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Exploration of Block Saraswati-Nagar (Mustafabad), Yamunanagar, Haryana

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Abstract

Present Research Paper is based on the archeological exploration in Saraswati Nagar (Mustafabad) of Yamunanagar District in Northeastern Haryana. As the consequence of explorations work author explored the 20 archaeology sites, including the new discovery and earlier explored sites. On the basis of preliminary examination of data, it seems that these sites belong to the Late Harappan/Bara to the medieval period.

Keywords: Archaeological Exploration and Culture

Introduction

Location

Present study area comes under the jurisdiction of block Saraswati Nagar (Mustafabad) of Yamunanagar District. It is one of the five blocks of Yamunanagar district which is situated between 30°14' to 30°12' N and 77° 4' to 77° 9' E in the North-eastern Haryana. This block is bordered by Bilaspur and Sadhoura blocks from the northern side and southern side is enclosed by block Radour and Ladwa. The Eastern boundary coincides with the block Jagadhri while Western boundary of the region is surrounded by Ambala and Kurukshetra districts. Present study area falls under the catchment of the Yamuna River and its tributaries. But in the ancient period river Saraswati and Darishadwati were flowed in this region (Oldham 1893). Ancient Darishadwati River has been identified with the Chautang River by Kar & Ghose (1984).

Previous Work

First of all, Alexander Cunningham started archaeological exploration in India, during 1862-65 and he explored Haryana under the tour program of Punjab. Consequently, he visited those places which refer to Brahmanical and Buddhist's literature like Kurukshetra, Karnal, Kapalmochan, Pehowa and Nissing (Karnal) etc, (Cunningham 1872 & 1882). Thereafter, C. Rodger explored several sites in Haryana during 1888-89 (Rodgers 1891). After that in 1952 B.B. Lal started the organized explorations in north India to find out the PGW sites which were mentioned in the Mahabharata (Lal 1954-55: 5-151) that time he explored this region also. Furthermore, extensive explorations in Haryana were conducted by Professor Suraj Bhan in 1967, under this work he explored the Chautang (old Darishadwati River) valley and revealed a number of archaeological sites. (Suraj Bhan 1975: 121-126), In 1978 Manmohan Kumar submitted his Ph.D. thesis on "Archaeology of Ambala and Kurukshetra Districts (Haryana)" and he explored this region (Manmohan 1978). Brahm Dutt was the Next scholar who conducted an extensive exploration in Haryana under his Ph.D. programming and discovered good number of PGW sites (Brahm 1980). Apart from this, archaeological survey of India also conducted exploration in the study area under the supervision of J.P. Joshi (Joshi 1993). In addition to that, Yogeshwar Joshi also explored the northeastern Haryana during his Ph.D. (Joshi 2003).

Historical outline

Mustafabad was founded by Honorary Captain Ved Prakash Bakshi, who served in Indian army. He was awarded the rank of Subedar from V.V Giri (Varahagiri Venkata Giri), the

President of India at that time. However, this town became the new home of refugees, who came from Pakistan during the partition of India in 1947. Though, name of Mustafabad was changed to Saraswati Nagar on 5th of February 2016 by Government of Haryana.

However, land of Haryana is known as the cradle of civilization. It has been yielded the remains of prehistoric culture from Siwalik and Aravali hills (Mahapatra, 1966) as well as above mentioned previous studies show the proto-historic settlements in Saraswati and Darishadwati valley in Haryana. A number of Harappan, PGW and Historical colonies found all over Haryana. The ancient scriptures explained the History of this region. According to the Vedic literature, Aryan occupied Saraswati, Darishadwati, and Yamuna Valley (Singh 1981:7) and before the Aryans, this land was occupied by the Naga, who worshiped of Naga deity. During the war of Mahabharata, it fell under Kuru state and many associated places of Mahabharata have the existence in this region like Kapalmochan and Bilaspur. Through the period of the rise of 16 Mahajanapada, it was part of major Mahajanapada which was called Kuru-Janapada in Jambudvipa (A. Nikaya. I,VI.). Later, this province became the part of Nanda's empire (Datta & Phadke 1984:42) later on Topra edict and Chaneti stupa show the control of Ashoka on this region after the Nanda. Excavation at Sugh and various explorations have been presented evidence of Sunga possession on Haryana (Bhan 1977). Indo-Greek coins were recovered from Haryana which indicates the political control of Greeks on the study area (Datta & Phadke, 1984:16) and they were defeated by Kushana and established their rule in north India during early century of Christian era. After the decline of Kushana, the Yaudheya hold the power of this region for the second time (Phadke 1990:41). However, the Inscription of Kapalmochna confirms the jurisdiction of Gupta Empire in this region (Cunningham 1882:75-76). Thus, after the attack of Hunas and decline of the Guptas, in the 6th century A.D. Pushabhuti established a new state as Srikantha Janapad, the capital was Sthaneswar (Thansar), who was provincial governor of Guptas. During the Early medieval period; Haryana ruled by Gurjar-Partihars, Tomars and Chahmans, there after present area came under the Muslim rule of Delhi seat (Datta & Phadke 1984: 36-37).

