

## Chapter 7

### Indus Valley Civilization

Thousands of years ago, the advanced civilization found in the Indus Valley held a position of great historical importance. Internationally, this civilization stood shoulder to shoulder with the ancient civilizations of Iraq and Egypt. For forty or forty-five years after the discoveries of this civilization, archaeologists theorized that this magnificent civilization of Pakistan originated in the West, specifically Iran and Iraq. However, Dr. Mughal, an archaeologist from our country, through excavations and surveys of ten or twelve different sites over the past decade, proved that the rise and evolution of the Indus Valley Civilization occurred within this very region. It's one thing for a civilization to move to another place due to the migration of specific people, and quite another for a region to accept certain cultural influences from people of other contemporary countries due to long-standing relationships.

Before this civilization came to light, the high and low mounds at these sites were thought to be old cemeteries. Then, in 1870, during the laying of a railway line between Multan and Lahore, workers found some old artifacts, such as clay seals, statues, broken pottery, seals, and animal bone fragments. This place was Harappa. Since the first traces of this civilization were found at this site, modern research has also named this civilization the Harappan Civilization. Formal excavation work began here in 1922. Due to the theft of bricks from this site at that time, it was not possible to get a better understanding of these ancient remains.

The two main centers of this civilization are Mohenjo-daro and Harappa. These cities belong to the advanced period of this civilization. Mohenjo-daro is about 400 miles away from Harappa, near Larkana in Sindh. The presence of an old mound here led to its discovery. It's a Buddhist-style mound, which was later built from the bricks of the same building, leading to the destruction of an important structure.

People generally assume that the Indus Valley Civilization was limited to the province of Sindh. However, this particular civilization extended to areas of Punjab, Sindh, the North-West Frontier Province (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), and parts of southern Balochistan. Furthermore, some of its remains have been found in the Indian provinces of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan. This ancient civilization flourished in the region of present-day Pakistan about 5,000 years ago.

It reached its peak in the form of two magnificent cities, Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, as well as numerous other contemporary Pakistani cities, towns, and settlements, before gradually declining. The Indus Valley Civilization is the largest of all ancient Asian civilizations in terms of area and geographical extent. It covered an area of approximately five hundred thousand square miles.

To better understand this civilization, we divide it into different periods. New research suggests that this civilization actually originated in the Hakra Valley of Cholistan. Here, the civilization began, reached its zenith, and then declined. It is also referred to separately as the Hakra Culture. Traces of the Early Harappan period have been found in the Kot Diji area of Cholistan. Traces of

this early period have also been found in Jalilpur and Sarai Khola. There are approximately 41 sites.

The artifacts found at Kot Diji resemble those of the mature Harappan style. Although there isn't a complete resemblance between the artifacts of the pre-Harappan period and those of the later period, they are not entirely disconnected. Sir Mortimer Wheeler referred to these artifacts as belonging to an "alien civilization," while Pakistani researchers call it the pre-Harappan period.

Dr. Mughal, a Pakistani archaeologist, uses another academic term for the Indus Valley Civilization, and that is "Greater Indus Valley" because the sphere of influence of this civilization includes areas of the Pakistani provinces of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, as well as some areas of the Indian provinces of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

The remains of pre-Harappan civilization that have been discovered at various ancient sites are actually the precursors to the Indus Valley Civilization, while the remains of large cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro belong to the mature Harappan civilization. There is uniformity and harmony in all periods of this civilization. Therefore, it can be said with certainty that the foundation of the mature Indus Valley Civilization was laid by the beginning of the third millennium BCE. The mature Indus Valley Civilization emerged from its own earlier cultural elements. There is no gap between the mature Indus Valley Civilization and the earlier civilization.

This civilization gradually transformed from small settlements to towns and then to large cities. Even today, countless cities remain buried underground that belong to the mature period contemporary to Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. One such city was discovered by Dr. Mughal in 1980. This city is Ganweriwala, located exactly between Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, and spread over two hundred acres. It is larger than Harappa and slightly smaller than Mohenjo-daro. Its map is also similar to other cities of the ancient civilization. One part of the city consists of a fortress-like elevation and the other of a lower-lying urban area.

Now we examine the relationship of this civilization with its contemporary civilizations, especially the Sumerian civilization, as some similarities have been found in the discovered artifacts. A few seals have been found in Sumer that are part of the Indus Valley Civilization. Based on this, it can be said that thousands of years ago, people from Pakistan and Iraq brought trade goods directly to Pakistan themselves, or trade between the two countries was carried out by another nation. If there was such a nation, it could have been a land-based one.

To provide practical proof of maritime trade between Pakistan and Iraq, Thor Heyerdahl (THEOR HERGAL) built a sailboat in 1978, made of reeds, 60 feet long and 20 feet wide. He set sail from the banks of the Tigris River, passed through the Tigris into the open sea, and headed towards Pakistan. He reached the coast of Pakistan in two months, stopping at Bahrain along the way. Incidentally, only two models of ancient water vessels have been discovered from the ancient ruins of Pakistan so far. One image of a ship is on a seal, while the second ship, depicted on a clay tablet, could travel both in rivers and seas.

Thousands of years ago, Iraqi books mentioned three famous regions: Luh, Magan, and Dilmun. These three cities comprised the region of Meluhha in Pakistan (the central Punjab region of Pakistan, Multan), Dilmun (the Sindh region), and Magan (the Makran region of Balochistan). Numerous seals have been found in Iraq bearing the thousands-of-years-old script of the Indus Valley. Although it has not yet been deciphered, its presence there could be evidence that Harappan merchants settled in Iraq, bringing such seals with them.

These names are being mentioned following recent research on the Indus Valley Civilization. Since it is our own civilization, and it has not yet been fully revealed or understood, there is a strong possibility that the efforts of our country's archaeologists to better understand it and determine its sphere of influence will ultimately bear fruit. Various elements influence the arts and crafts and the way of life that develop in every civilization. Or we can say that a specific way of life or art is adopted due to specific circumstances. For example, houses will be built according to the climate, and clothing will also be worn according to the season and environment. Furthermore, art will be expressed in whatever material is available. Therefore, to better understand the Indus Valley Civilization, we will review the elements that influenced this civilization.

