

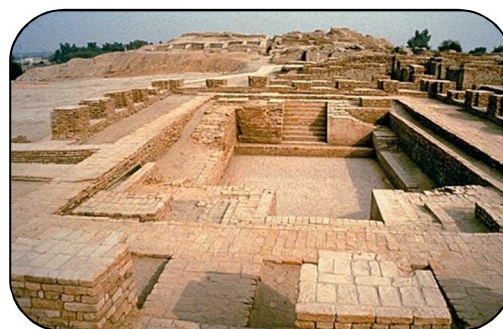


INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION: URBAN LIFE AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Madhavi Ashok Yakkaldevi
Research Scholar

ABSTRACT

The Indus Valley Civilization, also known as the Harappan Civilization, was one of the earliest urban civilizations of the ancient world. It developed primarily along the Indus River and its surrounding regions and flourished approximately from 2600 BCE to 1900 BCE during its Mature Harappan phase. The civilization is distinguished by its well-planned cities, sophisticated drainage systems, standardized weights and measures, advanced craft production, and extensive trade networks. Major urban centres such as Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, and Lothal provide evidence of organized urban life and complex social and economic institutions. The people engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, pottery, metallurgy, bead-making, weaving, and trade. Cultural development was reflected in seals, sculptures, terracotta figurines, pottery designs, ornaments, religious symbols, and architectural remains. The civilization also maintained commercial and cultural contacts with regions outside the Indian subcontinent. Although its script remains largely undeciphered, archaeological evidence provides valuable information about the social organization, economic activities, technological knowledge, and cultural practices of Harappan communities. This study examines the major features of urban life and cultural development in the Indus Valley Civilization and highlights its significance in the history of early Indian civilization.



KEYWORDS: *Indus Valley Civilization, Harappan Civilization, Urban Life, Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, Dholavira, Lothal, Town Planning, Drainage System, Trade, Crafts, Culture, Archaeology.*

INTRODUCTION

The Indus Valley Civilization represents a major stage in the development of early urban civilization in South Asia. It emerged from earlier agricultural and village communities and developed into a network of large and small settlements characterized by planned urban centres, specialized crafts, agricultural production, and long-distance trade. The Mature Harappan phase, generally dated to approximately 2600–1900 BCE, witnessed the greatest expansion and development of the civilization.

One of the most remarkable features of the Indus Valley Civilization was its urban planning. Cities such as Harappa and Mohenjo-daro were constructed according to organized layouts, with streets, residential areas, public structures, wells, bathing facilities, and drainage systems. Dholavira is particularly notable for its sophisticated water-management structures, while Lothal provides evidence of craft

production and maritime trade. These settlements demonstrate considerable knowledge of construction, water management, sanitation, and urban organization.

Harappan urban life was closely connected with economic activities. Agriculture formed an important foundation of the economy, with crops including wheat, barley, pulses, and other agricultural products. Animal husbandry was also significant. Artisans specialized in pottery, metallurgy, bead-making, shell working, stone working, and textile-related activities. The presence of standardized weights and measures suggests regulated systems of exchange and commercial activity.

Trade was an important component of Harappan economic and cultural development. Archaeological evidence indicates exchange between different Harappan settlements and contacts with regions such as Mesopotamia and areas around the Persian Gulf. Materials such as lapis lazuli, carnelian, shell, metals, and other resources moved through networks connecting different geographical regions. Such trade encouraged the development of specialized production and urban centres.

The cultural life of the Harappan people can be understood through archaeological remains. Seals containing animal motifs and symbols, terracotta figurines, pottery, ornaments, sculptures, and architectural structures provide evidence of artistic and cultural practices. The famous bronze figure commonly known as the “Dancing Girl” and the stone sculpture often identified as the “Priest-King” illustrate the artistic skills of Harappan craftsmen. However, interpretations of their religious and social meanings remain subject to scholarly debate.

The social organization of the civilization appears to have involved different occupational and economic groups. The existence of large settlements, specialized craft areas, storage facilities, public structures, and standardized production suggests organized collective activities. At the same time, the exact nature of political authority and social hierarchy remains uncertain because the Harappan script has not yet been conclusively deciphered.

