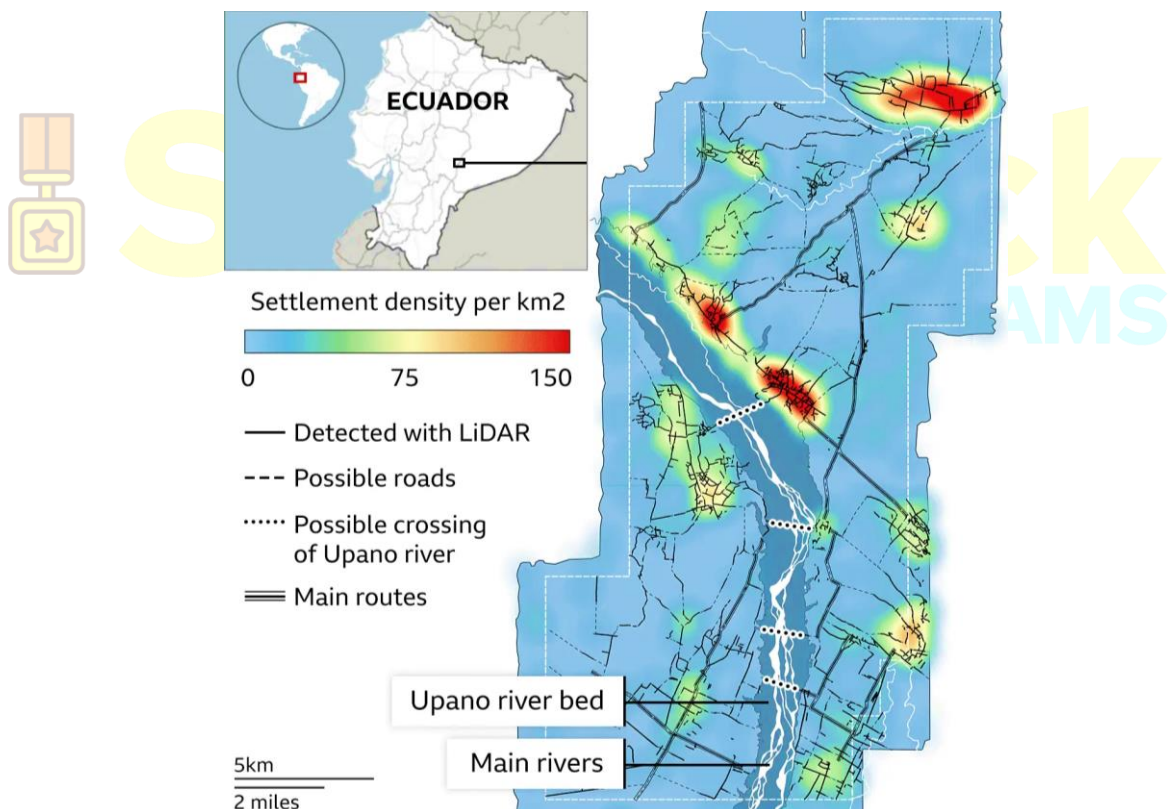


# Huge Ancient Lost Cities Found In Amazon Rainforest

## Why In The News?

- Archaeologists Have Discovered The Largest And Oldest Network Of Pre-Hispanic Cities Ever Found In The Amazon Rainforest, Revealing A **2,500-year-old Lost Civilisation Of Farmers**.
- The Vast Site, Which Covers More Than 1,000 Square Kilometres (385 Square Miles), Was Long Hidden By The Jungle In The Upano Valley On The **Foothills Of The Andes Mountain Range** In Eastern Ecuador.



## What Do We Know?

- **Stephen Rostain**, An Archaeologist At France's CNRS Research Centre And The Lead Author Of A New Study, Told It Was Like Discovering "El Dorado". The Scale Of This Urban Development Which Includes Earthen Homes, Ceremonial Buildings And Agricultural Draining Has Never Been Seen Before In The Amazon.

- They Found More Than **6,000 Earthen Mounds**, Rectangular Earthen Platforms Which Served As The Base Of Homes For The "**Upano People**". All The Domestic Remains One Would See In A Home Fireplaces, Large Ceramic Jars For Beer Made Out Of Corn, Grinding Stones, Seeds, Tools.
- Remarkably, The Cities Are All **Criss-crossed By Large, Straight Streets** Just Like In New York. Some Cities Have A Large Central Alley Where People From The Surrounding Villages Gathered, Comparing These Streets To Those Of The Ancient Teotihuacan City In Modern-Day Mexico.
- Construction On The First Mounds Is Thought To Have Begun Between 500 BC And 300-600 AD, Around The Time Of The Roman Empire. Other Large Villages Discovered In The Amazon Date From Between 500-1,500 AD. But This Network Of Cities Is "**Much Older And Much Bigger**," Rostain Said.
- The Discovery Shows That There Were **Not Only Hunter-gatherers** In The Amazon, But Also **Complex, Urban Populations**. A Certain Western Arrogance" Had Long Deemed It Impossible That Prior To European Colonization People In The Amazon Were Capable Of Building Such A Complex Society.

