CHAPTER-IV
KUSHANA SETTLEMENTS AND THEIR MATERIAL CULTURE

The Kushana empire stretching from the banks of river Oxus to the Ganges, united parts of Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and north India into a single state formation. This political unification of land and people with diverse ethnic backgrounds, languages, cultures and religions, provided a fertile ground for the fusion of different cultural elements giving rise to a distinctive Kushana culture of an international character. The Kushana civilization as a whole was marked by many common features, giving an impression of unity and yet there were regional variations and distinctiveness. We can discern multiple microcosms within the macro-Kushana civilization with their own regional characters.

Archaeology provides a tool for studying cultures and civilizations of the past. Apart from numismatic and epigraphic testimonies discussed in the previous chapter, the material culture from the excavated and explored sites throws valuable light on various aspects of Kushana history. Explorations or surface collections are the common techniques used for locating ancient sites of archaeological importance and on the basis of explored remains the potentiality of a site can be judged. Both archaeological excavations and explorations over this vast territory from Central Asia to north India have brought to light numerous sites with rich Kushana antiquities. Apart from Kushana coins and inscriptions, presence of large size bricks (approximately 37-35 23-24 7-5 cm, sometimes with three finger marks), baked tiles for flooring, monumental brick structures, coin moulds, votive tanks, brick stupas adorned with sculptures, red ware, red polished ware,¹ etc., are some deciding features for identifying sites of Kushana period. Mud constructions of Northern Black Polished Ware (hence NBPW) phase were mostly replaced by well planned structures of large sized baked bricks in the Kushana phase.

Pottery is considered to be the alphabets of archaeology. It helps in the identification of cultures, rebuilding their sequence and reconstructing the material life of the inhabitants of a site. The archaeological levels of the Kushana period in India, corresponding to the first three centuries of the Christian era, are marked by the absence of both NBPW and Black and Red Ware (BRW) and predominence of Red Ware and Red Polished ware.\(^1\) The typical Kushana pottery shapes are sprinklers, bowls with incurved sharp edged rims, carinated handis and vases, bottle-necked jars, incense burners, knobbed lids, inkpot type lids, dishes with vertical sides and flat bases,\(^2\) etc. The fabric of the Red Ware ranges from medium to coarse and the sections from thin to thick. Except for large storage jars, the whole range of pottery is wheel made and only in certain cases ill-fired. It is usually treated with a wash but sometimes with bright-red slip. The red polished ware found in a limited quantity is made of well legivated clay and is fired perfectly. Its fabric is fine to medium and the slip vary from orange to light red. The pottery of this early historical period is almost unpainted but mostly decorated with incised designs or stamped motifs on the exterior of the rim or at shoulders. Even a cursory look at the archaeological materials, brings out a picture of economic prosperity during the Kushana period, when existing urban centres expanded and new ones came up. We can discern a marked increase in settlements, both rural and urban, as new habitational pockets were formed. The levels, contemporary to the Kushana rule at various sites, which for the sake of brevity may be called the Kushana levels, are one of the most prosperous levels in terms of money circulation, size, cultural thickness, habitational deposits, structural activity, sculptures, etc. Cities were as a rule more affluent than villages, with the concentration of money, precious and semi precious stones, metal objects, ivory objects and other luxury products.

\(^2\) A. Ghosh, 'The Kushan levels at some excavated sites in North India', *CAKP*, Vol. II, Moscow, 1975, p.110.
It must be pointed out that Kushana age, till now has been merely a part of the comprehensive bracket of 'Post NBPW' or 'Early Historic'. Major excavated sites are few and most excavations have been of a vertical nature, especially aimed at getting a complete time table of cultural periods for the sites involved, rather than revealing a particular cultural strata on a large scale. As the levels usually have not been isolated in the excavations but are included within a wider period, such as 'Sunga-Kushana', 'Kushana-Gupta' or even 'Hindu-Buddhist', etc., it becomes difficult to study the Kushana levels per-se. Most reports are published in a summary manner where details of a particular strata are limited or missing. The term 'red ware culture' generally assigned to the Sunga-Kushana phase is vague. Moreover, when we look at the excavations of the religious monuments, the primary objective centres on Buddhism rather than studying these structures as a part of human civilization. But despite these limitations, an intensive study of Kushana levels at the sites which have been systematically excavated or explored, is fruitful. For the purpose of doing an effective study in an organized manner, the Indian sub-continent has been divided into various sectors which gives us a fair idea of the diversity within the Kushana empire. We have also studied some parts of Central Asia which have a direct bearing on Kushana history.

The Kushana empire, it seems, was known as 'Kushanshahr' as the Naqsh-i-Rustam inscription of Shapur-I refers to it as Kwshnhsht(s) (or Kushanshahr) and Kousenon ethn (os). Bactria was the original nucleus and centre of the Kushana kingdom which acted as a spring-board of the Kushana power. It is from here that the Kushanas expanded into Central Asia and later upto north India controlling areas as far as Chinese Turkestan. Bactria already possessed rich traditions of developed state organization and culture. The

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3 In Pakistan Archaeology, sites between 5th century B.C. – 7th century A.D. are mostly termed 'Hindu-Buddhist'.
4 RFKE, 1988, p.322.
principle city of Kushana Bactria was **Balkh** (north Afghanistan), which apart from being a centre of Kushana polity was also an important trade centre and a Buddhist town. Two great highways of Central Asia to China met at the junction of Balkh. A Khotanese manuscript found at Tun-huang states that Chandra Kanishka ruled in Balkh.\(^1\) According to Huien Tsang, the largest monastery of Navasangharama was situated outside the city in the southwest.\(^2\) Many towns with thick defensive walls, studded with rectangular towers and a planned rectangular layout with temples and cult centres in the middle, have been laid bare around the city, which according to Soviet scholars were built in accordance with "a single elaborate plan".\(^3\)

Numerous settlement sites have been brought to light by Soviet scholars, around Balkh which followed the square towered walls and fortification plan. **Topraka Qala**\(^4\) is a large square urban site surrounded by monumental ramparts with square towers, internal galleries and many arrow slits on the outside. It is a purely Kushana town with remains of a large stupa-monastery complex. **Aq-Chapar**\(^5\) is again a purely Kushana settlement with a large polyhedral monumental building measuring 130 metre in diameter. It is surrounded by a double ring of outer walls with a gallery in between, pierced by embrasures and reinforced by salients measuring 4 metre square. **Zadiyan**\(^6\) has a stupa monument of the Kushana period and **Tepe Zargaran**\(^7\) dates from the 2\(^{nd}\) century A.D. **Kumsar** is a large L-shaped Kushana urban site (c. 400 – 500 m.) with 12 metre high rampart with rectangular corner towers and an internal gallery. Similarly, **Toprar Kala, Yarti Gumbaz, Jige Tepe** and settlement number 99, 753, 475 and 800 of W. Balls's Archaeological Gazetteer seem to be a part of Balkh complex.\(^8\)

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Termez (in Uzbekistan) was another old town of Kushana Bactria where two large monasteries have been found on the mound of Kara-Tepe and near Chinghiz-Tepe.\(^1\) The excavations at Kara Tepe revealed a 2\(^{nd}\) century A.D. Buddhist monastery hewn out of rock, along with "brass" (copper) coins of Kushana rulers, Bactrian and Brahmi inscriptions on ceramics, walls of one of the cave temples, large scale gypsum sculptures, stone reliefs, wall paintings, etc.\(^2\) Termez is usually associated with the high relief, Buddhist sculptures of Airtam which are compared to the analogous monuments of Gandhara art. These reliefs clearly show that the Bactrians were familiar with both Graeco-Roman and Indian sculptures. Apart from an inscription of Huvishka's reign The report on the excavations at Airtam-Termez site reveals that coins of Vasudeva-I were discovered in an 8 feet 4 inches deep stratum.\(^3\) A peculiar square mausoleum of Kushana period built of square unbaked bricks was discovered, 16 km. to the north of Termez. The external length of the walls of this structure is about 18 metre, with a round room of 4 metre in diameter, in the centre, from which 140 centimetre wide 4 passages are radiating. Some typical Kushana pottery was found on the passage floors alongwith a large number of bones.\(^4\)

The archaeological expedition of the Institute of History and Archaeology of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences, brought to light three Kushana towns in the Surkhan Darya region viz. Dalverzin Tepe (in Angor district of Uzbekistan), Hairabad-Tepe and Zara-Tepe, of which Dalverzin Tepe is the largest. This one kilometer long site revealed Buddhist buildings with remarkable sculptures of the Kushana period,\(^5\) terracotta statuettes and poorly preserved copper coins typologically related to the period between 1\(^{st}\) to 3\(^{rd}\) century A.D. The population of Dalverzin Tepe was estimated to have

\(^{3}\) R. Ghirshman, Begram, Cairo, 1946, p.707.
\(^{5}\) G. Frumkin, 1975, op. cit.
10,000 to 15,000 inhabitants.\(^1\) The excavations of Hairabad-Tepe and Zara-Tepe marked out citadels built in the southeast corners of the towns. The Hairabad-Tepe town site (150 m 100 metre) is situated 30 kilometre to the north of Termez. The excavation at the citadel revealed that though the city developed in the 3rd century B.C., the main fortifications of the town site were constructed under the Kushanas.\(^2\) The site also revealed coins of Kujula Kadphises, Kanishka and Huvishka from its flourishing levels, after which a period of decline and neglect set in.\(^3\) Some repair work of the fortification was done in the period of 3rd and 4th century A.D., which was characterized by discoveries of coins of Vasudeva and early Sassanian ruler Hormizd II. The excavation of Zara-Tepe town site (400 m 400 metre), situated 4 kilometre to the south of Hairabad Tepe, revealed as many as two hundred Kushana coins, terracotta statuettes, fragments of gypsum sculpture and Kushana pottery.\(^4\) Base of columns and other fragments of architectural décor made of marl limestone were discovered on the surface of the town site. **Karaul-Tepe** in Angor district of Uzbekistan is another site which sprang in the Kushana period.\(^5\) The site of **Tali-Barzu**, south of Samarkand has yielded numerous figurines of the early Kushana period, reflecting different forms of worship.\(^6\) **Khalchayan** in upper Surkhan Darya yielded remnants of an old palace and dwelling houses of pre-Kushana and Kushana period, along with ossuaries, coins, figurines, pottery and remarkable sculptures,\(^7\) including the clay bust of a king, whose face resembles the portrait on the earliest coins of Miasos or Heraeus.

**Kampyrtepa** is a systematically excavated city-site, situated 30 kilometre west of Termez, on the northern bank of Amu Darya in the

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\(^3\) *Ibid.*
\(^7\) *Ibid.*
Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan. A joint archaeological fieldwork by scientists from the Moscow Museum of Oriental Art, the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, from Japan and France, led to the unearthing of an almost full city-site, along the upper cultural horizon dating from the reign of Kushana ruler Kanishka.¹ During the excavations of 2007, nine period of habitation (KT-1 – KT-9) were identified dating from the end of the 4th century B.C. up to the middle of the 2nd century A.D., of which KT-7 – KT-9 relate to the early Kushana and Kushana periods. In the general periodization, Period VII (1st half of the 1st century B.C. – mid 1st century A.D.) relates to the conquest of Kampyrtepa under Soter Megas. In Period VIII (end of the 1st century A.D. – beginning of the 2nd century A.D.) a rich layer of human occupation was discovered and Period IX corresponds to the Kushana period.² Kampyrtepa was seized by the Kushanas in the reign of Soter Megas (Wema Takto) and became a big population centre with an area of more than 20 hectares. The city-site expanded considerably under the Kushanas extending 700-750 metre from east to west and 200-250 metre from north to south.³ It consisted of four main organizational elements – citadel, upper city, suburban zone and the lower city. Although the citadel came up during the Hellenistic times, the infrastructure and architectural plan of the settlement took shape during the Kushana period. During the Kushana rule the citadel served as a large living and warehouse complex. The upper city was enclosed with the fortress wall with eleven towers and encircled with a moat. The inner organization of the city was formed by a 4 metre wide central street dividing the upper city into two parts, the eastern and the western, with 1.3 – 1.5 metre narrow side alleys or gallaries delineating eleven blocks of domestic quarters.⁴ Of these, block 1 and block 5 appear to have had social and cult functions respectively. In the reign of Kanishka I, a Buddhist sanctuary was erected in one of the "gallery" area. The suburban

² Ibid., p.128.
³ Ibid.
⁴ Ibid., pp.128-129.
zone consisted of the western and eastern necropolises with various burial
construction of Zoroastrian type. The lower city served for trade and craft
purpose and was situated along the Amu darya. In the Kushana period, the
city became a station of customs control and warehouse and a merchant point
for caravan trade. The artifacts dating from the Kushana period are multiform
pottery, a metal dish, weapons and utensils, jewellery, various terracotta
statuettes and about 600 bronze (copper) coins of Soter Megas, Wema
Kadphises and Kanishka I. Kampyrtepa ceased to exist soon after the reign of
Kanishka I and only towers 10 and 11 of the fortress wall, well dated by
Huvishka coins, were being used for burying the deceased.¹

Exploration in south Uzbekistan have located ruins of a number of little
villages and small towns, the beginning of which can be dated to the Kushana
period. The ratio between these towns and villages is 1:6 which is much better
than the pre-Kushana phase suggesting a greater rate of urbanization in the
Kushana age.²

In Tajikistan, excavation at the town sites of Kalai-Mir and Key-Kobad
Shah (Kobadian) show an ascendancy of the Kushana power. The
archaeological stratum Kobadian IV has been called Kushana and its
ceramics have been compared to the last period of Begram I and Begram II
which are characterized by the coins of early Kushana and Kanishka and his
successors respectively.³ Takht-i-Kobad in Kafirnigan valley, Parkhar in
Vakhsh valley and Yavan have revealed artifacts and architectural remnants
related to Kushana period.⁴

In the territory of Khwarejm about 60 Kushana coins were retrieved
including 6 of Wema Kadphises, 8 of Kanishka, 9 of Huvishka and 18 of
Vasudeva.⁵ The excavations at Toprak-Kala revealed fortified residence,

¹ E.V. Rtveladze, ‘A Preliminary Report on the Discovery of Kharoshthi Inscription in the city-
³ Dyakonov, Materials and Researches in the Archaeology of the U.S.S.R., No. 37, p.25.
palatial halls with wall paintings, sculptures, numerous documents in Khorezmian script written on leather and wood and at least twenty-two Kushana coins including four coins of Wema Kadphises, three of Kanishka, three of Huvishka and six of Vasudeva.\(^1\) The excavation of the estate near the fortress of Ayax-Kala also yielded Kushana coins in a stratified layer.\(^2\)

In Kirghizia, Kara-Bulak and Batken have revealed tombs of 2\(^{\text{nd}}\) – 4\(^{\text{th}}\) centuries A.D. with Indian and Chinese objects.\(^3\) Kurgans of the late Kushan period have been identified in Chatkal valley and over 100,000 rock engravings of various periods have been located in Saimaly-Tash which seems to include Kushana period as well.\(^4\)

Great quantities of Kushana coins have been discovered from different parts of Sogdiana including cities like Samarkand, Talibarzu and Bokhara.\(^5\) The enormous hill-fort of ancient Samarkand yielded cultural remains of many periods including pottery and terracotta statuettes of Kushana period. The excavation at the fortified town of Talibarzu established the presence of six cultural layers of which the complexes of Talibarzu I, II and III (partially) belong to the Kushana period.\(^6\) The Kurgan burial sites of the Kushana epoch in the Bukhara Oasis examined by scholars like O.V. Obelchenko, have been divided into two major groups, according to their dating, i.e. those of the period ranging from the end of the 2\(^{\text{nd}}\) century B.C. to the 1\(^{\text{st}}\) century A.D., and those belonging to the period from the 2\(^{\text{nd}}\) to the 4\(^{\text{th}}\) century A.D. These tombs yielded a large number of antiquities such as ceramics, jewellery, metal objects iron, bones and bronze weapons, etc.\(^7\)

In ancient Ustrushana, the town site of Munchaq-Tepe and the adjacent burial ground Shirin-Sai was excavated. The finding of Chinese coins, pebbles with Chinese inscriptions and bronze mirrors attest to eastern

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contacts on one hand, while the find of Roman denarii of the 1st-2nd centuries A.D. suggest trade links with the western world.\(^1\) The Kushanas acted as intermediaries between the eastern and western world, thus amassing huge profits from this transit trade. At Tudai Kalan remains of a small fortified settlement with square towers at the corners and arrow shaped loopholes were revealed, along with several building complexes, the earliest of which relate to the 3rd century A.D.\(^2\) A castle and an estate standing high on a stylobate of unbaked bricks, with three basic construction stages related to the 1st century A.D. have been unearthed at Tudai Khurd.\(^3\) Other settlements traced in Ustrushana and Western Fergana region are Mugh-tepe, the Somgor settlement, the settlements in the Isfana-Sai, Khodzha Baryrgan-Sai basins and the fortresses on the cliffs in the Isfara Darya basin.\(^4\)

In the Fergana valley, all the household utensils and monuments of art bear traces of direct cultural impact of the Kushana state. This area is also noted for an extreme abundance of Kushana coins suggesting its inclusion in the Kushana domain.\(^5\)

Ancient Naksheb in the lower reaches of the Kashka Darya, is situated at the junction of Sognd and Tukharistan. The material culture of this area indicates pronounced socio-economic development around 1st century A.D. with numerous large settlements following different architectural patterns.\(^6\) Some settlements have a castle in the centre, like Kalai-Zakhaki-Moran, while in others like Mudin-tepe, the castle is located in a corner. At Pirmat-tepe, a multiroomed castle in a maze of processional corridors and fortified entrance towers were built by successive Kushana nobility.\(^7\)

\(^1\) B.R. Mani, 1987, op. cit., p.64.  
\(^4\) Ibid.  
In the region of Chach (Tashkent), the Kaunchi II culture and Djun cultures belonging to the period between the early centuries before Christ and first century A.D. have been identified with the Kushana period.¹

The Kushana period in Afghanistan is marked by intensification and expansion of the process of urbanization. Archaeological surveys, explorations and excavations have revealed a marked increase in the number of settlement sites during early centuries of the Christian era especially around already established cities, which served as nuclear centres of urbanization. The occupation of Balkh, Badakhshan, Kabul, Jalalabad and Ghazni area of Afghanistan by Kushanas is attested by archaeology. As discussed earlier, Balkh served as the political centre of the Kushana empire, around which numerous fortified urban settlement sprang up during the early centuries of the Christian era.

British explorer Charles Masson discovered the site of Bagram in 1833, which proved to be a veritable mine of ancient coins. Bagram (ancient Kapisa) is situated at the confluence of the Panjsher and Ghorband rivers, about 80.5 kilometre north of Kabul and 8 kilometre west of the modern town of Charikar. By the end of 1837, Masson had collected nearly thirty thousand coins in all, including the coins of 'Soter Megas' and other Kushana rulers.² About one thousand six hundred and forty seven coins, both of the Kadphises and the Kanishka group were reported in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal by Masson.³ It appears that there was a mint at Bagram close to the rich copper deposits of the Ghorband valley.⁴ A. Foucher identified Bagram with Kapisa, the capital of several Indo-Greek kings and the summer residence of the Kushana emperors. It was located at the juncture of two main trade routes

¹ B. Stavisky, 1968, op. cit., pp.299-300.
cutting off from the major silk route; one from Balkh to Bamiyan to Peshawar to Taxila; the other leading down the Panjeshar valley from Badakhshan, Turkistan and Chinese Sinking. The French Archaeological Mission in Afghanistan carried out limited excavations between 1936 and 1946 under Hackin, Ghirshman and Menuie, while in 1967-68 Afghan Archaeological Department carried some further work. Ghirshman’s excavation revealed three phases of occupation at the site.¹ Begram I (2nd century B.C. to 2nd century A.D.) is marked by the coins of the Pahlava dynasty as well as those of "the first and second Kushana dynasties". Begram II (mid 2nd century A.D. to mid 3rd century A.D.) belongs to the Great Kushanas till the probable destruction by the Sassanian King Shapur-I in about 244 A.D. Begram III (mid 3rd century A.D. to the fifth century A.D.) is related to the Kushano-Sassanian period.² Most spectacular discovery from Begram was that of numerous profane luxury goods alongside rare Buddhist objects from Room No. 10 and 13 of the so-called palace, related to first-second century A.D. These luxury objects include plaster models for silver plaques and bas-reliefs from the Graeco-Roman world, carved ivories from India, Chinese lacquer ware of the Han period, Hellenistic bronze figurines such as a 24.1 centimetre high statue of Serapis-Hercules, Phoenician glassware from Tyre and Sidon.³ Begram II also yielded beautiful ornamental jewellery including a gold bracelet with sockets for 46 rubies, gold earings inlaid with turquoise and undecorated bronze ear rings.⁴ These objects testify to the international trade in luxury items reflecting the cosmopolitanism and wealth of this important Kushana commercial centre.

