

# Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)



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The Harappan Civilization, also known as the Indus Valley Civilization, **was a Bronze Age urban culture** that flourished along the Indus River in present-day Pakistan, northwest

northeast Afghanistan from **3300 to 1300 BCE**. It is called Harappan civilization because this civilization **was discovered first in 1921 at the modern site of Harappa**.

### Phases of IVC

- ◆ Early Harappan- 3300-2600 BCE
- ◆ Mature Harappan- 2600-1900 BCE
- ◆ Late Harappan phase- 1900-1300 BCE



Daya Ram Sahni



R D Banerji



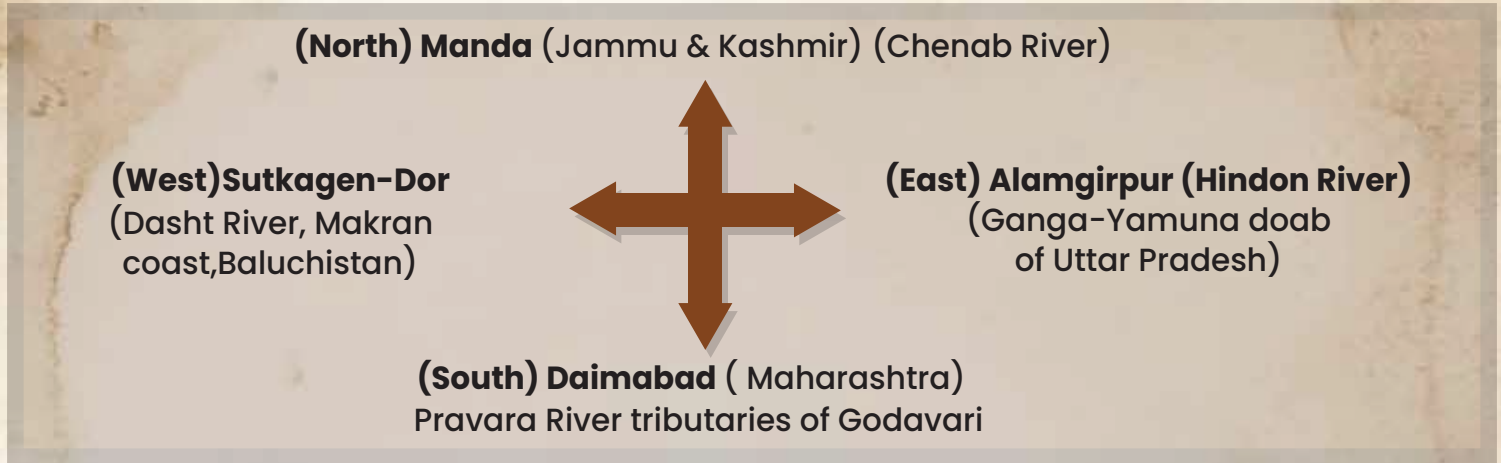
John Marshall

### IVC excavation

- ◆ **Harappa (1921)** - Daya Ram Sahni
- ◆ **Mohenjo-Daro (1922)** - R. D. Banerji
- ◆ In 1924, **John Marshall** recognized the significance of the excavations, revealing India's ancient history.

