



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** To what extent has the urban planning and the culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provides inputs to the present-day urbanization? Discuss. (250 Words)

14 Nov, 2022 GS Paper 1 History

### Approach

- Start your answer by giving a brief introduction about Indus valley civilization.
- Discuss features of Indus valley civilization.
- Discuss various influence of Indus valley planning and culture in present times.
- Conclude accordingly.

### Introduction

Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) existed through its early years of 3300-1300 BCE, and its mature period of 2600-1900 BCE. The area of this Civilization extended along the Indus River from what today is northeast Afghanistan, into Pakistan and northwest India.

It was the most widespread of the three early civilizations of the ancient world, along with Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. **Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro** were thought to be the two great cities of the Indus Valley Civilization, emerging around 2600 BCE along the Indus River Valley in the Sindh and Punjab provinces of Pakistan. Their discovery and excavation in the 19th and 20th centuries provided important archaeological data about ancient cultures.

### Body

- **Key features of IVC are:**
  - **It has well enhanced system of town planning.**
  - It consists of citadel **or acropolis**, which was possibly occupied by members of the ruling class.
  - Below the citadel in each city lay a **lower town containing brick houses**, which were inhabited by the common people.
  - The remarkable thing about the arrangement of the houses in the cities is that they followed the **grid system**.
  - **Granaries** constituted an important part of the Harappan cities.
  - The **use of burnt bricks** in the Harappan cities.
  - The **drainage system** of Mohenjodaro was very impressive.
  - In almost all cities every big or small house had its own **courtyard and bathroom**.
  - Streets were wide and intersected at 90 degrees, making a grid plan a common element of modern society.
- **Influence of Indus valley civilization in present times:**
  - **Modern city of Chandigarh:** It was built with a rectangular shape and a grid system in modern times, allowing for quick traffic flow and a smaller overall footprint. The town's distinction between private residences and public spaces was also made very similar to the Indus Valley Civilization.
  - **Upper and lower town in modern times:** Indus Valley Civilization appears to have been

a major influence for the segregation of modern metropolitan regions. During that period, the **town was split into exclusive zones for the aristocracy, dwellings for ordinary people, large baths, and so forth.** These unquestionably served as inspiration for the urban cores, suburban communities, governmental structures, and other structures of today.

- **Storage capacity:** The planning of modern storage centers can be seen of as drawing inspiration from trading districts, granaries, and dockyards.
- **Drainage system:** Cities built during the Indus Valley Civilization possessed sophisticated sewage and water systems. Numerous Indus Valley sites included houses with single, double, and even more rooms that were connected and had an excellent drainage system. Additionally, drains in the kitchens and bathrooms connected to the street drains were present.
  - We can see these drains in modern cities in a similar way, the sewage from households is transported outside of cities in blocked drains.
- **Culture and Religion:** The modern-day religious forms of IVC worship are still practiced. For example, the IVC's Pashupati god is still revered in the form of Shiva and further, many of the fertility cults, trees, snakes, and phallic symbols are currently practiced in India and other neighboring countries.

## Conclusion

Urban planning in the modern era is inferred to share many characteristics with that of the civilizations of the Indus valley. Town planning at the time was done efficiently and in a futuristic manner using new methods.



The advertisement features a yellow background with a white and red geometric design on the left. A black square with a white 'd' is positioned on the left. The main text 'SAMBHAV-2023' is in large white letters, with 'CLEAR PRELIMS CONQUER MAINS' in a white box below it. A list of program features is in the center, and an illustration of a person sitting on books with a laptop is on the right. A date box at the bottom indicates the start date.

**SAMBHAV-2023**

**CLEAR PRELIMS CONQUER MAINS**

- Year-long Integrated Prelims-cum-Mains Program
- Holistically Covers Prelims & Mains Syllabus
- 10 Daily Practice MCQs- Real Time Marks & Rank
- 2 Daily Mains Practice Questions- Next Day Evaluation

Commencing From  
**NOVEMBER, 9<sup>TH</sup> 2022**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/mains-practice-question/question-1445/pnt>