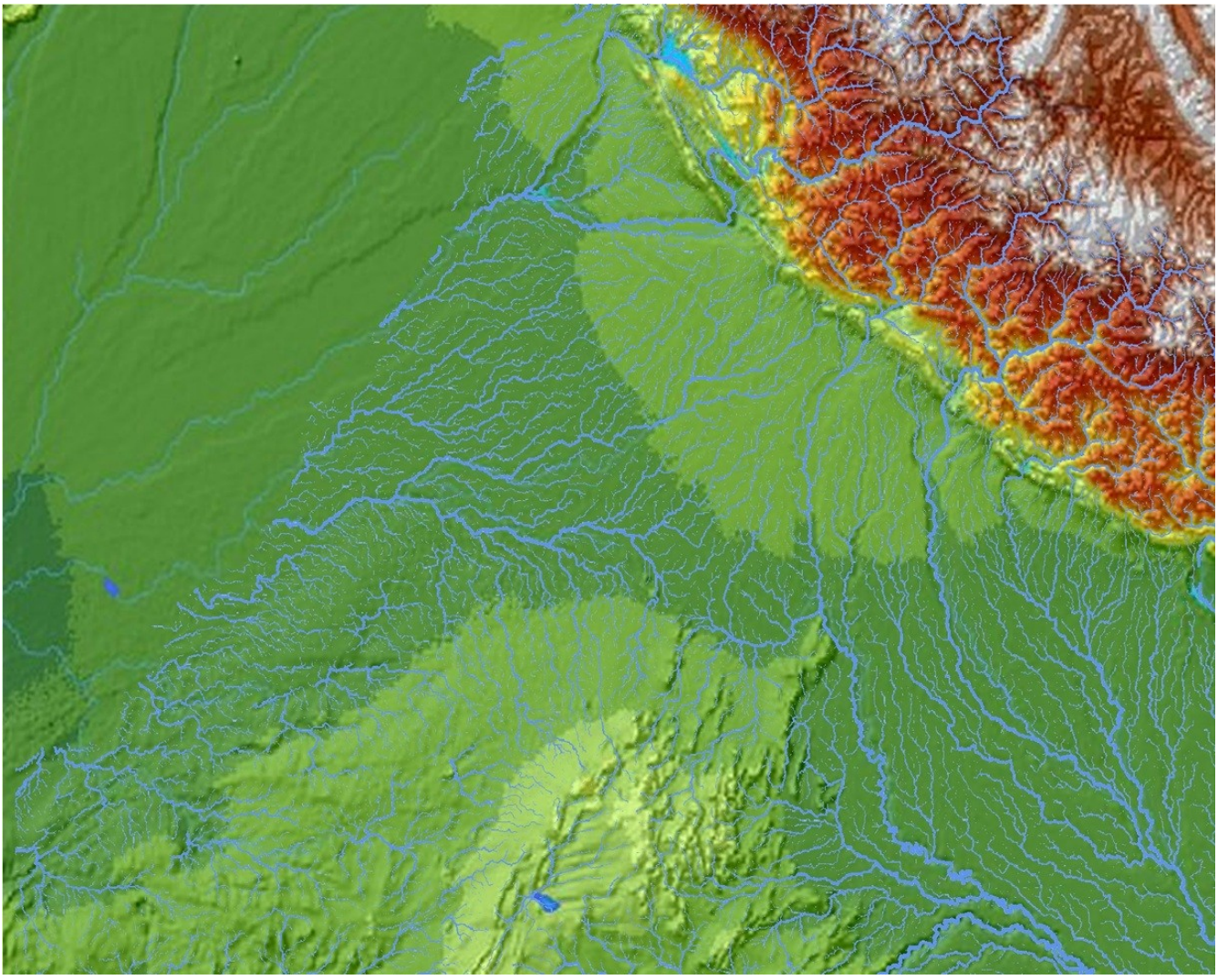
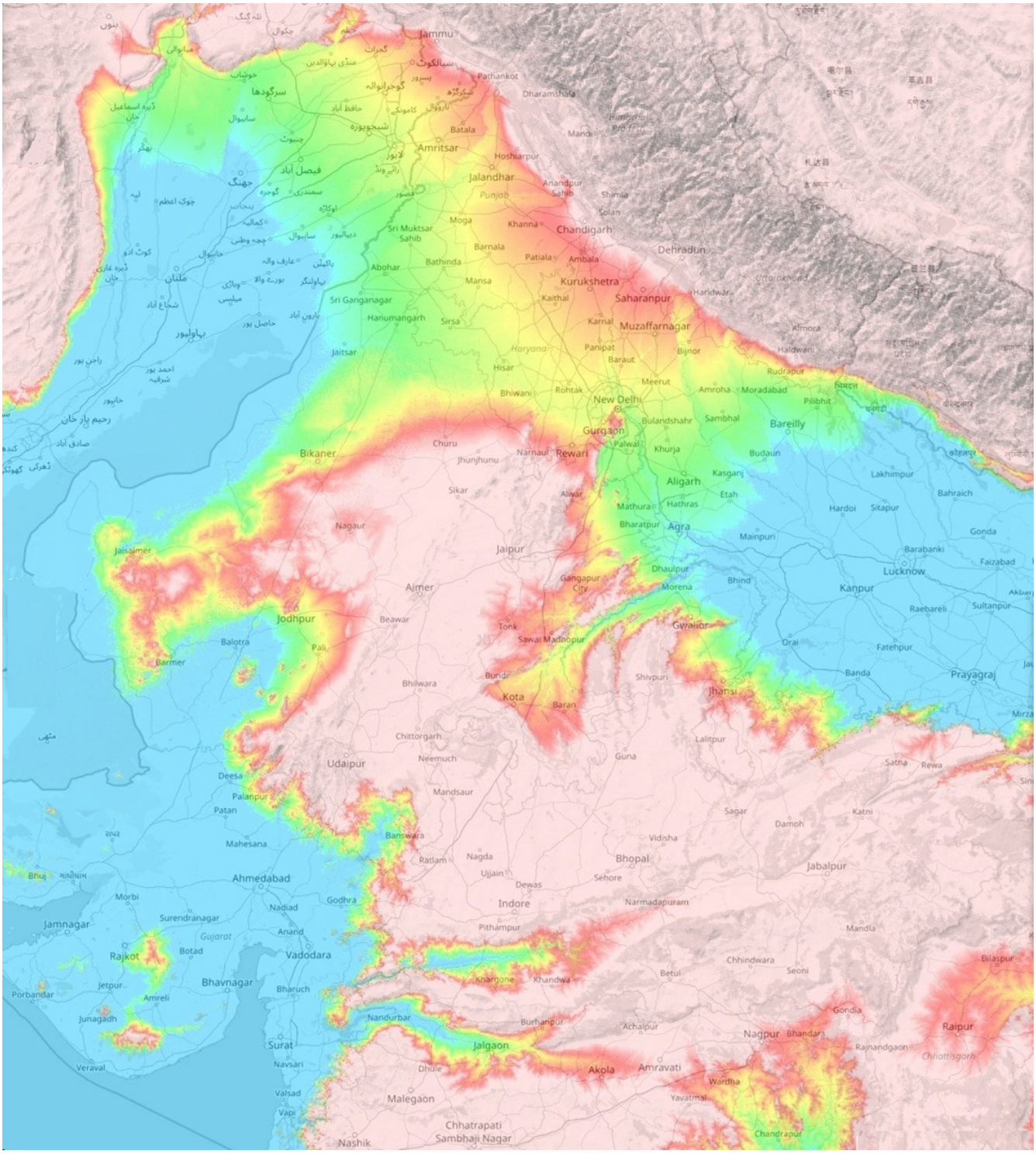
Rakhigarhi: An Archeological View

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

The excavation sites Harappa, Kalibangan, and Rakhigarhi were along the now dried-out rainwater tributaries of the ancient Indus River that is now dormant. The current Indus is a recent avulsion of Himalayan snowmelt water. Every 20,000 years Indian monsoon winds reverse direction due to a natural process. When the monsoon winds blew west to east, the current Thar Desert was a fertile valley of rainwater trapped by the Aravalli Ridge. There was no glacial melt; snow in the Himalayas formed into glaciers. When the winds reversed direction, the fertile lands turned into wastelands, and the Himalayan glaciers started to melt due to the temperature gradient. Snow in the Himalayas accumulated and melted to repeat the 41,000-year climate cycle. The below map is a digital reconstruction of the old rainwater Indus that went dormant 4,000 years ago.





In the above elevation map, the areas in the light blue, green, and yellow were lowlands suitable for human habitation. Hindus lived only in the lowlands between the Sutlej and Yamuna rivers; they had nothing to do with the current Indus River.