INTRODUCTION:
The Indus or Harappan civilization was long forgotten till it was rediscovered in the late 19th century. Till then it was thought that South Asia was first colonized by urban civilizations during the first millennium BCE in the Indo-Gangetic plains by the people of the Mahabharata epic. Studies of Harappa and Mohenjodaro established its contemporaneity with Old Kingdom of Egypt and Akkadian and Ur III empires of Mesopotamia. But though the Egyptian and Mesopotamian kingdoms continued to thrive, the Indus civilization collapsed in the mid second millennium BCE and was soon lost into oblivion. However, we now know that the legacy left by the Harappans continues into the present day as many aspects of modern life in South Asia seem to be derived from the Harappans.
What led to the emergence of these civilizations is still unclear. But perhaps stabilization of sea level about 7000 years ago (after it rose rapidly from the Last Glacial Maxima ~18,000 years ago) resulted in increased availability of high-quality food necessary for the development of urban lifestyles. (Day et. al. 2007).
Recent systematic and scientific researches using modern techniques, under international collaborations at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, investigations of a large number of new sites including rural settlements and craft centers have led to better understanding of the civilization.
The Harappan civilization was marked by urbanism. The core trends of urbanism as seen at Harappan sites include:
2. Development of public architecture.
3. Social differentiation.
4. Development of writing and other related features.
5. Cultural unification (Possehl 1986b: 95 - 6)
**Discovery:**
After its decline, the civilization that developed in the towns of Harappa, Mohenjodaro and others in the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra rivers went into oblivion for nearly three thousand years. Earlier it was thought that urban civilization emerged in India only in the mid first millennium BCE in the Gangetic Plains as we learn also from the accounts given in the great Indian epic, the Mahabharata. By this time the Mesopotamian civilization had already fallen down. In 1826 Charles Masson was the first to report Harappan brick walls and ruins of an ancient settlement. However, he thought that it belonged to the period of Alexander the Great. In 1872, Sir Alexander Cunningham, (Archaeological Surveyor from 1861 –1871 and Director-General of the newly established Archaeological Survey of India from 1871-1885) saw the ruins of Harappa. Though he published a number of remains from Harappa, including the inscribed Indus seal, he believed it on local accounts to be parts of a fifteen hundred year old fortress. Moreover the city had already suffered from vandalism and plundered for its bricks. It was only in 1920, that Sir John Marshall restarted work on Harappa under the direction of D.R. Sahni. Similarly excavations at Mohenjodaro began in 1922 under R.D. Bannerji which was 400 miles apart but brought to light strikingly similar archaeological material, including uniform architecture. On the basis of stratigraphy, deposits lying below historical period material, lack of iron and presence of copper, and undeciphered ancient script Marshall concluded that these were remains of a civilization predating the Mauryas, and as old as the civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia, however, indigenously developed.

Explorations and excavations brought to light a number of Indus sites, from as far as Kotla Nihang Khan in east Punjab and Rangpur in Saurashtra to Alangipur in Uttar Pradesh and Daimabad in Maharashtra. Aurel Stein explored and located many sites in the Bahawalpur region. Many early sites were located in Baluchistan including Periano Ghundai, and also in Sindh region revealing the presence of an earlier pre-Urban phase of the Indus civilization. Discoveries also revealed the existence of a degenerate phase of the Indus civilization. Extensive work in the region showed that the Indus civilization was much larger in extent than other contemporary kingdoms including the Old Kingdom of Egypt and the Mesopotamian empires.
But it was Wheeler’s work in the 1940s that...
dominated thinking on these civilizations until recently. He reinitiated work on Harappa, including excavations at the cemetery H and R-37 and concluded that Indo-Aryans destroyed the Indus towns …“[it] may be no mere chance that at a late period of Mohenjo-daro men, women and children appear to have been massacred there . . . On circumstantial evidence, Indra stands accused” (Wheeler 1947).

Wheeler popularized Mohenjodaro and Harappa as the twin capitals ruled probably by priest-kings. He also laid the idea of well laid out cities following a standard plan similar to later Hellenistic towns, with a fortified citadel containing public buildings and a residential lower town and uniform material culture. He proposed the idea of a great civilization but that which continued unchanged for over fifteen hundred years.