Begram seems to have been an important nuclear centre for urbanization during the Kushana period. Many sites in the vicinity of Begram

such as Topdarra,\textsuperscript{1} with a stupa and two monasteries, Khwaja Seh Yaran,\textsuperscript{2} with a stupa-monastery complex and Paitava, with a stupa and a monastery, have been assigned to the Kushana period on the basis of architectural style. Kuh-i-Bacha\textsuperscript{3} and Kafir Qala,\textsuperscript{4} with a stupa and a large rectangular platform seem to be a part of the Begram urban complex. Qand-i-Pir,\textsuperscript{5} a village-town site that came up in the Kushana period, yielded plain red Kushana pottery with no evidence of earlier occupation and a fairly large stupa of around 10 metre height and considerable horizontal expanse. Chai Khanjar\textsuperscript{6} and Deh-i-Qazi\textsuperscript{7} also yielded Kushana pottery and are thus identified as Kushana settlements along with Tepe Tup\textsuperscript{8} where a Kushana building was discovered. The above mentioned sites fall in Parwan or Kapisa districts and seem to be a part of Begram complex of urbanization.\textsuperscript{9}

The royal sanctuary of Surkh Kotal in the vicinity of Baghlan, 15 kilometre north of Pul-i-khumri, was excavated by the French Archaeological Mission in Afghanistan, under Daniel Schlumberger from 1952-63.\textsuperscript{10} This purely Kushana site consists of a hilltop complex containing a main temple and a square cella marked by four stone column bases, surrounded by an ambulatory on three sides. This secondary temple, leaning against the exterior wall of the main temple, has been identified as a fire temple by Schlumberger, on the basis of a platform in the centre of the cella accessible by a flight of steps, the cavity of which was filled with grey ash. A staircase of massive proportions is laid from top to bottom of the hilltop complex and connects four terraced embankments. Schlumberger dated the temple to the "Grand Kushana period" or the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century A.D. Archaeological excavation at the site yielded fourteen Kushana coins including two of Huvishka. An

\begin{footnotes}
\item[2] Ibid., No. 606.
\item[3] Ibid., No. 620.
\item[4] Ibid., no.491.
\item[5] Ibid., no. 903.
\item[6] Ibid., no. 161.
\item[7] Ibid., no. 281.
\item[8] Ibid., nop. 1187.
\end{footnotes}
inscription at the entrance of the staircase in Greek script and the Bactrian language, of the year 31 describes the repair of a temple called **Kaneshko Oanindo Bagolaggo** (Kanishka victorious sanctuary) by Nobonzokom (Nokonzoka), who seems to be the district superintendent. According to the inscription, he got the building surrounded by a wall, a well was dug and appointed an overseer\(^1\) for the sanctuary. The use of large sized mud bricks along with stone at Surkh Kotal, as well as the plan of the temple reflects the influence of Iranian tradition of architecture as is seen in the Achaemenid period.\(^2\) We can see an unparalleled mixture of different artistic trends in the sculptural decoration of Surkh-Kotal temple.\(^3\) Two sculptures were recovered from the building. One of these, a badly weathered headless, standing male figure with heavy drapery and jewellery, in local sand-stone, has been compared with the well-known Kanishka figure, by Schlumberger.\(^4\) Other notable decorations in the building include stepped merlons of oriental tradition, a stone frieze of Gandhara style and a series of unbaked and painted clay figures. One of the statues in the merlon appear to be that of the sun-god of the Mathura tradition.\(^5\) The establishment of the Kushana dynastic shrine suggests that Surkh Kotal was an important centre during the Kushana period. The Rabtak inscription that sheds valuable light on the genealogy and chronology of the Kushanas, was also found near Surkh Kotal. According to the inscription King Kanishka in year 1 of his reign, commanded Shapara, the master of the city, to make a Nana sanctuary at the site, for the deities-Sri, Pharro and Omma.\(^6\) A cluster of settlement-sites numbered 148, 1232, 1123 and 169 can be noticed in and around Baghlam.\(^7\)

\(^4\) Nizimuddin Ahmad, 'A fresh study of the fire temple at Taxila', *PA*, No. 4, 1967, p.158.
\(^7\) W. Ball, 1982, *op. cit.*
Kunduz in north Afghanistan, probably continued to be an important town during the Kushana rule. A hoard of tetradrachms of Attic weight conforming to the Bactrian-Greek style near Kunduz confirms that it was a flourishing Greek enclave.\(^1\) Remains of Graeco-Buddhist art with Indian influence, of 4\(^{th}\)-5\(^{th}\) centuries A.D. have found around Kunduz. Durman Tepe, lying about 12 kilometre southwest of Kunduz, yielded a small tepe measuring about 60 metre in diameter and 20 metre in height. The Kyoto University Archaeological Mission excavated several rooms made of mud brick and six stone pillar bases of Hellenistic style.\(^2\) Several Kanishka and Vasudeva coins were recovered along with Kushano-Sassanian gold coins. Chaqalaq Tepe, situated south of Durman Tepe, is a large tepe, 150–120 metre in diameter and 20 metre in height, with three archaeological strata.\(^3\) The lower one seems to have been a Buddhist monument of Kushana period. The enclosure wall was made of mud-blocks about 5 metre in height and the eastern gate had an arched ceiling, outside which two groups of buildings for guard-rooms were found. The buildings of Kushana period were made of mud bricks and were plastered. The Kyoto University Archaeological Mission found store rooms, living-rooms, cooking rooms, store pits, bakery ovens, a blacksmith's work room, a central staircase and a big room with twenty big jars and two detached pillar bases. Other antiquities of this site include a stone lid of a big jar with a design of lotus, lions and makara along the edge, similar to the Mathura and Amaravati Schools, a square stone block with reliefs of a Bodhisattva and a standing man on both sides, representing the Kushana style; a Buddha head, one seated Buddha and several stone fragments of a stupa.\(^4\) Kirghiz tepe\(^5\) is another Kushana site in Kunduz, with a fortified rectangular settlement and a citadel. Qush Tepe\(^6\) has a very large mound with a square structure characteristic of the Kushana period. Other villagetown settlement sites in Kunduz include Chim Qurghan, Kafir Qala, Qunjugha

\(^1\) B. Chattopadhyay, 1975, \textit{op. cit.}, p.38.
\(^3\) \textit{Ibid.}, p.179.
\(^4\) \textit{Ibid.}
\(^5\) W. Ball, 1982, \textit{op. cit.}, no.611.
\(^6\) \textit{Ibid.}, no. 941.
and settlement number 943, 931, 309, 172, 472, 83, 210 and 28 in Ball's Gazetteer.¹

In Badakhshan, Gauhar² and Ghurdarama³ are ceramically identified as single culture Kushana settlements. Ghurdarama is a fortified settlement with two mounds containing mud bricks measuring 38 38 centimetre. The fortification walls are of stone with square towers. A tower measuring c. 150 560 metre is in the south direction. The antiquities include Kushana ceramics and an unworked piece of lapis. Gauhar is a settlement with a citadel in a naturally defensible position.⁴ Badakhshan has also yielded a large number of Later Kushana coins.⁵

The town sites of Bolar and Andarab situated at the southern limit of Bactria with an unexcavated Buddhist ruins have been traced.⁶ In north Afghanistan, Takhar and Samangan are the other provinces where village-town sites multiplied in the Kushana period. Sish Kaik,⁷ Kafir Qala and Gugari⁸ in Takhar province form a cluster of settlements which came up during the Graeco-Bactrian period but continued in the Kushana age. Other Kushana settlements in Takhar are Kalafgan,⁹ Kalafgan South,¹⁰ Asmti, Khwaza-Hafiz, Kabul and the settlements numbered 122, 583, 579, 909, 139, 160, 791, 515, 447, 197, 31, 6, 136 and 30 in Ball's Gazetteer.¹¹ In Samangan province, Tepe Shahidan¹² is a village mound site which provides valuable information about the daily life of the peasant farmers who were the backbone of the Kushana economy. Samangan has a cluster of settlement sites numbered 1101, 1063, 289, 1061, 1212, 1181, 65 and 1034. Shahr-i-

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¹ W. Ball, 1982, op. cit., no.611.
² Ibid.
³ Ibid., no. 371.
⁵ J.M. Rosenfield, *Dynastic Art of the Kushanas (DAK)*, 1967, p.45.
¹⁰ Ibid., no. 512.
¹² W. Ball, 1982, op. cit., no. 1181.
Banu is another Kushana site in this area. Thus the process of urbanization that was initiated by the Graeco-Bactrians in north Afghanistan, continued at a greater pace during the Kushana times.

**Hadda**, in Ningrahar province, near Jalalabad is one of the richest archaeological sites of the Kushana period, in terms of Buddhist art. It has an extensive area of stupas, monasteries and caves, covering about 15 square kilometre. The Hadda complex contains famous sites such as Tepe Shotur, Tepe Kafiriha, Tepe Kalan, Tepe Zargaran, Bagh Gai, Gar Nau, etc. Explored between 1923 to 1928 and 1930-33 by the French Archaeological Mission in Afghanistan, more than 1000 stupas were identified along with Gandharan stucco sculptures in large quantity, limestone and schist bas-reliefs and Buddhist wall paintings. At and around **Tepe Kalan** as many as 23000 limestone and stucco heads were recovered including Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, demons, donors, monks, helmeted soldiers and men of different groups. The excavation of **Tepe Shotur** by the Afghan Department of Archaeology between 1965 to 1973 and afterwards, revealed a Buddhist stupa-monastery complex with chapels, decorative votive stupas, clay statuary, bas-reliefs, wall paintings, large number of coins, many gold, silver and steatite reliquaries, etc. A unique ‘fish porch’ (2.40 m × 2.20 metre) in stucco, dated to the 2nd or 3rd century A.D. elaborately depicts the conversion of a snake-king to Buddhism along with many real and imaginary sea-creatures. A fire-temple of the Kushana period has also been reported from Hadda. Several short Kharoshthi inscriptions were discovered from the area including the one on a jar, dated to year 28 and recording the dedication of a Bodhisattva relic, with most of the merit going to an unnamed king. It must be pointed out that there is so far no evidence of occupation before the Kushana period suggesting that Hadda was a creation of the Great Kushanas, which

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3 *Afghanistan*, XXI (1-2), 1968; XXII (2, 3, 4), 1969.  
continued to be occupied in the Sassanian period as well.\textsuperscript{1} It lay on the route joining India with the Silk Road at Balkh. The presence of purely Gandharan stucco sculptures along with unbaked clay sculptures in the same sanctuary, is an interesting aspect that can shed light on the processes of the development of the Bactrian art style into Gandhara style. The artistic wealth and presence of articles of gold, silver, precious stones along with coins and inscriptions suggest that Hadda had developed into a town-city in the Kushana period.

Kabul-Jalalabad-Ghazni region appear to have witnessed the process of urbanization on a vigorous scale during the Kushana period. With a few exceptions, the Kushanas were responsible for the establishment of settlement sites for the first time in this south eastern area of Afghanistan. Hadda in Ningrahar province appears to have been an important nuclear centre around which many village-towns came up. It was surrounded by settlements which all appear to be stupa-monastery complexes, like Ghunda Chasma, Chakhil-i-Ghundi, Barabad, Kuhna Deh, Qala-i-Shahi, Deh-i-Rahman, Shalatak, Bimaran, Filkhana and Ahin Posh Tepe. The stupa at Ghunda Chasma stands on two platforms, the first 1.07 metre high and c. 25 metre square, the second c. 22 metre square with 10 pilasters on each side. It has a stairway on the north side and a monastery to the south. It is a single culture site which is dated to the Kushana period on stylistic grounds.\textsuperscript{2} Chakhil-i-Ghundi,\textsuperscript{3} situated around 1.5 kilometre northeast of Hadda complex, is a stupa-monastery complex with an associated habitation area on a nearby small hill. Stucco statuary and reliefs and elaborate facades on the votive stupas have been reported from this site. It was occupied for the first time during the Kushana period and continued till the Kushano-Sassanian period. Barabad\textsuperscript{4} is also a stupa-monastery complex of 1\textsuperscript{st}-2\textsuperscript{nd} century A.D., with a frieze of pilasters, blind arches, a steatite reliquary and series of caves.

\textsuperscript{1} V.C. Srivastava, 1997, op. cit., p.76.
\textsuperscript{2} Ibid., p.76.
\textsuperscript{3} W. Ball, 1982, op. cit., site no. 165.
\textsuperscript{4} Ibid., no. 106.
nearby. Kuhna Deh\textsuperscript{1} contains a small, perfect stupa, monastery, aqueducts and number of artificial caves that are dated to the Kushana period. Filkhana\textsuperscript{2} has an artificial cave complex of 32 caves, two stupas and a gold and silver reliquary which are architecturally and stylistically dated to the Kushana period. Sultanpur\textsuperscript{3} is another Kushana site with a stupa having a pyramid shaped reliquary. The Ahin Posh stupa has a large stupa-monastery complex which yielded rich numismatic records including three Roman aurei each of Domitian, Trajan and Sabina, and seventeen Kushana gold coins (10 of Wema Kadphises, 6 of Kanishka and 1 of Huvishka).\textsuperscript{4} On account of these gold coins and the largeness of the stupa-monastery complex, we can infer that Ahin Posh was an important village-town site in the Kushana period. All the above mentioned sites are in Ningrahar province and appear to have been a part of the Hadda urban complex.

Deh-i-Rahman\textsuperscript{5} with three stupas and Shalatak\textsuperscript{6} with Kushana ceramics, both in Laghaman province are other Kushana settlements around Hadda. Bimaran\textsuperscript{7} in Laghman province, is a rich Kushana site, with four major stupas, Kharoshthi inscriptions, coins, gold jewellery, gold reliquary inset with rubies and a complex of six artificial caves. The representations on the reliquary include two sets of three figures – a standing Buddha flanked by the gods Indra and Brahma. This is believed to be one of the earliest examples of the Buddha image.\textsuperscript{8} Qala-i-Shahi\textsuperscript{9} in Kunar province, with a stupa-monastery complex also appear to be a part of the Hadda complex. The Kyoto University Archaeological Mission excavated sites like Basawal caves and Lalma near Jalalabad that yielded antiquities of Kushana period.\textsuperscript{10} It is interesting to note that all these sites were connected with the Buddhist ideology in Kushana

\textsuperscript{1} W. Ball, 1982, \textit{op. cit.}, no. 627.  
\textsuperscript{2} \textit{Ibid.}, no. 326.  
\textsuperscript{3} \textit{Ibid.}, no. 1116.  
\textsuperscript{5} W. Ball, 1982, \textit{op. cit.}, no. 283.  
\textsuperscript{6} \textit{Ibid.}, no. 1067.  
\textsuperscript{7} \textit{Ibid.}, no. 127.  
\textsuperscript{8} Upinder Singh, \textit{A History Ancient and Early Medieval India}, Delhi, 2008, p.462.  
\textsuperscript{9} V.C. Srivastava, 1997, \textit{op. cit.}, p.77.  
\textsuperscript{10} \textit{CAKP}, Vol. I, 1974, p.177.
period which seems to have played an important role in the development of these urban complexes. Nagara identified with Jalalabad also finds mention in a number of inscriptions including two Bharhut inscriptions, the Mathura lion capital pillar inscription of Mahakshatrapa Rajula¹ and in the inscription found at Jaulian near Taxila,² which mentions the gift of the monk Dharmamitra. Thus Jalalabad/Hadda seems to have been important centres of Sarvastivada Buddhism in the Kushana period.

According to Hou-Han-Shu, the Yueh Chi conqueror Ch’iu-Chiu-Chuen, identified with Kujula Kadphises, occupied Kao-Fu or the Kabul area of Afghanistan. The discovery of Hermæus-Herakeles coins of Kujula Kadphises in this area attest to the association of Kujula with Kabul,³ which was the last stronghold of the Bactrian-Greeks and their ruler Hermæus. Kabul appears to have been another urban settlement around which a cluster of village-town sites developed. Khwaja Mussaffar⁴ having an artificial mound, ceramically seems to be a Kushana settlement. Quishlaq-i-Sufla⁵ with a small ruined fort similar to a Shaka fort and a rectangular building was a Kushana village-town site. Yakhdara⁶ has two stupas and associated monastery enclosures which can be architecturally assigned to the Kushana period and later. Kammari⁷ also appears to be a Kushana site ceramically and has yielded remains of two stupas one of which is approx. 17 metre high and a gold medal of Kadphises. Minar-i-Chakri⁸ again has Kushana ceramic tradition, a monastery complex and a pillar. Shiwaki⁹ seems to be an important town of Kushana period as it has yielded Kushana gold coins and a Roman coin of Trajan. Its stupa-monastery complex covers a wide area. The stupa has a well-preserved frieze of alternating pilasters and blind arches and

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³ B. Chattopadhyay, 1975, op. cit., p.46.
⁴ W. Ball, 1982, op. cit., no. 600.
⁵ Ibid., no. 922.
⁶ Ibid., no. 1237.
⁷ Ibid., no. 519.
⁸ Ibid., no. 718.
⁹ Ibid., no. 1087.
yielded a steatite base with a Kharoshthi inscription, apart from coins. Baiktut\textsuperscript{1} and Kut-i-Sitara\textsuperscript{2} also appears to be Kushana settlements with Buddhist complexes. Thus, Buddhist ideology, state power and trade seems to have given an impetus to habitational expansion and urbanization in this area.

At Wardak,\textsuperscript{3} on the Kabul-Ghazni road, a large fortified urban site of the Kushana period has been reported. The town site was laid in accordance with a regular grid street plan and has an inner and outer enclosures. There is only one entrance and the outer enclosure is strengthened by round towers at regular interval and a ditch on two sides. Outside the walled city, remains of five or six stupas, a fortified monastery complex, a dam and a canal system are noticed.\textsuperscript{4} The canal must have supplied water to the settlement. One of the stupa contained several Kushana coins, metal bases and a steatite base with a Kharoshthi inscription dated to the year 51, during the reign of Kushana emperor Huvishka.\textsuperscript{5} The Kushana pottery collected from this site has been compared with that of Begram-II by Fussman.\textsuperscript{6} Although the plan of the site resembles Bactrian style, it was definitely a Kushana site which must have developed as an important Kushana town lying on the Kandahar-Kapisa trade route.

Tepe Yemshi,\textsuperscript{7} in the Shibarghan province, is a city-mound site with a round plan. The excavations conducted by the joint Afghan-Soviet Mission established continuous occupation from the Bactrian times till the Sassanian period when it was destroyed. The site yielded evidence of massive circular fortifications along with numerous antiquities such as terracottas, human and animal figurines, painted and stamped pottery, incised stone plates, drainage pipes, alabaster spindle whorls, limestone coloured bases and silver altars. Tepe Yemshi seems to be the living area of the Kushanas whose burial

\textsuperscript{1} W. Ball, 1982, op. cit., no. 92.
\textsuperscript{2} Ibid., no. 665.
\textsuperscript{3} Ibid., no. 284.
\textsuperscript{4} V.C. Srivastava, 1997, op. cit., p.79.
\textsuperscript{7} Sarianidi, Kushan History and Culture, Vol. 2, Kabul, pp.9-42.
ground is reported from the nearby site of Tillya Tepe.\textsuperscript{1} The material difference in the graves of Tillya Tepe shows social and economic differentiation with the division of society into rich and common classes.\textsuperscript{2}

Excavations at Shrhr-i-Kona\textsuperscript{3} in Kandahar by the British Mission in 1975, revealed continuous cultural sequence from the protohistoric period of which the Kushana occupation appears to be the most extensive, apart from the 'late Islamic occupation'. There is some evidence of round arch from the Kushana phase along with bricks of 45\textsuperscript{45} 8 centimetre.

The cave settlements of Shamshir Ghar and Aq Kupruk\textsuperscript{4} provide evidence of the nomadic population of Afghanistan which still have symbiotic relations with the sedentary farmers.

The most striking Buddhist remains of Afghanistan were the two colossal images of Buddha from Bamiyan,\textsuperscript{5} 55 metre and 38 metre high, carved in deep niches. The site, lying on the silk route, about 250 kilometre northwest of Kabul offered a natural camping place to the merchandize-laden caravans and encouraged Buddhist devotees to carve out shrines and images. With two towering images of Buddha and thousands of rock-cut shrines in vicinity, Bamiyan seems to have developed into a vast monastic establishment during the later Kushana period.

Several rock-cut caves carved in the three walls of a gorge, have been noticed at the site of Homay Qala.\textsuperscript{6} These are irregularly situated caves at different levels, with a corridor running along all the three walls. The complex has been identified as a Buddhist cave monastery consisting of monastic cells with parabolic "vault" and rectangular or arched entrance and small chapels connected by corridors and stairways. The caves of Fil-Khana also have a similar plan where several cells, at the same level, connected by a corridor.

\textsuperscript{1} Afghanistan Quarterly, Vol. 31, 1979, p.3.
\textsuperscript{5} R. Sengupta, \textit{The Buddha in Afghanistan}, ASI, New Delhi, pp.3-5.
\textsuperscript{6} G. Verardi, 'The Buddhist Cave Complex of Homay Qala', SAA, 1975, pp.119-126.
were carved out in rock. K. Nishikawa and S. Mizuno who studied the Fil-Khana caves have dated this complex to the period of the 'Great Kushans' on the basis of a Kharoshthi inscription discovered in cave no. 28. They concluded that Fil-Khana caves were one of the earliest Buddhist caves in Afghanistan. Several other rock-cut monasteries have been reported from Afghanistan of which the caves of Haibak are very imposing. The Hazar Sum urban nucleus of 200 plus multiroom-multistoreyed rock cave-dwellings have also been dated to the Kushana period.

We can thus gauge a marked increase in the number of settlement sites, both urban and rural, during the Kushana period, which went up from 79 in Graeco-Bactrian to 167 in the Kushana period. Of the Kushana sites only 33 are old sites of the Graeco-Bactrian and Shaka period which continued to be occupied, while the remaining 134 are new settlements that developed in the Kushana period itself. It seems that the Kushana state, Buddhist ideology and flourishing trade played a catalyst role in the development of these settlements. On the basis of archaeological evidence of sites like Tepe Sardar, Qala-i-Jubin, Bamiyan, Qala-i-Ahangaran, Pul-i-Zak, Aq Kupruk, Fondukistan, etc. we can say that the Kushana civilization continued in Afghanistan in the Kushano-Sassanian period as well.

