

Seals of Harappan Civilization

All the **seals of Harappan civilization** have images of animals with written pictographic calligraphy (yet not translated). The **Harappan seal** symbolized many animals, including bulls, bison, elephants, tigers, goats, etc.

- It is known that there stood something written on both sides of Harappan seals.
- The handwriting discovered was from the right-to-left direction in the Kharosthi style.
- Few seals of Harappan civilization even had mathematical illustrations and were known to be utilized for scholastic objectives.
- Pashupati Seal of Harappan civilization was the most recognized from Mohenjo Daro.
- This seal had a figure who sat cross-legged in the middle with animals, including a rhino and a buffalo to its left and an elephant and a tiger to the sculpture's right.

Seals of Indus Valley Civilization

Seals of Indus valley civilization were miniature entities inscribed out of pebbles and heated to create more durability in ancient times. Most of the seals of Harappan civilization were located near Lothal, the seaport of the Indus Valley Civilization.

- Many Harappan seals have also been discovered in Central Asia, Mesopotamia, and along the shores of the Arabian Peninsula.
- The major utilization of Mesopotamia seals was in trading between the Mesopotamia and Harappan civilizations, the world's two great ancient civilizations.
- Some seals of Harappan civilization were encountered upon the mortal bodies bearing threaded voids, indicating that they were used as talismans or as a piece of jewelry.
- The seals of Indus Valley civilization in various regions are of diverse shapes and sizes. The **Indus valley civilization seals** come in square, triangle, rectangle, and circle shapes, but the square one was the most familiar form in the Harappan civilization.



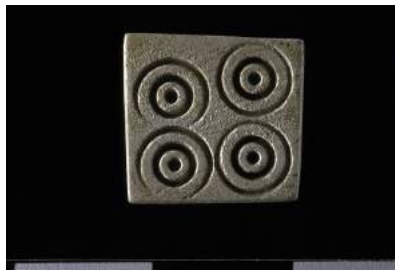
Pashupati Seal of Indus Valley Civilization




The most popular seal of the Indus valley civilization is the Pashupati seal. It is a seal made of steatite (the mineral talc, particularly as soapstone) with an engraved figure of a human, possibly a divinity, named Pashupati.

- He is depicted in the seal wearing a three-horned headpiece encircled by animals, including a tiger and an elephant on the left side, two antelopes below the figure, and a rhinoceros, a buffalo on the right side.
- There are seven Indus writing symbols at the top of the seal, the last of which seems to be displaced in the downward direction due to a lack of horizontal space.
- The measurement of the steatite seal is 3.56 cm by 3.53 cm and has a breadth of 0.76 cm.
- It features a man's figure posing on a floor and facing towards the center.
- The sculpture's legs along the knees are twisted, with the heels in contact and the toes in the downward direction.
- The figure is garnished with an elevated and decorated hat with a mid-fan-shaped layout surrounded by two gigantic streaked horns.

Types of Indus Valley Civilization Seals

Below are important seals of Indus valley civilization. Their carved description and image are provided to understand the exact significance of the Harappan seal. The aspirants preparing for the UPSC exam must be proficient with the complete details of the seals of Harappan civilization.

Type of Harappan seal	Description	Image
Large unicorn seal	It is one of the biggest seals in any Indus area.	
Intaglio seal with script and unicorn	Intaglio seals were found in approximately 2200 BCE, at the transition between Harappa 3B and 3C Generations.	
Steatite button seal	This seal incorporates four concentric circle arrangements.	

<p>Faience button seal</p>	<p>It contains a geometric pattern.</p>	
<p>Unicorn seal</p>	<p>A square steatite seal with a unique caption.</p> <p>The two clusters of signs on the right-hand boundary of the seal seem to be in opposite directions, i.e., on the left, during the time it was squeezed into clay.</p> <p>Unicorn seal comes from classes dating to Harappa Phase Period 3B.</p>	
<p>Seals from Mohenjo-Daro</p>	<p>Rare Three Animal whose multiple-heads include three vital totemic animals: the bull, the antelope, and the unicorn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals appear separately along with the handwriting, but this seal has no script. <p>Depicts a naked male god with three faces that sat in a yoga position on a crown, having a bracelet on either arm and an intricate cap.</p> <p>One stem with three pipal leaves ascends from the center of the hat.</p>	

	<p>Seal depicting a divinity with a horned hat, standing in a pipal (holy fig) tree, wearing bangles on both arms, and glancing down at a kneeling worshiper.</p> <p>A human head rests on a little stool.</p>	
<p>Bull seal, Harappa</p>	<p>The glorious zebu bull is the most special motif with a hefty jawbone and broad curving horns, seen on the Indus seals.</p> <p>The zebu bull represents the most powerful clan or top officials of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa.</p>	
<p>Bison seal, Mohenjo-Daro</p>	<p>It is a flat square seal being double-sided.</p> <p>A Swastika design is carved on the reverse, spinning counterclockwise.</p>	

Importance of Seals in Harappan Civilization

The seals' main purpose was retail. Some of the seals of Harappan civilization were carried to depict a kind of identity card as charms. A few Harappan seals were also utilized during spiritual ceremonies or special rituals. The seals were competent in conveying legendary tales.

- They were primarily used for purposes like sealing the jars by pushing the seals against soft clays, creating clay labels for bags that transported goods to various destinations, and trading activities.
- Sealings and seals of Harappan civilization were used to stimulate long-distance transmission.
- The mouth of the sack of goods was bound with string, and on the knot was attached some moist clay on which one or more seals were crammed, leaving an imprint.