Religion and symbolic practices formed another important aspect of Harappan culture. Archaeological discoveries include figurines, seals, ritual objects, sacred-looking spaces, and representations of animals and plants. Some scholars have proposed connections between certain Harappan symbols and later South Asian religious traditions, but such interpretations must be treated cautiously because the script remains undeciphered and direct textual evidence is unavailable.

The Indus Valley Civilization also demonstrates technological advancement. Harappan communities developed techniques in pottery production, metallurgy, construction, bead-making, water management, and standardized manufacturing. Their use of baked bricks and carefully constructed drainage systems reflects considerable technical knowledge for the period.

The decline and transformation of the Mature Harappan urban system after approximately 1900 BCE remains an important subject of historical research. Changes in climate and river systems, shifts in settlement patterns, economic transformations, and other regional factors have been discussed by scholars. Rather than viewing the process simply as the sudden disappearance of a civilization, archaeological evidence indicates regional transformations and changes in settlement and economic patterns.

Thus, the Indus Valley Civilization is significant not only because of its early urban centres but also because of its contributions to technology, crafts, trade, architecture, water management, and cultural development. The study of its urban life and cultural traditions provides valuable insight into the origins and development of complex societies in the Indian subcontinent.

Aims and Objectives

1. To examine the origin, development, and geographical extent of the Indus Valley Civilization.
2. To study the major characteristics of urban life in Harappan settlements.

3. To examine the town-planning system, residential structures, streets, drainage, wells, and public buildings of the civilization.
4. To study the economic activities of the Harappan people, particularly agriculture, crafts, industries, and trade.
5. To examine the development of technology, metallurgy, pottery, bead-making, and construction techniques.
6. To understand the social organization and occupational structure of Harappan society.
7. To study the cultural practices, artistic traditions, religious symbols, seals, sculptures, pottery, and ornaments of the civilization.
8. To examine the role of trade and commercial contacts in the development of Harappan urban centres.
9. To study the importance of water management and sanitation in Harappan urban life.
10. To examine the major factors associated with the transformation and decline of Mature Harappan urban centres.
11. To assess the historical significance of the Indus Valley Civilization in the development of early urban civilization in South Asia.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The Indus Valley Civilization has been extensively studied by archaeologists, historians, and scholars of ancient South Asian history. Archaeological research has provided substantial information about Harappan urban planning, economic activities, technology, social organization, and cultural practices.

John Marshall's studies of the archaeological discoveries at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro played an important role in bringing the civilization to wider scholarly attention. His work documented major architectural remains, artefacts, sculptures, seals, and other archaeological discoveries and contributed to the early interpretation of Harappan culture.

Mortimer Wheeler examined the archaeological evidence of the Indus Civilization and emphasized the importance of systematic excavation and stratigraphic analysis. His research contributed to the understanding of Harappan settlements, material culture, and chronology.

Stuart Piggott studied the Harappan Civilization in relation to its urban development, economic organization, material culture, and connections with other ancient civilizations. His work helped place the Indus Civilization within the broader history of early urban societies.

A. L. Basham discussed the Indus Civilization as an important stage in the development of Indian civilization. His work examined Harappan urban life, religion, art, technology, and economic activities while placing the civilization within the wider historical development of the Indian subcontinent.

D. D. Kosambi approached early Indian history through social and material developments. His interpretations emphasized the relationship between technology, agriculture, settlement, production, and social organization in the development of early societies.

Gregory L. Possehl provided extensive archaeological studies of the Indus Civilization and examined its geographical distribution, chronology, settlement patterns, economy, technology, and cultural development. His work has been particularly important for understanding the diversity of Harappan settlements.

Jonathan Mark Kenoyer conducted detailed research on Harappan cities, crafts, technology, trade, social organization, and material culture. His studies provide important archaeological interpretations of urban development and interactions among different Harappan communities.

Upinder Singh examined the archaeological and historical evidence relating to the Indus Civilization within the broader context of ancient Indian history. Her work discusses settlement patterns, urbanism, economy, technology, material culture, and the interpretation of archaeological evidence.

Recent archaeological research has expanded knowledge of Harappan settlements beyond the traditionally studied centres of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. Investigations at sites such as Dholavira, Lothal, Rakhigarhi, Kalibangan, and other settlements have demonstrated regional variation in urban planning, water management, craft production, and economic organization.

