

2020



drishti

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**INDIAN CULTURE AND  
HISTORICAL EVENTS**

24<sup>th</sup> February - 29<sup>th</sup> February



BusinessLine



## **1. Ancient Site of Ther Mound**

### **Why in News?**

- It is believed that the ruins of the ancient Sarishika town are buried at the site of Ther Mound in Sirsa.
  - However, hardly any archaeological excavations have been done at this site due to the dense human settlements.

### **Key Points**

- The Mound was declared a protection site in 1932 under the ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904.
- Sirsa is believed to be one of the oldest towns located in Haryana, the ancient route leading to Taxila.
- Its present name is derived from the ancient name Sarishika.
- The City finds mention in the Mahabharata, Panini's Ashtadhyayi and Buddhist text Divyavadana.
- Stone sculptures, coins, an inscription, pottery pieces and other antiquities collected from surface exploration are sufficient to prove its archaeological relevance.

## **2. Archaeological Site near Varanasi**

### **Why in News?**

A nearly 4,000-year-old urban settlement has been unearthed at Babhaniyav village, 13 km from Varanasi by a team of surveyors from the Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

### **Key Points:**

- The unearthed site could be one of the craft villages mentioned in ancient texts
  - During the age of Buddha, there were suburban villages which were in the nature of craft villages, for instance, a carpenter's village, or chariot-maker's village in the vicinity of Varanasi.
  - Crafts villages have been earlier unearthed in Sarnath, Tilmapur and Ramnagar - Uttar Pradesh
- The survey found a temple dating back to the 5th century through 8th century.
  - Potteries which were 4,000-year-old and walls which are 2,000-year-old have also been discovered.
- This site at Babhaniyav could have been a small sub-centre of Varanasi which grew as an urban town.
- According to ASI, Babhaniyav could have been a satellite town and feeding centre for the Varanasi-Sarnath region.
  - A satellite town is a smaller city that is near a large(r) metropolis. It has all the necessary amenities and facilities present within its

limits except for a few purposes like employment and sometimes education, it has to depend on the larger city.

- A pillar with a two-line text in Kushan-Brahmi script has also been found which makes the findings at least 3,500-4,000 years old.
  - The Kushan dynasty ruled over most of the northern Indian subcontinent, Afghanistan, and parts of Central Asia during 1st century AD - 3rd Century AD.
  - The inscriptions issued by the Kushan rulers or in areas under their rule include texts in Bactrian, written in Greek script, and in Prakrit written in Brāhmī or Kharoṣṭhī script.



drishti