



Centenary of Discovery of Harappan Civilization

Why in News

To mark the centenary of the discovery of the Harappan civilization at Mohenjo-Daro, the **India Study Centre Trust** in collaboration with the **Directorate of Archaeology and Museums**, Maharashtra, will organise a **10-day online lecture series** from 5th October 2020.

- The India Study Centre Trust has its core focus in the fields of archaeology, geology and biodiversity.

Key Points

- Harappan civilization is also known as **Indus Valley Civilization** (IVC) for being situated on and around the banks of the Indus river.
- It **flourished around 2,500 BCE** in the **western part of South Asia**, in contemporary Pakistan, western India and parts of Afghanistan.
- It was home to the **largest of the four ancient urban civilizations** of Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, and China.
- In the **1920s**, the **Archaeological Survey of India** (ASI) carried out excavations in the Indus valley wherein the ruins of the two old cities, viz. **Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa were unearthed.**
 - Both are **major sites of IVC and are among the earliest and finest examples of urban civic planning.**
 - The planned network of roads, houses and drainage systems indicate the planning and engineering skills that developed during those times.
- In **1924, John Marshall**, Director-General of the ASI, **announced the discovery** of a new civilisation in the Indus valley to the world.
- A marked feature of this ancient civilization was the **vivid imagination and artistic sensibilities** exuded by the numerous sculptures, seals, potteries, pieces of jewellery found at the excavation sites.
- It was a **trade based civilization** which had overseas trade links with **Mesopotamia** (region of Western Asia situated within the Tigris–Euphrates river system) attested by the discovery of Harappan seals there and Mesopotamian carnelian beads here.
- **IVC's discovery** is one of the most important and characteristic findings in the world because it **brought the world's attention to India and an interest in studying Indian culture, society and past.**
- The civilization **declined around 1800 BCE but the actual reasons behind its demise are still debated.**
 - **Invasion by Aryans, decline due to natural causes, flooding** because of a shift in river courses are among the major theories on its decline.

| Important Sites of IVC | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Site | Excavated by | Location | Important Findings |
| Harappa | Daya Ram Sahni in 1921 | Bank of river Ravi in | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sandstone |

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|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| | | Montgomery district of Punjab (Pakistan) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> statues of Human anatomy ▪ Granaries ▪ Bullock carts |
| Mohenjo-Daro (Mound of Dead) | R.D. Banerjee in 1922 | Bank of river Indus in Larkana district of Punjab (Pakistan) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Great bath ▪ Granary ▪ Bronze dancing girl ▪ Seal of Pasupati ▪ Steatite statue of beard man ▪ A piece of woven cotton |
| Sutkagendor | Stein in 1929 | In southwestern Balochistan province, Pakistan on Dast river | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A trade point between Harappa and Babylon |
| Chanhudaro | N.G. Majumdar in 1931 | Sindh on the Indus river | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bead makers shop ▪ Footprint of a dog chasing a cat |
| Amri | N.G. Majumdar in 1935 | On the bank of Indus river | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Antelope evidence |
| Kalibangan | Ghose in 1953 | Rajasthan on the bank of Ghaggar river | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire altar ▪ Camel's bones ▪ Wooden plough |
| Lothal | R. Rao in 1953 | Gujarat on Bhogva river near Gulf of Cambay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First manmade port ▪ Dockyard ▪ Rice husk ▪ Fire altars ▪ Chess-playing |
| Surkotada | J.P. Joshi in 1964 | Gujarat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bones of horses ▪ Beads |
| Banawali | R.S. Bisht in 1974 | Hisar district of Haryana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beads ▪ Barley ▪ Evidence of both pre-Harappan and Harappan culture |
| Dholavira | R.S Bisht in 1985 | Gujarat in Rann of Kachchh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water harnessing system ▪ Water reservoir |

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