



Deciphering Indus Script

According to the research paper titled '**Interrogating Indus inscription to unravel their mechanism of meaning conveyance**', the Indus inscriptions **can be compared to the structured messages** found on stamps, coupons, tokens and currency coins of modern times.

- The Indus inscriptions have not been deciphered due to the absence of bilingual texts, extreme brevity of the inscriptions, and ignorance about the language(s) encoded by Indus script.

Findings

- The majority of the [Indus Valley inscriptions](#) were written **logo graphically** (by using word signs) and not by **using phonograms** (speech sounds units), claims a recent research paper published in Palgrave Communications, a Nature group journal.
- The paper mainly focuses on understanding how Indus inscriptions conveyed meanings, rather than on deciphering what they conveyed.
- The inscribed seals and tablets were **used in some administrative operation** that controlled the commercial transactions of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation.
- According to paper, though many ancient scripts use **rebus methods** to generate new words, the inscriptions found on the Indus seals and tablets have not used rebus as the mechanism to convey meaning.
- The researcher also rejected the popular hypothesis that the seals were inscribed with Proto-Dravidian or Proto-Indo-European names of the seal-owners.

Rebus Method

- A common perception among some scholars is that the Indus script is logo-syllabic, where one symbol can be used as a word sign at one time and as a syllable-sign at another.
- This method, where a word-symbol also gets sometimes used only for its sound value, is called the rebus principle. **E.g.:**
 - The pictures of a honey bee can be combined with a leaf to signify the word "belief" (bee+leaf).

Source: [TH](#)