

Indus Valley Civilization**Features of Indus Valley Civilization:**

- BC. 2700- BC.1900 i.e., for 800 years.
- On the valleys of river Indus.
- Also known as Harappan Civilization.
- Beginning of city life.
- Harappan Sites discovered by – Dayaram Sahni (1921) – Montgomery district, Punjab, Pakistan.
- Mohanjodaro was discovered by – R. D. Banerji – Larkana district, Sind, Pakistan.
- The city was divided into Citadel(west) and Lower Town(east).
- Red pottery painted with designs in black.
- Stone weights, seals, special beads, copper tools, long stone blades etc.
- Copper, bronze, silver, gold present.
- Artificially produced – Faience.
- Specialists for handicrafts.
- Import of raw materials.
- Plough was used.
- Bodies were buried in wooden coffins, but during the later stages ‘H symmetry culture’ evolved where bodies were buried in painted burial urns.
- Sugar cane was not cultivated
- Horse, iron was not used.

Indus Valley Sites and Specialties:**Harappa:**

- Seals out of stones
- Citadel outside on banks of river Ravi

Mohenjodaro:

- Great Bath, Great Granary, Dancing Girl, Man with Beard, Cotton, Assembly Hall
- The term means “Mount of the dead”

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- On the bank of river Indus
- Believed to have been destructed by flood or invasion (Destruction was not gradual).

Chanhudaro:

- Bank of Indus River – discovered by Gopal Majumdar and Mackey (1931)
- Pre-Harappan culture – Jhangar Culture and Jhukar Culture
- Only city without citadel.

Kalibangan:

- At Rajasthan on the banks of river Ghaggar, discovered by A.Ghosh (1953)
- Fire Altars
- Bones of camel
- Evidence of furrows
- Horse remains (even though Indus valley people didn't use horses).
- Known as the third capital of the Indus Empire.

Lothal:

- At Gujarat near Bhogava river, discovered by S.R. Rao (1957)
- Fire Altars
- Besides the tributary of Sabarmati
- Storehouse
- Dockyard and earliest port
- double burial
- Rice husk
- House had a front entrance (exception).

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
- Barley Cultivation.

Dholavira:

- The biggest site in India, until the discovery of Rakhigarhi.
- Located in Khadir Beyt, Rann of Kutch, Gujarat. Discovered by J.P Joshi/Rabindra Singh (1990)
- 3 parts + large open area for ceremonies
- Large letters of the Harappan script (signboards).

Religion of Indus Valley People:

- Pashupati Mahadev (Proto Siva)
- Mother goddess
- Nature/ Animal worship
- Unicorn, Dove, Peepal Tree, Fire
- Amulets
- Idol worship was practised (not a feature of Aryans)
- Did not construct temples.
- The similarity to Hindu religious practises. (Hinduism in its present form originated later)
- No Caste system.

Indus Valley Society and Culture:

- The systematic method of weights and measures (16 and its multiples).
- Pictographic Script, Boustrophedon script – Deciphering efforts by I. Mahadevan
- Equal status to men and women
- Economic Inequality, not an egalitarian society
- Textiles – Spinning and weaving
- 3 types – burial, cremation and post-cremation were there, though burial was common.
- Majority of people Proto-Australoids and Mediterranean (Dravidians), though Mongoloids, Nordics etc were present in the city culture.

Reasons for Decline of Indus Valley Civilization:

- Though there are various theories, the exact reason is still unknown.

- As per a recent study by IIT Kharagpur and the Archaeological Survey of India, a weaker monsoon might have been the cause of the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- Environmental changes, coupled with a loss of power of rulers (central administration) of Indus valley to sustain the city life might be the cause (Fariservis Theory).
- There might be a resource shortage to sustain the population, and then people moved towards south India.
- Another theory by Dr Gwen Robbins Schug states that inter-personal violence, infectious diseases and climate change had played a major role in the demise of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Other theories:

- Aryan Invasion: Mortimer Wheeler
- Tectonic Movements/ Flood – Robert Raikes
- Change of the course of river Indus – Lambrick.