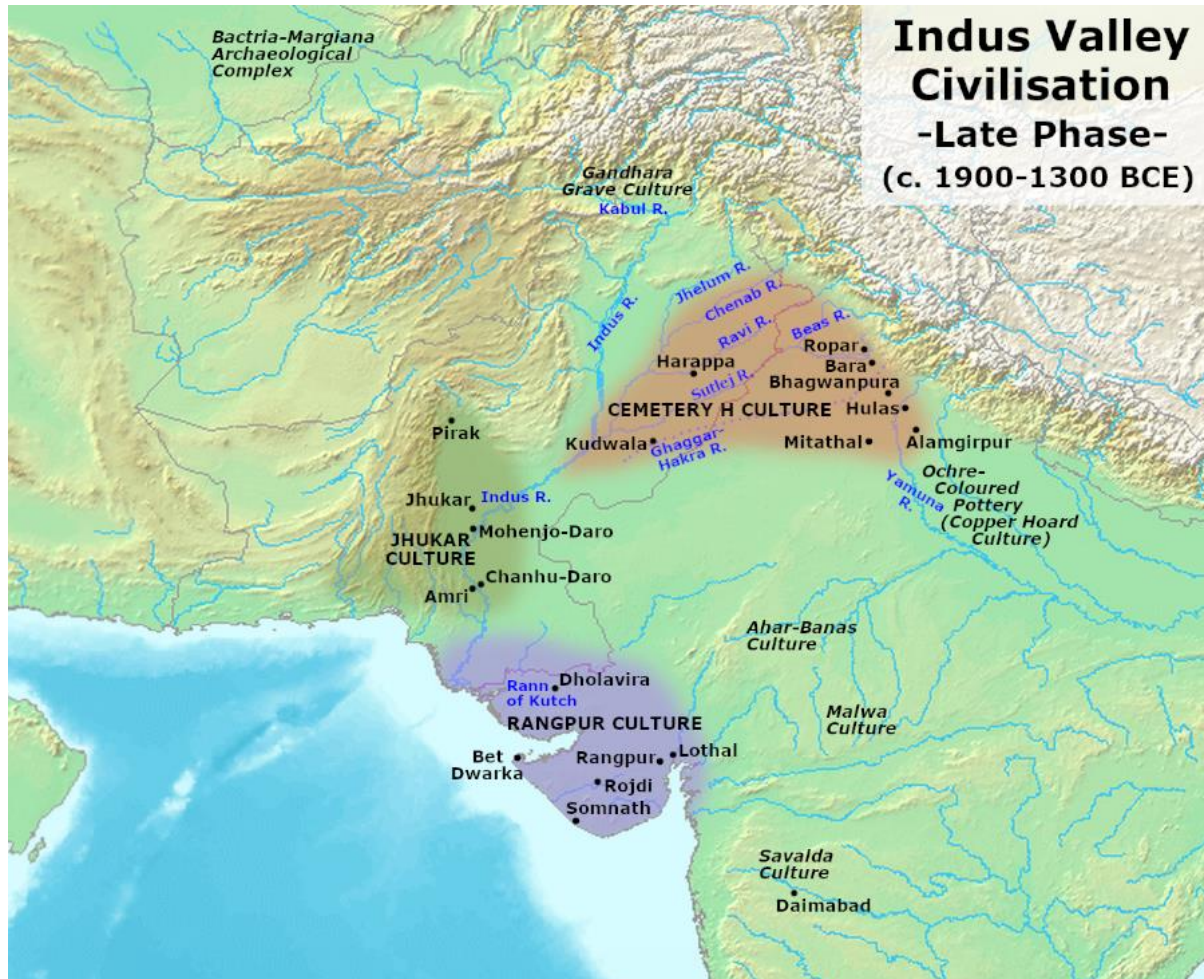
- Climate change → to decline in rain, onset of drought, decline in food, desiccation, prolonged famine, thus ecological balance got disturbed. Forests must have started to disappear.
- Less rain perhaps due to **shift of monsoon** or less possibly because of manual deforestation.