After the partition of India and Pakistan, investigations received a boost and a number of sites were discovered in India, including Lothal by S.R. Rao and Kalibangan by Lal and Thapar. Similarly a number of studies were undertaken by the Pakistan Directorate of Archaeology, including at Kot Diji and several other places.

Nomenclature:

It was earlier named as the 'Indus Valley Civilization' because in the early days most settlements were discovered in the plains of the river Indus and its tributaries. However, later discoveries revealed similar towns and cities from the Ghagghar-Hakra Rivers in Haryana and Rajasthan and also from Gujarat-Saurashtra and the Indo-Gangetic plains. Therefore now archaeologists prefer to call it the 'Harappan Civilization'. This is so because there is a convention of naming the ancient cultures discovered after the name of the site where it was first found.

Geographical Spread:

The Indus civilization developed in the region between the dry Iranian plateau and tropical South Asian peninsula dominated by the monsoons in present day Pakistan and North-Western India including Baluchistan, Sindh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Saurashtra. This region at that time was drained by the Indus and its tributaries and the Ghaggar-Hakra rivers mainly.

The Indus is fed by five rivers rising in the Himalayas with a confluence at Panjab forming the lower course of the Indus in Sindh region which is largely arid and therefore supporting agriculture along river banks and pastoral communities elsewhere. A number of sites have been found both in the Upper Indus and Lower Indus forming one core region of the Harappan civilization.
In the 3rd millennium BCE, the Ghaggar-Hakra flowed parallel to the Indus across what is now the Thar Desert and a number of sites have been found in the now dry riverbeds of the Ghaggar-Hakra in Cholistan desert and also Rajasthan, including Kalibangan. To the west of the Aravalli Hills in central India lived a number of hunter-gatherer and pastoral communities.

Gujarat was the southern province of the Indus civilization: Today Kutch is separated from the Indian mainland by the marshy Ranns, but at that time it was probably open water as the Indus entered the Arabian Sea south of its present delta.

A few sites have been found in western Uttar Pradesh in the Yamuna valley including Alamgirpur.

Trade routes across the Iranian plateau served communications with Near Eastern civilizations, while the Arabian Sea provided maritime connections with the Gulf, the Near East, Arabia, East Africa, south India, eastern India, and Southeast Asia.

Thus we know that in the 3rd millennium this civilization flourished over an area far larger than contemporary Mesopotamia and Egypt.

**Chronology:**
Marshall was the first to conclude that the seals, terracottas, script and the architectural remains unearthed from Indus towns of Harappa and Mohenjodaro were the remains of an ancient civilization. This he inferred from the fact that:

- these remains were quite different from any known material,
- the deposits from which they were uncovered lay underneath a Buddhist monastery of the Kushan period,
- lack of iron and presence of copper indicating a pre-iron age,
- undeciphered ancient script
- Similar objects were reported from some sites in Mesopotamia which were dated to early 3rd millennium BCE.

Therefore he concluded that these were remains of a civilization predating the Mauryas, and as old as the civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia.

It was only with the advent of radiocarbon dating techniques that Harappan remains from several sites could be dated absolutely. Excavations and dating at Mehrgarh on the Bolan Pass revealed early development of farming by 7th to 8th millennium BCE roughly at the same time as in West Asia. Agricultural settlements spread to Baluchistan and neighbouring regions by the end of the 4th millennium BCE. During this time several regional groups could be identified on the basis of artifact styles, mainly pottery styles: Amri-Nal in Sindh, southern Baluchistan; Damb Sadaat in central Baluchistan; Kot Diji in central and northern Baluchistan, including Cholistan; and Sothi-Siswal in the east. Yet they had features antecedent to the Harappan civilization.