Gandhara was a pivotal region in the Kushana empire and Pushkalavati, the traditional metropolis of Gandhara, was one of the earliest Kushana cities in Pakistan. Identified with modern Charsada, 17 miles northeast of Peshawar on the east bank of Swat river, this ancient city stood on two important trade routes, viz. the one running from Bactria to Barygaza and the
other, the great northwest-southeast route which terminated at Patliputra.\textsuperscript{1} Pushkalavati stood at the very gate to India from the northwest. Of the several mounds, some were excavated in 1902-03. Some Kushana coins were revealed at \textit{Mir Ziyarat}, of which one belonged to Wema Kadphises and three to Kanishka.\textsuperscript{2} Trial excavations at the highest mound \textit{Bala Hisar} (60-70 feet high) were conducted in 1903 and later it was excavated by Mortimer Wheeler in 1958. Apart from a hoard of 57 copper coins\textsuperscript{3} of the later Kushana rulers, four inscribed jars, three of which bear Kharoshthi inscriptions\textsuperscript{4} in Kushana characters, suggest Kushana occupation of this city. A copper coin belonging to one of Kadphises was discovered at Palatu Dheri.\textsuperscript{5} Mortimer Wheeler's excavation, revealed intensive occupation of Bala Hisar from the 6\textsuperscript{th} century to 2\textsuperscript{nd} or 1\textsuperscript{st} century B.C. after which reduced occupation continued till the 'Muslim period'.\textsuperscript{6} The main habitational area of Charsada was shifted to a nearby site \textit{Shaikhan Dheri} during the Kushana period which represents the rebuilding of the city of Pushkalavati under the Kushanas. The stratigraphy of \textit{Shaikhan Dheri} runs from the middle of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century B.C. to the close of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} or the middle of 3\textsuperscript{rd} century A.D. The excavations at the 1045 feet high mound above sea level in 1963-64 by A.H. Dani brought to light three occupational layers belonging to the Kushana (Phase A), Scytho-Parthian (Phase B) and Greek times (Phase C) which are further subdivided into three periods on the basis of coins.\textsuperscript{7} The Kushana phase is divided into Period I – late Kushana, belonging to the time of Vasudeva; Period II – middle Kushana to the time of Kanishka and Huvishka and Period III – early Kushana marked by the coins of Soter Megas, Wema Kadphises and Kujula Kadphises.\textsuperscript{8} As many as 475 coins were found in the Kushana layers (Phase A) of which only 291 could be identified, including 219 Kushana coins. These include 5 coins of Kujula Kadphises, 38 of Soter Megas, 60 of Wema Kadphises, 77 of

\begin{itemize}
\item[A. Chakravarti, \textit{Urban Development in Ancient India}, Kolkata, 2006, p.118.]
\item[ASIAR, 1902-03, p.159.]
\item[Ibid., p.172.]
\item[Ibid.]
\item[Ibid., p.160]
\item[AP, Vol. I, 1964-65, p.48.]
\item[AP, Vol. II, 1965-66, p.23.]
\item[Ibid., pp.24-25.]
\end{itemize}
Kanishka, 31 of Huvishka and 8 of Vasudeva. One of the gold coins of Wema Kadphises (Shiva with bull type) has a hole and was used as a button. This grid-patterned city was founded by Menander and it declined after the Kushanas. Several structures of burnt bricks, drains, refuge pits and cess pools were exposed during the excavation, which mostly belong to the Kushana period. The city plan, of which three parallel streets and a side street crossing at a right angle have been excavated, belongs to the Kushana period. On the street we notice refuge pits of several shapes, full of ashes, bones and charcoal. All drains were uncovered and built of stone except one which was built of burnt bricks. In the excavation a bathing place, a fire place and a drain were also discovered from the Kushana phase. Other antiquities from the Kushana layers include red ware and grey ware, lamps, weights, terracotta figurines, sculptural pieces, beads of semi-precious stones, iron objects, antimony rods, various items of toilets, etc. Kushana level yielded more than three-fourth of the total number of terracotta beads. The excavations at Shaikhan Dheri also brought to light 37 Kharoshthi inscriptions in Prakrit language, almost all belonging to the Kushana phase. All these inscriptions are private records of religious nature. A.H. Dani suggests the existence of another important Kushana city at Rajar (Rajagadha) near Charsada.

On the basis of Chinese sources, it is generally believed that Purushapura (modern Peshawar) was the capital of the Kushanas. According to Fa-hsien, Purushapur was famous for the splendid stupa built by Kanishka and Buddha's alm bowl which was brought by Kanishka from Pataliputra. Huen Tsang also refers to the construction of a grand stupa, containing the relics of Buddha and the tower of the Patra of Buddha at

2 Ibid., pp.26-27.
3 Ibid., p.129.
Purushapur.¹ Two large mounds, known as Shah-ji-ki-dheri near the Peshawar city have been identified with Kanishka's stupa and a monastery. The core or the dome of this gigantic stupa rested on a 180 square feet plinth which had on each side a 43 feet deep central projection, itself endowed with a 7 feet deep central projection. The plinth also had four circular towers at four corners. The façade of the plinth was covered both with bricks and roughly dressed stone blocks and had stucco figures of the Buddha between corinthian pilasters. The core of the stupa was made of walls which radiated from the centre.² The centre of the stupa below ground level yielded an inscribed cylindrical casket and its lid of copper alloy (7.75 inch high and 5 inch in diameter). It has the figure of a seated Buddha on the centre of the lid and two figures of Brahma and Indra with folded hands standing on the left and the right side respectively.³ The casket also displays the standing figure of a king in Central Asian dress, most probably Kanishka, flanked by divine figures of sun god and moon god. The Kharoshthi inscription on the reliquary records the religious gift "in Kanishka's Vihara in Mahasena's Samgharama, in the reign of the great king Kanishka"⁴ 'About one thousand coins of Kadphises, Kanishka, Huvishka and Vasudeva' have been discovered in Peshawar.⁵

The Kyoto University Archaeological Mission carried out several excavations at sites of the Kushana period in Pakistan, such as Chanaka Dheri, Mekhasanda and Threli near Peshawar. The excavation at Chanaka Dheri, situated about 70 kilometre east-northeast of Peshawar, near Shahbazgarhi, revealed two periods. While Period I is a small village of a later date, Period II is a sort of a palace site of the Kushana period, composed of four buildings of which three were excavated.⁶ The central building (57 35 metre) has several rooms and corridors erected on a massive stone

¹ S. Beal, The Life of Hsuang-Tsang by Shaman Hwui Li, Delhi, 1973, p.63.
³ PA, No. 1, 1964, pp.69-73.
⁵ JASB, 1881, p.184.
underground basement. One large room still has six round bases (4 metre in diameter) of stone blocks in two rows. This building had an attached staircase on the west wall of this large room. The walls and floors were originally coated with plaster and the underground stone masonry reaches a depth of 5 metre. The north building (72 47 metre) was a square court, paved with slabs and enclosed by a higher terrace with small rooms on every side. On the northwest building there remained only a square basement (36 19m.), the upper part of which was completely destroyed. Coins of Wema Kadphises, Kanishka and Huvishka were found alongside gold coins of post-Kidarite rulers.¹ Typical Kushana pottery such as spouted jars, knobbed lids, lamps, glass bangles, etc. were also discovered.

The site of Mekhasanda on the slope of the mountain, east of Chanaka-Dheri was first excavated by A. Foucher.² The Kyoto University Archaeological Mission excavated many buildings of stone on several ridges including a main stupa in the centre of a court, standing on the main ridge and many votive stupas around it. The two storeyed square base of the main stupa has been preserved and some stucco figurines of Buddha along the edge of this stupa-court in low enclosure walls and pilasters on the side walls can be observed.³ To the south of the courtyard is an entrance approached by a flight of stone stairs. Several small shrines were noticed along the edges of the stairway and an assembly hall and a kitchen room to the east. This site yielded a great number of Buddhist sculptures, stucco figurines, pottery, iron objects and coins of Vasudeva, later Kushana coins of Vasudeva type, etc.⁴ On the other ridges several rooms of viharas were unearthed.

The Threli Buddhist temple is in a mountain valley, 14 kilometre north of Mardan. More than one hundred stone building remains can be noticed on the northern slope of this valley of which three groups were excavated by the Kyoto University Archaeological Mission. One group, located on the top of one

¹ PA, No.1, 1964, pp.65-66.
² Ibid.
³ Ibid., pp.177-178.
⁴ Ibid.
of the ridges has a stupa-court, viharas and a square hall with three big stupas adjacent to one another in the centre.\textsuperscript{1} The second group, near the bottom of this valley consists of three terraces adding to an eastern wing, with a stupa court on the uppermost terrace. The rear part of this stupa court is large and has a main stupa in the centre and several votive stupas around it. The front part of it is narrow with small stupas and shrines. On the middle terrace, there stood a pillared veranda while the lowest terrace was a flat plane with no buildings.\textsuperscript{2} The third groups of buildings were mostly viharas. About three thousand pieces of stone Buddhist sculptures and building fragments, one thousand stucco figurines, pottery, iron objects and coins including copper coins of Huvishka (from the stupa-court) were recovered from this site.\textsuperscript{3}

In the Peshawar valley, a number of other stupa sites were also excavated. Shahri Bahlol, about 7 miles to the north of Mardan was excavated by D.B. Spooner in 1906-07. It is an ancient town site with a stupa-cum-monastery, where the sculptural finds are singularly rich and numerous.\textsuperscript{4} Apart from several hundreds of large sized stucco Buddhas and Bodhisattvas and reliefs of fascinating quality, the excavations at Shahri Bahlol yielded one copper coin of Soter Megas (Bust and Horseman type), one silver Sassanian coin and a unique silver coin of the Kidara Kushanas.\textsuperscript{5} The excavation also brought to light many statues of doners in Kushana type tunic and a portrait of the so-called Kushana king, probably Huvishka.\textsuperscript{6} Takht-i-Bahi, again in the Peshawar district and excavated by Spooner in 1907-08, revealed a complete site plan with a monastery and stupa courtyards. A large number of Buddha, Bodhisattvas and miscellaneous Buddhist reliefs were found at the site.\textsuperscript{7} The stupa and monastery site of Jamalgarhi also yielded Buddhist antiquities in overwhelming number. Early excavations in the Peshawar region revealed the

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  \item[\textsuperscript{1}] PA, No.1, 1964, p.178.
  \item[\textsuperscript{2}] Ibid.
  \item[\textsuperscript{3}] Ibid.
  \item[\textsuperscript{4}] ASIAR, 1909-10, pp.49-50.
  \item[\textsuperscript{5}] Ibid.
  \item[\textsuperscript{6}] F. Tissot, 'The Site of Sahri Bahlol in Gandhara', SAA, 1983, pp.567-614.
  \item[\textsuperscript{7}] D.K. Chakrabarti, 2006, \textit{op. cit.}, p.398.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
base of a large stupa at Ghaz Dheri along with a large number of Gandhara sculptures.¹ In the same Mardan tehsil in Peshawar district, a hoard of five hundred and thirty three copper coins of the Kushanas was 'discovered in a mound between Turbandi and Nandua’.² The Kurram copper casket inscription dated in Kanishka’s year 20 was also found near Peshawar.³

In the Potwar Plateau, 20 miles to the south east of Rawalpindi, there is a huge Buddhist complex of not less than fifteen isolated stupas and fourteen attached monasteries, mostly on the sandstone ridges of Manikyala. The Manikyala tope was first excavated in 1830 by General Ventura, an army officer in the service of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, followed by General Court in 1834 and then investigated by Alexander Cunningham in 1863-64. These extensive remains cover an area of about six square miles. The Manikyala tope No. 1 is a 92 feet high gigantic stupa that yielded a reliquary containing gold and copper coins of Kanishka and Huvishka, mixed with one coin of Yashovarman of Kanauj.⁴ With these coins were found two Kharoshthi inscriptions, one on the lid of the cylindrical bronze casket and other on a plain silver disc. The main body of the stupa is a solid hemisphere of 127 feet, 9 inches in diameter. The upper and lower plinths are decorated with corinthian pilasters. At the depth of 73 feet, a small box of gold was discovered, lying inside a copper box containing one gold and five copper coins of the Kushana rulers Kanishka and Huvishka.⁵ Cunningham visited Manikyala thrice during the years 1863, 1872 and 1878. In the Manikyala tope no. 2, three cylindrical caskets of copper, silver and gold were discovered by General Court, placed one inside the other, each containing several coins of the same metal. The whole was enclosed in a stone niche which was covered by a large inscribed slate with Kharoshthi inscription. The four gold coins in the gold box belong to Kanishka, the seven silver coins are all Roman denarii of the last years of the republic (1st century B.C.) and the eight copper coins

² ASIAR, 1926-27, p.167.
⁵ Ibid.
belong to Kujula Kadphises, Wema Kadphises and Kanishka. On the authority of these coins, Cunningham dated this tope to the reign of Kanishka.\(^1\) The Manikyala stone inscription records the establishment of several relics of lord Buddha in the year 18 of Kanishka's reign by his General Lala. The name of Burita, an architect who repaired the edifice is also mentioned.\(^2\) Another outstanding find of Cunningham was a model stupa of stone (8½ inches high and 4½ inches in diameter) at the base, bearing a striking resemblance to the great stupa of Manikyala, that yielded a copper coin of Kujula Kadphises.\(^3\)

There is copious evidence of the presence of Kushanas in different parts of the Peshawar valley and Potwar plateau in the form of Kushana coins, inscriptions and Buddhist ruins yielding sculptures, stone reliefs, stucco heads and bronzes in enormous numbers. The Zeda inscription\(^4\) of Kanishka dated in the year 11 was found near Und, the Ara stone inscription\(^5\) of 'Kaisara Kanishka' dated in the year 41 was found near Attock and the Sui Vihara copper plate inscription\(^6\) of Kanishka dated in the year 11 was discovered near Bahawalpur in southern part of West Punjab. Cunningham collected a few coins "of Kujula Kadphises, twice as many as of Wema Kadphises and nearly equal number of Kanishka, Huvishka, Vasudeva and the nameless king (Soter Megas)" from the "Yusufzai country".\(^7\)

The excavation in Swat by the Italian Archaeological Mission (ISMEO) revealed Kushana coins from Mingora and Udegram apart from specimens of Gandhara art.\(^8\) The ISMEO published its finds in 1958, related to the urban settlements in Gogdara, Udigram 'Bazar' and Udigram castle.\(^9\) At Gogdara, a spacious courtyard with a basin of water, cylindrical column foundations, wells, canals, pavements, benches and pits were excavated. The adjacent

\(^{2}\) CII, Vol. I, i, p.150.  
\(^{3}\) ASR, Vol. V, p.79.  
\(^{5}\) Ibid., p.165.  
\(^{6}\) Ibid., p.141.  
\(^{8}\) PA, No. I, pp.67-68.  
sites of Butkara-I and Barama, facing one another on the bank of Jambil river, revealed huge constructions, blocks of buildings separated by streets and a large defensive wall with a square ground plan at Barama and construction semblance in the settlement of Butkara-I.¹ Several Buddhist sanctuaries, rock carvings and an image of Avalokiteshwar were noticed along the route going up the Jambil valley and reaching the Gokand pass which connects it to Buner and Indus region.

The excavation of 1990-91 by the Italian Archaeological Mission at the historic settlement of Bir-Kot-Ghwandai in Swat revealed occupation from Indo-Greek period to the Kushano-Sassanian times. The urban architecture from periods 6, 7 and 8 of the structural sequence is tentatively dated between 3rd and 5th century A.D. A small Buddhist sacred area grew up inside the town, similar to the sacred monument of Sirkap at Taxila, with a stupa and a courtyard. The stupa with a moulded base is square in plan with walls decorated on each side by two pilasters. Three viharas were discovered towards the northern wall of the courtyard. The excavations also yielded coins of Azes and an unidentified Saka king.² Another Buddhist site in the Swat region is Marjanai in Kabal tehsil³ that yielded a stupa, a votive stupa and three coins, one of Kanishka, another of later Kushana period and a Kushano-Sassanian coin. Numerous panels with seated Buddha and standing Bodhisattvas were also revealed during the excavations.

In the Swat region the excavation at Andandheri⁴, about 4 miles north of Chakdara revealed three periods of occupation (Period I, II and III), a main stupa, fourteen votive stupas and a monastic area built of diaper stone masonry. The earliest coins found at the monastic area of the site are those of Wema Kadphises and Soter Megas from Period I. From Period II a coin hoard of 12 copper coins of Kanishka-III and Vasudeva-II was found. The Buddhist

site of Chatpat, yielded a Kharoshthi inscription showing the earliest phase of Kushana writing, stupas and a number of square votive stupas, during excavation. The floor of the main stupa is dated to the early Kushan period. Excavation at Damkot in the Swat region revealed four periods of occupation from the first half of the first millennium B.C. onwards. Period III, yielded one coin of Wema Kadphises, seven coins of Kanishka and five coins of Vasudeva-II. This was a period of intensive occupation, suggestive of an opulent community. The associated structures of Period III show diaper masonry.

The ancient city of Taxila in Rawalpindi district of Pakistan lay on the busy highway which tapped the trans-Asian 'silk routes', i.e. the route running from Pataliputra to Taxila, to western Asia and the route linking it up to Central Asia via Kashmir. Taxila, indeed is one of the most-explored ancient sites of the Indian subcontinent. Several years of excavations have brought to light the remains of an extensive city with three ancient settlements, namely, the Bhir mound (c. 500 B.C. – Mauryan period), Sirkap (c. 200 B.C. – Indo Greek city) and Sirsukh (Kushana city). A large number of Buddhist stupas and monasteries were also excavated. The earliest settlement of Bhir mound is a haphazard town with narrow streets and irregularly built houses. Sirkap, the second city of Taxila was built by Bactrian Greeks in the beginning to the 2nd century B.C., in accordance with the chess-board plan with regularly aligned blocks of buildings and streets cutting one-another at right angles. It had a suburb and a fortification wall of rubble masonry with projecting bastions at irregular intervals. The excavations at Sirkap by John Marshall (1913-34) and A. Ghosh (1944-45) revealed structural remains as well as other antiquities which prove Kushana conquest over the city. A total number of seven occupational layers were revealed of which stratum I, i.e. the latest stratum that yielded a very large number of Kushana coins and red ware, is

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2 Ibid., pp.103-205.
4 Ibid., p.4.
5 A. Ghosh, 'Taxila (Sirkap), 1944-45', Ancient India, No. 4, 1947-48, pp.41-84.
assigned to the Kushana period.\(^1\) Out of the total two thousand six hundred and forty one Kushana coins retrieved by Marshall two thousand five hundred and twenty two copper coins and four silver coins belong to Kujula Kadphises, twelve to Soter Megas, thirty seven are issues of Wema Kadphises, thirty nine of Kanishka, four of Huvishka, twenty seven of Vasudeva and only three copper coins belong to the later Kushana rulers.\(^2\) A Ghosh’s excavation also yielded one coin each of Kujula Kadphises and Huvishka from Sirkap.\(^3\) This numismatic testimony clearly demonstrates Kushana hold over Sirkap during its last phase, in the reign of Kujula Kadphises. Thereafter the Kushana power shifted to a new city site – Sirsukh, although Sirkap seems to have remained in partial occupation even after the transfer of the city site.

Sirsukh, the third city of Taxila, was situated to the north-east of the Lundi stream. This city was established by the Kushanas in the traditional manner after the contemporary Central Asian cities. Its plan is roughly a parallelogram with a perimeter of about 3 miles. Like Sirkap, the city of Sirsukh was defended by a massive stone wall with diaper masonry and strengthened on the outside by semi-circular bastions. It also possessed a suburb on its western side and was defended by an earthen work called Tredi Ghar.\(^4\) Marshall’s excavation at Sirsukh revealed the remains of a large building, pottery, stone and metal objects, finger rings, beads of semi precious stones and forty copper coins. Of these coins, four belong to Kujula Kadphises, three to Wema Kadphises, twelve to Kanishka, one to Huvishka, eleven to Vasudeva and six to later Kushana rulers.\(^5\)

Apart from these three cities, Kushana coins and antiquities have also been discovered from a large number of Buddhist stupas and monasteries at Taxila. They are the Dharma-rajika stupa, the Samgharama at Kalawan, the stupa-cum-monasteries complex of Giri, the stupas of Kunala and Ghai, the

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Samgharamas of Bhamala, the stupas and monasteries at Lalchak, Pippala, Mohra, Moradu, Jaulian, Badalpur and Bhallar and the Ionic temple at Jandial. Most of these religious buildings were established after the founding of the Kushana city of Sirsukh.\(^1\) The excavations at various sites in Taxila yielded in total two thousand five hundred and twenty six copper coins and four silver coins of Kujula Kadphises, sixty-four copper coins of Wema Kadphises, one hundred and one coins of Soter Megas, one hundred and fifty seven copper coins of Kanishka, seventy-three of Huvishka, one thousand, nine hundred and four copper coins of Vasudeva-I, thirty copper coins of later Kushana rulers, four gold, one silver and twenty-three electron pieces of the Kidara-Kushanas and three hundred Sassanian coins.\(^2\) The most remarkable find from the great stupa complex of Dharmarajika was that of a reliquary in one of the side-chapels, containing a silver scroll with a Kharoshthi inscription dedicated to a Kushana king by a Bactrian, Urasaka in the year 136.\(^3\) The best example of stucco ornamentation in this region is provided by the stupa and monastery at Jaulian, which in all probability was constructed in the Kushana period. It also yielded coins of Soter Megas, Kujula Kadphises, Kanishka, Huvishka, Vasudeva and later Kushanas.\(^4\)

Several Kushana coins and inscriptions have also been discovered from various other parts of Pakistan. These include coins of Kanishka from Idak-Spinwan and Shertulla plain,\(^5\) one copper coin of Kanishka from Sanghao cave,\(^6\) several coins from Balambat settlement site,\(^7\) copper coins of Kanishka and other Kushana rulers from Ark-Ghundai\(^8\) and a coin of Soter Megas from a Tulumba in Multan.\(^9\) Six gold coins of Kanishka and Vasudeva were collected from Shakarkot in Sahpur district\(^10\) and two gold coins of “the

\(^1\) J. Marshall, 1975, op. cit., p.5.
\(^2\) ASIAR, 1912-13, pp.51-52; 1924-25, pp.33-34; 1915-16, pp.33-34.
\(^3\) CII, i.l., p.77.
\(^4\) MASI, No.7, p.2.
\(^6\) Ibid., p.15.
\(^7\) AP, Vol. III, 1967, p.239.
\(^8\) MASI, No.37, p.15.
\(^9\) PA, No. 4, 1967, p.25.
\(^10\) ASIAR, 1934-35, p.91.
little Yueh-Chih” from a mound near Machrata in Sheikhpur district.\(^1\) The Tochi valley inscriptions in Arabic, Bactrian and Sanskrit language refer to the year 38 and resemble the inscription of Kanishka from Surkh Kotal.\(^2\) Three rock boulders at Tor-Derai in Loralai district bear lengthy inscriptions in Kharoshthi script, depicting a bold, stylized form of Kushana writing.\(^3\) The top of the hillock of Tor Derai is occupied by the ruins of a Buddhist stupa, excavated by Aurel Stein in 1927, who placed the remains in the beginning of the 2\(^{nd}\) century A.D. to Kushana period. Several potsherds with Brahmi and Kharoshthi inscriptions were recovered from this site, attributed to Kushana period. The strong sanskritization of these inscriptions show that they cannot be older than Kanishka.\(^4\) More than two thousand inscriptions have come to light and have been deciphered to a large degree in different parts of the Indus Valley near Chillas, near the mouth of the Gilgit valley, between Hunza and Nagir and in Baltistan.\(^5\) According to A.H. Dani who edited the inscriptions of the rocks of Hunza, the inscription HKI in Kharoshthi characters refers to Wema Kadphises.\(^6\)

The numismatic evidence shows that the lower Indus valley, i.e. Sind, passed on from the hands of the Parthains into the sovereignty of the Kushanbas. The conquest of the Shen-tu or T’ien-Chu (lower Indus) is attributed to Yen-Kao-Chen (Wema Kadphises) in the Chinese work Hou-Han-Shu. The Scythians living in Sind must have shifted their allegiance to Kushanbas. According to Huien Tsang who travelled through Sind in 642 A.D., there were more than ten thousand Buddhist monks living in this country in several hundred monasteries although only about fifteen sites have been identified so far which were once Buddhist monasteries.\(^7\) Kanishka’s advance towards Sind is attested by his Sui Vihar inscription discovered near

\(^{1}\) \textit{ASIAR}, 1930-31, p.309.  
\(^{3}\) \textit{PA}, No. 10-12, 1974-86, p.172.  
\(^{5}\) \textit{Ibid.}, p.193.  
Bahawalpur and dated in the year 11 of Kanishka's era. But it is still quite unclear whether the writ of the Kushanas prevailed further south or not. At Mohenjo-daro a potsherd was found bearing Brahmi inscription dated to the 2nd-3rd century A.D. by N.C. Majumdar. Although no imperial Kushana coins are found in Sind but later Kushana coins have been discovered here. R.D. Banerji excavated a hoard consisting of one thousand six hundred and eighty four coins, later identified as coins of Vasudeva, in one of the cells of the Buddhist monastery at Mohenjodaro. One hundred thirty nine more such coins were discovered elsewhere in the building. The same type of coins were discovered at Jhukar by N.C. Majumdar. This testifies that the Kushana rule extended over at least upper Sind and lasted until the time of Vasudeva. Several Buddhist monuments at Jerrak, Sudheran-jo-Dara, Mirpur Khas, Thul Mir Rukan, etc. of early Christian centuries tend to suggest that in Sind, as elsewhere, the main flowering of Buddhist art was somehow linked with the Kushana empire of Kanishka and his successors.