A recent book challenges popular notions of drought and climate change leading to the collapse of the Indus Valley Civilisation. Indus Valley, according to him, had survived in bleak climatic conditions through a series of coping strategies and adaptations.

Thus, a combination of other factors like: unplanned demographic expansion, sanitary conditions that bred diseases, and violence that coincided with prolonged periods of lowered rainfall precipitated its collapse, Frankopan claims.



Meaning of decline: People didn't die. Rather, the towns degraded, decayed and urban features disappeared. The way of life was gone, and people migrated in various directions. There is increasing ruralization. But the traditions persist. So, we call the late Harappan phase as post-urban phase.



**Practice Questions: Harappan Civilization**

**1. Which one of the following animals was not represented seals and terracotta art of the Harappan culture? [2001]**

- (a) Cow (b) Elephant (c) Rhinoceros (d) Tiger

**2. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the people of Indus Civilization? [2013]**

1. They possessed great palaces and temples.
2. They worshipped both male and female deities.
3. They employed horse-drawn chariots in warfare.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) None of the above

**3. Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements: [2011]**

1. It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
2. During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**4. Match List-I (Ancient site) with List-II (Archaeological finding) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists: [2002]**

List-I

(Ancient site)

(Archaeological finding)

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| A. Lothal     | 1. Ploughed field   |
| B. Kalibangan | 2. Dockyard   |
| C. Dholavira  | 3. Terracotta replica of a plough   |
| D. Banawali   | 4. An inscription comprising ten large sized signs of the Harappan script |

Codes:

- (a) A-1; B-2; C-3; D-4 (b) A-2; B-1; C-4; D-3  
(c) A-1; B-2; C-4; D-3 (d) A-2; B-1; C-3; D-4

**5. Which one of the following ancient towns is well-known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelizing water into connected reservoirs? [2021]**

- (a) Dholavira (b) Kalibangan (c) Rakhigarhi (d) Ropar

**6. Which one of the following is not a Harappan site? [2019]**

- (a) Chanhudaro (b) Kot Diji (c) Sohagaura (d) Desalpur

**7. Consider the following statements:**

1. A bead maker's shop has been unearthed from Chanhudaro.

2. Dholavira is a city which was divided into three parts.

3. Rakhigarhi is the biggest site of Harappan civilisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2                      (b) 2 and 3  
(c) Only 1                      (d) All of the above

**8. List 1(Culture)**

- A. Pre Harappan  
B. Early Harappan  
C. Mature Harappan  
D. Late Harappan

**List 2 (Characteristic)**

1. Elaborate Town Planning & Urban Features  
2. Decline of a Civilization  
3. Nomadic People began to have a settled life  
4. Transition from Rural to Urban Life

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	2	3	4
(b)	3	4	1	2
(c)	3	1	4	2
(d)	2	3	4	1

**9. List 1(Ancient site)**

- A. Mohenjodaro  
B. Kalibangan  
C. Lothal  
D. Harappa

**List 2 (River)**

1. Ghaggar  
2. Ravi  
3. Indus  
4. Bhogwa

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	2	3	4
(b)	3	4	1	2
(c)	3	1	4	2
(d)	2	3	4	1

**10. Which among the following is not the characteristic feature of the Harappan settlement? (NDA 2011, I)**

- a) Doorways and windows generally faced the side lanes and rarely opened onto the main streets  
b) Houses generally had separate bathing areas and toilets  
c) The citadel was walled but the lower town was not walled  
d) Drains and water chutes from the second storey were often built inside the wall

**11. The terracotta plough of the Harappan civilization was found at (NDA 2012, I)**

- a) Mohenjodaro  
b) Banawali  
c) Kalibangan  
d) Lothal

**12. Consider the following statements about the Harappan culture (NDA 2014, II)**

1. The Harappan culture matured in Sindh and Punjab
2. It spread from there to Southwards and Eastwards
3. The area, where it spread, was bigger than Egypt and Mesopotamia

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**13. In the Mesopotamian records, which of the following terms was used for the Indus Valley (Harappans)? (NDA 2017, II)**

