



CSIR IN MEDIA

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NIO finds Dholavira 'treasure'

CSIR-NIO

In a major find through a project undertaken by the Goa-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), scientists have excavated the ancient submerged site of the Harappan port town of Dholavira which reveals to the world India's maritime history.

Located in Gujarat, Dholavira was the largest port-town of the Harappan civilization that flourished for about 1,500 years. Researchers have been perplexed about why the civilization came to an abrupt end. Archaeological excavations indicate that the township comprised of the castle, the middle town and the lower town.

Dholavira is the oldest known site in the world which could have been hit by the tsunami, experts at the NIO said. As per their latest findings, there is indication of marine sediments possibly transported to the site by an extreme oceanic incident, which they attribute to the tsunami.

A team of palaeo-climatologists, marine archaeologists and geophysicists from NIO surveyed an unexcavated area of the lower town using ground penetrating radar (GPR).

What lay beneath the surface were remains of construction from the civilization that were buried under a layer of 2.5 to 3.5 meter thick homogenous soil.

After systematically collecting the soil samples and examining the same, the scientists found fossils of foraminifera, that is, microscopic organisms that build calcareous shells and live only in seawater.

The presence of these shells in the soil strongly suggests an episodic deposition of marine sediments in the area. "The deposition of such a component from seawater into the soil could have occurred due to forceful movement caused by an extreme oceanic event, like the tsunami," said director, NIO, Dr S W A Naqvi.

One of the most intriguing features of Dholavira is the presence of a 14-18 meters thick wall at the site.

Sharing his thoughts about the same, chief scientist, Dr Rajiv Nigam who led the research said, "Most Harappan walls have fortification but nowhere have any walls been constructed with such thickness. This indicates that ancient Indians were aware of protection measures against the tsunami or storms surges. Harappans were thus pioneers in coastal disaster management. Most importantly, results of this study opens the possibility that Dholavira, at least in part, could have been destroyed by such a tsunami,"

More media coverage can be seen on following links:

<http://www.navhindtimes.in/dholavira-site-has-first-evidence-of-tsunami/>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/nio-discovers-world-s-first-ancient-settlement-destroyed-by-tsunami-116082901529_1.html

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Visitors-entry-into-Taj-may-be-limited-ASI-awaits-report/articleshow/53895458.cms>

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/worlds-first-ancient-settlement-destroyed-by-tsunami-discovered-1452009>

<http://www.newsonline.co.in/en/technology/tech-news/nio-discovers-worlds-first-ancient-settlement-destroyed-by-tsunami/>

<http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20160829/2926957.html>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/tsunami-might-have-destroyed-gujarats-dholavira-port-town-study-3003809/>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/tsunami-might-have-destroyed-guj-s-dholavira-port-town-study/1/752074.html>

<http://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/%E2%80%98Tsunami-engulfed-Harappanera-town-in-Gujarat%E2%80%99/105747.html>

CFTRI and University of Horticultural Sciences (UHS) sign MoU

CSIR-CFTRI

CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) has signed a MoU with the University of Horticultural sciences (UHS) Bagalkot under the CSIR Programme for Youth Leadership in Science (CPYLS).

CFTRI is actively engaged with students of high schools and colleges through CPYLS and the summer school programme for children from rural Mysuru, visits of students to laboratories and organising science and facilitating them.

CFTRI is conducting series of programme aiming at promoting interest, excitement and excellence in science education in schools and college. The programme encompasses training for both students and teachers to promote innovation and to update the knowledge base with new areas of science.

MoU signed: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Horticultural Sciences (UHS), Bagalkot, and CSIR-CFTRI. The association of CSIR-CFTRI with UHS, aims to conduct workshops on food processing for students from UHS, engage in farmer-scientist interaction, offer academic support and knowledge exchange.

Vice-chancellor of Mangalore University Prof K Byrappa launched the programme and Vice-chancellor of UHS D L Maheshwar exchanged the MoU documents with Director of CSIR-CFTRI, Prof Ram Rajasekharan.

As part of the programme, recent innovations of CSIR-CFTRI such as carbonated fruit juices, super foods, etc, were showcased.

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Source: citytoday.news/cftri-and-university-of-horticultural-sciences-uhs-sign-mou//