As we can discern from the above discussion, the Kushana period was marked by the spread of urbanization and monetization in Pakistan. According to A.H. Dani, "The urban centres increased to a very large extent during the Kushan period." In the main valley of Peshawar numerous cities came up to the north of Kabul river, along the old route that came from Taxila and across the Indus to Hund or Salature, onward to Pushkalavati at the confluence of the Swat and Kabul rivers. "If the city mounds that exist today on these routes are counted, it is surprising to note that urbanization even in modern Pakistan has not reached that stage in the Peshawar region." Dani maintains that this urbanization in the Kushana period was based both on industrial development and on trade entrepots. The spread of Buddhist ideology and political unity

1 CII, II, i., p.141.
2 G. Verardi, 'Thoughts on the Buddhist sites of Sind', Sindhological Studies, Jamshoro, Summer, 1987, p.69.
7 Ibid.
must have added fillip to this process leading to general prosperity and rise of Gandhara art. In words of Dani "The Kushana period was a Golden Age in the ancient history of Pakistan."

The *Hou Han Shu* (Annals of the late Han Dynasty) records the conquest of Chi-pin, i.e. a portion of northwestern India including Kashmir, by Kujula Kadphises. The Kharoshthi inscription of *Maharaja Uvima Kavthisa* (Wema Kadphises) of the year 187 of the old Shaka era of 170 B.C. (A.D. 17), discovered near the Khalatse bridge on the Indus suggests that around the first century, Ladakh was a part of the Kushana empire. According to Hiuen Tsang, the fourth Buddhist council was held under the patronage of Kanishka at Kundalavan Vihara in Kashmir. The first book of Kalhana's *Rajatarangini* gives the names of the 'Princes of Turushka' who were 'powerful sovereigns' and faithful patrons of Buddhism, as Hushka (Huvishka), Jushka (Vasishka) and Kanishka (Kanishka I or II), each of whom founded a new city bearing his own name. These cities are Hushkapura, identified as Ushkar, two miles to the south-east of Baramula pass; Jushkapura, i.e. Zukur, four miles to the north of Srinagar and Kanishkapursa, i.e. Kanispur between Baramula and Srinagar. Jushka was also the founder of Jayasvamipura which is yet unidentified. Another settlement mentioned in Rajatarangini is Sushkaletra identified with Hukhalitor in Dunts Pargana, by Auriel Stein. Sushkaletra seems to have been a place of importance during Kushana rule as Hushka, Jushka and Kanishka are said to have constructed monasteries, caityas, etc., here. Thus both literary and epigraphic evidence strongly suggest Kushana rule over the Kashmir valley, right from the early phase of the Kushana empire.

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4 Ibid., p.170.
Archaeological explorations show that much of the occupation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir goes back to the beginning of the Christian century, marked by the Kushana rule. Kashmir witnessed considerable prosperity under the Kushanas from the 1\textsuperscript{st} to the 3\textsuperscript{rd} century A.D. because the trade route to Central Asia passed through Hunza and Gilgit that were under Kushana dominion.\footnote{M.K. Dhavalikar, \textit{Historical Archaeology of India}, New Delhi, 1999, p.20.} Since the reign of Kushanas, Buddhism rose to its height in Kashmir and Kashmir became a leading centre of \textit{Sarvastivada} school probably due to patronage of Kushana kings. Although very few sites have been scientifically excavated in this region, they do give us a fair idea of Kushana rule in Jammu and Kashmir. The three Kushana towns mentioned in \textit{Rajatarangini} were identified by Cunningham.\footnote{ASR, Vol. II, pp.77 84, 85 and 131.} He observed at Kanisprur, a Sarai named Kampur Sarai was a corrupt name of Kanishkapur. The excavation at Kanisprur near Baramula was carried out by the Srinagar Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1998-99 under the direction of B.R. Mani.\footnote{B.R. Mani, 'Excavation at Kanisprur', \textit{Pragdhara}, No. 10, 1999-2000, pp.1-21.} It yielded five cultural periods of occupation. Period I and Period II are aceramic and ceramic neolithic periods respectively. The site was abandoned after the neolithic period and was reoccupied in the Kushana period, i.e. Period III dated to c. 1\textsuperscript{st} to 4\textsuperscript{th} century A.D. Habitational deposit of the thickness of nearly 2.50 metre of Kushana period was marked, square A1, Q d2 at KNP-3 where Kushana habitational remains were overlying the natural soil. In layers 5 to 10 which belong to Period-III, the main township of Kanishkapura has been excavated. Large scale building activity in the form of structures of various types were noticed during Period-III. Parts of a huge structure were traced upto a length of 22 metre and breadth of 17 metre, constructed of diaper pebble walls with lime brick floor. A pavement attached with these walls in the inner side of the structure was also noticed.\footnote{IAR, 1998-99, pp.30-47.} Evidence of decorated stucco work was found in the form of a few pieces with floral designs and red paint on a chunk of lime plaster. Roof tiles with circular holes for iron nails suggest wooden super-structure. On the slopes of KNP-2, a
damaged pavement of decorated terracotta tiles with the pattern of a large
disc having several concentric circles was exposed.¹ Floral decorations,
medallions with dharma-chakra motif, Kharoshthi numerals and Brahmi letters
were found on these tiles. Red ware was the main ceramic industry with
shapes of variety of bowls, goblets, spouted pots, basins, dishes or pans with
incised or stamped decorations around the rim, lids, vases, and plates with
central knob and circular base, etc. A typical Kushana lamp with horizontally
flat incurved rim and a rare 8 centimetre high goblet of fine red ware are some
important finds of the Kushana period. Other antiquities include a copper coin
probably of Kanishka, silver pendant, terracotta figurines, pieces of blue glass
bangles, iron nails, arrow heads, etc.² Red ware continued in Period IV, i.e.
Post Kushana period and Period V, i.e. Kashmir dynastic period also but with
a change in the shapes.

Semthan (ancient Chakradara) in district Anantnag was excavated by
R.S. Bisht of the Archaeological Survey of India for four seasons from 1976-
79 and 1980-81, which revealed a four-fold cultural sequence.³ While Period I
and Period II are pre NBPW and NBPW respectively, Period III is represented
by a red ware industry of the Kushana times. The Kushana layers are found in
a 4 metre thick deposit and terracotta figurines usually prepared out of single
mould were discovered here. The exposure of mud bricks and rubble and
diaper pebble walls with associated floors reveal the material and pattern of
construction. The excavation also yielded copper coins of Kushana rulers.
The common pottery shapes include bowls with incurved rims, basins, bottom-
knobed lids, inkpot shaped lids and miniature vases which are typical
Kushana shapes. A terracotta seal depicting a Roman deity⁴ and beautiful
terracottas of the Gandhara school⁵ clearly betraying a lingering classical
influence are some of the other important finds of Period III. Period IV at
Semthan represents the Gupta age.

¹ IAR, 1998-99, pp.30-47.
² Ibid., p.40.
⁴ IAR, 1980-81, Pl. XIII-A.
⁵ Ibid., Pl. XII-XIII.
During the excavation at Ushkar, a stone block inscribed with the word Heskaya in the Sarada characters of the medieval period was discovered. The word has been taken to denote Heskapur or Huskapur,¹ the ancient name of the town, which according to Rajatarangini was founded by the Kushana King Hushka or Huvishka. Some structures of Buddhist monuments, belonging to the Kushana period were also exposed at Ushkar.

Remains of Buddhist art and architecture were noticed in the form of a stupa and a monastery at Harwan, two miles from the Shalimar gardens in the valley of Kashmir.² R.C. Kak excavated Harwan in the early 1920's when the terraced fields, thickly packed with potsherds were excavated.³ The site comprises of three terraces, with lower terrace representing an important Buddhist site of the Kushana period while an apsidal stupa or temple stands on the highest terrace. The overall plan of Harwan closely takes after the fire temple at Surkh Kotal (Afghanistan) where the temple is a terraced structure with a courtyard surrounding the main temple located upon the highest level. Both originally had a stairway leading through the centre of each terrace. The masonry style at Harwan underwent a systematic evolution. The earliest construction was in the 'pebble style', but the 'diaper pebble style' – dated to around 300 A.D. replaced it and subsequently gave way to 'diaper rubble style' as seen in the triple base of a medium sized stupa built in a rectangular courtyard and a set of rooms or chapels.⁴ Decorated tiles were found associated with the 'diaper pebble style' on the pavements of the courtyard of the apsidal stupa which was square in front and circular at back. The temple accommodation consisted of a spacious rectangular ante-chamber with a circular sanctum behind. The courtyard around the temple consisted of a 160' by 124' 6" pavement of large moulded brick tiles, having various shapes, decorations and patterns, the favorite one being a large disc consisting of several concentric circles with a central piece. Each circle is composed of a

³ Ibid., pp.105-111.
series of arc-shaped tiles, each stamped with a special motif, and each one of the tiles bears a number in Kharoshthi script.\(^1\) Harwan tiles, according to Percy Brown "represent motifs suggestive of more than half a dozen alien civilizations of the ancient world, besides others which are indigenous and local".\(^2\) It is interesting to note that human figures on tiles have the striking peculiarity of head shown in profile and the body facing front. Indo-Sassanian and Central Asian elements, particularly those from Yarkand – Kashgar region have been traced on these tiles.\(^3\)

Material related to Kushana period has been found during explorations and excavations at some other early historical sites of the Kashmir valley such as Pandrethan, Hutmura, Kutbal, Ahan, etc. Remains of decorated terracotta tiles have been brought to light from Doni Pather near Pahalgam, Hoinar in the Liddar valley, Hutmur near Martand in the Anantnag, district, Ahan near Sumbal, Kutbal in Anantnag district, Hatmora in the Kupwara district, Kralchuk near Ganderbal, Parihaspura near Devar Yakhmanpura and Behama near Ganderbal township.\(^4\) The trial excavation of 1988 at Hutmur revealed fantastic decorated tile pavements at three places. The largest excavated pavement contains nine concentric circle of tiles numbered in Kharoshthi and laid in a systematic plan. One representation depicts a man in a typical Kushana dress. The excavation at Ahan revealed terracotta tiles with dignified motifs. One tile portrays a human figure holding, like the mighty Kushana Kings, a long spear in the left hand, foot splayed outward in heavy riding boots, wearing a long top coat – hallmarks of Kushana dress, clearly pointing towards the authors of the tile.\(^5\) A trial excavation in June 2005, at Kutbal also revealed a tile pavement laid in concentric layers. The tiles forming the circular pavement contain a variety of motifs like Kalaghatta with petals of a flower making a circle, Purnaghatta with Kalpavrksa, elephant

\(^3\) B.R. Mani, 2007-08, op. cit.
\(^4\) Ibid.
with a rider, galloping stag, a flying swan with human mount, a dancing lady, fish, etc. According to B.R. Mani, decoration on floors seemingly became popular in the early historic period, especially during the Kushana age when intercontinental trade between India and Rome reached its climax.\(^1\) The use of decorated floor tiles seems to have started in Kashmir during the early Kushana period and continued in the following centuries inspiring construction in Gandhara subsequently, as found at Bhamala monastic establishment of Taxila.\(^2\) The evidence of Kanispur suggests the earliest phase of development of this architectural style where at KNP-I plain tiles with Kharoshthi numerals and at KNP-2, Brahmi letters on decorated tiles were noticed. These tiles were used in pavements associated with a diaper-pebble style of masonry and their simplicity in depicting floral and geometric forms with no human and animal depiction place them earlier than Harwan.\(^3\)

Outside the valley, in the Akhnoor region of Jammu district, excavations were carried out at Manda by J.P. Joshi of the Archaeological Survey of India. It yielded a three-fold cultural sequence\(^4\) (Period-I, II and III). Period IA and IB represent Pre-Harappan, Harappan and post Harappan, Period II represents the Maurya-Sunga level and Period III is associated with the Kushana age, after which the site was finally deserted around 300 A.D. A cultural deposit of 1.70 to 1.90 metre was encountered which is divided into six layers (7-12) of Period III, yielding incised, stamped and plain red ware of Kushana period. The pottery shapes include jars, dishes, spouted and handled vessels and lids. On one potsherd swastik symbol was stamped. The antiquities of Period III include glass bangles, a terracotta figure of a saddled horse, votive tanks, beads, iron daggers and arrow heads, copper and antimony rods and a few copper coins. A 3 metre wide street and a partially exposed house with walls of rubble diaper masonry also came to light during

\(^{1}\) B.R. Mani, 2007-08, op. cit., p.219.  
\(^{2}\) Ibid., p.220.  
\(^{3}\) Ibid., p.219.  
It seems that the site remained deserted after the Kushana period, only to be occupied in the 18th and 19th century.

Excavations at Guru Baba-Ka-Tibba in Jammu district revealed 6 metre of habitational deposit with sixteen layers belonging to four cultural periods namely grey ware, early historical, Kushana and medieval period respectively. Of this Period III, i.e. the Kushana period yielded mud brick walls, terracotta beads, shell bangles, copper, ivory and bone objects, apart from other antiquities.

The site of Ambaran, again in Akhnur region of Jammu district, excavated under the direction of B.R. Mani during 1999-2001, yielded a Buddhist monastic establishment of Kushana period. The four-fold cultural sequence represent pre-Kushana, Kushana, post Kushana or Gupta and Post-Gupta period respectively. No structural remains of Period I (pre Kushana) were found. During the excavation of Period II, a main stupa (6 metre base), another large stupa (10 metre square base), several votive stupas, walls of a monastery and another long structure probably a platform attached with the stupa were exposed. All the burnt brick masonry was constructed with brick of 36 to 38 centimetre. A rectangular brick-paved platform was found associated with the stupa on its eastern side over which some lamps were discovered. According to B.R. Mani, the construction plan of this Buddhist establishment is similar to the Taxila stupas of Dharmarajika, Kalwan and Jandial. The main stupa yielded a heavily encrusted copper casket with thirty circular thin sheets of gold, two circular rimmed thin sheets of silver, hundred and fifty micro beads of pearl, twelve cylindrical coral beads, two metallic micro-beads, an oval shaped silver casket, a circular gold casket, four full and six broken circular thin sheets of gold, three encrusted copper coins, two of which are possibly Kushana issues

1 MASI, No. 89, ASI, New Delhi, 1993, pp.237-224.
2 IAR, 1997-98, p.64.
4 Ibid.
and one bead of amethyst. The site also yielded Buddhist terracotta heads with close resemblance with terracotta heads of Gandhara art and twelve copper coins of which eight belong to the Kushana rulers, Soter Megas, Kanishka and Huvishka. Kushana red ware in typical shapes such as bowls, basins, vases, sprinklers, lamps, spouted pots and ink-pot type lids, were also collected from Period II.

As discussed in the previous chapter, a huge concentration of graffiti and short inscriptions in Kharoshthi as well as Brahmi, has come to light from the upper regions of Pakistan and modern Kashmir. About two hundred short Kharoshthi inscriptions, some Brahmi inscription, and several human and ibex figures, seem to belong to the Kushana period. The Khalatse inscription of Maharaja Uvima Kavthisa of year 187 of the old Shaka era attests to Kushana presence in Ladakh. The so called 'Kanika Chorten' (stupa of Kanishka) at Sani monastery in Zanskar also suggests Kushana influence as it has a hemi-spherical dome which is not the usual feature of chortens in Ladakh. The Kushana besides, giving patronage to Buddhist missionaries, also encouraged trade and commerce along this region with the trading centres of the silk route.

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1 IAR, 1999-2000, p.60.
2 Ibid., p.230.
5 Ibid., p.110.
## EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>District/Tehsil</th>
<th>Cultural Sequence</th>
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</table>
| 1.     | Kanispur, 34° 13’ 35” N; 74° 24’ 30” to 74° 25’ | Baramulla district | Pd. I – Aceramic Neo  
Pd. II – Ceramic Neo  
Pd. III – Kushana  
Pd. IV – Post Kushana  
Pd. V – Kashmir dynastic | (i) A Kushana city  
(ii) 2.50 m thick habitational deposit of Kushana period  
(iii) Large scale building activity  
(iv) A copper coin, iron objects,  
(v) Decorative terracotta tiles. | IAR., 1998-99, pp. 30-47 |
| 2.     | Semthan, 34° 14’ N; 76° 91’ E | Anantanag district | Pd. I – Pre NBPW  
Pd. II – NBPW  
Pd. III – Kushana  
Pd. IV – Gupta | (i) 4 m. thick Kushana layer.  
(ii) Copper coins  
(iii) Terracotta seal and figurines. | IAR., 1976-72, pp. 19-21  
IAR, 1977-78, p. 24  
IAR, 1978-79, pp 69-70  
IAR, 1980-81, pp. 21-23 |
| 3.     | Manda 32°54’ N; 74° 48’E | Jammu district, Akhnoor region | PI IA and1B-Pre Harappan and Harappan.  
Pd II – Maurya- Sunga  
Pd III - Kushana | (i) Cultural deposit of 1.70-690m in Kushana period  
(ii) Street and houses  
(iii) Copper coins, iron objects  
| 4.     | Ushkar, 34° 19’ N; 74° 36’ E | Baramulla district | – | (i) Buddhist monuments.  
(ii) A stone block inscribed with the word Heskayu | ASR-AR, 1916-17, p. 13 |
| 5.     | Harwan | Kashmir valley | – | (i) Buddhist monument  
(ii) Decorative brick tiles | R.C. Kak, Ancient monuments of Kashmir, 1971, pp. 105-111 |
| 6.     | Guru-Baba-Ka-Tibba, 32° 72’ N; 74° 85’ E | Jammu district | Pd I – Grey ware  
Pd II – Early historical  
Pd. III – Kushana  
Pd. IV – Medieval. | (i) Total 6 m. habitational deposit  
(ii) Mud brick walls.  
(iii) Copper, ivory, shell and bone objects. | IAR, 1997-98, p. 64 |
| 7.     | Ambaran 32° 54’ N; 74° 46’E | Jammu dt., Akhnoor region | Pd I – Pre Kushana  
Pd. II. – Kushana  
Pd II – Gupta  
Pd. IV – Post Gupta. | (i) Buddhist monastic complex.  
(ii) Kushana copper coins (8)  
(iii) Terracotta heads  

Trial excavations at Hutmur, Ahan and Kutbal also yielded decorative terracotta tiles.
EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN JAMMU & KASHMIR
Besides 7 excavated sites we have come across 114 explored sites from the state of Jammu and Kashmir that have yielded remains of Kushana period. Of these, at least 58 sites are in the Jammu district alone. The geographical distribution of these sites reveals that most of them are located along the Chenab river around the town of Akhnur and thus could be approached by riverine as well as land routes. Of these 114 explored sites atleast 16 are single culture sites that were occupied only in the Kushana period whereas 41 sites begin with the Kushana period itself, i.e. habitation began here over fresh ground from the Kushana period and was followed by other cultures. Kushana copper coins have been recovered from Parihaspora in Baramula district and Kalakam in Jammu district. A hoard of copper coins of Kushanas was retrieved from Tarakpora in Baramula district.\(^1\) Some more Kushana coins were found from Batera Akhnoor, Ban-Sultan Tiba at Miren Sahib and Jaisalmir fort (Hiranagar), Jammu.\(^2\) The Sir Pratab Singh Museum of Srinagar houses 4 gold coins and around 572 copper coins of Kushanas. Out of the 4 gold coins, two belong to Kanishka and one each to Huvishka and Vasudeva.\(^3\) There are one copper coins each of Wema Kadphises and Soter Megas, 103 of Kujula Kadphises and 467 of Kanishka.\(^4\) The Centre of Central Asian Museum of Kashmir University also possesses 7 copper coins of Kushana kings of which 3 belong to Kujula Kadphises and 4 to Kanishka.\(^5\) From the above discussion, it is clear that atleast some parts of Jammu and Kashmir were included in the Kushana empire right from the time of Wema Kadphises that witnessed habitational expansion and prosperity during the early centuries of the Christian era.