The chronology for the origin, development and decline of the Harappan civilization has been a matter of debate among archaeologists. We summarize two major viewpoints here:
Table 1: Chronology and terminology of the Harappan Civilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Years (BC)</th>
<th>Chronology according to Kenoyer (1998)</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Years (BC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IA/B</td>
<td>Early Harappan/Ravi Phase</td>
<td>ca 3300-2800</td>
<td>1 Beginning of village farming communities and pastoral societies (two non-contemporaneous phases)</td>
<td>7000-5000 and 5000-4300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Early Harappan/Kot Diji Phase</td>
<td>ca 2800-2600</td>
<td>2 Developed village farming communities and pastoral societies (two non-contemporaneous phases)</td>
<td>4300-3800 and 3800-3200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Harappan</td>
<td>ca 2600-2450</td>
<td>3 Early Harappan (four contemporaneous phases)</td>
<td>3200-2600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Harappan</td>
<td>ca 2450-2200</td>
<td>4 Early Harappan/Mature Harappan Transition</td>
<td>2600-2500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C</td>
<td>Harappan</td>
<td>ca 2200-1900</td>
<td>5 Mature Harappan (five contemporaneous phases)</td>
<td>2500-1900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Harappan/Late Harappan Transitional</td>
<td>1900-1700</td>
<td>6 Post-urban Harappan (several non-contemporaneous phases)</td>
<td>1900-1000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Late Harappan (Cemetery H)</td>
<td>1700-1300</td>
<td>7 Early Iron Age of N. India and Pakistan Painted Grey Ware (PGW)</td>
<td>1000-500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This can be easily explained below:

5500 – 3500 BC (Neolithic): Emergence of permanent villages with pastoralism and limited cultivation in Baluchistan and Indus plains at sites like Mehrgarh and Kili Ghul Muhammad.

3500 – 2600 BC (Early Harappan or Pre-Urban Harappan): Spread of settlements. Beginning of the use of copper, wheel and plough. Emergence of characteristic features of the Harappan civilization but still marked by regional traditions.

2600 – 1800 BC (Mature Harappan or Urban Harappan): Emergence of large planned cities, uniformity in material culture like standard types of bricks, weights, seals, beads and pottery characteristic of the Harappan Civilization.

1800 BC (Late Harappan or Post-Urban Harappan): Many Harappan sites were abandoned and urbanism of the Harappan civilization gives way to village life once again. Degenerate features of Harappan life continue with some Harappan crafts and pottery tradition.

Jim Shaffer reviewed the chronology of the Pre-urban and Urban Harappan Phases and concluded that the transition from the ‘Early Harappan’ to the ‘Mature Harappan’ took place about 2600 to 2500 B. C. and that this transition was an abrupt one. The transition to the
Indus Civilization was not homogenous, and it occurred at different places at slightly different times beginning with a rapid transition in Sindh during the time range 2600 to 2500 B.C.

**Origins of Agriculture and Settled Village Life:**
Following the last Ice Age, farming developed in many areas of the world and by 7000 BCE farming spread throughout the Near East. The earliest evidence for the emergence of agricultural communities comes from Mehrgarh on the Kacchi Plains near Bolan pass in Baluchistan.

**Mehrgarh:** Mehrgarh revealed settlements dated to as early as 7000 BCE. Period I revealed rectangular mud brick houses with two to four rooms. A multicellular compartmented building has been identified as granary. Besides, stone blades, grindstones and bone tools were recovered. Few unbaked clay figurines, but no pottery was found. The dead were interred between houses with grave goods, including ornaments made of shell, steatite, lapis lazuli, and turquoise.

Mehrgarh is the only farming settlement of this antiquity known from the Indo-Iranian borderland region. A few other aceramic (pre-pottery) farming sites may date to 6th mill. BCE such as Kili Ghul Mohammad near modern Quetta and Gumla on the plains of the Gomal River.

This leaves the question unanswered whether domestication of wheat, barley and goat was brought by outsiders, or local Baluchi people acquired it through long distance exchange networks or indigenously domesticated them from local wild stock. Genetic studies suggest that the first domesticates were introduced from the Near East and not locally domesticated and they also suggest that these plants were domesticated once only: wheat (emmer and einkorn), pea, chickpea, and lentil in southeast Anatolia and barley in the Jordan Valley. Further, wild ancestors of emmer and einkorn wheat were present in the Near East, but not found farther east and therefore not local. Barley might have been locally domesticated. Wild goats were native fauna of Baluchistan, but most goat remains at Mehrgarh were domesticated and only few were wild. Genetic studies show that goats were domesticated in several places and so they could have either been introduced from the Near East or locally domesticated in Baluchistan.

