



RAS

Rajasthan Administrative Services

Rajasthan Public Service Commission

Volume - 3

**Ancient & Medieval History of
India**



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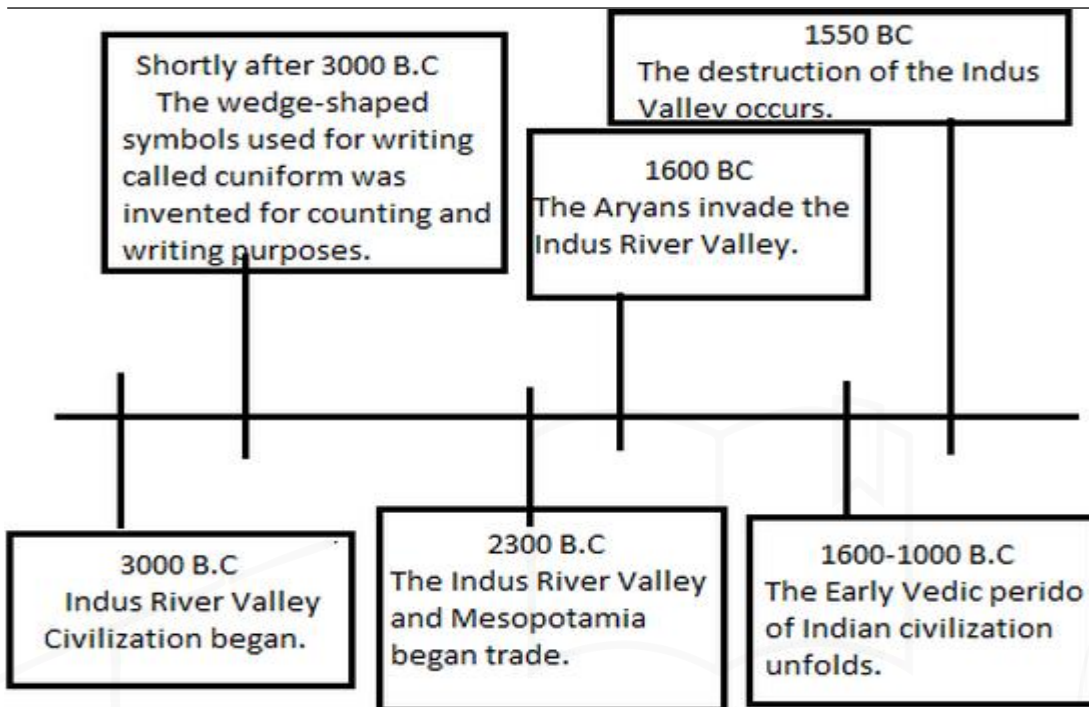
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1 CHAPTER