The existing literature indicates that the Indus Valley Civilization was a complex and geographically extensive civilization with substantial achievements in urban planning, craft production, trade, water management, and material culture. However, important questions concerning its political organization, social hierarchy, religious practices, script, and reasons for the transformation of its urban system remain subjects of continuing research.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study adopts a **historical, archaeological, descriptive, and analytical research methodology** to examine urban life and cultural development in the Indus Valley Civilization. The study is primarily based on secondary historical and archaeological sources, supported by evidence obtained from excavated sites and material remains.

Primary archaeological evidence considered in the study includes settlement remains, houses, streets, drainage systems, wells, public structures, pottery, seals, sculptures, terracotta figurines, ornaments, tools, weapons, weights, metals, and other artefacts. These materials are examined to understand patterns of urban organization, economic activities, technology, social life, and cultural practices.

Secondary sources include books, archaeological reports, research articles, academic publications, historical studies, excavation reports, and scholarly interpretations of the Harappan Civilization. Information from these sources is organized thematically to examine urban planning, economy, social organization, technology, trade, art, religion, and cultural development.

A comparative approach is used to examine similarities and differences among major Harappan settlements such as Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, Lothal, Kalibangan, and other sites. The study also considers regional variations in settlement patterns, architecture, water management, craft production, and economic activities.

A chronological approach is adopted to understand the development of Harappan culture from its early phases to the Mature Harappan period and the subsequent transformation of urban centres. Archaeological evidence is interpreted carefully because the Harappan script remains undeciphered and several aspects of political, social, and religious life cannot be established with certainty.

The study therefore combines archaeological description with historical interpretation to develop a comprehensive understanding of Harappan urban life and cultural development.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Indus Valley Civilization represents one of the earliest major urban civilizations of South Asia. Its well-planned cities, sophisticated drainage systems, standardized weights, craft specialization, long-distance trade, and distinctive artistic traditions indicate a high level of social and technological development. However, many aspects of Harappan society and culture remain incompletely understood.

One of the major problems in studying the civilization is the limited availability of directly interpretable written evidence. The Harappan script has not been conclusively deciphered, making it

difficult to determine the names of rulers, institutions, administrative structures, religious beliefs, and social groups directly from written records. Consequently, researchers must rely heavily on archaeological evidence and comparative interpretation.

Another important problem concerns the nature of Harappan urban organization. Although the cities demonstrate remarkable planning, the exact mechanisms through which these settlements were administered and maintained remain uncertain. The relationship between urban centres and surrounding rural settlements, as well as the organization of labour and craft production, also requires further examination.

The social structure of Harappan society presents another area of uncertainty. Archaeological remains indicate differences in houses, occupations, craft specialization, and access to certain resources, but the precise nature and extent of social hierarchy cannot always be established. The roles of women, workers, merchants, artisans, and other social groups also require further investigation.

The economic organization of the civilization raises questions concerning agricultural production, craft specialization, markets, trade routes, resource procurement, and the relationship between urban and rural economies. Evidence of contacts with distant regions demonstrates extensive interaction, but the precise organization and scale of these commercial networks remain subjects of research.

Cultural and religious practices are also difficult to interpret with certainty. Seals, figurines, symbols, burial practices, architectural structures, and ritual objects provide important evidence, but their meanings are sometimes disputed among scholars. Interpretations must therefore distinguish archaeological evidence from hypotheses about their cultural significance.

The transformation of the Mature Harappan urban system after approximately 1900 BCE is another major historical problem. Environmental changes, shifts in river systems, changing settlement patterns, economic transformations, and other regional factors have been proposed to explain the changes. The evidence suggests that the process varied across regions rather than representing a single uniform event.

Therefore, the central problem of this study is to understand **how urban organization, economic activities, technological development, social structures, and cultural practices interacted in the development of the Indus Valley Civilization**, while critically examining the limitations of the available archaeological evidence. The study seeks to provide an integrated understanding of Harappan urban life and cultural development and to identify areas where historical interpretation remains uncertain.

NEED OF STUDY

The study of the Indus Valley Civilization is important for understanding the emergence of urban life and complex societies in the Indian subcontinent. The civilization represents an important stage in the development of planned settlements, organized economic activities, specialized crafts, technological practices, and cultural traditions. Its archaeological remains provide valuable evidence about the everyday life and material culture of early urban communities.