### **Geographical Elements**

The remnants of the Indus Valley Civilization are spread from the Himalayas to the Arabian Sea. The two main discovered sites are Mohenjo-daro and Harappa. Besides these, there are also smaller settlements and towns that are part of the chain of this civilization.

### **Historical Elements**

This civilization is counted among the oldest civilizations in the world, which after reaching its peak thousands of years ago, disappeared from the face of the earth. According to older beliefs, people from outside came and started this civilization, but modern research proves that this is our own civilization and its evolution took place on this very land.

### **(Climatic Elements)**

- The climate of the Indus Valley was very hot, with heavy rainfall.
- Settlements along the riverbanks were affected by flooding.
- The land was fertile.
- Due to the hot climate, fewer windows were built.
- Clothing was also minimal due to the heat.

### **(Religious Elements)**

- No specific religion is identifiable in the Indus Valley Civilization.
- The images of gods and goddesses on seals suggest they might have been worshipped.

- Their statues include those of ascetics and a "Mother Goddess," which is seen as evidence of a possible religion.
- It's also speculated that their beliefs were similar to Hindu customs.
- However, their homes and lifestyle don't necessarily indicate they were Hindu.
- Instead, they buried their dead in graves, similar to Muslim practices.

### **(Geological Elements)**

- Generally, items made of baked clay have been found in Mohenjo-daro and Harappa.
- Bricks made from this clay were used to build houses.
- These included sun-dried and fire-baked bricks.
- The use of stone and wood was limited.
- Wood either turned to ash or was perhaps unavailable, or the wood available at that time was not suitable for construction.
- However, stone statues have been found.
- The use of metals like bronze and copper is also evident, while iron is completely absent.

### **(Social Elements)**

- The artifacts found in the Indus Valley suggest that a highly advanced civilization lived there thousands of years ago.
- These people were experts in agriculture.
- Their architectural style indicates they lived an organized life, as large communal buildings have been found in addition to individual residential structures.
- These communal buildings might have been used for special religious ceremonies or customs.
- In any case, their lifestyle suggests they lived a simple and comfortable life.

### **Economic Elements**

- Since the sites of this civilization were found along riverbanks, it can be confidently stated that the economy here also depended on rivers. Agriculture was common. Like today, the majority of people lived in villages and they farmed. They cultivated wheat, rye, and barley. Evidence of their trade relations with other countries has also been found, which shows that these people were prosperous.
- The large communal granaries also provide evidence that these people were organized in terms of economic conditions. In addition, they were experts in various arts, such as stone carving, pottery, etc.
- After understanding this civilization in the light of modern research and understanding its various elements, we will take a detailed look at the discovered sites. After understanding

its architectural style, we will discuss their fine arts. As mentioned earlier, this civilization is spread over a very large area and there is much scope for further research. It has also been said that most of the sites found in Pakistan indicate different periods of this civilization. Therefore, the excavation work of the sites belonging to these early periods cannot be considered complete. Modern researchers have highlighted numerous sites that predate the peak period, but the lifestyle and discovered artifacts there suggest that these settlements and cities are related to the developed cities. Therefore, to understand this civilization, we take a detailed look at the important discovered sites of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. These two cities belong to the peak period of this civilization. This civilization lasted for a thousand years and then declined.

### Reasons for Destruction

The discoveries of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa prove that the decline in the Indus Valley Civilization had begun even before the arrival of the Aryans, and there was no scope for further development in this civilization. Now the question arises how these ancient monuments got buried underground. They don't get buried on their own; rather, the soil level rises and covers them. As these settlements become empty due to destruction from human habitation, their walls and roofs collapse and accumulate soil. The reasons for the destruction of settlements can be many. These piles of roofs and walls harden due to rain and weather conditions, and then layers of soil continue to accumulate on them for thousands of years. In this way, these cultural remains exist on the ground in the form of mounds. Various reasons are given for the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization.

- **Average Rainfall:** Decrease in average rainfall, change in the course of the Indus River, and floods in the rivers.
- **Floods:** Historians speculate that this civilization was destroyed due to floods in the Indus River, meaning the excess water in the river affected nearby areas.
- **Epidemic Diseases:** Perhaps the entire city fell victim to the spread of an epidemic.
- **Earthquakes:** It can also be speculated that the city was destroyed by earthquake tremors, and people were crushed under buildings.

### External or Aryan Invasion:

It is believed that perhaps a ruler from another region attacked here. This hypothesis is supported by the natural and historical events of the Indus Valley. Therefore, it cannot be said that these factors did not play a role in the destruction of this civilization. However, it is also undeniable that if the inhabitants of the Indus Valley had the ability to survive, it would not have been difficult for them to overcome these factors. After all, the Aryans later built their civilization in the same place and somehow overcame the natural conditions that proved fatal for the local inhabitants. There is evidence of their trade with Iran and Iraq via the former sea route in Iraq. Perhaps the effects of the trade closure also played a role.

- Another point is that the Aryans' mental and material development, as well as their production tools and weapons, were better than the local inhabitants. They were familiar with the use of iron, while the tools of the local inhabitants were made of wood or raw

material bronze. The arrival of the Aryans in the Indus Valley not only paved the way for a new cultural revolution but also changed the destiny of the entire subcontinent.