Indus Valley Civilisation

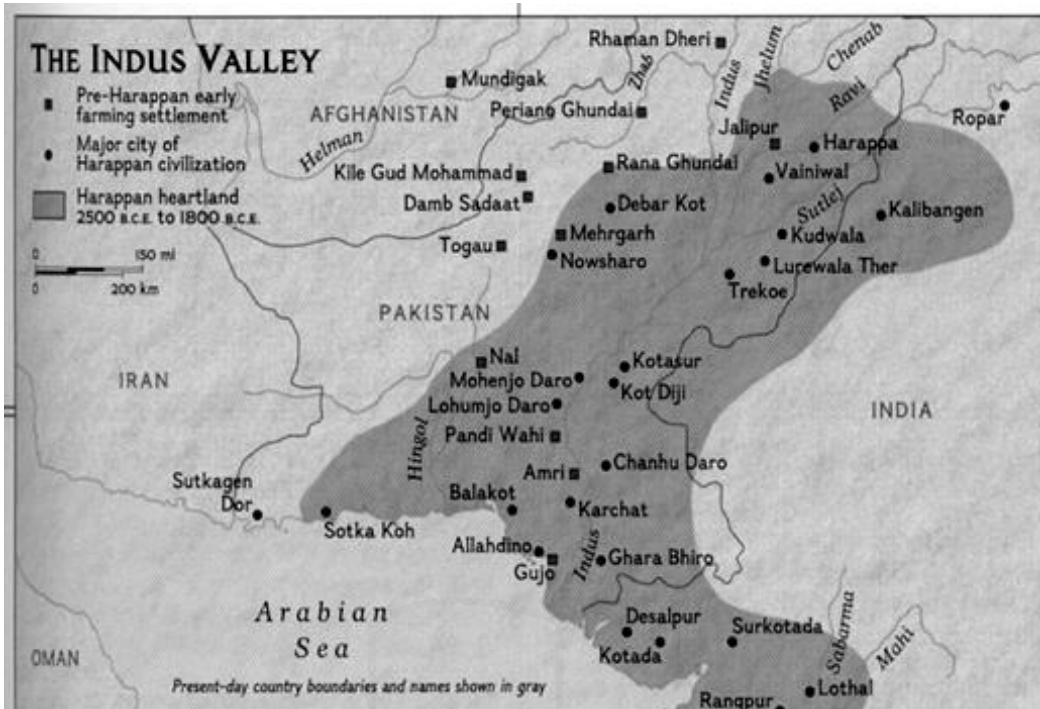


Discovery of Indus Valley Civilization

- First Urban Civilization of South- Asia
- Contemporary to Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations.
- Developed in the North-western part of the Indian subcontinent
- 1853- Discovery of a Harappan seal which showed a bull by A. Cunningham.
- 1921- Discovery of Harappa (the first archaeological site discovered) by Dayaram Sahni. Therefore, it is also known as the Harappan civilization.
- 1922- Discovery of Mohenjodaro by R.D. Banerjee
- Essentially a Riverine Civilization.
- A Bronze age Civilization.



Views of Scholars	Origin
E.J.H. Mackay	Due to the migration of people from Sumer (Southern Mesopotamia)
D.H. Gordon and Martin Wheeler	Due to the migration of people from Western Asia
John Marshall and V. Gordon Childe	A colony of Mesopotamian Civilization having a foreign origin
S. R. Rao and T. N. Ramachandran	Built by Aryans
Stuart Piggot and Romila Thapar	Originated from Iranian-Baluchi culture
D. P. Aggarwal and Amlananda Ghosh	Originated from Iranian-Sothi culture



Geographical Extent

- **Coverage-** about 13 lakh square km
- **Extent-** Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Western U.P., and northern Maharashtra.
- **Northernmost site-** Manda in Jammu and Kashmir (River- Chenab)
- **Southernmost site-** Daimabad in Maharashtra (River- Pravara)
- **Western-most site-** Sutkagendor in Balochistan (River- Dashk)
- **Easternmost site-** Alamgirpur in Uttar Pradesh (River- Hindon)

Phases of Harappan Civilization

1. **The Early/Pre-Harappan Phase (3500-2500 BC)-**
 - around Ghaggar-Hakra river valley
 - a **proto-urban** phase
 - witnessed the development of villages and towns
 - characterized by a **centralized authority and urban life**.
 - **Crops** - peas, sesame seeds, dates, cotton, etc.
 - **Sites-** Mehrgarh, Kot Diji, Dholavira, Kalibangan, etc.
 - The **earliest Indus script** dates back to **3000 BC**.
2. **Mature Harappan Phase (2500-1800 BC)-**
 - development of **large urban centers** like Harappan, Mohenjodaro, and Lothal.
 - concept of **irrigation developed**.
3. **Late Harappan Phase (1800-1500 BC)-**
 - Signs of **gradual decline**, by **1700 BC** most of the cities were abandoned.
 - **Sites-** Manda, Chandigarh, Sanghol, Daulatpur, Alamgirpur, Hulas, etc.



Important Sites of the Harappan Civilization

Sites	River	Features
Harappa (1921) Montgomery district	Ravi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A row of 6 granaries. ● R-37 and H cemetery found here. ● Coffin burial

of Punjab. aka city of granaries.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Red Sandstone male torso ● Copper bullock cart ● Stone symbols of lingam and yoni ● Terracotta figure of Mother Goddess. ● Single room barracks ● Bronze pots. ● Citadel (raised platform) ● Dice
Mohenjodaro (1922) (mound of the dead)- Larkana district of Sindh Largest IVC site	Indus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Great Bath (for ritual bathing, no use of stone, built with burnt bricks, bitumen used on outer walls and floors) ● Great granary (the largest building in Mohenjodaro) ● Piece of woven cloth ● Bronze Statue of dancing girl- Right arm on the hip and left arm covered with bangles. ● Cotton cloth ● uniform buildings and weights ● Seal of mother Goddess ● Idol of yogi ● Pashupati seal ● Steatite image of a bearded man ● Mesopotamian seals ● Bronze image of nude women dancer ● 7 layers of the city → city was rebuilt 7 times.
Lothal (1957) (port city)- Gujarat Trade centre for gems and ornaments	Bhogvaha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City divided into 6 sections ● Coastal town, sea trade links with Mesopotamia ● Dockyard (to manufacture and repair ships) ● Evidence of rice husk ● Double burial and 3-pair burial ● Fire altars ● Terracotta model of a ship ● Ivory scale for measurement ● Persian gulf seal
Chanhudaro (1931) - Sindh	Indus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Only City without citadel ● Evidence of beads making factory, Lipstick, inkpot. ● Dog's paw imprint on brick ● Terracotta model of bullock cart ● Bronze toy cart
Kalibangan (1953) (black bangles)- Rajasthan	Ghaggar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Furrowed land ● Fire altars ● No presence of baked bricks, earthen bricks present ● Houses with wells ● No drainage ● Shows evidence of pre- Harappan as well as Harappan phase
Dholavira (1990-91) - Gujarat	Luni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water harvesting system ● Stormwater drainage system ● Stadium ● Nameplate of 10 letters (largest IVC inscription) ● The only city to be divided into 3 parts.
Rangpur (1931) (Gujarat)	Mahar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remains of Pre+Mature Harappan phase ● Evidence of stoneflacks

