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Indus Valley Civilisation



Indus Valley Civilisation

1 **Early Harappan phase**
- Time Period :- 3000-2600 BCE

2 **Mature Harappan phase**
- Time Period :- 2600-1900 BCE

3 **Late Harappan phase**
- Time Period :- 1900-1700 BCE



Debala Mitra
1st Woman Director of ASI.

Indus Valley Civilisation / Harrapan Civilisation (2500-1750 BCE)

- It is also known as Bronze Age.
- Named by: John Marshall (Director of Archaeological Survey of India).
- First Chairman of Archaeological Survey of India: Alexander Cunningham (Father of Indian Archaeology).
- Harappa was the 1st site to be discovered in IVC in 1921 by Dayaram Sahni while Mohenjodaro was discovered in 1922 by Rakhal Das Banerjee.

Early Harappan Sites

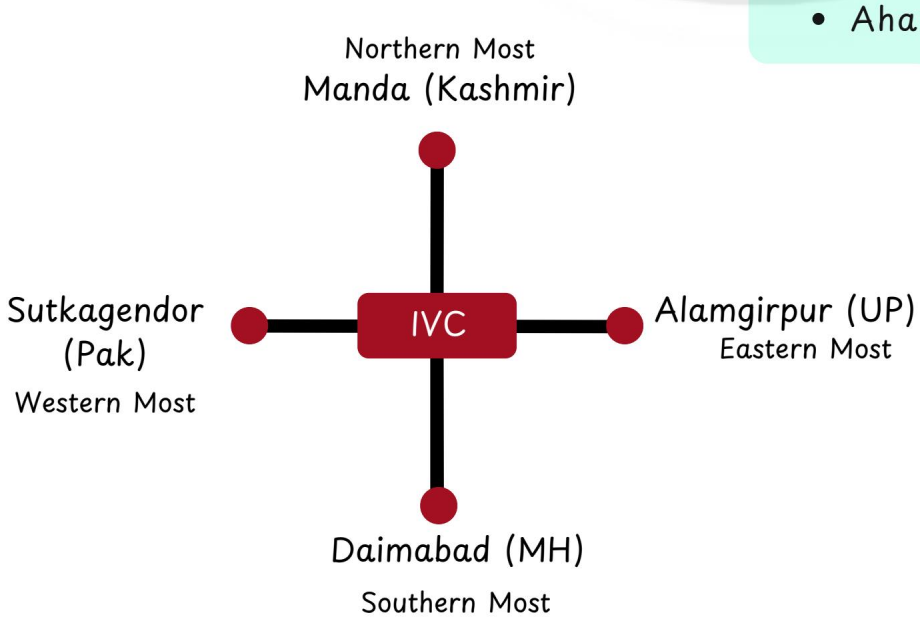
- Damb Sadaat
- Kot Diji
- Amri Nal
- Siswal

Mature Harappan Sites

- Harappa
- Mohenjo-Daro
- Dholavira
- Kalibangan
- Lothal
- Rakhigarhi
- Banawali
- Ganeriwala

Late Harappan Sites

- Jhukar
- Amri
- Desalpur
- Ahar
- Mithathal
- Rangpur
- Lothal
- Daimabad



The Cholistan region in present-day Pakistan was once a thriving part of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Agriculture

Major Crops:
Wheat & Barley, Cotton, Lentil, Chickpea, Sesame, Millets, Rice (rare), Garlic.

Cotton
- One of the distinguishing features of IVC.
- Greeks used the name "Sindon" for cotton.

Agriculture Technologies

- Ploughed field found at Kalibangan (Rajasthan). Two sets of furrow were found at right angle suggesting two different crops were grown together.
- Oxen were used for ploughing.
- Terracotta model of plough found in Cholistan and Banawali.

Animal Domestication

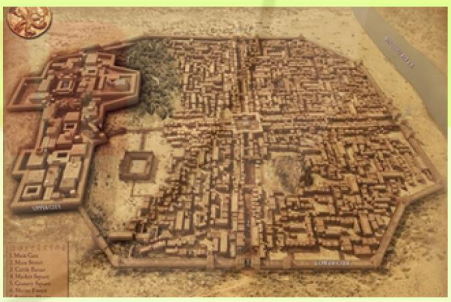
- Cattles like sheep, goat, buffalo, pig, bull, oxen were domesticated.
- Bones of boar, gharial, deer, fish, and fowl was found, which indicates about their domestication.