- Only forty skeletons have been recovered so far from the excavations at Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, and other sites. Based on the study of these skeletons, researchers believe that the inhabitants of the Indus Valley were short in stature but had large heads, dark skin, curly hair, broad and flat noses, and thick lips that protruded forward. It is said that they belonged to the Dravidian race. One Mongol skeleton has also been recovered.
- **Agriculture as a Profession**
- Just like in the [previous era], the majority of the inhabitants of the Indus Valley in this period were also engaged in agriculture. They cultivated wheat, barley, and sesame. They raised cows, buffaloes, bulls, sheep, goats, camels, horses, donkeys, and dogs. They grew cotton and wore cotton clothes. They had a monopoly on cotton, and thus earned foreign exchange through the export of cotton and cotton textiles. Cotton was only found in Sindh at that time. The Greek historian Herodotus was quite astonished to learn that in the Indus Valley, there was a very strange plant that produced white, silver-like flowers. These people didn't use plows; instead, they used a harrow in their fields. The teeth of this wooden tool couldn't penetrate deep into the ground, so the amount of grain produced wasn't enough to feed the cities. This was a fundamental reason for the scarcity of cities in the Indus Valley. Land was not owned by individuals but by the entire settlement. Despite the average annual rainfall being higher than it is today, the need for irrigation was met by building dams on streams and rivers.

### **Trade**

While there's no firm evidence of Sindh having direct trade relations with Iran, finished goods from Sindh have been found in areas of Iraq. A depiction of a ship has been found on a seal and another on a potsherd. Raw materials were transported to other countries via sea routes. The items found in Iraq originated from Sindh. Additionally, a necklace of banded agate beads with spherical spacers has been found in Mohenjo-daro. These decorated beads came from other civilizations.

Various inscriptions reveal that the people of the Indus Valley imported gold, silver, copper, and precious stones, pearls, beads, ivory combs, jewelry, inlaid objects (especially ivory jewelry and inlaid ivory items), kohl (antimony powder), kajal (eyeliner), wood, and pearls from other regions.

The people of the Indus Valley exported various types of vessels, inlaid goods, jewelry, cotton or cotton cloth, various metals, semi-precious stones, and other items to Iraq and other advanced civilizations. Entire trees, wood, and seals were also exported to other advanced civilizations, as every advanced civilization requires imports.

### **Harappa**

In the province of Punjab, near Sahiwal, the remains of this civilization were first discovered at this location. It is possible that the old name of this place was HATI YUPUPA. In those times, the city was situated on the banks of a river, whereas today the Ravi River flows six miles away from this location. After excavation, very few artifacts were found here that could attract the attention of a tourist. The discovered area spans 13 square miles. A general impression

from these remains is that these people preferred a simple and comfortable life over luxury and grand buildings. This is something that this nation can rightly be proud of, that no other nation's blood and sweat are involved in its research and construction. It is true that Mohenjo-daro and Harappans did not leave behind memorable buildings, neither grand Iranian-style places of worship nor tombs like those found in the Himyar civilization, nor temples and palaces, nor pyramids like those in the Egyptian civilization. However, they cannot be accused of building their towers of wisdom on the skulls of humans cemented with mortar, or of having them built by slaves with lashes. In this way, they were very civilized, cultured, and humane people by today's standards as well. The residential area of Harappa is built on a relatively low platform. The entire city map can be seen between the river and the 50-foot-high platform. A study of the mounds reveals that these remains are spread over approximately 400 yards from north to south and 15 yards from east to west. Towards the north from the city, towards the river, are the workers' quarters. Further ahead are the threshing platforms. Here, the work of threshing grain was done. Further north, near the mound, are the granaries. Now, let's examine these buildings individually.



### Workers' Quarters or Residential Houses

These houses are built in two rows, with seven houses in one line and eight in the other. A 3 to 4 feet wide street separates them. Each quarter is approximately 24 x 56 feet in area. Special attention has been paid to privacy in the construction of these houses. The house plan consisted of either two rooms or one room for a worker. This suggests the simplicity of the architecture here.

The distinguishing feature of these cities is that they are the only cities of their time that were built according to a proper plan. All their buildings were made of baked bricks. The residential area of Harappa is built on a relatively raised platform. The entire city plan can be seen between the river and the 50-foot high platform. By studying the plan, it can be seen that these ruins extend approximately 460 yards from north to south and 215 yards from east to west. Towards

the north from the city, along the river, are the workers' quarters, which are rows of simple, identical houses. Further ahead are circular platforms where grain was grounded. Further north, near the river, are the grain warehouses. Now we will review each of these buildings separately.

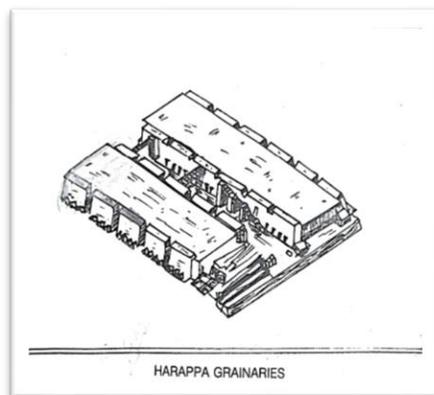


### Working Platforms

Moving west from these quarters, a section of the area becomes incomprehensible. There are no signs of any buildings. Further ahead, you come across working platforms, as shown in the image above. These platforms or podiums are circular in shape. There are a total of 18 of them, ranging in diameter from 19 feet to 11 feet. Four brick walls were constructed in a circular fashion. It is believed that these were used for grinding grain with the help of wooden mallets, as wheat husks were found within these circles.

### Granaries

Approximately 100 yards north of these platforms are the granaries. There are twelve of them, arranged in rows of six each. Each granary occupies an area of 20 x 50 feet. There is a 23-foot wide path between the two rows. These granaries are built on a platform 4 feet above ground level. The floor of these granaries is raised on three pillar-like walls. The space between these walls allows for air circulation, which protected the granary floor from moisture and prevented the grain from getting damp. There were holes on the edges of both sides, but these holes would get blocked due to the raised outer surface. To maintain airflow, holes were created through this raised surface. The total floor area of these twelve granaries was nine thousand square feet, and access was provided by staircases. The architectural style, plan, and images of Harappa make it clear that these three structures were interconnected. The granaries near the river also indicate that river routes were used for transportation.



### Grain Warehouses:

Near the warehouses are platforms for grinding grain, and alongside them are the homes of laborers. Therefore, these structures were built with proper planning, and it seems that this entire system was under the government's control and that the government itself distributed the produce among the people.

