

Harappan Civilization/ Indus Valley Civilization

Important facts

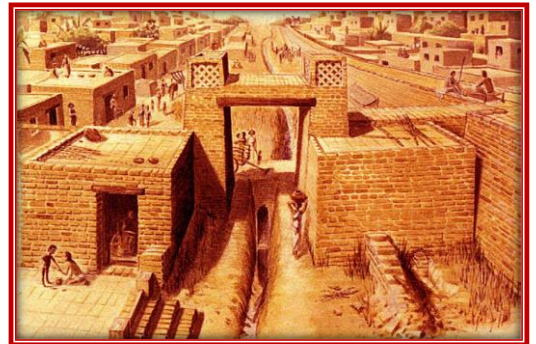
The stone age ended as soon as the first metal “copper” was discovered. This led to the start of the Chalcolithic period. Soon copper was mixed with tin to get bronze which was more strong and durable than copper.

The Harappan Civilization belonged to this Bronze age (2500-1700 BCE). It was one of the ancient civilizations of the whole world.

Contemporary sites

Egyptian Civilization	: Along river “Nile”
Mesopotamian Civilization	: Along river Tigris and Euphrates
Chinese Civilization	: Along river Huang Ho
Indus Valley/ Harappan Civilization	: Along River Indus, Saraswati and its tributaries

- **John Marshall** was the first researcher to use the term, ‘Indus Valley Civilization’.
- IVC is also called **Harappan Civilization** as Harappa was first site discovered
- IVC is also called **Bronze Age Civilization** as Bronze was the most prominent metal used
- It existed between 2500-1700 BCE
- Harappa was discovered by excavator “**Dayaram Sahni**” in 1921
- 2nd site discovered was Mohenjodaro, by “**RD Bannerjee**” in 1922
- The excavation was led by **John Marshall**
- IVC was 1st in the world to grow cotton
- Indus Valley Civilization spread from the year 2500 – 1750 BC according to radio-carbon dating.
- The most distinctive feature of the Harappan Civilization was its urbanization.
- Moreover, sheep and goats, dogs, humped cattle buffalo, and elephant were domesticated in Indus Valley Civilization.
- The capital cities are Mohenjodaro and Harappa.
- The port cities are **Sutkagendor, Balakot, Lothal, Allahdino, and Kuntasi**.
- The Indus valley people were well-acquainted with the use both of cotton and wool.

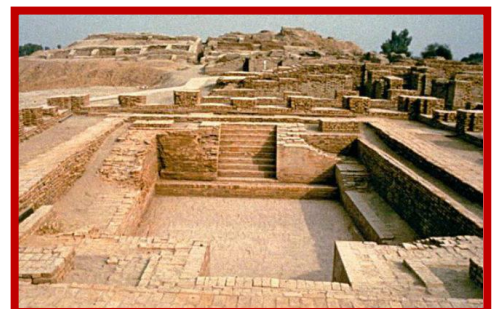


Harappa

- This is 1st discovered site of Indus valley by Sir John Marshall in 1921 at the bank on Ravi.
- The Indus civilization was originally called Harappan civilization after this site.
- A grain house and proof of water transportation founded at this site

Mohenjodaro [Maut ka Tila]

- Mohenjodaro (Sind) is situated on the right bank of the Indus.
- This city was discovered by Mr. Rakhal Das Bannerji in 1922. Mohenjodaro is the largest of all the Indus cities and has a population estimated to be between 41,000 and 35,000.
- The Great Bath place of Mohenjodaro is the most important public place measuring 39 feet (length)

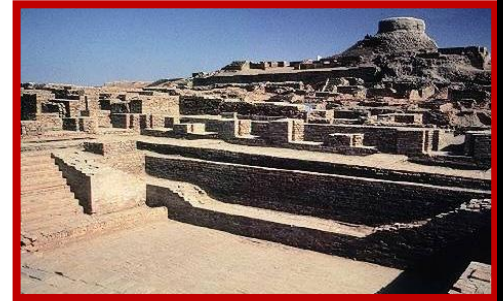


x 23 feet (breadth) x 8 feet (depth).

- Located at the centre of the citadel it is remarkable for beautiful brick work.
- Its floor is made of burnt bricks set in gypsum and mortar.
- Archeologist Wheeler discovered a monumental like temple and administrative units.