Note:-
- Evidence of horse and cow are not found.
- A bone of horse was discovered from Surkotada.

Town Planning

- The most unique feature of Harappan Civilization was development of Urban Centres.
- They used burnt bricks for architectural purpose.
- Bricks of standardised ratio (1:2:4) were used.
- Water reservoir: Dholavira



Citadel/Acropolis
- Smaller but higher town.
- It was walled (physically separated).
- Special public purposes.

Lower Town
- Large but lower town.
- It was also walled (fortified).
- Meant for residential buildings.

- Both Citadel and Lower Town were fortified
- There was no Citadel in Chanhudaro.

Dholavira
- It is India's 40th UNESCO site, added in this list in 2021.
- Dholavira (Gujarat) was divided into three parts and Chanhudaro (Pakistan) had no Citadel.
- The Citadel within Lothal was not surrounded by a fortification but instead was built on raised mud-brick platforms.



Great Bath

- Great Bath (at Mohenjodaro): It is a rectangle shaped tank like structure, which might have been used for ritual bathing.
- Gypsum based Mortar has been used for waterproofing.



Dimension of Great Bath

- 12 Meters Length
- 7 Meters Breadth
- 2.4 Meters Depth

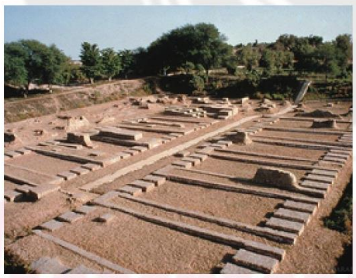
Great Granary

- It is the largest building in Mohenjodaro.
- It was used for storage of grains.



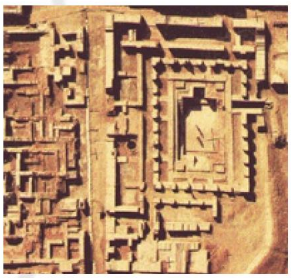
Brick Granary

- Six Granaries in each row (two rows)
- Total : 12 Granaries and Circular Brick Platform Found in Harappa



Grid Pattern

- Road Cuts each other at 90°



Drainage System

- Most distinctive feature of Harappa Civilization.
- Grid pattern roads/streets, intersecting at right angle. E.g. Lothal.



Domestic Architecture

- The IVC was known for its advanced urban planning and well-structured houses.
- The houses were made of burnt bricks (baked bricks).
- Doors were made of wood
- Every house had its own bathroom.
- Sump or Cesspit were made between drains to clean and trap solid waste.
- Limestone slabs were used as drain covers.
- Many houses had their own private wells.

Tracking Social Differences

Studying Burials

- Some of the graves contain pottery and ornaments as belief that it can be used in afterlife.
- Jewelleries were found in burial of both men and women.
- Dead were buried with copper mirrors.
- Burial of dogs along with their masters.
- Double Burials found in Lothal.
- Extended Burial found in Sanauli, UP.
- Harappans also practised Urn Burial.

Note:-
Ornaments, consisting of three shell rings, a Jasper Bead and hundred of micro beads, was found near the skull of a male at Harappa.

Craft Production

- **Chanhudaro**: Devoted to craft production including bead making, shell cutting, metal working, seal making, and weight making.
- **Nageshwar** (Gujarat) and Balakot (Pakistan). They were centres for shell making (Bangles, Ladles, and Inlay).





Trade & Commerce

- Nageshwar and Balakot: **Shell**
- Shortugai or Badakhshan : **Lapis Lazuli**
- South Rajasthan & North Gujarat: **Steatite**
- Gujarat (Bharuch) **: Carnelian**
- South India: **Gold**
- Kolar (Karnataka): **Gold**
- Rajasthan (Khetri Mines) **,** Oman or Magan **: Copper**
- **Harappans** knew about ship building technique.

