

NATIONAL WEBINAR 2020-2021

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & TOURISM



Welcome

NAIONAL WEBINAR ON

**RECENT PEREPECTIVES IN THE
RESEARCH OF INDUS CIVILIZATION**

11th June, 2020

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Organised by

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & TOURISM in association with **IQAR**
SRI Y.N.COLLEGE

National Webinar was organized by the Department of History & Tourism on 11th June, 2020 by Prof K P Rao, Department of History, University of Hyderabad on the topic **“RECENT PERSPECTIVES IN THE RESEARCH OF INDUS CIVILIZATION”**. In this program 220 Faculty members and Research Scholars participated.

ABOUT THE WEBINAR

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

In 2600 B.C, small Early Harappan communities had developed into large urban centers. These cities include Harappa, Ganeriwala, and Mohenjo-Daro in modern-day Pakistan and Dholavira, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, Rupar, and Lothal in modern-day India. In total, more than 1,052 cities and settlements have been found, mainly in the general region of the Indus River and its tributaries.

Mohenjo-Daro is thought to have been built in the twenty-sixth century B.C; it became not only the largest city of the Indus Valley Civilization but one of the world's earliest major urban centers. Located west of the Indus River in the Larkana District, Mohenjo-Daro was one of the most sophisticated cities of the period, with advanced engineering and urban planning.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AT THE LOWER TOWN OF LOTHAL,

Harappa was a fortified city in modern-day Pakistan that is believed to have been home to as many as 23,500 residents living in sculpted houses with flat roofs made of red sand and clay. The city spread over 150 hectares—370 acres—and had fortified administrative and religious centers of the same type used in Mohenjo-Daro.



EXCAVATED RUINS OF MOHENJO-DARO, WITH THE GREAT BATH

The people of the Indus River Valley Civilization achieved many notable advances in technology, including great accuracy in their systems and tools for measuring length and mass. Fire-baked bricks—which were uniform in size and moisture-resistant—were important in building baths and sewage structures and are evidence that Harappans were among the first to develop a system of **standardized weights and measures**. The consistency of brick size across cities also suggests unity across the various urban areas, which is evidence of a broader civilization.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG OF A WATER RESERVOIR AT DHOLAVIRA

Harappans are known for **seal carving**— the cutting of patterns into the bottom face of a **seal**, a small, carved object used for stamping. They used these distinctive seals for the identification of property and to stamp clay on trade goods. Seals—decorated with animal figures, such as elephants, tigers, and water buffalos—have been one of the most commonly discovered artifacts in Indus Valley cities.



MOLD OF A SEAL FROM THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

RELIGION, LANGUAGE, AND CULTURE

Little is known about Harappan religion and language. A collection of written texts on clay and stone tablets unearthed at Harappa—which have been carbon dated 3300-3200 BCE—contain trident-shaped, plant-like markings that appear to be written from right to left.



THE TEN INDUS SCRIPTS' DISCOVERED NEAR THE NORTHERN GATEWAY OF THE CITADEL DHOLAVIRA.

The Harappan religion also remains a topic of speculation. It has been widely suggested that the Harappans worshipped a mother goddess who symbolized fertility. In contrast to Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilizations, the Indus Valley Civilization seems to have lacked any temples or palaces that would give clear evidence of religious rites or specific deities.



A COLLECTION OF INDUS VALLEY SEALS

Indus Valley excavation sites have revealed a number of distinct examples of the culture's art, including sculptures, seals, pottery, gold jewelry, and anatomically detailed figurines in terracotta, bronze, and steatite.



INDUS PRIEST/KING STATUE. THE STATUE IS 17.5 CM HIGH AND CARVED FROM STEATITE. IT WAS FOUND IN MOHENJO-DARO IN 1927.

Another figurine in bronze, known as the *Dancing Girl*, is only 11 centimeters high and shows a female figure in a pose that suggests the presence of some choreographed dance form enjoyed by members of the civilization.



