

KRISHNAGAR ACADEMY

CLASS - III

SUBJECT - HISTORY

CHAPTER - 2 - INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

## What is a civilisation?

When a society is organised it is called a '**civilised society**'. A **society** consists of a group of men and women who share common interests, habits, beliefs, values, tastes, language—it is **their way of life**. So, a **civilisation** can be defined as a **society, where people are organised, developed during a particular period (time) and around a particular region (place)**.

Thousands of years ago, many civilisations flourished near the river valleys.

## Why did these civilisations develop around river valleys?

- soil is fertile
- crops can grow easily
- water is easily provided
- availability of mud to make pots and bricks
- easy transport

There were **four river valley civilisations**:

- The **Mesopotamian** Civilisation along rivers **Tigris and Euphrates**.
- The **Egyptian** Civilisation along river **Nile**.

🐾 The **Indus Valley Civilisation** along river **Indus**.

🐾 The **Chinese Civilisation** along rivers **Yangtze Kiang** and **Hwang Ho**.



**The Indus Valley Civilisation—A civilisation of cities and towns**  
Thousands of years ago, a great **Indian** civilisation developed along the river **Indus and its tributaries**. River Indus is situated in *north-western* part of India and now, presently in *Pakistan*. Now the Indus Valley Civilisation has been renamed as the **Harappan** Civilisation.

**Can you say why?** It is because *Harappa* was the first city to be discovered.

**How was this city of Harappa discovered?**

Thousands of years went by. The city was covered with sand. **Why?** This had become a desert region. It was only in 1856, when some men were building a railway line between Karachi and Lahore, that they came across some

bricks lying near a **mound**. They used these bricks to make the railway line. This news interested the curiosity of archaeologists, who decided to begin their work of discovery.



### Know This

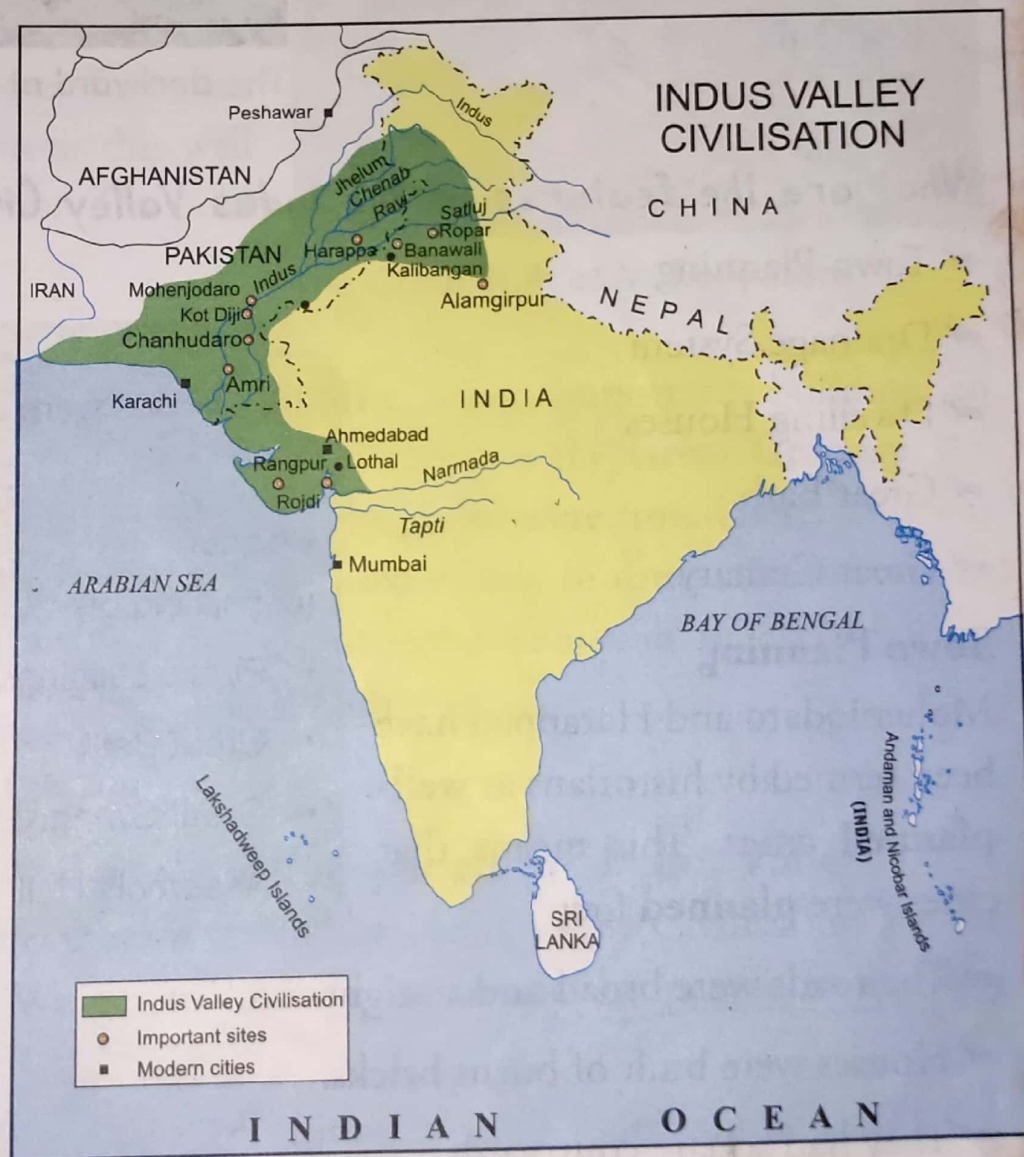
A mound is a big pile of earth, stone and bricks which looks like a small hill.

