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## **LAKHEN JO DARO** **(Past and Present of Lakhen Jo Daro)**

### ***Abstract:***

*The Lakhen jo Daro site is very much significant in location on the River Indus on the hilly area in between the Sukkur and Rohri, the site is considered as earlier indigenous settlement from the Neolithic to Mature Indus period with the evidences having large town residential area with multi stories building with sophisticated technology of Pottery making , metallurgy , stone working particularly with bead manufacturing areas with well-established economy mainly supported by neighboring and abroad trade activities remained viable source of legacy of Indus along with this site.*

### **Introduction**

Pakistan, particularly Sindh is replenish with the presence of tangible cultural heritage from stone age to urbanization, Indus civilization has very much broader and far away expansion in south Asia, the Indus Valley is contemporary with the civilizations of Mesopotamia and African civilization of Egypt. The Civilization is famous for its large and well-planned cities. Over 1,052 cities and settlements have been found in south Asia, in west to Mundigak, Afghansitan, Kashmir region, Kalibangan, Lothal, Banawali, Dholavira, etc in East India. Lakhen Jo Daro is one of Early to Mature Indus period site near by River Indus, Lakhen Jo Daro is considered rich in cultural artifacts and almost equal in area like Mohen Jo Daro. Lakhen jo Daro have many building layer after another with range of sophisticated artifacts.

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**Methodology:** In this research paper, the Researcher has used the both primary (visited the site and participated the excavation in December 2009, conducted by Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur) and secondary sources of qualitative data collection along with interviews.

**Geographical location:** Lakhen jo Daro has got its name after the graves of Lakheyun which were on the main mound of site .within short period its name is written in different ways, Lakehn jo daro, Lakyuen jo daro, Lakhan jo Daro .the site is situated in the northern portion of modern city of Sukkur having 27°.43.27 North degree latitude and 68°.50.51East degree latitude.

**Background research:**

- Land was declared as Archaeological site and the Salvage Excavations were carried out by the department of Archaeology, Exploration branch, Government of Pakistan in 1986.
- Salvage excavations were carried in D-9 and D-10 blocks of the site by department of Archaeology, Government of Pakistan in 1987.
- The department of Archaeology, Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur led by Prof.Muhammad Mukhtiar Kazi conducted the excavation in 1989.
- Salvage excavations were carried out by the Muhammad Mukhtiar Kazi the chairman department of Archaeology, Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur and Pakistan Archaeology and Museums department on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1990.
- Joint project for salvage excavation by Federal department of Archaeology with Archaeology department of Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur in 1992 ,
- Department of Archaeology shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur led by Dr. Nilofer Sheikh carried out the excavation in 1993.
- Joint salvage excavations were carried out by the Pakistan Archaeology and Archaeology department Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur lead by Dr Nilofer sheikh during December 1994.
- Joint excavations carried out by Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur lead by Dr Nilofer Sheikh during 1995.

- Prof Muhammad Mukhtiar Kazi of Archaeology department Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur carried out the excavation in 1995.
- Mound D-10 was excavated by the Prof.Muhammad Mukhtiar Kazi of Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur in 1996.
- Mound D-7, D-33 were excavated by the Prof.Muhammad Mukhtiar Kazi of Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur in 1998.
- D-33 was excavated by Dr Nilofer Sheikh of Archaeology department Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur carried out the excavation in 1999.
- Salvage excavations were carried out by Dr Nilofer Sheikh of Archaeology department Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur carried out the excavation in 2000.
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- Govt of Pakistan Ministry of Culture notified Lakhueen jo Daro as protected antiquity archaeological site in 2007.
- Dr.Ghulam Mustafa Shar of Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur carried out the salvage exaction in 2008-9.
- Dr.Qasid Hussain Mallah of Shah Abdul Latif University Khair Pur conducted the excavations during 2009-10 and in 2017.

