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Re-assessment of excavated site, Rakhigari in Haryana

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Abstract: ***Haryana is also one of the wealthier states of India and had been second highest per capital in come in the country at 138,859 in the year 2011-2012 and in the year 2012-2013 including the largest number of rural crorepatis mainly Ahirs and jats in India. Haryana is one of the most economically developed regions in the south Asia and its agriculture and manufacturing industry had experienced sustained growth since in 1970. Haryana is India's largest manufacturer of passenger cars, two-wheelers and tractors. Since 2000 the state has emerged as the largest recipient of investment per capita in India. The city of Gurgaon has rapidly emerged as a major hub for information technology and auto-mobile manufacture of two wheelers Faridabad, Panchkula, Dharuhara, Bawal, Sonipat, Panipat, Yamuna, Nagar and Rewari are also industrial hubs. With the Panipat refinery being the second largest refinery in south Asia, there are also long established steel, plywood, paper and textile industries in the state.***

Haryana was the outermost location of the ancient Indus valley civilization with the centers such as Banawali and Rakhigari, is now a village of Hisar district. The site is dated to be over 5000 years old. Evidence pried roads drainage system, large rain water collection storage system, terracotta brick. Statue production and skilled metal work (in both precious metals) has been covered.

Excavation conduct of Rakhigari includes that the settlement witnessed all the phases of Harapan (3200-2700 BC) as well as mature Harappan (2700-1800 BC). The position of Rakhigari is a unique Harappan site which promises to reveal new civilizations by a thousand years or more said a latest publication of department of Archaeology and museums, authored by vardan.

Keywords: Banawali Rakhigari Evidence Settlement Harppan Archaeology museuns

I. INTRODUCTION

Haryana is the state of North India. It came to existence on 1 November 1966 as a newly created state carved out of the Punjab state of the basis of language. It has been a part of the Kuru region in north India. The name of Haryana is found mentioned in the 12th century AD by the Apabharmshd writer Vibudh Shridhar (1189-1230 vs.).it is bordered by Punjab and Himanchal Pradesh to the North, and by Rajasthan to the west and south .the river Yamuna defines its eastern border with Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh .Haryana also surrounds the country's capital Delhi on three sides, forming the Northern, western and southern borders of Delhi. Consequently, a large area of south. Haryana is included in the national capital region for purpose of planning for development.

Sites in Haryana were part of the Indus valley and Vedic civilization several decisive battes were fought in the area, which shaped much on the History of India. These include the epic battle of Mahabharata at kurukshetra mentioned in the Hindu mythology including recite o the Bhagavad Gita by Krishna and the three battles of panipat. Haryana was administered as part of the Punjab province of British India, and was carved out on linguistic lines as India's 17th state in 1966. Haryana is now a leading contributor of the country's production of food grains and milk. Agriculture is the leading occupation for the residents of the state. The flat arable lands irrigated by submersible pumps land an extensive canal system. Haryana contributed heavily to the green revolution that made India self sufficient in food production in the 1960.

II. BRIEF HISTORY

The name of Haryana could mean "the abode of God'' derived from the Sanskrit word Hari (the Hindu God Vishnu) and Ayana (home).'' Scholars such as Munilal, Murli chand Sharma, H.A Phadke and Sukhdev Singh Chib believe that the name Haryana comes from the words Hari (Sanskrit Harit, "Green") and Aiyana (Forest). Haryana name was probably derived from the great Rana Har Raj, a great general of Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan, who settled down along with the folks from his clan in the plains of present day Haryana and therefore was the largest and the most powerful occupant of present day Haryana. He is also popularly known as Rana Harraa .

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III. GEOGRAPHY OF HARYANA

The state of Haryana is located in the North-western part of India. The river Yamuna flows on the eastern boundary of the state. The Shivalik mountain range flanks the state on its north; the state of Himanchal Pradesh is also on its Northern side.

On the western side, it is flanked by the state of Punjab. At the southern side, the state is flanked by the Aravalli hills and the dessert of Rajasthan. On the eastern side, utter Pradesh is the neighbouring state, which touches it only for a limited length. As soon as one crosses the Yamuna River on the eastern side, one enters Uttar Pradesh.