Trade with Mesopotamia Civilisation



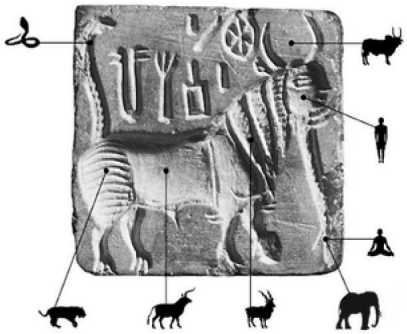


- Mesopotamia Civilisation around Tigris and Euphrates River
- Harappans Used to trade with Mesopotmia Civilisation as Few Seals of Harappa Civilisation is found in Mesopotamia.

Harappan Seals

- Harappan seals were made of steatite (a kind of soft stone).
- Seals often contained animal motifs (Short Script) and a pictographic script.
- The seals usually have a line of writing probably containing the name and title of the owner.
- Harappans were not aware about "Lion"











Scripts

- The scripts are not in alphabetical order and are pictographic.
- Most inscriptions are short and the longest script contains about 26 signs.
- They are written from right to left (script was known as: Boustrophedon).
- They were found on jewellery, bone rods, seals, copper tools, jars, and an ancient signboard.
- The scripts are undeciphered till date.



Weights

- Barter system was prominent in IVC.
- Exchange was regulated by a precise system of weights, usually made of a stone called "Chert".
- Sukkur and Rohri hills (Pakistan) : Limestone and Chert blades were mass produced and sent to various Harappan settlements in Sindh.
- Lower denomination of weights: Binary
- Higher denomination of weights: Decimal
- IVC people did not know about Iron but knew about Gold.



- Weight used were seen in Multiples of 16
- The weight were uniform

Religious Practises

- Terracota figure of **mother goddess** symbolises a tree growing out of an embryo made of clay.



- **Priest King** made of steatite obtained from Mohanjodaro
- Height : 17.5 cm (6.9 inch)



- The Dancing Girl statue made of Bronze in Tribhanga Mudra
- Height : 10.5 cm



- **Linga** : Conical stone objects worshipped as symbol of **Shiva**



- **Pashupati Seal** : Shiva in yogic posture



- **Unicorn** : A One Horned Animal



- **B**ull
- **E**lephant
- **T**iger
- **R**hino
- **D**eer

Pottery Used



Ochre coloured pottery.



Black-Red ware pottery.

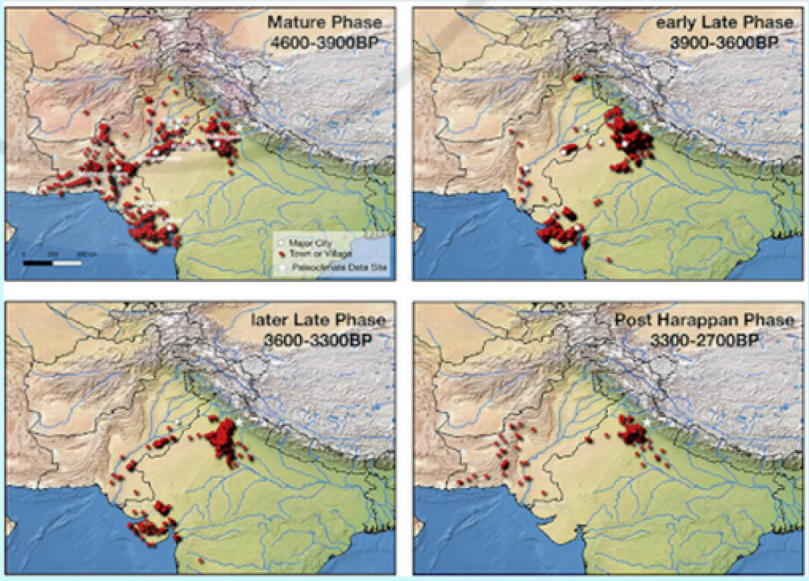


Painted-Grey ware pottery.

- Hakra Pottery were seen in Early Harappan Phase from Cholistan region of Pakistan in Hakra - Ghaggar Region.
- Cord Impressed & Coarse Grey Pottery : Burzahom.