Banawali (1973-74) (Hisar, Haryana)	Saraswati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre+Mature + late Harappan phase ● Clay model of plough ● No drainage system ● Terracotta model of plough ● Barley grains ● Lapis Lazuli ● The only site with Radial streets
Rakhigarhi (1963) (Haryana)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The largest IVC site in India ● Fragmented artifact of a thick sturdy red ware with an incised female figure
Surkotada (1964) (Kutch, Gujarat)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Horse remains and graveyard ● Soldiers sign-on potsherd ● Pot burials ● Oval grave
Amri (1929) (Sindh, Pakistan)	Indus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evidence of rhinoceros
Ropar (Punjab, India)	Sutlej	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● first site to be excavated after independence ● Dog buried with a human ● Oval pit Burials ● Copper Axe
Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh)	Yamuna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Broken copper blade ● Ceramic items
Daimabad (Maharashtra)	Pravara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bronze images (charioteer with chariot, ox, elephant, and rhinoceros)

Sinauli

Sinauli Excavation 1.0 in 2005:

- 116 burial sites discovered.
- Referred to as one of **India's largest known necropolises in the Chalcolithic period.**
- The **burial sites are different from Indus Valley Civilization.**
- **Coffins are 4 legged** and the tombs had underground chambers.
- **Systematically arranged vases, bowls and pots** near the body.
- **Rice found in those pots** buried along with the bodies of the troops
- **8 anthropomorphic figures** (something that looks like humans) found.
- **Burials similar to vedic culture and not Indus Valley culture**



Sinauli Excavation 2.0 in 2018:

- **Came into light again in 2018** when a **farmer reported to have found antiquities** in the land **while ploughing** the field.
- **Horse drawn chariots** (almost 5000 years old) found - have a fixed ankle linked through a long pole to a small yoke - thought to have been **drawn by animals, preferably horses.**
- Many weapons like **copper antenna swords, war shields** etc were found
- **Wooden four legged coffins** this time along with **pottery.**
- **Whip** to indicate to the animals has been found, which means the tribe that lived here controlled the animals
- **Female + Male warriors** have also been found **buried with their swords.**

- However their **legs around ankles had been removed before they were buried.**

Pottery:

- **Ochre Colored Pottery (OCP)** culture.
- **Similar to** late mature **Harappan culture** but is different from it in many other aspects.

Features of Indus Valley Civilization



Town Planning

- **Fortification**
- **Well-planned streets**
- **Advanced drainage system** in towns
- **Cities-** two or more parts.
 - **Western part** - smaller but higher - *citadel*- occupied by the ruling class.
 - **Eastern part**- larger but lower- inhabited by common or working people -brick houses.
- **Chanhudaro: City without Citadel,**
- Both Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro had a citadel. (these two sites are called the capital cities of IVC)
- Towns followed a rectangular grid pattern with **roads cutting each other at right angles.**
- **Houses were 1 or 2 storeys** high.
- **No large monumental structures** like temples or palaces are present.
- Use of **baked and unbaked bricks** and **stones** for construction.
- Houses were made up of mud bricks, while the drainage system was built using burnt bricks.

Great Bath

- In the **citadel mound**
- A tank made of bricks that was **used for ritual bathing**
- **Measurement-** 11.88 by 7.01 meters and 2.43metres deep
- There were **flights of steps** that led to the tank.
- **Presence of side rooms** for changing clothes
- The **bottom** of the tank was **made up of burnt bricks**
- **Water was drawn from a large well** in the adjacent room emptied into a drain

Granary

- **Mohenjodaro-** It is the **largest building** in Mohenjodaro, 45.71 meters long and 15.23 meters wide
- **Harappa-** Presence of two rows of **6 granaries**, situated close to the riverbank, 15.23 meters long and 6.09 meters wide. Rows of circular brick platforms were found that were meant for threshing grains, as there have been pieces of evidence of wheat and barley
- **Kalibangan-** at the southern part, presence of brick platforms that might have been used for granaries

Drainage system

- **Every house** in IVC had its **courtyard, private well, and well-ventilated bathroom.**
- Water from these houses went to street drains that were covered either with bricks or stone slabs.
- **Street drains** were equipped with **manholes.**
- Harappan people paid too much attention to health and hygiene.

