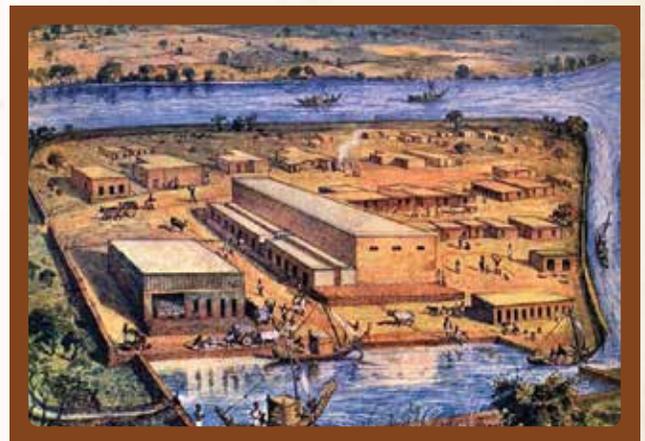


Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)



Economic Life of IVC

- ◆ **Agriculture:** The primary economic activity was agriculture, supplemented by animal husbandry, hunting, and plant gathering.
- ◆ **Trade and Commerce:** Significant portion of the economy; goods like gold, silver, and diamonds were imported, while finished jewelry, handicrafts, and toys were exported.
- ◆ **Cotton Cultivation:** Harappans were pioneers in cotton cultivation, and the region was known as 'Senden' or the land of cotton by the Greeks.



Domestication of Animals

- ◆ The Harappans domesticated animals such as cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs, and camels. **The humped bull** was their preferred animal.

- ◆ Horse remains **are largely absent from the civilization**, however, remains of horse have been found in **the port city of Surkotda (Gujarat) and doubtful terracotta figurine of horse from Lothal (Gujarat)**. However, it appears that the Harappans were not familiar with the horse.
- ◆ **Elephant Domestication:** Harappans in Gujarat domesticated elephants, unlike the Mesopotamians.



Please Note:

As per the UPSC prelims answer key, the Indus Valley people were unaware of horse).

Agriculture



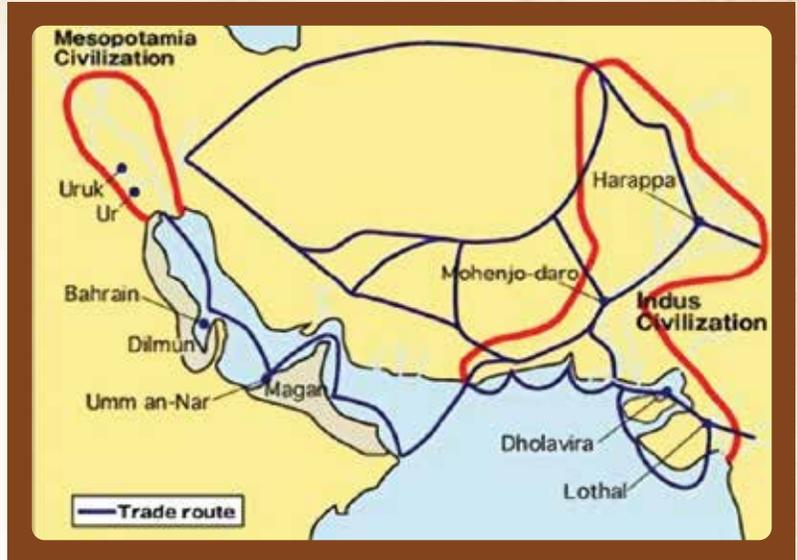
- ◆ Agriculture was the main occupation of the Indus Valley people. They produced surplus crops for both consumption and trade.
- ◆ **Fertile Land:** The region's rich vegetation, rainfall, and the annual flooding of the Indus River contributed to the prosperity of agriculture.
- ◆ **Crops Grown:** Barley, wheat, rice, dates, mustard, sesame, and legumes like peas were cultivated. **Lothal and Rangpur**, famous for the rice cultivation.
- ◆ **Irrigation:** Primarily rain-fed, with other irrigation methods possibly in use.
- ◆ **Plough and Harvesting Tools:** Wooden ploughs and stone sickles were used for cultivation and harvesting.

Trade and Commerce

- ◆ **Barter System:** No currency system; trade was based on **bartering goods**.
- ◆ **Trade Contacts:** Harappans traded with Mesopotamia, Egypt, Afghanistan, Iran, Central Asia, and local settlements in Rajasthan and Karnataka.

◆ **Exports:** Lapis lazuli, shell-work, bangles, and beads were major exports, with factories in Kalibangan, Chanhu-daro, and Lothal.

◆ **International Trade:** Mesopotamian records from 2350 BCE mention trade with the Indus region, referred to as **Meluhha**. Harappan seals were found in Mesopotamia, and trade also occurred with Sumeria, Babylon, and Egypt.



Weights and Measures



◆ **Standardization:** Harappans standardized weights and measures for trade, primarily based on multiples of 16 (16, 64, 160, 320, 640).

◆ **Measurement Tools:** Sticks used for measurement have been excavated, suggesting a developed system of measurement and a physical balance for weights.

Transportation

◆ **Wheel and Oxen:** The development of the wheel, along with the domestication of oxen and bulls, led to the use of carts and chariots.





◆ **Long-Distance Trade:** Goods were transported using camels and asses, while boats were likely used for long-distance trade by sea.

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