\(^1\) IAR, 1985-85, p.114.
\(^3\) IAR, 1967-68, p.62.
The history of the hilly state of **Himachal Pradesh** during the early Christian centuries is mainly known through the numismatic evidence. By the middle of the 1st century A.D., Kushanas had conquered the adjoining regions of Kashmir and Punjab and seem to have extended their sway over some parts of Himachal Pradesh as well. Three hundred and eighty two copper coins of Wema Kadphises and forty copper coins of Kanishka have been recovered from a place situated on the Kalka-Kasauli Road.\(^1\) Two coins of Wema Kadphises, one each of Kanishka and Vasudeva have been discovered at **Kanhiara** in Kangra district.\(^2\) Kushana pottery has been discovered from three sites – **Nirmand**\(^3\) (Kullu district), **Hatwal** village\(^4\) (Sirmaur district) and **Duttanagar**\(^5\) in Simla district, where an 'urban Kushana settlement' has been briefly investigated. **Sammurkalan**\(^6\) in Una district yielded sculptures belonging to the Kushana period. The single culture settlement of **Chetru**\(^7\) has yielded two phases of structural activity dated to 2nd and 3rd century A.D., corresponding to the Kushana period. Phase I at Chetru is marked by red and micaceous red ware. A broken portion of a sprinkler, bowls, spouts, basins, dishes, etc. in red ware and some grey ware were recovered from Phase I. Burnt bricks and a circular stone structure were encountered in Phase II along with red ware. The remains of a large stupa known as Bhim-Tila in which Kushana bricks have been used were noticed near Chetru. These evidences testify to Kushana influence over some parts of Himachal Pradesh, if not actual control. The discovery of a large number of coins of the later Audumbaras, the Kunindas and the Yaudheyas reveal that these tribal rulers had carved out small principalities for themselves during the early centuries of the Christian era.\(^8\) Probably, the Audumbaras ruled in the Kangra region till the emergence of the Kushanas. The rise of the Yaudheyas

\(^1\) **JASB**, 1881, p.184.  
\(^7\) **IAR**, 1996-97, p.32.  
and the Kunindas was both the cause as well as the result of the downfall of the Kushanas, after which they formed their republics in various parts of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.¹ In the light of just 1 excavated Kushana site and 5 explored sites we can surmise that the Kushanas had a limited presence in Himachal Pradesh.

EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>District/Tehsil</th>
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The archaeological and numismatic data from the present state of Punjab attests to continuous Kushana rule over the region. Several excavated sites in Punjab have yielded rich Kushana levels with evidence of extensive structural activities along with coins, seals, stamps, terracottas, etc., reflecting the economic effervescence of the Kushana age. Punjab also became a leading centre of Buddhist learning and philosophy under the patronage of Kushana rulers.

The excavations at Sanghol in Samrala tehsil of Ludhiana district have yielded remains of two Buddhist stupas, monastery complexes, a palatial complex, an assembly hall and other official buildings from Period IV dated to 100 B.C. – 300 A.D. It has been identified with She-to-tu-lu of Hiuen-Tsang who refers to the existence of ten monasteries in it. Excavation work at the site was started by R.S. Bisht (1968-1974) and was resumed under the direction of G.B. Sharma (1978 and 1985-87). The site consists of an artificial mound with habitational deposit of about 18 metre thickness which extends over an area of 7,50,000 square metre. Seven periods of occupation have been noticed here ranging from Bara culture (Period I), PGW (Period II), Black slipped ware and NBPW (Period III), Kushana (Period IV), Gupta (Period V) to early medieval (Period VI) and late medieval (Period VIII). The village turned into a town in Period III (c. 600-200 B.C.) and later expanded into a city during the Kushana times in Period IV (c. 100 B.C. – 300 A.D.), that continued to flourish during the Gupta period (Period V) as well. The average habitational thickness of Period IV is about 2.6 metre which is divisible into two sub-periods. The habitational strata showed five structural phases. The early two of mud bricks, intermediary stage of buildings belonging to the mature Kushana period used mud and burnt bricks of sizes 33 24 6 centimetres, 33 21 7 centimetre, 30 20 5 centimetre and 23 15 6 centimetre and upper two largely built of reused material. A part of a residential complex, separated probably by a street was exposed, consisting of a kitchen, living

room, bathroom, platform and a side entrance which opens to the bylane. A burnt brick drain leading into the lane was also encountered. As many as nine varieties of floors, drains, several hearths of various sizes and shapes, beads, pendants of semi-precious stones, shell, ivory, etc. were noticed from various levels of this period.\(^1\) Hundreds of coins, seals, sealings and coin moulds have been discovered during surface explorations as well as excavations.

During the Kushana rule, the ancient city of Sanghol was divided into two closely situated parts – a fortified citadel and an open township. The fortified citadel locally called Hathiwara, stood towards the north of the main town. The palatial complex within the citadel is square in plan with well built brick floors and multicoursed thick walls. The nucleus part of the structure is a public audience hall (18.25 \(\times\) 15.50 metre) with spacious rectangular brick floor and numerous post-holes with different orientation. The entrance pathway from the southern side led to a raised platform with four post-holes, possibly a seat meant for a royal dignitary. On the eastern side of this complex was an extensive brick floored verandah and on the western side were twenty-two rooms of various sizes suggesting that the building was meant for administrative-cum-official purpose. The ritual-religious complex comprising of eleven fire altars containing ash mixed with charred grain and two platforms attached to the western end were also exposed.\(^2\) Two Buddhist stupas, a monastery complex, votive stupas and other big stone structures have been exposed in the peripheral zone away from the main habitation. The architectural plan of the interior of both stupas is like the *Dharmachakra* or sacred wheel with spokes.\(^3\) The larger stupa is a cylindrical monument built over a raised square platform having three concentric rings of brick masonry in the interior, with intervening spaces divided by radiating brick spokes at regular intervals, i.e. 12, 24 and 32 spokes as we proceed from the first inner circle to the third outermost circle. From the bottom of the stupa a stone

\(^2\) *IAR*, 1989-90, pp.84-94.
casket filled with ash and charred bones was found with a Kharoshthi legend reading *Upasaka Ayabhadradas*. In the east of the stupa a paved path is noticed over which a number of votive stupas are seen. To the north of the stupa are two rectangular platforms measuring 1.35 × 1.05 metre and several other structures which constituted the monastic complex with a gateway attached to the shrine. Towards the northeast of the larger stupa, another stupa of smaller dimension, based on the similar *Dharmachakra* pattern, was unearthed. Apart from these, several Kushana sculptures of great beauty, sculptured railings, pillars, cross-bars, coping stones, etc., of fine textured red sandstone belonging to the Mathura school of Art, form a part of the architectural project surrounding the stupa. They prominently depict Buddha heads, Buddha images, Bodhisattvas, Buddhist monks, dharmachakra etc. As many as 117 pieces of railing pillars were discovered from the site. Over 300 plant samples from 28 trenches of Kushana habitational levels (c. 100-300 A.D.) were also collected. These includes cereals like rice, wheat, two kinds of barley, jowar, pulses like chickpea, field pea, lentil, grass pea, greengram, blackgram, horse gram, cotton, fruits like date, grapes, jamun, anwala, etc., oil seeds like sesame, field brasska and species like fenugreek, coriander, cumin and black pepper.

It is certain that Sanghol was an important city and a religious centre in the Kushana period atleast from the 1st century A.D. to 3rd century A.D. The variant nature of the residential buildings in both the citadel and township are suggestive of a well differentiated social stratification caused by various levels of economic standards. But we notice an equitable distribution of copper coins in the houses of the elite as well as common men which must be a result of substantial economic prosperity. The excavations have yielded a

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2 IAR, 1968-69, p.25.
4 C. Margabandhu and G.S. Gaur, Some Fresh Evidence from Sanghol Excavation', *Puratattva*, No. 16, New Delhi, 1985-86, pp.77-78.
large number of copper coins of Soter Megas, Wema Kadphises, Kanishka, Huvishka and Vasudeva-I and a gold coin of Vasudeva II. After the coins of later Kushana rulers, a few debased and coarse gold coins attributed to the Kidara Kushanas have been found from the site, suggesting that the territory passed under the rule of Kidara dynasty.

The excavation of the site of Sunet in Ludhiana district yielded six cultural phases viz. Later Harappan (Period I), PGW (Period II), NBPW (Period III), Sunga-Kushana (Period IV), Gupta (Period V) and Post Gupta (Period VI). The mound was about 1750–1200 square feet, when Alexander Cunningham visited the site and collected thousands of coins of different varieties including 269 coins of the "earlier Indo-Scythians" (Kushanas) and 132 of the "Later Indo-Scythians" (later Kushanas). Period IV (c. 200 B.C. – A.D. 300) at Sunet is a thick strata revealing extensive habitational activities in seven structural phases. A burnt-brick house with the courtyard, two rooms at the back, a kitchen, bathroom and stairs were exposed during excavations. The antiquities of the Sunga-Kushana period include ivory chessmen, beads of semi-precious stones and terracotta, ivory bangles, bone dice, toy cart wheels, copper rods, terracotta incense burners, sprinklers, incurved bowls, moulds of medals, inscribed terracotta seals and sealings and coins of Huvishka, Vasudeva and later Kushana rulers. A large number of coin moulds of Vasudeva have been discovered from site No. 4. Site No. 3 at Sunet appears to be the mint site of Yaudheyas and probably a place for manufacture of coin moulds as well, as a hoard of thirty thousand coin moulds with a figure of Karttikeya and legend 'Yaudheya Ganasaya Jaya' have been discovered. These coins were possibly issued to commemorate the victory of Yaudheyas over the Kushanas. However, Kushana currency continued to circulate in the territory even after Yaudheya occupation. This shows that

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1 IAR, 1983-84, pp.67-70.
2 ASR, Vol. XIV, p.66.
3 IAR 1983-84, pp.67-70.
4 Ibid.
Sunet was an important mint town and a prosperous city with a well
developed money economy under the Kushanas and their successors.

Ropar shows evidence of a long and continuous occupation extending
from the Harappan times to nearly present days. The material collected from
other sites in the neighbourhood of Ropar indicates a similar sequence over a
wide area and hence Ropar may be taken to serve as an index of the entire
region.¹ The Period IV at Ropar (c. 200 B.C. – A.D. 600) covers the habitation
under the rule of Sungas, Kushanas, Guptas and their successors. Although
no structures belonging to the Kushana period have been exposed, the site
yielded typical Kushana pottery, sprinklers and terracotta figurines of Kushana
style.² A large hoard of over six hundred copper coins, mostly of Vasudeva
were discovered from the upper levels.³

Singh Bhagwanpur in Ropar district has yielded a threefold
occupational sequence representing PGW (Period I), Red ware (Period II – c.
200-300 A.D.) and early and late medieval (Period III – c. 900-1500 A.D.).⁴
Some coins of Indo-Greek and Kushanas were found here, along with other
antiquities like bone stylii, skin rubbers, red ware with vases, large jars,
handis, vases with shoulders stamped with characteristic motifs, etc. A
defence wall was constructed at the site in Period II.⁵ A terracotta mould for
the manufacture of fluted beads was also discovered, which along with coins
suggests the urban character of the economy in the early historical period. It
has been surmised that the site was abandoned after c. A.D. 300 and was
reoccupied after a long gap in c. A.D. 900.

The excavation at Nagiari in Rupnagar district shows that the site was
deserted after Period IB (PGW) only to be reoccupied during Kushana period
(Period II). While no structural remains of this period were noticed, the
ceramic industry of Period II is represented by incurved bowls and some

¹ AI, No.9, 1953, p.123.
² Ibid., p.126.
³ IAR, 1953-54, p.7.
⁴ IAR, 1980-81, pp.49-51.
⁵ Ibid.
stamped sherds.\textsuperscript{1} Two copper coins were also discovered from the Kushana period after which the site was again deserted.

The excavation at \textbf{Kathpalon}\textsuperscript{2} in Jalandhar district yielded remains of three cultures in an occupational deposit of 6 metre. The site was deserted after Period I (late Harappan and PGW) and was reoccupied after a break in Period II representing Kushana period. Typical Kushana pottery, beads, animal figurines, etc. were discovered from Period II after which the site was again abandoned only to be reoccupied in Period III in Medieval times.

\textbf{Nagar} in Jalandhar district yielded a three fold cultural sequence in an occupational deposit of 5 metre. The site was abandoned after Period I (late Harappan and PGW) to be reoccupied after a long break in Period II (Kushana). Typical Kushana pottery, terracotta figurines and coins were recovered from Period II. The site was again deserted after the Kushana period and was reoccupied in early medieval period represented by Period III.

\textbf{Ghuram} in Patiala district shows evidence of continuous occupation from the PGW to the Kushana period. The PGW (Period Ia), NBPW (Period Ib), Black Slipped Ware (Period Ic) and Audumbara period (Period Ila) was followed by the Kushana period (Period IIb) which was marked by incurved bowls and pottery with stamped designs.\textsuperscript{3} The site was deserted after Period IIb for over a thousand years and was reoccupied during early medieval age (Period IIIa).

The excavation at \textbf{Chhat} in Patiala district yielded in total eight layers with upper five layers of later Mughal period (1-5) and layer 6, 7 and 8 representing grey ware, black-slipped ware and painted Grey ware respectively. The important feature of this excavation is a ring well belonging to Kushana period. The ring well was exposed at the depth of 4.80 m, sealed by layer 6. Its diameter is 76 centimetre and each ring measuring 10 to 12

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item IAR, 1988-89, pp.74-75.
\item IAR, 1976-77, pp.42-43; MASI No. 89, ASI, New Delhi, 1993, pp.244-45
\item IAR, 1976-77, pp.44-45.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
centimetre in height and 2 centimetre in thickness. In all 45 courses of the well were noticed measuring 5.95 metre in total length.\(^1\) This well sheds light on the soakage system that was used during Kushana period by individual house owners as well as for collective sewage of waste water through these ring wells. Another system of sewage used during ancient times was the piling of perforated jars at the bottom one above the other.\(^2\)

**Brass** in Patiala district has revealed evidence of occupation during Late Harappan, PGW and Grey ware, Kushana and Medieval phase.\(^3\) Site-6 at Brass yielded a complete structural data of the Kushana period with nine structural phases. In trench E1, layers (4) to (7), exposed some burnt brick (32 23 5 centimetre) structures of Kushana period. Three parallel walls of burnt bricks with a width of 34 centimetre were discovered in north-east and south-east orientation. Another 57 centimetre wide Kaccha brick wall, with north-south orientation, was noticed towards east connecting the three walls. The exact nature of these structures is not ascertained yet. Some portions of a well, built of wedge-shaped bricks (42 23.5 19 5 centimetre) were also exposed underneath a Kushana structure. Large quantity of Kushana ceramics, stamps, seals and sealings, inscribed sherds in Kharoshthi script, copper coins, etc. were recovered from layers (4) to (7) belonging to the Kushana period.\(^4\)

The small-scale excavation at **Mardkhera**\(^5\) in Sangrur district revealed a three-fold cultural sequence in five layers, with traits of Early Harappan followed by Kushana phase and then Rajput period (early medieval) after a considerable gap. The Kushana levels yielded copper coins, Kushana ceramics like Karahi, bowls, votive tank, etc., apart from other antiquities.

Rohira in Sangrur district was possibly a rural settlement that has yielded evidence of Kushana occupation during Period III.\(^1\) Structures of baked bricks, stamped pottery, Kushana red ware and a few late Kushana coins were found during the excavation. Kushana bricks with three finger marks were also collected from the site during exploration.\(^2\)

The excavation at Dhalewan in Mansa district revealed a three-fold cultural sequence beginning with the Early Harappan culture in Period I.\(^3\) The site was reoccupied in Period II during the Kushana age after a lapse of considerable time. Structures of mud brick and mud brick bats, portable hearths, multiple hearths, kiln, incurved rimmed bowls, sprinklers, stamped sherds of jars, terracotta figurines, arecanut-shaped terracotta beads, copper coins, etc. were discovered during the excavation of the deposit of 1-1.5 m belonging to the Kushana period. Kushana occupation at the site was followed by Gupta and post Gupta phase in Period III.\(^4\)

Kushana levels were also revealed during the excavation of Mahorana in Sangrur district that yielded quality timber like sal during the Kushana period (Period III).\(^5\) The occupation at the site began with pre-Harappan (Period Ia) and Bare culture (Period Ib). The site was deserted after the PGW phase (Period II), reoccupied during the Kushana period (Period III) and again deserted, only to be reoccupied in medieval phase (Period IV).\(^6\)

The excavation at Dholbaha in Hoshiarpur district brought to light Kushana coins, sherds of polished red ware, architectural remains and sculptures dating from the third to fifth century A.D.\(^7\) A few sherds of Kushana pottery were found in the sub-period I B at Dhadheri in Ludhiana district,

\(^1\) IAR, 1982-83, pp.65-66.
\(^4\) Ibid.
\(^6\) Ibid.
although no evidence of regular habitation was noticed.\textsuperscript{1} Bara in Ropar district yielded datable deposits belonging to the Harappan, PGW and Kushana period from the lower levels while material belonging to the medieval period was exposed in the upper strata.\textsuperscript{2} Some sandstone images of gods and goddesses of Kushana period were collected during excavation of conservation work of a temple complex, from Kirmachi in Baili district northwest of Udhampur city.\textsuperscript{3} Kushana coins have also been discovered from Ajaram\textsuperscript{4} and Dodiana\textsuperscript{5} in Hoshiarpur district and Bhari\textsuperscript{6} and Hathur\textsuperscript{7} in Ludhaina district. Alexander Cunningham collected numerous coins of Kanishka and Huvishka from Pathankot\textsuperscript{8} and some five hundred copper coins of Wema Kadphises and Kanishka in a pot from Ransia.\textsuperscript{9} He also collected eighty nine coins of rulers "...from Vonones and Mauues down to Vasudeva" from Kutumwala Pind\textsuperscript{10} and twenty two coins of Kanishka and Huvishka from Padham.\textsuperscript{11}

\begin{thebibliography}{9}
\bibitem{1} \textit{MASI}, No. 89, ASI, New Delhi, 1993, p.244.
\bibitem{2} \textit{IAR}, 1954-55, pp.9-10; PIHC, XXXIII session Muzaffarpur, 1972, p.94.
\bibitem{3} A. Paba, 'Udhampur and its Archaeological evidences', \textit{Punjab History Conference}, 34\textsuperscript{th} session, 2002, pp.60-63.
\bibitem{4} \textit{IAR}, 1969-70, p.31.
\bibitem{5} \textit{IAR}, 1966-67, p.68.
\bibitem{6} \textit{IAR}, 1972-73, p.57.
\bibitem{7} \textit{IAR}, 1965-66, p.38.
\bibitem{8} \textit{ASR}, Vol. XIV, p.116.
\bibitem{9} \textit{Ibid.}, p.108.
\bibitem{10} \textit{ASR}, Vol. V, p.93.
\bibitem{11} \textit{ASR}, XI, p.38.
\end{thebibliography}
## EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN PUNJAB

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<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>District/Tehsil</th>
<th>Cultural Sequence</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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</table>
| 1.     | Sanghol, 30 47° N; 76° 23' E | Samrala tehsil, Ludhiana district | Pd. I – Bara culture  
Pd. II – PGW  
Pd. III – Black Slipped ware & NBPW  
Pd. IV – Kushana  
Pd. V – Gupta  
Pd. VI – Medieval  
Pd. VIII – Late medieval | (i) Average habitational thickness of Pd. IV is 2.6 m, Total thickness of 18 m. About 7,50,000 sq.m. mound.  
(ii) Fortified citadel with a palatial complex, assembly hall and other official buildings.  
(iii) Open township  
(iv) Two Buddhist stupas & a monastery complex, a stone casket.  
Puratattva, No. 16, 1985-86, pp.73-78. |
| 2.     | Sunet, 30 55° N; 75° 51' E | Ludhiana district      | Pd. I – Late Harappan  
Pd. II – PGW  
Pd. III – NBPW  
Pd. IV – Sunga-Kushana  
Pd. V – Gupta  
Pd. VI – Post Gupta | (i) About 1750 1200 sq. feet mound.  
(ii) Extensive habitational activities in seven structural phases in Pd. IV.  
(iii) Large number of coin moulds of Vasudeva and Yaudheyas.  
(iv) Coins of Huvishka, Vasudeva and later Kushana rulers.  
(v) Beads of semi precious stones, ivory bangles, moulds of medals, cu rods, inscribed seal and sealings etc. | IAR, 1983-84, pp.67-70.  
ASR, Vol. XIV, p.66. |
| 3.     | Ropar, 30 57° N; 76° 32' E | Ropar district         | Harappan to present times  
Pd. IV cover Sunga, Kushana, Gupta and post Gupta | (i) A large hoard of over 600 cu coins, mostly of Vasudeva.  
IAR, 1953-54, p.7. |
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<th></th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Phase 1 – PGW</th>
<th>Phase 2 – Kushana</th>
<th>Phase 3 – Medieval</th>
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<td>Singh Bhagwanpur, 30 89’ N; 76 55’ E</td>
<td>Ropar</td>
<td>Pd. I – PGW</td>
<td>Pd. II – Red ware</td>
<td>Pd. III – Early and late medieval</td>
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<td>Pd. II – Red ware</td>
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<td>(i) Defensive wall constructed in Pd. II.</td>
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<td>(ii) Kushana &amp; Indo Greek coins.</td>
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<td>(iii) A mould for manufacture of fluted beads</td>
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<td>(iv) Red ware jar, vases, bone stylii etc.</td>
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<td>Nagiari, 30 90’ N; 76 57’ E</td>
<td>Rupnagar</td>
<td>Pd. I B – PGW</td>
<td>Pd. II – Kushana</td>
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<td>(i) Two copper coins</td>
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<td>(ii) Incurved bowls, stamped sherds</td>
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<td>(iii) Site occupied in Kushana period and deserted after that</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Kathpalon, 31 05’ N; 75 52’ E</td>
<td>Julandhar</td>
<td>Pd. I – late Harappan &amp; PGW</td>
<td>Pd. II – Kushana</td>
<td>Pd. III – Medieval</td>
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<td>Pd. III – Medieval</td>
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<td>(i) Occupational deposit of 6m.</td>
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<td>(ii) Typical Kushana pottery, beads, animal figurines etc.</td>
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<td>(iii) Site reoccupied in Ku pd. and deserted after that</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Nagar, 31 05’ N; 75 50’ E</td>
<td>Julandhar</td>
<td>Pd. I – late Harappan &amp; PGW</td>
<td>Pd. II – Kushana</td>
<td>Pd. III – Early Medieval</td>
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<td>(i) Occupational deposit of 5m.</td>
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<td>(ii) Typical Kushana pottery, terracotta figurines and coins.</td>
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<td>(iii) Site reoccupied in Ku pd. and deserted thereafter</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Ghuram, 31 05’ N; 75 52’ E</td>
<td>Patiala</td>
<td>Pd. Ia – PGW</td>
<td>Pd. Ib – NBPW</td>
<td>Pd. Ic – Black slipped ware</td>
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<td>Pd. IIa – Audumbara</td>
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<td>Pd. IIb – Kushana</td>
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<td>Pd. IIla – Early medieval</td>
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<td>Pd. IIlb – Late medieval</td>
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<td>Pd. IIlb – Late medieval</td>
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<td>(i) Incurved bowls and pottery with stamped designs.</td>
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<td>(ii) Site deserted after Ku pd.</td>
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<td>IAR, 1980-81, pp.49-51.</td>
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<td>IAR, 1988-89, pp.74-75.</td>
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<td>IAR, 1976-77, pp.42-43. MASI, No. 89, p.244.</td>
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<td>IAR, 1976-77, pp.43. MASI, No. 89, p.245.</td>
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<td>IAR, 1976-77, pp.44-45</td>
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<td>No.</td>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Latitude</td>
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<td>District</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Mardkhera, 30° 15' N; 75° 86' E</td>
<td>Sangrur district</td>
<td>Pd.I - Early Harappan Pd. II - Kushana Pd. III - Rajput period</td>
<td>(i) Copper coins, Kushana ceramics (ii) Votive tanks (iii) There is a considerable gap in occupation before and after Ku period</td>
<td>IAR, 2001-02, pp.205-15</td>
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<td>No.</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Period</td>
<td>Finds</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Dholbaha</td>
<td>Hoshiarpur</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(i) Kushana coins&lt;br&gt;(ii) Red polished ware&lt;br&gt;(iii) Structural remains&lt;br&gt;(iv) Sculptures</td>
<td>J.E. Van Lohuizen-de, 'Recent discoveries of the historical period in India', South Asian Archaeology, 1973, p.257.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Bara</td>
<td>Ropar</td>
<td>Harappan, PGW, Kushana and medieval period</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>IAR, 1954-55, pp.9-10</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Salaura</td>
<td>Rupnagar dt.</td>
<td>Pd. I – PGW&lt;br&gt;Pd. II – Kushana&lt;br&gt;Pd. III – Late medieval</td>
<td>(i) The Kushana level is 30 centimetre thick.&lt;br&gt;(ii) Considerable gap before and after the Kushana period.</td>
<td>IAR, 1954-55, pp.9-11.</td>
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EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN PUNJAB
As many as 17 excavated Kushana sites and 63 explored sites yielding Kushana material have come to light from Punjab. Explorations in tehsil Phillaur of Jalandhar district have revealed at least ten sites having Kushana red ware followed by Muslim glazed ware only.\(^1\) Of these at three sites habitation begins with Kushana period only and is followed by medieval phase, only after a considerable gap. The large size of mounds of at least two of these sites points towards thick habitational deposits which in turn suggest that they might represent the sites of towns.\(^2\) Extensive explorations in Ludhiana district have brought to light forty two sites yielding Kushana deposits\(^3\) of which two, viz. Salempur and Sidhwan Khurd are single culture sites where habitation began and ended in the Kushana period itself. The habitation at another thirteen of these sites begins with the Kushana period implying that fresh ground was brought under occupation suggesting expansion during Kushana period. We can discern a marked increase in settlements during Kushana times when long deserted sites were reoccupied and new ones came under habitation. It is interesting to note that there is a great hiatus at several sites in Punjab up to the Kushana period in the early Christian centuries. The NBPW phase is conspicuously absent at most of the sites. Moreover a vast majority of habitations were deserted after the Kushana period and were reoccupied again in the medieval period. Although some sites like Ropar, Sanghol, Sunet and Dhalewan do have Gupta habitation but the material culture of Gupta period is poor in comparison to that of Kushana times.\(^4\)

