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## NEW DISCOVERY OF KUSHAN PERIOD STUPA WITH CHAITYA AND HOUSE STRUCTURES

AT

VILLAGE PHARAL,  
DISTRICT KAITHAL, HARYANA (INDIA)

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### Abstract:

The present paper is based on the evidence from the remains of Stupa, Chaitya, Vihara and House Structures of Kushan period, brunt bricks discovered in village Pharal, district Kaithal, Haryana (India). Which has been discovered for first time during the archaeological exploration work done by us. Evidences of something six mounds find at this site. During the exploration antiquities and pottery from Mature Harappan period to 18<sup>th</sup> century AD. Have come to the fore. The architecture of this Stupa looks like the Stupa of Assandh (Karnal).

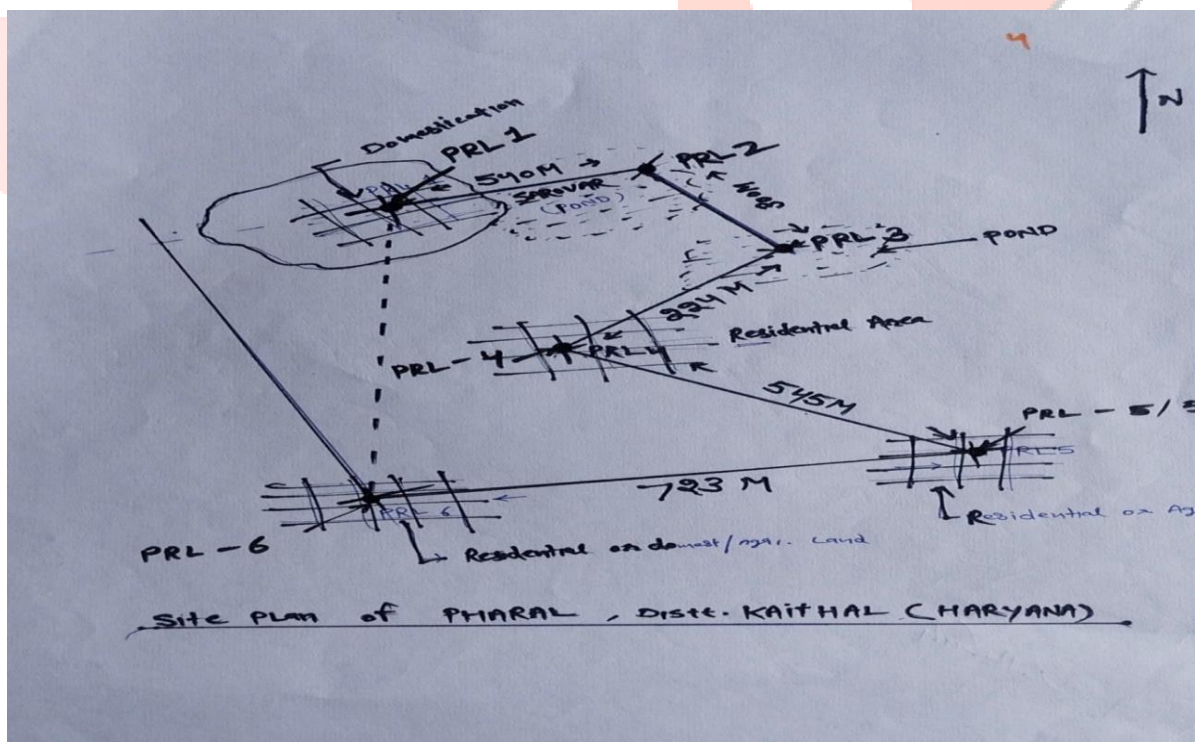
**Keywords:** Archaeological work, Exploration, Kushan period Stupa with Chaitya and Vihara, Kushan bricks structures, Pharal, Kaithal (Haryana).