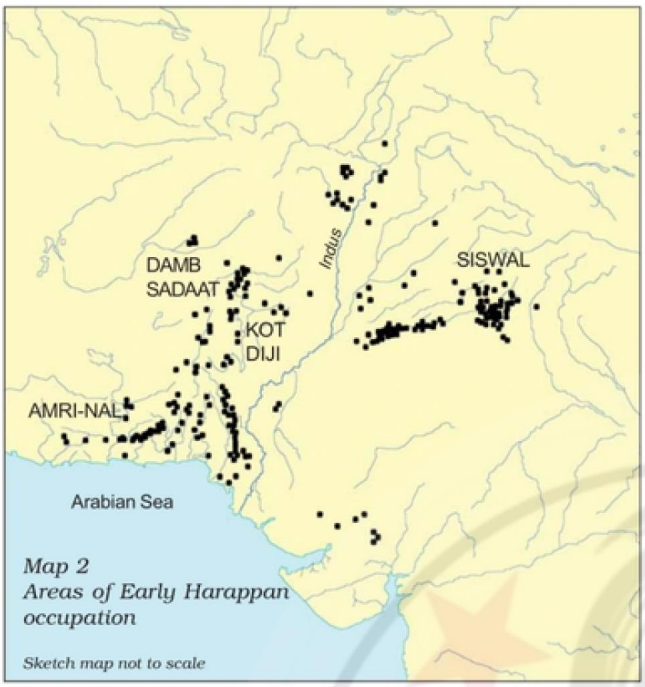
Possible Reasons for Decline of Harappa Civilsation

- Climate Change
- Deforestation
- Excessive Floods
- Shifting or Drying up of Rivers
- Foreign invasion

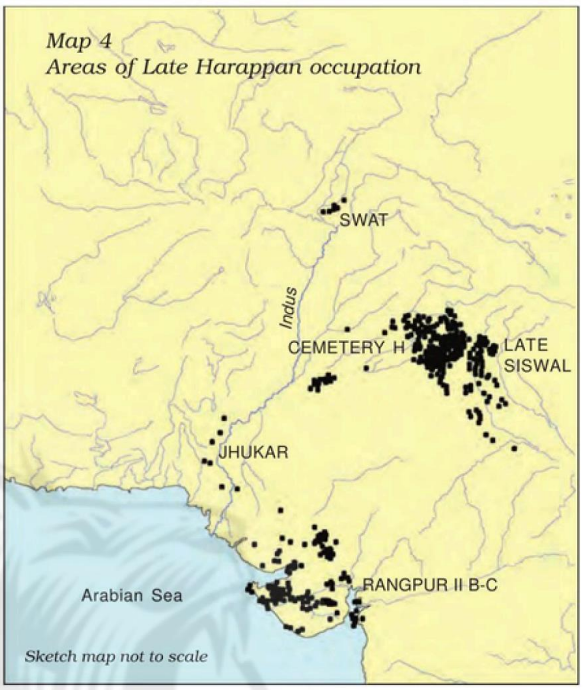


Sites	River	Characteristic Features
Harappa (1921) by Dayaram Sahni in Punjab; Pakistan	Ravi	Six Granaries in a row
Mohenjodaro (1922) by R.D Banerjee in Sindh; Pakistan	Indus	Great Bath, Great Granary, Protoshiva, Dancing Girl statue, Goddess Earth, Bearded Man
Chanhudaro in Sindh	Indus	City without Citadel
Lothal in Gujarat by S.R Rao	Bhogova	Ancient Port / Dockyard; fire altar; Double Burial
Kalibangan in Rajasthan	Ghaggar	7 Fire Altars, Black bangles, Ploughed Fields
Rakhigarhi in Haryana	Ghaggar	Largest IVC Site, Terracotta Wheel, Toys
Dholavira in Kutch Area; Gujarat is discovered by J.P Joshi		Giant Water reservior, City was divided into three parts
Banawali in Haryana by R.S Bisht		Barley; Lack of Grid Pattern
Bhirrana in Haryana		Oldest IVC Site
Ropar in Punjab	Sutlej	Pit burial
Sonauli		Extended Burial