After understanding the architectural style of Harappa, we will examine the other important city of this civilization, Mohenjo-daro. The discovery of this city was due to a mound that is still prominent today. Seeing this Buddhist-style stupa, an archaeologist suspected that an ancient civilization might be buried here. Hence, after excavation, the remains of the Indus Valley Civilization were found here.

Excavation here began a year after Harappa came to light. This place is four hundred miles away from Harappa and two hundred and ten miles from the sea. This place is near Larkana in the province of Sindh. The architectural style here is simple, like that of Harappa, and streets and houses were built with proper planning.

## Mohanjodaro

### Introduction:

- "When the layers of earth were removed during the excavation of Mohenjo-daro, an entire buried city was found inside. Seeing it, it feels like this city was built according to specific principles and rules, which indicates its civilization. This city was divided into two parts."

### Upper Section:

- "The map of Mohenjo-daro shows that the city had a protective wall of baked bricks. Important buildings are in the upper part of the city. Next to the stupa is a bathhouse, and an important building that we call a school or the residence of a religious leader is located. To the west of these two important buildings are the warehouses of Mohenjo-

darò. The main difference between the warehouses of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro is that the warehouses of Harappa were outside the city near the river, while the warehouses of Mohenjo-daro are inside the city."

### Lower Section:

- "In the lower part of the city, there is a large building that has been named the Assembly Hall, and residential houses are also located here. Now we will review these buildings one by one."

### Buildings (Numbered and Labeled):

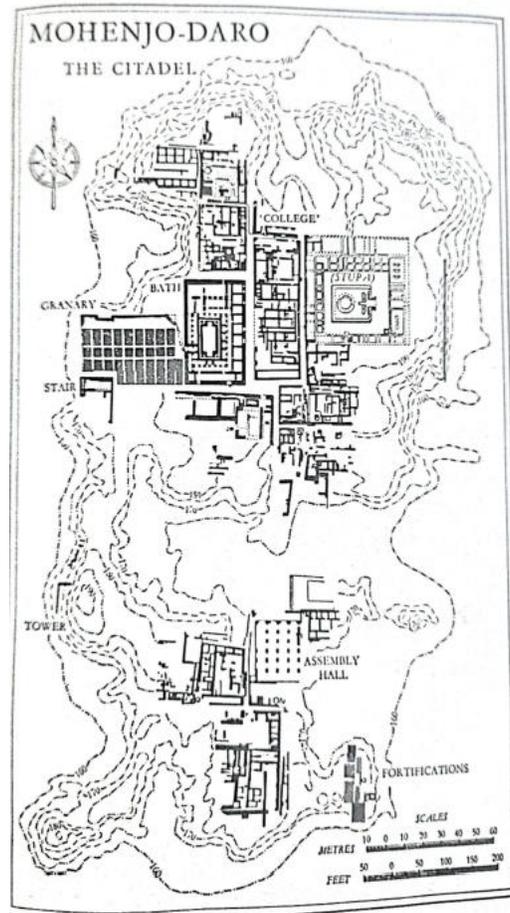
#### 1. Bathhouse (Ghusl Khana)

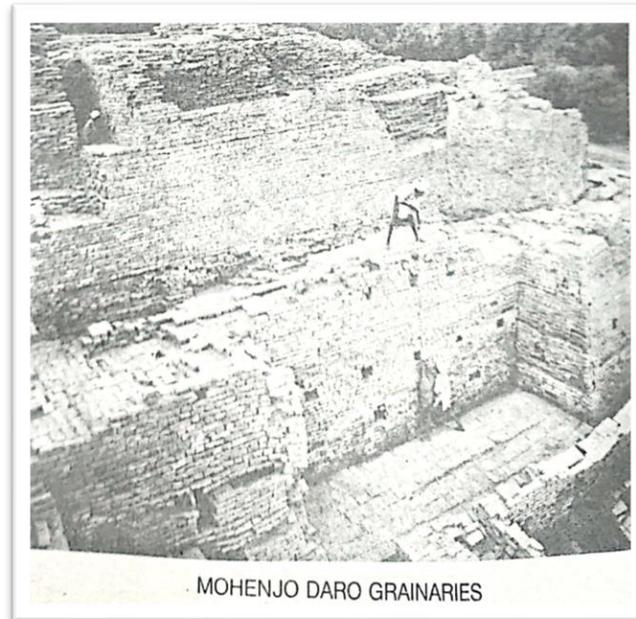
- "The people of the Indus Valley gave great importance to bathhouses. A very large pool-like bathhouse has been found in the ruins. The pool of the bathhouse is 39 feet long, 23 feet wide, and 8 feet deep. There are stairs from the north and south to enter this pool, while there is a veranda on all four sides. The stairs that enter the pool from the north have a small platform at the end and then one or two more steps. The floor of the pool was waterproofed using tar coal, and a drain was made towards the southwest for water drainage. Behind the veranda were rooms on three sides, one of which has a well that would have been used for water supply. The rooms next to the bathhouse were built in such a way that full attention was paid to privacy, meaning their doors were not facing each other. Each room had stairs going upwards. Looking at this building, it is believed that it was for religious use. The rooms built next to it were for the use of religious leaders. It is also possible that this pool was used for general bathing in extreme heat."

#### 2. Assembly Hall (Assembly Hall)

#### 3. School/Religious Leader's Residence (Dars Gah/Mazhabi Peshwa ki Rehaish Gah)

#### 4. Warehouses (Godam)





### Grain Storage:

To the west, adjacent to the bathing area, are the grain storage facilities. This building covers an area of 150,075 square feet. The structure is built in the form of various blocks, primarily consisting of 37 blocks in total. There are pathways between them to allow for air circulation. As evident from the image of the storage, the outer walls were sloped to facilitate the lifting of grain bundles. The holes visible in the wall in the image indicate the use of wood.

The grain storage is among the relatively early structures, where wood was used alongside baked bricks in construction. However, wood proved to be less durable, and its use is not observed in later buildings. Adjacent to the outer wall, an area was constructed inside for bringing and storing grain, and then transporting it upwards. Since the purpose was to store grain, special care was taken during the construction of the storage to protect it from pests.

