

# Lesson- 4

## The Advent of Urbanization and civilization in India.

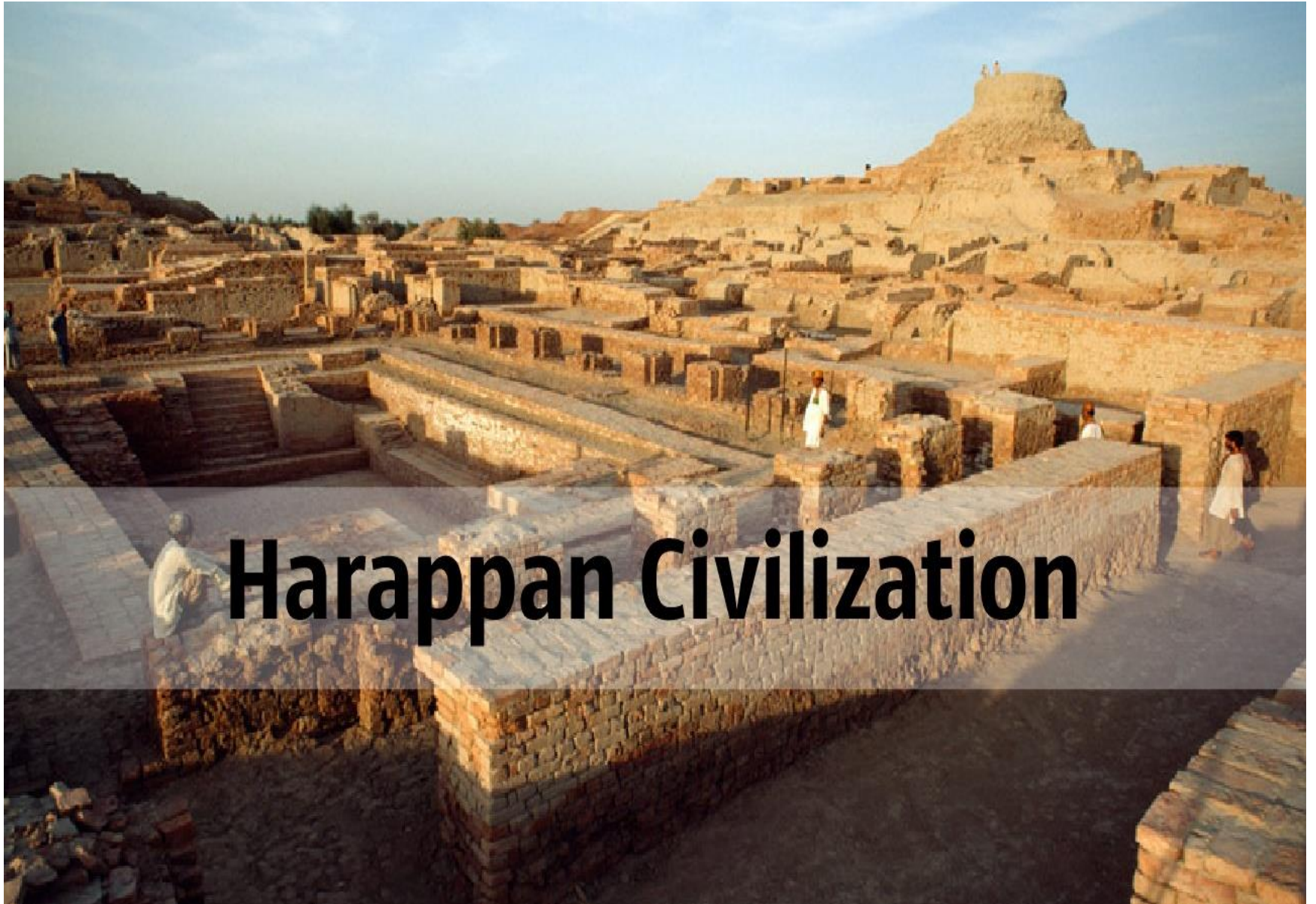
# Civilization

- Civilization is the period of human life when the human society reached an advance stage of social development and organization. A civilized society is one which has a developed form of government, culture, industry and common social norms exist. By the time people had begin to live in cities and had found the time do develop different interest like music, religion and painting. The earlier civilizations develop during the Bronze Age. They developed around the river valleys . Basic needs like water and food were easily available near the river. Also the land near rivers was very fertile and fit for agriculture. Minerals like copper were also found near rivers. Rivers were also used for transportation which led to trading.

