

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Flourished from 2600 BCE to 1900 BCE

❖ GEOGRAPHY & SETTLEMENTS

- Located in the **Indus River Valley** (present-day India and Pakistan)
- **Vast and extensive civilization**
- **Major cities:-** Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Dholavira, Lothal
- Planned urban centres with **grid-like street layout**
- Sophisticated drainage systems and public wells

❖ SOCIAL ORGANISATION

- **Well-structured society**
- Hierarchical system with distinct social classes
- Evidence of a ruling elite and priestly class
- **Skilled artisans, traders, and labourers**
- Evidence of communal living and shared public spaces
- Possible evidence of gender equality and absence of social discrimination

❖ ARCHITECTURE & CRAFTSMANSHIP

- **Advanced urban planning and architecture**
- Use of **standardised bricks** in construction
- **Large public buildings, granaries, and reservoirs**
- Elaborate drainage and sewage systems
- Intricate and well-designed houses with **courtyards**

- Skilled craftsmanship in pottery, metalwork, jewellery, and figurines

❖ WRITING SYSTEM & SYMBOLS

- **Indus script**, still undeciphered, **Boustrophedon method of writing**
- Thousands of short inscriptions found on seals and tablets
- Use of **pictographic** and **abstract symbols**

❖ TRADE & ECONOMY

- Thriving trade networks with **Mesopotamia** and **other regions**
- Presence of seals depicting animals and script, possibly indicating ownership or trade
- Evidence of long-distance trade in precious stones, metals, and goods
- **Agricultural economy** based on **cultivation of wheat, barley, and domestication of animals**
- Craft specialisation and production of goods for trade

❖ RELIGION & RITUALS

- **Worship** of **Mother Goddess** and **male deities**
- Ritual bathing and religious bathing platforms (**Great Bath**)
- Ritualistic objects and figurines found in archaeological excavations
- Possible worship of trees, animals, and fertility symbols
- **No temple** like structure found; **belief in Ghosts and Evil forces** (Wore amulets for protection)

❖ DAILY LIFE & SOCIETY

- Well-planned cities with separate residential, commercial, and industrial areas
- Houses with **multiple rooms** and **private bathing** facilities
- Access to public amenities like **wells, public baths, and assembly areas**
- Evidence of an organised system of weights and measures (weights in multiple of 16)
- Evidence of **games, music, and artistic** expression

❖ ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

- **Agriculture:-** Cultivation of **wheat, barley** (Banawali), **rice** (Lothal and Rangpur), and **cotton**
- **Animal husbandry:-** Domestication of **cattle, sheep, goats,** and **pigs**
- **Craftsmanship: Pottery making, metalworking, jewellery making, bead making**
- **Trade and commerce:** Long-distance trade networks, use of **seals** for commercial transactions

❖ EXCAVATED SITES

- **Harappa:-** Located in Pakistan, **well-preserved urban site with public and private structures**
- **Mohenjo-Daro:-** Located in Pakistan, **well-planned city with Great Bath, granaries, and residential areas**
- **Dholavira:-** Located in Gujarat, (India) with impressive water management systems and fortified structures
- **Lothal:-** Located in Gujarat, (India) known for its **dockyard and maritime trade connections**

- **Rakhigarhi :-** Located in Haryana, (India) one of the **largest Indus Valley settlements**

❖ **DECAY & DECLINE**

- Theories on the decline include **ecological factors, floods, or shifts in river courses**
- Possible invasion or internal conflicts leading to the decline
- **Abandonment of major cities and urban centres**

SITE	MAJOR FINDINGS	EXCAVATORS	IMPORTANCE
Mohenjo-daro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Great Bath ➤ large-scale urban planning, ➤ advanced drainage systems, ➤ priest King, ➤ Bronze Dancing Girl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R.D. Banerji ➤ John Marshall ➤ Ernest Mackay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One of the largest cities ➤ showcasing the civilization's urban sophistication and engineering skills
Harappa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grid-like street patterns ➤ well-built structures ➤ Steatite seals ➤ mother Goddess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sir John Marshall ➤ Mortimer Wheeler ➤ Rai Bahadur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First site to be excavated ➤ contributed to the initial understanding of the civilization

<p>Lothal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dockyard ➤ warehouse complexes ➤ advanced maritime trade ➤ Bead- making workshop ➤ Rice husk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ S.R. Rao ➤ J.P. Joshi ➤ Rakhal Das Banerjee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Important port city ➤ evidence of Indus Valley's maritime activities and trade
<p>Dholavira</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Large-scale water management systems ➤ three divisions of town ➤ stadium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R.S. Bisht ➤ J.P. Joshi ➤ Ravindra Singh Bisht 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Showcased advanced urban planning ➤ extensive water conservation techniques
<p>Kalibangan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unique fire altars ➤ defensive walls ➤ evidence of plough agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ B.B. Lal ➤ A. Ghosh ➤ K.N. Dikshit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provided insights into the civilization's agricultural practices and urban planning
<p>Rakhigarhi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extensive urban settlement ➤ cemetery with large number of burials ➤ steatite Dice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amarendra Nath ➤ Vasant Shinde ➤ R.S. Bisht 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Largest known Indus Valley site, ➤ significant in studying the civilization's social structure
<p>Chanhudaro</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Planned city layout ➤ bronze and copper artefacts ➤ cylindrical seals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ernest Mackay ➤ N.G. Majumdar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demonstrated urban planning and copper metallurgy skills
<p>Rangpur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unique steatite (soapstone) seals ➤ terracotta figurines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ghosh ➤ S.P. Gupta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Significance lies in the discovery of distinct seals and artwork

<p>Kot Diji</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fortification walls ➤ specialised pottery ➤ early Harappan culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ G.F. Dales ➤ Ahmed Hasan Dani 	<p>Provides insights into the pre-Harappan phase and cultural development</p>
<p>Ropar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Indus Valley script inscriptions ➤ agricultural terraces ➤ dog buried with humans ➤ oval pit burial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Y.D. Sharma ➤ Shikaripur Ranganatha Rao 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Important for the discovery of inscribed objects and agricultural practices in the region
<p>Surkotada</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Citadel and lower town fortified ➤ pot burial ➤ remains of horse bone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jagat Pati Joshi 	<p>Note: Horse bone is found but IVC people</p>