

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Sites & Rivers | Excavation | Daily Life | Religion | Trade | Decline
TNPSC Group I / Group II / Group IV & VAO

Based on 70 Previous Year Questions

AT A GLANCE — PYQ DISTRIBUTION BY SUB-TOPIC

This analysis is based on 70 PYQs across 7 sub-topics of the Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization.

#	Sub-Topic	Count	%	Qs	Priority
1	Sites, Rivers & Locations	20	28.6%	Q1-20	★★★★★ SUPER HIGH
2	Daily Life, Religion & Culture	19	27.1%	Q29-47	★★★★★ SUPER HIGH
3	Survival/Material Features & Statements	12	17.1%	Q48-60	★★★★★ SUPER HIGH
4	Excavation & Discovery	8	11.4%	Q21-28	★★★★ HIGH
5	Trade & External Relations	5	7.1%	Q61-65	★★★ MEDIUM
6	Decline + Neolithic context	2	2.9%	Q66-67	★★ LOW
7	Miscellaneous (chronology/race)	4	5.7%	Q49,68-70	★★ LOW-MED

1. THE "DECODED" SYLLABUS

The syllabus says "Indus Valley Civilization." The PYQs reveal heavy testing of site-river-location matching, the excavators of each site, religious beliefs (Pashupati seal, Mother Goddess, Pipal worship), and 'what was NOT known' to Harappans (iron, horse, coins). The single best ROI is site/river/excavator matching.

What the Syllabus SAYS vs. What is ACTUALLY Asked

Syllabus Implies	What is ACTUALLY Tested
Sites & Rivers	Lothal=Bhogava, Kalibangan=Ghaggar, Ropar=Sutlej, Harappa=Ravi, Mohenjodaro=Indus (Q3,Q14). Locations: Harappa=Punjab(Montgomery,Pakistan), Mohenjodaro=Sindh(Larkhana), Kalibangan=Rajasthan, Lothal=Gujarat (Q6,11,17). Dholavira=Khadir island, Rann of Kutch (Q4,9). Mohenjo+Harappa now in Pakistan (Q5). N-most=Shortughai, S-most=Daimabad, W=Sutkagendor, E=Alamgirpur (Q7,18).
Lothal (port)	Only Indus site with artificial brick DOCKYARD (Q1,10,16). 'Loth'=Dead in Gujarati (Q15). Gulf of Cambay; dockyard 37m wide 216m long (Q19: option saying 216 wide/37 long is the WRONG one); connected to Bhogava river. Chanhudaro = only site with NO citadel (Q13).

Syllabus Implies	What is ACTUALLY Tested
Excavation	John Marshall = DG of ASI during excavation, guided both sites (Q21,27); coined 'Indus Civilization' (Q22). Mohenjodaro=R.D.Banerjee/Marshall; Harappa=Daya Ram Sahani. Cunningham=first ASI surveyor + first to find traces (Q26,28). Charles Mason first visited Harappa 1826 (Q25). Lothal=S.R.Rao, Dholavira=Bisht, Rakhigarhi=Amarendranath, Chanhudaro=Majumdar (Q8,23).
Daily Life	Main occupation = AGRICULTURE (Q29,45). 500+ seals = Terracotta/steatite (Q30); NOT ivory (Q31). Script = Pictographic, undeciphered (Q33,52). Knew cotton (1st in world), NOT iron, NOT horse, NOT coins (Q34,35,52,53,54). Mohenjodaro=9 strata (Q32), built on platform (Q39). Pasupati seal animals=Elephant,Tiger,Rhino,Buffalo (Q40).
Religion	Phallus (Shiva prototype) + Mother Goddess worship; NOT idols in temples (Q37,42,51,59). Pipal=supreme deity/tree of creation & knowledge (Q38,46). Harappa cemetery=R-37 + Cemetery H (Q20,41). Secular civilization, cotton textiles (Q36).
Trade & Decline	Traded with Mesopotamia, Afghanistan, Persia, Gujarat-Baluchistan (Q61). 'Meluhha' in Cuneiform = Indus (Q63,64). Shortughai=Afghan trade outpost (Q65). Material-site: Shell=Nageshwar, Lapis=Shortughai, Carnelian NOT Oman (it's Gujarat) (Q60). Decline = Earthquake among options (Q66). Authors = Pre-Aryan (Q70).

The "Hidden Syllabus"

- **Site-river pairs (memorise):** Mohenjodaro-Indus, Harappa-Ravi, Kalibangan-Ghaggar, Ropar-Sutlej, Lothal-Bhogava.
- **Excavator pairs:** Harappa=Daya Ram Sahani, Mohenjodaro=R.D.Banerjee, Lothal=S.R.Rao, Dholavira=Bisht, Chanhudaro=Majumdar, Rakhigarhi=Amarendranath, Kalibangan=A.Ghosh.
- **John Marshall** = DG of ASI + coined 'Indus Civilization'. Cunningham = first ASI surveyor + first to notice traces. Charles Mason = first visitor (1826).
- **Harappans did NOT know:** IRON, HORSE, COINS. They DID know cotton (first in world), bronze, wheel.
- **Lothal** = artificial brick dockyard. Chanhudaro = ONLY site without a citadel. Dholavira = Khadir island, Rann of Kutch.
- **Religion:** Pashupati/Shiva prototype + Mother Goddess + Pipal tree + Phallus worship. NO temples, NO idol-in-temple.
- **Directions:** North=Shortughai (Afghanistan), South=Daimabad, West=Sutkagendor, East=Alamgirpur.
- **Script** = Pictographic, undeciphered. Mesopotamia called Indus 'Meluhha' in Cuneiform.

