



Harappan-Era Water Management Techniques

Why in News?

The ongoing **excavation at the [Harappan-era site in Rakhigarhi](#)** has revealed significant **evidence of [water management](#)**, including the discovery of a water body between mounds one and two in Rakhigarhi village, Hisar district.

Key Points

- **Discovery of Water Storage Area:**
 - Excavation revealed a **water storage area with a depth of 3.5 to 4 feet**, highlighting advanced water management techniques from 5,000 years ago.
 - [The Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#), described this as **evidence of sophisticated engineering** by the Harappan people.
- **Elite Habitation Zone Identified:**
 - Mounds one, two, and three were identified as an “elite zone,” **likely inhabited by the upper class of the [Harappan civilisation](#)**.
 - Massive structures found in this area indicate its importance as a habitation site for elites.
- **Presence of the Drishavati River:**
 - A **dried-up riverbed**, identified as the **Chautang or Drishavati river**, was located about 300 metres from the site.
 - The river likely **served as a lifeline for the region**, with archaeological evidence suggesting the Harappans stored water from this river as their primary water source.
 - Core drilling at the site, conducted by [the Zoological Survey of India](#), confirmed the presence of the Drishavati riverbed.
- **Impact of River Drying on Civilisation:**
 - Archaeologists believe the **Drishavati river began drying up around 5,000 years ago**, leading to a water crisis in cities like Rakhigarhi.
 - The **gradual disappearance of the Drishavati and [Sarasvati rivers](#)** likely **contributed to the decline** of the Harappan civilisation in this region.
- **Legacy of Harappan Engineering:**
 - The findings demonstrate the **advanced techniques of water storage and conservation** employed by the Harappan people, underscoring their ingenuity in managing natural resources.

Harappan Civilization

- The **Harappan Civilization**, also known as the **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)**, flourished around **2500 BCE** along [the Indus River](#).
- It was the **largest of the four ancient urban civilizations** alongside **Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China**.
- The IVC is classified as a **Bronze-age civilization** due to the discovery of numerous artefacts made from **copper-based alloys**.
- **Daya Ram Sahni** first excavated **Harappa in 1921-22**, and **Rakhaldas Banerji** began excavating **Mohenjo-daro in 1922**.
 - **Sir John Marshall, DG of [ASI](#)**, was responsible for the excavations that led to the

discovery of **Harappa** and **Mohenjo-Daro** sites of IVC.

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