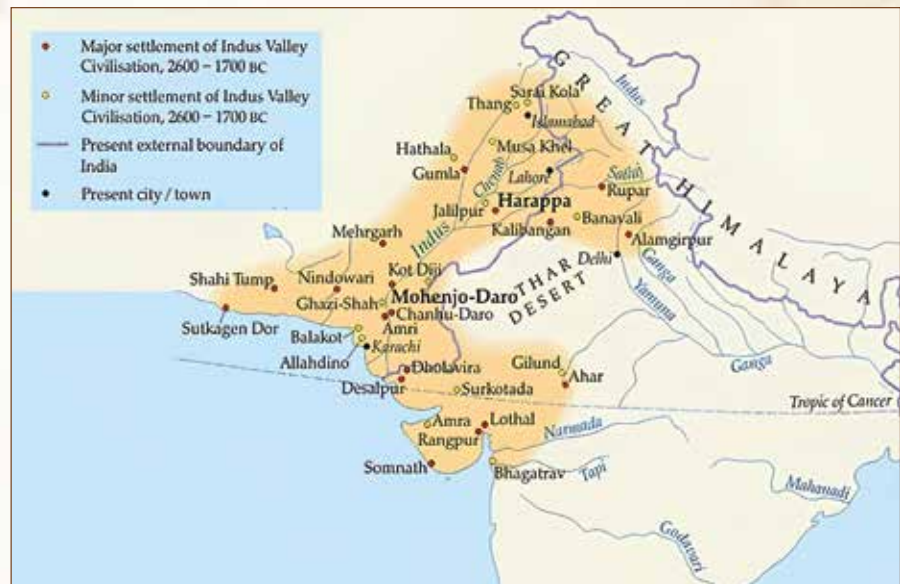


**Geographical Extent:** The epicenter of the civilization was located in present-day Pakistan and northwestern India, from which it expanded in all directions. The area formed a triangular shape and covered approximately 1.3 million square kilometers.



## Administration and Political Organization

- ◆ Although much of the political and administrative structure of the Indus Valley Civilization remains **speculative due to the absence of deciphered written records**, some aspects can be inferred from archaeological evidence.
- ◆ The complexity of structures like the Great Bath, Granaries, and drainage system **suggests strong centralized governance**.
- ◆ The sophisticated economy and craftsmanship indicate leadership under a centralized authority, **likely by a class of merchants**.
- ◆ **Raised Habitations:** Centralized residential areas indicate the presence of important figures, possibly headmen and councils.
- ◆ **Absence of Temples:** Unlike Egypt and Mesopotamia, **no temples were found**, suggesting Harappan rulers focused on commerce rather than conquests.
- ◆ **Lack of Weapons:** Harappans lacked significant weapon-making, possibly reflecting a non-militaristic society.



## Town Planning and Structures

- ◆ **Unified Urban Design:** Harappan cities followed a consistent grid pattern with streets oriented north-south and east-west.
- ◆ **City Division:** Cities were divided into:
  - ◇ **Citadel:** Located on higher ground, housing administrative or ritual centers.
  - ◇ **Lower Town:** Residential areas, with distinct structures and layout.



(Harappan road)



(Citadel Mohenjo-daro)

### ◆ Examples of Settlements:

- ◇ **Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, and Kalibangan** had distinct citadel and lower town divisions
- ◇ **Lothal:** A rectangular settlement with no internal division.
- ◇ **Dholavira** was divided into three parts, and each part was surrounded by massive stone walls, with entrances through gateways.

### ◆ Building Materials:

- ◇ **Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro:** Used baked bricks with standardized sizes.
- Kalibangan:** Utilized mud bricks.

## Notable Public Structures

### ◆ Great Bath (Mohenjo-Daro):

- ◇ A large tank surrounded by rooms for changing clothes.
- ◇ Built with burnt bricks.

### ◆ Granaries:

- ◇ The largest building in Mohenjo-Daro.
- ◇ Harappa had six granaries.
- ◇ Granaries were linked to grain storage and distribution.



(Great Bath Mohanjodaro)





*Harappa granary*

◆ **Threshing Floors:**

- ◇ Rows of circular brick platforms at Harappa for threshing grain (evidence of wheat and barley).

◆ **Barracks (Harappa):**

- ◇ Two-roomed structures, likely used to house laborers.

## Drainage and Sanitation

◆ **Advanced Drainage System:**

- ◇ Mohenjo-Daro's drainage system was sophisticated, with street drains and manholes.

◆ **Private Sanitation:**

- ◇ Most houses had courtyards and bathrooms; Kalibangan homes had wells.

◆ **Health and Cleanliness:**

- ◇ Harappans prioritized hygiene, which was unmatched by other Bronze Age civilizations.



*(Harappan drainage pattern)*



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