

# A REVIEW ON INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Alok Mishra

Department of Humanities

Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

**ABSTRACT:** *The most notable Indus region was home to Egypt, Mesopotamia, South Asia and China's largest of the four old urban civilization establishments. It was not discovered until the 1920s. A significant portion of its remains, including its major urban centers, continue to be discovered. There has been no deciphering of the old Indus Civilization language. Many questions about the Indus people who made this highly complex society remain un-answered; however different sections of their general public can be addressed through various kinds of archaeological investigations. Harappa was a town in the human development of the Indus that thrived in the western part of South Asia about 2600 to 1700 B.C.E. In this paper the various aspects of the Indus Valley Civilization has been presented.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Archaeological, Harappa, Indus valley civilization, Mesopotamia.*

## INTRODUCTION

Now and again, revelations of incredible societies of the past have been made inadvertently. In 1856, Brothers James and William Burton who were busy with spreading out the railroad line from Karachi to Lahore endeavored to get blocks for their line from the near to slopes. This tunneling provoked the disclosure of two outdated metropolitan networks, Harappa in West Punjab and Mohenjo-Daro in Sind.

The credit of request of this dark human advancement goes passed on to Ray Bahadur Dayaram. He revealed this spot in 1921 under the course of Sir John Marshall. After around 1 year in 1922 at the period of revealing one more spot was found in Larkana at Pakistan. Keeping in view the data of this spot it was acknowledged that this human progression was confined just to Sindhu Valley. Along these lines, this human progression was called by the name 'Sindhu valley'. In any case, with the movement of time exactly when the excess pieces of this improvement were found past the limit of this valley, this human progression was called by the name of 'Harappa Civilization' as well[1]. Since, of the explanation that the pillars of this human advancement were found in Harappa, it gave off an impression of being ideal to call it Harappa Civilization. Approx. 1000 spots are found in India, till now. The total zone of Sindhu valley progress is approx. 12, 99,600 square km. It takes after a Triangle.

The metropolitan culture of the Bronze Age found in Harappa in Pakistani Punjab was a way relaxing disclosure 1853, A. Cunningham, the British originator who transformed into an unprecedented earthmover explorer, saw a Harappan seal. At that point the seal exhibited a bull and six made letters, he didn't comprehend its centrality a lot later, in 1921, the chance of the site of Harappa was recognized when an Indian classicist, Daya Ram Sahn, started uncovering it. At about a comparable time, R. D. Banerjee, a set of experiences subject matter expert, uncovered the site of Mohenjo-Daro in Sindh. Both discovered pottery and various curios normal for a made advancement. Generous scale uncovering was done the under the overall oversight of Marshall in 1931, Mackay revealed a comparative site in 1938. Tanks

uncovered at Harappa in 1940. In 1946 Mortimer Wheeler uncovered Harappa, and the expulsion of the pre-Independence and pre-Partition period passed on to light basic ancient rarities of the Harappan culture at various regions where bronze was used.

In the post-Independence time frame, archeologists from the two India and Pakistan revealed the Harappan and related objections. SurajBhan, M.K. Dhavalikar, J.P Joshi, B.B. Lal, S.R. Rao, B.K. Thapar, R.S. Bisht, and others worked in Gujarat, Haryana, and Rajasthan.

In Pakistan, KotDiji in the central Indus Valley was uncovered by EA. Khan and fantastic thought were paid to the Hakra and pre-Hakra social orders by M.R. Mughal. A H. Dani uncovered the Gandhara the graves in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan. American, British, French, and Italian archeologists also worked at a couple of areas including Harappa.

#### Period of civilization:

At the same period, when other civilizations in other parts of Africa and Asia, mainly in the valleys of the Nile, Euphrates, Tigris and Hwang-Ho rivers, the Indus Valley Civilization grew and evolved. Around 4,500 years ago, or as people usually claim, around 2,500 B.C., the Harappan culture became important. (Prior to Christ).

#### Social lives:

The figure of Terracotta gives us the best knowledge about people's social lives. The Indus Valley Civilization was possibly dominated by the merchant class. The weapons used were axes, bows, arrows, and gada[2]. No swords were discovered for defensive weapons. The Civilization of the Indus Valley has a population of over 5 million people (approximately). The Australoids, Mediterranean, Mongoloid and Alpine races were the people of the Indus Valley.

#### Religion:

As they did not build temples, the Indus people did not have a formal religious structure. In the form of the tree (Pipal) and animals, they worship gods (unicorn). They still believe in and use amulets as protection against spirits and evil powers. The main male diety was the PashupatiMahadeva, depicted in seals, and the Mother Goddess was the chief female deity, depicted in different ways. There is also ample proof of phallic worship. Numerous stone symbols of female sex organs (yoni, worship) were found in addition to those of the phallus. The worship of fire is proven by the discovery at Lothal, Kalibangan, and Harappa of fire alters.

#### Weights:

More was needed by the urban population of the Indus people, using weights and measures for trade and various exchanges. Various papers have been identified that are used for weights. They indicate that 16 or its multiples were often used in weighting. 16, 64, 160, 320 and 640, for instance[3]. Curiously, until the present day and until late 16 annas made one Rs, the convention of 16 has persisted in India. Additionally, the Harappans knew the craft of estimation. We ran over sticks etched with measure signs, one of which is bronze-made.

### Economy:

People consumed wheat and barley, ground them in millstones, and then baked them into bread. They liked berries, pomegranates and bananas, for instance. The people's basic food included wheat, barley, rice, milk, and some vegetables such as peas, sesamum, and date palms like fruits. Mutton, pork, poultry, fish etc. were also consumed by the people of Indus.

