

# Harappan Culture (Indus Valley Civilization)

Contributed by Aminur Rashid  
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The Harappan culture (IVC)  
(2500BC-1750 BC)

The area formed a triangle

Origin:

Wheeler

Extent:

Manda

Suktogenedder

Alamgirpur

(Makarana coast)

Daimabad

Important sites:

Harappa:

- Left bank  
of river ravi

-  
Montgomeri  
distt of Pb

-  
Hariyupiya  
(of Rig Veda)

-  
Granaries

(2 rows of six granaries)

-  
Brick  
platform(for thrashing grains wheat and barley)

-  
Measuring  
stick of bronze

-  
South  
of citadel(R-cemetery)

-  
Toy  
bullock cart of bronze

-  
1921  
by D R Sahani

-  
Vanity  
case has been found

Mohenjodaro:

-  
Bank  
of indus( right bank)

-  
Great  
bath ( corbelled drawn )

-  
Floor  
was waterproof

-  
Granary(inside  
citadel)

-  
Assembly  
hall

-  
Bronze  
dancing girl(proto Australoid)

-  
Male  
statue (made of steatite-Mongolian,represent priest (beard + moustache))

-  
1922  
by R D Banerjee

-  
seal  
of pashupati

-  
a  
piece of woven cloth

## Kalibangan

-  
Ganganagar

-  
River  
ghaggar

-  
Here  
lower town was fortified

-  
A  
ploughed filed with furrows

-  
Fire  
altar(also at Lothal)

## Lothal

-  
Artificial  
Dockyard

-  
Bhogava  
river

Ahmedabad

-  
R  
S Rao

-  
AT  
the head of gulf of Cambay

-  
The  
similarity b/w chunhudaro & Lothal- Bead makers

Suktogendor

-  
Baluchistan

-  
Fort  
of stone

-  
Pot  
containing human ashes

-  
Axes  
of Cu , bangles of clay, bird whistle

-  
Bones  
of horse

Banawali

- Clay model of plough shade
- Haryana. Founded by J.P. Joshi and R.S. Bist.

Chanhodaro

- Bead makers shop was unearthed

Mature  
phase:

A)  
Town Planning:

-  
houses  
followed the grid system

-  
at  
Lothal no citadel has been found

-  
the  
first street(main street) in mohenjodaro ran North to South

-  
towns  
were planned in chess board system

B)  
Technology:

-  
Bronze,  
stone (masonry), Goldsmiths (gold, silver, precious stone, steatite, electrum  
i.e. au-ag mix)

-  
Seal  
making (of steatite) à rectangular or square

-  
Pashupati  
seal (3 horned heads surrounded by elephant,tiger,rhinos & has a buffalo  
below his thrpwn.2 deers at his feet)

-  
Pictures

of zebu(humped bull),unicorn,tiger,elephant,rhinos,goat

-  
weaving  
(1st to use cotton,Greeks  
called it sindon)

-  
pottery  
(Black in Red Ware)

-  
Teracota(animals  
:used as toys or objects of worship

C)  
Script:

-  
Pictographic

-  
Heirographic

-  
Bonstrophedos

D) Trade:

-  
land  
as well as marine

-  
carried  
all exchanges through barter

Imported:

-  
precious  
stone

-  
Lapis  
lazuli à Badakshan in NE,afganishtan+jaipur

-  
Tin  
à Afganishtan +hazaribagh

.  
Cu  
à khetri mines

.  
Jade  
à tibet (central asia)

.  
Au à iran,afganishtan,mysore

.  
Ag(silver)  
à iran,afganishtan,armenia

.  
Turquoise  
à khorasan

.  
Steatite  
à tape yaya (iran)

#### E) Agriculture:

-  
wheat,  
barley(2 quality à good quality from banawali),  
mustard, sesamum, rai, peas, fruits

-  
used  
sickle of stone àfor harveting

-  
lothal  
and rangpur used rice

#### F) Weight And measures

-  
binary  
syst for lower denominations

-  
decimal  
system (multiple of 16 ) for higher denominations

measurement

of length was by a scale of foot( of abt 13.0 &ndash; 13.2&rdquo; or 37.6 cm) & cubit  
of (20.3 to 20.8 &ldquo; or 51.8 to 53.6 cm)