Agriculture

- Indus region was **fertile due to annual inundation in river Indus**, which led to the deposition of rich alluvial soil in the plains (the fertility of the Sindh region had also been mentioned by Alexander's historian in the 4th century BC)
- **area flooded frequently** as is evidenced by the presence of walls made of burnt bricks.
- Seeds were sown in November and harvested in April.
- **Use of stone sickles** for harvesting

- **Absence of canal irrigation.** However, traces of canals have been discovered at Shortugahi (Afghanistan).
- To store water, **Gabarbands or Nalas enclosed by drains** were constructed in parts of Afghanistan and Baluchistan.
- **Furrows** were discovered in the pre-Harappan phase of **Kalibangan**.
- **Crops-** two types of **wheat and barley, rai, sesamum, dates, mustard, and peas.** (Evidence of barley at Banawali, Evidence of rice at Lothal).
- The presence of **water reservoirs in Dholavira** was used to store water for agriculture.
- Indus people were the **first to produce cotton in the world.** The Greeks called it Sindon (derived from Sindh)
- The **terracotta model of plough-** discovered at **Banawali**.
- Use of cereals for **barter exchange.** Peasants paid taxes on cereals and these were also used for payment of wages.
- The practice of **double cropping started** during this period.

Domestication of animals

- IVC people **practiced pastoralism.**
- They **reared animals like sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, and buffalo.**
- **Cats and dogs were also domesticated a**
- **Domestication of Elephants-** Gujarat.
- **Humped bull** - favored by Harappans
- **Camels and donkeys** - beasts of burden.
- Rabbits, wildfowl, pigeons were also present as discovered from pottery paintings.
- **Evidence of Rhinoceros-** Amri, a terracotta model of horse found at Lothal, and horse remains were found at Surkotada.

Trade and Commerce

- **Barter form** of exchange prevalent
- Trade was carried out using stone, metal, shell, etc
- **Trade contacts with Mesopotamia** evident by Harappan seals found at Sumer, Susa, and Ur.
- **Port at Lothal** was used to **export cotton**
- Seal discovered from Nippur containing Harappan script and depicting a unicorn
- **Cuneiform inscription** mentions **trade contacts between the Mesopotamians and the Harappans.** It mentions the name "**Meluha**" which refers to the Indus region and its trade contacts with Mesopotamia by passing **two trading stations- Dilmun and Makan.**
- **Harappan seals** discovered from the ancient sites in the **Persian Gulf.**
- **Major items- imported** by Harappans - Gold, Silver, Copper, Tin, Lapis Lazuli, Lead, Turquoise, Jade, Carnelian, and Amethyst.
- Evidences that proves **Harappan's external trade-**
 - the discovery of **cylindrical seals from Mohenjo-Daro,**
 - use of **Mesopotamia cosmetics by Harappans,**
 - **coffin burials** prevalent in the foreign world discovered at Harappa, and
 - **figure of a humped bull on Mesopotamian seals.**

External trade routes

- IVC people traded with many different civilizations like **Persia, Mesopotamia and China.**
- Also known to trade in the **Arabian Gulf region, central parts of Asia, portions of Afghanistan and northern and western India.**
- **Goods traded :**
 - Terracotta pots, beads, gold, silver, colored gems like turquoise and lapis lazuli, metals, flints, seashells and pearls.

Internal trade routes

- **Balochistan, Sindh, Rajasthan, Cholistan, Punjab, Gujarat** and the upper Doab
- **Major trade routes -**
 - Sindh and south Balochistan
 - Indus plains and Rajasthan
 - Sindh and east Punjab
 - East Punjab and Rajasthan
 - Sindh and Gujarat
- **Major routes in early Harappan period-** Sindh-Balochistan
- **Major routes in Mature Harappan period**
 - Most probably **riverine trade**
 - **Coastal routes** connected **Gujarat to Makran coast**

Craft Production

- Utensils, boats, beads, seals, terracotta items, manufactured
- Knew the **art of bricklaying**
- Knew the **art of dyeing and smelting metals**
- Rampant use of lead, bronze, tin

Stone Statues

- Refined **stone, bronze or terracotta** statues.
- **Stone statuary** found at **Harappa** and **Mohenjodaro** - excellent examples of handling three-dimensional volumes.
- Eg. Soapstone Bearded Priest and red sandstone male torso

Bronze Casting

- Bronze statues made **using the 'lost wax' technique**.
 - In it, the wax figures first covered with a coating of clay and allowed to dry - wax is heated & drained out through a tiny hole made in the clay cover - hollow mould thus created is filled with molten metal which takes original shape of the object.
 - Once the metal cools, the clay cover is completely removed.
- Metalcasting appears to be a **continuous tradition**.
- **Major centres-** Daimabad, Maharashtra

Terracotta

- Representations of **human forms are crude** as compared to stone & bronze statues.
- **More realistic in Gujarat** and **Kalibangan**.
- Most **important - mother goddess**.