Chanhudaro-[Mackay 1925]

- Chanhudaro lies on the left bank of the Indus about 130 km south of Mohenjodaro.
- No citadel had been discovered here so this is the only exceptional site in this case.
- A small pot was discovered at Chanhudaro which was probably an inkpot.
- Harappan pottery is bright or dark red and is uniformly sturdy and well baked



Kalibanga

- Kalibanga (Rajasthan) was on the banks of the river Ghaggar which dried up centuries ago.
- It is one of two Indus cities which have both proto-Harappan and Harappan cultural phases.
- In its proto-Harappan phase the fields were ploughed.
- But in the Harappan phase they were not ploughed but dug up. It is discovered by Amalanand Ghosh in 1951.
- Traces of the remains of massive brick walls around both the citadel and the lower town have been discovered here.
- Archaeologists discovered two platforms with fire altar suggesting the practice of cult of sacrifice.
- Leg bone of elephant was also found at Kalibanga



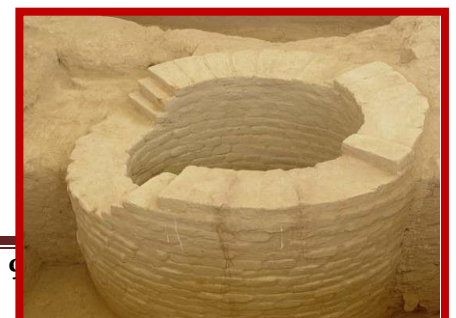
Lothal

- It was only Indus site with an artificial brick dockyard.
- It must have served as the main seaport of the Indus people.
- Agriculture in Harappan Civilization - Lothal has evidence for the earliest cultivation of rice (1800 BC).
- The only other Indus site where rice husk has been found is Rangpur near Ahmadabad. Lothal is at the head of the Gulf of Cambay.
- Fire altars indicating the probable existence of a fire cult have been found.
- Evidence for the use of horse comes from a doubtful terracotta figurine of a horse. Impressions of cloth are noticeable on some of the sealing found here.
- This site was discovered by S.R. Rao in 1954.



Banawali

- Banawali (Haryana) was situated on the banks of the now extinct Saraswati River.



- It has evidence of having both proto Harappan and Harappan cultural phases.
- It shares almost all the common features of Indus cities such as town planning, grid system, drainage system and the like.
- Site discovered by R.S. Bisht in 1973.



Surkotada

- Surkotada (Gujarat) is at the head of the Rann of Kutch.
- It is the only Indus site where the remains of a horse have actually been found.
- It must have been another port city though no docking facilities as at Lothal have been found here

Dholavira

- Dholavira (Gujarat) excavated is in the Kutch district.
- It is the latest Indus city discovered in India and also one of the largest sites of the civilization.
- The excavation work was carried by R.S Bisht and his team in 1990-91.
- It shares almost all the common features of Indus cities such as town planning, grid pattern, drainage system and elaborates fortification.
- The unique feature of this site is its division in three sections as compare to two parts in other sites. J.P. Joshi in 1967-68 had a pivotal contribution in discovery of this site



Agriculture and Domestication

- Main food crop/staple food crop: Wheat and Barley
- Rice husk found in Lothal and Rangpur which proves growth of Rice as well
- 1st people in the world to grow cotton
- Sheep, goats, buffalows, oxen, dogs were domesticated
- No remains of Cow and lion were found

Social features

- Indus valley civilization is the first urbanization in India
- It has well-planned drainage system, grid pattern and town planning
- They have possessed equality in society

Religious Facts

- Matrivedi or Shakti is the Mother goddess
- Yoni worship and Nature worship existed.
- They worshiped trees like Pipal
- They also worshiped Fire worship called Havan Kund.
- Pashupati Mahadeva is known as the lord of Animals
- The people of Indus Valley Civilization worshiped Animal worship like Unicorn and ox.

Script and Languages

Harappan script is regarded as pictographic since its signs represent birds, fish, varieties of the human form etc.

This script is not deciphered yet. The language of the Harappan's is still unknown and must remain so until the script is read



Economic facts

- Indus valley civilization is based on agriculture
- Trade and commerce flourished in this period.
- A dockyard has been found at Lothal.
- There were export and import.
- Production of cotton was there
- 16 was the unit of measurement
- Weights and measures of truth existed in Harappan culture was seen at Lothal.
- The weights were made of limestone, steatite, etc. and were usually cubical in shape.

Mahajanapadas

- In the beginning of the 6th century B.C., the northern India consisted of a large number of independent kingdoms of which some of them had monarchical forms of government, while some others were republics.
- According to There was a concentration of monarchies on the Gangetic plain, the republics were scattered on the foothills of the Himalayas and in northwestern India.