The total area of state Haryana is 44,212 square kilometres. Its total population is 2,10,82,989. As per census (2001), Area wise, Haryana is a moderately large state. All others state of the country are larger (in terms of area) except kerla, Goa Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Himanchal Pradesh and Kashmir.

A. Terrain

Haryana is at a height of 700-900 feet above the mean sea level meals. Its terrain can be divided into four parts. The brief description of its towns, cities, and terrain is as follows.

Haryana has a total of 106 cities and towns. It has 6,955 villages. For administrative purposes the whole state has been further sub-divided into 4 divisions –Ambala, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Hissar. There are 21 districts, 51 sub-divisions, 71 tehsils, 44 sub tehsils and 119 blocks. Haryana is situated in the north between 27° 37° to 35° latitude and between 74°28° to 77°36 ° longitude. Haryana has uttar Pradesh on eastern border, Punjab on western border16.Himanchal Pradesh and Shivalik hills on its northern border in Delhi, Rajasthan and Rravalli hills on its southern border. The attitude of Haryana varies between 700 feet to 900 feet above the mean sea level. Haryana has four main types of terrain as follows

B. Shivalik Hills

The altitude varies between 900 to 2300 meters. These hills are Source Rivers like Sarasvati, Ghagger, Tangri and Markanda. It is cold region, which receives rainfall in plenty

C. Ghaggar Yamuna Plain

It is divieded into two parts:

The higher one is called bangara while the lower one is called khaddar. The alluvium plain is made up on sand, clay, silt and hard calcareous balls like gravels, winters are very cold where as summers are very hot. Rainfall occurs in plenty. Trees of sheesham, papal, Banyan, Mango, Neem and jamun are found here.

D. Seni-Desert Sandy Plain

The area is borders the state of Rajasthan and includes the districts of Sirsa and parts of Fatehabad, Hissar, Bhawni and Mahedragarh district. Rainfall is scarce and hot dry winds blow at high speeds keekar, Thor, Kir and other thorny Sheubs are found here.

E. Aravalli Hills

This is a dry area with uneven and irregular land scape. State is taken out of this area. There is minimum rainfall here.

F. Climate of Haryana

Climate of Haryana is similar to those other states of India lying in the northern plains. it is very hot in summer with temperature going up to a peak of 50° Celsius. The hottest months are May and June and coldest being December and January .Rainfall is variable Shaivalik hills region being the lowest and the Aravalli hills region being the lowest. About 80% of the rainfall occurs during the monsoon season July, September and, sometimes causes local floods.

G. Rakhigari

Rakhi is a village in Hisar district in the state of Haryana in India. It is around 150 km from Delhi. In 1963 archaeologists discovered that the village was the site of the largest known city of the so called Indus valley civilization, a city that was much larger and more ancient than Harappan and Mohenjo-Daro site. It is situated on the dry bed of the river sarasvati, which once followed here and is believed to have dried up by 2000 BC. The village in Haryana sitting on the top of rare Archaeological site, that is older and large than Mohenjo-Daro, perhaps the best known human settlement of Indus valley civilization.

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Research and officials in Haryana have indicated that this could indeed by true for Rakhigri village in Haryana Hisar district. It is about 200 km from Chandigarh. It is located on the jind-hansi road, about 8 km from Normand town. The seven mounds in the area could change history related to the Indus valley civilization (now refers to as the Harappan civilization) on the views of researcher.
Vijay Vardhan, Haryans principal secretary for archaeology and museums, told IANS, the site could be throw up new information about the Indus valley civilization. Archaeologists, who have been to Rakhigiri say that the town under north. These mounds could be larger and even 800 years old than Mohenjo-Daro.