Seals

- Around 200 seals discovered
- **Mostly made of steatite**. Few made up of **terracotta, gold, agate, chert, ivory, and faience**.
- Most seals were **square-shaped with 2*2 dimension**
- Mainly used **for commercial purposes**, however, it was also used as **amulets**.
- Seals were **pictographic**, having pictures of animals like tigers, elephants, bulls, buffalo, rhinoceros, goats, bison, and others.
- Seals **script has not been deciphered**
- The **most important** seal- **Pashupati Mahadeva** seal from Mohenjodaro
- Lothal- Persian Gulf seals have been discovered.

Beads

- Made up of **gold, Silver, Copper, Bronze shells, and semi-precious stones**.
- Mainly **barrel-shaped**
- **Lothal** and **Dholavira- Bead maker's shop**

Weights and Measures

- Weights followed a **binary system**
- Aware of **sexagesimal and decimal systems**.
- Weights **made up of chert, jasper, agate, greystone** and shape: cubicle and spherical.
- The **unit of ratio was 16 equivalent to 13.64 grams**
- **16 Chhatank made a ser and 16 annas were equivalent to one rupee**

Major sources of raw materials:

- **Limestone:** factory sites excavated in **limestone hills of Sukkur and Rohri**
 - **Mass producer of Chert blades.**
- **Copper:** from **Khetri, Rajasthan; Links between the Chalcolithic Ganeshwar - Jodhpur culture and the Harappan civilisation.**
- **Tin:** Tosam(**Haryana**), **Afghanistan** and **central Asia**
- **Gold:** from the sands of upper Indus or Kolar fields of **Karnataka**.
 - **Beads from Piklihal** obtained by Harappans
- **Semi precious stones:** **Gujarat** and **Afghanistan; Used for bead manufacture**
- **Lapiz lazuli:** **Afghanistan & Baluchistan**

Script

- **First noticed in 1853**
- **complete script was first discovered in 1923** but has remained **undeciphered**
- **Script- Pictographic and logosyllabic**, each letter stands for some object or idea.
- **largest Harappan inscription has 26 signs** and mostly recorded on seals
- **Aware of the art of writing-** generally written from left to right, but also **right to left in certain cases (boustrophedon).**

Communication

- Harappans **undertook navigation** as evidenced by the representation of ships and boats discovered on seals and as graffiti on pottery
- **Bullock carts were used for inland transport**

Pottery

- Used **potter's wheel** and used well-baked pottery
- Red slip and black
- **Used as-** dish-on-stands, storage jars, bowls, dishes, pots, perforated jars, etc
- **Motifs-** pipal leaves, fish scales, intersecting circles, zigzag patterns, horizontal bands, floral and faunal geometrical designs, etc
- **Mostly polychrome pottery-** use of more than two colors
- Potteries had **flat bases**
- **Red Black pottery was most common** (red-colored pottery painted with black designs, usually with trees and circles).
- **3 pottery cultures in the Pre-Harappan phase-**
 - **Nal Culture** (Yellow-colored, pictography with yellow and blue),
 - **Jhob Culture** (Red pottery and pictography in black), and
 - **Quetta** (yellow pottery, pictography with black).

Society

- Mainly **Urban** ; however some regions were rural too.
- Comprised mostly of the **middle class**.
- **Majority-** priests, merchants, craftsmen, peasants, and laborers.

Religion

- **Secular Society**

- **Mother Goddess** was worshipped- Terracotta figurines of semi-nudity identified with Shakti or Mother Goddess discovered, a seal was discovered at Harappa which depicts Earth/ Mother Goddess with a plant growing out of her womb.
- **Pashupati Mahadeva/ Proto Shiva** was worshipped- a three-faced male God, seated in a yogic posture and surrounded by Rhino and Buffalo on the right and elephant and tiger on the left with two deer at his feet.
- **Worshipped nature**- The pipal tree was considered the most sacred.
- **Worshipped animals** - humped bull, buffalo, tiger, birds, and rhino.
- **Worshipped mythical animals**-
 - three-headed chimeras,
 - human-faced goats,
 - semi-human and semi-bovine creatures,
 - human figures with bull's horns, hoofs, and tails.
- **No evidence of temple-worship**
- **Phallus (lingam) and yoni (cult of fertility) worshippers.**
- **Believed in magic, charms, and sacrifices**-
 - Amulets used,
 - seals depicting sacrifices discovered,
 - fire altars from Kalibangan, Banawali, and Lothal.
- **Burials**-
 - double-burials at Lothal,
 - circular and rectangular burials, megalithic burials at Surkotada and Dholavira,
 - fractional burials,
 - dead were disposed of either by burial or cremation,
 - dead bodies buried in the north-south direction
- **Believed in after-life**-
 - Earthen pots and urns with ornaments and food grains discovered at excavation,
 - articles of daily use were buried along with the dead bodies,
 - ashes of the dead were preserved in clay urns.

