

INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

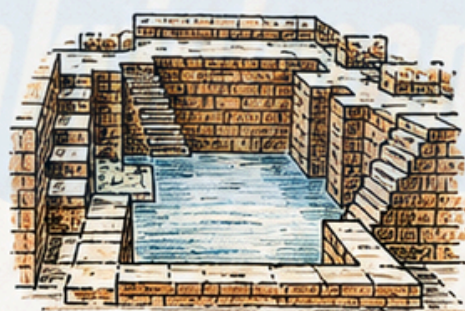


(From the Beginning to 1927)



Inside this Notes

- ★ Chronological Timeline
- ★ Major Sites
- ★ Town Planning
- ★ Drainage System
- ★ Economy & Trade
- ★ Art, Craft & Script
- ★ Decline Theories
- ★ Excavations & Milestones (1829-1927)



Advanced City Planning
& Drainage System



Seals, Art
& Craft



Terracotta
Figurines



Trade & Commerce



Pottery & Seals

The Indus Valley Civilisation is one of the world's earliest urban civilisations and a remarkable chapter in the history of mankind.

Key Takeaway: A brilliant civilisation with advanced planning, rich culture and mysterious script – the pride of ancient India.

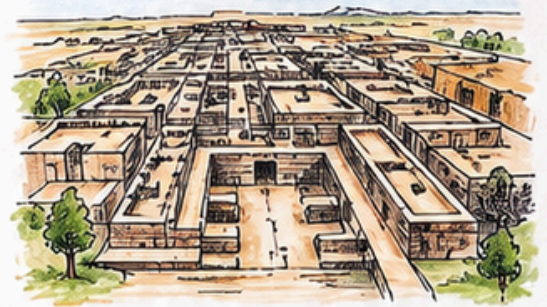


INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

(From the Beginning to 1927)

1. INTRODUCTION

- The Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) is one of the world's earliest urban cultures.
- It flourished in the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent during 3300 BCE – 1300 BCE.
- It is also known as the Harappan Civilisation.
- The civilisation is famous for its planned cities, advanced drainage system, trade, seals, script (undeciphered) and peaceful nature.



Well-planned city of Mohenjo-daro

2. CHRONOLOGICAL TIMELINE : KEY EVENTS AND MILESTONES

PERIOD / YEAR	EVENT / MILESTONE	DETAILS
Before 7000 BCE	Early Settlements in the Region	• People lived in small villages. • Practiced hunting, fishing and gathering.
7000 BCE – 5500 BCE	Beginnings of Agriculture (Neolithic Period)	• People started agriculture and animal domestication. • Mehrgarh (in present-day Balochistan, Pakistan) is one of the earliest farming sites (c. 7000 BCE). 
5500 BCE – 3300 BCE	Pre-Harappan Period	• Development of farming communities. • Use of handmade pottery, copper tools. • Gradual growth of settlements. 
3300 BCE – 2600 BCE	Early Harappan Period (Regional Development)	• Growth of towns and villages. • Development of crafts, trade and contacts. 
2600 BCE – 1900 BCE	Mature Harappan Period (Peak of Civilisation)	• Flourishing of urban centres like Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, Rakhigarhi, Lothal etc. • Advanced town planning, trade, art and culture. 
1900 BCE – 1300 BCE	Late Harappan Period	• Decline of big cities. • People moved to smaller settlements. • Changes in trade and climate. 
1300 BCE onwards	End of the Civilisation	• Indus Valley Civilisation disappeared gradually. 

3. KEY FACTS AT A GLANCE

- ★ Time Period : 3300 BCE – 1300 BCE
- ★ Region : North-western Indian subcontinent (present-day Pakistan and western India)
- ★ River System : Indus and its tributaries (Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) and Ghaggar-Hakra system.
- ★ Major Sites : Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, Lothal, Rakhigarhi, Kalibangan, Banawali, Chanhudaro, Surkotada, etc.
- ★ Nature : Urban civilisation with planned cities.
- ★ People : Peace-loving, skilled in trade and crafts.
- ★ Writing : Indus Script (undeciphered).

