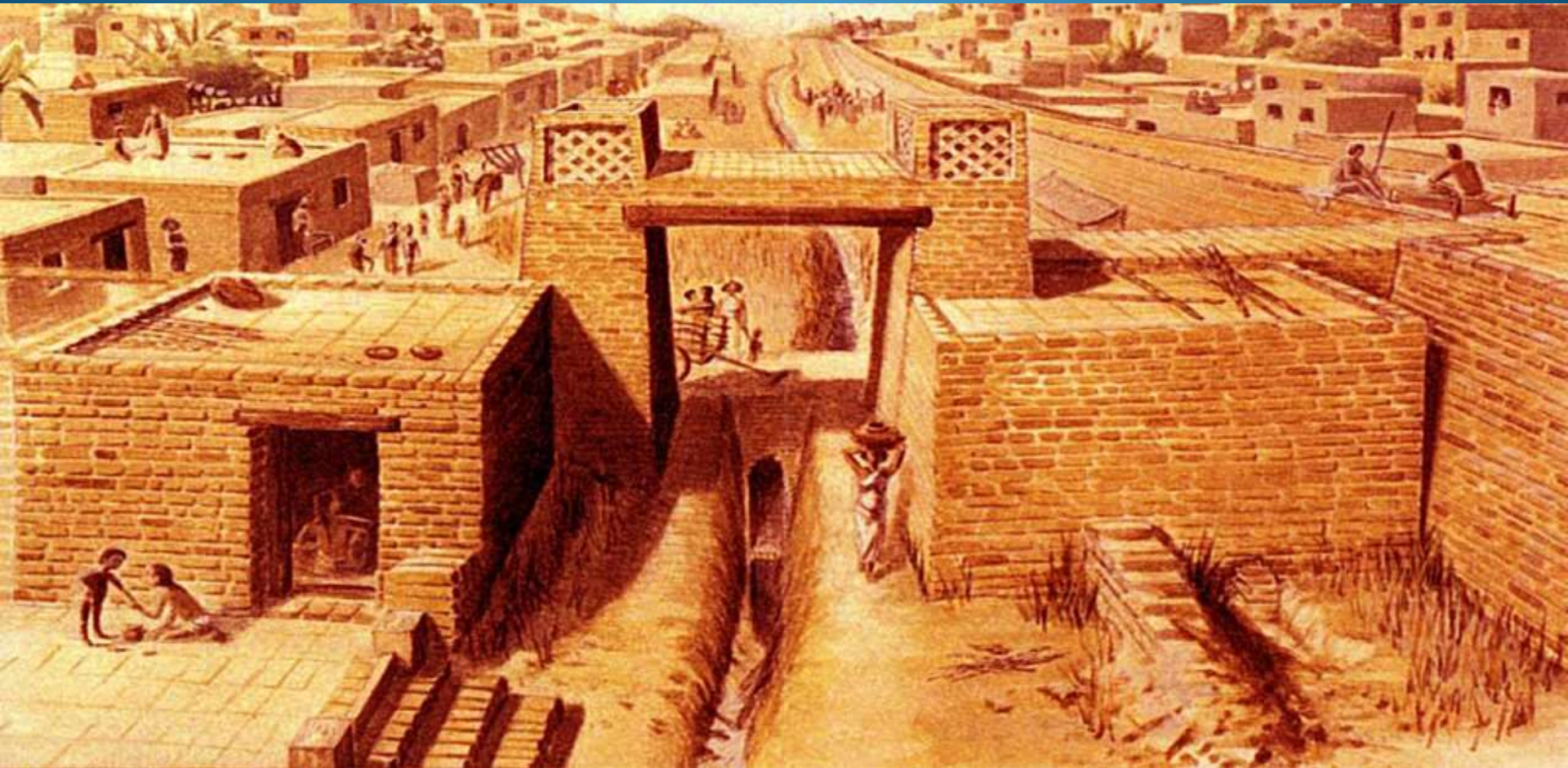


INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION



Compiled by madhur kamble

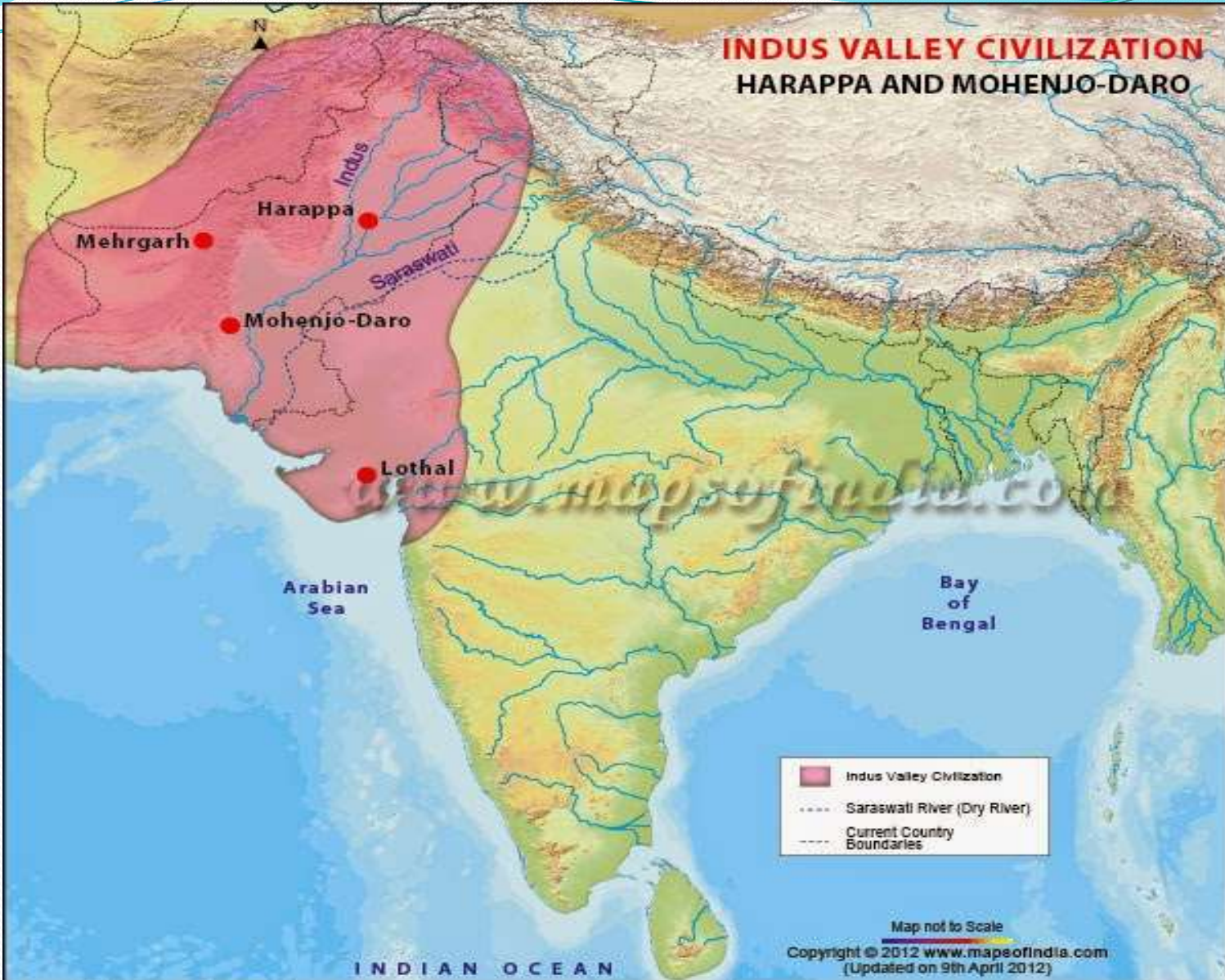
The geographical extent of Indus Valley civilization is *bigger than ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia*. It rose from the Northwest part of the Indian subcontinent and spread Southward and Eastward. It extended from *Jammu in the North to Narmada Valley in the South*, and from the *Makran coast of Baluchistan in the West to Yamuna in the East*.