- a) Dilmun
- b) Meluhha
- c) Magan
- d) Failaka

**14. Which one of the following statements regarding Harappan civilization is correct? (CDS 2009, II)**

- a) The standard Harappan seals were made of clay
- b) The inhabitants of Harappa had neither knowledge of copper nor bronze
- c) The Harappan civilization was rural based
- d) The inhabitants of Harappan grew and used cotton

**15. Which of the racial groups were present in Indus valley civilisation?**

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mediterranean | 2. Proto-Austroloid |
| 3. Alpine        | 4. Mangoloid        |

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| (a) 2 and 4    | (b) 1, 2 and 3       |
| (c) 1, 3 and 4 | (d) All of the above |

**16. Consider the following statements:**

1. Use of bronze implements in agriculture
2. Use of seal and script
3. Worship of Mother Goddess
4. Metal idols

Which of the facts given above makes/ make Indus valley unique from Stone age?

- |             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 | (b) 1, 2 and 4       |
| (c) 2 and 4 | (d) All of the above |

**17. Consider the following statements regarding Harappan script-**

1. The script was pictographic.
2. It was in boustrophedon style.
3. It was the only script in practice in the contemporary period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



- (a) 1 and 2  
(b) 1 and 3  
(c) 2 and 3  
(d) All of the above

**18. Consider the following statements regarding Harappan religion-**

1. Animism
2. Worship of Swastika
3. Worship of Mother Goddess
4. Phallus worship

Which of the facts given above was/were part of Harappan religion?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3  
(b) 1 and 3  
(c) 2, 3 and 4  
(d) All of the above

**19. Consider the following statements regarding Harappan society-**

1. Harappan civilization was not a uniform culture.
2. 'Fire altars' reported at Kalibangan and Banawali signified community event.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**20. Consider the following-**

1. Ur
2. Nippur
3. Makran

Which of the places mentioned above was/ were engaged in trade activities during the Harappan civilization?

- (a) 1 and 3  
(b) 3 only  
(c) 1 only  
(d) All of the above

**21. Consider the following statements:**

1. Bullock-cart was the means of transportation during Harappan era.
2. Mesopotamia, Iran, Afghanistan, Bahrain and Oman were trading countries with Harappan civilization.
3. Lapis Lazuli was received from Kashmir region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 1 and 2  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**22. Consider the following statements:**

1. Use of binary number
2. Use of decimal system
3. Use of 16 and its multiple

Which of the above-mentioned methods was/were prevalent in Harappan civilization?

- (a) 1 and 3  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**23. Consider the following statements in context to Harappan civilisation:**

1. No evidence of temple architecture from any Harappan site.
2. Humped bull and unicorn were worshiped.
3. No evidence of performing religious rituals.

Which of the above-mentioned statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3                      (b) 1 and 2  
(c) 2 and 3                      (d) 1, 2 and 3

**24. Consider the following statements with respect to Harappan culture:**

1. Bronze statue of a dancing girl was the only metal statue found in Harappa civilization.
2. Uniformity in weights & measures was there.
3. A uniform burial practice was prevalent in Indus valley civilization.

Which of the above-mentioned statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3                      (b) 1 and 2  
(c) Only 2                      (d) Only 3

**25. Consider the following statements:**

1. Jhukar Culture
2. Cemetery 'H' Culture
3. Ochre Coloured Pottery Culture

Which of the abovementioned culture/s was/were related directly/indirectly to late Harappan culture?

- (a) 1 and 3                      (b) 1 and 2  
(c) Only 2                      (d) 1, 2 and 3

**26. Consider the following statements:**

1. Harappan people did not believe in life after death.
2. There was variations in religious practice within the Harappan cultural region.
3. Snakes were worshipped in Indus valley civilization.