Did you know?

The Indus Valley Civilisation is one of the world's earliest urban civilisations along with Mesopotamia (Tigris-Euphrates), Egypt (Nile) and China (Huang He).



Abbreviations

BCE – Before Common Era
IVC – Indus Valley Civilisation



INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION (From the Beginning to 1927)

2

4. EARLY HARAPPAN → MATURE HARAPPAN : DEVELOPMENT IN DETAIL

The Indus Valley Civilisation developed gradually from small farming communities to one of the world's earliest urban civilisations.

A. EARLY HARAPPAN PERIOD (5500 BCE – 3300 BCE)

Key Features

- People lived in villages and small towns.
- Use of handmade pottery (red ware with black designs).
- Use of copper tools.
- Development of farming communities.
- Gradual growth of trade and contacts.



Early Harappan Pottery



Early Harappan Settlement

B. MATURE HARAPPAN PERIOD (2600 BCE – 1900 BCE)

Key Features

- Flourishing of well-planned cities.
- Standardized baked bricks (1:2:4 ratio).
- Advanced drainage and sanitation system.
- Development of crafts like bead-making, pottery, shell work, metal work.
- Wide trade within India and with Mesopotamia, Central Asia and beyond.
- Use of weights and measures uniformly.
- Indus Script in use (still undeciphered).
- No evidence of palaces or large temples.
- Peaceful and organised urban life.



Well-planned city of Mature Harappan phase

C. LATE HARAPPAN PERIOD (1900 BCE – 1300 BCE)

Key Features

- Decline of big cities like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa.
- People moved to smaller villages and rural areas.
- Decrease in use of standardized weights, seals and pottery.
- Changes in burial practices and art styles.
- Trade weakened; local crafts continued.



Late Harappan Rural Settlement

Comparing the Three Phases

Aspect	Early Harappan	Mature Harappan	Late Harappan
Time Period	5500 – 3300 BCE	2600 – 1900 BCE	1900 – 1300 BCE
Settlements	Villages and small towns	Large cities and towns	Small villages and rural settlements
Buildings	Mud houses, simple	Well-planned buildings, brick structures	Less uniform buildings
Crafts & Trade	Limited	Highly developed	Decline in trade
Writing	Not in use	Indus Script in use	No evidence

Important Points

- ★ The IVC did not appear suddenly; it evolved over thousands of years.
- ★ Mature Harappan phase (2600 – 1900 BCE) is the peak of this civilisation.
- ★ It was a highly organised, peaceful and prosperous civilisation.
- ★ The continuity of culture can be seen in pottery, weights, seals and ornaments even in the later phase.



Beads



Weights



Seal



In Short : From simple farming communities (Early Harappan) → to advanced urban centres (Mature Harappan) → to smaller rural settlements (Late Harappan).

INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION (From the Beginning to 1927)

3

5. GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT AND IMPORTANT SITES

A. Geographical Extent

- ★ One of the world's earliest urban civilisations.
- ★ Extended over a vast area of **more than 10 lakh sq. km.**
- ★ Spread across parts of present-day Pakistan, North-west India, Afghanistan and Iran.