-

shapes

of weigths (cubical ) made of steatite and lime stone

## G) Religion

-

human

worship:

a)

male

deity

b)

mother

goddess ( a plant is shown growing out of the embryo of woman: for fertility)

-

phallus

worship

-

trees(

pipal,neem)

-

animals

a) one horned unicorn

b) Humped

bull

c)

methological animals/composite animals

-

Amulets

( showed they believe black magic)

-

Fire

altars

-

Did

not believe in life after death

-  
Burial  
practices(body was placed in N S Direction)

a) fractional

b) complete

c) Double burial from Lothal

widely Practiced: cremation

coffin burial àharappa

DECLINE:  
disappearance of its characteristic features

Causes:

-  
barbaric  
invasion/Aryans :R cemetery by wheeler also

hariyupiya of Rig Veda

-  
floods  
& earthquake( supported by 7 layers of siltation at mohenjodaro)

-  
shifting  
of indus(by Lambrick)

-  
aridity  
in Ghaggar( by agrawal and sood)

-  
Ecological  
imbalances( by fairserius)

## POST URBAN

### PHASE

- rangpur  
and rajda
  
- swat  
valley ( manda in J & K northmost outpst of late haraapa culture)
  
- cemetery  
H in Harappa
  
- Sites  
of gujrat( lothal,rangpur,surkotada,prabas patan(somnath)
  
- Sites  
of Pbà bara,bargan,hulas
  
- Raj  
àahur(udaipur)

Political  
System of IVC &ndash; theocracy

Sites  
invented after independence

- Rungpur  
(kathiyarwar), amre-(sind)

Facts about IVC:

- horse  
evident from surkotada & Rana gundai (  
?? Lothal???)

- Umma  
à west  
asian site associated with discovery of bale of cloth evidently as export from harappa

.  
Mohenjodaro  
has skull having injury mark

.  
Rice  
was discovered from lothal and kalibangan

.  
Rana  
gundai à Black on red pottery

.  
Nine  
strata of building Mohenjodaro

.  
granery(north)

citadel (west)

.  
Architecture  
was utilitarian

.  
Lothal  
survived very long

More Study Material

## INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

(2300-1750)

Background:

- The Indus valley civilization or Harappan culture is older but far more developed than the chalcolithic culture.

- The other contemporary civilization in the world were:

The areas around the Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea, the H Naug Ho valley in China, the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates in Mesopotamia (Iraq) and the Nile Valley in Egypt.

- It was not until 1920 were preliminary trial diggings at Harappa by Dayaram Sahni and in 1922 at Mohanjodaro by R.D. Banerjee had yield identical finding, including the exotic seals. The potential of the sites were realized and the elements of a buried civilization were identified.

- After the partition of India, all the well known Harappan sites, Mohanjodaro, Harappa, Chanhundaro, and Jhukar went to Pakistan.

Year

Site

On the  
River

Discovered by

1921

Harappa

Ravi

Dayaram Sahni

1922

Mohanjodaro

Indus

R.D. Banerjee

1935

Chanhudaro

Indus

M.G. Majumdar

1935

Kot-Diji

Indus

chuvey

1953

Kalibangan

Ghaggar

A. Ghosh

1953

Ropar

Sutluj

Y.D. Sharma

1954

Lothal

Bhogawa

S.R. Rao

1964

Surkotda

Run of  
Kutch

Jagapati Joshi

1973

Banwali

Saraswati

R.S. Bist

Names: The 'Indus Civilization' or 'The Harappa civilization:

- There are two names that have been applied to ancient India's first phase of urbanizations. Harappan civilization or Indus civilization.
- Since the mounds adjacent to the modern village of Harappa were the first locality where the remains of this civilization were first identified, then name 'Harappa' fits such a system perfectly.
- The second name 'Indus civilization' is used interchangeably, because it refers precisely to the same culture, chronological and geographical unity.
- While both these terms can be justified in some ways, neither of them is without shortcomings. For example, the very name of the 'Indus civilization' in Gujarat is out of place in view of the fact that it is reasonably beyond the geographical bounds of Indus Valley as are Haryana, Indian Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh where the Indus remains were found. The term 'Harappan Civilization' conjures forth a nation that the civilization began at a site which best represents the ancient urban system.

