



## Centenary of Discovery of Harappan Civilization

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### Why in News

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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 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

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

### Key Points

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- 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 Montgomery district of Punjab (Pakistan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandstone statues of Human anatomy</li> <li>• Granaries</li> <li>• Bullock carts</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Great bath</li> <li>• Granary</li> <li>• Bronze dancing girl</li> <li>• Seal of Pasupathi</li> <li>• Steatite statue of beard man</li> <li>• A piece of woven cotton</li> </ul>
Sutkagendor	Stein in 1929	In southwestern Balochistan province, Pakistan on Dast river	A trade point between Harappa and Babylon
Chanhudaro	N.G. Majumdar in 1931	Sindh on the Indus river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bead makers shop</li> <li>• Footprint of a dog chasing a cat</li> </ul>
Amri	N.G. Majumdar in 1935	On the bank of Indus river	Antelope evidence
Kalibangan	Ghose in 1953	Rajasthan on the bank of Ghaggar river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire altar</li> <li>• Camel's bones</li> <li>• Wooden plough</li> </ul>

Lothal	R. Rao in 1953	Gujarat on Bhogva river near Gulf of Cambay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First manmade port</li> <li>• Dockyard</li> <li>• Rice husk</li> <li>• Fire altars</li> <li>• Chess-playing</li> </ul>
Surkotada	J.P. Joshi in 1964	Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bones of horses</li> <li>• Beads</li> </ul>
Banawali	R.S. Bisht in 1974	Hisar district of Haryana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beads</li> <li>• Barley</li> <li>• Evidence of both pre-Harappan and Harappan culture</li> </ul>
Dholavira	R.S Bisht in 1985	Gujarat in Rann of Kachchh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water harnessing system</li> <li>• Water reservoir</li> </ul>

**Source: TH**