The next question of the origin of these settlers is also problematic. Some scholars suggested that they had settled here coming from West Asia through northern Iran. But Kennedy found no more differences among the bones of Mehgarh and other early South Asian sites than one would expect within a population suggesting that they were probably of South Asian stock. But genetic studies show that though DNA indicates little or no contribution to the gene pool from outside the subcontinent, but Y-chromosomes of South Asians cluster with Near Eastern and Europeans, suggesting a migration of largely males from West Asia.

But we are hampered by the evidence from a single site of this period leaving the question of agricultural origins unanswered.

During the late 4th and mid 3rd mill. BC, a number of settlements sprang up in the Indus system, the Indo-Iranian borderlands and the Ghaggar-Hakra system, exploiting the fertile flood plains of the rivers. There is seen the emergence of early features of settlement which
may have given rise to the urbanism of the Mature Indus civilization in the mid 3rd mill. BC. Shaffer has highlighted the role of pastoralism and agriculture in both local and long distance trade. Trade routes provided stimulus for the growth of incipient urbanism. This period of development is known as ‘Early Harappan’ or Pre-Harappan or Pre Urban phase of Harappan’ as certain features characteristic of the Mature Harappan civilization are seen to have taken their roots at this time only.

**The Early Harappan Period:**

**Southern Afghanistan:**
Mundigak in Southern Afghanistan located on a trade route grew from a small camping site of nomadic groups into a large township. During period II the houses are larger and well-constructed with central hearth in many rooms. One house had a well with a brick head. The pottery is mainly handmade and undecorated. Important finds include a crude stone disc seal and a bifacially worked stone leaf shaped arrowhead. During period III, six phases of construction are evident. Structures included a cemetery with contracted burials without grave goods in the early phase and communal ossuaries in the later phase. Pottery is increasingly wheel made with painted decoration including black geometric designs on a red surface or polychrome decoration. Use of copper and bronze also increases. A bronze shaft-hole axe and a shaft-hole adze were found in III.6. Numerous terracotta figurines include humped bull and crude female figurines. Numerous square and circular flat stone seals are also found.

During period IV, it was transformed into a town with a massive defense wall with square bastions of sun dried bricks. A large building with rows of pillars has been identified as a palace, the brick walls of which had a colonnade of pilaster. Another large structure looks like a temple. Pottery was decorated with red slip and black paint using naturalistic motifs like birds, ibex, bull and Pipal trees. Terracotta female figurines similar to ‘Zhob mother goddess’ from contemporary sites in Baluchistan have also been found. In the early Indus period, artifacts show affinities with both Iran and Baluchistan towns. Semi-precious stones like lapis-lazuli and steatite show contacts with Iran and central Asia. Later phases of period IV correspond to the Mature Harappan corroborated by the find of a male head made on limestone with hair bound in a fillet, similar to the ‘priest-king’ at Mohenjodaro.

**Quetta Valley:**
To the south east of Mundigak in the Quetta valley, excavations by Fairservis at Damb Sadaat (ten miles south of Kili Gul Mohammad) revealed evidence of large houses with mud-brick walls, hearths and bread ovens dated to the early 3rd mill. B.C. Three phases of occupation revealed a homogenous material culture with terracotta animal and human figurines, noteworthy being a humped bull with painted decoration; two clay button seals and copper objects along with bone and stone-blade industry. Grinding stones and stone balls perhaps used as corn crushers indicate food processing. Variety of painted pottery is found, notably Quetta ware with black-on-buff bichrome decoration shows parallels with Mundigak III.
In the northeastern region also, Rana Ghundai in the Loralai valley yielded from period II, a finely made painted pottery with friezes of humped bulls in black upon a buff-to-red surface showing parallels in Quetta valley. The characteristic forms were bowls or cups with ring bases or hollow pedestals. Period III is sub-divided into three sub periods on the basis of stylistic evolution of pottery: IIIA has bichrome pottery with red-on-red tones; upper levels unearthed wares like the Quetta ‘wet’ ware, and a polychrome ware similar to Kechi Beg Ware.

Excavations at Periano Ghundai in the Zhob valley, north Baluchistan by Sir Aurel Stein unearthed distinctive female figurines of the ‘Zhob goddess’ type, humped bull figures, bifacial leaf-shaped arrowheads, stone blades, surface roughened ‘Wet’ Ware with parallels in the Quetta valley.