The Indus Valley civilization is classified into three phases:

- 1. The early phase from 2900 BC to 2500 BC
- 2. The mature phase (when the civilization was at its peak) from 2500 BC to 2000 BC
- 3. The late phase from 2000 BC to 1800 BC

So far, nearly 1400 Harappan sites are known, *most settlements found around ghaggar-harka river*

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION HARAPPA AND MOHENJO-DARO



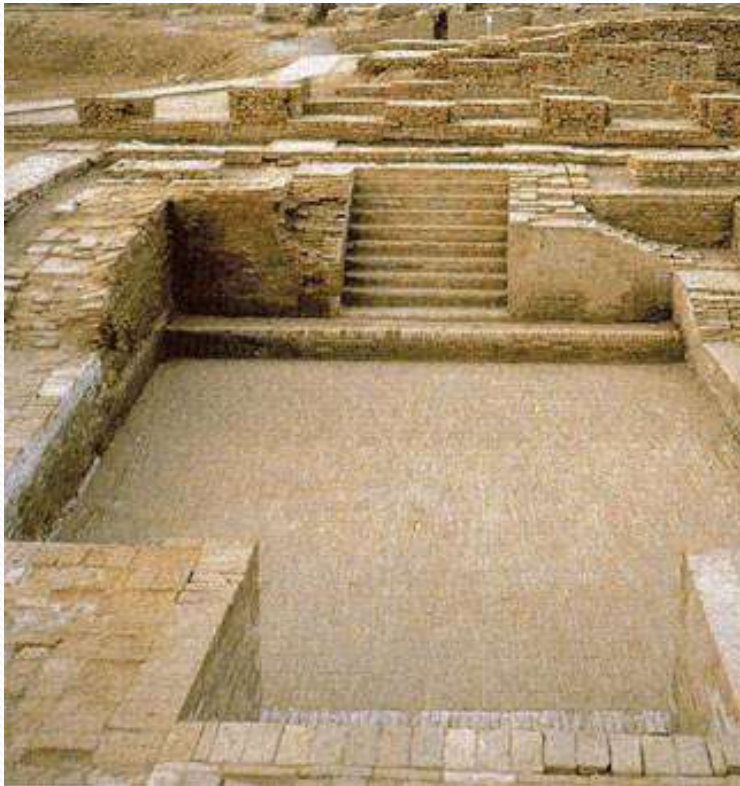
Town Planning and Urban Architecture

- Indus Valley civilization show signs of remarkable town planning and excellent sanitation system.
- The towns were usually divided into two parts—citadel, which was constructed on an elevated place and was fortified, and the remaining town.
- The citadel was built on top of a mound of bricks almost 12 meters high.
- Several large buildings and structures on the citadel mound suggest that this area may have been used for public gatherings, religious activities, or important administrative activities





- The houses inhabited by the common people followed grid system.
- The streets used to run from North to South and East to West, intersecting each other at right angles.
- The drainage system was very impressive. Every house had its own courtyard and bathroom. Drains from bathroom were connected to street drains. The street drains were equipped with manholes. Perhaps, no other civilization gave so much attention to health and cleanliness as Harappan did.
- Most of the houses were built of burnt bricks.
- Some of the major structures which were found in this civilization are “Great Bath” in Mohenjodaro and “Granary” at Harappa.



Storehouses for grain indicate careful planning and a strong central government



Harappa granary

Agriculture

- Agriculture is believed to be the main occupation of the Indus Valley people.
- The discovery of granary lends support to this belief. Most of the agriculture took place during winter.
- The Indus Valley people produced wheat, barley, rai, peas, sesamum, mustard, rice, and cotton. The Indus Valley people were the earliest people to produce cotton. The Greeks called it Sindon (derived from Sindh) because cotton was first produced in this area.
- The ruins show no signs of canal irrigation. Iron was discovered around 1000 BC and thus, people of this region used wooden plough.

Domestication of Animals

- Although the Harappans practiced agriculture, animals were kept on a large scale. Dogs, cats, oxen, buffaloes, horse, goats, sheep, elephants, and pigs were domesticated. The humped bull was favorite among Harappans. Asses and camels were used to carry loads.
- The existence of wild animals like rhinoceros, tiger, and bison has also been confirmed.

Trade

- Indus Valley civilization was a trading society. Instead of metal money, they followed barter system.
- Traders had their own seals. They used a uniform script, and standard weights and measures.
- There is evidence that the Harappans carried trade within India as well as outside Indian subcontinent. Trade links have been found up till Mesopotamia and Turkey. The Mesopotamian records refer to Indus region as Meluha.