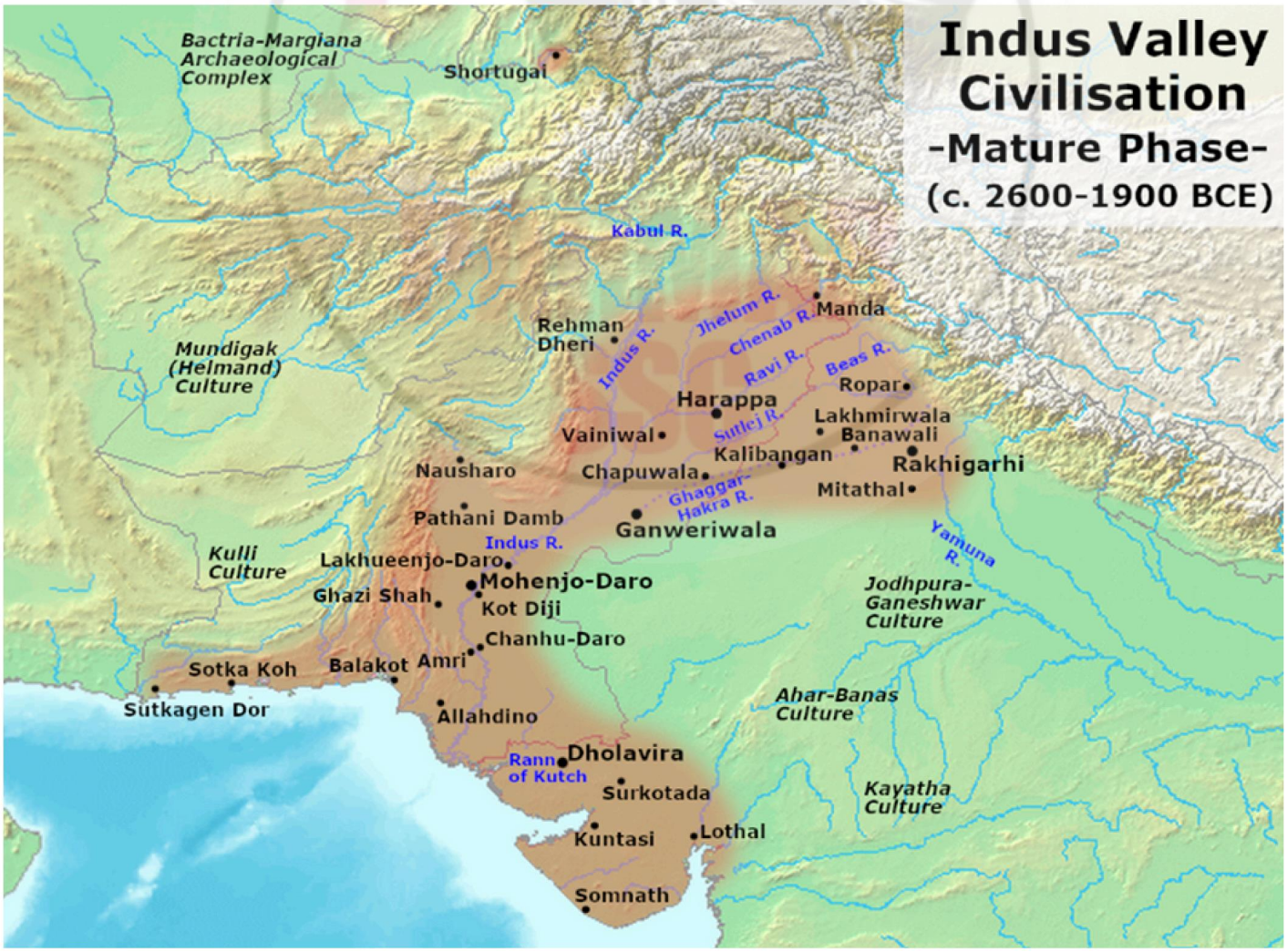
Important Maps



Early Harappan Sites



Late Harappan Sites



Mature Harappan Sites