2. MASTER FACT TABLES

Sites: River, Location & Excavator

Site	River	Location	Excavator	PYQ
Harappa	Ravi	Punjab (Montgomery, Pakistan)	Daya Ram Sahani	Q3,11,17
Mohenjodaro	Indus	Sindh (Larkhana, Pakistan)	R.D. Banerjee	Q3,6,11,24
Kalibangan	Ghaggar	Rajasthan	A. Ghosh	Q11,14
Lothal	Bhogava	Gujarat	S.R. Rao	Q3,11,23
Ropar	Sutlej	Punjab (India)	Y.D. Sharma	Q3

Site	River	Location	Excavator	PYQ
Dholavira	—	Khadir Is, Rann of Kutch, Gujarat	R.S. Bisht	Q4,8,9
Chanhudaro	Indus	Sindh (NO citadel)	N.G. Majumdar	Q8,13,23
Rakhigarhi	Ghaggar	Haryana	Amarendranath	Q8

Directional Extremities & Special Sites

Item	Detail	PYQ
Northern-most	Shortughai (Afghanistan) (Q7,18).	Q7,18
Southern-most	Daimabad (Maharashtra) (Q7).	Q7
Western-most	Sutkagendor (Q7).	Q7
Eastern-most	Alamgirpur (Q7).	Q7
Port / Dockyard	LOTHAL — only artificial brick dockyard. 'Loth'=Dead (Gujarati). Gulf of Cambay, Bhogava river (Q1,10,15,16,19).	Q1,10,15,16,19
No citadel	CHANHUDARO — only site without a citadel (Q13).	Q13
Garden of Sindh	Mohenjodaro (Q2).	Q2
Now in Pakistan	Mohenjodaro + Harappa (Q5).	Q5

Excavation & Discovery

Person	Contribution	PYQ
Sir John Marshall	DG of ASI during excavation; guided Harappa+Mohenjodaro; coined 'Indus Civilization' (Q21,22,27).	Q21,22,27
Alexander Cunningham	First ASI surveyor; first to notice Harappan traces (Q26,28).	Q26,28
Charles Mason	First visited Harappa, 1826 (Q25).	Q25
Mortimer Wheeler	Excavated Mohenjodaro (later phase) (Q24).	Q24
Chronology of excavation	Harappa(1921) > Mohenjodaro(1922) > Chanhudaro > Lothal (Q69 = 3,1,2,4).	Q69

Daily Life, Material Culture & Religion

Aspect	Detail	PYQ
Main occupation	AGRICULTURE (Q29,45).	Q29,45
Seals	500+ seals, mostly Terracotta/Steatite (Q30). NOT ivory (Q31). Pasupati seal animals = Elephant, Tiger, Rhino, Buffalo (Q40).	Q30,31,40
NOT known to Harappans	IRON, HORSE, COINS (Q34,35,52,53,54). Knew cotton (1st in world), bronze, wheel.	Q34,35,52,53,54
Script	Pictographic, undeciphered (Q33,52).	Q33,52
Mohenjodaro layers	9 strata of buildings; built on platform (Q32,39).	Q32,39

Aspect	Detail	PYQ
Religion	Phallus + Shiva prototype + Mother Goddess + Pipal tree (supreme deity/tree of creation). NO temples/idols (Q37,38,42,46,51,59).	Q37,38,42,46,51,59
Harappa cemetery	Cemetery R-37 + Cemetery H (Q20,41).	Q20,41
Tools / weights	Rohri chert for stone blades (Q43). Smallest weight = 0.875 (Q44). Did not use coins (Q54).	Q43,44,54
Crops	Wheat, barley, cotton. NOT sugarcane (Q55).	Q55
Houses	Kiln-burnt bricks (Harappa/Mohenjodaro); mud bricks (Kalibangan/Lothal); courtyard + 4-6 rooms (Q56).	Q56

Trade, Decline & Misc

Item	Detail	PYQ
Trade partners	Mesopotamia, Afghanistan, Persia, Gujarat-Baluchistan (Q61). Indus traders in Mesopotamia took cotton (Q62).	Q61,62
'Meluhha'	In CUNEIFORM script = Indus region (Q63,64).	Q63,64
Afghan trade outpost	Shortughai (Q65).	Q65
Material sourcing	Shell=Nageshwar, Lapis Lazuli=Shortughai, Steatite=Rajasthan. Carnelian NOT from Oman (it's Gujarat) (Q60).	Q60
Pottery	Glazed pottery = earliest of its kind in ancient world (Q50).	Q50
Decline cause	Earthquake (among given options, Q66). [Scholarly views also cite climate/Aryan/flood.]	Q66
Authors / race	Pre-Aryan (Q70). Multiple groups (farmers, pastoralists, hunter-gatherers) (Q47).	Q47,70
Bronze (period match)	Bronze = Indus civilization era (Q68).	Q68

3. NATURE OF QUESTIONS — TYPE-WISE BREAKDOWN

Question Type	%	Count	Skill Required
Direct Factual Recall	36%	25	Know sites, rivers, excavators, occupation, seal material, dockyard.
Statement / Multi-fact	26%	18	Evaluate correct/incorrect facts about religion, material, town planning.
Match / Sequence	19%	13	Match site-river, site-excavator, material-site, discovery-period.
Negative (NOT/Wrong/Odd)	13%	9	NOT known (iron/horse/coins), wrong pair, odd one out.
Assertion-Reason	4%	3	Coins/technology, traders in Mesopotamia.
Conceptual	2%	2	Meaning of 'Loth', term 'Indus Civilization'.

4. KEY TRAPS

KEY TRAPS

- Harappans did NOT know IRON, HORSE, or COINS — the most repeated trap (Q34,35,52,53,54). They DID know cotton, bronze, wheel.
- Lothal = artificial brick DOCKYARD (Q1,10,16). Chanhudaro = ONLY site WITHOUT a citadel (Q13). Don't confuse.
- Site-river: Lothal=Bhogava (NOT Indus), Kalibangan=Ghaggar, Ropar=Sutlej, Harappa=Ravi, Mohenjodaro=Indus.
- John Marshall coined 'Indus Civilization' + was DG of ASI (Q22). Cunningham = first ASI surveyor + first to find traces (Q26,28).
- Seals = Terracotta/Steatite, NOT ivory (Q31). 500+ seals (Q30).
- Pasupati seal animals = Elephant, Tiger, Rhino, Buffalo (Q40). NOT horse/lion.
- Script = Pictographic, still UNDECIPHERED (Q33,52). Indus people did NOT know iron (Q52 statement IV is the wrong one).
- Pipal = supreme deity tree (tree of creation & knowledge), NOT banyan/neem (Q38,46).
- 'Meluhha' = Indus, mentioned in CUNEIFORM (Mesopotamian) script (Q63,64). NOT Brahmi.
- Carnelian source = Gujarat (NOT Oman) (Q60 wrong pair). Lapis Lazuli=Shortughai, Shell=Nageshwar.
- Harappans did NOT cultivate sugarcane (Q55). They grew wheat, barley, cotton.
- Chanhudaro = only Indus city with no citadel (Q13). Authors of IVC = Pre-Aryan (Q70).