Metals, Tools, and weapons

- Knew how to make **copper-bronze tools**
- They made use of **chert blades** (made of Rohri Chert), copper objects and bones, ivory tools for making weapons like an arrowhead, spearhead, celt, and axe.
- **No knowledge of iron**

Political Organization

- As per historians, **ruled by a class of merchants**
- **Cities independent of each other,**
- **no conflict** between them
- Organization like municipal corporation to look after the basic civic amenities of people

Decline and Disappearance of Indus Valley Civilization

- **Decline started after 1900 BC,**
- By 19th century, Harappa and Mohenjodaro disappeared
- Harappan culture at other sites faded out gradually.
- **Post-Harappan phase/post-urban phase/sub-Indus culture**- depended on agriculture, stock raising, hunting, and fishing.
- Witnessed the **end of trade contacts with the west Asian centers.**
- Around 1200 BC, at some sites in Punjab and Haryana, Grey ware pottery and Painted Grey Ware associated with Vedic culture found in conjunction with late-Harappan pottery.



- After the decline of IVC, **Jhooker Culture developed in West Punjab and Bahawalpur. It was also called the Graveyard-H culture.**

Historian/s	Reasons for decline
Gordon Childe and Stuart Piggot	External aggression
H T Lambrick and M S Vatsa	Unstable river system
Kennedy	Natural calamities
Stein and Ghosh	Climate Change
R Mortimer Wheeler and Gordon	Aryan Invasion
Robert Raikes and Dales	Earthquake
Sood and D P Aggarwal	Dryness of river
Fairchild	Ecological imbalance
Shereen Ratnagar	Trade decline with Mesopotamia
SR Rao and Mackay	Flood

* It has also been cited that fire and spread of communicable diseases like malaria were also the reasons for decline of IVC.

Important Facts

Bronze Dancing Girl Statue

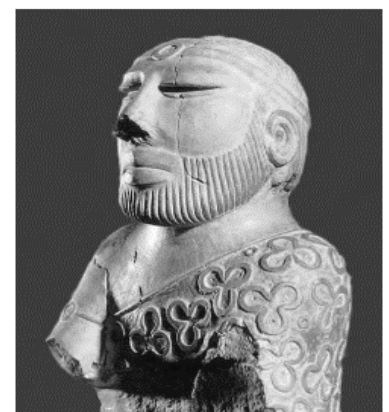
RAS Mains-2016

- Obtained from Mohenjodaro
- World's oldest bronze sculpture.
- Characteristics:
 - The left hand consists of bangles and the right hand consists of bracelets and amulets.
 - Positioned in "Tribhanga" dance posture with her right hand on her hip.
 - In her left hand there are probably many bangles made of ivory, some of which are in his right hand as well.
 - This statue is only of four inches.



Bearded man/priest

- This **steatite figure** of the bearded man interpreted as a priest or priest king is draped in a shawl coming under the right arm and covering the left shoulder.
- His shawl is decorated with trefoil patterns.
- His eyes are a little elongated, and half-closed as in meditation.
- The nose is well formed and of medium size; the mouth is of average size with close-cut moustache and a short beard and whiskers; the ears resemble double shells with a hole in the middle.
- The hair is parted in the middle, and a plain woven fillet is passed round the head.
- An armband is worn on the right hand and holes around the neck indicate a necklace.
- The shawl on the shoulder of the bearded priest indicates that the handicraft of embroidery was commonly practiced in Indus Valley Civilization.



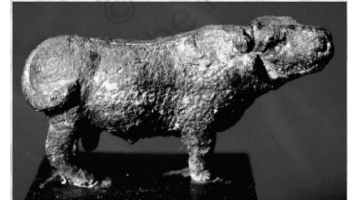
Pashupati Seal

- Shaped as a square or rectangle measuring 1/2 to 2 inches.
- In this posture a human figure is shown sitting cross legged.
 - Right side - elephant and a tiger (lion)
 - Left side - rhinoceros and buffalo
- Besides these animals, there are two reindeer under the stool.



Taurus statue

- In this, a heavy Taurus is well presented in an aggressive posture.
- Vrishabha aggressively turns his head to the right and has a rope tied around his neck.



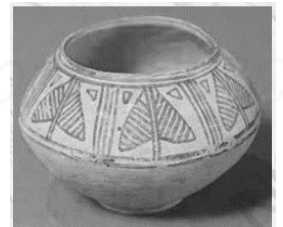
Male torso

- Made up of red sandstone.
- There are holes in the neck and shoulders for connecting the head and arms.
- The front part of the torso is carefully designed in a particular posture.
- The shoulders are well baked and the stomach is somewhat protruding.



Painted pottery

- This pot found in Mohenjodaro is made of clay on a potter's wheel.
- This earthen pot was painted black after being baked in a fire.
- The paintings on it are of flora and geometric figures.
- Although these pictures are simple but they show a tendency to abstraction.



