



Rakhigarhi Findings | Haryana | 20 Apr 2024

Why in News?

One of the recent changes in school textbooks proposed by the [National Council of Educational Research and Training \(NCERT\)](#) includes adding information about the results of [Deoxyribonucleic acid \(DNA\) analysis on skeletal remains](#) discovered at the **ancient site of Rakhigarhi in Haryana.**

- Additionally, references to the negative impact of the **Narmada Dam project on tribals**, causing displacement and increased poverty, have been removed.

Key Points

- NCERT has stated that study of ancient **DNA from archaeological sources in Rakhigarhi, Haryana** suggests that the genetic roots of the Harappans go back to 10,000 BCE.
- Rakhigarhi is the **largest Harappan site in the Indian subcontinent.** The site is situated in the plains of **Saraswati river, about 27 km from the seasonal Ghaggar river.**
 - To study its evolution from **6000 BC (Pre-Harappan phase) to 2500 BC**, excavations were carried out at Rakhigarhi under the leadership of [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\) archaeologist Amarendra Nath.](#)
- Prof. Shinde played an important role in the research related to Rakhigarhi. Prof. Shinde is also writing a book '**History of India**' on these researches related to Indian history.
- Pro. Shinde said-
 - The DNA report of the remains, evidence and skeletons found in the excavations at **Rakhigarhi, Lothal Gilund, Nujat etc. has proved that the [Harappan civilization](#) was the oldest and most developed civilization in the world.**
 - The theory of **Aryan invasion** and coming from outside is **fabricated and false**, which has been confirmed on the **basis of archaeological and scientific verification of DNA.**

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the premier organization for the **archaeological research and protection** of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, **exploration and excavation** of archaeological sites, **conservation and maintenance** of protected monuments etc.
- It was founded in 1861 by **Alexander Cunningham**- the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the "**Father of Indian Archaeology**".

The National Council of Educational Research and Training

- It is an **autonomous organization** that was **established in 1961 under the Societies Registration Act.**
 - It is the **apex body** for advising the central and state governments on matters related to school education.
-

