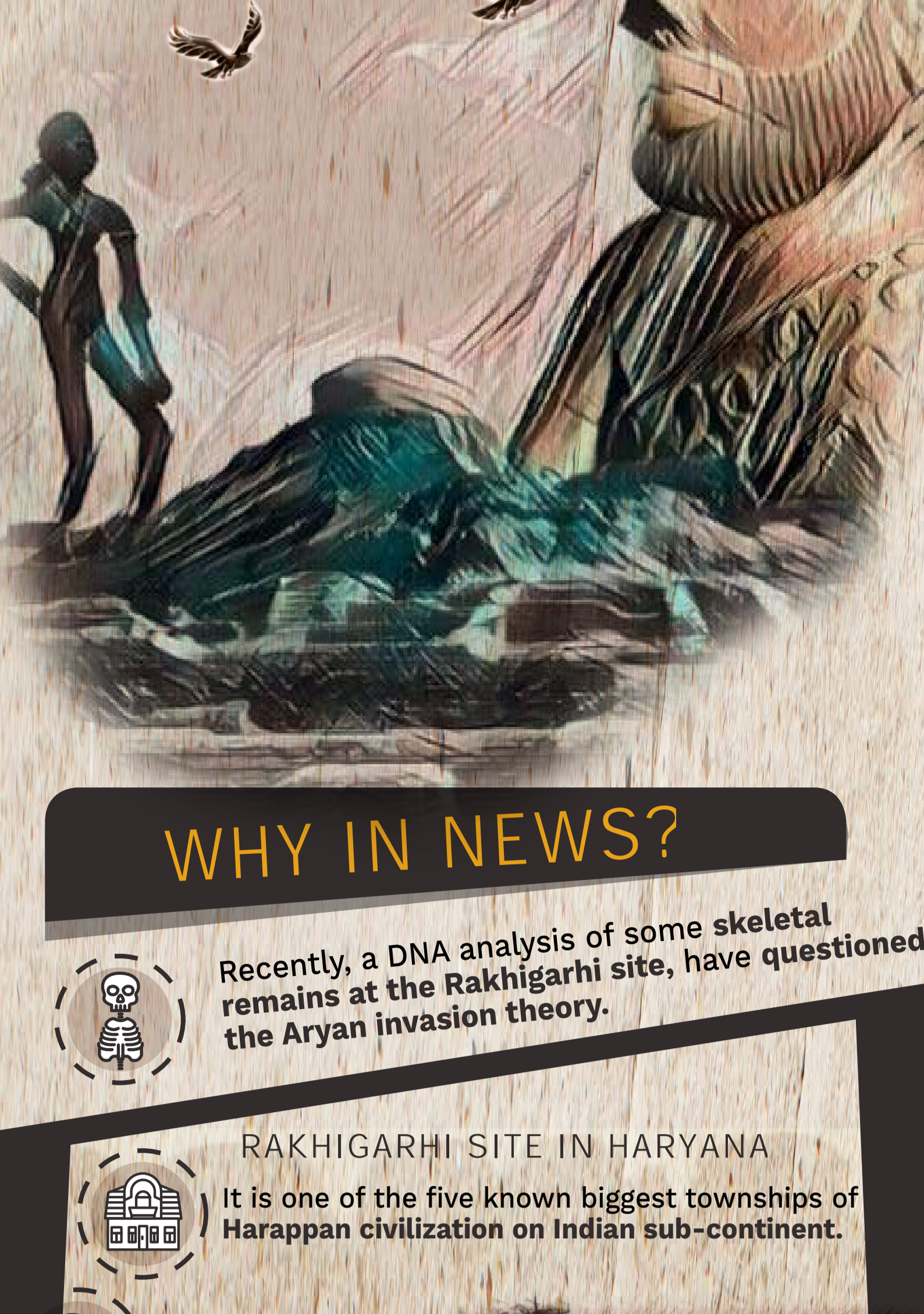


NEW FINDINGS ON THE DECLINE OF HARAPPAN Civilization



WHY IN NEWS?

Recently, a DNA analysis of some skeletal remains at the Rakhigarhi site, have questioned the Aryan invasion theory.

RAKHIGARHI SITE IN HARYANA
It is one of the five known biggest townships of Harappan civilization on Indian sub-continent.

Important findings from this site:

- Five interconnected mounds
- Planned township having mud-brick as well as burnt-brick houses with proper drainage system
- Ceramic industry represented by red ware
- Ritual system of Harappans (Animal sacrificial pit)

Recently, Centre is moving ahead with its plan to develop Rakhigarhi as a tourist hub and set up a museum.

LOTHAL
Lothal is located between Sabarmati river and its tributary Bhogavo, in Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

It was a major maritime activities center of Harappan civilization dating from 3700 BC. and has world's oldest man-made dockyard.