H. Excavation

Since 1997 the archaeological survey of India has under taken a detailed excavation of the site, revealing the size of the lost city (at least 2.2 km2) and recovering numerous artefacts, some over 5,000 years old. Rakhigarhi was occupied at early Harappan times. Evidence of paved roads, drainage system, large rain water collection storage systems, terracotta bricks, statue production and skilled metal working (in both bronze and precious metals) has been uncovered jewellery, including bangles made from terracotta, conch shells gold and semi precious stones, have also been found.
Excavation conduct at Rakhigari indicates that the settlement witnessed all the phases of the Harappan (3200-2700 BC), as well as mature Harappan (2700-1800 BC). The position of Rakhigari is a unique Harappan site which promises to reveal new civilization contours by publishing the Indus valley civilization by a thousand years or more said, a latest publication of the department of archaeology and museums, authored by vardan. The present Rakhigari village stands on three of the seven mounds under which are the archaeological site exists 4 mounds are clear for excavation, while the present village will have to be moved to excavate remaining three mounds, vardhan said, the area and dimensions of Rakhigari make it possibly the largest Indus valley civilization in India sub-continent. The excavation at the site so far has revealed all the defining feature of Indus valley civilization. Pottery, kiln, wheel made pottery backed to red colour, Indus script on the seals and other layout feature, and other traditions of the civilization.
The town of Mohenjo-Daro was discovered in 1922. Following the excavations at Harappan other places =. Mohenjo-Daro was recognised as the earliest city of Indian sub-continent. Haryana itself is home to over 100 Early Harappan sites (2500-2200BC). Most of these lie in kurukshetra, Ambala, Hisar, Bhiwani and Rohtak district etc.

I. Rakhigari The Biggest Harappan Site

The discovery of two mounds in January at the Harappan site of Rakhigarhi in Hisar district, Haryana, has led to archaeologists establishing it as the biggest Harappan civilization site. Until now, specialists in the Harappan civilization had argued that Mohenjo-Daro in Pakistan was the largest among the 2,000 Harappan sites known to exist in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The archaeological remains at Mohenjo-Daro extend around 300 hectares. Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa and Ganweriwala (all in Pakistan) and Rakhigari and Dholavira (both in India) are ranked as the first to the fifth biggest Harappan sites.
With the discovery of two additional mounds, the total area of Rakhigari site will be 350 hectors, asserted Professor Vasant Shinde, vice chancellor/ director Deccan College post-graduate and research institute. A deemed-to-university in Pune, the 2 mounds are in addition to the seven mounds for already discovered at Rakhigari, about 160 km from New Delhi. The 8 and 9 mounds, spread over 25 hectares each, are situated to the east and west of the main site. Villagers have destroyed much of these mounds for civilization. A team archaeology teachers and students of the Deccan College discovered them when they surveyed the site in January.
Dr. Shinde, a specialist in Harappan civilization and director of the current excavation at Rakhigari, called it ‘an important discovery’ he said, “our discovery makes Rakhigari the bigger than Mohenjo-Daro. The 2 new mounds show that the Rakhigari site was quite extensive. They have the same material as the main site. So they are part of the main site. On the surface of mound nine, we noticed some burnt clay clots and circular furnaces indicating this was the industrial area of the Harappan site of Rakhlgarhi.
Dr. Shinde had earlier led the excavation done by the Deccan College at the Harappan sites of Farmana, Girawad and Mitathal, all in Haryana. On the surface of mound eight were found terracotta bangles, cakes pottery pieces, typical of the Harappan civilization, said Nilesh Pashal, research Assistant, Department of Archaeology Deccan College.

J. Artefacts Found

From January 10, the Deccan college team has excavated five trenches on the slop of the mound four and another trench in the barial mound numbered seven. The excavation in mound four has yielded a cornucopia of artefacts, including a seal and a potsherd, both inscribed with the Harappan script, potsherds painted with concentric circles, fish-net designs, wavy patterns, floral designs and geometric designs, terracotta animal figures, cakes, hop scotches and shell bangles, all belonging to the mature Harappan phase of the civilization. The 5 trenches have revealed residential rooms, bathroom with a soak jar, drainages, a hearth, a platform etc.

The residential rooms were built with mud bricks. The complex revealed different structural phases, said kanti pawar, assistant professor, department of Archaeology.

