

Battle of Haldighati

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In news- The ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) would update a number of plaques in Rajasthan's Rajsamand district that carry 'incorrect information' about the Battle of Haldighati.

About the issue-

- The battle was **fought in June 1576**, between the forces of **Maharana Pratap of Mewar** and the soldiers led by his cousin, **Man Singh I of Amber**, who was **leading Akbar's army** to expand the Mughul empire.
- **According to the plaques currently in place, the battle is described as inconclusive, or a defeat for Maharana Pratap.**
- According to some historians, both sides claimed victory at the end of the battle.
- Mewar claimed they had won because there had been no surrender and the Mughals claimed victory because they still held the field.
- However, in the light of recent research and evidence, historians have also come to the conclusion that Pratap's army never retreated from the Battle of Haldighati and he won the battle.
- Hence Rajput organisations and historians have written to Rajasthan Chief Minister asking him to remove a plaque at **Rakht Talai**, which states that Maharana Pratap "retreated" from the Battle of Haldighati.
- Rakta Talai is 4 km away from Haldighati, where the battle was fought, and was the last spot of the battle.

About the Battle of Haldighati-

- Haldighati is a **region in the Aravalli mountain range**, which links Rajsamand and Pali districts in Rajasthan, the name for which is inspired by its **yellow-turmeric coloured soil**.

- Akbar was planning to stabilise his kingdom by gaining control over Rajput regions, which would have also secured lines of communication with Gujarat.
- In Rajasthan, almost all major kings had accepted the Mughal dynasty except Udai Singh, the father of Maharana Pratap.
- To demonstrate his authority, Akbar laid siege to Chittorgarh in October 1567 and the Rajputs were surrounded and besieged by the Mughals.
- Udai Singh was forced to quit and the responsibility of defence was given to King Jaimal of Merta, who was killed during the battle.
- Udai Singh continued to stay in the forests of Aravalli till his death four years later.
- After Udai Singh's death, his son Maharana Pratap took charge of Mewar.
- No negotiations worked and Akbar finally decided to begin the war.

The battle is described as being so fierce that the yellow soil of the area turned to red, which is why one of the battlefields is now known as **Rakht Talai, the pool of blood.**