



Thirsty For History

Did you know a *4,000 year old city* in the middle of a desert had better rainwater harvesting than many modern cities?

Swipe to know all about
**The Raincatchers
of the Desert**





IMAGINE BUILDING A CITY IN THE MIDDLE OF A DESERT!

That's exactly what the Harappans did at **Dholavira**, located in the **Rann of Kutch**.

This was a place of intense heat and salty soil with no permanent rivers to provide water, and very little rainfall.

For most ancient cities, that would have been the end of the story.

But not for the enterprising **raincatchers** of Dholavira!



The city was sandwiched
between two seasonal streams called **the Mansar**
and the Manhar.

This meant that the two *streams flowed during the rainy season*,
but then dried up for the rest of the year.

So the Harappans did something amazing.

They built giant stone dams to catch the water
during the rains. This water then flowed into
16 reservoirs built all around the city.

The reservoirs became a kind of
‘water bank’ that kept the city
alive during the long dry spells.



But the Harappans didn't stop with just the reservoirs. They **worked their magic in the city too!**

Every street was built to catch and carry the rainwater. A smart network of drains and canals captured every bit of rain and sent it straight to the **storage tanks**.

Archaeologists, who study ancient remains and objects to understand the human past, when they surveyed Dholavira, they realised that these drains were not connected to the houses but to other drains, like a network.

So they deduced that the drains were meant only for rainwater harvesting, not for **transporting toilet waste!**

Thus, the drinking water was far from the toilets!





Thanks to their genius raincatchers, **the city could store water for months in a desert.**

Dholavira proves that Indians were master engineers and conservationists thousands of years ago!

Next time it rains, think about all that water. *Is your city harvesting the rain or just watching it wash away?*