REPLICA OF 'DANCING GIRL' OF MOHENJO-DARO

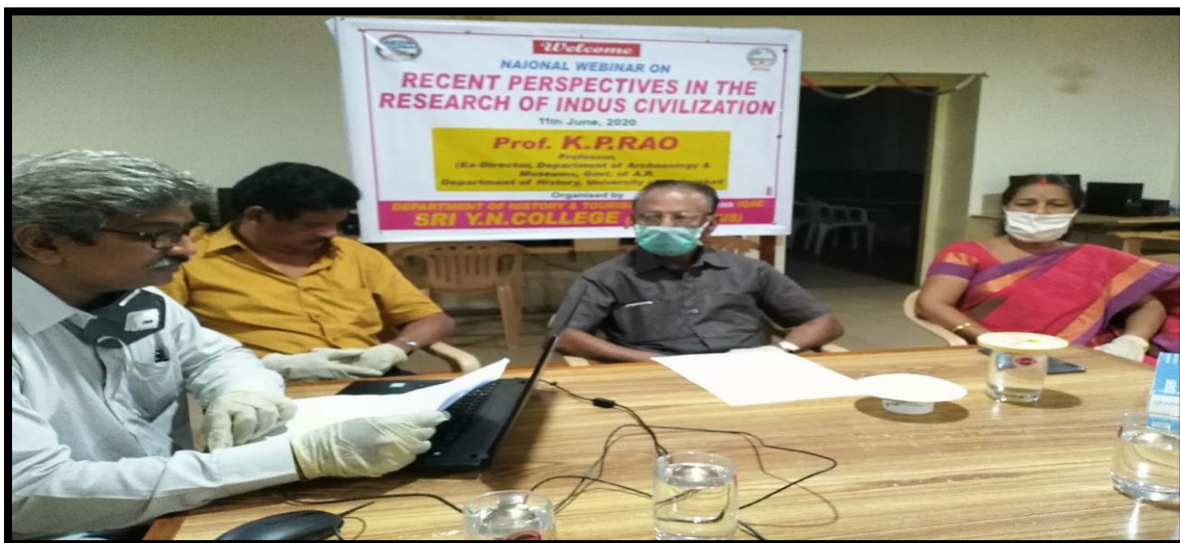
DECLINE

The Indus Valley Civilization declined around 1800 BCE, and scholars debate which factors resulted in the civilization's demise. One theory suggested that a nomadic, Indo-European tribe called the Aryans invaded and conquered the Indus Valley Civilization, though more recent evidence tends to contradict this claim. Many scholars believe that the collapse of the Indus Valley Civilization was caused by climate change. Some experts believe the drying of the Saraswati River, which began around 1900 BCE, was the main cause for climate change, while others conclude that a great flood struck the area.

Various elements of the Indus Civilization are found in later cultures, suggesting the civilization did not disappear suddenly due to an invasion. Many scholars argue that changes in river patterns caused the large civilization to break up into smaller communities called **late Harappan cultures**.

Another disastrous change in the Harappan climate might have been eastward-moving **monsoons**, or winds that bring heavy rains. Monsoons can be both helpful and detrimental to a climate, depending on whether they support or destroy vegetation and agriculture.

S. Soma Sekhar, Lecturer in History Introducing the Guest Speaker Prof. K.P Rao.



Our Secretary and Correspondent Dr.C. Sathya Narayana Rao garu addressing the Participants.

Prof. K.P .Rao Delivering the Lecture



Vote of thanks by Our Principal Smt. S.M. Maheswari.



Our Secretary and Correspondent Dr.C. Sathya Narayana Rao garu, PG Courses Director In-charge Dr.R Parthasaradhi, Acedemic and Research advisor R.V Subbarao, HRD Director Dr.Ch Srinivas, HOD of MCA Dept. P.Syambabu, Guest Speaker Prof. K.P .Rao and Others at the end of the webinar.