Much of the Harappan site at Rakhigarhi lies buried the present day village, with several hundreds of houses built on the Archaeological remains. The villager's main occupation is cultivation of wheat and mustard and rearing of buffaloes, an important problem about the Harappan culture. Dr. Shinde said, the Harappan civilization had three phases. The early Harappan from circa 3500 BCE to circa 2600 BCE and the mature Harappan which lasted from circa 2600 BC to circa 2000 BC and later Harappan from circa 200 BCE to 1600 BC.

It was earlier thought that the origin of the early Harappan phase took place in Sind, in present-day Pakistan, because many sites had not been discovered then. In the last ten years, we have discovered many sites in this part of Haryana and there are at least five Harappan sites such as Kunal, Bhirrana, Farmana Girawad and Mitathal, which are produced early dates and where the early Harappan could be go back to 5000 BCE. And we went to confirm it. Rakhigarhi is an ideal candidate to believe that beginnings of Harappan civilization took place in the Ghaggar basin in Haryana and it gradually grew up from here. If we get the conformation it will be interesting because the origin would be having taken place in Ghaggar basin in India and moved to Indus valley. That is one of the important aims of our current excavation at Rakhigari.

K. Ancient Granary Found In Haryana

A 'beautifully made' granary, with walls of mud-bricks, which are still in a remarkably good condition, has been discovered in just-conclude excavation of Rakhigari village, a Harappan civilization site in Haryana. The granary has rectangular and aquarist chambers. Its floor is made of ramped earth and plastered with mud. Vasant Shinde said, "We excavated 7 chambers in the granary from the mature of the structure. It appears to big structure because it extends on all sides. We do not know whether it is a private or public granary. Considering that it extends on all sides it could be a big public granary." He called it a "beautifully made structure" With mud bricks. The excavating teams found several traces of line and decomposed grass on the lower portion if the granary walls. This is significant indictors that it is a stoked house for storing grains because line act as insect and grass prevent moisture from interning the grains. This is a strong proof for understanding the function of the structure explained Dr. Shinde, a specialist in the Harappan civilization.

L. Area

The sites are 224 hectares the largest in the country. This estimation places Rakhlgarhi bigger than Mohenjo-Daro in size. However some estimates put in a little less area. In size dimension static location and unique significance of the settlements, Rakhlgarhi matches Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro at very level. Three layers of early nature and layer phase of Indus valley civilization have been found at Rakhlgarhi what was so hot been founds indicates that Rakhlgarhi settlements witnessed all the three phases. The sites antiquities drainage system and signs of small scale industry are in continually with other Indus sites. But major the portion of this site has not been excavated yet.

M. Discoveries

Digging so far reveals a well planned city with 1.92 m wide roads, a bit wider than in Kalibangan. The pottery is similar to Kalibangan and Banawali. Pits surrounded by walls have been found, which are thought to be sacrificial pits or for some religious ceremonies. Fire was used extensively in their religious ceremonies. There are brick lined drains to handle sewage from the houses. Among other things that have been found are terracotta statues, weights, bronze artefacts, combs, copper fish hooks, needles and terracotta seals. A bronze vessel has been found which is decorated with gold and silver. A gold foundry with about 3000 unpolished semi-precious stones has been found. Many tools used for polishing these stones and a furnace were found there A burial site has been found with 11 skeletons, with their heads in the north direction. Near the heads of these skeletons, utensils for everyday use were kept. The three female skeletons have shell bangles on their left wrists. Near one female skeleton, a gold armlet has been found. In addition semi precious stones have been found lying near the bead, showing that they were part of some sort of necklace. Fire altars and apsidal structures were revealed in Rakhigarhi. Cotton cloth traces preserved on silver or bronze objects were known from Rakhigarhi, Chanhudaro and Harappa. An impressive number of stamps seals were also found at this site.

N. Hakra ware

The site has thick deposits of `Hakra Ware' (typical of settlements dating back before the early phases of Indus Valley and dried up Sarasvati river valley). It also has 'Early and 'Mature' Harappan artefacts. The solid presence of the Hakra Ware culture raises the important question, 'Did the Indus civilization come later than it is recorded?"