### School/Study:

To the northeast is a very large building, covering an area of approximately 78 x 230 feet. Looking at this building, it is speculated that it was either the residence of a prominent religious leader or a school/study area. Its courtyard measures 33 square feet and has a veranda on three sides with residential rooms adjacent to it. This study area is located next to a Buddhist-style stupa, which, as mentioned earlier, is believed to have been built later. This resulted in the destruction of an older structure from the Mohenjo-daro era. Therefore, it is possible that there was a building here that could further clarify its connection to the study area. It is also possible that there was a religious building here, as no such structure has been found, but their seals and sculptures suggest that there was definitely a religion during that period. However, we can also assume that the city leader's residence was located alongside this study area. In any case, it can be inferred that there was an important building here that was associated with a study area.

## **Assembly Hall**

To the south of the city, there is a very large building. This is a hall-like structure with an area of 90 feet. It is divided into five sections, and the entrance is from the north.

## **Lower City Area**

### **(1) Residential Houses**

In the lower city area, there are residential houses. Here, the roads and streets intersect each other at right angles, forming approximately seven blocks. The doors of the houses open onto the narrow streets. The absence of windows in the houses, with the presence of a courtyard in the middle, served to provide air and light to the rooms. A typical house plan is as follows: The entrance to the house is through a 5-foot wide street, with a vestibule alongside. A passage leads inward from the vestibule, with a well on one side. Upon entering, there is a courtyard with an area of approximately 33 square feet, surrounded by rooms. In one corner of the courtyard is the kitchen, and next to the well is the bathroom, which has a floor made of baked bricks. There is a drain for the disposal of dirty water, which joins other drains and eventually flows into a larger drain outside. There are stairs for going upstairs. The thickness and strength of the walls indicate that rooms were also built upstairs. Typically, the toilet was built on the roof, with a drain for the disposal of dirty water connecting to the larger drain outside. The walls were plastered with mud and straw. The architectural style of Mohenjo-daro is simple; unlike other civilizations, large buildings, tombs, and temples were not found here. However, we are very impressed by the fact that everything was built according to a plan. This gives the impression that these people lived under a specific order and discipline. The large building that was found indicates their religious affiliation or collective use. The impressive aspect of the common house designs is their water management system. The major avenues and narrow streets were also built systematically. The presence of wells in the houses is evidence of their good living standards and sophistication. Now, we will examine the special and impressive aspects of their architectural style.

### **Streets, Lanes, and Drains**

As mentioned earlier, the main roads intersect each other at right angles. The direction of the lanes was designed to ensure the continuous flow of air. The main road runs north-south, while the smaller lanes run east-west. In some places, the main road is 35 feet wide, allowing two bullock carts to pass easily. This image provides an idea of the traffic flow on a main road during that era. The walls of the houses along the roads and lanes were rounded to provide visibility on both sides. The residents here were very particular about cleanliness. Each lane had brick-lined drains, and drains carrying wastewater from houses on both sides of the neighborhood. These drains connected to larger drains, which were 19 inches wide and 12 inches deep. The drains were covered with bricks in a way that allowed them to be easily lifted for cleaning. Before the wastewater from houses entered the main drain, a basin was constructed.

This meant that when wastewater flowed from a house through the drain, debris, soil, and other materials that could obstruct the flow of water settled at the bottom of the basin, and the water

flowed into the main drain. This basin was cleaned periodically. If a basin could not be constructed at a particular location, a pot with holes in its bottom was placed at the mouth of the drain to filter the water before it entered the main drain and prevent blockage.



## Wells

After excavation, many wells have been found. They were present in almost every large house. Burnt bricks were used for their construction. In some houses, the wells are constructed in such a way that people from both inside and outside the house could access water. A well of this type was built against the outer wall and divided into two sections. A wall was built in between to provide privacy and allow people from the house to draw water. All the wells are circular, while two elliptical wells have also been found at two locations. It is believed that these wells were kept covered. They had a floor of burnt bricks around them to prevent slipping.

## People's Lifestyle during the Indus Valley Civilization

After understanding all these points, we can briefly say that their architectural style shows that they were people who preferred a simple life and built residences according to the principles of health. Numerous artifacts related to fine arts have been found at the important sites of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa. These include seals and decorated pottery. The most important items are the seals.

## Seals

"The art of any civilization or era reflects the social, geographical, religious, and political conditions of that time. We have already reviewed the Indus Valley Civilization in light of these conditions. Therefore, an important part of the art found here, in the form of seals, allows us to easily understand the circumstances of this civilization. Thousands of these seals have been found, with sizes ranging from approximately 3/4 inch to 1 1/8 inch, square or rectangular in shape. Some round seals have also been found. Similar seals have also been found in the contemporary Sumerian civilization, proving that there was a connection between the two regions.

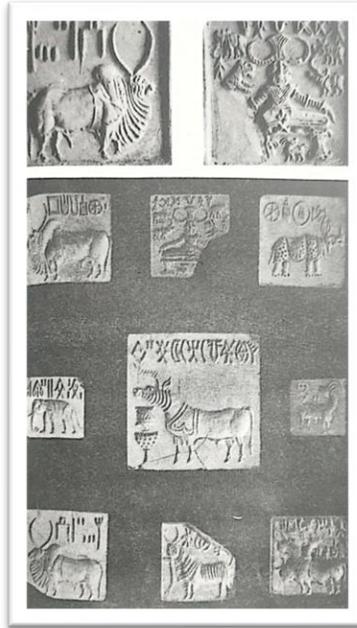
Since the inscriptions on these seals have not yet been deciphered, it is believed that they were either used for trade or for religious purposes. It is thought that the writing was related to the owner of the seal. Some seals have a hole in the back, through which a thread could be passed to wear them. The seals were made of soft stone, which was locally available in various colors. The process of making a seal was as follows: first, the stone was cut, and its shape was further defined with a knife, whether the seal was square, rectangular, or round. Then, the carving was done with small tools, and finally, it was coated with alkali and baked in a kiln. This made the surface of the seal shiny.