2 CHAPTER

Vedic Age

- **Vedic Age started with the Aryan occupation** of the Indo-Gangetic Plains
- **Aryans originally lived in the Steppes region.**
- Later moved to central Asia and then to Punjab in 1500 BC; through **Khyber Pass.**
- They **first settled in the Sapta Sindhu region** (Land of Seven rivers). These seven rivers were: **Sindhu (Indus), Vipash (Beas), Vitasta (Jhelum), Parushni (Ravi), Asikni (Chenab), Shutudri (Satluj), and Saraswati**
- Language- **Indo-European**
- **Tools**- socketed axes, bronze dirks, and swords
- **Horses played a significant role** (Archeological evidence of horses discovered from Southern Tajikistan and Swat Valley in Pakistan).
- The **original homeland of the Aryans- matter of debate** with different experts suggesting different regions from where they originated

Homeland	Scholar
Arctic region	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Tibet	Swami Dayanand Saraswati
Central Asia	Max Mueller
Turkistan	Hun Feltdt
Bactria	J.C.Rod
Sapta Sindhu	Dr. Avinash Chandra Das and Dr. Sampurnanand
Kashmir and Himalayan region	Dr. L.D.Kala
Europe	Sir William Jones
Steppes	P. Nehring
Western Siberia	Morgan

Vedic Literature

- The **most significant source of information about the Vedic civilization.**
- The word **“Veda” means knowledge.**
- Vedic literature has **evolved over many centuries** and was **handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth.**
- They were **compiled and written down,**
- **Earliest surviving manuscript is from the 11th century.**
- **4 Vedas** and each has **4 parts – Samhita, Brahmana, Aranyaka, and Upanishads.**
- **Vedas are – Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Veda**



Rig Veda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is the oldest of the Vedas ● Collection of 1028 hymns ● Divided into ten Mandalas or books ● Language- Vedic Sanskrit ● Origin- 1500-1000 BC.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rishi family of Angira- composed 35% of the hymns ● Kanva family - composed around 25%. ● hymns are known as Suktas which are generally used in rituals. ● Hymns dedicated to Gods and Goddesses seeking godly pleasure. ● Indra- chief deity (King of heaven). ● Other gods- Sky God Varuna, fire God Agni, and the Sun God Surya ● Mandalas 2 – 7 - oldest part of the Rig Veda; called “family books” as they are ascribed to particular families of seers/rishis. ● Mandala 8 – mostly composed by the Kanva clan. ● Mandala 9 – hymns are dedicated entirely to Soma. ● Mandala 1 – dedicated to Indra and Agni. ● Mandala 10 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ contains NadiStuti Sukta praising the rivers. ○ contains Nasadiya Sukta and Purush Sukta explains that 4 varnas originated from the mouth, arms, belly, and legs of the Creator. ● Only surviving recension- Shakala Shakha. ● Upaveda- Ayurveda
Sama Veda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sama means “melody” ● Book of chants ● 16,000 ragas or musical notes. ● aka book of prayers or “storehouse of knowledge of chants”. ● 2 parts: Shukla Yajurveda and Krishna Yajurveda. ● Taiteriyā Samhita : Krishna Yajurveda. ● Vajseniya Samhita: Shukla Yajurveda. ● 1875 verses mentioned- only 75 original, rest from the Rig Veda ● Upaveda- Gandharva Veda
Yajur Veda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yajur means “sacrifice” ● Concerned with rituals & mantras associated with different sacrifices. ● Two major divisions- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shukla Yajur Veda/ Vajasaneya / White YajurVeda – contains only mantras. It contains the Madhyandina and Kanva recensions. ○ Krishna Yajur Veda / Black Yajur Veda – includes mantras and prose commentary. It contains Kathaka, Maitrayani, Taittiriya, and Kapisthalam recensions ● Vajasaneyi Samhita- Samhita in the Shukla Yajurveda. ● Upaveda- Dhanur Veda
Atharva Veda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● aka Bhrahma Veda ● Mainly focuses on the treatment of 99 diseases. ● Associated with two rishis- Atharva and Angira. ● contains practice of black and white magic for healing purposes. ● Composed in Vedic Sanskrit ● Has 730 hymns with 6,000 mantras divided into 20 books. ● Two recensions - Paippalada and the Saunakiya are preserved. ● Mundaka Upanishad and Mandukya Upanishad are embedded ● It describes the popular beliefs and superstitions of people ● Upaveda - Shilpa Veda