The Hakra and the early phases are separated by more than 500-600 years and the Hakra people are considered to be the earliest Indus inhabitants. Although the carbon-14 dating results are awaited, based on the thick layers of Hakra Ware at Rakhigarhi, it is said that the site may date back to about 2500 BC to 3000 BC.

O. Cemetery

A Cemetery of Mature Harappan period is discovered at Rakhigarhi, with eight graves found. Often brick covered gravel pits had wooden coffin in one case. Different type of gravel pits were undercut to form an earthen overhang and body was placed below this; and then top of grave was filled with bricks to form a roof structure over the grave.

The size and uniqueness of Rakhigarhi has drawn much attention of archaeologists all over the world. It is mater to Delhi indicating the spread of Indus valley civilization up to this distance on north India. Much of the area is yet to be executive and details to be published from this site. Another related site in the area is Mitathal, which is still awaiting excavation. Other excavated early Harappan levels in Haryana include those at Siswal (Bhan 1973) bale (1983-84) etc. But apart from the ceramic details there is hardly anything interesting at these sites. In eastern Punjab, Moherana in the Sangrur district shows in its early Harappan phase some kalibangan type of pottery, traces of mud platforms, tandoor's ovens terracotta bangles heads cakes and cart frames and static and finance beads. Rohira in the same district seems to be another site in Punjab where some early Harappan remains has been excavated. it may further be noted that in the Mansa taluk tehsil of Bhatinda distic Punjab, eight pre Harappan sites located at Gurnkalan, Hassar, Gurna, Baglianda, Ther lakhmiwala, Naiwala ther and dhawan are huge in dimensions.

The issue of a pre-Harappan phase in Gujarat has been kept alive since S.R. Rao 1963 clearly reported a micaceous red ware of the Harappan context in the region. M.K. Dhavalikar and G.L. possehl 1992 have discussed the evidence from nagwada in the Rupen estuary, Dholavira in the great Rann of Kutch and Prabhas Paten (somnath) on the west coast of the Saurashtra peninsula. To begin with, no separate and pre-Harappan micaceous were level could be isolated, Second even a nagwada although some pottery from a burial site is supposed to have possessed affinities with the amri pottery in Sind. The premise of the amri connection in pre-Harappan Gujarat is certainly not beyond dispute. Again the two early radio carbon dates from the earliest level at Prabhas paten (2800 to 2900 BC celebrated) are no doubt interesting, but one notes that as late as in 1984 Dhavalikar was arguing that a pre-2000 BC date for this level was unlikely. This only solid evidence in the regarded has emerged from Dholavira where R.S. Bisht (1991) has strait graphically isolated a pre-Harappan culture (60-70 cm thick) while shows wheel made red and comb-incised/reserved slip wares. The occasional addition of white to other wise dark-coloured painting has been considered by Dhavalkar and possehl (1992) interesting because painting in which is one of the hallmarks of early Harappan, accruing in the amri nal, Kot diji and Sothi complexes bisht reported a good knowledge of the use of copper. The clear nature of the evidence leaves no doubt as to the extension of the early Harappan in Gujarat.

In the light of what is started above it is hardly a matter of surprise that the number of mature Harappan sites in the flood plain of the Indus-Nara interfluves in sind proper should be only be 14-15 (flam 1981 map) whereas equal number, if not more, of these sites have been found in the kirther piedmont and kohistan. In flam's map the combined stream of the Indus the nara flows in to the RAAN and thus the mature Harappan sites in along the Nara/Hakra into Kutch and Kathiawar and the main land Gujarat, from a part of dissemination of the mature Harappan sites along the nara/hakra into Kutch first and then into Gujarat as whole and it is also natural that an early Harappan level should be isolated in Kutch as has been the case at Dholavira. If one were to be comment on the location of Mohenjo-Daro as that stage, one would point out that Mohenjo-Daro is located half way between Sikarpur at the mountain of the kachi plain and sehwan and thus, a part from being located in the most fertile part of sind, was centrally positioned in relation to the resources of the kirthar piedmont and kohistan and beyond on the one hand and the goods Indus through the kachni plain on the other. The whole area constitutes a clear and distinct economic zone of the Indus civilization and no doubt of its formative stage as well. However, as i have argued, the primary and earlier zone lay in cholistan.[20]