KEY TAKEAWAY FOR STUDENTS

► Focus your revision here for maximum marks:

- Site-river-location-excavator matching is the highest ROI — it alone covers ~20 questions (28.6%). Build one master grid and memorise it.
- Lock the 'NOT known' list (iron, horse, coins) — the single most repeated trap across the paper.
- Lothal = dockyard, Chanhudaro = no citadel, Dholavira = Rann of Kutch — the special-site facts.
- Excavation: Marshall (coined term + DG), Cunningham (first surveyor + traces), Mason (first visitor 1826).
- Religion: Phallus/Shiva + Mother Goddess + Pipal + Pashupati seal animals (Elephant-Tiger-Rhino-Buffalo). No temples.
- Trade: Meluhha (Cuneiform) = Indus; Shortughai = Afghan outpost; traded cotton with Mesopotamia.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS & SITES

1. Which one of the following is not correct about Harappan culture?
(A) All Harappan sites are urban character
(B) The Harappan cities depended on villages for food and labourers
(C) Harappan remains discovered even at small village sites
(D) The most distinctive feature of Lothal is dockyard
(E) Answer not known
2. Which fertile region is known as the garden of Sindh?
(A) Mohenjodaro

- (B) Harrappa
(C) Punjab
(D) Lahore
(E) Answer not known
3. The Harappans mainly settled on the banks of rivers. Match the following settlements with the banks of rivers on which they are located :
(a) Lothal | 1. Indus
(b) Kalibangan | 2. Sutlej
(c) Ropar | 3. Ravi
(d) Harappa | 4. Ghaggar
(e) Mohenja-daro | 5. Bhogawa
(A) 5 4 2 3 1
(B) 2 5 1 4 3
(C) 4 5 2 3 1
(D) 5 4 3 2 1

- (E) Answer not known
4. _____ is located on Khadir Island in the Rann of Kutch at Gujarat.
(A) Dholavira
(B) Lothal
(C) Kalibangan
(D) Rakhigarhi
(E) Answer not known
5. Which of the following Harappan sites are not in India?
(A) Mohenjodara and Harappa
(B) Lothal and Kalibangan
(C) Bhanwali and Ropar
(D) Surkotada and Dholavira
(E) Answer not known
6. Mohenjodaro is situated in the district of
(A) Punjab
(B) Larkhana
(C) Bawalpur
(D) Gujarat
(E) Answer not known
7. Match the following Indus Valley Civilization, Geographical Area with the Settlements :
Geographical Area | The Settlements
(a) West | 1. Alamgirpur
(b) North | 2. Daimabad
(c) South | 3. Shortugai
(d) East | 4. Sutkagen-dor
(A) 4 3 2 1
(B) 1 2 3 4
(C) 4 2 1 3
(D) 2 4 3 1
(E) Answer not known
8. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer :
List-I (Place) | List-II (Excavated by)
(a) Chanhudharo | 1. Aurel Stein
(b) Kulli | 2. J.P. Joshi
(c) Rakhigarhi | 3. Majumdar
(d) Dholavira | 4. Amrendranath
(A) 2 1 3 4
(B) 3 1 2 4
(C) 3 1 4 2
(D) 4 3 1 2
(E) Answer not known
9. 'Dholavira' is an ancient _____ city.
(A) Harappan
(B) Mohenjodaro
(C) Keeladi
(D) Lothal
(E) Answer not known
10. Name the only Indus site with an artificial brick dockyard
(A) Lothal
(B) Kalibangan
(C) Chanhudaro
(D) Surkotoda
(E) Answer not known
11. Match correctly the following Indus Valley Civilization sites with its locations.
(a) Harappa | 1. Sindh
(b) Mohenjodaro | 2. Gujarat
(c) Kalibangan | 3. Punjab
(d) Lothal | 4. Rajasthan
(A) 2 4 1 3
(B) 3 1 4 2
(C) 3 4 2 1
(D) 2 1 4 3
(E) Answer not known
12. Match List I with List II and select your answer using the codes given below :
List I | List II
(a) Mohenjodaro | 1. Measurement scale
(b) Harappa | 2. Lord Shiva
(c) Trimukha Pose | 3. Great Bath
(d) Bronze bar | 4. D.R. Sahani
(A) 3 4 2 1
(B) 2 3 1 4
(C) 4 3 2 1
(D) 1 2 3 4
(E) Answer not known
13. In which sites of the Indus Valley had no citadel?
(A) Chanhudaro
(B) Lothal
(C) Kalibangan
(D) Rangpur
(E) Answer not known
14. Kalibangan is situated on the banks of River
(A) Ravi
(B) Sutlej
(C) Beas
(D) Ghaggar
(E) Answer not known
15. What is the meaning of 'Loth' in Lothal in Gujarat language?
(A) Mound
(B) Black Bangles
(C) Dead
(D) Articles
(E) Answer not known
16. Which of the following was the Port City of Indus Valley Civilisation?
(A) Lothal
(B) Harappa
(C) Kalibangan
(D) Larkana

- (E) Answer not known
17. Harappa is situated in the Montgomery District of
(A) Persia
(B) Pakistan
(C) India
(D) Iran
(E) Answer not known
18. Which is the northern most settlement of Indus Valley civilization?
(A) Sutkagen_dor
(B) Shortugai
(C) Alamgirpur
(D) Daimabad
(E) Answer not known
19. Which one of the Statement is incorrect regarding Lothal, the Indus city
(A) It found at Gulf of Cambay
(B) It found with a dock yard 216 meter wide and 37 metre long
(C) The dock yard connected with Bhogava river
(D) It was a port city and where foreign trade was carried an
(A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) 3 only
(D) 4 only
(E) Answer not known
20. Match the harappan sites with their archaeological remains :
(a) Mohenjodaro | 1. Cemetery H
(b) Harappa | 2. Bronze statue of dancing girl
(c) Lothal | 3. Terracotta plough
(d) Banawali | 4. Ivory scale
(A) 1 2 4 3
(B) 3 1 2 4
(C) 2 1 4 3
(D) 4 3 2 1
(E) Answer not known

EXCAVATION & DISCOVERY

21. Who was the Director General of Archaeological survey of India at the time of Indus Valley excavation?
(A) Dr. R.D. Banerjee
(B) Sir John Marshall
(C) D.R. Sahani
(D) Max Muller
(E) Answer not known
22. Who was the first scholar to use the term "Indus Civilization"?
(A) Mortimer Wheeler
(B) Dr. Pran Nath