The ancient territory of Haryana was well within the boundaries of the Kushana empire. The abundant discovery of Kushana coins, coin moulds, typical Kushana ceramics, sculptures, bricks, etc. from a large number of sites in Haryana suggests that the area remained under Kushana occupation and

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\(^2\) Ibid., pp.564-65.  
\(^4\) M.K. Dhavalikas, Historical Archaeology of India, New Delhi, 1999, p.96.
perhaps some mint towns also came up in the region. Kushana rule is also attested by the discovery of two inscribed pillars at Amin which bear the characters of Kushana period\(^1\) and two danapatras referring to 'Kanishka' from Khokhrakot.\(^2\) Haryana seems to have been thickly populated during the early centuries of the Christian era. Excavations at Sugh, Agroha, Daulatpur, Khokhrakot(Rohtak), Harsh-ka-tila (Thanesar), Raja-Karan-ka-Qila, Naurangabad, Harnol, Muhammadnagar, etc. have yielded rich material remains suggestive of the urban character of these sites. A number of large mounds have also been noticed during explorations which might have been sites of towns during the Kushana period.

Sugh, in Yamunanagar district, was first surveyed and identified with the ancient city of Srughna by Alexander Cunningham.\(^3\) This extensive mound covers an area of five kilometre in circumference and rises to a height of about 15 metre. Excavation by Suraj Bhan during 1963-64 and 1965-66 revealed three periods of occupation with Period I-A characterized by PGW and NBPW and Period I-B with only NBPW and coarse red ware. It is in Period II (100 B.C. – A.D. 300) that we encounter early historic red ware and red polished ware along with excellent specimens of terracottas of Kushana tradition.\(^4\) This period yielded remains of houses of sundried and burnt bricks (36 23 8 centimetre), beautiful human and animal terracotta figurines, stamped pottery, a potter stamp, beads of jasper, carnelian, agate, terracotta and glass, bull-headed bottle stoppers, antimony rods and pins of copper, arrow heads, axes and rings of iron, etc.\(^5\) Remains of a burnt brick structure, identified with a monastery of Kushana period, have been dug out at a distance of 1.6 kilometre in the south-west of Sugh. It is a rectangular enclosure measuring approximately 130 70 metre with massive walls of 75

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\(^1\) *ASIAR*, 1921-22, pp.46-49; *AI*, No. 9, 1953, p.130.
centimetre width and 6 metre height.\textsuperscript{1} Discovery of a large number of uninscribed cast copper coins apart from Kushana coins\textsuperscript{2} is suggestive of an urban character of the site. Sugh seems to be an important centre of terracotta art. Both hand-made and mould figures of Mother goddesses, Vamanaka, Yaksha, Shiva, Matrikas, etc. have been obtained from the site. Heavy ornamentation, beautiful poses, gallant features, exquisiteness in hair style, transparent drapery and the plastic quality of limbs,\textsuperscript{3} are some noteworthy feature of terracotta figurines from Sugh. The site appears to have been deserted after Period II and we find only superfluous deposits of medieval age in Period III.

A stupa-cum-monastery complex was discovered at \textit{Adi Badri} in Yamunanagar district showing two phases of structural activity. In phase I of Period I a burnt brick stupa was constructed at the site during the later Kushana period with typical Kushana burnt bricks (35 × 20 × 6 centimetre, 33 × 20 × 5 centimetre, 30 × 22 × 6 centimetre and 23 × 25 × 6 centimetre) arranged in tapering circular fashion. The lowest 23 course of the burnt bricks were traced out during an excavation in 2002-03.\textsuperscript{4}

\textit{Agroha}, in Hissar district revealed evidence of occupation from Saka-Kushana to early Gupta period. The Saka-Kushana period was distinguished by structural remains of both unbaked and baked bricks (31 × 21 × 4.5 cm) in two constructional phases.\textsuperscript{5} The entire settlement was fortified. The reinforcement of the defence wall and modification of the original plan of moat was done in late Kushana period. The excavation of the site yielded red ware pottery in typical Kushana shapes like bowls, sprinklers, carinated handis, vases, copper ear rings, iron object, shell and glass bangles, copper coins,

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\textsuperscript{2} S. Bhan, 1977, \textit{op. cit.}, p.43.
\textsuperscript{3} \textit{Ibid.}, p.8.
\textsuperscript{5} \textit{IAR}, 1978-79, pp.68-69.
terracotta balls and toy carts, beads of semi precious stones, etc.¹ In the late Kushana and early Gupta period five phases of structural activity were noticed. A Brahmi terracotta sealing datable to the third-fourth century A.D. was also discovered at Agroha.

During the excavation at Muhammadnagar in Gurgaon district, a six-fold cultural sequence was encountered in 34 habitational layers representing Black slipped ware, PGW, NBPW, Sunga, Kushana and late medieval periods respectively.² A four metre deposit of Period V belonging to Kushana period was revealed with two sub periods VA (layers 8-11) and VB (layers 5-7) Kushana structures in the form of house complexes of various sizes with at least five rooms were noticed on either side of a narrow lane running from east to west, having an average width of 80 centimetre and paved with brick bats. Typical Kushana bricks (36 22-24 5-6 centimetre and 42 26 6 centimetre) were found to be used in construction of rooms and sometimes for paving floors. A sunken wall of 26 courses of bricks and several huge structures, some rising upto 40 courses of bricks, were exposed.³ Other important finds of the site include four Kushana coins, terracotta human and animal figurines, bangles, beads, etc. Red ware shapes from Kushana level include bowls, lids, lamps, basin, bases, etc.⁴ The site seems to have been abandoned after Kushana period as Period VI revealed material of late medieval phase.

The excavation at Harnol in Gurgaon district revealed a six-fold cultural sequence similar to that of Muhammadnagar representing Black Slipped ware, PGW, NBPW, Sunga, Kushana and late medieval period.⁵ A deposit of nearly 6.5 metre can be assigned to the Kushana period (V) which is divided into sub period Va (Kushana) and Vb (late Kushana). The sub period Va, represented by layers 14-17, has brought to light, four structural

¹ IAR, 1979-80, p.31.
³ IAR, 1997-98, pp.40-54.
⁴ Ibid.
⁵ Ibid., pp.32-40.
phases with structures containing typical Kushana bricks (36 22-25 5-6 centimetre).\(^1\) Two burnt brick structures having 54 and 46 courses respectively, besides a number of others were exposed in the western section. The antiquities of subperiod Va include iron arrow heads, shell bangle besides plain and decorated red ware. From subperiod Vb represented by layers 8-13, bone points, terracotta human figurines, beads, decorated tile with floral design, skin rubber, etc. were recovered. An interesting find of this period is a terracotta relief of a crowned seated male deity with moustache and flames emanating from his shoulders.\(^2\) Red ware from Period V contains externally oblique cut rim of large bowls with or without thumb impression on the interior, basins, miniature pots, plain spouts, knobbed lids, hopscotches, etc.\(^3\) The Period VI of Harnol has revealed material of late medieval period, suggesting a gap after Period V.

Khokhrakot in Rohtak has yielded both epigraphic and numismatic material related to the Kushanas. Two large size stone Danpatras made of red sandstone from Mathura were recovered from the site, with a Brahmi inscription on their rim. The inscription informs us that the danapatra was donated by 'Kanishka, whose real dharma is danam or charity'.\(^4\) Khokhrakot seems to be an important centre of the Yaudheya power as a large number of Yaudheya coins and coin moulds have been discovered apart from coins of Indo-Greeks and Kushanas. This ancient site of Rohtak also yielded a coin mould which was perhaps used to cast some coin of Huvishka.\(^5\) Period III of the site has been subdivided into three phases – (a) pre Kushana (b) Kushana and (c) post-Kushana. The distinguishing feature of Period III B (Kushana) is introduction of burnt bricks (37 23 7 centimetre) and Kushana copper coins.\(^6\) The total deposit of this period was 4.60 metre. A room of a house having 42 courses has been unearthed. Red ware in typical

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\(^1\) IAR, 1997-98, pp.32-40.  
\(^3\) IAR 1997-98, pp.32-40.  
\(^6\) IAR, 1986-87, pp.34-35.
shapes like jars, vases, lids, channel-spouted vessels, basins, miniature pots, bowls with roundish incurved rim, etc. represent the ceramic industry of the Kushana period. A few sherds with stamped and appliqué designs were also recovered. Other important antiquities of the period include a die-struck gold ring or amulet with the head of a moustached male wearing crown, iron rings, fish hooks and slag, shell, ivory and quartz beads, terracotta spindle, whorl, sling balls, dabbers, stone weights, human and animal figurines, razor etc. In the post Kushana phase of Khokhrakot (Period IIIc), which is poor as compared to the Kushana phase,¹ structures built of brick bats were encountered.

The discovery of Kushana coin-moulds of Kansihka-I, Huvishka and other rulers from **Naurangabad**² in Bhiwani district indicates that the town served as a minting station under the Kushanas. The huge, almost rectangular mound of Naurangabad, measuring 58 acres yielded habitational deposits of about 11 metre representing three cultural periods, viz. early Yaudheya (Period I), Kushana (Period II) and late Yaudheya (Period III).³ It was a fortified historical town in Period I itself. A deposit of about 1.15 metre represents the Kushana period (Period II). A burnt brick structure of 11 courses with 1.35 metre width and 73 centimetre height was partly exposed. A 70 centimetre wide, 3.77 metre long and 1.95 metre high mud-brick wall was also found with a foundation pit. Another house made of mud-brick walls with several rooms was unearthed of which two rooms (2.10 × 2.27 m and 2.10 × 1.63 metre) were fully exposed. Apart from structures, Kushana coin moulds, arecanut shaped terracotta beads, terracotta human heads of Kushana style and Kushana copper coins form the important finds of Period II.⁴ Red ware predominates the ceramic industry of Naurangabad which includes storage jars, medium-sized vases in fine fabric, spouted vases, small to large-sized basins, sprinklers with pointed finial, handis, a piece of inkpot type lid,

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¹ *IAR*, 1986-87, pp.34-35.  
³ *IAR*, 2002-03, pp.57-66.  
⁴ Ibid.
miniature vases, etc. The site of Naurangabad was an important centre of the Yaudheyas who seemed to have displaced the Kushanas from the area between Yamuna and Satluj in the 2nd-3rd century A.D. But, except for the plenty of coins, seals and sealings of Yaudheyas, the material culture of Period III was no different from that of the preceding Kushana levels.

The famous epic site of Kurukshetra is represented by a series of mounds at Amin, Harsh-ka-tila (Thanesar), Pehowa and Raja-Karna-ka-Qila, that have yielded rich Kushana material. Raja-karna-ka Qila was first surveyed by Alexander Cunningham and then excavated by D.R. Sahni in 1921-22. These early excavations revealed remains of houses made of mud bricks and burnt bricks (36 23 8 centimetre) and a terracotta votive tank along with other antiquities. The site was again excavated by U.V. Singh and Suraj Bhan in 1970-71, when three cultural periods, viz. PGW (Period I), red ware and red polished ware (Period II) and late medieval period (Period III), extending from c. 400 B.C. to A.D. 300 and then later period were identified.

Seven structural phases belonging to Period II (c. 100 to 300 A.D.) were encountered in which generally mud bricks (37 23 7 centimetre) were used in construction although the use of baked bricks of the same size was attested from upper levels. The red ware of Period II was mostly plain though some pottery was decorated with various stamped designs. Other antiquities of the Kushana period include copper coins, hearths, beads of semi precious stones, shell bangles, terracotta human and animal figurines, terracotta wheels and doppers. A large number of blade pieces, copper rods and a variety of domestic articles of iron, copper and stone were discovered from the site. Three clay sealings in brahmi characters of early centuries of the Christian era were also recovered. The site remained unoccupied for a long time after the Kushana period till the late medieval period (Period III).

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3 ASIAR, 1921-22, p.46.
The extensive mound, Harsha-ka-Tila at Thanesar, covering about 1 kilometre in length, 750 metre in width and between 15-18 metre in height, was excavated by B.M. Pande (1988-89 onward). The evidence shows that the earliest habitation at the site is represented by red ware belonging to the Kushana period although a few PGW potsherds were also recovered.\(^1\) A mud-rampart of the Kushana period with a width of about 15 metre and height of 2 metre showing two phases of construction was exposed on the southern slope of the mound in TSR-3. Inside the fortification many house walls and other associated features of township were found. The earliest walls were mostly made of mud-brick of the size 41\(\times\)27\(\times\)5.5 centimetre and baked bricks were used for drains. In the later phase kiln burnt bricks replaced the mud bricks, even floors and mud plaster is noticed on the walls.\(^2\) Outside the fortification, a 7 metre long covered drain of square burnt bricks (27\(\times\)27\(\times\)8 centimetre and 28\(\times\)28\(\times\)9 centimetre) was found. A square multicoursed structure of baked bricks was also noticed of which lower five courses formed part of the foundation. Further excavations below the levels on north-eastern side of the mound exposed a large pit containing skulls, each of an equine and a bovine placed parallel to each other in north-south orientation, along with other bones, charcoal, charred grain, etc. Perhaps it was a sacrificial spot.\(^3\) The pottery of the Kushana period includes sprinklers, spouted vessels, incurved bowls, carinated handis, knobbed lids, jars, etc., some with stamped and painted designs. Other notable antiquities of the period include terracotta beads, a terracotta plaque, pieces of decorated spouts with makara heads, human and animal figurines, fragments of a terracotta votive tank, copper antimony rods, heavily corroded copper coins, beads of semi precious stones, ivory bangle, shell bangles and a lion head with incised mouth and eyes.\(^4\) More than thirty terracotta tablets have been recovered from an area, mostly having three oblique, vertical or curved lines similar to the ones reported from

\(^2\) Ibid.
\(^3\) IAR, 1990-91, pp.18-19.
\(^4\) Ibid.
sites like Sanghol, Rangmahal and Sringaverapura. A sealing with the figure of a humped bull and an inscription reading *Sri Rudrah* in characters of 1st-2nd century A.D. was also discovered. The site was occupied without a break from the Kushana period onwards through the Gupta, post Gupta, Rajput and Mughal periods. Apart from Harsh-ka-Tila, remains of a brick stupa and monastery have been noticed in the north east of the Kurukshetra University, near Brahmasarovar where Kushana ware was also discovered.

**Daulatpur** in Kurukshetra district remained in continuous occupation from Late Harappan (Period I) to the early medieval period (Period IV) when the site was deserted. In between Period II is represented by PGW and Period III was the early historic period (c. 500 B.C. – 500 A.D.) which is divided into two phases, the first marked by plain grey ware and red ware of pre-Christian era and the second distinguished by a sophisticated Red Polished Ware. The second phase of Period III is marked by well planned structures of mud bricks, stamped red ware and clay seals and sealings bearing brahmi characters of the Kushana period.

Excavation at **Kasithal**, in Kurukshetra district brought to light a threefold cultural sequence with PGW (Period I), followed by early historic red ware marked with stamped designs (Period II) and medieval period (Period III). **Autha** in Gurgaon district also has a four-fold cultural sequence with levels of PGW (Period I), NBPW (Pd II), early centuries of the Christian era (Period III), followed by medieval period (Period IV) after a hiatus. Remains of a Kushana period brick stupa have been noticed from **Asandh** in Karnal district. The gigantic structure rises to a height of more than 25 metre and has a circular drum with an elongated dome. As many as 44 courses of the

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circular wall are noticed. Asandh also yielded red ware, bricks and coins (Huvishka-1, Vasudeva-3) of the Kushana period.\textsuperscript{1} Buddhist stupas of the Kushana period might have existed at Hathin, Bhuna and Bhadas also, as we notice huge mounds at these sites.\textsuperscript{2} The mound at Bhuna in Fatehabad district is more than 25 metre in height and Bhadas in Gurgaon district has also yielded large sized Kushana bricks.

Haryana is a very well explored state as extensive exploration work has been done by the research scholars of various universities. More often than not, the sites yielding early historic ware are coterminous with Kushana period. The explorations at Pehowa, Amin, Borsham, Pujam, Garhi, Bulandpur Kheri, Durjanpur, Jind, Anta, Bhuna, Sirsa, Hansi, Gujjar Kheri, Sonepat, Beri, Mohanbari, Dhankot, Jasat, Sondh, Sanghel, Malab, Saga, Aharnwa, Jaurasikhas and Rasidan have revealed artifacts that show signs of urbanity or atleast a life which was certainly not rural.\textsuperscript{3} The large size of mounds, structures, baked bricks, copper and iron objects, sculptures, terracottas, domestic implements, etc. from the early historic period, reflect the prosperous material condition of these sites during early Christian centuries. Bulandpur Kheri has a huge mound of more than 50 acres. The antiquity of the site goes upto the PGW phase but it developed into a city settlement during the early historic period.\textsuperscript{4} At Theh Polar in Karnal district two debased copper coins bearing the figure of a Kushana type king at an altar were discovered, along with some crude imitations of the coins of Vasudeva.\textsuperscript{5} We can discern signs of habitational expansions during Kushana period as a large number of sites belonging to the early centuries of the Christian era were founded over fresh ground. For example, out of 432 settlements explored in the Gurgaon district by Mohinder Singh, 218 sites show cultural deposits of early centuries of Christian era (Early Historical) as against 40

\textsuperscript{1} A. Kesarwani and S.K. Vashist, 2002-03, op. cit., p.90.
\textsuperscript{2} Ibid., pp.87-93.
\textsuperscript{3} S. Kumar, 'Kushana Towns in Haryana', Punjab History Conference, 40\textsuperscript{th} session, 2008, p.41.
\textsuperscript{4} Silak Ram, Archaeology of Rohtak and Hissar district, Ph.D. Thesis (unpublished), Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, 1978, p.58.
\textsuperscript{5} IHQ, Vol. XXXI, no. 4, 1955, p.307.
sites of NBPW period, of which 132 settlements were found on fresh ground.\(^1\)

In the Mahendragarh and Rewari districts, 22 sites of Early Historical period (early Christian centuries) were explored (11 in each district) by Jagdish Singh Rahar, all of which came up on fresh ground.\(^2\) This region remained unoccupied for a long time after post-Harappan period as no habitation has been reported in PGW and NBPW period witnessed settlements only in the early centuries of the Christian era coinciding with Kushana rule.

The Sonepat copper-coin hoard consists of more than 10,000 coins of Kushanas, later Kushanas and Yaudheya coins of which Kushana coins out number the coins of Yaudheyas.\(^3\) The hoard includes coins of Huvishka, Vasudeva I, crude imitation coins of Vasudeva-I issued by later Kushana chiefs and some coins that seem to be the prototype of Puri Kushana coins.\(^4\) The Karnal hoard of 232 copper coins also contained some coins of Vasudeva.\(^5\) Twenty seven gold coins of later Kushanas have been discovered from Mitathal though not illustrated clearly.\(^6\) Apart from the above discussed excavated sites, Kushana coins have been recovered from a very large number of sites in Haryana including Karontha, Kesranti, Atayal, Loa Majra, Anvali, Sirsa, Jaijaivanti, Bhalaut, Baland, Hansi, Bhiwani, Mohanbari, Malhana,\(^7\) Aharnwa, Asandh, Panjlasa, Pehowa, Malab, Anta, Bana Bahadurpur, Hat,\(^8\) Kharkara-2, Pakasma, Rohtak block, Kalanaur,\(^9\) Jasat, Sanghel, Dhankot, Ujina,\(^10\) Bida Chikanvas, Sahuwas-I, Chirsi, Sihi, Saga, Akera, Rasidan I, Harsana Kalan III and Madina-4. A hoard of 68 copper coins


\(^{\text{4}}\) Ibid., pp.263-66.