16 MAHAJANAPADAS

The 16 mahajanapadas of that period as listed in Buddhist Pali Canon were:

1. Magadha kingdom (South Bihar) – :

The first capital was Rajagriha and the later capital was Pataliputra. Brihadrata is claimed to be the founder of the Magadha kingdom.

2. Anga and Vanga kingdoms (East Bihar) – :

The capital was Champa. It was a prosperous business centre. The kingdoms were later merged by Bindusara into Magadha.

3. Malla kingdom (Gorakhpur region) – :

The capital was Kushinagar. It was the seat of many other smaller kingdoms. Their main religion was Buddhism. The Malla kingdom was later merged into the Magadha kingdom.

4. Chedi kingdom (Yamuna and Narmada belt) –

The capital was Tisvathirati. One of the families from this kingdom later merged into the Kalinga kingdom from this royal family.

5. Vatsa kingdom (Allahabad) – :

The capital was Kausambi. The most important ruler of this kingdom was King Udayan.

6. Kashi kingdom (Benaras) – :

The capital was Varanasi. Though many battles were fought against the Kosala kingdom, eventually Kashi was merged with the Kosala kingdom. Dhritarashtra once ruled over the Kashi and Anga kingdoms.

7. Kos kingdom (Ayodhya) –:

Though its capital was Sravasti which is identical with Sahet-Mahet but Ayodhya was an important town in Kosala. It was merged in the Magadha by the Magadha ruler, Ajatashatru. Kosala also included the tribal republican territory of Sakyas of Kapilvastu.

8. Vajji kingdom (North Bihar) –:

Its capital was Vaishali. It was located on the north of River Ganga in Bihar. The seat of 8 smaller clans / kingdoms called “Athakula” out of which Lichhavis, Janatriks, Videhas were very important. It was separated from Kosala from river Gandak.

9. Kuru (Thaneswar, Meerut and present day Delhi) –

The capital city was Indraprastha. It was an important kingdom during the Vedic era and was friendly with the kingdoms of the Bhoja and Panchala.

10. Panchala kingdom (Uttar Pradesh) –:

Its capital was at Kampila. Earlier a monarch state, it later became an independent republic. Kanauj was an important town in this kingdom.

11. Matsya kingdom (Jaipur) – :

Its capital was Viratanagar. The Matsya kingdom got its independence from the Chedi kingdom (ruled by King Sahaja) under the leadership of Virat Raja.

12. Surasena kingdom (Mathura) –:

Its capital was at Mathura and its most famous ruler was Avantiputra.

13. Assaka kingdom (Godavari) – :

Its capital was at Pertai and Brahadatta was its most important ruler.

14. Gandharva kingdom (Peshawar and Rawalpindi) –:

Its capital Taxila was important as a trade and education centre (Ancient Taxila university) during the later Vedic age. Its ruler King Pukkusati was defeated by the Magadha ruler Bindusara.

15. Kamboj kingdom (North-east Kashmir) –:

Its capital was Rajapure. Hajara was an important trade and commerce centre of this kingdom.

16. Avanti kingdom. (Malwa) –:

Avanti was divided into two parts north and south. The northern part had its capital at Ujjain and the southern part had its capital at Mahismati. It was the most vulnerable of all the mahajanapadas and was ruled by many kingdoms before being finally merged into the Magadha kingdom.

Important points to remember on Buddhism

- The founder of Buddhism, Gautama Buddha was born at Lumbini located in present day Nepal.

- Gautama Buddha's original name was Siddhartha and he was the son of King Suddodhana of Kapilvastu.
- He attained enlightenment at Bodhgaya and gave his first sermon at Sarnath. Bodhgaya is located in Bihar, while Sarnath is in Uttar Pradesh.
- The state of Bihar is named after Buddhist 'Vihara' - the residential quarters of Buddhist monks.
- The first day of the Buddhist calendar is Vaishakhi Purnima
- Vesak or Buddha Purnima is the day which marks the birth, enlightenment and passing away of Buddha.
- The Indian state with the maximum number of Buddhists is Maharashtra.
- The country with the largest Buddhist population is China
- Six Buddhist councils have been held so far as follows
- Immediately after the death of Gautama Buddha.
- After about 100 years after his death.
- During the reign of Emperor Asoka in the 3rd century BC.
- During the reign of King Kanishka around 100 AD
- From 1888 to 1871 in Mandalay, Burma
- From 1954 to 1956 at Rangoon, Burma.
- The Leshan Giant Buddha in China is the tallest stone Buddha statue in the world.
- The Borobudur Temple in Java, Indonesia is the largest Buddhist temple in the world.
- Jataka tales are about the Buddha's previous lives in various forms before he was born as a human being.
- Mahayana and Hinayana are the two sects in Buddhism.



