



# Sindhu-Sarasvati Civilisation and Ujjayini Meridian

**Source: IE**

The new NCERT incorporates several changes from the previous textbooks. The textbook aims to align with the [National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023](#) and the [National Education Policy 2020](#), emphasising the integration of traditional Indian knowledge and a thematic approach to social science education.

## **Changes in NCERT Textbooks:**

- The textbook refers to the [Harappan civilization](#) as the '**Indus-Sarasvati**' or '**Sindhu-Sarasvati**' civilisation, highlighting the prominence of the Sarasvati river.
  - It mentions that the Sarasvati River, now known as the **Ghaggar-Hakra River**, was a **major part of the Harappan civilization** and that **its desiccation contributed to the decline of the civilization.**
- Long before the adoption of the [Greenwich Meridian](#), India had its prime meridian, known as the "**Madhya rekha**" (or "**middle line**"), which **passed through the city of Ujjain.**
  - The textbook introduces the concept of the '**Ujjayini meridian**', an **ancient prime meridian of India**, which was used for astronomical calculations.
- **Other Changes in Structure and Content:**
  - The new textbook is a **single volume covering five themes**, unlike the previous separate textbooks for History, Political Science, and Geography.
    - It aims to present a more integrated and interdisciplinary approach to social science education.
  - The **chapter on diversity has shifted its focus**, with **less emphasis on caste-based discrimination and inequality** compared to the previous textbook.

**Read More:** [National Education Policy 2020](#), [National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/sindhu-sarasvati-civilisation-and-ujjayini-meridian>