Religious Practices

- There is no evidence of temple or any other religious structure except the Great Bath and the fire altars at Kalibangan and Lothal.
- worship of the Mother Goddess, Pashupati Siva, animal worship, tree worship, etc.
- A terracotta figure of Mother Goddess has been found at Harappa. A plant is shown growing out of the womb of a woman. The figure represents the goddess of earth
- The male deity has been depicted with two horns, sitting in a cross-legged position (sitting posture of a yogi). He is surrounded by four wild animals, an elephant, a tiger, a rhinoceros, and a buffalo, and beneath his feet appear two deers. This deity appears similar to Siva of later Hinduism.
- Animals were also worshipped. The most important of them is the humped bull.



Figure 1.1.1.1

Figure 1.1.1.2

Technology

- The Harappan civilization is a Bronze Age civilization. Apart from stone tools and implements, people were well acquainted with the use of bronze.
- Objects of gold were common. Silver was used for the first time in the Indus civilization and was relatively more common than gold. Arsenic, lead, antimony, and nickel were also used by the Harappan people.
- The Harappans also practiced boat making.

Seals and Terracotta Figures

Steatite (in nature of soft mineral) was the most common material used to make seal. Other materials used include agate, chert, copper, and clay. Seals made of gold, silver, and ivory were also found.

Terracotta figurines have also been reported from various sites. Figurines made of fire-baked clay are called terracotta which were either used as toys or objects of worship

Pottery: black on red



Fashion

- Bronze mirrors were common. Females at Mohenjodaro used collyrium (eye shadow), face-paint, and other cosmetics. Chanhudaro provides evidence of lipsticks. Bronze razors of various types were used by males.

Ornaments

- Harappan people loved ornaments. Both men and women wore ornaments like necklaces, fillets (a band or ribbon worn for binding the hair), armlets, and finger rings. Girdles (belt), earrings, and anklets were worn only by women

Harrapan Script

- No regular documents on stone or baked clay have been found, but seals found do indicate that the *Harappans did have a language of their own*. Some of the historians are of the view that the scripts found on the seals resemble the script of the ancient people living in Mesopotamia



Indus Valley Sites and Specialties

HARAPPA

- Seals out of stones
- Citadel outside on banks of river Ravi
- 1st indus site to be discovered by daya ram sahini in 1921
- Great granary,
- Largest number of wheat stores

MOHENJODARO

- Great Bath, Great Granary, Dancing Girl, Man with Beard, Cotton, Assembly hall
- Term means ” Mount of the dead”
- On the bank of river Indus, by RD Banerjee 1922
- 3 cylindrical seals from mesopotamia

CHANHUDARO

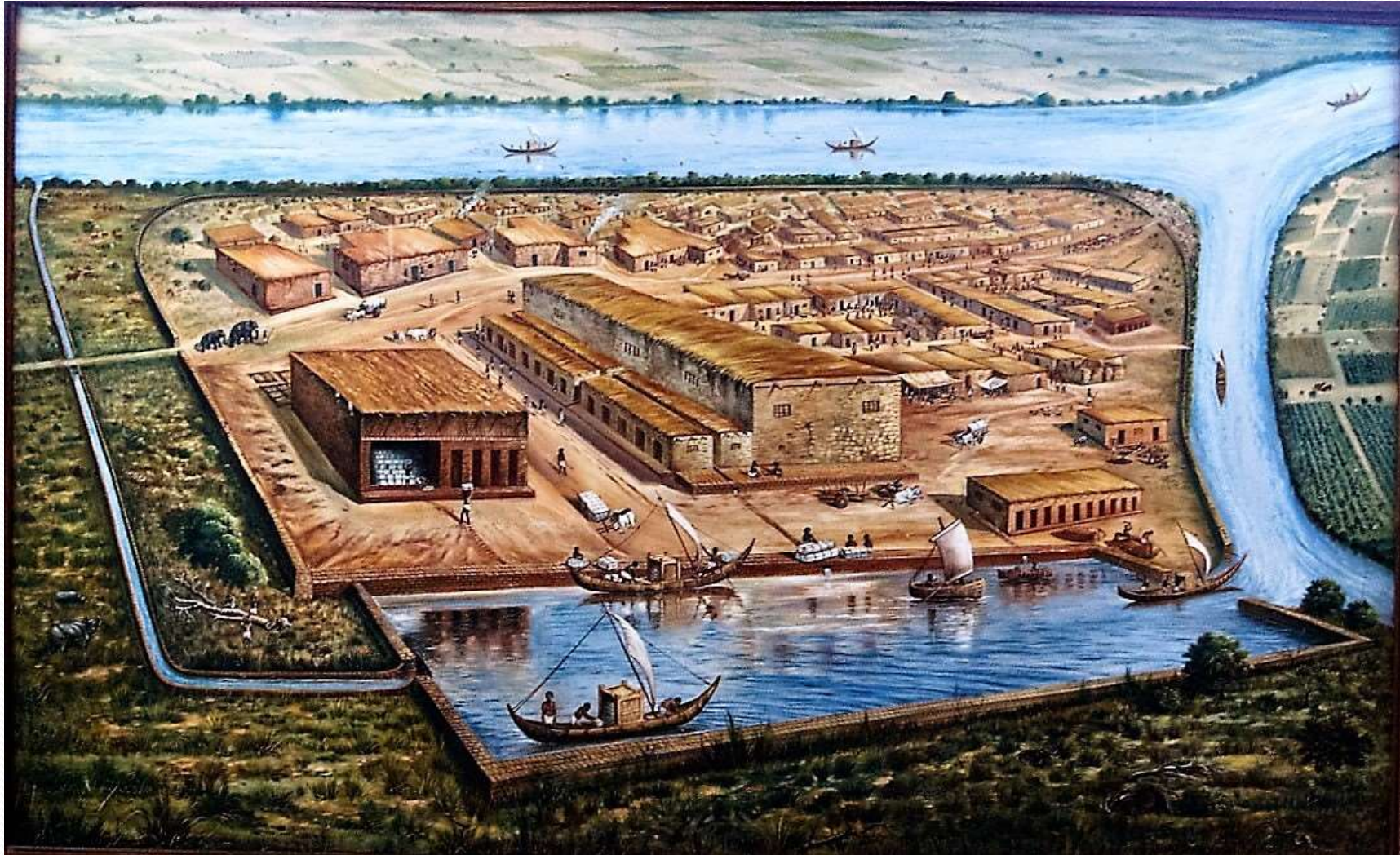
- Bank of Indus river. – discovered by Gopal Majumdar and Mackey (1931)
- Pre-harappan culture – Jhangar Culture and Jhukar Culture
- Only cite without citadel.
- Max copper impliments