India & Portugal will cooperate in the setting up of a national maritime heritage museum at Lothal in Gujarat.

The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is likely to be built in public-private partnership and will have a huge museum displaying India's heritage of inland water ways and trade through water route.

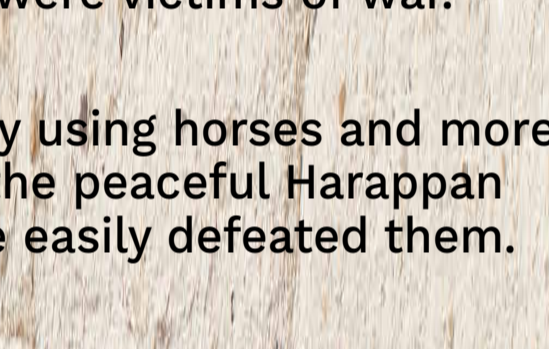
The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Shipping through its Sagarmala programme, with the involvement of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the State government and other stakeholders.

MORE ON NEWS

A paper titled "An Ancient Harappan Genome Lacks Ancestry from Steppe Pastoralists & Iranian Farmers" was published recently, which has challenged many noted points of Aryan Invasion Theory.

The paper indicates that there was no Aryan invasion and no Aryan migration and that all the developments right from the hunting-gathering stage to modern times in South Asia were done by indigenous people.

ABOUT ARYAN INVASION THEORY



According to theory by British archaeologist Mortimer Wheeler, a nomadic, Indo-European tribe (Steppe pastoralists or from Anatolian and Iranian farmers), called the Aryans, suddenly overwhelmed & conquered the Indus River Valley, causing the decline of Indus Valley civilization.

He posited that many unburied corpses found in the top levels of the Mohenjo-Daro archaeological site were victims of war.

The theory suggested that by using horses and more advanced weapons against the peaceful Harappan people, the Aryans may have easily defeated them.

Evidence from Rig Veda:

The Rig Veda time and again refers to the fortresses of the Dasas and Dasyus. The Vedic god Indra is called 'Purandara' meaning 'the destroyer of forts'.

The geographical area of the habitation of the Rig Vedic Aryans included the Punjab and the Ghaggar-Hakra region.

Since there are no remains of other cultural groups having forts in this area in this historical phase, Wheeler believed that it was the Harappan cities that were being described in the Rig Veda.

In fact, the Rig Veda mentions a place called Hariyupiya. This place was located on the bank of the river Ravi. The Aryans fought a battle here. The name of the place sounds very similar to that of Harappa.

These evidences led Wheeler to conclude that it was the Aryan invaders who destroyed the cities of Harappa.

FACTS GIVEN BY THE NEW STUDY

Inhabitants of the Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) were a distinct indigenous people & the DNA of the skeletal remains matches with the local population.

The skeleton remains found in the upper part of the Citadel area of Mohenjo Daro belonged to those who died due to floods & were not massacred by Aryans as hypothesised by Sir Mortimer Wheeler.

There was some small movement of people from Central Asia and mixing of their gene with the population here. But it doesn't change the ancestry of the IVC people.

There was no attack that replaced the entire population.

A genome from the Indus Valley Civilisation is from a population that is the largest source for South Asians.

The population has no detectable ancestry from Steppe pastoralists or from Anatolian & Iranian farmers.

Farming- It was brought to the region through migrations from Iran, and, most significantly, that

Harappan genes are present in varying quantities in all south Asians.

OTHER THEORIES OF DECLINE OF HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

There have been various theories surrounding the decline of Harappan civilization. Some of them are-

Floods and Earthquakes- There were evidence such as houses and streets were covered by large silt deposits and Indus area is a disturbed earthquake zone.

✓ **Criticism-** Decline of settlements outside Indus Valley will not be explained by this theory and a river cannot be dammed by tectonic effects

Shifting Away of the Indus- There was evidence that silt is there in Harappa because of wind action, which brought sand & silt, rather than floods.

✓ **Criticism-** This can explain only desertion of Mohenjo-daro but not its decline.

Increased Aridity and Drying Up of the Ghaggar- There were various evidence such as increased arid conditions led to decline of agriculture & tectonic movements would have led to moving up of Ghaggar river.

✓ **Criticism-** Drying up of river Ghaggar has not been dated yet.

RELATED NEWS

- Sadikpur Sinauli: likely to get National Importance tag**
- Sinauli, supposed to be a largest necropolis of the late Harappan period, is located on the left bank of the River Yamuna.
- ASI Excavation:** They found chariots, swords and other objects pointing to the presence of a warrior class of people in the region during the Copper-Bronze Age (3300 BC -1200 BC)
- They also unearthed underground sacred chambers, decorated legged coffins as well as rice and dal in pots and animal bones buried with the bodies.

