



## Chief Secretary Visit to Rakhigarhi | Haryana | 08 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Recently, [The Chief Secretary](#) of Haryana visited [the iconic Harappan site of Rakhigarhi](#) and observed [the Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) conducting the ongoing excavation in the district.

### Key Points

- **Directives and Observations at Rakhigarhi:**
  - **Relocation of Families:**
    - The Chief Secretary directed district officials to ensure the **smooth relocation of families residing in protected areas** to government-built houses for their rehabilitation.
    - Officials were also instructed to **remove all encroachments on the site** to preserve its integrity.
  - **Site Exploration and Inspections:**
    - He explored excavation sites, including mound numbers one, three, and four, which the ASI has divided into seven segments.
    - Inspected the under-construction museum and reviewed **ancient artifacts** and structures excavated in recent years.
  - **Promotion of Heritage:**
    - Emphasized the importance of **preserving the site and promoting it at national and international levels.**
    - Highlighted that the site reflects **India's rich heritage**, with museum artifacts **showcasing the culture, traditions, and lifestyle** of ancient India.
    - **Artifacts** like earthen pots, **terracotta items**, tools, and human skeletons unearthed during excavation **will be displayed in the museum.**
- **Insights from Findings:**
  - Highlighted the **advanced architecture and urban planning** of the Harappan civilization, with Rakhigarhi resembling modern cities such as Chandigarh.
  - **Key Architectural Features:**
    - The site features a **well-planned drainage system**, large storage vessels for **waste disposal**, and **two-story houses with ventilation systems.**
    - A discovery on mound number three resembles **a stadium, showcasing the architectural prowess of the Harappan people.**
  - **Water Source Evidence:**
    - Remains of a riverbed near the site indicate an **ancient water source essential for the settlement.**

### Rakhigarhi

- **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.**
  - Other large sites of **Indus valley Civilization (Harappan civilization)** in the Indian subcontinent are Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Ganweriwala in Pakistan and Dholavira (Gujarat) in India.
- At Rakhigarhi, excavations are being done to trace its beginnings and to study its gradual evolution from 6000 BCE (Pre-Harappan phase) to 2500 BCE.

- The site **was excavated by Amarendra Nath of ASI.**

## **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”**.

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