The study is particularly significant because Harappan cities demonstrate sophisticated approaches to town planning, sanitation, drainage, water management, housing, and public infrastructure. The systematic layout of streets, wells, drainage channels, residential structures, and public buildings indicates considerable knowledge of urban organization and construction techniques.

Understanding Harappan economic life is also necessary because agriculture, animal husbandry, craft production, metallurgy, bead-making, pottery, and trade formed important components of the civilization. Standardized weights and measures and evidence of long-distance exchange indicate the existence of organized systems of production and commercial interaction.

The cultural dimension of the civilization requires detailed study because seals, pottery, sculptures, terracotta figurines, ornaments, burial practices, and architectural remains provide information about Harappan artistic traditions and symbolic practices. Although the Harappan script remains undeciphered, material evidence enables researchers to investigate several aspects of cultural development.

The study is also needed to understand the diversity of Harappan settlements. Large urban centres existed alongside smaller towns, villages, and specialized settlements. Sites such as Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Dholavira, Lothal, Kalibangan, and Rakhigarhi demonstrate regional differences in settlement organization, water management, architecture, and economic activities.

Finally, studying the transformation of the Mature Harappan urban system is important for understanding changes in settlement patterns, economy, environment, and social organization after approximately 1900 BCE. A systematic study can therefore provide a broader understanding of the origins, development, achievements, and transformation of early urban civilization in South Asia.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR RESEARCH

Further research should examine the relationship between Harappan urban centres and their surrounding rural settlements. Such studies can help explain agricultural production, food distribution, resource management, and the economic foundations of urban life.

More archaeological research is required to understand the social organization of Harappan communities. Future studies can focus on household structures, occupational groups, craft specialists, merchants, agricultural producers, and differences in access to resources.

The role of women and children in Harappan society also deserves greater attention. Bioarchaeological studies, burial evidence, household archaeology, and analysis of artefacts may provide additional information about gender roles, health, diet, labour, and social status.

Further research can investigate Harappan technology, particularly metallurgy, pottery production, textile production, bead-making, construction, water management, and agricultural techniques. Scientific analysis of archaeological materials can provide evidence about raw-material sources and production processes.

Trade and cultural interaction should also be examined through archaeological and scientific evidence. Future studies can investigate Harappan contacts with Mesopotamia, the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, and other regions by analyzing artefact distribution, raw materials, manufacturing techniques, and settlement networks.

Advanced technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, satellite imagery, digital mapping, 3D reconstruction, and laboratory-based archaeological analysis can contribute to a more detailed understanding of Harappan settlements.

Further research should also investigate the environmental context of Harappan urban development. Studies of climate, river systems, groundwater, vegetation, agricultural patterns, and ecological changes may help explain regional differences in settlement development and transformation.

The Harappan script remains one of the most important unresolved areas of research. Continued interdisciplinary investigation of inscriptions, symbols, seals, and their archaeological contexts may contribute to a better understanding of the writing system, although interpretations should remain evidence-based.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The study covers the major aspects of urban life and cultural development in the Indus Valley Civilization, with particular attention to settlement planning, architecture, drainage, water management, economic activities, crafts, trade, technology, social organization, art, religion, and material culture.

The study primarily focuses on the Early and Mature Harappan developments, especially the period of urban expansion generally associated with approximately 2600–1900 BCE. It also considers the transformation of Harappan urban centres after the Mature Harappan phase where relevant.

The geographical scope includes major Harappan settlements located across the northwestern Indian subcontinent, including sites in present-day India and Pakistan. Particular attention is given to important urban and regional centres such as Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, Lothal, Kalibangan, and Rakhigarhi.

A major limitation of the study is the nature of the available evidence. Much of the information about Harappan society comes from archaeology because the civilization's script has not been conclusively deciphered. As a result, many aspects of political organization, religious beliefs, social institutions, and individual identities cannot be established directly from written records.

Archaeological remains are also incomplete and unevenly distributed. Some sites have been extensively excavated, while others remain only partially investigated. Consequently, conclusions drawn from particular settlements cannot always be generalized to the entire civilization.

Another limitation is the continuing scholarly debate concerning the interpretation of seals, figurines, religious symbols, social hierarchy, political organization, and the causes of urban transformation. Different interpretations may therefore exist for the same archaeological evidence.

The study is primarily based on published archaeological reports, historical studies, academic books, research articles, and available archaeological evidence. It does not attempt to provide a complete analysis of every Harappan settlement or every archaeological artefact.