Which of the above-mentioned statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3                      (b) 2 and 3  
(c) Only 2                      (d) 1, 2 and 3

**27. Which among the following was/were the shell-based production centre(s) of the Indus Valley Civilization? (CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2021)**

- (a) Shortughai  
(b) Lothal  
(c) Balakot and Nageshwar  
(d) Allahdino and Dholavira

**28. In the Mesopotamian records, the Indus Valley region is addressed as (CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2021)**

- (a) Meluha  
(b) Dilmun  
(c) Magan

(d) Uruk

**29. Which one of the following statements about the Harappan script is *not* correct?** (CAPF (ACS) Exam 2020)

- (a) It has about four hundred signs
- (b) It was written from right to left
- (c) It has been found on bone rods and jewellery
- (d) It refers to the people of Meluhha

**30. Which of the following is/are the distinctive artefacts of the Harappan Civilisation?** (CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020)

- 1. Steatite seal
- 2. Bricks of a standardized ratio
- 3. Gold bangles
- 4. Silver spittoon

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**31. From which one of the following factory sites were limestone and chert blades mass produced and sent to various Harappan settlements in Sindh?** (CDS Exam (1) 2020)

- (a) Sukkur and Rohri Hills
- (b) Khetri in Rajasthan
- (c) Chagai Hills
- (d) Hills of Baluchistan

**32. Which of the following statements about Harappa Civilization is/are correct?** (CAPF (ACs) Exam 2018)

- 1. There is the extraordinary uniformity in artefacts as evident in pottery, seals, bricks and weights.
- 2. The late Harappa sites also maintained the same construction techniques as were used in mature Harappa sites.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**33. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below:** (UPPCS (Mains) 2017)

- | List-I     | List-II          |
|------------|------------------|
| A. Harappa | 1. Cemetery R-37 |

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| B. Lothal       | 2. Dockyard             |
| C. Kalibangan   | 3. Dancing Girl Statute |
| D. Mohenjo-Daro | 4. Furrowed land        |

**Code:**

A B C D

- (a) 1 2 3 4  
(b) 2 1 4 3  
(c) 3 4 1 2  
(d) 1 2 4 3

**34. Which of the following animals was *not* known to the people of Indus Valley Civilization?** (BPSC 2023)

- (a) Bull      (b) Horse      (c) Elephant      (d) None of the above.

**35. Who among the following discovered Surkotda, a site of Harappan culture?** (RPSC 2023)

- (a) BB Lal      (b) SR Rao      (c) YD Sharma      (d) Jagatpati Joshi

**36. With reference to the prevalence of agricultural technologies in the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements.** (JKPSC 2023)

1. The terracotta model of the plough has been found at the site of Banawali
2. The evidence of the ploughed field was found at Kalibangan
3. Traces of canals for irrigation have been found at the site of Shortughai in Afghanistan.

Chose the correct answer.

- (a) 2 and 3 only      (b) 2 only      (c) 1 and 3 only      (d) 1, 2 and 3

**37. Eastern boundary of the Harappa culture is indicated by which of the following?** (UPPSC 2022)

- (a) Manda      (b) Rakhigarhi      (c) Alamgirpur      (d) Harappa

**38. -----** gives evidence of a planned settlement and mud-brick structure in early Harappan period I. The range of pottery types was similar to that of Kalibangan. Artefacts included uninscribed seals, pottery with graffiti, terracotta wheels, cars, rattles, and bull figurines, chert blades, weights, a bone point, and a muller. A lot of animal bones were found during the excavations, indicating the importance of animal husbandry. A stacked set of hopscotches was found in an open area behind the structural complex. This suggests the possibility that a game similar to pithu, which is popular among children in India and Pakistan, goes back to early Harappan times!" - this statement is a description of which Harappan site in India? (HPSC 2022)

- (a) Banawali, HR      (b) Dholavira, GJ      (c) Alamgirpur, UP      (d) Rakhigarhi, HR

**39. Which of the following statements regarding the religious practices of Indus Valley Civilisation is/are correct?**



1. The people had faith in amulets and charms.
2. There was an absence of the worship of the mother goddess.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**40. Consider the following statements regarding the sites of the Harappan Civilisation:**

1. Rakhigarhi is known as the Manchester of Harappan civilisation for its cotton trade.
2. Lothal is the only site of the civilisation with an artificial dockyard.
3. Kalibangan is located on the banks of river Ghaggar.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only                      (b) 1 and 3 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only                      (d) 1,2 and 3