

Harappan Sites

The Indus Valley Civilization gained popularity due to the exceptional planning and structure that went into its development. The entire infrastructure and system of the Harappan sites or Indus valley civilization sites were exceptionally brilliant, which made this civilization earn its name and fame to date.

The town planning and the drainage system in the Harappan sites were extraordinary and set a whole new example for future generations. Seven most important sites of the Indus valley civilization were unearthed and recognized as the main cities. The list of the important sites of the Harappan civilization is given below.

- Harappa
- Mohenjodaro
- Lothal
- Dholavira
- Chanhudaru
- Banawali
- Kalibangan

Out of these, the **major sites of Indus Valley civilization** were Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Dholavira, and Banawali. Apart from these Indus valley civilization sites, Surkotada, Dholavira, and Lothal were the main port towns in the valley.

Important Indus Valley Civilization Sites

During archaeological excavations, the ruins of the two old cities & major Indus Valley civilization sites of Mohenjodaro and Harappa were discovered. The remains of the Harappan city were unearthed by Sir John Hubert Marshall, Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni, and Madho Sarup Vats. Thereafter, the discovery was announced to the world in 1924, declaring the existence of a new civilization in the Indus valley.

The discovery of these two major Indus Valley Civilization sites was followed by several other important sites. The Indus Valley Civilization thrived upon the basins of the river Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra. A total of 1400 Harappan sites have been excavated, out of which 925 sites are present in India.

The list of all the major Indus Valley civilization sites has been provided in the table below.

Indus Valley Sites	Year of Discovery	Discovered by	Location of Indus Valley Civilization Sites	Details of Findings
Harappa	1921	Daya Ram Sahni	Banks of river Ravi in Montgomery, Punjab (Pakistan).	Sandstone statues of Human anatomy, Granaries, Bullock cart

Mohenjodaro (Mound of Dead)	1922	R.D Banerjee	Banks of river Indus in the Larkana district of Punjab (Pakistan).	Granary, Bronze dancing girl, Great bath, Seal of Pasupathi Mahadeva, A piece of woven cotton, Steatite statue of beard man
Lothal	1953	R.Rao	Gujarat on river Bhogva near Gulf of Cambay	First manmade port, Fire altars, Chess playing Dockyard, Rice husk.
Chanhudaro	1931	N.G Majumdar	Sindh on the Indus river	Footprint of a dog chasing a cat, Bead makers shop
Sutkagendor	1929	Stein	Southwestern Balochistan province, Pakistan on Dast river	A trading point between Harappa and Babylon
Amri	1935	N.G Majumdar in 1935	On the banks of Indus	Antelope evidence
Banawali	1974	R.S Bisht	Hisar district (Haryana)	Barley, Beads, Evidence of both pre-Harappan and Harappan culture
Dholavira	1985	R.S Bisht	Rann of Kachchh (Gujarat)	Water harnessing system, Water reservoir
Surkotada	1964	J.P Joshi	Gujarat	Bones of horses, Beads

Important Sites of Harappan Civilization: Features

The Harappan Civilization became much more popular since it had adopted quite a modern way of lifestyle and planning. It had a culture of using bronze extensively, which set it apart from other civilizations. Many such features of the major Harappan sites of the Indus Valley

Civilization set an example for other civilizations during that time and for future generations. Some of the key popular features of the Indus Valley civilization sites are as follows.

- Extraordinary town planning of Indus Valley Civilization is famous
- Grid system that was followed in the arrangement of houses
- Burnt bricks were brought into use
- Exceptional drainage system
- Presence of wells in several houses
- Wheat, barley, rai, peas, sesame, lentil, chickpea, and mustard were the major productions of the time
- Cotton production
- Trade and barter system existed
- Silver, gold and jewellery items made of precious stones were used
- Pottery was one of the crafts

Decline of Indus Valley Civilization

Irrespective of the exemplary planning and system of the Indus Valley civilization sites, the civilization had to face a slow decline eventually. It is said that the Indus civilization saw its end around 1800 BCE, though the causes behind it are still not very clear. Several theories are going around the decline of this civilization.

Some experts believed that the invasion by Aryans became the reason for its decline. Still, the appearance of few characteristics of the Harappan sites in other cultures suggested otherwise. Few also believe that certain natural forces, such as climatic and geological, led to the end of the Harappan civilization. Still, nothing concrete could be implied so far.

Largest Site of Indus Valley Civilization

Rakhigarhi, also written as Rakhi Garhi, is considered the largest site of the Indus Valley Civilization. It is an Indian village located in the Hisar district of Haryana. It attained the status of the largest site owing to the discovery of two more mounds in recent excavations in 2014. The excavation of this site was carried out by Amrendra Nath.