Central and Southern Baluchistan:
In the central and southern Baluchistan several Early Harappan sites are found including Anjira, Togau, Nindowari and Balakot. Balakot yielded remains of large buildings, potteries similar to other contemporary sites in Baluchistan in the early period while later period pottery is closer to the one used in the Indus alluvial plain. Contacts are indicated both with Persian Gulf and Indus valley towns. Pottery motifs like humped bull and pipal continue to be used in the Mature Harappan phase.

Anjira, having similarities with Damb Saadat revealed Togau type fine red ware with paintings, including friezes of animals. Besides bichrome pottery with cream or red slip and black or red decoration and polychrome pottery were also found. Anjira IV unearthed a black coated Anjira ware and a surface roughened ‘Wet’ ware similar to Quetta.

The picture for south Baluchistan is not clear with some evidences for this period from Tal-i-Iblis, Tepe Yahya and Bampur. Nindowari on the borderlands 15 kms south of Kulli revealed Kulli culture occupation below Harappan period with massive structural remains showing signs of incipient urbanism.

Balakot, 80 kms southeast of Las Bela near to the seashore discovered by Dales revealed 12 m occupation deposit showing continuity in material culture with a break before reconstruction during Mature Harappan. In the early period the pottery is polychrome ‘Nal’ type, replaced in the upper levels by Early Harappan Indus pottery similar to Amri. It is dated to 4000 to 2900 BC by C14 dating.

Indus Plains:
Lower Sind:
Amri: In southern Sind the site of Amri first provided evidence of a pre-Harappan phase. The Early Harappan occupation here is divided into two periods, the first period further subdivided into four phases. During Period IA no structures were found, only ditches, buried storage jars, copper and bronze fragments, stone blade industry and handmade pottery with bichrome or monochrome decoration using motifs similar to Togau C ware. On the basis of pottery it is said to be contemporary to Anjira III. Period IB had two structural phases with buildings made of mud-brick of irregular sizes. Pottery now becomes more refined with a number of painted motifs. Period IC marks a major development with four structural phases.
Houses are made of both mud-brick and stone, and multiple cellular compartments have been identified as granary. Pottery is wheel made with a variety of painted motifs, mainly geometric. Period ID has only one structural phase with continuity of the same material culture as in the previous phase. Motif of the humped Indian bull found on a sherd became popular during the 'Mature Harappan' phase. Period II follows without any break with increasing Harappan type pottery. Similar finds have been reported from Tharro, Ghazi Shah and Kohtras Buthi.

Kot Diji: It lies 160 kms northeast of Amri and 50 kms east of Mohenjodaro on the left bank of Indus. The 'Early Harappan' occupation had a massive defense wall made with limestone rubble in the lower part and upper layers of mud-brick, and strengthened with bastions. Houses had walls of stone and mudbrick. Excavations within 5 m of occupation deposit yielded chert blade industry, leaf-shaped arrowheads similar to Periano Ghundai, stone querns, bronze bangle fragment and a terracotta bull. Pottery is wheel-thrown with restricted decorations of plain bands of dark brownish paint. Bands of loops and wavy lines developed into the famous fish-scale motif of Mature Harappan. Similar pottery has been found at far off places like Kalibangan and Mehgarh. Kot-Diji pottery has been found in most Early Harappan and Mature Harappan sites along the river Indus. Such similarity in pottery decorations indicates greater communication, enlarged interaction sphere and anticipates cultural convergence seen in Mature Harappan times. Other ceramics included the bichrome ware with a cream slip and red or black painted decoration with parallels in Mundigak III. Early Harappan occupation comes to an end with evidence of two massive fires.

Mohenjodaro: At Mohenjodaro, borings in HR area revealed occupation deposits to a depth of 39 feet below the modern floodplain level where Early Harappan material may lie underneath but so far it has not been possible to reach those levels. Similarly, at Chanhu-daro, occupation deposits have been reported below the water level.

