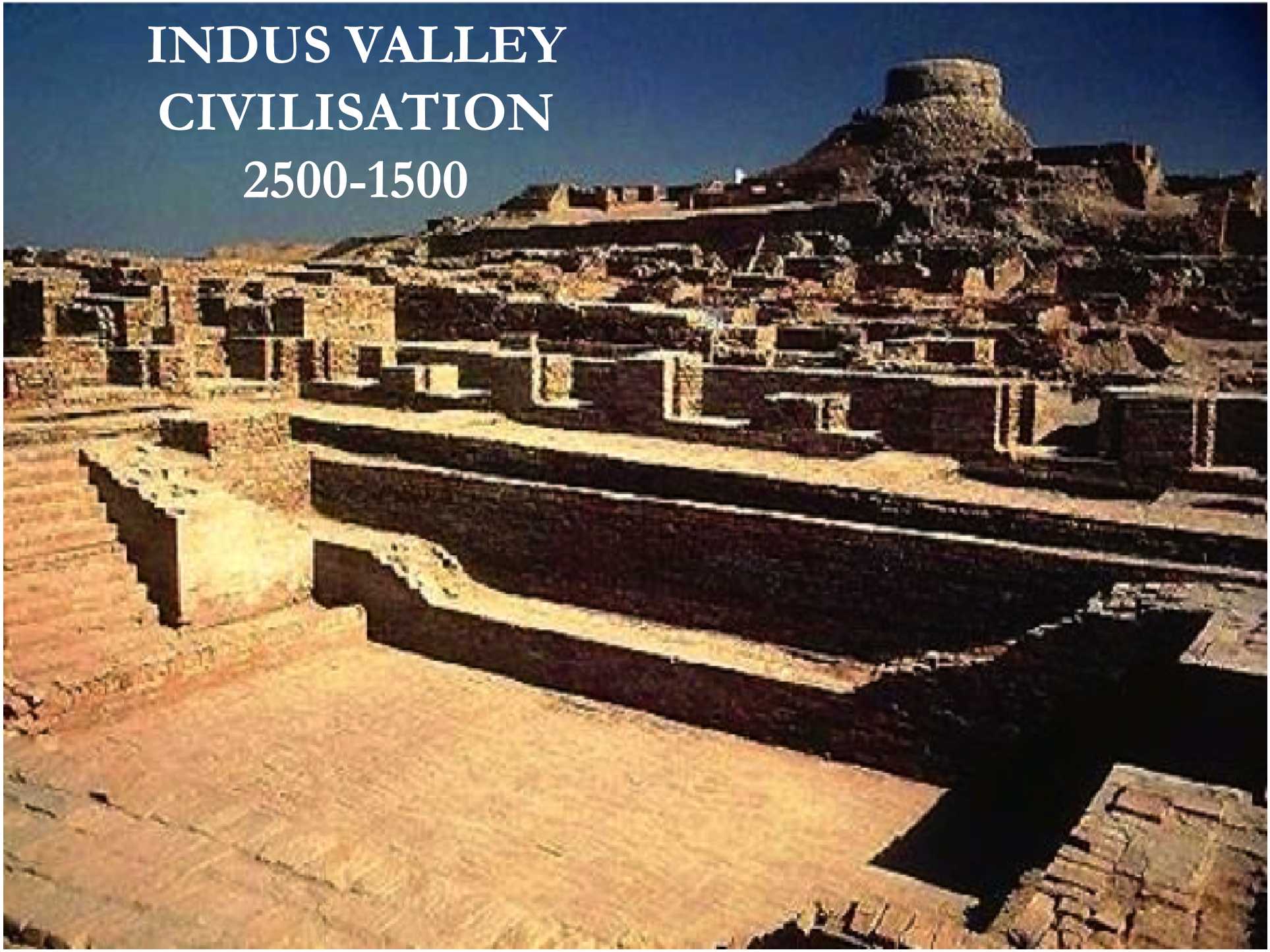
INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION 2500-1500



DISCOVERY

- 1826 a British army deserter, James Lewis, noticed the presence of mounded ruins at a small town in Punjab called Harappa.
- Alexander Cunningham, who headed the Archaeological Survey of India, visited this site in 1853 and 1856 while looking for the cities that had been visited by Chinese pilgrims in the Buddhist period.
- 1920 excavations began in earnest at Harappa under John Marshall, then the director of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- 1986 the late George Dales of the University of California at Berkeley established the Harappan Archaeological Project, or HARP.