Some Important Monasteries in India

Namgyal Monastery	-	Dharamsala (H.P.)
Hemis Monastery	-	Ladakh (J & K)
Namdroling Nyingmapa Mysore	-	(Karnataka) Monastery-
Tabo Monastery	-	Spiti valley (H.P.)
Ghum Monastery	-	Darjeeling (W.B.)
Mindrolling Monastery	-	Dehradun
Tawang Monastery	-	Bomdila (Arunachal Pradesh)
Kye Monastery	-	Spiti (H.P.)
Rumtek Monastery	-	Sikkim
Phuktal Monastery	-	Zaskar (J & K)
Thiksey Monastery	-	Ladakh (J & K)

MAURYA DYNASTY

The Mauryas were a dynasty, more than 2300 years ago, with three important rulers — Chandragupta [founder], his son Bindusara, and Bindusara's son, Ashoka.

SOURCES OF MAURYA DYNASTY

The detailed information about the administrative system of the Mauryan Empire is mentioned in Arthashastra. It is a book written by Kautilya. He was also known as Chanakya.

- Kautilya was the Prime Minister of Chandragupta Maurya. He was considered as the real architect of the Mauryan Empire.
- Megasthenese came in the court of Chandragupta Maurya as an ambassador of the Seleucus (the king of Greek).
- Megasthenese has given detailed accounts of India and Indian people in his book 'Indica.' Though the original book is lost; however, historians extracted Megasthenese's description through the quotations in the works of the later Greek writers.
- The inscriptions of the great Ashoka are the most important and authentic source for the history of Mauryan period.

CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA 322-298 B.C.

- The 'Mudrarakshasa' is a play written by Vishakhadatta, referred Chandragupta as 'Vrishala' and 'Kulahina,' which means a person of humble origin.
- He was the founder of maurya empire
- He unified the indian subcontinent and established a strong empire.
- Megasthenes (a Greek ambassador) visited his court.
- He accepted Jainism at the end of his life

BINDUSARA 298-272 B.C.

- He was the son of Chandragupta Maurya.
- He was called by many names "Amitrochates" (slayer of enemies), Ajatashatru (man having no enemies).
- He extended the empire and conquered the 16 states.
- Deimachus a Greek Ambassador visited his court.

ASHOKA 268-232 B.C.

- According to the Buddhist tradition,
- Janapada Kalyani or Subhadrangi was his mother.
- He was the son of Bindusara. He became king after defeating other princes.
- He was appointed as a viceroy of Ujjain and Taxila while he was a prince.
- He was the son of Bindusara. He became king after defeating other princes.
- Ashoka was very cruel in his early life and captured the throne after killing his 99 brothers. But it appears an exaggerated figure
- He included almost entire indian subcontinent in the Maurya empire.
- He won the war of Kalinga. It was the turning point of his life. After watching the mass death in the war, he accepted Buddhism and decided to end war.
- He was appointed as Dharma Mahapatro to spread Buddhism.
- He build ashok stambhs to promote buddhism.
- Ashoka's name occurs only in copies of Minor Rock Edict-I found at three places in Karnataka and one in Madhya Pradesh. Whereas in all other inscriptions, he mentioned himself as 'Devanampiya' and 'Piyadasa' meaning beloved of the gods.
- Ashoka 's inscriptions were written in four different scripts, namely –
- Greek languages and scripts used in Afghanistan area;
- Aramaic languages and scripts used in west Asia;
- Prakrit language and Kharosthi script used in Pakistan area; and
- Prakrit language and Brahmi script used in rest of the inscriptions.

GUPTA DYNASTY

- Gupta Period or Dynasty is one of the most important period in Indian History.
- Gupta's rule lasted for more than 200 years in Magadha and over greater part of Northern-India.
- Gupta period is refereed as the "Classical Age" or the "Golden Age" of ancient India.
- The founder of this dynasty is 'SriGupta'.
- Ghatotkach Succeeded 'SriGupta' and inherited the title of Maharaja.

CHANDRAGUPTA-1 (319-335 AD)

- Chandragupta-1 was the first and important king of Gupta Dynasty.
- He acquired the title of "Maharajadhiraj".
- He started the Gupta era in 319-320 AD.
- He ruled over Saketa (Ayodhya), Prayaga (Allahabad) and Magadh.
- He made his kingdom more than a principality. He married a Lichchhavei princess.