\(^{\text{5}}\) IHQ, Vol. XXXI, 1955, No. 4, pp.309.

\(^{\text{6}}\) ASIAR, 1926-27, p.233.


\(^{\text{8}}\) S. Kumar, 2008, *op. cit.*, pp.43-44.


of later Kushana king Vasudeva-II was found from Madina-4 buried in a bowl of Kushana period.¹

It is evident from the discovery of 15 excavated Kushana sites, 416 explored sites and the abundant numismatic material from Haryana that the region of Haryana and Punjab was occupied by Kushanas from about 78 A.D. onwards. The discovery of coins and coin moulds of Kanishka (from Naurangabadd) shows the area came under his dominion, though a few coins of the nameless king 'Soter Megas' (from Jagadhara) have also been reported. The Sonepat coin hoard proves that Huvishka, Vasudeva-I and even his successors continued to rule over the region as imitation coins of Vasudeva-I, coins of later Kushana chiefs and rare proto-type Puri-Kushana coins have also been found.² The discovery of Kushana bricks, sculptures, and terracottas also lends support to this view. The Kushana rule is Haryana seems to have continued throughout the second century A.D. and came to an end sometimes during the first half of the third century A.D. when tribal coins of the Yaudheyas who were ousted by the Kushana, reappeared adopting the Kushana module.³ Some Yaudheya coins seem to be restruck on the Kushana coins with a new technique. The coins of Kushanas were flattened to impress the Yaudheya die and to standardize size and weight, metal patches were hammered and fixed on the flan along with the coin either on one or both sides. This restriking shows that the Yaudheyas, after overthrowing the later Kushanas, utilized the prevalent currency for overstriking it with their own coin type.⁴

## EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN HARYANA

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</table>
| 1.    | Adi Badri (30° 46’ N; 77° 26’ E) | Yamunanagar district | Late Kushana period till 10th-12th cen. A.D.          | (i) Stupa cum monastery complex  
(ii) Burnt brick stupa of late Kushana period in Kushana bricks (35 20 6 cm; 33 20 5 cm; 30 22 6 cm and 23 25 6 cm) | IAR, 2002-03, pp.97-104.                     |
| 2.    | Sugh (30° 14’ N; 77° 35’ E)      | Yamunanagar district | Pd I – PGW and NBPW  
Pd II – Early Historic red ware  
Pd III – Superfluous deposits of medieval period | (i) 15 m. high mound covering about 5 km. in circumference  
(ii) Sun dried and burnt brick structures and a monastery  
| 3.    | Agroha (29° 23’ N; 75° 61’ E)    | Hisar district       | Saka-Kushana to early Gupta period                    | (i) Fortified settlement with baked and unbaked brick structures  
(ii) Typical Kushana pottery  
(iii) Copper coins, iron objects, beads of semi precious stones, shell and glass bangles  
| 4.    | Asandh (29° 31’ N; 76° 36’ E)    | Karnal district      | -                                                     | (i) A 25 m. high gigantic brick stupa of Kushana period  
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Harnol (27° 56' N; 77° 01' E)</td>
<td>Firozpur Jhirka tehsil, Gurgaon district</td>
<td>Pd I – Black slipped ware, Pd II – PGW, Pd III – NBPW, Pd IV – Sunga, Pd V – Kushana, Pd VI – Late medieval</td>
<td>(i) Kushana deposit of approx 6.5m. divided into 2 sub periods, (ii) Burnt brick structures, (iii) Red ware, iron arrowheads, shell bangles, beads etc.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Bhuna (29° 52' N; 75° 70' E)</td>
<td>Fatehpur district</td>
<td>A huge mound of more than 25 m. height. Probably a Buddhist stupa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Period</td>
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| 10. | Harsha Ka Tila (Thanesar) (29° 50' N; 76° 49' E) | Kurukshtera | Kushana, Gupta, Post Gupta, Rajput and Mughal periods | (i) Extensive mound of approx. 1 km length, 750 m. width and 15-18 m. height. 
(ii) Mud fortification of Kushana period. 
(iii) Mud brick and baked brick structure, drains etc. 
(iv) Sealings, terracotta tablets, red ware, ivory and shell bangles, copper coins, beads of semi precious stone etc. |
| 12. | Raja Karna Ka Quila (Thanesar) (29° 56' N; 76° 48' E) | Kurukshtera | Pd I – PGW, Pd II – Red ware & red polished ware, Pd III – Late medieval | (i) Mud brick and baked brick structures 
(ii) Red ware 
(iii) Copper coins, beads of semi precious stones, shell bangles, hearths etc. |
(ii) 4.60 m. thick Kushana deposit from Pd. III (B) 
(iii) Structures of burnt bricks 
(iv) Red ware, two danpatras, gold and iron rings, shell, ivory and quartz beads etc. |
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<th>Site</th>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Naurangabad (28° 48' N; 75° 08' E)</td>
<td>Bhiwani</td>
<td>Pd I – Early Yaudheya Pd II – Kushana Pd III – Late Yaudheya</td>
<td>(i) Fortified settlement of about 58 acres with approx. 1.15 m. thick Kushana deposit (ii) Coin moulds of Kanishka and Huvishka (iii) Burnt brick structures</td>
<td>IAR, 2002-03, pp.57-66.</td>
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In the Delhi region, excavations of **Purana Qila** and **Bhorgarh** have revealed rich Kushana levels with structural activity. The site of Purana Qila was under continuous habitation from PGW period (Period I) onwards till the Mughal period with evidence of NBPW (Period II), Shaka-Kushana (Period III), Gupta period, Post-Gupta, Rajput and Sultanate periods in between.\(^1\) The Shaka-Kushana period (Period III) was marked by regular and systematically built structures of burnt bricks (37 \(22 \) 5 centimetre) accompanied with red polished ware consisting of Kushana bowls and sprinklers. Bone dices of various types, terracotta plaques and figurines, a figure of a small Yaksha prepared out of a double mound, fragments of a red sandstone *suchi* with lotus medallion, skin rubbers, fragments of a votive tank and an ivory hand are some notable antiquities on the Sunga-Kushana period.\(^2\) Glimpses of the industrial activities at the site can be gathered from the discovery of crucibles.\(^3\) Kushana copper coins were also recovered along with the coins of Yaudheyas and Mathura kings.\(^4\) The rich material culture of the Shaka-Kushana level of Purana Qila reflects the economic prosperity of the site that was possibly a flourishing town during the Kushana period.

Excavations at **Bhorgarh** revealed a four-fold cultural sequence beginning with the occupation during the late Harappan (Period I), PGW (Period II), Kushana (Period III) and Medieval (Period IV) periods.\(^5\) The site was inhabited during the Kushana period (Period III) after a gap. Two phases of structural activity have been noticed at the site with the first phase marked by presence of mud brick floors in two occupational layers. In the second phase, structures of burnt brick were encountered.\(^6\) The pottery shapes include typical incurved bowls, dishes, basins, sprinklers, handis, ink-pot type lids and lamps. Pots were sometimes decorated with geometrical designs near the neck with black pigment and rarely with white pigment. A few

\(^{1}\) *IAR*, 1954-55, pp.13-14.
\(^{3}\) *IAR*, 1969-70, p.5.
\(^{4}\) Ibid.
\(^{6}\) Ibid., p.89.
stamped designs were also noticed of which sun is quite important.\(^1\) Some Kushana copper coins were also discovered from the site during an earlier exploration.\(^2\)

During explorations Kushana red ware was also noticed from a few other sites in Delhi, viz. Jhatikra,\(^3\) Kharkari Nahar\(^4\) near Najafgarh and Gordon Highlanders near Badli ki Sarai.\(^5\) These sites yielded Kushana red ware along with PGW and medieval ceramics. Some coins of the nameless king 'Soter Megas' have also been reported from Delhi.\(^6\)

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5 Ibid.
# EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN DELHI

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</table>
| 1.    | Bhorgarh (28° 05' N; 77° 05' E) | Delhi           | Pd I – Late Harappan  
Pd II – PGW  
Pd III – Kushana  
Pd IV – Medieval       | (i) Two phases of structural activity with mud and baked brick structures  
(ii) Typical Kushana pottery  
| 2.    | Purana Qila (28° 61' N; 77° 01' E) | Delhi           | PGW till the Mughal period  
Pd. III – Shaka-Kushana     | (i) Burnt brick structures  
(ii) Kushana copper coins and typical Kushana red ware  
(iii) Bone dices, terracotta figurines, fragments of a Suchi, votive tanks, crucibles etc. | IAR, 1969-70, pp.3-5; 1970-71, p.19; 1972-73, pp.8-9                         |
Kushana red ware and coins have been brought to light from several sites in Rajasthan. Although it is difficult to determine the exact boundaries of the Kushana empire in Rajasthan, some parts of the state might have been under Kushana dominion. The region certainly formed part of the Kushana sphere of influence.

The excavation at Noh in Bharatpur district yielded a five fold cultural sequence beginning with OCP (Period I) followed by BRW (Period II), PGW (Period III), NBPW (Period IV) and the Sunga-Kushana (Period V) phase. The site became an urban centre in the Sunga-Kushana period (Period V) which is marked by eight phases of structures of baked brick of uniform sizes although sun-dried bricks were also used. Other important finds of Period V include typical terracotta animal and human figurines with elaborate coiffure and jewellery, Kushana pottery, a bowl inscribed in Brahmi character, beads of semi-precious stones, glass bangles, shell bangles, antimony rods, potter’s stamps, skin-rubbers, dice and toycarts. Some sherds stamped with triratna, swastika and fish symbols resembling the specimens from Hastinapur IV have also been discovered. Particular mention needs to be made of a well preserved, smelting furnace with a large quantity of iron slag which proves that Noh was an important industrial centre of iron foundry during Kushana times. The site also yielded several cast copper coins and seals with Brahmi inscription. The well planned structural activity and material richness of the site suggests it to be a flourishing centre of Kushana period. No traces of habitation have been found in the post-Kushana period.

Jodhpura in Jaipur district also revealed a cultural sequence similar to that of Noh with OCP (Period I), BRW (Period II), PGW (Period III), NBPW (Period IV) and Sunga Kushana (Period V) periods. The Period V of the site was distinguished by stamped sherds and Sunga-Kushana pottery with typical

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5 IAR, 1972-73, pp.29-30.
shapes such as bowls, lid-cum-bowls and lipped bowls with small spouted channels.\footnote{IAR, 1972-73, pp.29-30.} Here also no remains of habitation have been found after the Kushana period (c. 300 A.D.).

**Rang Mahal** in Hanumangarh district was excavated by Swedish archaeologist Hanna Rydh in 1952-54. Phase III of the site coincides with the Kushana period and is marked by urban development.\footnote{H. Rydh, *Rang Mahal: The Swedish Archaeological Expedition to India (1952-54)*, Harvard, 1960-61, pp.89-158, 160, 166-76 and 181.} The excavation yielded red polished ware, beads of semi precious stones, glass bangles, perforated pots, kiln-burnt decorated bricks, human figurines in faience and a bronze seals of c. A.D. 300. Excavations revealed eight structural phases with houses made of sun-baked bricks laid in English bond system. Floors paved with mud bricks and drain pipes were also encountered in the phase III of the site. Iron and bronze tools and implements were also discovered, along with nearly 105 copper coins including one coin each of Kanishka-I, Huvishka-I and Vasudeva-II,\footnote{Ibid.} with rest of the coins minted by either Kanishka III or the Murundas. The typical black-on-red painted pottery of Rang Mahal has been generally assigned to the late Kushana and early Gupta times \footnote{M.K. Dhavalikar, 1999, *op. cit.*, pp.28-29.} and has been discovered from a large number of sites along with Kushana red ware in Rajasthan. The site continued to flourish till c. A.D. 600, after which it was deserted.

The habitation at **Sunari** in Jhunjhunu district begins with the PGW phase (Period I) and continues up to the Sunga-Kushana period (Period III) through the NBPW phase (Period II).\footnote{IAR, 1980-81, pp.55-56.} Period III of the sites is represented by typical red ware pottery of Sunga Kushana period, cast copper coins and terracotta figurines.\footnote{Ibid., p.56.} The site was deserted after the Sunga-Kushana period.
## EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN RAJASTHAN

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<td>Ahar (24°35' N; 73°43' E)</td>
<td>Udaipur district</td>
<td>Pd I – Ahar culture Pd II – Sunga-Kushana</td>
<td>(i) Typical Kushana bowls and ceramic types (ii) Votive tanks, shell bangles, ear studs etc. from Pd II-B</td>
<td>IAR, 1961-62, pp.45-50</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Iswal (24°50' N; 73°50' E)</td>
<td>Gurwa tehsil, Udaipur district</td>
<td>Pd I – early historical phase Pd II – Late medieval phase</td>
<td>(i) Four furnaces of iron smelting (ii) Gap between Pd I &amp; II</td>
<td>IAR, 2001-02, pp.228-29</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Bairat (27°44' N; 76°17' E)</td>
<td>Jaipur district</td>
<td>Pd I – Late PGW Pd II – NBPW Pd III – early Christian centuries Pd IV – medieval period</td>
<td>(i) Ceramics of early Christian centuries (ii) The site was deserted after period III and reoccupied after a long gap</td>
<td>IAR, 1962-63, p.44</td>
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7. **Gilund (25° 01' N; 74° 15' E)**
   - **Rajsamand district**
   - **Pd I – Ahar**
   - **Pd II – Sunga-Kushana**
   - **(i) Two structural phases associated with 50 cm thick Kushana level**
   - **(ii) Red ware and red slipped ware**
   - **IAR, 2001-02, pp.221-28.**

8. **Noh (27° 12' N; 77° 32' E)**
   - **Bharatpur district**
   - **Pd I – OCP**
   - **Pd II – BRW**
   - **Pd III – PGW**
   - **Pd IV – NBPW**
   - **Pd V – Sunga-Kushana**
   - **(i) Eight phases of structures of baked bricks**
   - **(ii) Smelting furnace with iron slag**
   - **(iii) Typical Kushana pottery, terracotta figurines, beads of semi-precious stones, shell and glass bangles etc.**

9. **Rairh (26° 20' N; 76° 10' E)**
   - **Newai tehsil, Tonk district**
   - **Maurya, Sunga and Kushana period**
   - **(i) Red ware**
   - **K.N. Puri (ed.), Excavations at Rairh, Jaipur, 1999 (reprint)**

10. **Rangmahal (29° 11' N; 73° 57' E)**
    - **Suratgarh district**
    - **Main occupation from Kushana period onwards**
    - **Pd III – Kushana**
    - **PD IV – Gupta**
    - **(i) Structural activity with drain pipes**
    - **(ii) Iron and bronze tools**
    - **(iv) Red polished ware, beads of semi-precious stones, glass bangles etc.**
    - **H. Rydh, Rang Mahal – The Swedish Archaeological Expedition to India (1952-54) Gleerup, 1959.**

11. **Sunari (27° 48' N; 75° 42' E)**
    - **Jhunjhunu district**
    - **Pd I – PGW**
    - **Pd II – NBPW**
    - **Pd III – Sunga-Kushana**
    - **(i) Typical red ware of Sunga-Kushana period**
    - **(ii) Copper coins & terracotta figurines**
    - **IAR, 1980-81, pp.55-56.**
At Ahar, Balathal and Gilund, we notice a hiatus of over a millennium as these sites were deserted after Period I (Ahar culture) and were reoccupied only in the Sunga-Kushana period (Period II).\(^1\) Phase II-B of Ahar in Udaipur district is associated with typical Kushana bowls and other ceramic types, terracotta votive tanks, shell bangles, ear-studs, etc. characteristics of 1\(^{st}\)-3\(^{rd}\) century A.D.\(^2\)

Otherwise a chalcolithic site, the upper most occupational layers (1-6) of Gilund in Rajsamand district belong to the early historical period. Based on the pottery analysis of these layers (1.20 metre), the upper 50 centimetre deposit could be associated with Kushana levels while the lower 70 centimetre can be assigned to a period between third century B.C. and the beginning of the Christian era.\(^3\) There appear to be two structural phases associated with the Kushana levels. The last structural phase is represented by a rectangular complex made of mud, stone and brick bat while in the second phase in layer 3, wall material was discovered.\(^4\) The site also yielded Sunga-Kushana bowls in red ware and sprinklers in red slipped ware.\(^5\)

During the excavation at Iswal in Udaipur district, material belonging to the early historical phase (c. 300 B.C. to A.D. 300) was encountered from Period I after which the site was deserted, only to be reoccupied in the late medieval times (Period II).\(^6\) Four furnaces of iron smelting were also discovered from this site,\(^7\) proving its industrial importance.

Although no clear cut periodization has been worked out for Rairh, but from the description it appears that the habitation belongs to Maurya, Sunga and Kushana periods from the 3\(^{rd}\) century B.C. to the 2\(^{nd}\) century A.D.\(^8\)

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3 *IAR* 2001-02, pp.221-228.
5 *IAR*, 1959-60, pp.41-46.
6 *IAR*, 2001-02, pp.228-29.
The excavation at **Bairat** in Jaipur district brought to light a four-fold cultural sequence with Period III assignable to the early centuries of the Christian era.¹ The site was deserted after Period III and was reoccupied only in the medieval period (Period IV).

**Bagoro** in Bhilwara district, is a late stone age site excavated by the Rajasthan archaeological department. It yielded Sunga-Kushana pottery from 2nd century B.C. to 2nd century A.D. associated with iron objects.²

A vast majority of habitation in Rajasthan were either deserted after the Kushana period altogether or were reoccupied after a hiatus of a thousand years in the medieval period. Kushana red ware, sculptures and coins have been reported from a number of sites in Rajasthan. Aurel Stein found Kushana coins of Kadphises II from old mounds that he explored at Suratgarh and Hanumangarh in north Rajasthan. Kushana coins have been discovered at Rang Mahal, Sambhar, Pisangan, etc. and Kushana seals too are known from sites like Rang Mahal.³ A hoard of 10 gold coins of later Kushana rulers was discovered from Dada Fatehpur⁴ in Jhunjhunu district. Another hoard of 297 copper Kushana coins was retrieved from Jamva-Ramgarh⁵ in Jaipur district. Other sites of Rajasthan that have yielded Kushana coins are Khoh,⁶ Ismailpur-ki-Doongari⁷ and Sambhar⁸ in Jaipur district, Kuradhan⁹ in Sikar district and Karoti,¹⁰ Nahar¹¹ and Rang Mahal Theri¹² in Hanumangarh district. Thus the archaeological evidence in the form of 11 excavated sites and 85 explored sites yielding Kushana material suggest that some parts of Rajasthan were under Kushana dominion.

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¹ JAR, 1962-63, p.31.
⁴ JAR, 1985-86, p.106.
⁵ JAR 1979-80, p.98.
⁷ JAR, 1971-72, p.71.
⁹ JAR, 1988-89, p.133.
¹⁰ JAR, 1972-73, p.61.
¹¹ Ibid., p.62.
¹² Ibid., 1971-72, p.70.
The discovery of two Kushana inscriptions of year 22 and year 28 from Sanchi has been taken as evidence for the extension of Kushana rule in the Akara or eastern Malwa region. The inscription of year 22 records the setting up of the image of *Shakyamuni* by Vidyamati in the reign of *Rajan Vasukushana*\(^1\) which might have been a corruption of the name Vasishka Kushana. The other Sanchi inscription records the installation of the statue of a Bodhisattva by Madhurika, daughter of Vira, in the Dharmadeva vihara in year 28 of *Maharaja Rajatiraja Devaputra Shahi Vasishka*.\(^2\) In the Rabtak inscription also Kanishka proclaims his sovereignty in the satrapies and cities of India including Ujjain (Ozeno).\(^3\) The excavations of a few sites in Madhya Pradesh have also brought to light some material related to the Kushanas from 'Naga-Kushana', 'Kushana Kshatrapa' or 'early historical' period.

The Period IV of *Besnagar* in Vidisha district, assignable to the Naga-Kushana phase, yielded a ceramic industry of red ware and red slipped ware represented by sprinklers.\(^4\) Votive tanks, terracotta beads, ear-studs, gamesmen, skin-rubbers and a few copper coins were the other notables antiquities of Period IV.\(^5\) The habitation at the site began during the chalcolithic period and continued up till the Gupta period.

*Nendur* in Raisen district yielded inscribed seals and painted as well as stamped pottery from Period III, i.e. Kushana Kshatrapa period (1\(^{st}\) century A.D. to fourth century A.D.).\(^6\) The site was occupied from 5\(^{th}\) century B.C. till medieval times.

*Kayatha* in Ujjain district is a chalcolithic site that yielded Kushana red ware, terracotta votive tanks, skin rubbers, terracotta figurines, crucible and querns from the Sunga-Kushana period (Period III). A large brick

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structure with a number of rooms, walls, platforms, bathroom and drainage for letting out water, may belong to the Kushana period.\(^1\)

During the excavation of **Tumain** in Guna district, four structural phases were encountered belonging to pre-Sunga, Sunga, Kushana and Gupta periods respectively.\(^2\) The main settlement on the mound was found to be of the Kushana period (Period III) which had an occupational deposit of about 2.5 metre marked by a brick structure, a mud platform and stone boulders. Red polished ware, stamped pottery, small stone images, shell bangles, copper beads, terracotta figurines of Yakshi and iron objects were the other noticeable finds of Period III (1\(^{st}\) to 5\(^{th}\) century A.D.).\(^3\)

The excavation at **Amlkon** in Rewa district yielded typical Kushana pottery in layers 6 to 1 with a thickness of about 1.15 metre. The Kushana period was characterized by both extensive and intensive brick structures with brick floors, terracottas, iron objects, copper objects, beads of semi-precious stones and animal bones.\(^4\) The same structural sophistication was visible in the Kushana structures of Amlkon as was the case with other Kushana sites in the Ganga valley.\(^5\) The excavation exposed cultural levels from the mid NBPW phase to the Kushana period.