# The Indus Valley Civilization

- The Indus valley civilization was home to one of the world's largest civilization. It began nearly 5000 years ago in an area near modern day Pakistan and north India on the banks of river Indus. It belonged to the Chalcolithic or the Bronze Age. Artefacts made of copper and stone have been found in various sites belonging to the civilization. This civilization was named after a place called Harappa in Pakistan. It was the first Indus valley site to be excavated in the 1920s. There were many towns and cities in the Indus Valley Civilization. The two largest of them were Harappa and Mohenjo Daro. It is said that Mohenjo Daro and Harappa had a population of over 80,000 people.
- The Indus valley Civilization extended across present day Baluchistan, Sindh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. The most important sites that were excavated were Harappa and Mohenjo Daro in present day Pakistan, Kalibangan in Rajasthan, Ropar in Punjab, Lothal in Gujarat, Banawali and Rakhigarhi in Haryana and Dholavira in Kachchh.

# Harappa

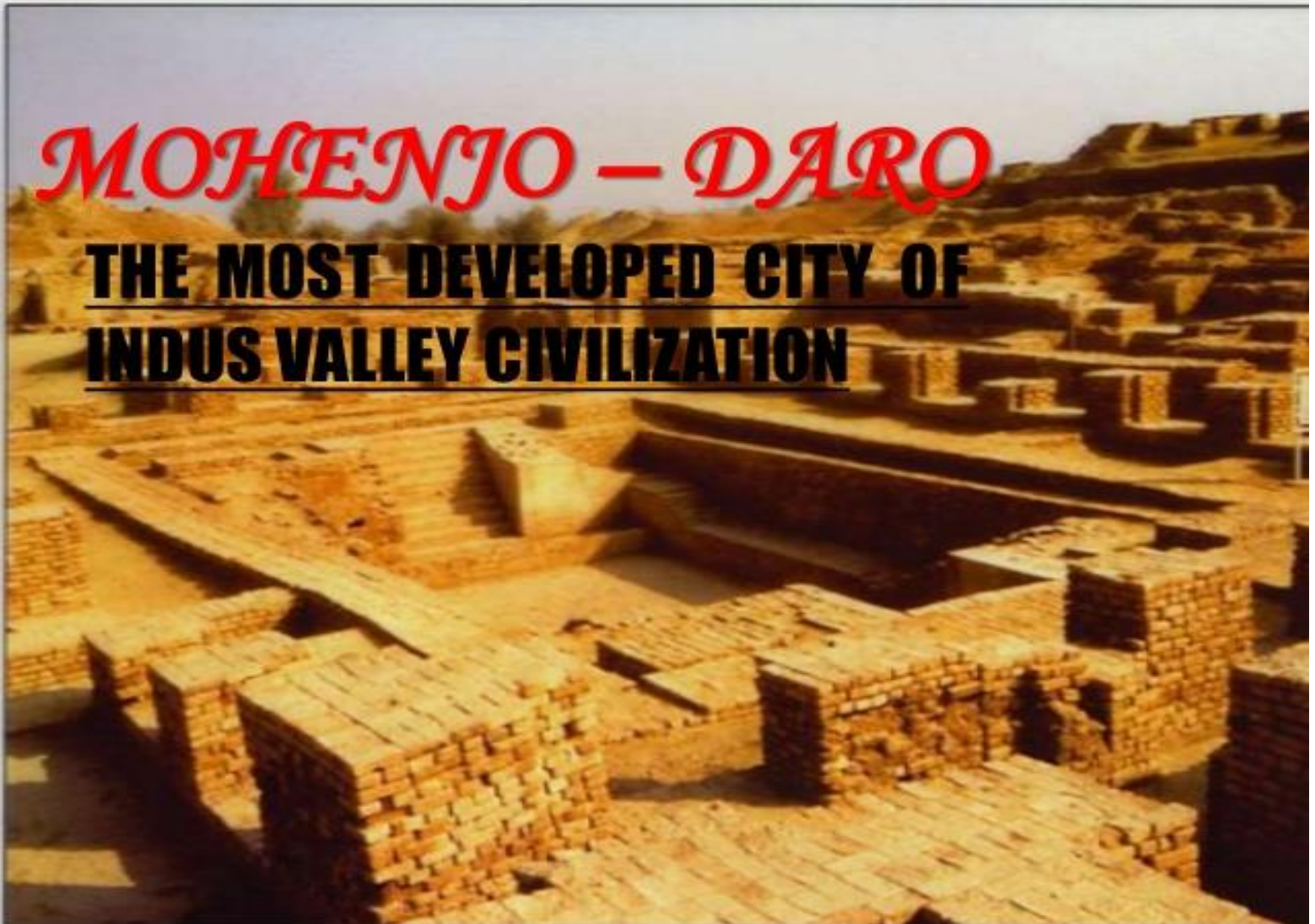


## Harappan Civilization

# Mohenjo Daro

*MOHENJO – DARO*

**THE MOST DEVELOPED CITY OF**  
**INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION**



# Cities of the Indus Valley Civilization

**Harappa-** this archaeological site at Punjab in Pakistan consist of the ruins of a fortified city.

**Mohenjo-Daro-** built around 2500 BCE. Mohenjo-Daro literally means 'mound of the dead'. This archaeological site is situated in the Sind Province of Pakistan and has been declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1980.