SAMUDRAGUPTA (335-380 AD)

- Samudragupta is the son of Chandragupta-1 An inscription, Prayaga Prasasti composed by Harisena, provide the most detail and authentic record of the reign of Samudragupta.
- He was great conqueror according to Prayaga Prasasti.
- Samudragupta is called the "Napoleon of India" by V.A. Smith because of his military campaigns, bravery and generalship. He believed in the policy of war and conquest.
- He acquired the title of 'Vikramanka' and 'Kaviraj'.
- He had composed numerous poems of high merit and some of his coins represent him 'Playing Vina'.



Chandragupta-2 (380-415 AD)

- Chandragupta-2 is known as 'Vikramaditya'.
- Ramagupta, who ruled for a very short period, succeeded Samudragupta, but his younger brother Chandragupta-2 killed him and married his widow 'Dhruvadevi'.
- He issued Silver coin for the first time.
- He is best remembered for his patronage to learning and the arts.
- He built Mehrauli Iron Pillar near Kutub Minar in Delhi.
- He has nine gems or 'Navaratna' in his court. The nine gems are,-

KALIDASA(IMPORTANT POETRY, RAGHUVANSHAMA, MEGHADUTAM).

Amarsinha

Dhanavantri

(Medicine text book Navanitakam).

Varahmihir

Vararuchi

Velabhait

Ghatakarna

Shaku

Kshapranak

Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien, 'visited India at the time of Chandragupta-2.

KUMARGUPTA (415-467 AD):

- Chandragupta-2 was succeeded by his son Kumargupta.
- He was the founder of Nalanda Mahavihara or Nalanda University, a renowned center of learning of ancient India.

SKANDAGUPTA (455-467 AD)

- Skandagupta was the last and Important ruler of the Gupta Dynasty.
- He was invaded by the Huns from central Asia during his reign. He was successful in repelling the Huns.
- After his death the empire began to decline.

ADMINISTRATION OF GUPTA RULERS

- The whole empire was divided into 'Bhuktis" or Provinces which were governed by 'Upanikas'.
- The king directly appointed them. Provinces were also divided into a numbers of districts.
- They issued large number of gold coins. gold coins were known as Dinars. Silver coins were known as 'Rupyakas'.
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SOCIETY AND RELIGION:

- Both Hinduism and Buddhism was greatly practiced, but Buddhism was started to decline. At this time Bhagavat-Gita was written.
- Women status continued to decline.
- Vishnu Temple was established at this time was considered the oldest temple of India.

SCIENCE

- Aryabhata was the great Mathematician and Astronomer, wrote Aryabhatiya and Suryasiddhanta.
- He was able to find the value of Pie and length of solar year to 365.358 days.
- He believed that earth was a sphere and rotate around its axis. Varahmihir wrote Pancha-Siddhāntikā was an astronomer said moon revolves around sun.

GREAT SCHOLARS OF GUPTA EMPIRE AND THEIR WORK SCHOLARS

Kalidasa

- Was a great Sanskrit poet and dramatist
- Some of his notable works are Abhijnanasakuntalam, Meghaduta, Kumarasambhava, Mrichchakatica
- His writings are primarily based on puranas

Aryabhata

- Was a mathematician and astronomer
- He was the inventor of number zero and algebra
- He also introduced the idea of solar eclipse and rotation of earth on it axis
- Some of his notable works are Aryabhatiya and Aryasiddhanta

Dhanvantri

- Was a great physician
- He was also referred as Father of Ayurveda
- Brahmagupta
- Was a great Mathematician and Astronomer
- He wrote the Brahmasphutasiddhanta
- He was the first to use zero as a number and defined rules to compute with zero

Vatsyayana

- He was a famous philosopher
- His notable work is Kamasutra

Vishnu Sharma

- Was a author
- His notable work is Panchatantra and Hitopadesha
- Panchatantra is one of the most translated book in history

Harisena

- Was a great Sanskrit poet
- He was the court poet of Samudragupta
- His famous poet about the Samdragupta is written on the Allahabad Pillar
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Bhasa

- Was a famous dramatist

Bharavi

- Was a famous poet
- His notable work is Kiratarjuniya. It is based on the combat of Arjuna and Shiva

Varamihira

- Was a famous astronomer, astrologer and mathematician
- His notable works are Panchasiddhantika, Brihatsamhita, and Brihatjataka