## INTRODUCTION:

The ancient site is located in village Pharal, district Kaithal, Haryana. It is located at a distance of 22 K.M. from district headquarter Kaithal, 28 K.M. from Kurukshetra and 116 K.M. from Chandigarh. It is situated on the way from Dhand to Pundri. The village Pharal comes under Gram Panchayat. The ancient site was situated on the western bank of "Darishadvati" river. Which used to pass through Kaul village and reach Pharal. This river has now disappeared. The nearest railway station is "Pehowa Road" Dhand Which is located in Dhand town Distance of 7K.M. from Pharal. The ancient site Pharal is spread in many directions In the middle of village and in the northern and eastern directions. The present village Pharal is named after (Falki Vana and Falak Rishi Ji) one of the famous forests described in the Mahabharata. At present only one mound visible which is about 25 to 28 meters high. Here are the other five mounds we came across during the exploration. In which remains from mature Harappan to 18<sup>th</sup> century AD have come to the fore. New discovery of this area this mound number prl-1 the remains of Kushan period stupa with chaitya and house structures etc. have come to the fore.

## EXPLORATION:

The modern village Pharal is situated on a mound about 25 to 28 meter high. During exploration we have found evidence of various periods from mature Harappa to 18<sup>th</sup> century AD in which perforated jar pot sherds, Kushan and Gupta period pottery. Apart from one mound there were about six mounds here at some point of time. Which we have discovered our hard work and marked & name them. Structures of Kushan bricks have also come to the presence. The evidence of Buddhist Stupa have been found on a mound PRL-1.



Various mounds at village Pharal

## THE MEANING OF STUPA

The word 'Stupa' means an aggregated accumulation a heap of something or a mound of bricks and stones. Often Stupa is also prevalent in the meaning of chaitya. Initially the stupa was used to keep the dead body or bones of the deceased. Hence it is believed that earlier stupas were related to death. There is only one Sukta in Rigveda – Pitra Sukta (Rigveda,10). Stupa in Indian art is mainly related to the Buddhist period. It is believed that in 273 to 232 BC, Emperor Ashoka got the relics or bones of Tathagat Buddha secured and installed in about 84000 forms at different places. The word Chaitya is also used for this Buddhist texts. Generally Stupa is like a semi-circular bowl, there is a circle around its base which is called Vedika or Railing. Harmika, Pradakshina path, Chhatra, Sopan, Torana etc. are its other parts.

### STUPA WITH CHAITYA (MOUND NO. PRL-1)

The mound named as mentioned earlier is about 25 to 28 meters high from the surrounding flat place. Nagar Kheda is also situated here. On which even today a large population of the village is living. The north-eastern and north-western part of this mound have been cut according to their needs and residential used by the people. Due to this erosion, we can see the structures of Kushan period bricks. In the north-western part of the mound the remains of Buddhist Stupa made by big bricks of Kushan period are clearly visible. The size of the bricks used in the Stupa approximately 36X22X6cm (fig-1)



fig-1, size of bricks in stupa at western part of stupa mound no.PRL-1

Some bricks of big and small sizes have also been installed for which mud mortar has been used. The foundation of stupa is still buried in the ground. The visible part of the structure starts turning inward after reaching a height of about 170 cm from the ground (fig 2) to make the upper part circular. It is certified that the entire part of the stupa is still present in a completely safe condition. From here toy cart wheels, sling balls, copper objects, pottery etc. have come to light at the time of exploration.



Fig-2, Bricks structure of Buddhist Stupa at western part of prl-1

Huge brick structures of Kushan period and the later Kushan period are visible in the northern and north-western part of the mound. In which huge high walls have been built. It is clear from its structure that a lane (fig-3) whose width is about 95 cm is seen going in the southern direction inside the mound.

Double-triple walls of huge height have been built on the both sides of the street One after the other. The width of two walls is about 80cm. which looks like a fortification.



Fig-3, Structures of street and walls north-western part of PRL-1

After a gap at some height the structures of Lakhori bricks are also clearly visible on the upper side. The information gathered during the exploration show that there were small chambers shaped structures made of bricks for meditation or used for worship etc.

Which show that chaitya and Vihara must have been present here along with Stupa.