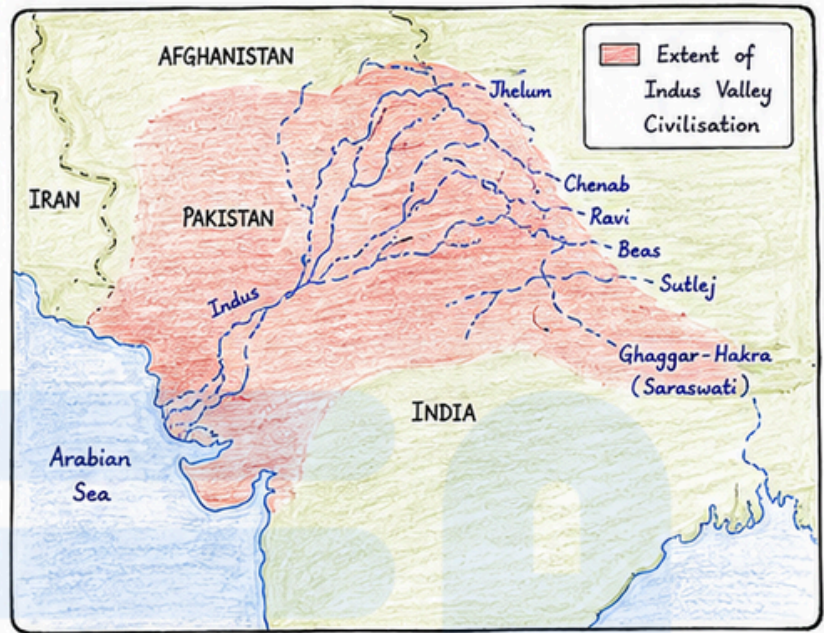
B. River System

The civilisation flourished in the Indus basin and its tributaries.

Rivers: Indus and its five tributaries –

Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej.

Ghaggar-Hakra (possibly the ancient Saraswati) also supported this civilisation.



C. Important Archaeological Sites

Major Sites in Pakistan

- **Harappa (Punjab)**
One of the earliest discovered sites.
- **Mohenjo-daro (Sindh)**
The most famous site; well-planned city.
- **Dholavira (Kutch, Gujarat)**
Large city with excellent water management.
- **Kot Diji (Sindh)**
One of the earliest Harappan sites.
- **Chanhu-daro (Sindh)**
Important for beads and seals.
- **Amri (Sindh)**
Known for potteries and tools.
- **Rehman Dheri (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)**
Important for early Harappan remains.

Major Sites in India

- **Rakhigarhi (Haryana)**
One of the largest sites.
- **Kalibangan (Rajasthan)**
Known for ploughed fields and fire altars.
- **Lothal (Gujarat)**
Famous for dockyard and trade.
- **Banawali (Haryana)**
Important Harappan site.
- **Surkotada (Kutch, Gujarat)**
Horse remains found here.
- **Daimabad (Maharashtra)**
Southernmost Harappan site (Late Harappan).



Mohenjo-daro



Dholavira



Harappa



Lothal (Dockyard)



Kalibangan (Ploughed Field)



Rakhigarhi

D. Extreme Points of the Civilisation

North

Manda (Jammu)
(beyond river Jhelum)

South

Daimabad (Maharashtra)
(near river Godavari)

East

Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh)
(near Meerut)

West

Sutkagen-dor (Makran Coast,
Balochistan)

6. NATURE OF THE CIVILISATION

- ★ Urban civilisation with well-planned cities.
- ★ Secular in nature (no evidence of any temple or palace).
- ★ People were peace-loving and prosperous.
- ★ Based on agriculture, trade, crafts and commerce.
- ★ Excellent in town planning, engineering and technology.
- ★ One of the earliest civilisations to use writing (Indus Script).

Key Highlights

- ★ Flourished during 3300 BCE – 1300 BCE.
- ★ Located in the Indus river basin.
- ★ Known for planned cities, drainage, trade, seals, script and advanced crafts.
- ★ A remarkable example of human creativity and organisation in ancient times.