- (C) Morris J. Spivack
(D) Sir John Marshal
(E) Answer not known
23. Match the following :
Indus Sites | Excavated by
(a) Chanhu-Daro | 1. Suraj Bhan
(b) Lothal | 2. N.G. Majumdar
(c) Banawali | 3. S.R. Rao
(d) Mitathal | 4. Bisht
(A) 2 1 4 3
(B) 2 3 4 1
(C) 1 3 2 4
(D) 1 4 3 2
(E) Answer not known
24. Who has done the Excavation work at Mohenjodaro?
(A) Sir John Marshall
(B) M.S. Watts
(C) Sir Mortimer wheeler
(D) B.B. Lal
(E) Answer not known
25. Harappa was first visited by _____ in 1826 CE (AD)
(A) Amri
(B) Charles Mason
(C) Alexander Burnes
(D) Sir John Marshal
(E) Answer not known
26. The first surveyor of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was
(A) Charles Mason
(B) Alexander Burnes
(C) Alexander Cunningham
(D) Sir John Marshal
(E) Answer not known
27. Under whose guidance the sites of Mohenjodaro and Harappa were excavated?
(A) Mortimer Wheeler
(B) Sir. J. Marshall
(C) Alexander Cunningham
(D) S. R. Rao
(E) Answer not known
28. Which among the following scholars was the first to discover the traces of the Harappan Civilization?
(A) Mortimer Wheeler
(B) R. D. Banerjee
(C) A. Cunningham
(D) Daya Ram Sahni
(E) Answer not known

DAILY LIFE & CULTURE

29. _____ was an important source of subsistence of the Harappans.
(A) Fishing
(B) Agriculture
(C) Pottery
(D) Craft production
(E) Answer not known
30. More than 500 seals have been discovered in Indus Valley civilization which are all made of _____
(A) Gold
(B) Silver
(C) Terracottas
(D) Copper
(E) Answer not known
31. The seals found in Mohenjodaro was not made of
(A) Ivory
(B) Conch
(C) Faience
(D) Steatite
(E) Answer not known
32. How many strata of buildings have been revealed at Mohenjodaro?
(A) Six
(B) Seven
(C) Eight
(D) Nine
(E) Answer not known
33. The script of Indus valley people was
(A) Brahmi script
(B) Vattelluthu
(C) Grantha script
(D) Pictographic script
(E) Answer not known
34. Pick the odd one out :
(A) Horse and iron were unknown to the Indus people
(B) Indus people used the red quartz stone to design jewellery
(C) Silk dresses were in common use in Indus Culture
(D) Ornaments were popular among men and women of Indus Culture
(E) Answer not known
35. Which animal was not known to the Harappans?
(A) Pig
(B) Elephant
(C) Horse
(D) Buffalo
(E) Answer not known
36. Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statement.
(1) It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element though present did not dominate the scene.
(2) During the period, Cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) (1) only
(B) (2) only
(C) Both (1) and (2)
(D) Neither (1) nor (2)
(E) Answer not known
37. Which of the following statements are true about the Harappan People?
(i) The Harappans were the Phallus Worshippers.
(ii) They worshipped gods in the form of human beings.
(iii) They placed their gods in temples.
(A) (i) only
(B) (i) and (iii) only
(C) (i) and (ii) only
(D) (ii) and (iii) only
(E) Answer not known
38. Which tree was considered as supreme deity during the Indus Valley Civilization?
(A) Banyan
(B) Neem
(C) Palm
(D) Pipal
(E) Answer not known
39. _____ had a planned town, built on a planned town, built on a platform.
(A) Lothal
(B) Harappa
(C) Mohenjo daro
(D) Kalibangan
(E) Answer not known
40. Name the four animals found in the Pasupati Seal of Mohenjodaro
(A) Lion, Tiger, Hippopotamus, Elephant
(B) Rhinoceros, Bull, Horse, Tiger
(C) Lion, Deer, Buffalo, Cat
(D) Elephant, Tiger, Rhinoceros, Buffalo
(E) Answer not known
41. The evidence of the disposal of the dead at Harappa was named as
(A) Cemetery R - 37
(B) Cemetery S - 77
(C) Cemetery T - 67
(D) Cemetery U - 87
(E) Answer not known

42. Indicate whether the following statements are correct regarding the religious faiths and beliefs of the people of Indus Valley Civilization
- (i) The cult of the Divine Mother seems to have been widely prevalent
 - (ii) Many figurines of the Mother - Goddess have come to light
- (A) (i) and (ii)
(B) (i)
(C) (ii)
(D) Neither (i) nor (ii)
(E) Answer not known
43. It was used by the Harappans for making stone blades and tools.
- (A) Rohri chert
(B) Steatite
(C) Lapis lazuli
(D) Carnelian
(E) Answer not known
44. The smallest weight found at the Indus Valley sites
- (A) .675
(B) .850
(C) .875
(D) .785
(E) Answer not known
45. The main occupation of the people of the Indus valley civilization was
- (A) Agriculture
(B) Warfare
(C) Hunting
(D) Fishing
(E) Answer not known
46. Which tree was regarded as the tree of creation and knowledge during Indus Valley civilization?
- (A) Pipal Tree
(B) Mango Tree
(C) Neem Tree
(D) Tamarind Tree
(E) Answer not known
47. Which of the following statements are true about original inhabitants and their culture?
- (i) Indus civilisation had more than one group of people.
 - (ii) Several groups including farmers past oralists and hunter-gatherers lived in the Indus region.
 - (iii) Indus civilisation had more than five group of people.
- (A) (i) only
(B) (i) and (ii) only
(C) (i) and (iii) only
(D) (ii) and (iii) only
(E) Answer not known

48. Choose the wrong statement
- (A) Models of cart as toys remains in India
(B) Foot-wheel pottery remains in North-west India
(C) The Indus technology of making beads from semi-precious stones remains today
(D) The citadel system of town planning remains today
(E) Answer not known

SURVIVAL OF INDUS CULTURAL FEATURES ON MODERN INDIAN SOCIETY

49. Harrappan deals how the picture of
- 1) Rhinoceroses
 - 2) Elephants
 - 3) Tigers
 - 4) Camel
- (A) 1 only
(B) 1, 2 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4
(E) Answer not known
50. ____-type of Indus pottery is the earliest example of its kind in the ancient world
- (A) Incised
(B) Glazed
(C) Knobbed
(D) Perforated
(E) Answer not known
51. Which of the following statements about the Harappan Civilisation is not correct?
- (A) Pipal and Acacia trees were regarded as celestial plants
(B) Terracotta female figures are considered to be representation of mother goddess
(C) The people of Harappan Civilisation never disposed of their dead by the method of cremation
(D) Indus people worshipped the prototype of siva
(E) Answer not known
52. Point out the wrong statement of the following :
- I. The Indus Seals have not been deciphered so far.
 - II. Indus civilization was a notable urban culture.
 - III. Indus people used large number of weights.
 - IV. Indus people knew the art of using the metal iron.
- (A) I
(B) II
(C) III
(D) IV
(E) Answer not known