Mehrgarh
Mehrgarh with a sequence from early agriculture to the end of the Mature Harappan is an important site. Here periods IV to VII yielded remains of Early Harappan occupation. Pottery is wheel made with monochrome, bichrome or polychrome decoration. Noteworthy are a large number of stick headed female terracotta figurines and the numerous seals and sealings including the earliest terracotta stamp seal from period IV and the terracotta compartmented seal from period VI. Period VI revealed a huge mud-brick platform, stone beads, including on lapis-lazuli and large number of figurines with elaborate hair styles similar to Damb Saadat. The terracotta female figurines in period VII become closer to Zhob valley. Similarities in pottery designs, and objects of copper and stone indicate contacts with neighbouring communities. Later occupation continues in the neighbouring mound of Naushahro where the earliest levels represent the final stages of Early Harappan occupation.

Rahman Dheri
Northwards across the river Indus, a number of Early Harappan sites have been discovered. Rahman Dheri excavations revealed an oblong plain surrounded by massive walls and extremely well laid out streets and lanes. Beads of turquoise and lapis lazuli show contact
with Central Asia. Early terracottas are stick headed while in the later periods they develop a distinctive style. The regional distinctive painted pottery tradition is gradually modified and replaced by Kot Diji type pottery. The Early Indus period here dates from 2600-2480 BC.

**Tarakai Qila**
A number of Early Harappan settlements have been found in the Bannu basin. Tarakai Qila revealed a mud brick fortification and large number of grains which included many varieties of wheat and barley, lentils and field pea. Levan Dar Dariz also in the Bannu basin is a huge factory site and specialized craft centre for making stone tools and perhaps to distant towns. Tools manufactured included ground stone axes, hammers, querns, etc. Lapis lazuli and turquoise along with terracotta female figurines indicate links with Central Asia. Sarai Khola in the north of Punjab, 240 km northeast of Bannu also yielded Early Harappan occupation remains from period II dated to 2600-2200 BC with Kot Diji type pottery. Initially pit dwellings were found which were later taken over by mudbrick houses. Steatite disc beads are noteworthy.

**Punjab and Bahawalpur:**
In west Punjab from Harappa also Wheeler found ‘non-Harappan pottery underneath Mature Harappan fortification. Further excavations may shed light on it. Jaliipur in southern Punjab yielded Kot Diji pottery and metal objects. In Bahawalpur region of Cholistan desert, more than 40 Early Harappan sites have been discovered in the now dry bed of the Ghagghar-Hakra river. It is marked by Kot Diji type of pottery. Whereas most of the sites were simple villages, some of them were carrying out specialised industrial activities. That is why we find that most of the sites averaged about five to six hectares in size, Gamanwala spreads over an area of 27.3 hectares. This means that Gamanwala was larger than the Harappan township of Kalibangan. These larger townships must have carried administrative and industrial activities apart from agricultural activities.

**Kalibangan:**
In the northeast of Ghagghar-Hakra river course, Kalibangan in north Rajasthan also yielded five phases of Early Harappan occupation with dates of 2920-2550 BC. Houses were made of mud brick of standard sizes (3:2:1) but different from Mature Harappan. The settlement was surrounded by a defense wall. Though some Kot Diji pottery is found, potsherds found are varied and distinctive. Ghosh discovered several sites in the Ghagghar-Hakra course with pre-Harappan pottery similar to Kalibangan and named it the Sothi culture. Sothi Bara and Siswal have reported ceramic styles similar to those of Kalibangan.
Indo-Gangetic Plains:
In this region also Early Indus cultural remains are found at Banawali, Siswal and Rakhigarhi.

Conclusion:
The discovery of the Harappan civilization rewrote Indian history and now it became one of the oldest civilizations of the world contemporary to Egypt and Mesopotamia. We find the emergence of agriculture in the Indo-Iranian borderlands as early as the 7th-8th millennium BCE at Mehrgarh. However, it is a lone site and therefore not much can be said about the origins of agriculture in this region. But by 5th millennium BCE we find the spread of farming settlements in Baluchistan and by the end of the 4th –mid 3rd millennium BCE we see the emergence of early features of settlement which may have given rise to the urbanism of the Mature Indus civilization. This phase is known as the Early Harappan phase. However, regional traditions are still noted in pottery styles and other artifact characters. It leads the way to the Mature Harappan civilization marked by well laid out cities, uniform architecture, developed writing, seals and sealings and also developed arts, crafts and technology. More intensive studies and decipherment of the script shall help shed further light on the civilization which is still an enigma to us.

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