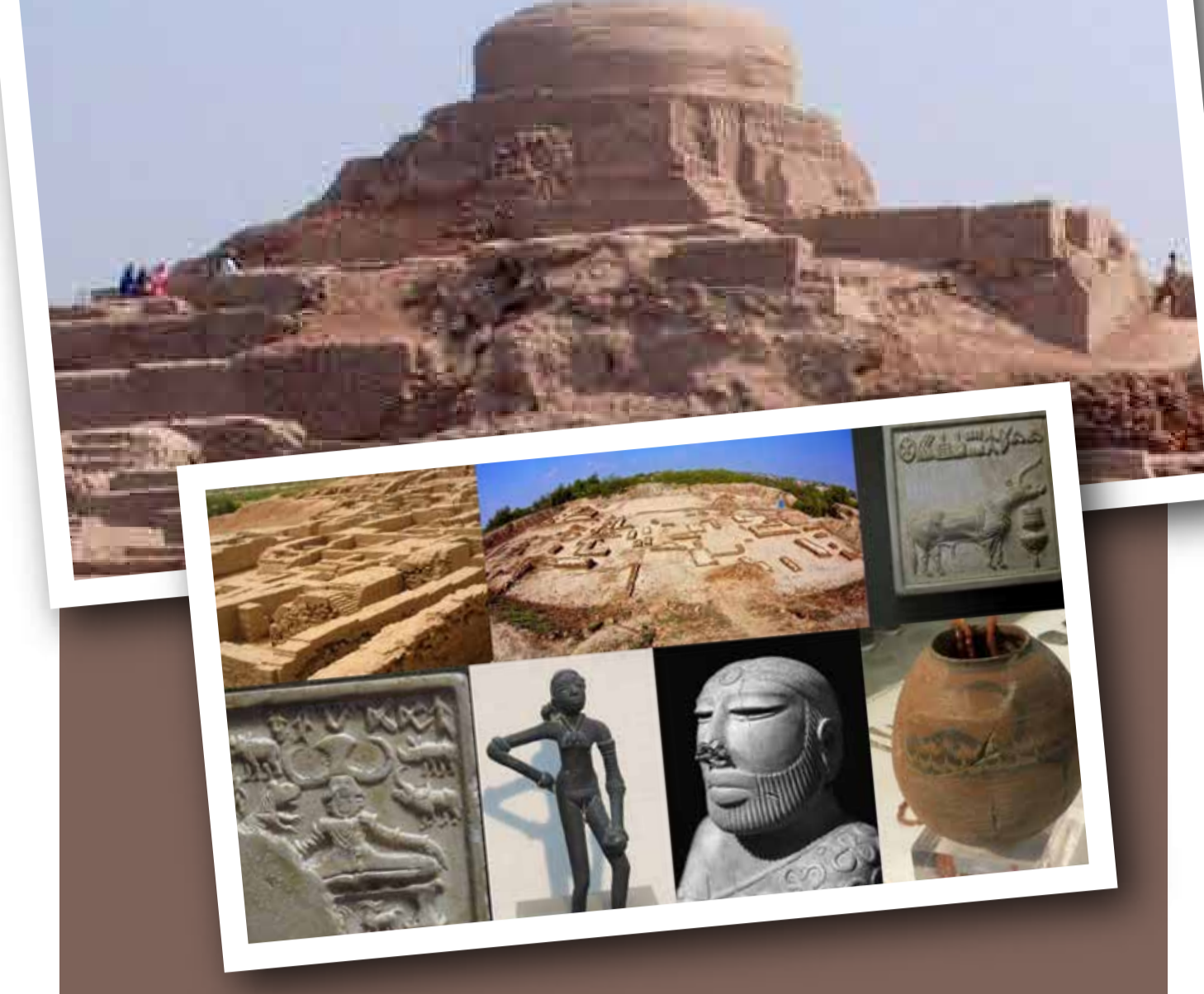


# Indus Valley Civilisation or Harappan Civilization



## Why in News?

The year 2020 marks the centenary of the discovery of the Harappan civilization at Mohenjo-Daro.

## About Harappan Civilisation

- ✓ The Indus River Valley Civilization, 3300-1300 BCE, also known as the Harappan Civilization, extended from modern-day northeast Afghanistan to Pakistan and northwest India.
- ✓ It was home to the largest of the four ancient urban civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, and China.
- ✓ In the 1920s, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) carried out excavations in the Indus valley wherein the ruins of the two old cities, viz. Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa were unearthed.
  - Both are major sites of IVC and are among the earliest and finest examples of urban civic planning.
  - The planned network of roads, houses and drainage systems indicate the planning and engineering skills that developed during those times.
- ✓ In 1924, John Marshall, Director-General of the ASI, announced the discovery of a new civilisation in the Indus valley to the world.
- ✓ Important innovations of this civilization include standardized weights and measures, seal carving, and metallurgy with copper, bronze, lead, and tin.
- ✓ Little is understood about the Indus script, and as a result, little is known about the Indus River Valley Civilization's institutions and systems of governance.
- ✓ The civilization likely ended due to climate change and migration.

## Decline

- ✓ The civilization declined around 1800 BCE but the actual reasons behind its demise are still debated.
- ✓ Invasion by Aryans, decline due to natural causes, flooding because of a shift in river courses are among the major theories on its decline.