53. Which metal was not used during the Harappan civilization?
(A) Gold
(B) Copper
(C) Iron
(D) Bronze
(E) Answer not known
54. Assertion [A] : The Indus people did not use coins.
Reason [R] : They did not have the technology to make metallic coins.
(A) [A] is true but [R] is false
(B) Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]
(C) [A] is false but [R] is true
(D) Both [A] and [R] are true but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A]
(E) Answer not known
55. Which one of the following was not cultivated by the Harappan people?
(A) Barley
(B) Wheat
(C) Cotton
(D) Sugarcane
(E) Answer not known
56. Which one of the statement is correct regarding the Indus Valley Civilization?
1) Harappa and Mohenjodaro the houses were made of Kiln burnt bricks
2) On Kalibangan and Lothal mud bricks were used for the residential houses
3) The kiln-burnt bricks used in large quantities in the construction drains, wells and bathing platform.
4) An average house consist of courtyard and four to six living room
(A) 1 only
(B) 1, 2 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4
(E) Answer not known
57. Which of the following statements about Harappa are false?
(i) The walls of Harappa were not strengthened
(ii) Tectonic disturbance caused the ruin
(iii) Short - headed Armenoid skulls were found
(iv) Harappa disappeared by about 1750 B.C.
(A) (i) and (ii) true (iii) and (iv) false
(B) (i) is true (ii), (iii) and (iv) are false
(C) (i) is false (ii), (iii) and (iv) are true
(D) (i), (ii) and (iii) are false (iv) is true
(E) Answer not known
58. Which one of the statement is correct regarding the Indus Valley Civilization?
(1) There was a strong centralized Government
(2) Each lane had a lamp post at cutervels
(3) Dust-bin were also provided in the streets
(4) Quarters of rich and poor were found
(A) (1), (2) is correct (3), (4) are incorrect
(B) (1), (3) is correct (2), (4) are incorrect
(C) (1), (2), (3) are correct (4) is incorrect
(D) All are correct
(E) Answer not known
59. Which one of the following statement(s) is not correct about the Indus Valley People?
(i) The Indus Valley People worshipped trees and animals
(ii) The principal deity of Indus Valley People was Krishna
(iii) The Indus Valley People worshipped fire and water
(iv) The principal deity of Indus Valley People was mother goddess
(A) (i) and (iii) only
(B) (ii) only
(C) (i) and (ii) only
(D) (ii) and (iii) only
(E) Answer not known
60. In connection with Indus valley civilization which of the following is incorrect?
Material | Site
(i) Shell | Nageshwar
(ii) Lapis Lazuli | Shortughai
(iii) Carnelian | Oman
(iv) Steatite | Rajasthan
(A) (i) only
(B) (i) and (ii)
(C) (iii) only
(D) (i), (ii) and (iii) only
(E) Answer not known

TRADE & EXTERNAL RELATIONS

61. The Indus Valley Civilization, people had a trade contact with
(1) Central Asia Mesopotamia
(2) North Eastern Afghanistan
(3) Gujarat and Baluchiston
(4) Persia
(A) (1) only
(B) (2) only
(C) (3) only
(D) (1), (2), (3), (4)
(E) Answer not known
62. Assertion (A) : The Indus traders resided in Mesopotamia.
Reason (R) : They took cotton for sale.

- (A) (A) is right (R) is wrong
(B) Both (A) and (R) are right
(C) (A) is wrong (R) is right
(D) (A) is right but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
(E) Answer not known
63. The mention of the word 'Meluhha' in the _____ script is considered to refer to the Indus region.
(A) Pictographic
(B) Cuneiform
(C) Brahmi
(D) Hieroglyphic
(E) Answer not known
64. Which among the following inscriptions mention the trade contacts between Mesopotamia and Harappan civilisation?
(A) Devanagiri
(B) Kharoshti
(C) Cuneiform
(D) Hieroglyphics
(E) Answer not known
65. The most important evidence of trade with Afghanistan comes from an isolated Harappan trading outpost at
(A) Hajjar
(B) Shortughai
(C) Oman Peninsula
(D) Hissar
(E) Answer not known

DECLINE OF HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

66. Which factor caused the end of Indus Valley Civilization?
(A) Climatic change
(B) Earthquake
(C) Flood
(D) Invasion
(E) Answer not known

NEOLITHIC CULTURE (RELATED TO INDUS VALLEY CONTEXT)

67. Which one of the statement is incorrect regarding the Neolithic culture?

- (i) They engaged in hunting, fishing and domestication of animals.
(ii) Their houses were mostly in square shape with conical roofs.
(iii) The Neolithic women wears beads as a ornaments.
(iv) The important craft of the period was pottery making.
(A) (i) is correct (ii), (iii), (iv) is incorrect.
(B) (i) and (ii) are correct (iii) and (iv) are incorrect.
(C) (i), (ii), (iii) are correct (iv) only incorrect.
(D) (i), (iii) and (iv) are correct (ii) only incorrect
(E) Answer not known

MISCELLANEOUS

68. Match the discovery with their corresponding period.
Discovery of iron | (a) Mesolithic
Discovery of Bronze | (b) Neolithic
Beginning of agriculture | (c) Indus civilization
Discovery of fire | (d) Aryans
(A) 4 3 2 1
(B) 3 2 1 4
(C) 2 3 4 1
(D) 1 2 3 4
(E) Answer not known
69. Which is the correct chronology of the excavation sites in the Indus civilization?
(1) Mohenjo-Daro
(2) Chanhudaro
(3) Harappa
(4) Lothal
(A) (3), (1), (2), (4)
(B) (1), (3), (2), (4)
(C) (2), (1), (3), (4)
(D) (3), (4), (2), (1)
(E) Answer not known
70. Which racial group authored Indus valley civilisation?
(A) Aryan
(B) Dravidian
(C) Non-Aryan
(D) Pre-Aryan
(E) Answer not known

INDUS VALLEY (HARAPPAN) CIVILIZATION

Discovery | Geography | Chronology | Town Planning | Trade
Religion | Seals & Script | Art | Decline | Race

1. DISCOVERY, NAMES & GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT

- **Other names:** Harappan Civilization (named after the first-discovered site **Harappa**); **Indus-Saraswati Civilisation** (newer terminology, based on the **two river systems**).
- Located on the banks of the **Indus River**; the **Harappa-Ghaggar-Mohenjo-Daro axis** = "Heartland of the Harappan Civilisation."
- **Total area** \approx **12,99,600 sq km** — the **largest** of the contemporary civilizations, far bigger than **Mesopotamia (Tigris-Euphrates)**, **Egypt (Nile)**, and **China (Hwang-Ho)** combined.
- **Age:** **Bronze Age, Proto-Historic** civilization.
- **Source proving it pre-dated the Aryans = Pottery.**
- **Different from the Vedic civilization** because of **Advanced Town Planning**; its **most distinguished feature = Urban Culture.**
- **Stuart Piggott:** called Harappa & Mohenjo-Daro the "**Twin Capitals of an Extended Kingdom.**"
- **Shortughai** = on the **left bank of the Oxus**, the "**Extended boundary.**" **Dadheri** = Late Harappan site in **Punjab.**
- **(Enrichment)** Over **1,400 sites** have been discovered so far; the **majority (~925) lie in India**, mostly along the now-dry **Ghaggar-Hakra (Saraswati)** belt — which is why the "Saraswati" name gained traction.

