

Hindustan Times

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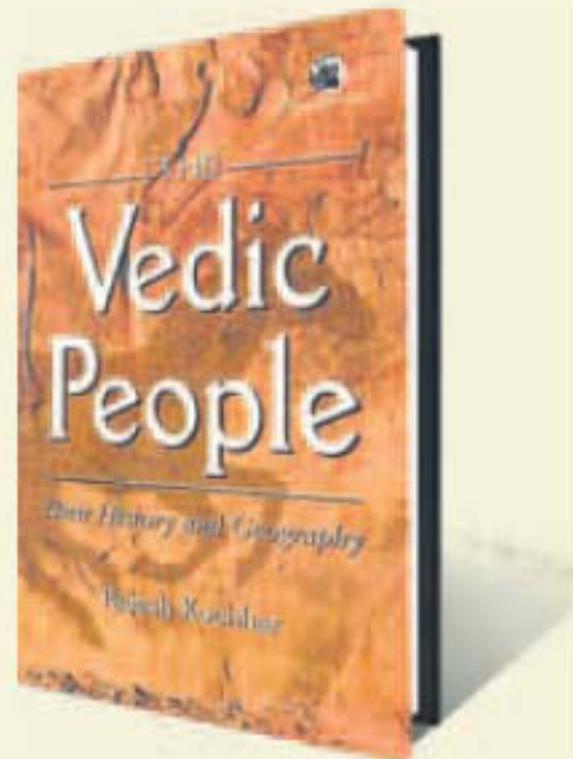
{ EDITOR'S PICK }

HT's editors offer a book recommendation every Saturday, which provides history, context, and helps understand recent news events

REVISITING THE ARYAN MIGRATION DEBATE

The spotlight is back on the Aryan Migration Theory, which posits an influx of European or Central Asian “Aryans” into the subcontinent who displaced the pre-Vedic indigenous people of the Indus Valley Civilisation. The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) has revised Class 12 history textbooks to deny the theory, citing 2018 studies of DNA samples from an excavation site in Rakhigarhi, Haryana. The findings of the studies, though, have sparked off a corollary debate on how they should be interpreted.

Against this backdrop, it would amply repay reading Rajesh Kochhar's *The Vedic People: Their History and Geography*. Kochhar, an astrophysicist trained in mathematics and physics at Panjab University, dissects evidence from a range of disciplines, from archaeology to natural history to astronomy, to place the Vedas and, by extension, the Vedic people in specific loci in history and geography.



**The Vedic People:
Their History and
Geography:** Rajesh
Kochhar
Year: 2000