Research methodology

Principally, explorations and excavations are used for archaeological investigations. The researcher has adopted the exploration method to collect the samples of physical remains of human being from ancient sites and to find out new sites in this region. The investigator conducted village-to-village exploration in accordance with previous studies as well as used the ancient literary sources to find out those legendary places which are mentioned in the ancient text. This extensive exploration was carried out during the rainy spell because during the rain, relics come out from the mound in the rain gullies. The explorer picked-up the samples from the rain gullies, surface and tube-well drains (Khal) at the sites. To record the accurate geo-coordinates of every site the researcher made use of Polaris Navigation

GPS application on digital device during the exploration. A high-resolution digital camera brought into use for photography of sites and remains. The point of sites plotted on the map of Mustafabad blocks with the help of Arch-GIS Software. Regarding the identification of ceramics industry and dating of cultural remains, researcher followed the typology method and approximate size of sites was defined on the basis of diffusion of physical remain.

Exploration

During village to village field, investigation, explorer visited around 60 villages and explored the 20 archaeology sites, including the new discovery and earlier explored sites. On the basis of preliminary examination of data, it seems that these sites belong to the Late Harappan/Bara to the medieval period. It was observed that most of the sites were found under the cultivation as well as some sites have been eliminated completely for the purpose of agriculture and established modern settlements. However, remaining sites are moving toward the end rapidly, due to the new habitation and agriculture. Some scholar already explored this area which has been described in previous works. These explorations were conducted so far back since 1967 to 2003, so researcher felt a requirement of exploration in this region with new objectives and techniques.

1. Late Harappan /Bara = 15
2. PGW = 5
3. Early Historical & Historical = 8
4. Medieval = 2
5. Unidentified = 4

Discussion

Only proto-historic sites fall under the scope of my Ph.D. research, so only proto-historic settlements will be described in further paragraph. Present study area comes under the two seasonal rivers which are known as Chautang (Ancient Darishadwati) and Saraswati; both rivers were perennial in the ancient time. This region was full of resources that attracted the early settlers to live in the region. On the behalf of initial examination of material culture, it seems that earlier this region was occupied by the late Harappan people and Bara people. During the course work of recent exploration, only 15 late Harappan / Bara and sites came into light in this region. Probably Bara people came in this area from Sutlej valley through the Ghaggar basin. After that, Painted Gray Ware culture flourished in the area which is known as the Aryan culture, only 5 settlements of PGW Culture came into light during the exploration. However, researcher observed the growth in Bara culture's sites camper to late Harappan sites. Thus, some PGW sites are found on the late Harappan Deposit and some are found on the natural soil, it may be possible that those Aryan came into the early wave, they settled on late Harappan sites. And, who reached in later wave they adopted the virgin soil to settle. At last, it can be assumed that Saraswati and Darishadwati were the perennial rivers which provided the water, food and fertile land for agriculture during the proto-historic phase, so these people adopted this region for the living.

List of Archaeological Sites of Block Mustaabad

Sr.No.	Site Name	Culture Sequence	Block	District	Size	Reference	River
1	Garhi	Late Harappan	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	15-20 acre	New site	Saraswati
2	Hudia	Late Harappan PGW	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	40-45 acre	New Site	Saraswati

3	Sikandra and Hadtan	Medieval	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	5-6 acre	New Site	Saraswati
4	Ramgarh	Historical	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	20-25 acre	New Site	Saraswati
5	Raupoli	May be Late Harappan	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	4-5 acre	New Site	Chautang
6	Masana Rangran	Late Harappan	Rador	Ymunanagar	?	New Site	Chautang
7	Gundyani	Late Harappan/Bara PGW	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	5-8 acre	New Site	Saraswati
8	Chamrodi-I	Late Harappan (Bara)	Rador	Ymunanagar	?	New Site	Rakshi
9	Chamrodi-II	Late Harappan/Bara	Rador	Ymunanagar	5-7 acre	New Site	Rakshi
10	Dholi	?	Rador	Ymunanagar	?	New Site	Chautang
11	Sialba	Late Harappan, PGW	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	5-6 acre	New Site	Chautang
12	Topra Khurad	Late Harappan	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	18-20 acre	New Site	Chautang
13	Gandapura	Late Harappan	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	4-5 acre	New site	Chautang
14	Topra	Early Historical	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	?	Explored by Cunningham	Chautang
15	Hussanpur	Historical	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	5-6 acre	New site	Chautang
16	Darajpur	Historical	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	?	New site	Chautang
17	Jhadchanda-na	Historical	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	7-8 acre	New site	Chautang
18	Ahmadpur Majra	Bara	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	6-7 acre	New Site	Saraswati
19	Fahtepur	Historical	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	12-15	New Site	Saraswati
20	Sukhdaspur	Bara	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	4-5 acre	New Site	Saraswati
21	Khera Khurad	Bara and PGW	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	20-22 acre	New site	Saraswati
22	Lawana	PGW Historical	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	4-5 acre	Joshi 2003	Saraswati
23	Ajjipur	?	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar		New site	Saraswati
24	Jagdholi	Historical	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	?	New Site	Saraswati
25	Kulchandu	?	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	?	New Site	Saraswati
26	Kotarkhana	Bara	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	2-3 acre	Joshi 2003	Chautang
27	Gdhola	?	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	3-4 acre	New Site	Saraswati
28	Mustafabad-I	Medieval	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	?	Joshi 2003	Saraswati
29	Mustafabad-II	Early Historical	Mustafabad	Ymunanagar	2-3 acre	Joshi 203	Saraswati

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