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Archaeology Of Networks Re-Imagining The Infrastructure Network Of The Indus Valley Civilisation With Dholavira As A Portal

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ABSTRACT:

India and Pakistan have been the homes to one of the major civilisations of the ancient world— Indus Valley civilisation. In spite of being the carriers of history, both the countries were unaware about the treasure that was lying beneath their surface. It was since John Marshal's pronouncement on 'the civilisation of the Indus Valley' (now more commonly described as the 'Indus' or the 'Harappan Civilisation'), this city culture has become an integral part of popular perceptions of undivided India's ancient past. Although images of burnt brick drains, 'great bath', 'priest-king' and a 'dancing girl' are now as familiar to the people as the names of the cities that housed them all— Harappa and Mohenjodaro, the fascinating and complex story of how the Indus cities came to be discovered is less well known, for it has never really been well pieced together from start to finish. With the help of a foreign mind, the asset was unearthed, leaving zero impact on the local residents, which has been relayed in today's time to a large extent. The civilisation lacks local support and recognition as 'Archaeology' was never a known word in the region's vocabulary.

This research is the initiation of a larger setting. The idea behind this research is to establish a starting point to regenerate the essence of this civilisation as one whole entity and not as individual cities, by mapping the over-lapping networks of infrastructure present within the cities despite-of the political boundaries of the nation-state. There has been a serious lack in disseminating knowledge about this network till the general public, resulting into the condemned state of the sites. This research will end with a manifesto to re-imagine this infrastructure network with the missing links and re-establish a connection between the cities, within the civilisation. And for doing this, Dholavira will be the portal. The conclusion will be the beginning of a larger setting which can be worked upon in future attempts.

The research is a result of author's urge to establish a connection between the archaeological sites and the social strata of the country. The fact that some of the cities of Indus Civilisation have a UNESCO recognition, it is a matter of disturbance for the author, being an Indian, that the country and her people have always seen these sites as a mere state of ruins.

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