## Extent

- Indus civilization belongs to the Bronze Age. It is older but surprisingly more developed than the Chalcolithic cultures in the sub-continent.
- The largest cultural zone of the period, the area covered by it (about 1.3 million sq. km) being much greater than that of either Mesopotamian civilization or Egyptian civilization.
- Over 250 sites discovered so far about 1000 according to the latest estimate.
- Extends from Ropar (Punjab) in the north to Bhagatruv (Gujarat) in the South (1100 KM) and from Sutkagendor (Pakistan-Iran Border) in the West to Alamgirpur (U.P) in the east (1600 Km).
- According to the latest excavations the Northern most site is Manda (Jammu and Kashmir) and Southern most diambad (Maharashtra).

Total Area : 1,299,600 Sq. K.Ms.

## Chronology:

- The dating of the Harappan culture is based upon some Harappan objects found in West Asian Archaeological Contexts and Mesopotamian Artifacts in the Harappan sites. Still, the archeologists differ on this question.
  - a) For, Wheeler, the time-bracket is 2500-1500 BC
  - b) for Fairservis, It is 2000 to 1500 BC
  - c) For Allchina, It is 2150 to 1750 BC.
  - d) For Agrawal, It is 2200 to 1900 BC.
  - e) For R.S. Sharma, Harappan Culture existed between 2500 and 1800 BC but the mature phase between 2200-2000 BC.

Generally acceptable time scale:

- 1) Neolithic 500 BC to 3500 BC Mehrgarh and others.
- 2) Early Harappan 3550 to 2600 BC
- 3) Mature Harappan 2600 BC to 1800 BC Emergence of cities
- 4) Late Harappan 1800 BC onwards

Re-emergence at villages.

### Origin

- It is very difficult to explain the origin of Harappan culture several pre-Harappan settlements have been found in Baluchistan, Amri, Kalibagan, Mahanjodaro, Harappa and other places, but the connection between them is not very clear.

However it cannot be denied that Harappan culture may have evolved out of these Indigenous settlement). The Logic behind such an assumption is obvious.

- a) There is a marked evolutionary development within these pre-Harappan settlements.
- b) We have increasing evidence of interaction between various pre-Harappan Settlements.
- c) And we cannot deny the existence of many Harappan traits in this pre-Harappan Phase.
- d) Again, there is some evidence both at Mohanjodaro and Harappa of a general cultural evolution.

M. Wheeler and A. Gosh have tried to see the origin of Indus Civilization in this west Asian civilization.

### Pre-Harappan

Amriculture: Amri,  
situated at south of Mahanjodaro.

Main features:

- Knowledge of metal working
- use of wheeled pottery with animal figures painted on it.
- Construction of rectangular houses, etc.

Kot-Dijaan Culture: Kot-Diji, situated in Sind.

Main Features:

- Wheel made painted pottery

- traces of a defensive wall and
- well-aligned streets-knowledge of metallurgy
- artistic toys, etc.

#### Solhi Culture Kalibangan: On the river of Ghaggar

- first excavated by Dr. A. Ghosh who termed it as both cultures.

Main Features: Wheel made painted pottery,

- metal working particularly copper
- Mud brick houses
- Wall-aligned lanes

#### Baluchi Culture in Baluchistan:

- Four separate cultures are identified with their places, viz. Zhob, Quetta, Mal and Kulli.
- Are these have some common features:
- painted pottery, terracotta, figurines use of copper, mud-brick houses, use of semi precious stones, etc
- Out of all of them are rural in nature.

The first three cultures, Amri, Kat-Dijian and Solhi cultures, could be considered as proto-Harappan cultures. But the fourth Baluchi cultures was undoubtedly pre-Harappan and also have some minor common features with the Indus civilization. Cannot be considered as full-fledged proto-Harappan culture. It is both proto and pre-Harappan culture.

The cultures which preceded Harappan culture are pre-Harappan cultures, while proto-Harappan cultures are those pre-Harappan cultures which have some close similarities with Harappan culture. In short, all proto-Harappan cultures are necessarily pre-Harappan cultures, but all pre-Harappan cultures are not necessarily proto-Harappan cultures.