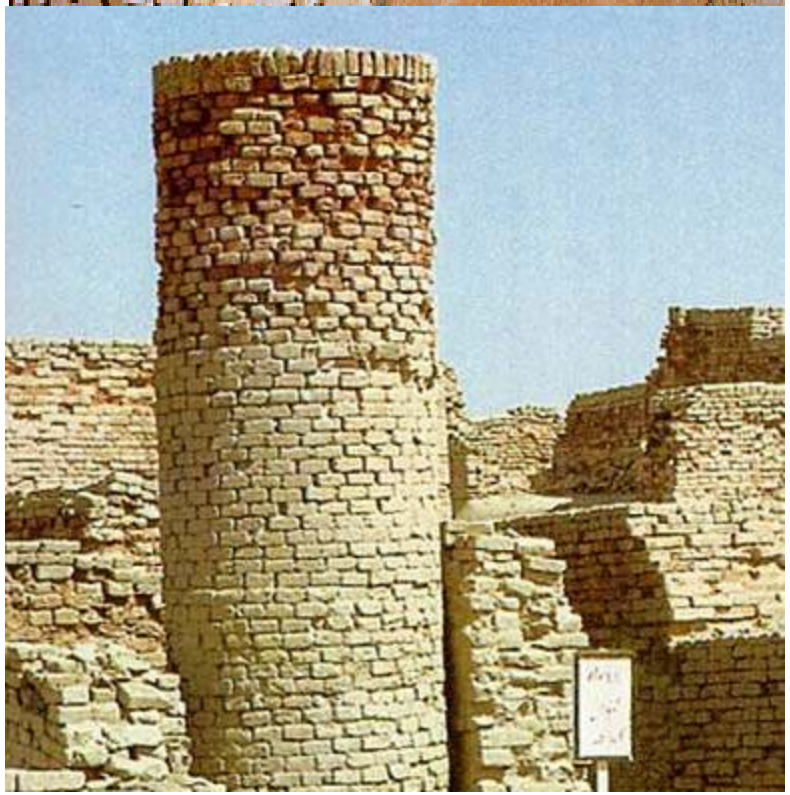
kabul
Zarif karuna
Islamabad
Sarai Khola
Rahman Dheri
Lahore
Rupar
Bhagwanpura
Periano Ghndai
Jalilpur
Harappa
Balochistan
Quetta
Rana gundai
Punjab
Dadheri
Alamgirpur
Banawali
Hastinapura
Mehrgarh
Pirak
Ahichhatra
Delhi
Kalibangan
Nausharo
R.Ganges
R.Yamuna
Indus River
Ghaggar-Hakra River
Cholistan
Tarkhanawala-dera
Mathura
Rajastan
Mohenjo-daro
Kot Diji
Thar Desert
Miri Kalat
Sind
Nindowari
Amri
Balakot
Chanhu-daro
Makran
Karachi
Allahdino
Sutkagen-dor
Dholavira
Surkotada
mehsna
Desalpur
Ahmadabad
Lothal
Runn of Kutch
Rangpur
Saurashtra
=Sites belongs early farming cultures
=Sites belongs Indus Civ.
=Sites belongs Post Indus cultures
=modern city
=alluvial plain
=hills
=Rann
0
200km
Arabian Sea