IV. CONCLUSION

To conclude it, thus we can say, Haryana is a state of North India. It came to existence on 1 November 1966 as a new created state carved out of the Punjab state on the basis of language. It has been a part of the kuru region in north India. The name of Haryana is found mentioned in the 12th century A.D. by the Apabharmsha writer Vibuth Shridhar 489-1230. It is the bordered by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to the North and by Rajasthan to the west and South. The river Yamuna defines its eastern border with Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Haryana is also surrounds the country capital of Delhi. Consequently, a large area of south, Haryana is included in the national capital region for purpose of planning for development.

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The name of Haryana could mean "the Abode of God "derived from Sanskrit word Hari (the Hindu God Vishnu) and Ayana (home). Scholars such as Munilal, Murli Chand, shatma, H.A. phadke and sukhdev Singh, believe that the name of Haryana comes from the word of Hari (Sanskrit Harit, green) and Ayana, Forest. Haryana name was probably derived from the greatest Rana Hari Rai.

Haryana was the outer most location of the ancient Indus valley civilization with centres such as, Bangawali and Rakhlgharh. The most important centre Rakhlgharh is now a village in Hisar district. The site is dated 5,000 years old. Evidence of paved roads drainage system, large rain water collection, storage system, terracotta brick, status production and skilled metal working (in both bronze and precious metals.) has been in curved.

The archaeological excavation done here by the department of archaeological Haryana have ravelled a finally constructed fort town of the Harappa period overlying an extensive proto-urban settlements of the pre-happen culture. If the discovered ancient relics are arranged together, a fairly centre that if kalibangan was a metro politician town in the lower middle valley of the River Sarasvati. Banawali was possibly one along two upper middle courses of the river.

While the pre happen culture was still young, a new set of the people occupied Rakhigari. The soon built a were planned and fortified township in the classical chessboard pattern. Planned of mud-bricks houses with several rooms, a kitchen, a toilet etc are found to be built on both the sides on the roads and lane their sanitary arrangements depended upon use of sanitary pottery jars. Which served as wash basins? They were also used for soaking purposes.

Among the painted motifs, peacock, papal and banana leaves, trees, deer, stars, fish, flowers, interesting circles and honey comb patterns are of special interest. Certain figures of mother goddess and the like suggest that the Harappa were very fond of decorating their persons with elaborate head gear, ear rings, neckless, grassland etc. copper and bronze were used for making weapons and tools as also for making ornaments and items like arrows, spearheads rods, wires and hair pins. Breads fishe hooks, rings, bangles, antimony rods and razor blades.

This site is one of the most important archaeologist sites of Haryana. It has attractive the attention of Indian archaeologist and in importance. It rivals Kotdill and chanhuo (Sind Pakistan) kalibangan (Rajasthan) Surkotda and other Gujarat Rakhighiri (Hisar district and mittathal Bhiwani district.

The excavation of archaeology survey of India began here on December 14, last year and the excavation had gathered several clinting evidence of a 5000-year old Indus valley civilization Harappan. The ASI has collected several antiquities during the excavation so for which points the existence of Harappa era town ship here. The antiquities include three seals of the Harappa era bearing the impression of a pottery of that period, ornaments like copper bangles, steatite beads, copper, ring and several other antiquities like sling ball for scan ring away animals and birds from the fields, soak. Pits for the drainage water, circular cakes and net sinkers made of clay and children toy's like humped bull and whistle made of clay cheers.

Rakhlgarhi is a village in Hisar district in the state of Haryana. It is around 150km from Delhi. In 1963 Archaeologists' discovered that the village was the state of largest known city of so called Indus valley civilization. A city that was much larger and more ancient than Harappa and Mohan Jodhar site. It is situated on the dry bed of the river Sarasvati.