### Clothes:

The Harappan sites have discovered several spindles. This shows the use of cotton to weave social fabrics. Wool was possibly used as well. It was probable that the garments were sewn. The women were wearing a short skirt which was held by a girdle at the waist. Around themselves, the men wrapped long pieces of fabric.

### Agriculture:

The rainless Indus district is not abundant by and by. Nevertheless, its prosperous towns and cities in the past prove that in old conditions it was ripe. There is just about 15 cm of rain at the exhibit. One of the antiquarians of Alexander composed in the fourth century B.C. that Sindh was a rich part of the country[4]. The Indus region had more distinctive vegetation in previous circumstances, which drew in more rainfall. It provided wood fuel on a substantial scale for the preparation of blocks and further production. The expansion of cultivation, enormous scale touching, and supply of fuel have annihilated traditional vegetation with the passage of time. The annual immersion in the Indus stream appears to have been a substantially more important reason behind the ripeness of the region. In November, when the surge water subsided and procured their wheat and Barley harvests in April before the coming of the following surge, the Indus individuals sowed seeds in the surge fields. The wooden plowshare was most likely used by the Harappans. We do not know if men or bulls have drawn a furrow. The people of Harappan grew wheat, barley, rai, and peas. Significant amounts of wheat and barley were grown, as a large amount of barley was discovered at Banawali.

### Business:

With the people of Sumer and towns along the Persian Gulf, the Indus people have a trade relationship. Goods were sent from one location to another, as artifacts and seals made in Mohenjo-Daro were discovered in Iraq. Ships from Lothal (where a dock was found) carried the trade and incoming goods were also obtained here[5].

Following are the commodities which were imported by Harappa citizens:

- Afghanistan - Tin, Silver, Gold, Himalayan Led - Mineral Pitch
- Iran - Tin, Silver, Led Khetadi - Copper
- Baluchistan - Copper, South India Stealite - Gold, Shell, Gray
- Faras - Rajasthan's Gold - Stealite, Led
- Mesopotamia - Gujarat Lapis, Gujarat Lazuli - Stealite
- Badaksha - The Diamond Blue. Sapphire - Maharastra
- Saurashtra - Shell, Grey, Grey
- Green Stone Neelgiri.

### Decline:

The civilization of Harappan lasted a thousand years or so. By 1500 B.C., when the Aryans started to arrive in India, the civilization of Harappan had collapsed. Why has this occurred? Huge floods in the Indus may have devastated the cities, which must have been a strong cause for the extinction of the Harappan culture[6]. The silt-clay that covers the collapsed houses at Mohenjo-Daro proves the case. The people must have been compelled by frequent floods to leave the flooded areas and create permanent habitat elsewhere. Or, when an outbreak like a plague enters a human home, it leaves its trail of death everywhere by an epidemic or other awful disease. Therefore, the scattered skeletal remains lead some to attribute it to a disease such as plague, although there is no clear evidence of an outbreak of plague in the area. The climate also started to change and, like a desert, the area became more and more dry. Or else they could have invaded the cities and the people could not protect themselves. A negative move in the history of India was the decline of the Harappan towns. The Aryans who came later knew nothing of life in the city. It took almost another thousand years in order to raise India's cities again.

### CONCLUSION

The Harappan culture lasted for about a thousand years. By 1500 B.C., when the Aryans began to arrive in India, the Harappan culture had collapsed. Why did this happen? The cities may have been destroyed by massive floods in the Indus must have been a potent cause for the extinction of the Harappan culture. The point is proved by the silt-clay that covers the collapsed houses at Mohenjo-Daro. Repeated floods must have forced the people to flee the inundated places and set up permanent habitat elsewhere. Or by an epidemic or some terrible disease when an epidemic like plague visits a human habitation, it leaves its trail of death everywhere. The scattered skeletal remains, therefore, lead some to attribute it to epidemic like plague, though there is no concrete proof of outbreak of plague in the region. The climate also began to change and the region became more and drier like a desert. Or else the cities might have been attacked and the inhabitants were unable to defend themselves. The decline of the Harappan cities was a negative step in the history of India. The Aryans who came afterward knew nothing of city life. It took nearly another thousand years to boost cities again in India.

- The first mention of the Harappan Civilization's potential was made by Charles Masen early in 1826.
- The Civilization, after its discovery by Daga Ram Shana and Vatsa in 1921-22, was called "Indus Valley Civilization" by Sir John Marshal (1924).
- S.R.Rao in Gujarat visited a maximum number of sites (190).
- There were approximately 2600 sites where 350 were excavated.
- In the Indus Valley Civilization, Mohenjadroo is the highest. The smallest is Aladdin.
- The largest sites in India are Dholavira and Rakhigarshi.

### REFERENCES

- [1] M. N. Vahia and N. Yadav, "Reconstructing the History of Harappan civilization," *Soc. Evol. Hist.*, 2011.
- [2] "The ancient Indus: urbanism, economy, and society," *Choice Rev. Online*, 2010, doi: 10.5860/choice.47-6423.

- 
- [3] M. N. Vahia and N. Yadav, "Harappan Weights," *Puratattava*, 2007.
- [4] "The Indus civilization: a contemporary perspective," *Choice Rev. Online*, 2003, doi: 10.5860/choice.40-5952.
- [5] J. M. Kenoyer, "Trade and technology of the indus valley: New insights from harappa, pakistan," *World Archaeol.*, 1997, doi: 10.1080/00438243.1997.9980377.
- [6] M. R. Mughal, "The decline of the Indus Civilization and the late Harappan Period in the Indus Valley," *Lahore Museum Bull.*, 1990.