There were two methods for carving the designs:

- **Intaglio:** In this method, the design was carved into the stone, meaning the actual design was below the surface.
- **Cameo:** In this method, the design was raised on the surface.

These seals could have served various purposes, such as ornamentation, messaging, trade, or as symbols of a particular person or tribe. In any case, the designs on them are a testament to their artistic skill. We will now take a detailed look at various seals.

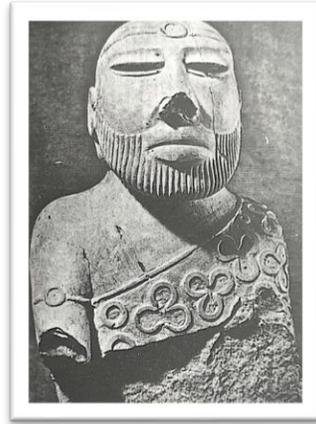
An animal found on seals is the UNICORN. It is a mythical creature with the body of a bull and a single horn on its head. A vessel-like object is placed in front of this animal. It is believed that this animal has some connection to their religious rituals, as in another seal, some people are carrying this animal in a procession, and behind them, a man is carrying the same vessel-like object. The second animal that appears on the seals is the common humpbacked bull. It has two horns, which are modeled in a very realistic manner. Especially the folds on its neck are very well made. A tiger is also depicted on a seal; in fact, four such seals have been found with this animal on them. A cheetah is depicted on a seal, and a man is sitting on a tree. It is believed that this is a hunting scene. Animals made by combining different animals have been found on many such seals. For example, a three-headed animal has been found, with the heads of a deer but the body of a bull. Besides all these animals, deer, crocodiles, elephants, and rhinoceroses have also been found on the seals. There is also writing on them. An important seal found in Mohenjo-daro has a depiction of a Hindu-style deity carved on it. This deity is sitting cross-legged in a yogic posture on a throne-like platform. Three faces are depicted of deity, meaning one face is in the front and faces are visible from both sides. On the head is a crown-like object with two horns. His arms are adorned with bangles. Various animals are depicted around him, including elephants, cheetahs, and buffaloes. Additionally, there are two deer under the throne. The deity depicted in this seal resembles a Hindu deity in style. There is writing above. Some seals only have writing. Some seals only have decorative patterns, including the SWASTIKA symbol. In addition, there are circles, squares, and various other symbols. Human figures are rarely found on seals. Wherever they are depicted, they are shown related to some religious ritual. An ordinary person's life is rarely depicted on a seal. A few seals show men in hunting scenes.



## Sculpture

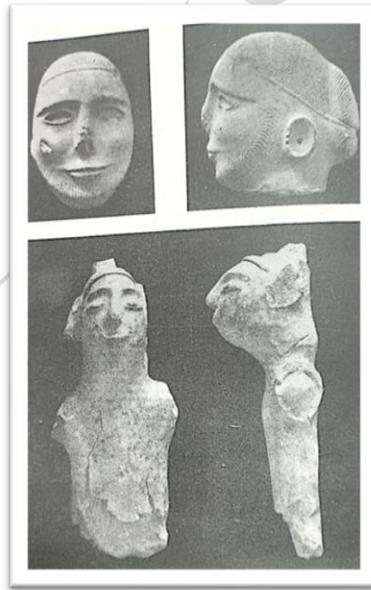
The number of sculptures found at the two important sites of the Indus Valley Civilization, Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, is not very large. Especially from Harappa, very few sculptures have been found. These sculptures are made of locally available stone. In addition, sculptures made of terracotta and bronze have also been found. First, we will examine the stone sculptures. About eleven such sculptures have been found in Mohenjo-daro and two in Harappa. They are made of different types of stone. A sculpture of a 'priest-king' was found in Mohenjo-daro. It is made of soft stone, depicting a man up to his head and shoulders, and is approximately seven inches tall. This sculpture is believed to have religious significance due to certain features. The facial features are coarse and crude. The forehead is narrow, and a band-like object is tied around it with a circular disc in the center, possibly containing a stone. This band goes from the forehead to the back of the head. The eyebrows and eyes are also present. The eyes are downcast and half-open. The ears are large and designed in a stylized manner. The lips are thick, and the upper lip is clean-shaven, while the beard is also designed with straight lines. The neck is short, and there are holes on both sides, perhaps used to attach a necklace or amulet. The garment worn by the sculpture is styled in such a way that one shoulder is bare, while the other shoulder is covered. It has a trefoil (three-lobed) design.

When this sculpture was found, the design was filled with red color. This type of design is used in Hinduism, hence the belief that the sculpture has religious significance. On the bare shoulder, an amulet-like object is tied to the arm. Another marble sculpture of a seated man was found, approximately 1 1/2 inches tall. His clothing is not very clear. The left knee is raised, with the left hand resting on it. The head is broken. There is a strip of hair on the back."



### Head in Limestone:

A seated statue made of limestone, approximately 8 1/2 inches long, has been found. One hand rests on the knee. There are holes just above the ankles. Another statue, made of the same stone, has been found, but its modeling is not well done. Another seated statue, also made of the same stone, is approximately 8 1/2 inches long. Its hands rest on its knees, and clothing is visible between its legs. A band is tied around its head.



### Stone Sculptures from Harappa and Mohenjo-daro

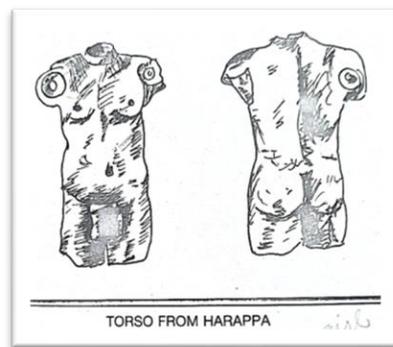
Besides human figurines, animal sculptures made of stone have also been found. Among them is a sculpture of a bull made of limestone, which is 4 and 1/2 inches in size. Another ten-inch sculpture, a composite of different animals, was found. The head was in very poor condition, but it is estimated to be that of a bull. It has bull's horns but an elephant's trunk, and...? The body is also that of a bull.