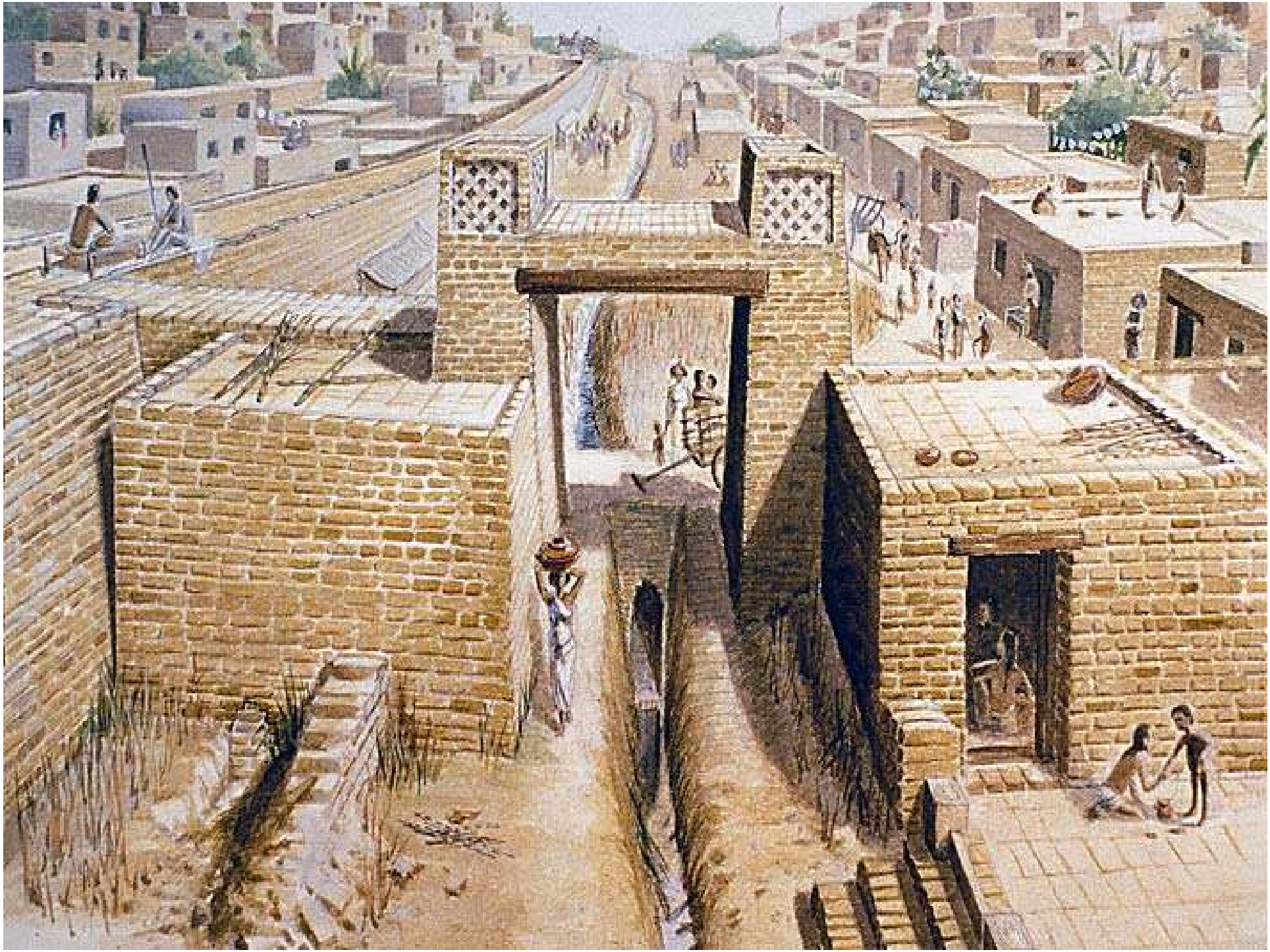
IMPORTANT CITIES

• Harappa (Punjab)	R.Ravi
• Mohanjodaro (Sindh)	R. Sindh
• Chandudaro (Sindh)	R.Sindh
• Lothal (Gujarat)	R.Sabarmati & R.Bhagwas
• Kalibangan (Rajasthan)	R.Ghaggar
• Banawali (Harayana)	R.Saraswati
• Sutkagendor (coastal city with Citadel)	R.Dashta
• Surkotada (coastal city with Citadel)	Rann of Kutch
• Rangpur (Kathiywarh peninsula of Gujarat)	R.Meedar
• Rojdi (Kathiywarh peninsula of Gujarat)	
• Dholavira (Kutch area of Gujarat)	Rann of Kutch
• Rakhigarhi (Haryana)	

TOWN PLANNING

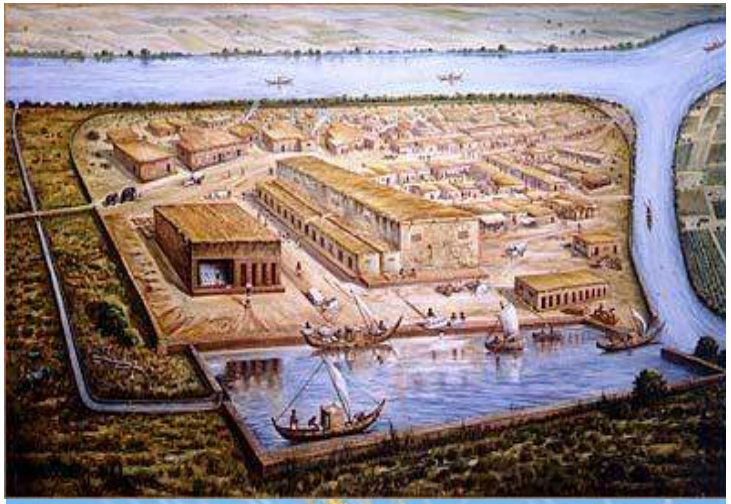
- Citadel / Acropolis for the ruling class.
- Below citadel was the lower town.
- Great Bath (Mohanjodaro) flooring was burnt brick and tar residue. [11.8 x 7.01 mtr dimension & 2.43 mtr deep].
- Great granary of Mohajodaro largest building [45.71 x 15.23 mtr].
- Harappa had 6 granaries.
- Kalibangan shows burnt brick flooring structure, presumably a granary.