**Physical features:** The site demarcation is still not completed, the visible remains are almost the same as are of famous world heritage Bronze Age site of Mohen Jo Daro, initially it was reported as A, B and C mounds, but after detailed surveys other several mounds and underneath areas have been traced out which indicate its larger expansion as second largest city after Mohen jo Daro .

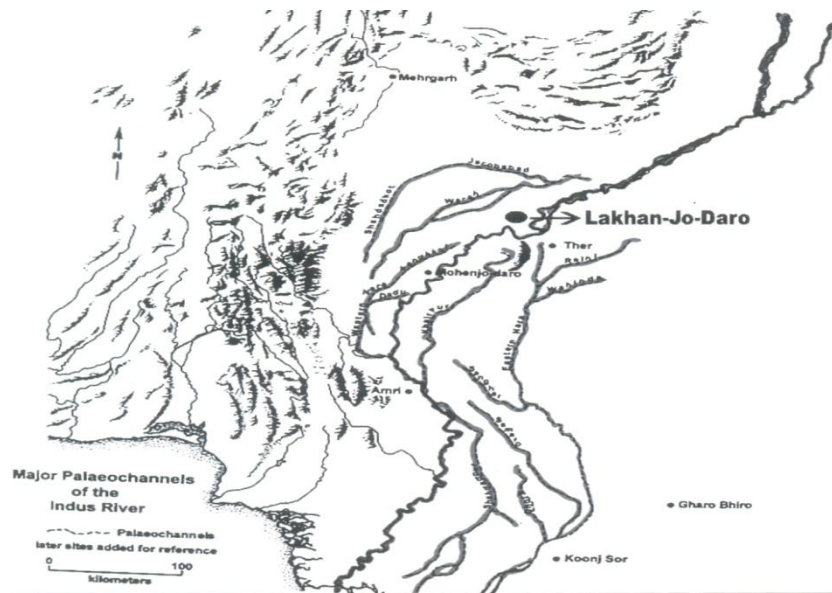


Fig.1: Aerial view of Lakhan Jo Daro (after Mughal)  
 (Source Ancient Sindh, Annual journal of Research Vol: 8-2004-2005)

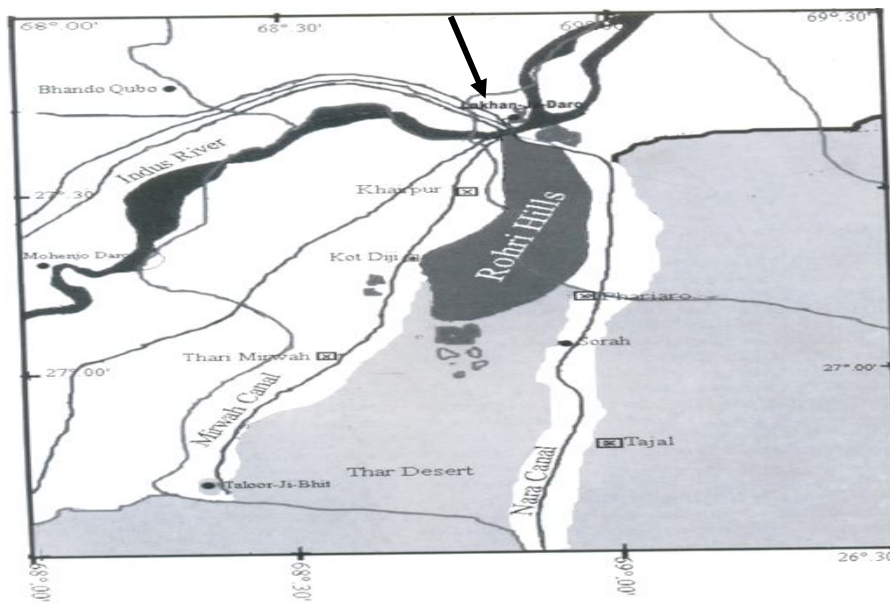


Fig.2: Map showing geographical features and location of the site  
 (Source Ancient Sindh, Annual journal of Research Vol: 8-2004-2005)