THEME

- Two competing names matter: "**Indus**" (one river) vs "**Indus-Saraswati**" (two rivers) — plus **Piggott's "twin capitals."**
- **Urban culture + advanced town planning** is the one line that separates it from the Vedic age.

2. CHRONOLOGY, PHASES & PRECURSOR

- **Radio-carbon dating:** **~2500–1750 BC** (classic estimate).
- **Phases:** Early Harappan (~3300–2600 BCE) → **Mature (~2600–1900 BCE)** → Late (~1900–1300 BCE).
- **(Enrichment)** **Mehrgarh (Balochistan, ~7000 BCE)** is the **Neolithic precursor** — the earliest farming village in the subcontinent (wheat, barley, cattle), from which Harappan culture gradually evolved. **Bhirrana (Haryana)** has yielded some of the **earliest pre-Harappan (Hakra-ware) levels**, claimed by some as the oldest IVC-zone settlement.

3. EXCAVATION & KEY PERSONALITIES

Person	Contribution
Charles Masson	British archaeologist; first reference to the vast mounds of Harappa (1826)
Alexander Cunningham	First ASI surveyor; first to notice traces ; first to (primarily) excavate Harappa but could not recognise its significance
Sir John (Hubert) Marshall	DG of ASI ; supervised excavation; coined "Indus Civilization" ; announced the discovery in 1924
Daya Ram Sahni	First extensive excavation at Harappa, 1921
R.D. (Rakhal Das) Banerjee	Excavated Mohenjo-Daro (first time), 1922
Madho Sarup Vats	Discovered the Granaries at Harappa (1940)
Mortimer Wheeler	Later Mohenjo-Daro work; proposed the "Aryan invasion" decline theory

- **Supervision team:** **John Hubert Marshall, Rakhal Das Banerji, Daya Ram Sahni.**
- **Excavation chronology:** **Harappa (1921) → Mohenjo-Daro (1922) → Chanhudaro → Lothal.**

4. MASTER SITE GRID — RIVER / LOCATION / EXCAVATOR (TOP PRIORITY)

Site	River	Location (modern)	Excavator
Harappa	Ravi	Sahiwal/Montgomery, Punjab (Pakistan)	Daya Ram Sahni
Mohenjo-Daro	Indus (right bank, Larkana, Sindh)	Sindh (Pakistan)	R.D. Banerjee
Kalibangan	Ghaggar	Suratgarh–Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	A. Ghosh
Lothal	Bhogava (Sabarmati + tributary Bhogava)	Gujarat	S.R. Rao
Ropar (Rupnagar)	Sutlej	Punjab (India)	Y.D. Sharma
Dholavira	Mansar (N) & Manhar (S) streams	Khadir Is., Rann of Kutch, Gujarat	J.P. Joshi (1967–68)
Chanhudaro	Indus	Sindh (no citadel)	N.G. Majumdar (1931)
Rakhigarhi	Ghaggar / Saraswati	Hisar, Haryana	Amarendra Nath (1997)

- **Mnemonic (HIKE-RB):** Harappa→Ravi, (Mohenjodaro)→Indus, Kalibangan→Ghaggar, (Ropar)→Sutlej, Lothal→Bhogava.
- **(Enrichment) Rakhigarhi is the largest Harappan site in India** (overtaking Mohenjo-Daro in extent on recent survey).

5. OTHER SITES & SIGNATURE FINDINGS (HIGH-VALUE TABLE)

Site	Excavator	Year	Region / River	Key Finding
Sutkagen-Dor (Pak)	Aurel Stein, George Dales	1927	Balochistan, Dasht river	Evidence of horse; westernmost site
Amri (Pak)	M.G. Majumdar	1929	Sindh, Indus	Evidence of antelope; single Indian rhinoceros instance
Kot Diji (Pak)	Fazal Ahmed	1953–54	Left side of Indus	Wheel-made pottery; five Mother-Goddess figurines
Rangpur (India)	Rangnath Rao	1953–54	Saurashtra, Gujarat	First evidence of rice cultivation; terracotta horse
Ropar (India)	Y.D. Sharma	1953–54	Punjab, Sutlej	Burial of a human with a dog
Surkotada (India)	J.P. Joshi	1954	Kutch, Gujarat	Bone-remains of horse; oval burial pits; pot-style burial; fortified citadel + residential annex
Alamgirpur (India)	Y.D. Sharma	1958	Meerut, UP, Hindon river	Impression of a trough on cloth; easternmost site
Desalpur (India)	ASI	1963	Gujarat	Ancient glazed ware at lowest Harappan levels
Banawali (India)	R.S. Bisht	1973	Haryana, left bank of Saraswati	Terracotta model of the plough; largest barley grains
Sinauli (India)	R.S. Bisht	2018	Ganga-Yamuna Doab, UP	Bronze-age solid-disk wheel carts

THEME

- The **horse** appears only at **Surkotada / Sutkagen-Dor** (heavily debated) — the famous exception to "no horse."
- **First rice = Rangpur, earliest ploughed field = Kalibangan, terracotta plough = Banawali/Cholistan** — a tight "first/site" cluster.

6. DIRECTIONAL EXTREMITIES & SPECIAL SITES

Item	Site
North-most	Shortughai (Afghanistan, left bank of Oxus)
South-most	Daimabad (Maharashtra)
West-most	Sutkagen-Dor (Balochistan)
East-most	Alamgirpur (UP)
Port / Dockyard	Lothal — world's first tidal dockyard; 'Loth' = "dead"; " Manchester of Harappa " (finest cotton yarn); ivory scale found here
No citadel	Chanhudaro — only site without a citadel; only place with curved bricks ; first American excavation (Ernest J.H. Mackay, 1935-36)
Garden of Sindh	Mohenjo-Daro
Greatest no. of skeletons	Mohenjo-Daro
Each house had its own well	Mohenjo-Daro
Now in Pakistan	Mohenjo-Daro + Harappa

- **(Enrichment) Dholavira** is famous for its "**signboard**" — ten large Indus signs inlaid in gypsum over a gateway (the world's earliest known "advertisement/signage"), and for the most sophisticated **water-harvesting system** (rock-cut reservoirs and dams) of any IVC site.