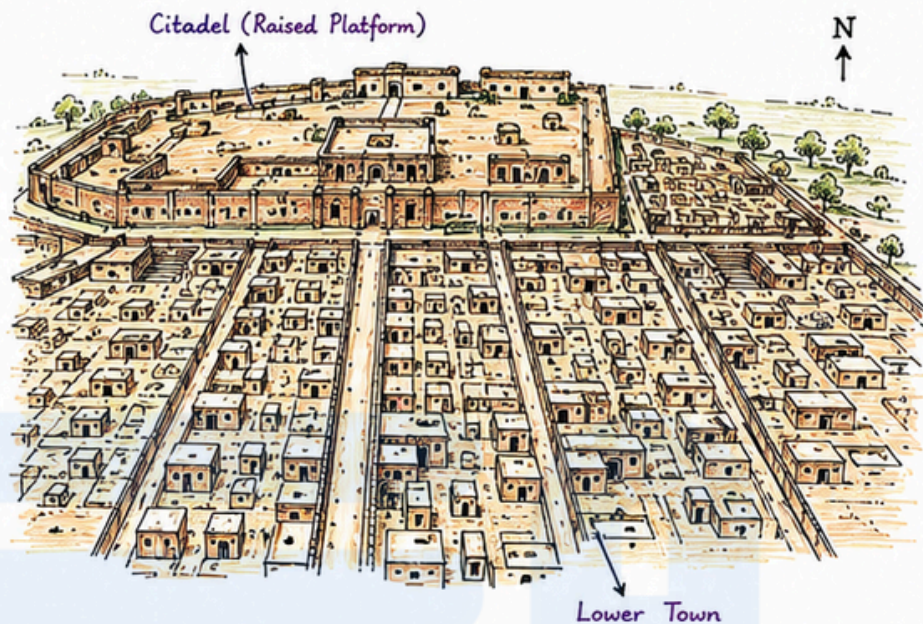


The Indus Valley Civilisation laid the foundation for later developments in India.

7. TOWN PLANNING, ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING

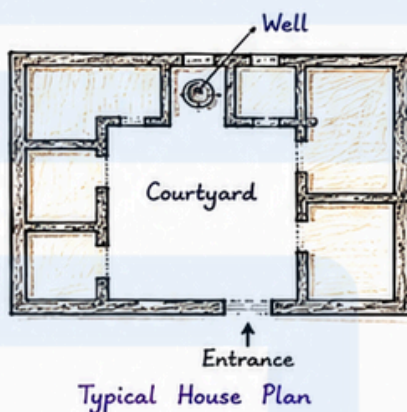
A. City Planning

- ★ Indus cities were well-planned and systematically laid out.
- ★ Cities were generally divided into two parts:
 - 1) **Citadel** (raised platform)
 - The upper part, used for important public buildings.
 - 2) **Lower Town**
 - The larger lower part, where common people lived.
- ★ Streets were laid out in a grid pattern at right angles.
- ★ Main streets were broad; smaller streets connected them.
- ★ Houses had doors opening into the streets, not into each other's houses – ensuring privacy.



B. Houses and Buildings

- ★ Houses were made of baked bricks (1:2:4 ratio).
- ★ Most houses had a central courtyard with rooms around it.
- ★ Some were one-storied; some had two storeys.
- ★ Windows were provided for ventilation.
- ★ Bathrooms and wells were common in houses.



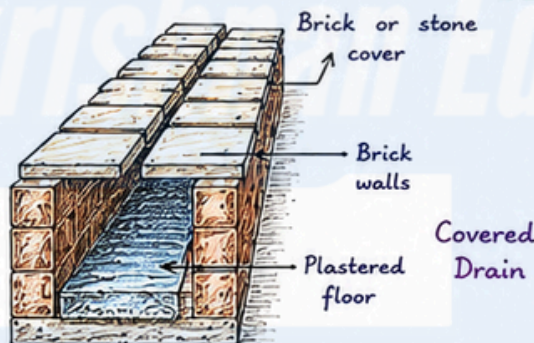
Materials Used

- Baked bricks – for important structures.
- Mud bricks – for houses.
- Timber – for doors, windows and roofs.
- Stone – used in some places (e.g., steps of wells, door frames).



C. Drainage System

- ★ One of the most remarkable features.
- ★ Every house had a bathroom and a drain.
- ★ Drainage system was well-planned and covered.
- ★ Drains were made of bricks and plastered with gypsum.
- ★ Main drains ran along the sides of streets.
- ★ Manholes provided at regular intervals for cleaning.



Key Point

The advanced drainage system of the Indus cities is still unmatched even today in many places.



D. Water Supply

- ★ Wells were the main source of water.
- ★ Public wells and wells in houses were common.
- ★ Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro is an example of advanced water management.



Brick-lined Well

E. The Great Bath

- ★ Located in the Citadel of Mohenjo-daro.
- ★ Rectangular structure made of baked bricks.
- ★ Measures about 12 m × 7 m × 2.4 m (approx.).
- ★ Waterproofed with bitumen.