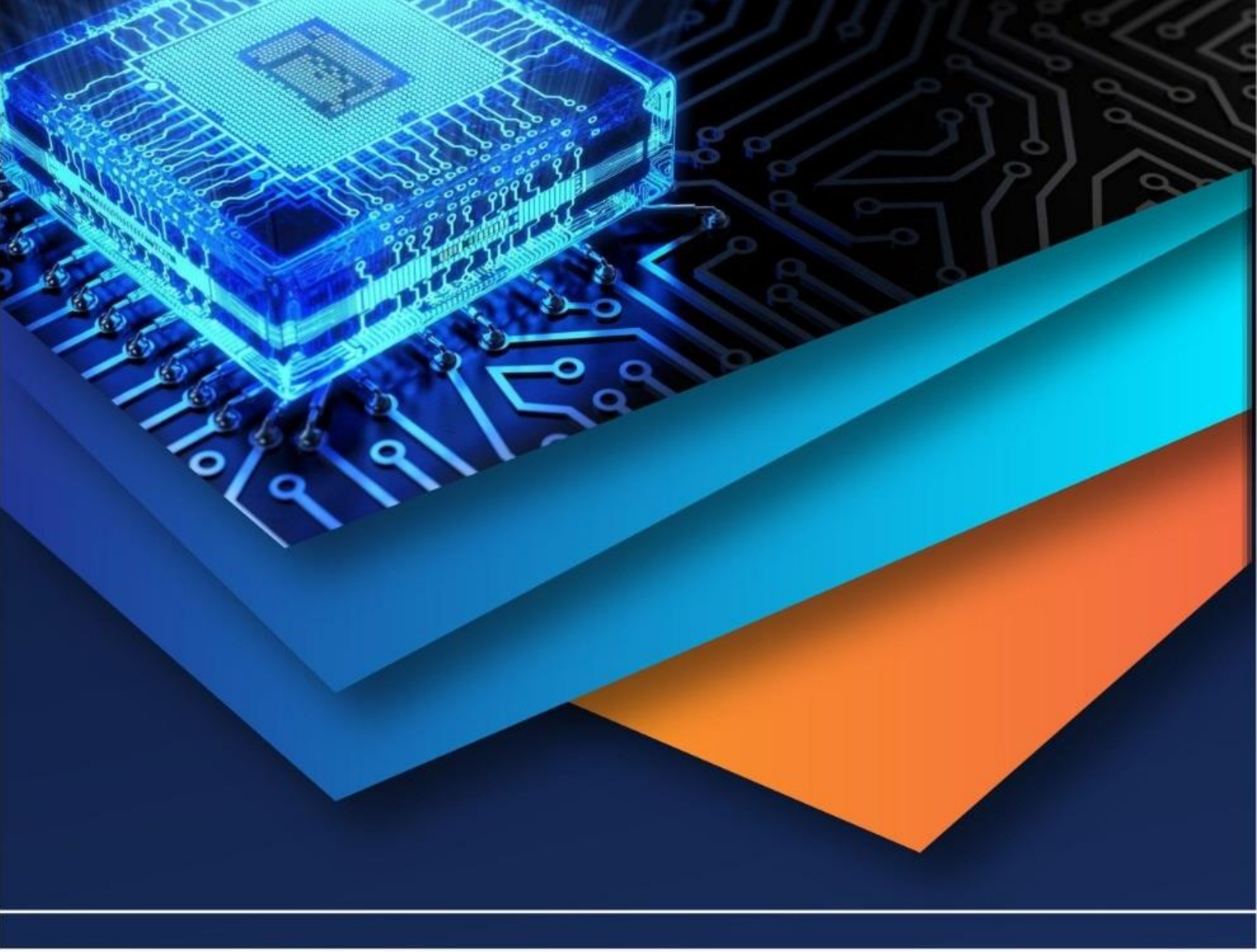
Archaeology of India has progressively changed from antiquarian pursuit to rigorous science. Leading this transformation has been the Archaeological survey of India, since the establishment in 1861 it has been digging and discovering precious historical sites and deciphering and describing thousand of important inscriptions. The 150th anniversary is an occasion for the nation to acknowledge the Asi's commendable track record and reflect on its future. Alexender Cunningham's 1861 memorandum to Lord Canning, which impressed to the Colonial power the "Supreme Need" to undertaken a systematic survey of monuments in India, led to the appointment of the first Archaeological surveyor.

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