7. TOWN PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE

- **Citadel/acropolis** (ruling/elite class) at **Harappa & Mohenjo-Daro**; **Grid pattern** of streets cutting at **right angles**; city split into **raised citadel (west) + lower residential town (east)**.
- **Distinct from Mesopotamia/Egypt: use of burnt bricks of standard size**; brick ratio **4:2:1** (= 7×14×28, ratio 1:2:4).
- **Gypsum** mixed with mud for construction; a **highly developed covered drainage system** with soak pits and manholes — the civilization's true hallmark of hygienic urban living.
- **Rock-cut architecture & a quadrilateral town plan = Dholavira**; **fortified citadel + residential annex = Surkotada**.

Key measurements (Mohenjo-Daro):

Structure	Measurement
Great Bath (on Citadel Mound, ritual use)	11.88 m × 7.01 m × 2.43 m
Biggest Granary	45.71 m × 15.23 m
Largest building of the entire IVC	The Great Granary
Roads	13½ ft × 33 ft

Structure	Measurement
First street width	10.5 metres

- **Great Bath = Mohenjo-Daro; Harappa Granary = two rows** (its special feature); single-room **barracks** below the citadel = Harappa.
- **(Enrichment)** The Great Bath was **waterproofed with bitumen** and lined with **gypsum mortar**, fed by an adjacent well and emptied through a corbelled drain — strong evidence of **ritual/ceremonial bathing**, a practice that echoes later Indian tradition.
- **Heritage status: Mohenjo-Daro = UNESCO World Heritage (1980); Dholavira = first IVC site in India on the UNESCO WHS list; Rakhigarhi** flagged as one of the **10 most endangered heritage sites in Asia (2012)**.

THEME

- **Burnt bricks + grid + drainage** = the three planning signatures separating IVC from its contemporaries.
- Lock the **Great Bath (11.88×7.01×2.43)** vs **Great Granary (45.71×15.23)** measurements — a frequent numeric trap.

8. SOCIAL LIFE

- **Dominant class** (among Brahmin/Kshatriya/Vaishya analogy) = **Kshatriyas**.
- Dominance of the **Mother Goddess** → society inferred to be **Matriarchal**.
- **Fabric = Cotton; cotton cultivation for clothing was first introduced in India**.
- **Burials**: three main types — **Complete, Fractional, Post-Cremation**; plus a **Partial Tomb** (body buried after exposure to animals/birds); **oval burial pits = Surkotada**.
- **(Enrichment)** Society appears **largely egalitarian** — no royal tombs, no palaces, and broadly uniform house sizes — unlike the pharaohs of Egypt or the temple-kings of Mesopotamia.

9. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC LIFE

- More involved in **trade & commerce** than **territorial expansion**.
- **Agriculture = backbone**, mainly dependent on **irrigation**; **two major crops = Wheat & Barley**; **crop unknown = Sugarcane**; bull motifs on seals → **oxen used in ploughing**.
- **Gobarbands / Nalas** (enclosed dams for water storage) = a feature of **Balochistan & Shortughai**; **Dholavira** had the **greatest water reservoirs** for irrigation.
- **NOT known: IRON, HORSE, COINS. DID know: Cotton (first in the world), Bronze, Wheel**.
- **Animal NOT on seals/terracotta = COW**; **most favourite sacred animal = the Humped Bull (Zebu)**.
- **Long-distance trade animal = Camel**; **trade medium = Barter System**.
- **Cotton = "Sindon"** in Greek; **Daimabad = Bronze Industry & Chariots**.

10. TRADE & EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- **Trade partners**: Mesopotamia, Afghanistan, Persia, Gujarat–Baluchistan; **Indus traders in Mesopotamia exported cotton**.
- **'Meluhha' (in Cuneiform) = the Indus region**; **Dilmun = Bahrain Island**; **Magan = Oman** (the two intermediary entrepôts). **Carnelian, Lapis Lazuli & Copper were traded with Mesopotamia**.
- **Harappan seals found in Mesopotamia at: Kish, Nippur, Susa**.
- **Weights: cubical & spherical, of Chert, Jasper, Agate**; binary system; **16 Chhatank = 1 Ser (≈1 kg)**; smallest weight = 0.875 g.
- **Shortughai = Afghan trade outpost** (remains of **irrigation canals** found).

- **(Enrichment)** Mesopotamian texts of **Sargon of Akkad** record ships of **Meluhha, Magan and Dilmun** docking at his capital — direct written proof of Indus maritime trade. The Persian-Gulf "**round seals**" found at Bahrain confirm the intermediary route.

11. IMPORTS & MATERIAL SOURCING (MATCH-THE-PAIR TABLE)

Material	Source
Gold	Afghanistan, Iran, Karnataka
Silver	Afghanistan, Iran, Mesopotamia
Tin	Afghanistan, Iran
Copper	Khetri (Rajasthan) & Baluchistan
Lapis Lazuli	Badakhshan (Afghanistan), Kashmir
Amethyst / Blue gemstone	Maharashtra
Jade	Central Asia
Carnelian	Saurashtra/Gujarat (not Oman)
Steatite	Iran (seals mostly made of steatite)
Glass material	Iran, Afghanistan, Rajasthan
Shilajit	Himalayan region
Shells	Surkotada (also Nageshwar, Balakot)
Green gemstone	South India

THEME

- Three trade traps: **Meluhha = Cuneiform, Dilmun = Bahrain / Magan = Oman, and Carnelian = Gujarat (not Oman).**

12. RELIGION & BELIEFS

- **Mother Goddess** = the "**Goddess of the Earth**"; a seal shows the Mother Goddess with a **plant growing from her womb = Harappa** (fertility cult).
- **Chief male deity = Pashupati Mahadeva (Proto-Shiva)**; the **Pashupati seal** shows a **three-horned** yogic figure surrounded by **Elephant, Tiger, Rhinoceros, Buffalo** (with deer below) — not horse/lion/cow.
- **Phallic & Phallus (lingam) worship** = the Shiva prototype.
- **Pipal tree** = supreme deity / tree of creation & knowledge (not banyan/ neem).
- **Swastiks & Cross signs** appear for the **first time** (still prevalent in Hinduism); **Swastiks & Chakras → worship of the Sun God.**
- **Sacred bird = Pigeon; Fire altars = Kalibangan, Lothal & Banawali** (fire worship).
- **No temples / no idol-in-temple**; an essentially **secular** civilization. Later (Late-Harappan) regional cultures of Sindh = **Jhukar & Jhangar.**