- Indus valley was only civilization that used burnt brick on large scale, Mesopotamia used very few.
- All houses had courtyards
- Kalibangan every house had own well
- Street equipped with manholes [Drains absent in banawali].
- Streets cut at 90 degree angle

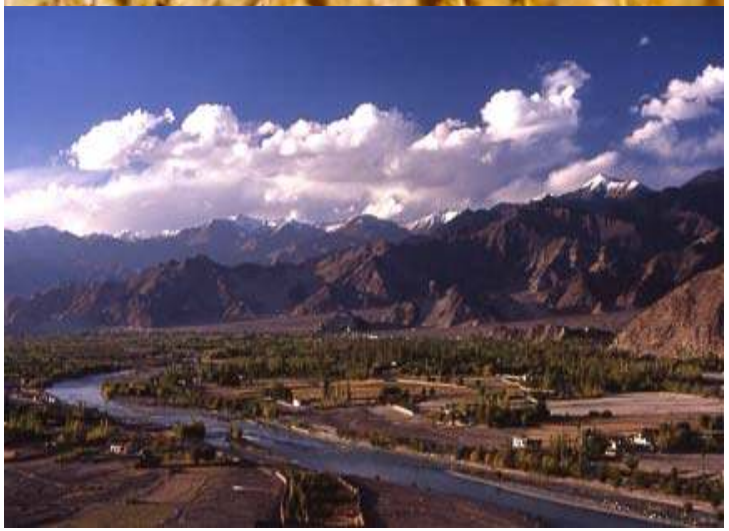




AGRICULTURE

- River beds used for cultivation as inundations allowed better harvest
- River was separated from town using burnt brick walls
- Still absence of ploughshare and Hoes
- Furrows were discovered at Kalibangan
- Stone sickles used for harvesting
- *Gabarband* and *Nala* enclosed by dams to store water, but irrigation is absent
- Seeds sowed in flood planes in November when floods receded and harvest reaped in april
- Main crops : Barley, Wheat, Rai, Peas, Seasum and Mustard.
- Lotal eveidnce of Rice
- Indus people were first to discover Cotton. Greeks called it *Sindon*.