The Great Bath, Mohenjo-daro

F. Granaries and Storage

- ★ Granaries have been found at Harappa, Mohenjo-daro and other sites.
- ★ Large storage bins made of brick.
- ★ Used for storing grains and other commodities.



Granary, Harappa



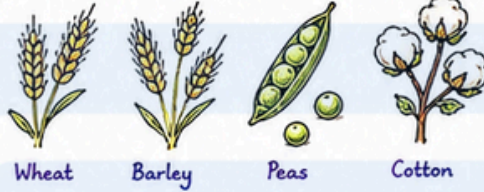
In Short : The Indus people were great planners and engineers. Their towns had straight streets, strong buildings, excellent drainage, wells, and public structures. This shows their high sense of cleanliness, organisation and scientific thinking.



8. ECONOMY, AGRICULTURE, TRADE, CRAFTS AND TECHNOLOGY

A. Agriculture and Crops

- Agriculture was the main occupation.
- People were the first in the world to grow **cotton**.
- They used wooden ploughs.
- Fields were probably irrigated using canals and wells.
- Main crops : Wheat, Barley, Peas, Lentils, Gram, Mustard, Sesame, Flax and Cotton.



Wheat

Barley

Peas

Cotton

B. Animals

- Animals were domesticated for food, transport and other uses.
- Domestic animals : Bull, Cow, Buffalo, Sheep, Goat, Pig, Dog.
- Other animals : Elephant, Camel, Horse (remains rare), Rhinoceros.
- Carts were used for transport.



Bull

Buffalo

Goat

Elephant



Cart with solid wheels

C. Crafts and Industries

- People were highly skilled artisans.
- Important crafts : Pottery, Bead-making, Shell work, Seal carving, Metal work, Ivory work, Terracotta figurines, Weaving.
- Pottery : Well-made and wheel-made. Painted in red with black designs.
- Beads : Made of carnelian, agate, lapis lazuli, faience, steatite, gold and shell.
- Seals : Made of steatite; engraved with animals and Indus script.



Pottery



Beads



Seal



Terracotta figurine



Shell ornament

D. Metals and Tools

- Copper and bronze were widely used.
- Gold, silver, lead and tin were also known.
- Iron was not known.
- Tools and weapons : Axes, chisels, saws, knives, spearheads, arrowheads, fish-hooks, needles, mirrors.
- Copper was obtained from Rajasthan (Khetri mines), Oman and Baluchistan.



Axe

Chisel

Saw

Knife

Spearhead

Needle

Mirror

E. Trade and Commerce

- Indus people were great traders.
- Trade was carried on by land and sea.
- Standardized weights and measures were used.
- Seals were probably used for marking goods.
- There is evidence of long-distance trade with Mesopotamia, Central Asia, Afghanistan and possibly Egypt.
- **Imports** : Silver, Tin, Copper, Precious stones, Ivory, Gold.
- **Exports** : Cotton, Beads, Seals, Shells, Ivory articles, Timber.



Trading Boat

Did you know?

The Indus people had contact with the land of "Meluhha" mentioned in Mesopotamian texts. Meluhha is believed to be the Indus region.

Standardized Weights



Seal Impression (used for trade)

F. Technology and Science

- Excellent knowledge of town planning, architecture, engineering and drainage.
- Use of the potter's wheel.
- Knowledge of metallurgy (copper, bronze, gold, silver, lead, tin).
- Use of standardized weights and measures.
- Possibly knew the beginnings of geometry.
- Advanced water management (wells, drains, storage).
- Knowledge of medicine - use of herbs and surgery (trephination evidence from skulls).



Potter's Wheel



Trephination (surgical practice)

Key Point

The economy of the Indus Valley was based on agriculture, animal domestication, crafts, long-distance trade and advanced technology.

In Short : The Indus Valley people were farmers, herders, skilled craftsmen and traders. They produced a wide variety of goods using advanced techniques and traded with distant lands. Their economy was well-organised and advanced for its time.



INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION (From the Beginning to 1927)

6

9. SCRIPT, SOCIETY, RELIGION, ART AND CULTURE

A. Indus Script

- The Indus script is the earliest known writing from South Asia.
- Found on seals, sealings, pottery, copper plates, tablets, etc.
- Written from right to left.
- About 400-600 signs have been identified.
- Still undeciphered.
- Short inscriptions (mostly 3-5 signs).
- No bilingual inscription has been found, hence meaning is unknown.

Example of Indus Script



Seal with Inscription

Key Point

The Indus Script is one of the great unsolved puzzles of the ancient world.

B. Society

- Society was well-organised.
- No evidence of kings, palaces or monuments to rulers.
- People were probably equal before law.
- Division of labour existed.
- Main classes (based on occupation): **Farmers, Artisans, Traders, Labourers.**
- Women enjoyed a respectable position.
- No evidence of slavery.

Evidence

- ★ No palaces
- ★ No weapons of war
- ★ No royal tombs
- ★ Uniformity in weights and measures
- Suggests equality and peaceful society.



Dress of Indus People (Reconstructed)

C. Religion and Beliefs

- People were probably nature worshippers.
- Worship of Mother Goddess (Terracotta figurines).
- Pashupati Seal shows a horned deity seated in yogic posture surrounded by animals - considered as a prototype of Shiva.
- Sacred animals: Bull, Elephant, Rhinoceros, Tiger, etc.
- No temples have been found.



Mother Goddess (Terracotta Figurine)



Pashupati Seal

D. Art and Craft

- Excellent in seals, pottery, bead-making, terracotta toys and metal work.
- Seals are the masterpieces of Indus art.
- Animals are naturalistically depicted.
- Figures are in correct proportions.
- Pottery was wheel-made and well-baked.
- Toys: Carts, animals, rattles.
- Dancing girl (bronze) shows high level of art and craftsmanship.



Indus Seal



Painted Pottery



Toy Cart



Terracotta Toy



Dancing Girl (Bronze)

E. Ornaments and Dress

- People wore ornaments made of gold, silver, copper, beads, shell, faience and terracotta.
- Ornaments: Necklaces, bangles, rings, earrings, armlets, belts.
- Use of cosmetics like kohl and unguents is evident.
- Dress was simple, made of cotton cloth.



Important Point

The people of Indus civilisation were not only practical and skilled but also had a fine sense of beauty and culture.

F. Culture and Daily Life

- Urban life was well developed.
- People lived in clean surroundings.
- Games were popular - dice, board games, etc.
- Use of music - musical instruments found.
- Food was simple and nutritious.



Board Game and Dice



Musical Instruments

Food

Wheat, barley, pulses, milk, meat, fish, fruits, vegetables and oil seeds were used.



In Short : The Indus people were peace-loving, religious, artistic and cultured. They had a high level of social organisation and a rich cultural life.



10. DECLINE OF THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

The decline was gradual, not sudden. It started around 1900 BCE and continued till about 1300 BCE.

A. Signs of Decline

- ★ Large cities were abandoned.
- ★ Urban life declined; people moved to smaller villages and rural areas.
- ★ Town planning became poor; buildings were not well-maintained.
- ★ Drainage system was neglected.
- ★ Trade and commerce declined.
- ★ Use of writing disappeared.
- ★ Standardized weights and measures were no longer used.
- ★ Crafts and industries declined.
- ★ Change in pottery styles and seals.
- ★ Burial practices changed.



Drying of rivers



Floods



Abandoned cities



Migration of people



Drought

B. Causes of Decline (Various Theories)

1. Change in River System

- Rivers like the Ghaggar-Hakra (Saraswati) may have dried up or changed their course.
- This affected water supply, agriculture and life in cities.



Probable course of Ghaggar-Hakra (Saraswati)

2. Floods

- Some cities may have been destroyed by floods of the Indus and its tributaries.
- Flood deposits have been found in many sites like Mohenjo-daro.



Flood layers found at Mohenjo-daro

3. Drought and Climate Change

- Droughts and change in climate may have affected agriculture.
- This led to food shortage and weakening of the civilisation.



