

INDUS VALLEY SEALS**Prelims:** Ancient History**Mains:** GS-1 Art and Culture**Context:**

- ▶▶ A recent study claims that a majority of the Indus Valley inscriptions were written **logographically (by using word signs)** and not by using phonograms (speech sounds units).

Paper Title:

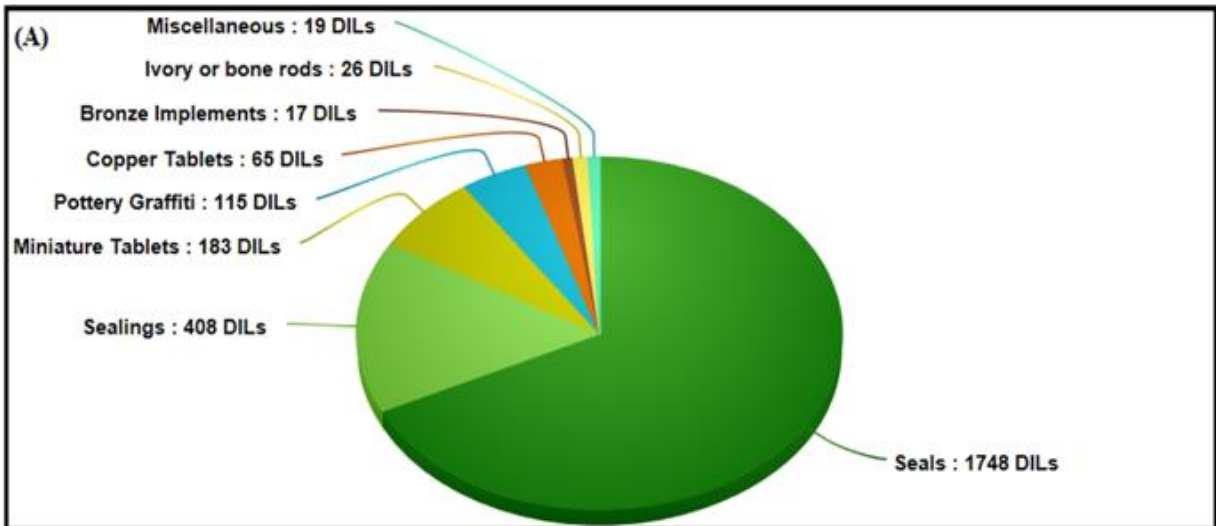
- ▶▶ Interrogating Indus inscription to unravel their mechanism of meaning conveyance.

What is Logographic

- ▶▶ In Logographic system a **written character** that represents a **word** or **phrase**.
- ▶▶ Logographic systems include the earliest writing systems; the first historical civilizations of the Near East, Africa, China, and Central America used some form of logographic writing.

Findings of Study:

- ▶▶ The Study points out that the inscriptions can be compared to the **structured messages** found on stamps, coupons, tokens and currency coins of modern times.
- ▶▶ The article mainly focusses on understanding **how Indus inscriptions conveyed meanings, rather than on deciphering what they conveyed.**
- ▶▶ Analysing the brevity of the inscriptions, the rigid positional preferences maintained by the signs of the inscriptions, and the co-occurrence of restriction patterns demonstrated by certain classes of Indus signs it can be inferred that such **patterns can never be phonological co-occurrence restrictions**
- ▶▶ The researcher said that the popular hypothesis that the seals were inscribed with Proto-Dravidian or Proto-Indo-European names of the seal owners does not hold water.



(B)

Modern Indian stamps

भारतीय गैर न्यायिक
भारत
दस रुपए Rs. 10
रु. 10 TEN RUPEES
सत्यमेव जयते
INDIA
INDIA NON JUDICIAL

भारतीय गैर न्यायिक
भारत
वीस रुपए Rs. 20
रु. 20 TWENTY RUPEES
सत्यमेव जयते
INDIA
INDIA NON JUDICIAL

भारतीय गैर न्यायिक
भारत
पचास रुपए Rs. 50
रु. 50 FIFTY RUPEES
सत्यमेव जयते
भारत INDIA
INDIA NON JUDICIAL

Ancient Indus seals

Seal #1217

Seal #1279

Seal #2364

Fixed positioning of iconography

Fixed positioning of inscriptions

Formulaic structure of inscriptions

| | |
|--------|---------|
| Rs. 10 | 342 48 |
| Rs. 20 | 342 334 |
| Rs. 50 | 342 387 |

Right to left

(C)

Modern Indian coin

Obverse

Reverse

Ancient Indus miniature-tablets

R-> Reverse
O-> Obverse

#4548

#4509

#4508