#### **MOUND NO. PRL-2**

This mound has been flattened in present time. Which is situated at a distance of about something 540 meters in the north-east from mound no. pr1. At present the position of this mound on the right side of main door of Falgu Rishi Ji temple. In which the temple the temple is situated. From here the remains of Kushan period brick structures, broken large Statue of a Lion made of red sandstone. Small Statue of Vidyadhara of the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD, foliated design Piller made of stone and other potsherds have come to light.

#### **MOUND NO. PRL-3**

This mound is also now visible in a flat form at present its position is in the pond built on the right side of new lake. From here also during the exploration the remains of Kushan period brick walls (fig-4) going in different directions have come to light.



Fig-4, brunt bricks wall spread at mound no.PRL-3



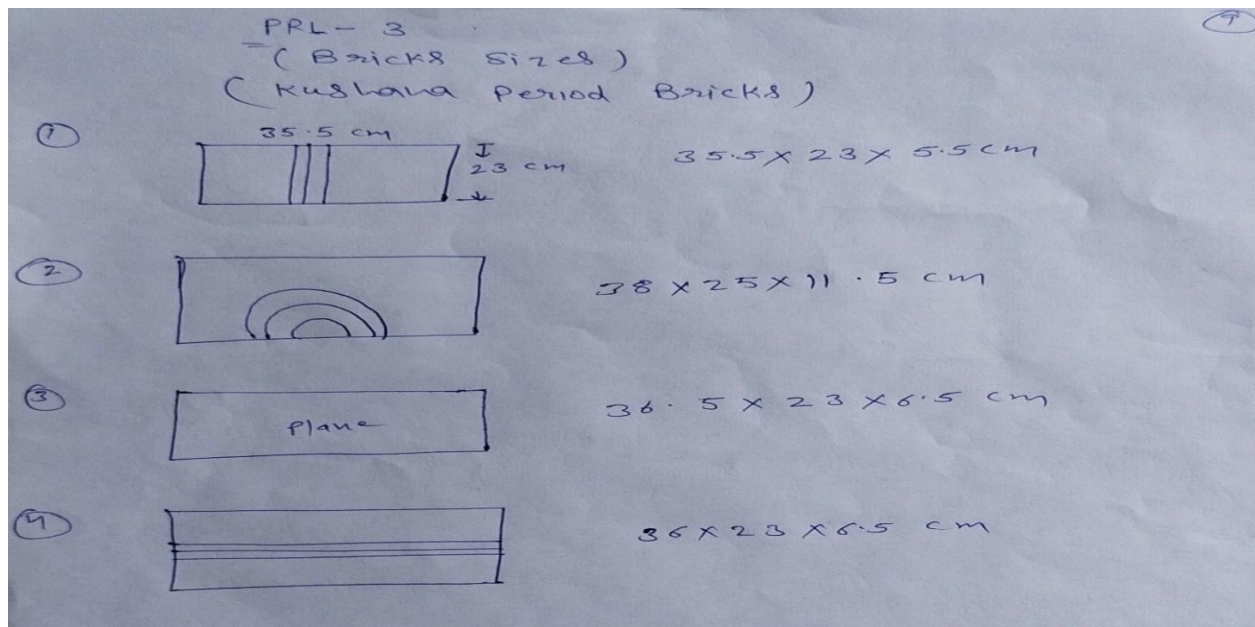
Brick Structures exposed at mound no. PRL-3



The shape and ornamentation of Kushan periods bricks obtained from here different. Here huge walls are seen going in different directions. Whose masonry has been done with mud Mortar On which about 4 to 5 types of designs have made with different hand figures.



Different types of bricks find at mound no. prl-1



### CONCLUSION:

On the basis of the study of texture and size of bricks, ornamentations etc. we can it be said that it belongs to the Kushan period. It is proved from the present remains that Buddhism had spread a lot in this area. Village Pharal was its main center in surrounding area. Hundreds of monks, nuns and worshipers must have lived here. This place was present on the main business route and religious place. The Kushan rulers provided important assistance in spreading Buddhism.

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