Brahmanas

- **Prose texts explaining the hymns** in the Vedas.
- **Sanskrit texts embedded within each Veda**, incorporating myths and legends to explain and instruct Brahmins on the performance of Vedic rituals.
- **Explain the symbolism and meaning of the Samhitas & expound scientific knowledge of the Vedic Period**, including observational astronomy and, particularly in relation to altar construction, geometry.
- **contain mystical & philosophical material** that constitutes Aranyakas & Upanishads.
- **Each Veda has one or more Brahmanas.**
- **Less than twenty Brahmanas exist** presently, as most have been lost or destroyed.
- **Oldest Brahmana** is dated to about **900 BCE**, while the youngest is dated to 700 BCE.
 - **Rig Veda**- Aitareya and Kaushitaki Brahmana
 - **Sama Veda**- Tandya and Sadvimsha Brahmana
 - **Yajur Veda**- Taittiriya and Satapatha Brahmana
 - **Atharva Veda**- Gopatha, Jaiminiya, and Panchvish Brahmana



Aranyakas (forests texts)

- **Concluding parts of Brahmanas.**
- Word '**Aranyaka**' is associated with the **forest**,
- k/a '**forest texts**', contain meditations of hermits in forests & ascetics on God, man, & world.
- **associated with Vedas** and instructs regarding rituals and sacrifices
- **Written and taught by Munis** and the inhabitants living inside the forests.
- **deal with the soul, birth, and death, and life beyond it.**
- Describe secret or mystic subjects, daily rituals like **sandhyopasanam, panchamahayajna, brahmopasanam**, etc. for a common man or a householder.



Upanishads

- upa (nearby), and nishad (to sit-down), i.e., "sitting down near" (the teacher).
- These are **passed onto future generations orally by pupils who sit under the feet of their Gurus (Guru-Shishya Parampara)**
- **Final parts of the Vedas** and are thus called **Vedanta (limbs of the Vedas)**.
- Upanishads are **philosophical and spiritual texts that reveal the truth of human life and talk about salvation (moksha)**.
- **Introduce the concept of 'Atman' and 'Brahman'.**
- **More than 200 known Upanishads**, out of which **108 are called Muktika Canon.**
- Some of the Upanishads are-
 - **Mandukyopnishad: Satyamev Jayate** in the National Emblem
 - **Chandogya Upanishad** refers to **first 3 ashrams** & discusses **types of marriage**:
 - **Anuloma marriage** – the marriage of a man in his varna or below his varna. It is the most accepted and common form of marriage in society.
 - **Pratiloma marriage** – the marriage of a woman in varna lower than her own. It is not sanctioned by the Vedas
 - **Brihadaranyaka Upanishad**- talks about **Samsara or the transmigration of soul**
 - **Maitrayani Upanishad- Doctrine of Trimurti**



Vedanta

- Means “**conclusion**” (**anta**) of the **Vedas**, the earliest sacred literature of India.
- **Applies to Upanishads** which were **elaborations of the Vedas** and to the school that arose out of the study (mimamsa) of the Upanishads.
- aka **Vedanta Mimamsa** (“Reflection on Vedanta”), **Uttara Mimamsa** (“Reflection on the Latter Part of the Vedas”), and **Brahma Mimamsa** (“Reflection on Brahman”).
- **3 fundamental Vedanta texts** :
 - **Upanishads** (the most favoured being the longer and older ones such as the Brihadaranyaka, the Chandogya, the Taittiriya, and the Katha);
 - **Brahma-sutras (Vedanta-sutras)**, very brief, one-word interpretations of doctrine of the Upanishads;
 - **Bhagavadgita** (“Song of the Lord”), because of its immense popularity, was drawn upon for support of the doctrines found in the Upanishads.
- **Condemns sacrifices, ceremonies and** denotes the last phase of the Vedic period.



Vedangas

- Literal meaning of the word Vedanga is “**limbs of the Vedas**”.
- **Compiled during 600 BC**
- **Part of Smriti texts** as they are handed down by tradition.
- **Supplementary texts**- deal with the understanding of Vedic traditions.
- **Considered to be of human origin** and are written in the form of Sutras (short condensed statements used to express different ideas).
- There are **6 Vedangas** as follows:
- **Shiksha** -
 - Study of **phonology, phonetics and pronunciation**.
 - **Focuses on letters of Sanskrit** alphabet, as well as the way that words are combined and expressed in a Vedic recitation.
- **Chhandas** -
 - **Study of prosody, related to poetic matter**.
 - Incorporates **analyzing number of syllables per verse**, fixed patterns within them.
- **Vyakarana** -
 - **Analysis of grammar and linguistics** to establish the precise way in which words and sentences were constructed to express ideas.
- **Nirukta** -
 - **Study of etymology**, particularly with regard to explaining the meaning of words that are archaic.
- **Kalpa** -
 - **Focus on ritual instructions**.
 - **Related to procedures described for rites of passage**, weddings, births and other rituals associated with life events. It also explores concepts of individual duty and proper conduct.
- **Jyotisha** -
 - **Study of auspicious times**, which draws on the Vedic practice of using astrology and astronomy to guide rituals and timekeeping.



Vedanga	Limbs compared to
Chandah	Legs
Kalpa	Hands
Jyotisa	Eyes
Nirukta	Ears
Siksha	Nose
Vyakarana	Face