Scope of Study

The study focuses on the following major areas:

Urban Planning and Architecture: The study examines the layout of Harappan cities, streets, residential buildings, public structures, wells, drainage systems, bathing facilities, fortification features, and construction techniques.

Water Management and Sanitation: It examines wells, reservoirs, drainage channels, water-storage structures, and other systems used for water supply and sanitation, with particular attention to regional variations.

Economic Life: The study covers agriculture, animal husbandry, craft production, metallurgy, pottery, bead-making, shell working, textile-related activities, trade, and systems of weights and measures.

Trade and Commercial Networks: It examines internal exchange between Harappan settlements and external contacts with neighbouring regions, including evidence of movement of raw materials and manufactured goods.

Social Organization: The study considers household structures, occupational specialization, settlement patterns, social differentiation, and possible forms of organization within urban communities.

Cultural Development: The study examines seals, pottery, sculptures, terracotta figurines, ornaments, artistic traditions, symbols, burial practices, and other forms of material culture.

Technology: The study considers Harappan achievements in metallurgy, construction, pottery production, craft specialization, water management, and standardized manufacturing.

Major Archaeological Sites: Important sites such as Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, Lothal, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, and other settlements are considered to identify similarities and regional differences.

Transformation of Urban Civilization: The study also examines the changes that occurred after the Mature Harappan period, including shifts in settlement patterns, economic activities, regional cultures, and urban organization.

FINDINGS

1. The Indus Valley Civilization developed into one of the earliest major urban civilizations of South Asia, with extensive settlements distributed across a large geographical area.
2. Harappan cities demonstrated systematic town planning, including organized streets, residential areas, public structures, wells, drainage systems, and water-management facilities.
3. Mohenjo-daro and Harappa provide substantial evidence of planned urban settlements, while Dholavira demonstrates sophisticated water conservation and storage arrangements.
4. Agriculture and animal husbandry formed important foundations of Harappan economic life. Agricultural production supported both rural settlements and growing urban populations.
5. Craft specialization was highly developed. Pottery, bead-making, metallurgy, shell working, stone working, jewellery production, and other specialized crafts were important economic activities.
6. Standardized weights and measures indicate a considerable degree of uniformity in commercial practices across many Harappan settlements.
7. Evidence of internal and external trade demonstrates that Harappan communities participated in extensive networks of economic and cultural interaction.
8. Harappan artisans displayed considerable technological knowledge in metallurgy, pottery production, construction, bead-making, and the manufacture of tools and ornaments.
9. Seals, pottery, sculptures, terracotta figurines, ornaments, and other artefacts demonstrate distinctive artistic and cultural traditions.
10. The Harappan script remains undeciphered, which limits direct understanding of political institutions, religious beliefs, administrative systems, and other aspects of social life.
11. Archaeological evidence indicates occupational specialization and some degree of social differentiation, although the precise nature of Harappan social hierarchy remains uncertain.
12. Harappan settlements were not identical. Regional variations can be observed in architecture, settlement planning, water management, craft production, and economic activities.
13. The transformation of Mature Harappan urban centres after approximately 1900 BCE involved changes in settlement patterns, material culture, economic organization, and the distribution of population across different regions.
14. The civilization's development was closely connected with environmental conditions, agricultural resources, river systems, technology, trade, and access to raw materials.

DISCUSSION

The findings indicate that urbanization was one of the most significant characteristics of the Indus Valley Civilization. The systematic arrangement of streets, houses, drainage channels, wells, public structures, and other facilities suggests that Harappan communities possessed effective methods of organizing urban space. The similarities observed across widely separated settlements indicate shared traditions of planning and construction, although individual cities also displayed regional adaptations.

Water management was particularly important in Harappan urban life. Wells, reservoirs, drainage systems, and water-storage structures demonstrate that communities developed different strategies for obtaining, storing, and managing water. Dholavira provides especially significant evidence of large-scale water-management practices. These features indicate that environmental conditions and the availability of water were important considerations in settlement planning.

Economic organization was another major factor in the development of Harappan cities. Agriculture provided essential food resources, while specialized crafts supported urban economies. The production of beads, pottery, metal objects, ornaments, shell products, and other goods indicates the presence of skilled occupational groups. The distribution of similar manufactured goods across distant settlements suggests organized systems of production and exchange.