**Kalibangan-** This town has been developed at the confluence of the Drishavati and the Sarasvati rivers in Rajasthan. The unique fire altar found in Kalibangan are one its most significant features.

**Lothal-** Lothal was the most prominent trading centre's of the Indus Valley Civilization. It is located in Gujarat. Valuable gems, beads, and valuable ornaments were traded with West Asia and Africa via the Arabian Sea from Lothal.

# Sources

- The main sources for studying the history of the Indus Valley Civilization are the terracotta seals, which were mostly square in shape. These seals have animals and human engraved on them . The script is yet to be deciphered and will unveil much more than what we know today.

# The Skilled engineers of the Indus Valley

**The planned towns-** Engineers of the ancient civilization were very skilled and their towns were well planned. They were divided into two parts. The upper part, described as the citadel was built on a raised platform . All important buildings like the Great Bath, the granaries and the town hall are found here. The second part was the lower town, which included the residential buildings or houses , all laid out in a grid.

**Store Houses-** Elaborate store houses have been found in Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa and Lothal. All the Surplus grain was stored in these store houses which were situated near the river bank Harappa had more than six of them.

**The Great Bath-** Another Prominent structure of the Indus Valley Civilization found at Mohenjo Daro was a very special tank. Which archaeologist called the Great Bath. It was like a large swimming pool. It was watertight and layered with bricks and mortars. There were changing rooms along the sides. The Great Bath may have been used for ritual bathing purposes.



# Town hall, Houses ,streets, drainage

**Town hall**- there is evidence of a structure which may have been an assembly hall or a town hall.

**Houses and streets** – the houses were of two stories and built on both sides of the streets. The number of rooms they had were from two to twenty and each house had a central courtyard and a bathing area. Houses were separated by a network of roads cutting each other at right angles forming a grid like pattern. The main street pointed in a north to south direction while the secondary streets went from east to west.

**Drainage System**- The drainage system was very impressive. They were water tight which prevented the leakage of dirty water. Wooden screens filtered the water as a result clogging and overflowing of dirty water was avoided. The house drains were connected to the main drains.

# Life and occupation of the people

Farming was an important occupation of the Harrapan Civilization.

The people grew rice, wheat, barley, pulses, peas, sesame (til), also or linseed and mustard. Ploughs and sickles used a different methods of irrigation were adopted. Fishing was another occupation they were engaged in. scribes were the people who wrote on seals

Many people were engaged in many different types of crafts. Pottery making was an important occupation. Most of the pots were red ware and were used as storage pots and burial containers.

Evidence shows that the people also knew how to spin cotton. Archaeologist have found spindle which were used to spin thread. There were special workshops where people used to make bronze sculptures and artefacts. Copper and bronze were also used to make weapons and tools like knives and razors.

# Trade

Evidence of seals, weights and measures suggest that active trade relations was carried out, Mesopotamian seals were found in Harappa. The dockyard in Lothal suggest brisk trade. The cities were connected with rural, agricultural communities, through a strong trade system. Trade is reflected in the wide spread distribution of beads, ornaments, pots, metal, tools and seals. While the people were self sufficient, there were some items which had to be brought in from distant places. Archaeologist think that copper may have been brought from Rajasthan and Tin from Afghanistan. This suggest that trade had been carried out between these places.

# Seals

Most of the seals have a knob at the back through which runs a hole. It is believed that the seals were used by merchants for stamping purposes. Most seals have a pictorial inscriptions on them. Some important seals excavated are pashupati seal, the unicorn seal and the bull seal. These seals were mostly used for trading purposes. Archaeologist believe that these seals were used for stamping purposes. Once packets or bags are closed, traders would dip the seals on wet clay and press it on the closing . This way, people could see that when the seal was intact, it means that the bag has not been opened .

## The Decline of the Indus valley Civilization

The Indus valley civilization is said to have come to a sudden end due to the combination of several factors. Natural calamities such as floods and earth quakes are believed to destroyed the area leading to the migration of people to different regions. It is climatic changes led to drought conditions. Perhaps the rivers changed their courses or dried up, thus affecting the agriculture of the place. Conditions of cities like Lothal, and Dholavira might have deteriorated and hence impacted trade and led to the decline of the civilization.