



## 400-Year-Old Idols Found in Haryana

### Why in News?

Recently, **three metal idols**, estimated to be about **400 years old**, were unearthed during excavation for a house construction project in **Baghanki village near Manesar**.

### Key Points

- The police have seized the ancient idols and instructed the owner to halt construction activities.
- **The Archeology Department** will conduct additional excavation to search for any additional idols on the site.
- The idols recovered include a standing idol of **Lord Vishnu**, **an idol of Goddess Lakshmi** and a **joint idol of Goddess Laxmi and Lord Vishnu**.

### Important Archaeological Sites of Haryana

- **Bhirrana**: A small village in **Fatehabad District**, is located about 220 km northwest of New Delhi. The site is situated along the **ancient Saraswati riverine systems**, now represented by the seasonal Ghaggar flows in modern Haryana. **Hakra Ware** dating back to the 8<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE has been found at Bhirrana, making it contemporaneous with the early **Harappan Ravi phase culture**. The estimated antiquity of Bhirrana is based on **charcoal samples**, giving dates of 7570-7180 BCE and 6689-6201 BCE.
- **Banawali**: It is an archaeological site of the Indus Valley Civilization in **Fatehabad district, Haryana**. It is located 120 km northeast of **Kalibangan** and 16 km from Fatehabad, on the **left bank of the dried up Sarasvati River**. The **excavation** also uncovered a defense wall with a height of 4.5 m and thickness of 6 m, as well as well-planned houses with rooms, toilets, and streets. A flight of steps near the fortification is considered an important formation by the **Archaeological Survey of India**.
- **Rakhigarhi**: It is the largest Harappan site in the Indian subcontinent which is located in **Hisar District of Haryana**. 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**.