

Dancing Girl of Mohenjo-daro

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Art & Culture

Why in News?

Recently, NCERT restored the original image of the Dancing Girl in the Class 9 Arts Education textbook, after controversy over a retouched version.

- The Dancing Girl figurine has long been a defining symbol of the Indus Valley Civilisation (Harappan Civilisation) and is displayed in the National Museum, New Delhi.

Indus Valley Civilisation - 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE.

- **Discovered in** - 1926, by archaeologist **Ernest McKay** at Mohenjo-daro (Sindh, Pakistan).
- **Age** - Over 4,500 years old, belonging to the Harappan period.
- **Material** - Bronze.
- **Technique** - Made using Lost-wax casting technique, proving that ancient Harappans possessed intricate metal-blending and casting capabilities.
- **Dimensions** - Height 10.5 cm.
- **Appearance** - Nude female figure with hair tied in a bun, adorned with bangles, bracelet, and necklace.



- **Symbolic Value** - Considered evidence of high art in Harappan society.
- **Interpretations** - Some historians view her as a dancer; others suggest she may represent a woman with an offering.

Mohenjo-daro

- **Timeline** - 1st major Indus Valley urban centre, Built around 2500 BCE,

Mohenjo-daro means Mound of the Dead.

- **Discovery** - Excavated in **1922**, showing advanced civic and cultural life.
- **River** - Mohenjo-daro was built on the fertile right bank of the **Indus River**.
- **City Features** - Baked brick houses, public baths, granary, wells, soak pits, drainage system.
- **Organization** - Evidence of strong civic, economic, social, and cultural systems.
- **Structure** -
 - **Citadel (West)** - Buddhist stupa built in 2nd century AD.
 - **Lower City (East)** - Grid-pattern streets with sanitation and

drainage.

- **UNESCO Status** - World Heritage Site in *Sindh, Pakistan*.
- **Significant Indus Valley artefacts** - Pashupati seal, bearded priest, terracotta figurines.

References

1. [Indian Express | Dancing Girl](#)
2. [UNESCO | Mohenjo-daro](#)

