



# FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: HISTORY - I

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# Lecture-5



## Features of Indus Valley Civilization

Indus Valley Civilization (also known as Harappan Civilization) is an ancient India civilization that flourished more than 4000 years ago in the north-western parts of Indo-Pakistan sub-continent. It derived its name from river Indus, which is the main river of the region. The various features of Indus Valley Civilization are given below:

1. This civilization is extended far beyond the Indus Valley. The main towns of Indus valley civilization were Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, Kalibangan, Lothal.
2. The significant features of Indus Valley civilization are personal cleanliness, town planning, construction of burnt-brick houses, ceramics, casting, forging of metals, manufacturing of cotton and woolen textiles.
3. Mohenjo-Daro people had finest bath facilities, drainage system, and knowledge of personal hygiene.
4. They were equally conscious of plant medicine since there was occasional warfare.
5. The town planning and other characteristics indicate that a homogeneous indigenous culture developed.

The question about the origin of the Indus valley civilization is largely unanswered. Various researches have linked significantly the origin of Indus Valley civilization to the Neolithic site of Mehrgarh. Mehrgarh which lies on the "Kachi Plain" of Baluchistan in Pakistan is a Neolithic site. Mehrgarh was a centre of transformation from the hunter gatherer to farming (wheat and barley are found) and herding (cattle, sheep and goats were reared).

Apart from this, a Neolithic settlement has been found in South India which is contemporary with the Early Indus valley Civilization. These sites were characterized as Neolithic sites by Bruce Foot at sin Karnataka such as pikkalilal, Utnur, Kupgal, Kodekal, pallavoy. Ash mounds have been found and they have given the evidence that cattle were herded there. This along with views of some other scholars indicates that this was a "Dravidian Civilization".

However, Mehrgarh dates back to 7000 BC and as early as 5000 BC, trade links with Arabian Sea coast and with central Asia have been established. So in the light of these evidences it has been made clear that Foundation of Indus valley civilization was laid in the Neolithic period.

Before we move to the each site and settlements of the civilization let's have a look at some basic common features of the urban centers of the Civilization. These features vary little from place to place.

- The first common feature is Indus script on seals. This script has not been deciphered yet, so not much information is available about the social life, customs etc.
- The second most important feature is town planning. The main features of town planning were use of baked as well as sundried bricks, well planned straight roads and a system of drainage.
- A fortified citadel at most of the cities. The number of the citadels varies.
- Houses with kitchens and wells, tanks or water reservoirs.
- Use of standard weights and measurement throughout the civilization.
- Presence of wheel made pottery.
- The Practice of burying the dead.

## MCQ

**1. Where was public bath and granaries found in Harappa during excavation?**

- A. Mohen-jo-daro
- B. Rangpur
- C. Kalibanga
- D. Ropar

**2. Which of the following animal is not domesticated by the people of Harappan Civilisation?**

- A. Humped Bull
- B. Buffalo
- C. Pig
- D. Cat

**3. Which place in Harappa Civilisation where scale-pan made of elephant's tusk was found during excavation?**

- A. Lothal and Mohenjo-daro
- B. Ropar and Chahudaro
- C. Harappa and Mohenjo-daro
- D. Alamgirpur and Kotdiji

**4. From which place Harappan people imported lead?**

- A. Saurashtra
- B. Maharashtra
- C. South India
- D. Central Asia

**5. Indus Valley site at Surkotada is located in which among the following states ?**

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Haryana
- [C] Gujarat
- [D] Punjab





