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

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