4. Invasion Theory

- Earlier it was believed that Aryans invaded and destroyed the cities.
- But there is no evidence of any war, weapons or mass destruction.
- Now this theory is not accepted.



5. Other Reasons

- Economic decline and breakdown of trade.
- Overuse of natural resources.
- Social and political changes.
- Combination of many factors led to decline.



Later Harappan pottery

C. Late Harappan Phase (1900 BCE - 1300 BCE)

- People moved to smaller settlements in Gujarat, Punjab and Ganga-Yamuna doab.
- Use of bricks decreased; mud houses were common.
- Pottery became different - less fine and painted.
- Trade declined; long-distance trade almost stopped.
- Culture continued in a different form in rural areas.
- This phase shows the gradual disintegration of the civilisation.



Late Harappan Rural Settlement

Transition from Early Harappan to Late Harappan

Early Harappan (5500 - 3300 BCE)

- Small villages and towns
- Pottery, copper tools
- Agriculture started
- Handmade crafts

Mature Harappan (2600 - 1900 BCE)

- Large cities, town planning
- Advanced drainage, bricks
- Trade, weights, seals
- Writing in use
- Prosperous civilisation

Late Harappan (1900 - 1300 BCE)

- Decline of cities
- People moved to villages
- Change in pottery, seals and buildings
- Trade declined

Post Harappan (after 1300 BCE)

- Small rural settlements
- Continuation of some cultural traditions
- New cultures developed

Key Point

The Indus Valley Civilisation declined gradually due to natural changes, economic problems and social changes. But its culture and traditions continued in different forms in India.

In Short : The decline was not sudden. Many factors together caused the end of this great civilisation, but its legacy lived on in the culture of India.

11. DISCOVERY OF HARAPPA AND EARLY EXPLORATIONS (1829 - 1923)

A. Early References and First Notices

- ★ **1829** - **Charles Masson**, a British officer, visited Harappa while on duty.
 - He found large mounds of bricks.
 - Local people told him these were the remains of an ancient city.
- ★ **1853** - Masson again visited Harappa.
 - He collected some antiquities and coins.
 - He was the first to note the antiquity of the site.
- ★ **1861** - **Alexander Cunningham**, founder of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), visited Harappa.
 - He recognized the importance of the site.
 - He reported the remains and described the mounds.
- ★ **1872** - Cunningham visited Harappa again and carried out some explorations.
 - He found seals, coins, terracotta objects, etc. but did not understand their real significance.
- ★ **1875** - Cunningham visited Mohenjo-daro (then called Mound of the Dead) in Sindh.
 - He noted the vast mounds but did not excavate.
 - At that time, the purpose was only to find Buddhist remains, not prehistoric sites.
- ★ **1880s-1890s** - Several incidental finds of seals, terracotta figurines and other objects continued.
 - But the true nature of the civilisation remained unknown.



Mound at Harappa



Mound at Mohenjo-daro

Key Point

Before the 20th century, people thought these mounds were either Buddhist sites or natural hills. The real importance of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro was not understood.

Important Personalities



Charles Masson (1800 - 1860)



Alexander Cunningham (1814 - 1893)

- British officer and explorer.
- First European to visit Harappa (1829).
- Noted the antiquity of the site.
- Founder of ASI.
- First to recognize the importance of Harappa.
- Visited Harappa (1861) and Mohenjo-daro (1875).

B. Systematic Explorations in the Early 20th Century

- ★ **1902** - **John Hubert Marshall** became the Director General of Archaeological Survey of India.
 - He showed great interest in ancient civilisations of India.
- ★ **1911** - **Daya Ram Sahni**, a young archaeologist, was asked by Marshall to explore the Harappa site.
 - This was the beginning of systematic excavations.
- ★ **1913** - Sahni carried out the first archaeological excavation at Harappa (Punjab).
 - He discovered baked brick structures, seals, pottery, beads, and other antiquities.
 - But the full importance of the site was still not realized.
- ★ **1919** - **Rakhāl Dās Banerji**, another archaeologist, was exploring the "Mound of the Dead" at Mohenjo-daro.
 - He found seals with strange characters, brick buildings, beads and other objects.
 - He sent his findings to Marshall.
 - Marshall realized that this was not a Buddhist site but something far older.



