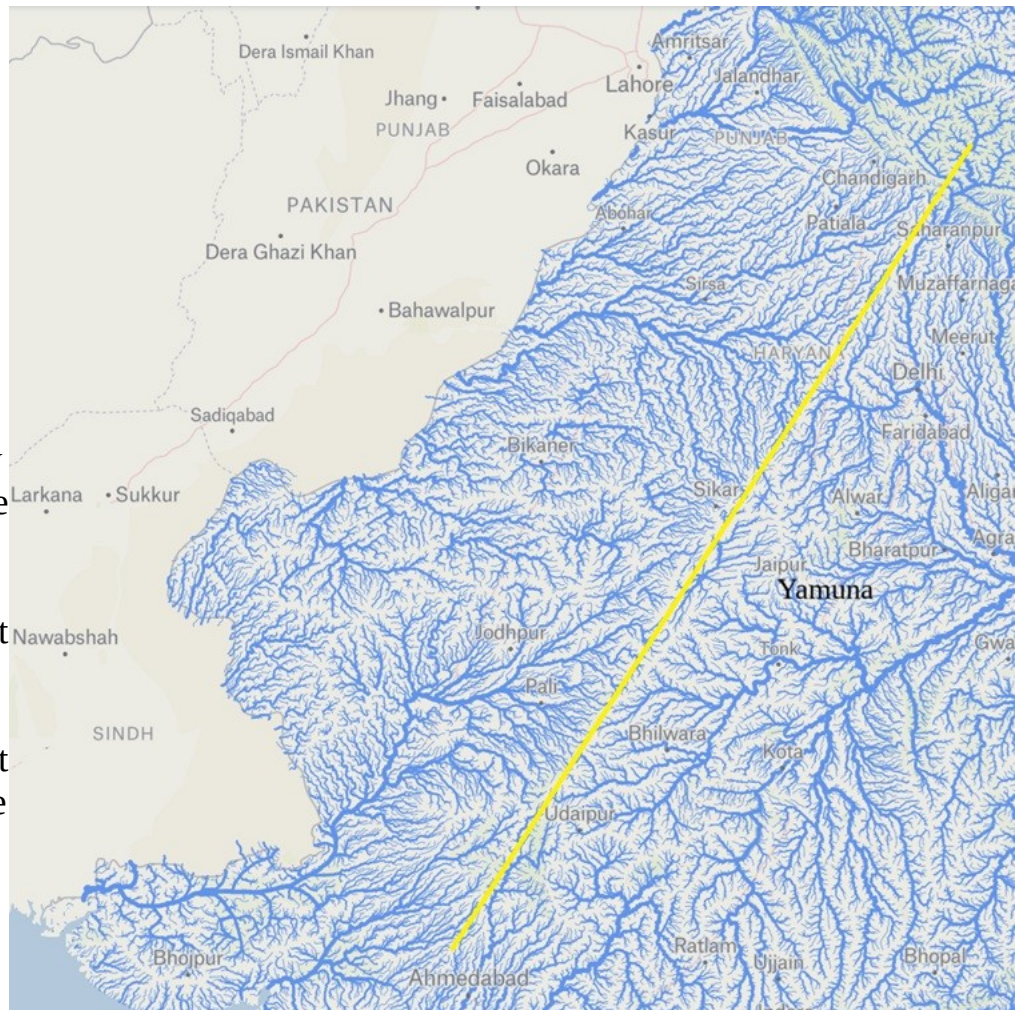


Thar Desert, an Archeological View

by Potluri Rao In Seattle ©2018 (CC BY 4.0)

Sixty thousand years ago, the Persian Gulf and Thar desert were fertile valleys with rainwater rivers. They attracted humans from Ethiopia. We used computer simulations to reconstruct the landscape of that time to understand human migrations. The Thar desert alternated between fertile valley and desert every 20,000 years, based on the earth's rotation called Precession.

The map is a digital X-Ray of the area to reveal the landscape when Thar was a fertile valley. The yellow line is the Aravalli Ridge. Every 20,000 years monsoon winds changed direction. When the winds blew from west to east, the Ridge tapped the clouds and sent rainwater on the west side to the Arabian Sea. When the winds blew from east to west, the west side was a desert with no rainwater. The east side of the ridge was the Yamuna river. The Ridge separated the east flowing and west flowing rivers of India.



The recent switch of wind direction took place around 2,200 BCE, called the global drought that lasted for almost 200 years. The Trikuta reservoirs on the west side of Satpura Ridge dried out at the same time.