KALIBANGAN

- At Rajasthan on the banks of river Ghaggar, discovered by A.Ghosh (1953)
- Evidence of earliest ploughed fields and mixed cropping
- Bones of camel, horse
- Absence of mother goddess figurines
- Mud bricks were used in the largest number.
- Well found from every house.

LOTHAL

- At Gujarat near Bhogava river, discovered by S.R. Rao (1957)
- Known as Manchester of Harappa civilization for its cotton trade
- Circular button shaped Persian Gulf seal seen
- Only Indus site with an artificial Dockyard and earliest port
- double burial
- Two terracotta models of Egyptian mummies seen
- Most likely the game of chess first played here



ROPAR

- Punjab, on the banks of river Sutlej. Discovered by Y.D Sharma (1955)
- Dog buried with humans.

BANAWALI

- Haryana
- On banks of lost river Saraswathi
- Largest Barley Cultivation.

DHOLAVIRA

- Biggest site in India, until the discovery of *Rakhigarhi*.
- Located in Khadir Beyt, Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.
Discovered by RS Bisth
- *Large letters of the Harappan script (sign boards)*.

Daimabad

- Largest bronze items

Kot diji

- Largest number of stone impliments

- **Q1. Consider the following statements and mark the option which is correct.**
 - (i) The first manmade port was found in Harappa.
 - (ii) The main crops of Indus Valley civilization were wheat & Barley.
 - (iii) The Largest Harappan Settlement in India is Rakhigarhi in Haryana.
 - (iv) The Largest number of settlements are in Ghaggar-Hakar Valleys.
- **(a) i & ii**
- **(b) all of the above**
- **(c) ii, iii & iv**
- **(d) none of the above**

Q1 ANS = C

Q2. To which age the Indus Valley Civilization belongs?

- A. Neolithic Age
- B. Palaeolithic age
- C. Mesolithic age
- D. Chalcolithic age

Q2 ANS = A

Q3. Which metals were mostly used to make the tools and weapons of Harappan Civilization?

- A. Iron and Silver
- B. Gold
- C. Copper and Bronze
- D. Clay

Q3 ANS = C

Q4. Which town of the Indus Valley Civilization literally means “Mound of Dead”?

- A. Balakot
- B. Harappa
- C. Mohenjodaro
- D. Chahunjadro



Q4 ANS = C

Thank you