DOMESTICATION

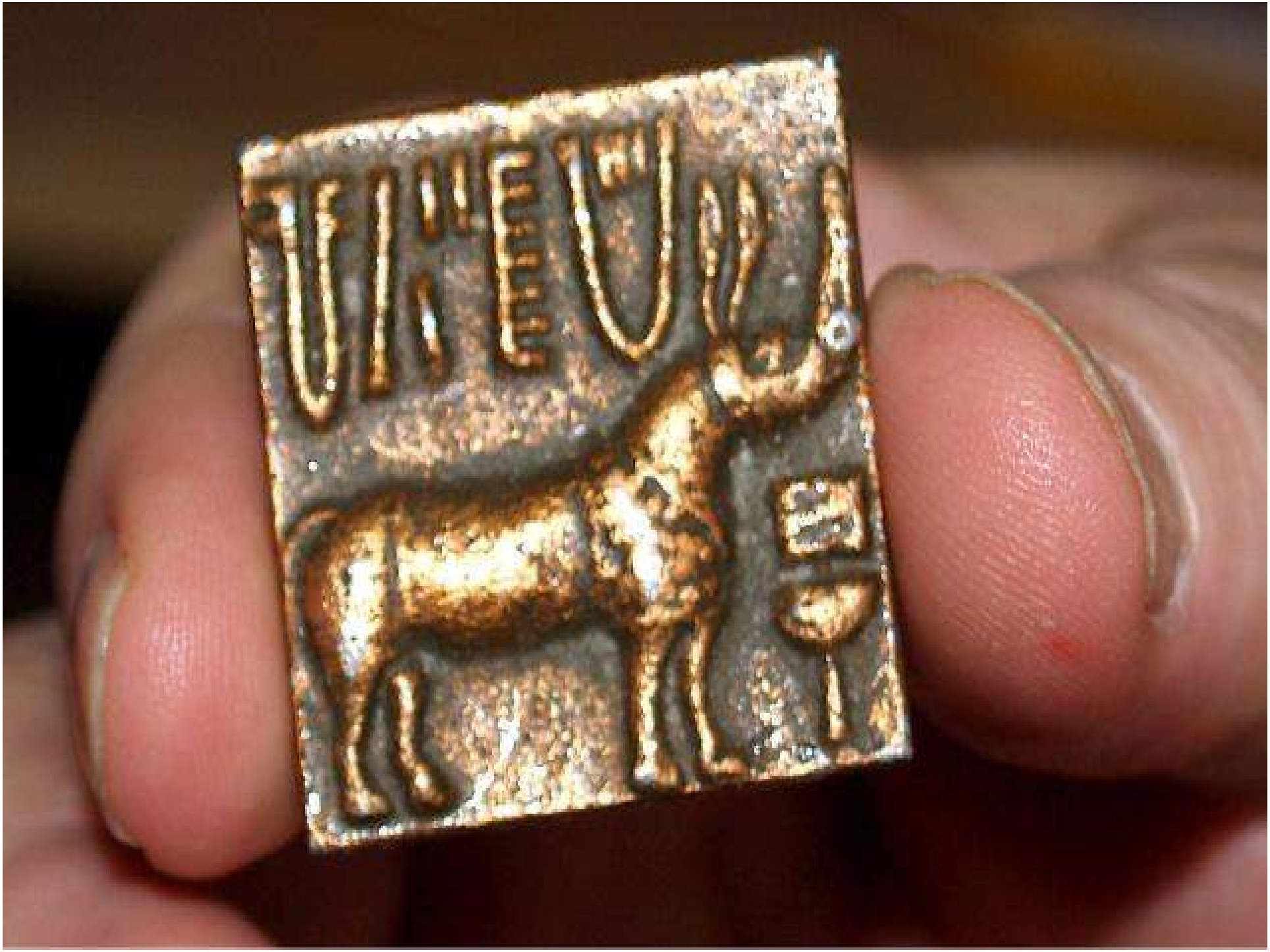
- Animal Domestication on large scale.
- Oxens, Buffaloes, Goats, Sheeps and Pigs.
- Humped Bull was favored (*Jubu*).
- Cats and Dogs were commonly domesticated.
- Also kept Asses and Camels as beast of burden.
- Horse terracotta figures found in Lothal.
- Superficial level evidence of Horse from Mohanjodaro and Harappa.
- Horse remains from Surkotada.
- Elephants were also known to Harappas, as domestication evidence from Gujarat available.
- Harappans also knew Rhinoceros.