### And what did they discover?

They discovered *two large cities* in 1922—**Harappa** and **Mohenjodaro**. Both these cities were along the river Indus and thus it came to be known as the *Indus Valley Civilisation*. However, as the city of *Harappa* was first to be discovered, it is now known as the *Harappan Civilisation*.

When the people began to dig the area around the mound, they discovered the beautiful city of Mohenjodaro which means **mound of the dead**.

If you see the map you will see that there were many other cities that came under the influence of this civilisation. Archaeological discoveries proved that these cities were very



similar to the Harappa and Mohenjodaro way of life. They grew the same crops, ate the same kind of food, wore similar kinds of clothes and made the same kind of pots. 16.5.19

### Other cities of the civilisation

- ✓ Ropar
- ✓ Lothal
- ✓ Chanhudaro
- ✓ Kalibangan
- ✓ Kot Diji



The dockyard at Lothal

### What are the features of the Indus Valley Civilisation?

- ✓ Town Planning
- ✓ Drainage System
- ✓ Dwelling Houses
- ✓ Great Bath
- ✓ Great Granary

#### Town Planning

Mohenjodaro and Harappan have been termed by historians as **well-planned** cities. This means that cities were **planned** first.

✓ The roads were broad and straight.

✓ Houses were built of burnt bricks.

✓ They had square courtyards.

✓ There were houses and small buildings along the roads.

Indus cities were divided into two parts:

Cities	
Citadel	Lower town
(consisting of)	(consisting of)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public buildings</li><li>• Great Bath</li><li>• Great Granary</li><li>• Assembly Hall</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Houses for common man</li><li>• Streets</li><li>• Drains</li></ul>

Every house had a bathroom with a good drainage system.

Drains were underground and connected to the main drain.

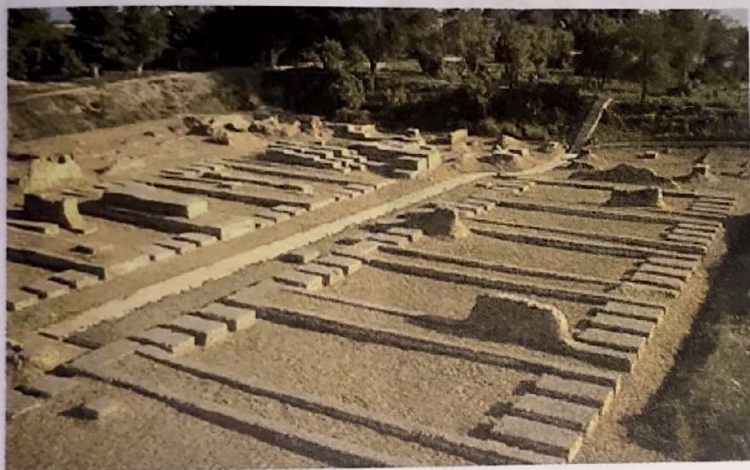
These drains were cleaned regularly.

This showed that the people not only planned their cities but also believed in sanitation.

The best known building in Mohenjodaro is the **Great Bath**. It is a large swimming pool. Small rooms were around the pool. These were rectangular in shape. There was a well nearby. Water from this well was taken to fill the pool. The pool was regularly cleaned.



The Great Bath at Mohenjodaro



The Great Granary at Harappa

The most important building in Harappa is the **Great Granary**. All the grains were stored here. This was used mostly in times of need or sent to other countries in exchange for other goods.

## How do we get to know about the people of Indus Valley?

Our main source of information about the Indus Valley Civilisation are the artefacts found there. We get to know a lot about the people from these artefacts—

their clothes

jewellery

idols of gods and goddesses

toys

pottery

animals

statues



Seals

The Pashupati seal



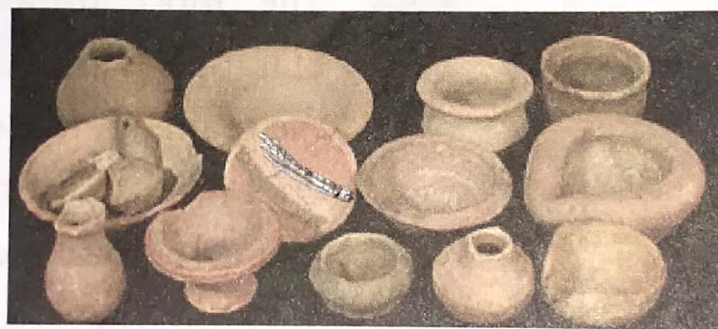
A figurine from Harappa



The Indus valley terracotta



The bronze statue of a 'dancing girl'



Harappan pottery

### What food did the Indus valley people eat?

The main crops grown were wheat and barley.

### What were seals?

Seals are small, flat rectangular or square in shape. They are made of clay, soap stone and clay. They have carved artistically with human figures and animals, particularly humped bull, goat, tiger and elephant.






### *What was the language or script of the people?*

The people wrote in picture signs. But these signs have not been deciphered by us even today. Seals have writings on them which tells us that the people knew how to read and write.

### *How did the civilisation come to an end?*

There is no one specific reason that tells us how this great civilisation was destroyed. The possible reasons were:

-  floods
-  shortage of water
-  invasions

The people of the Indus valley were peace-loving. We come to know this because they did not build walls around their cities to protect themselves. Also, very few weapons have been found from the ruins that have been discovered.