THEME (proto-Hindu roots):

- Shiva (Pashupati/lingam), Shakti (Mother Goddess), sacred tree (Pipal) and Sun (Swastik/Chakra) worship all seed later Hinduism — yet there is **no organised priesthood architecture.**

13. SEALS, SCRIPT & POTTERY

- **Seals:** mostly **Steatite/Terracotta** (not ivory); **500+ found**; shapes **square & rectangular**; **most frequent animal = Unicorn (probably a rhinoceros)**; the **bull/Pashupati "seat" = Mohenjo-Daro**.
- **(Enrichment)** Seals were **intaglio-carved** with a perforated **boss** at the back for stringing; they functioned as **commercial stamps/property marks**, pressed onto clay tags on trade bundles.
- **Script (Indus):** **64 "letters" / 250–400 symbols** (~65 core signs cited); **pictographic & undeciphered**; written **boustrophedon** (right→left in line 1, then left→right); **most-represented symbol = the Fish**.
- **(Enrichment)** Decipherment attempts by **Iravatham Mahadevan** and **Asko Parpola** suggest a likely **Dravidian (proto-Dravidian)** language, but no reading is confirmed; the script is **logo-syllabic**.
- **Pottery:** Harappans were great exponents of the **Potter's Wheel**; brightly glazed ware = **Ochre-Coloured Ware (OCW)**; the classic ware is **red pottery painted with black designs**.

14. ART & ARCHITECTURE

- **Most notable artistic achievement = Seal Engraving.**
- **Bronze "Dancing Girl" = Mohenjo-Daro (1926)** — cast by the **Lost-Wax (cire perdue)** technique; a small (~10.5 cm) naturalistic figure with bangles.
- **Steatite "Priest-King" (Mohenjo-Daro)** — bearded, with a **trefoil-patterned shawl**, an enrichment example of elite portraiture.
- **Greatest number of statues = Priests & Yogi; the man with a bronze chariot = Daimabad (Maharashtra).**
- **Terracotta = fire-baked clay sculptures** (figurines, toys, carts); **handwoven cotton clothes = Mohenjo-Daro; terracotta horse = Rangpur & Lothal.**
- **Bangle factories = Balakot & Chanhudaro; shell-artisan factories = Lothal; a tiger image appears on the Kalibangan seal.**

15. DECLINE — SCHOLAR-WISE THEORIES

Cause	Proposed by
Environmental degradation	John Marshall
Aryan Invasion	Gordon & Wheeler
Natural calamities	K.A.R. Kennedy
Tectonic movements	M.R. Sahni
Frequent floods (cities abandoned & rebuilt)	(general scholarly view)
Earthquake	(Raikes & Dales)

- **(Enrichment)** The modern consensus favours **gradual de-urbanisation** driven by the **drying of the Ghaggar-Hakra (Saraswati)** system and a **weakening monsoon (~2000 BCE)**, prompting an **eastward population shift toward the Gangetic plains** — not a single catastrophe. Late-Harappan successors include the **Cemetery-H, Jhukar, and Rangpur** cultures.

THEME

- Memorise the **scholar → theory** pairs (pure match-the-pair material); but the climate-and-river explanation is the one to cite in a Mains/interview answer.

16. AUTHORS / RACE & RECENT RESEARCH

- **Authors = Pre-Aryan**; population multi-group (farmers, pastoralists, hunter-gatherers); racially mixed, with the **Mediterranean type dominant** (plus Proto-Australoid, Mongoloid, Alpine). **Bronze** corresponds to the IVC era.
- **(Enrichment) The Rakhigarhi ancient-DNA study (2019)** — led by **Vasant Shinde & Niraj Rai** — found a population with **negligible Steppe (Central Asian) and Iranian-farmer ancestry**, pointing to a **largely indigenous** people. This strongly **weakens the "Aryan invasion"** model and supports the view that the Harappans were an in-situ South-Asian population, possibly **proto-Dravidian** speakers.

17. RAPID-FIRE TRAP SHEET & MNEMONICS (REVISE LAST)

- **NOT known** → **"ICH": Iron, Coins, Horse**. Knew: cotton (first), bronze, wheel.
- **Site-river (HIKE-RB)**: Harappa-Ravi, Mohenjodaro-Indus, Kalibangan-Ghaggar, Ropar-Sutlej, Lothal-Bhogava.
- **Special sites**: Lothal = world's first tidal **dockyard**; Chanhudaro = **no citadel + curved bricks**; Dholavira = **Rann of Kutch + reservoirs + signboard**.
- **Excavators (MaCu-MaC + Rao-Bisht)**: Marshall (coined term + DG), Cunningham (first surveyor/traces), Mason (first visitor 1826); Harappa = Sahni, Mohenjodaro = Banerjee, Lothal = Rao, Dholavira = Joshi/Bisht, Chanhudaro = Majumdar/Mackay.
- **Pashupati animals = Elephant-Tiger-Rhino-Buffalo** (cow absent on seals). **Pipal = supreme tree. Unicorn = most frequent seal animal. Fish = most frequent script symbol.**
- **Meluhha = Indus (Cuneiform); Dilmun = Bahrain; Magan = Oman. Carnelian = Gujarat (not Oman).**
- **NOT sugarcane** — grew wheat & barley. **No horse** except Surkotada/Sutkagen-Dor.
- **Measurements**: Great Bath $11.88 \times 7.01 \times 2.43$; Biggest Granary 45.71×15.23 ; brick ratio **4:2:1**.
- **Decline pairs**: Marshall = environment, Wheeler/Gordon = Aryan, Kennedy = natural calamity, Sahni = tectonic.
- **Firsts**: first cotton (Sindon), first rice (Rangpur), earliest ploughed field (Kalibangan), terracotta plough (Banawali), Dancing Girl (lost-wax), Mohenjodaro UNESCO 1980, Dholavira first Indian IVC WHS.
- **(Enrichment) Precursor = Mehrgarh; ~1,400 sites (most in India); Rakhigarhi = largest Indian site; 2019 DNA = indigenous people.**

THEME

- If time is short, master the **site grid + ICH trap + special sites + excavators + Pashupati/Pipal/Meluhha + imports table + scholar-decline pairs** — this block carries the overwhelming majority of any IVC paper.