CRAFT & TECHNOLOGY

- Used tools of Stone as well as Bronze
- Bronze = Tin + Copper, Indus people were well acquainted
- Copper was sourced from Khetadi mines of Rajasthan
- Tin was brought from Afghanistan or Bastar
- Piece of woven cotton found in Mohanjodaro
- Spindle whorl used for spinning both cotton and wool
- Brick laying an important industry
- Expert in Boat making
- Potters wheel came into full use providing symmetry
- weights that have been recovered have shown a remarkable accuracy. They follow a binary decimal system: 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, up to 12,800 units, where one unit weighs approximately 0.85 grams.

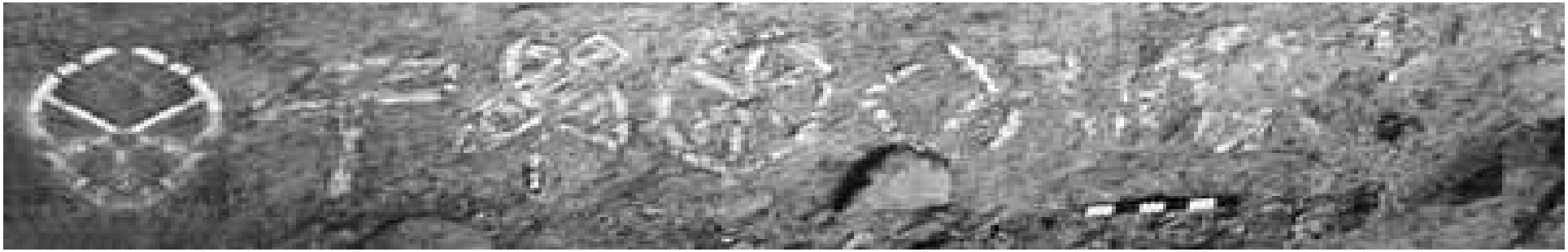
SEALS & IMAGES

- 2000 seals have been found from Indus region
- Carry inscription with pictures of Horned bull, Buffalo, Tiger, Rhinoceros, Goat ad Elephant and even Unicorns
- Similar images were also made by the artisans in metal
- Woman dancer of Indus is a grand specimen of Harappan craft
- Terracotta figures were rampant
- Steatite statue of robed priest is the apex of Indus craft
- No massive stone work in harappa unlike its contemporaries



SCRIPT

- Harappan's invented the art of writing but their script is yet to be accepted as deciphered
- 4000 specimen of writing from boards to seals
- Their script is mostly pictographic



DECLINE

- Later phase of civilization saw fall in urbanization process and new cities lacked planning.
- Due to absence of material culture it us difficult to pin point the reason for decline

1. **Wheelers Aryan Invasion Theory**
2. **Raikes Tectonic Activity Theory**
3. **Fairservis Ecologocal Problem Theory**
4. **Mackay, Lambrick & Marshall River Vagary Theory**
5. **Upinder Singh Drought Theory**