Trade contributed to the expansion of Harappan economic networks. Standardized weights and measures and archaeological evidence from different regions indicate regular commercial interactions. Harappan communities also maintained contacts beyond the Indian subcontinent. Such interactions facilitated the movement of raw materials, finished products, technologies, and cultural influences.

Harappan cultural development is particularly visible through material remains. Seals contain animal representations and symbols, while pottery, figurines, sculptures, ornaments, and architectural remains demonstrate diverse artistic practices. However, interpretations of religious symbols and figurines remain uncertain. Because the script has not been conclusively deciphered, archaeological interpretations must be distinguished from established evidence.

The social organization of Harappan society presents a more complex question. Differences in settlement size, house structures, craft activities, and access to particular resources may indicate social differentiation. However, the available evidence does not allow a definitive reconstruction of the complete social hierarchy or political system. The absence of clearly identifiable royal monuments comparable to those found in some other ancient civilizations has also contributed to continuing scholarly debate about the nature of Harappan authority.

The transformation of Harappan urban centres after approximately 1900 BCE should not necessarily be understood as the sudden disappearance of the civilization. Archaeological evidence indicates regional changes and shifts toward different settlement patterns. Environmental changes, river-system changes, economic transformations, and other regional factors have been considered in explaining this process. The evidence suggests a complex transformation rather than a single universally applicable cause.

Overall, the relationship between urban planning, agriculture, crafts, trade, technology, and cultural practices demonstrates that Harappan civilization developed through interaction among multiple social and economic factors.

CONCLUSION

The Indus Valley Civilization represents a major achievement in the early history of urban civilization in South Asia. Its cities demonstrate systematic planning, sophisticated drainage, water-management facilities, standardized construction practices, and organized residential and public spaces. These characteristics indicate substantial knowledge of urban organization and technology.

The economic foundations of Harappan civilization included agriculture, animal husbandry, craft specialization, metallurgy, and trade. Specialized production and commercial networks supported the development of urban settlements and connected different regions. Standardized weights and measures further demonstrate important elements of economic organization.

The cultural development of the civilization is reflected in its pottery, seals, sculptures, terracotta figurines, ornaments, architecture, and other material remains. These artefacts reveal distinctive artistic traditions and symbolic practices. At the same time, the undeciphered script continues to limit knowledge of the civilization's language, political institutions, religious beliefs, and administrative organization.

The study also demonstrates that Harappan civilization was geographically diverse. Different settlements developed distinctive approaches to architecture, water management, crafts, and economic activities while sharing several common cultural characteristics. The changes following the Mature Harappan period similarly varied across regions.

Thus, the Indus Valley Civilization should be understood as a complex network of urban, rural, and specialized settlements rather than as a single uniform society. Its achievements in urban planning, sanitation, water management, craft production, technology, and trade make it an important subject for understanding the development of early complex societies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Archaeological investigations should continue at both major and lesser-known Harappan settlements to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the civilization.
2. Greater attention should be given to smaller settlements and rural communities to understand their relationship with major urban centres.
3. Interdisciplinary research involving archaeology, history, anthropology, environmental science, geology, and economics should be encouraged.
4. Scientific analysis of archaeological materials should be expanded to identify the sources of metals, stones, shells, beads, and other raw materials.
5. Further research should examine Harappan agricultural systems, food production, irrigation practices, water management, and environmental adaptation.
6. More detailed studies should investigate the lives of artisans, agricultural producers, merchants, workers, women, and children to develop a broader understanding of Harappan society.
7. Advanced technologies such as GIS, remote sensing, satellite imagery, digital mapping, and 3D reconstruction should be increasingly used to study Harappan settlement patterns and urban structures.
8. Further research should examine Harappan trade networks and cultural contacts with Mesopotamia, the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, and other neighbouring regions.
9. Continued interdisciplinary investigation of the Harappan script should be encouraged, while interpretations should remain grounded in archaeological and linguistic evidence.
10. The transformation of Harappan urban centres after approximately 1900 BCE should be studied through regional environmental, economic, technological, and settlement evidence rather than relying on a single explanation.
11. Educational curricula should give greater attention to archaeological evidence and material culture when teaching the history of the Indus Valley Civilization.
12. Conservation and preservation of Harappan archaeological sites should be strengthened so that these important remains are protected for future research and education.

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