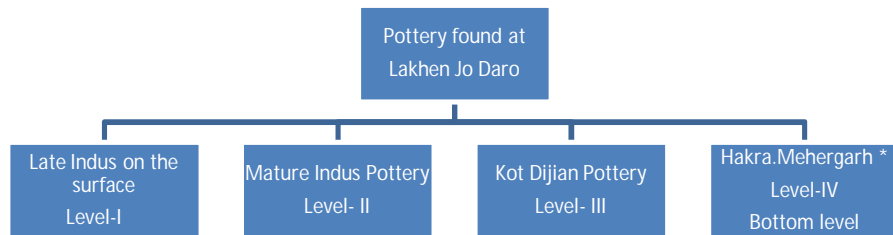
**Findings:** Since 1983 the artifacts collected from the surface and in excavation are in thousands in number, the selected artifacts includes precious, semiprecious, metal, stone, and pottery objects, golden wires, silver ornaments, lapis lazuli beads, carnelian and agate beads in abundance, copper workshops, copper figurine, copper beads, bangles, tablets and spear heads are also found at Lakhen jo daro. The 95% objects are of pottery in general. during the year of 1996 the excavations on mound “C” were conducted, it resulted the exposition of large scale artifacts like as walls, bathing platforms, covered drainage, and other features and small finds had sufficient number at time like beads of white color, semi precious beads, copper objects with exuberance pottery of Mature Indus period. the preliminary results of the excavations which were conducted to the water levels in 2000 reveals that found artifacts belongs to the mature Indus period, artifacts includes TC figurines, pottery utensils of different types terracotta balls and pottery of different styles and motives.



Fig No: 3. (Female Terracotta figurine)

The architectural antiquity is the major part of the site, the history of excavation revealed new findings in each excavation seasons, but the large rescue excavations in 2009 gave glance in different and several

aspects of the site. Many wells were discovered, digging in the wells revealed the objects of unknown cults, such as figurine covered in pots. The artifacts in the rescue excavations in the western part of site near Nehal Khoso village were faience workshops and steatite cutting workshops where the faience bangles, beads and steatite seals were discovered.



\* Expert opinion of an Archaeologist, who relate last level pottery to Mehrgarh,

Early period Pottery: the pottery miniature cylindrical jars, resembling to Kot Dijian cylindrical jars and even early period miniature jars having buff slip and narrow black and dark brown horizontal bands around the neck and on body are found, there are several pot sherds resembling to the upper level pottery reported from Mehrgarh (*Jarrige 1983*) (the relative chronology was verbal discussed with excavator)

Mature Indus Pottery: the mature Indus period artifacts are in quite large number, the pottery found from houses, and workshops is fine textured, plain, painted in black on red slip, the motifs are of papal leaf design, geometric intersecting circles, Kot Dijian pottery is reported by Prof Muhammad Mukhtiar Qazi-1983 and later excavations by Dr.Nelofer Sheikh, Dr Shar 1994.the Kot Dijian pottery includes globular jars, dark brown band on neck of the pots and fish scale pattern.

Hakra or Mehrgarh: it is loudly in discussions n electronic media and print media that the lower levels pottery resembles to the painting on potsherds and styles and forms of Mehrgarh period –III.

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\* Prof: Dr Ghulam Mustafa Shar, former Chairman of Archaeology department at Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur and P.D of Excavation season 2008 Lakhen Jo Daro.



Fig No.04. (Complete clay Bangels, Excavation 2009)



Fig No.04. (Complete clay Jar miniatures, Excavation 2009)

**CONCLUSION:** Various seasons of Excavations at the site reveals continuous complete sequence from Neolithic, Bronze age, Iron Age periods, and replenish with ordinary to sophisticated artifactual technologies from a thin disk bead to multi story houses. There is less doubt that Sukkur city has survived from 7000 BC to modern times, the site which is under threat of illegal occupation and is being damaged by builder mafia.



Artifacts and finding of Lakhen Jo Daro is strongly suggested to immediately public and published with establishment of site Museum at Lakhen Jo Daro.

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