Two important stone sculptures found in Harappa are significant because they are quite different in style from the sculptures found in Mohenjo-daro. The sculptures from Mohenjo-daro are very **STYLIZED**, while those found in Harappa are **REALISTIC**.

The first sculpture is a torso of a man, about four inches long, made of grey stone. The legs of this sculpture are broken, and its head is missing. However, the curves in its body and the pose of one leg raised suggest a dance posture. There are holes in its neck and shoulders, suggesting that a separate head and arms might have been attached. This sculpture is a testament to the artist's high skill.

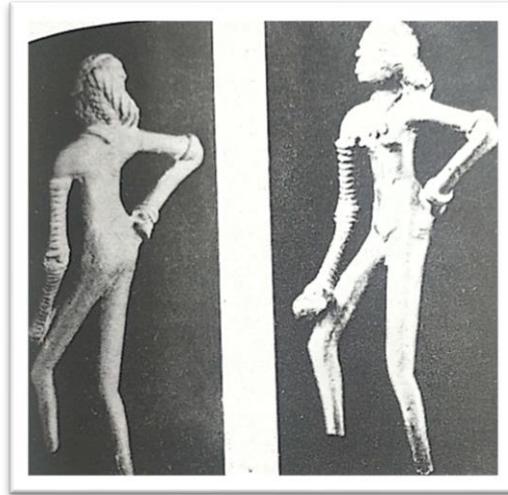
The second sculpture is also a torso of a human figure, made of red stone. This sculpture is about the same size as the first. Its arms, legs, and head are also broken, with similar holes in the neck and shoulders where arms and a head could have been attached separately. Its modeling is very natural, leading to the belief that it might have been brought from elsewhere. After stone sculptures, we look at how these people made sculptures in metal.

Among them, the important sculpture is that of a dancing girl, found in Mohenjo-daro."



### **Dancing Girl" Sculpture**

This sculpture is made of bronze and is approximately 4 1/2 inches tall. Its feet are broken off at the ankles. The right hand is placed on the hip, while the left arm rests on the left leg, which is extended forward. The left arm is completely covered in bangles. There is a necklace around the neck, and the hair is tied back in a bun. The facial features are thick and crude, while the body is slender. Its modeling is well done. Apart from this sculpture, no other significant metal sculptures have been found in the ruins of these two cities. What has been found includes animal figurines, in which the Indus Valley artisans were skilled. A foot with an anklet has also been found. Additionally, a copper toy cart from Harappa has been found, which is only two inches long, but its wheels are missing. After the metal sculptures, we examine the terracotta sculptures. These are numerous and are made of red clay, which was later baked. Terracotta sculptures can be divided into two categories: human figurines and animal figurines.



Among the sculptures of human bodies, female sculptures are prominent. They are generally made in the form of goddesses. For example, a sculpture of a goddess has been found with a fan-shaped crown on her head. There is no significant effort or artistic skill visible in the modeling of this entire sculpture. Ordinary clay has been twisted to create necklaces, and small pieces of clay have been attached in the form of beads. This goddess has been made with broad shoulders and a slender body. The facial features are simple. In short, no special tools would have been needed to create it."

### **Sculpture of Mother Goddess:**

This sculpture differs from the previous one in that it has legs, and the crown-like structure on its head has lamps on both sides, which were probably used for burning oil. There is no special skill in the modeling of this sculpture either. Small pieces of clay are affixed in various places to create jewelry. Moreover, two round small pieces are used for the eyes. Lips are also fashioned in this manner. A cloth is tied around the waist of this sculpture. The arm of this statue is broken.



### Clay Figures of Animals:

Besides the sculptures of women, numerous sculptures of animals are also found in baked clay. Among these, bulls and buffaloes are prominent, while no sculpture of a cow is found. Additionally, sculptures of rhinoceros, elephants, monkeys, dogs, and turtles are also found. A sculpture of a horse is also found. Besides these, models of bullock carts are also found, with wheels attached. Sculptures of birds are also present, but the majority of these sculptures do not exhibit any specific tools or the skill of the maker. Some sculptures appear to be made merely for pastime, entertainment, or as toys for children.

### Pottery Making in the Indus Valley

A significant number of broken pottery pieces have been found at Harappa and Mohenjodaro, two important sites of the Indus Valley Civilization. These are beautiful examples of pottery from that era. There is no significant difference in the shape and decoration of the pottery found at both sites. Most of the pottery is made of clay. In the early period, the pottery was made by hand and had more designs. In the developed period, the pottery was made on a wheel and had simpler designs.

Most of the pottery is light pink in color, on which bright red color was applied and then black designs were made. After making the designs, the pottery was polished. Even after being made of clay, these pots were baked in kilns. Most of the pottery is made on a wheel, but some hand-made pottery has also been found. Ten such pots have been found at Harappa on which the name of the maker is written in the form of a seal. Pottery with more designs belongs to the early period, while pottery from the developed period has very simple designs. The designs usually include straight lines, circles, and animal shapes, while human figures are rarely made. Fish and seals are prominent among them. The animals commonly depicted on seals also appear on pottery.



## Pottery Fragments

Three fragments of a single large pot have been found, divided into different sections by checkerboard designs. One fragment depicts a tree, another shows a bird perched, and the third shows a man and a [unclear word, possibly "woman"] with their hands raised. Birds and fish are also depicted.

## Types of Pottery

These pots came in various types, including small, large, those for household use, and those made for different events. Some small pots have been found that were used as kohl (eyeliner) or surma (antimony powder) containers. Larger pots were used to store grains. The bottoms of these large pots were made pointed and they were buried in the ground. Water and grains were stored in them. In addition, ordinary cooking pots have been found, as well as pots with holes. These pots acted as strainers. Let's examine the beautiful pottery found in the Indus Valley with the help of these examples.

### Example 1:

This pot is in the shape of a beautiful jar. It has a narrow mouth and a wide base, with a narrow bottom. It is beautifully painted. A picture of a twelve-antlered deer is painted along the circumference of the pot.