John Hubert Marshall (1876 - 1958)

About John Marshall

- A brilliant administrator and archaeologist.
- Played a crucial role in the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- Later became Sir John Marshall.
- Known as the "Father of Indian Archaeology".

Excavation at Harappa (1913)



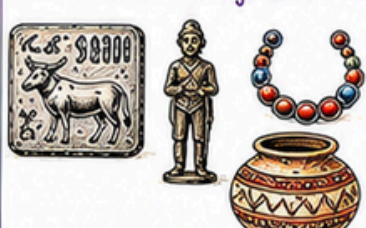
Finds at Harappa



Excavation at Mohenjo-daro (1919)



Finds at Mohenjo-daro



Note

During these years, many bricks from Harappa were taken to build railways and houses because people did not know their value.



In Short : From 1829 to 1923, the sites of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro were noticed by officers and archaeologists step by step. But it was only in the early 20th century that systematic excavations began and the true importance of these sites started to emerge.



INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

(From the Beginning to 1927)

9

12. RECOGNITION, EXCAVATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS (1924 – 1927)

The years 1924 to 1927 were very important in establishing the Indus Valley Civilisation as one of the greatest ancient civilisations of the world.

- **1924** 20th September 1924 – Sir John Hubert Marshall, Director General of ASI, announced to the world the discovery of a new and very ancient civilisation in the north-west of India.
→ He named it the “**Indus Valley Civilisation**”.
- **1925** Excavations continued at several sites.
 - More town plans, seals, weights, pottery and other objects were discovered.
 - Reports were published in the Annual Report of ASI.
- **1926** Major Excavations and Findings:
 - At Mohenjo-daro – the Great Bath, granary, Assembly Hall and more houses were fully exposed.
 - At Harappa – more cemeteries, skeletons, seals and pottery were found.
 - New sites like Chanhu-daro (Sindh) were discovered.
- **1927** Important Developments:
 - Further excavations strengthened the evidence of a highly developed urban civilisation.
 - More information about town planning, drainage system, arts, crafts, trade and daily life was collected.
 - The ASI continued to publish detailed reports and plates of the findings.
 - By this time, the civilisation had gained worldwide attention and respect.



Sir John Marshall



The Great Bath (Mohenjo-daro)



Indus Seal

Key Point

- ★ 20 September 1924 is considered the official recognition date of the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- ★ Between 1924 and 1927, continuous excavations gave huge evidence about the greatness of this civilisation.
- ★ John Marshall and the ASI team played a key role in bringing this civilisation to the world.
- ★ By 1927, the Indus Valley Civilisation was accepted as one of the earliest urban civilisations equal in importance to Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Major Sites Excavated (1924 – 1927)

- Harappa (Punjab)
- Mohenjo-daro (Sindh)
- Chanhu-daro (Sindh)
- Kot Diji (Sindh)
- Other smaller sites in Punjab, Sindh, Rajasthan and Gujarat



Important Achievements by 1927

- ✓ A complete picture of a well-planned urban civilisation emerged.
- ✓ Town planning, drainage system and public buildings were clearly known.
- ✓ Knowledge about writing, trade, crafts, agriculture and daily life increased.
- ✓ The Indus Valley Civilisation was placed on the world map of history.
- ✓ It was proved to be contemporary with ancient civilisations like Mesopotamia and Egypt.



Comparison with Other Civilisations

Civilisation	Time Period (Approx.)	Region
Mesopotamian	3500 – 1900 BCE	Tigris – Euphrates Valley
Egyptian	3100 – 30 BCE	Nile Valley
Indus Valley	2600 – 1900 BCE	Indus – Saraswati Region

In Short

By 1927, through continuous excavations and research, the Indus Valley Civilisation was recognised as a great ancient urban civilisation.

It left behind a rich legacy of town planning, engineering, culture and human achievement.



The people of the Indus Valley Civilisation may have disappeared in time, but their achievements continue to inspire us even today.

