

# People of Harappa opened ‘jaalis’ to future technology

Says renowned American archaeologist Jonathan Mark Kenoyer during lecture at IITGn

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**D**id you know that *jaalis*, that play a prominent role in architectural traditions across the globe, have their roots in the Indus Valley Civilisation? “The residents of the civilization designed the screens/jaalis and planned their placements to allow fresh air and light in their homes while ensuring privacy in crowded urban neighbourhoods,” explained renowned American archaeologist Jonathan Mark

Kenoyer on Tuesday. The 63-year-old professor was speaking as part of the First Indira Foundation Distinguished Lecture at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar.

Focused on the major scientific and technological contributions revealed through recent studies of sites and artifacts of the Indus Valley Civilisation, Kenoyer’s lecture elaborated on the manner in which the natives lived and behaved.

Crediting the civilisation for developing the spinning wheel, Kenoyer—Professor of Anthropology at University of

Wisconsin, Madison—added that several contributions of the Indus civilisation set the foundation for technologies developed in the subsequent years. During his lecture on ‘Scientific and Technological Contributions of the Indus Civilization: Their Relevance for the Present’, Kenoyer said, “People of the Harappan civilization build their kitchens in the northeastern side of their house while their cemeteries were generally towards the southwest. These locations possibly relate to the direction of the sunlight and the prevalent wind directions.”