

## Indus Valley Civilization

Category / Aspect	Details
Alternate Names	Harappan Civilization / Bronze Age Civilization
Time Period	2500 BCE – 1750 BCE (Mature Phase)
Discovered By	Daya Ram Sahni (Harappa, 1921) and R.D. Banerjee (Mohenjo-daro, 1922)
Geographical Extent	Northwest India and Pakistan – Punjab, Sindh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana
Major Rivers	Indus, Ravi, Sutlej, Ghaggar-Hakra, Saraswati (now dried)
Total Sites Excavated (India)	Over 1,400 sites; 900+ in India
Nature of Civilization	Urban, well-planned, drainage-based civilization
Important Cities	Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, Lothal, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, Banawali, Surkotada
City Planning	Grid pattern – roads at right angles
Drainage System	Covered underground drains with inspection holes
Building Material	Burnt bricks and sun-dried bricks
Great Bath	Mohenjo-daro – ritual bathing tank
Granaries	Harappa and Mohenjo-daro – used for grain storage
Dockyard	Lothal (Gujarat) – man-made dockyard indicating sea trade
Stadium	Dholavira (Gujarat) – had a stadium-like structure
Fire Altars	Kalibangan (Rajasthan) – evidence of fire worship
Largest Site (India)	Rakhigarhi (Haryana)
Smallest Site	Allahdino (Sindh, Pakistan)
Society	Peaceful, no evidence of kings or palaces
Main Occupations	Agriculture, trade, pottery, bead-making, seal carving
Agriculture	Crops: Wheat, barley, peas, sesame, cotton (first in world)
Domesticated Animals	Ox, buffalo, goat, sheep, elephant, dog (no confirmed horse evidence)
Trade	Internal and external – traded with Mesopotamia (Sumerians)
Currency	No coins; barter system
Weighing System	Binary & decimal systems; cubical stone weights
Pottery	Wheel-made red and black pottery
Ornaments	Gold, silver, copper, semi-precious stones; worn by men and women
Toys & Tools	Terracotta toys, marbles, carts, tools of stone, bronze, and copper

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<b>Script</b>	Pictographic, written right to left (sometimes bidirectional); still undeciphered
<b>Religion</b>	Mother goddess, proto-Shiva (Pashupati seal), animal & tree worship (Peepal); no temples or idols
<b>Burial Practices</b>	Complete burial, urn burial, symbolic burial; grave goods suggest belief in afterlife
<b>Dancing Girl (Bronze)</b>	Mohenjo-daro – metallic figurine, confident pose, right hand on hip
<b>Priest King (Steatite)</b>	Mohenjo-daro – dignified bearded male figure
<b>Terracotta Figurines</b>	Harappa & Mohenjo-daro – animals, toys, mother goddess statues
<b>Water Reservoir</b>	Dholavira – earliest known water conservation structure
<b>Ploughed Field</b>	Kalibangan – first evidence of agricultural field
<b>First Site Discovered</b>	Harappa (1921) by Daya Ram Sahni
<b>Most Developed City</b>	Mohenjo-daro
<b>Port City</b>	Lothal (Gujarat)
<b>Use of Cotton</b>	First in the world – Neolithic IVC
<b>Trade Partner</b>	Mesopotamia (Sumerians)