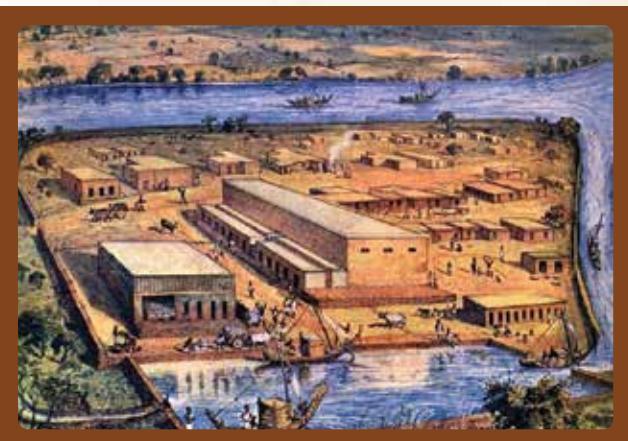


Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)



Economic Life of IVC

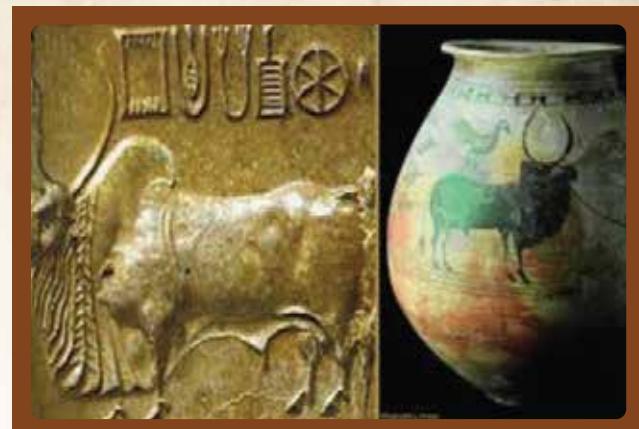
- ◆ **Agriculture:** The primary economic activity was agriculture, supplemented by animal husbandry, hunting, and plant gathering.
- ◆ **Trade and Commerce:** Significant portion of the economy; goods like gold, silver, and diamonds were imported, while finished jewelry, handicrafts, and toys were exported.
- ◆ **Cotton Cultivation:** Harappans were pioneers in cotton cultivation, and the region was known as 'Senden' or the land of cotton by the Greeks.



Domestication of Animals

- ◆ The Harappans domesticated animals such as cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs, and camels. **The humped bull** was their preferred animal.

- ◆ Horse remains **are largely absent from the civilization**, however, remains of horse have been found in the port city of Surkotda (Gujarat) and doubtful terracotta figurine of horse from Lothal (Gujarat). However, it appears that the Harappans were not familiar with the horse.
- ◆ **Elephant Domestication:** Harappans in Gujarat domesticated elephants, unlike the Mesopotamians.



Please Note:

As per the UPSC prelims answer key, the Indus Valley people were unaware of horse).

Agriculture



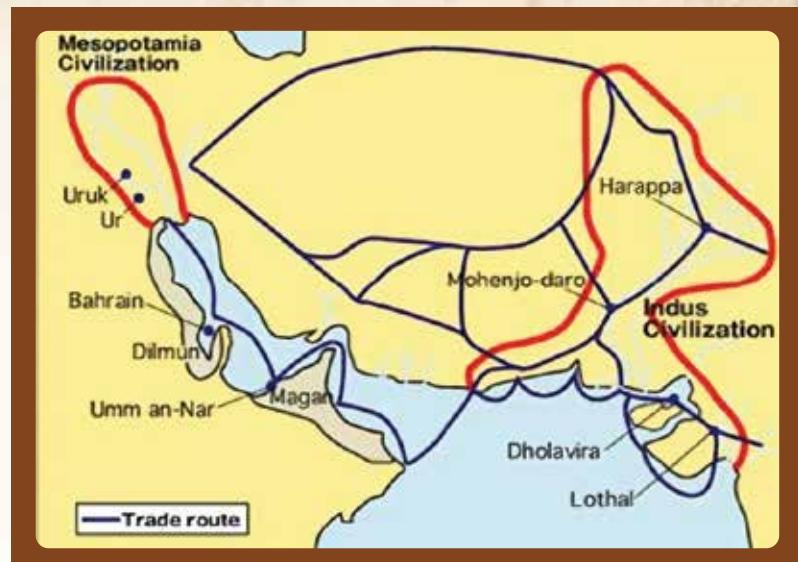
- ◆ Agriculture was the main occupation of the Indus Valley people. They produced surplus crops for both consumption and trade.
- ◆ **Fertile Land:** The region's rich vegetation, rainfall, and the annual flooding of the Indus River contributed to the prosperity of agriculture.
- ◆ **Crops Grown:** Barley, wheat, rice, dates, mustard, sesame, and legumes like peas were cultivated. **Lothal and Rangpur**, famous for the rice cultivation.
- ◆ **Irrigation:** Primarily rain-fed, with other irrigation methods possibly in use.
- ◆ **Plough and Harvesting Tools:** Wooden ploughs and stone sickles were used for cultivation and harvesting.

Trade and Commerce

- ◆ **Barter System:** No currency system; trade was based on bartering goods.
- ◆ **Trade Contacts:** Harappans traded with Mesopotamia, Egypt, Afghanistan, Iran, Central Asia, and local settlements in Rajasthan and Karnataka.

- ◆ **Exports:** Lapis lazuli, shell-work, bangles, and beads were major exports, with factories in Kalibangan, Chanhudaro, and Lothal.

- ◆ **International Trade:** Mesopotamian records from 2350 BCE mention trade with the Indus region, referred to as **Meluhha**. Harappan seals were found in Mesopotamia, and trade also occurred with Sumeria, Babylon, and Egypt.



Weights and Measures



- ◆ **Standardization:** Harappans standardized weights and measures for trade, primarily based on multiples of 16 (16, 64, 160, 320, 640).
- ◆ **Measurement Tools:** Sticks used for measurement have been excavated, suggesting a developed system of measurement and a physical balance for weights.

Transportation

- ◆ **Wheel and Oxen:** The development of the wheel, along with the domestication of oxen and bulls, led to the use of carts and chariots.





◆ **Long-Distance Trade:** Goods were transported using camels and asses, while boats were likely used for long-distance trade by sea.

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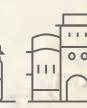
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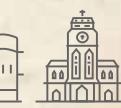
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