### Example 2:

This is a plate-like pot. It has a picture of a deer on it, surrounded by flower patterns. This plate was found in Harappa. It is an ordinary plate used for eating food.

### Example 3:

This is a jar-like pot. It has a wide mouth and a very beautiful shape. The design on it is also very beautiful. It has leaf designs and is made in red and black colors.

### Example 4:

This pot was also found in Mohenjo-daro. Its shape resembles a pitcher. It has a peacock design. This pot is an excellent example of the pottery of the Indus Valley.

### Example Number 5:

This vessel is very large in size. Its base is pointed. This vessel was also discovered from Harappa. It is believed that such vessels were buried in the ground and used for storing milk.

### Example Number 6:

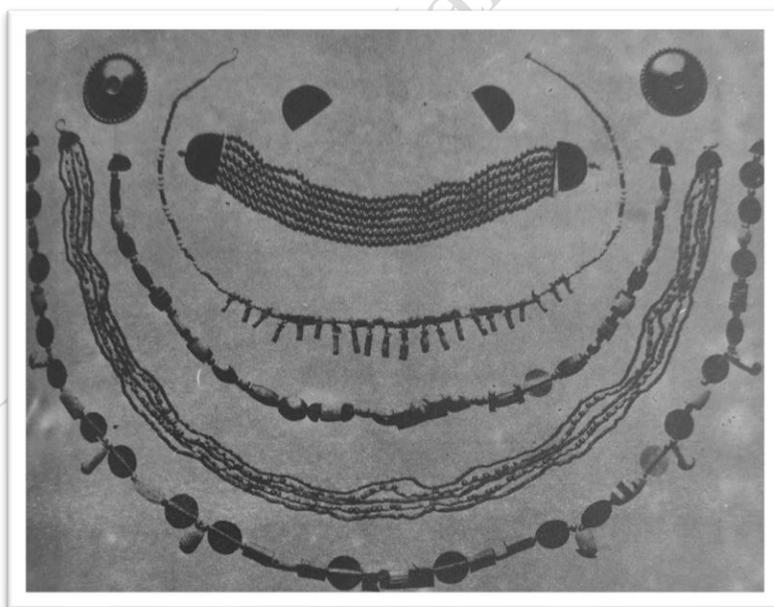
Two vessels of this shape were found by Muhammad. They also have pictures of animals on them. In addition, straight and parallel lines are also drawn.

### Example Number 7:

Such vessels have been found, including a pot-like one and a handi (earthen pot). These vessels have very beautiful designs. The surface of these vessels is cream-colored, and they have designs in brown and red. One vessel has a leaf design. One handi has an animal head. The third one also has a beautiful design. These were household utensils used for cooking.

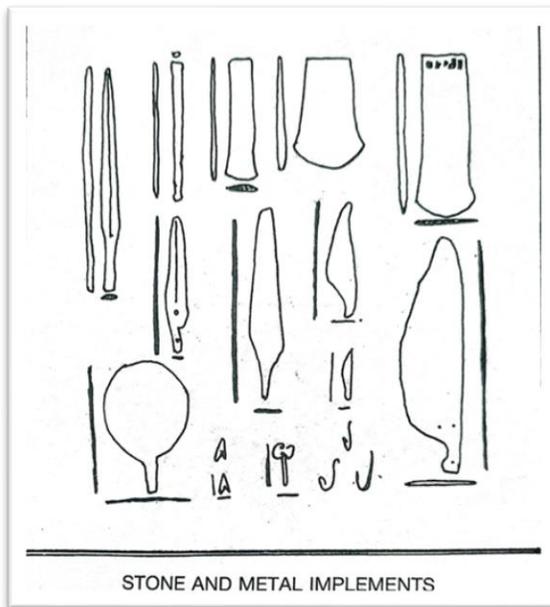
### Jewelry and Ornaments:

The jewelry found in the Indus Valley suggests that women here used jewelry extensively. Excavations have revealed skeletons adorned with jewelry. These ornaments were made from beautiful pieces of stone, beads, shells, cowrie shells, pieces of glass, and bronze. In addition to these, gold, silver, ivory, and fish scales were also used. Jewelry was buried under walls or floors. A precious necklace was found in a silver box in Harappa. This necklace contains diamonds and yellow beads strung together with great order and beauty. Along with this necklace, many rings and earrings were found. An ornate box with a lid was found under the floor of a house, containing gold studs, silver earrings, and strings of agate beads, all polished very smoothly. Additionally, a unique necklace was found here, consisting of a single string with green (semi-precious stone) drum-shaped beads. On both sides of these beads, there is a round bead. After these beads, there are gold round leaves joined in a way that leaves a space for a thread to pass through. This necklace is very beautiful. There was also a custom of wearing jhumars (earrings) and earrings. Women also wore bangles on their wrists. Bangles were made of gold, silver, bronze, and clay. No bangles made of glass have been found.



### Weapons and Tools of the Indus Valley Civilization:

The weapons and tools of the Indus Valley Civilization, made of stone, copper, and bronze, include small axes, sickles, and spears used in homes. These tools had handles made of wood and stone. Due to being neither very useful nor strong, they could not be used for warfare but only for defense. Special defensive weapons like shields and armor have not yet been discovered. Among the weapons found is an axe head 11 inches long and weighing three pounds and three ounces. It lacks a hole for a handle. Only one pickaxe has a hole for a handle. Two broken spears have been discovered. Spears of a peculiar design have been found in the Indus Valley, so thin that they bend with slight pressure. There is a bronze saw, sixteen and a half inches long, with a wooden handle attached.



## Burial

After excavations in the Indus Valley, it was found that men were buried in various ways. Many graves were found containing the remains of people along with their household items such as jewelry and utensils. In addition, some people were left out in the open air until their flesh rotted away, after which their bones were placed with their used utensils. Others were cremated and their ashes were buried in pots. Along with the dead, platters, cups, and sharp utensils were also placed.

By Arooj Zahra ( Gold Medalist)