The excavation at **Chichali** in Khargone district tentatively revealed four cultural periods viz., Ahar, Malwa, Jorwe and early historical periods respectively. In a deposit of 4.5 metre the early historical period (Period IV) accounts for the maximum deposit.\(^6\) Surprisingly no brick structures were encountered, but Kushana pottery shapes like carinated handis, bowls, storage jars, basins, vases, miniature pots in red ware and red-slipped ware were found. Other important finds include stamped and appliqué decorated sherds, beads of semi-precious stones, shell bangles, ivory objects and a

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\(^1\) *IAR*, 1964-65, pp.18-19.
\(^2\) *IAR*, 1972-73, pp.15-16.
\(^3\) *IAR*, 1972-72, p.27-29.
\(^4\) *IAR*, 1997-98, pp.105-106.
three handled, wide-mouthed, globular bodied, large storage jar of red ware fitted with an elephant head at the shoulder.¹

**Gilaulikhara** in Morena district revealed evidence of habitation from the PGW phase (Period I) through Maurya-Sunga (Period II), Kushana (Period III), Gupta (Period IV) and post Gupta period (Period V).² The Kushana period (Period III) is prominently associated with bowls, sprinklers, knobbed lids, jars and spouts with stamped designs. The other antiquities consist of terracotta figurines, a seal, beads, discs, shell bangles, carnelian beads, iron hook, nail and ore.³

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² *IAR*, 1983-84, pp.51-52.
³ *IAR*, 1983-84, p.53.
## EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN MADHYA PRADESH

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The excavation at Dangwada in district Ujjain, revealed Sunga-Kushana occupation in Period III which was marked by painted red ware.\(^1\) Similarly, excavation at Runija\(^2\) in the same district yielded painted pottery of Kushana-Kshatrapa period (Period IV).

Potsherds belonging to the period from mid NBPW to Kushana phase were discovered at Malpar-2.\(^3\) During explorations Kushana sculptures were recovered from Sarangpur\(^4\) in Rajgarh district and Bheraghat\(^5\) in Jabalpur district. Kushana pottery was also discovered from Karadia\(^6\) in Ujjain district and Rajpura\(^7\) in Rewa district.

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\(^2\) IAR, 1980-81, p.39.
\(^3\) IAR, 1997-98, p.105.
\(^4\) IAR, 1985-86, p.54.
\(^5\) IAR, 1974-75, p.69.
\(^6\) IAR 1990-91, p.95.
\(^7\) IAR 1983-84, p.55.
Two Kushana gold coins, i.e. a quarter dinara of Huvishka and a dinara of Kanishka-III, were discovered at Harda in Hoshangabad district. An issue of Wema Kadphises of the rare biga type of silver alloy was discovered from Vidisha. A hoard of worn out twenty five Kushana copper coins was found at the old Kenda Zamindari in Bilaspur district of which four belonging to Kanishka and Huvishka were acquired by the Nagpur Museum. In Bilaspur district another fifteen Kushana copper coins were found in the village Jhaihapuri, a hoard of eight Kushana copper coins at village Katangi and some Kushana copper coins along with Yaudheya coins were found at village Pendarwa. A hoard of 757 Kushana copper coins was discovered in Shahdol including 44 coins of Wema Kadphises, 324 coins of Kanishka and 362 of Huvishka along with the unidentifiable worn out 27 coins. Another copper coin of Vasudeva was found at Tripuri near Jabalpur. A large number of Kushana copper coins were found at Sanchi near Bhopal. Another 20 corroded and defaced "Indo-Scythian" (Kushana) coins were discovered at Indo-Khera in Indore including one each of Wema Kadphises, Kanishka and Vasudeva and of Huvishka.

The epigraphic and numismatic evidence from Madhya Pradesh, taken together does suggest Kushana authority in the region. But the state has yielded Kushana material from only 9 excavated and 10 explored sites. The paucity of archaeological material viewed in the background of rival claims of the Satvahanas and the Western Kshatrapas over Malwa, suggests that the extention of the Kushana dominance in Madhya Pradesh was perhaps for a brief period and over a limited area.

1 JNSI, XVII, p.109.
3 JNSI, XVII, p.109.
4 Ibid.
5 P.L. Gupta, Kushana Coins and History, 1994, p.82.
6 JNSI, XVII, p. 109.
7 JNSI, XXVII, pp.118-19; IAR 1964-65, p.70.
8 JNSI, XVII, p.109.
9 ASIAR, 1934-35, p.84.
10 ASR, XII, pp.43-44.
The entire state of Uttar Pradesh including present Uttarakhand, has yielded concrete evidence of prolonged Kushana occupation. In the light of at least 139 dated Kushana inscriptions, right from year 2 to 98 of Kanishka era, prolific Kushana coinage and rich material revealed from about 70 excavated sites in Uttar Pradesh, the inclusion of the whole of Ganga-Yamuna doab within the Kushana empire becomes a matter of authentic record. Mathura was probably the eastern head-quarter of the Kushana empire. The presence of Kushana power in Uttar Pradesh, right from the times of Wema Kadphises, is also attested by the ruins of a devakula at Mat near Mathura, where statues of Wema Takto (earlier identified as Wema Kadphises) and Kanishka have been discovered. Coins and inscriptions of Wema Kadphises, Kanishka, Huvishka, Vasudeva, and other later Kushana rulers have been abundantly found all over the state, although the Kushana territory seems to have shrunk towards the western part of Uttar Pradesh after the rule of Vasudeva-I.

In and around Mathura excavations have been carried out at a number of sites like Katra mound, Jail mound, Kankali tila, Chaubara mound, Jamalpur, Mat, Sonkh, etc., which provide ample evidence of prolonged Kushana rule.

Situated on the banks of river Yamuna, Mathura developed as a great trading station as it lay on the royal highway running from Pataliputra to Taxila and was joined by the south Indian routes of Barygaza, Babaricum and Patala. Although the city shows evidence of habitation from PGW period onwards, through the NBPW phase, it seems to have come into prominence in the Sunga period (Period III) and reached its zenith during the Kushana phase (Period IV). Explorations and excavations over the past hundred years, in and around Mathura have brought to light abundant material bearing on the Kushana history, including more than hundred and fifty inscriptions,

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2. ASIAR, 1911-12, pp.120-21.
thousands of Kushana coins,\textsuperscript{1} numerous Jain, Buddhist and Brahmanical establishments, a few secular structures, devakulas, stupas, viharas, naga shrines, Kushana donar effigies, sculptures, beads of semi-precious stones, terracotta figurines,\textsuperscript{2} etc. It is very likely that Mathura was the headquarter of the Kushanshahr in the east. Alexander Cunningham discovered several inscriptions of Kanishka, Huvishka and Vasudeva ranging from year 5 to 98 in the Kanishka era and identified the sites of the Upagupta Vihara, Huvishka Vihara and Kunda-Sukha Vihara at Katra and Jail mound respectively.\textsuperscript{3} The inscriptions also suggest the existence of many viharas at Mathura like the Buddharakshita Vihara, Chutaka Vihara, Srivihara, Suvarnakara Vihara, Dharmahastika Vihara, Kastikiya Vihara and the Vihara situated at Anyor. Other religious establishments recorded in the inscriptions are the Mathura Vanaka stupa, the Naga shrine of Dadhikarna, and the Devalaya of Kanishka and Huvishka.\textsuperscript{4} Subsequent excavations brought to light the remains of a Jain stupa, two Jain temples, a Buddhist Vihara and a Vaishnava temple from the Kankali mound.\textsuperscript{5} From Jamalpur mound apart from a Buddhist monastery built by Huvishka, a Naga shrine was also discovered.\textsuperscript{6} Other Kushana remains from Mathura include brick structures, roofing tiles, fortifications, typical Kushana ceramics, sculptures, an ivory comb, shell bangles, a terracotta rattle, seals, etc., along with thousands of Kushana coins.\textsuperscript{7} The Government Museum, Mathura houses a group of statues of Wema Takto (earlier identified as that of Wema Kadphises), Kanishka and Kushana-Shatrap, Chashtana, recovered from the ruins of a devakula at Mat,\textsuperscript{8} which throws light on the political importance of Mathura. To the best of our knowledge, the coin holdings of the Government Museum, Mathura contain

\textsuperscript{1} \textit{ASR}, Vol. XX, p.37.  
\textsuperscript{2} \textit{IAR}, 1954-55, pp.15-16.  
\textsuperscript{4} K.L. Janert, 1961, \textit{op. cit.}, pp. 31 ff.  
\textsuperscript{5} \textit{ASR}, XX, pp.1-4.  
\textsuperscript{6} \textit{ASIAR}, 1908-09, p.166.  
\textsuperscript{7} \textit{IAR}, 1974-75, p.50; 1975-76, p.55.  
\textsuperscript{8} \textit{ASIAR}, 1911-12, pp.120-21.
more than 3665 Kushana coins including at least 54 gold coins, 3 silver coins and 3608 copper coins of Kushana rulers.¹

Excavations conducted at Sonkh by Herbert Hartel during 1969-70 revealed evidence of occupation from PGW period onwards, with disturbed medieval layers. Period IV (1ˢᵗ to 3ʳᵈ century A.D.) belonging to the Kushana period has been divided into two sub-periods. Remains of seven houses belonging to the earliest phase of level 16 of Period IV (Kushana phase) were exposed, of which house yielded 120 Kushana copper coins stored in a jar. Of them, two belong to Huvishka and the rest are either of Vasudeva-I or Kanishka III.² These seven levels belonging to Kushana phase show a densely build up area of residential houses of baked bricks with rooms around courtyard and bathrooms. A street lined with shops, bronze objects, votive tanks, terracotta figurines, stone plaques, etc. were also discovered, which confirm the urban character of the settlement.³ Further excavations of 1970-71 and 1971-72, brought to light an apsidal temple dedicated to the Naga cult, assigned to the time of Kanishka-I, on the basis of the coins discovered in the debris of this temple.⁴ It was an elaborate structure standing on a 15 11.50 metre high brick platform. Several coins of Wema Kadphises, Kanishka and a "sandwich" of coins of both these rulers have been found in the temple ground itself. Another apsidal temple (9.70 8.85 metre), with roughly nine structural phases belonging to the 1ˢᵗ and 2ⁿᵈ centuries A.D., was also discovered, which was the central focus of the residential structures and streets around it.⁵ A matrika plaque and a large number of plaques depicting Durga as Mahisasurmardini were found in and around this temple.

The available epigraphic, numismatic, structural and material evidence from several sites of Mathura, strongly suggest that it was the most important

¹ P. Dubey, Kushanas in Uttar Pradesh: A Numismatic Study, M.Phil dissertation (unpublished), University of Delhi, 2002, p.82.
³ Ibid.
⁴ Proceedings of Indian History Congress (PIHC), XXXIII, Muzaffarpur, 1972, p.96; IAR, 1971-72, p.48.
⁵ U. Singh, The History of Ancient and Early Medieval India, 2008, Delhi, pp.446-07.
Kushana town and a flourishing urban centre in India. Mathura developed as an important commercial, religious and artistic centre under the Kushanas which probably functioned as the eastern capital of their empire.

The excavations conducted by B.B. Lal during 1950-52 at Hastinapur brought to light five distinct habitational stratas. The first three occupational layers ranging from pre 1200 B.C. to 3rd century B.C. represent the OCP (Period I), PGW (Period II) and the NBPW (Period III) periods respectively. The habitation came to an abrupt end towards the close of the Period III due to a great fire and a new town emerged on its ruins during Period IV. This Period IV, extending from the early 2nd century B.C. to the end of the 3rd century A.D., includes Kushana layers, as the late level of this period (sub-period 6) have yielded ten copper coins imitating the coins of Vasudeva, datable to the middle of the 3rd century A.D. Among these ten Kushana imitation coins, six are of 'king at altar and Shiva with bull' type while four are 'standing king and enthroned goddess' type. The excavation of Hastinapur revealed seven structural sub-periods in Period IV, marked by houses made invariably of burnt bricks, an exclusive red ware industry with typical Kushana shapes like sprinklers, button-knobbed lids, etc. and about half a dozen votive tanks. A large number of beads of terracotta, semi-precious stones, copper and glass objects, bangles made of glass, copper, shell, ivory, agate terracotta and bone, copper antimony rods, iron nails, copper miniature bells, terracotta figurines and seals of the 2nd and 3rd century A.D., were also unearthed during the excavations. This rich material suggests that Period IV was the most prosperous period at Hastinapur when it became a full-fledged town. The site declined after the Kushana rule and was inhabited again in the 13th century A.D. after a hiatus of about a thousand years.

Moradhwaj in Bijnor district, was inhabited since the 5th century B.C. but acquired an urban character in Period-II B which corresponds to c. 200

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2 Ibid., p.120.
3 Ibid., pp.87-101.
B.C.–A.D. 300.\textsuperscript{1} In the Kushana phase, apart from other baked brick structures, a brick temple was erected in the heart of the settlement.\textsuperscript{2} Excavations have also revealed the remains of a stupa, numerous small tables bearing the image of Buddha, typical Kushana ceramics, terracotta beads, a gold coin of Vasudeva I, etc.\textsuperscript{3} The site seems to be abandoned after the Kushana period, as no post Kushana remains have been unearthed.

\textbf{Kaseri} in Meerut district, is an excavated rural site which yielded predominant red ware ceramics from Period IV corresponding to Kushana period, along with baked bricks with finger marks.\textsuperscript{4} A hoard of twenty two gold coins belonging to Kushanas and Indo-Sassanians was discovered from \textbf{Harsinghpur}\textsuperscript{5} in the same district. In the district of Meerut and Muzaffarnagar, eighteen extensively explored sites have revealed red ware, characteristic of Kushana period, succeeded by the medieval ware.\textsuperscript{6} Some of these sites are fairly large and could possibly represent the remains of towns of Sunga-Kushana period.

Excavation at \textbf{Hulas} in Saharanpur district brought to light a massive brick structure of Kushana period from Period IV (Sunga-Kushana). This period yielded numerous copper coins, beads of semi precious stones, shell bangles, terracotta beads and bangles, along with red ware in typical Kushana shapes like sprinklers, spouted jars, lids, etc.\textsuperscript{7} The evidence suggests that Hulas was a flourishing town till the end of the Sunga-Kushana period. Forty explored sites in Saharanpur district have yielded red ware of Sunga-Kushana assemblage.\textsuperscript{8}

Antiquities belonging to the Kushana period have also been unearthed from \textbf{Atranjikhera} in Etah district. The excavation of the large mound,
measuring 3960 1500 65 feet brought to light antiquities belonging to the PGW, NBPW, Sunga, Kushana and Gupta periods.\(^1\) During Period IV (c. 200 B.C. – 300 A.D.) red ware pottery of medium fabric was reported along with terracotta human and animal figurines, burnt brick structures, beads, two copper coins of Kushana king Vasudeva\(^2\) and a coin mould.\(^3\) We can safely deduce from the available material that Atranjikhera was a flourishing urban settlement in the Kushana period.

The excavation at Katinagar,\(^4\) in Etah district revealed evidence of habitation in three periods, viz. Period I (1200-1800 B.C. – PGW), Period II (NBPW) and Period III (200 B.C. – A.D. 600). Period III was marked by presence of red ware comprising basins, vases, spouts, sprinklers, carinated handis, lid with central knob and other shapes of Kushana and Gupta period. Structural remains, bricks (36 23 6 centimetre), shell ear-ring, beads of carnelian, shell, jasper and agate, votive tanks, etc.\(^5\) were also exposed during the excavation. The site was deserted after Period III.

Twenty six explored sites in the district of Etawah\(^6\) and Mainpuri have also yielded a few Kushana copper coins along with Sunga-Kushana terracottas and red ware.\(^7\)

Excavation at Ranihat in Tehri district of present day Uttarakhand brought into light bottlenecked sprinklers, miniature vases and other red ware shapes from Period II-B which corresponds to c. 200 B.C. – A.D. 200.\(^8\) The site revealed evidence of habitation from circa sixth century B.C. in three Periods, viz. Period I (glossy red ware), Period II-A (NBPW), Period II-B (no NBPW) and Period III (6th-12 century A.D.). Iron objects in large quantities

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\(^2\) *IAR*, 1962-63, p.36.

\(^3\) PIHC, 1972, *op. cit.*, p.96.


\(^5\) Ibid., p.241.


\(^7\) *IAR*, 1977-78, p.58.

\(^8\) *IAR*, 1978-79, p.75.
were also unearthed from Period II-B. The habitation was deserted after the Kushana period and was reoccupied only in the medieval period.

**Panduwala,** an excavated site in Pauri-Garhwal, has revealed a single-phase culture of the Kushana period indicating that human activities began at the site and perhaps in this area, during the Kushana period. A burnt brick structure (31 22 8 centimetre) and red ware was discovered during excavation. Period I-B at **Bharat Mata Mandir,** Dehradun, has yielded red ware along with some Sunga-Kushana structures. The early phase of **Virabhadra temple** in Rishikesh, (Dehradun district), which began around second century A.D. also corresponds to late Kushana period and has revealed red polished ware, sprinklers, bowls, vases, mud brick structures and some Kushana coins. **Purola** in Uttarkashi district, is an older site which yielded typical Sunga-Kushana red ware. **Bandarkhet** is Tehri district, also yielded red ware, bowls, basins, vases, spouted jars, etc. from Period I which corresponds to 2\textsuperscript{nd} century B.C. – A.D. 2\textsuperscript{nd} century.

Thirty one sites in Nainital district have revealed red ware and Kashipur yielded 252 copper coins and 3 gold coins of later Kushana rulers. A hoard of forty five Kushana gold coins along with five pieces of ornaments was found in a metal pot at Muni-ki-Reti, Garhwal of which 44 belong to Huvishka and one is of Vasudeva. This broadly points to the gradual expansion of human occupation in this area during Kushana times.

Kushana occupation of the town of **Ahichchhatra** in Bareilly district, is confirmed by the numismatic, ceramic and terracotta evidence. This ancient mound of about 25 metre height in the present village of Ramnagar was first noticed by Alexander Cunningham and was excavated by K.N. Dikshit in

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1 **IAR,** 1982-83, p.99.
2 Ibid., p.96.
5 Ibid.
7 **IAR,** 1965-66, p.53.
1940-44. The excavation revealed evidence of continuous occupation in nine stratas dating from pre-300 B.C. to A.D. 1100, of which Statum IV (A.D. 100-350) was marked by the appearance of Kushana coins. This Kushana-Gupta period has a two metre thick deposit indicating greater habitation during this period. The excavations have yielded 176 imperial Kushana coins, 98 later Kushana coins and 91 imitation coins which were recovered from the 'last stage' of Stratum IV. This period, corresponding to Kushana phase, is characterized by several blocks of single contiguous chambers with fine brickwork generally resting on a bed of rammed concrete and typical Kushana pottery. Other important finds of the period are beads of semi precious stones, iron and copper objects, several votive tanks, an inscribed image of Bodhisattva Maitreya of Mathura red sand stone and figurines of dwarfs. These characteristic Kushana period figurines of dwarfs were most prominently noticed in sub-stratum IV C (A.D. 100-200). Many such figurines were also discovered at Mathura belonging to the same chronological horizon. This stratum IV indeed represnts the most prosperous period of Ahichchhatra as far as the building and cultural activities are concerned. A recent excavation at Ahichchhatra revealed a 2 metre thick Kushana deposit which yielded a large number of conical crucibles-vitrified in various degrees, copper ingots, broken furnaces and slag. In another trench, a large number of earthen pots, complete in shapes, some pre-fired deformed pots, along with a few terracotta dabbers were found. A few large pits containing ashy deposits were also noticed. These artifacts suggests copper working and pottery workshop during this period.

The excavation of Sankisa in Farrukhabad district revealed evidence of continuous activity from PGW to Gupta period. In the quadrant 3 of square

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1 Al, No.1, 1946, pp.38-40.
3 Ibid., pp.38-39.
4 Al, No. 4, 1947, p.119.
5 Al, No. 1, 1946, p.39.
7 IAR, 1996-97, pp.139-142.
E-10, layers 3 and 4 have yielded Kushana material in the form of brick structures, tiles, sharp edged and incurved bowls in red ware, beads, glass bangles, terracotta figurines, etc. The thickness of this deposit is about 40 centimetre. The main ceramic industry of this period (IV) was red ware – both plain and slipped, with shapes like storage jars, sprinklers, lipped basins, spouts, vases and lamps.\(^1\) Decorated pottery with incised multi-grooved designs and stamped decorations of \textit{Srivatsa} and leaf designs were also unearthed from layer 3. A monastery existed at the site from Maurya to Gupta period.

\textbf{Siyapur} in Kannauj district has a mound of 58 40 metre (2320 square metre) which rises at the height of 6 metre from village level and the village itself is 1.5 or 2 metre higher than the surrounding ground level.\(^2\) Trench A1, yielded twenty stratified layers divided into four cultural periods, viz. pre PGW (Period I), PGW (Period II), NBPW (Period III) and Kushana period (Period IV). Of these, the top most layers 1 to 8 are associated with Kushana period. While there is no evidence of structural activity in Period I, II and III, a total of six brick structures were exposed in Period IV.\(^3\) Trench A1 yielded a floor (4.25 3.10 metre, 10 centimetre thick) built on layer 8 and sealed by layer 7, made with rammed earth mixed with potsherds. Atleast six walls of burnt bricks laid in mud mortar, with several courses found in situ and three walls of a small sized room (2.92 1.38 metre) were exposed. Both full sized bricks as well as brick bats were used for construction. The excavation also brought to light red ware, black slipped ware and grey ware, with handis, vases, spouted vessels, hop-scotch, marbel, wheel, spherical micro-beads, shell, sculptures, figurines, etc.\(^4\) The excavation at \textbf{Kannauj} also yielded deposits of four cultural periods, viz. PGW (Period I), NBPW (Period II), Kushana (Period III) and late medieval (Period IV).\(^5\) The site seems to have

\(^3\) \textit{Ibid}.
\(^4\) \textit{Ibid}.
been abandoned after the Kushana period and was reoccupied only in the late medieval period.

**Jajmau**, in Kanpur district has revealed the remains of a Kushana house complex with bathrooms and covered drains and a street lined with a row of houses from Period II\(^1\) corresponding to Kushana age. Other antiquities from the site include copper coins, sprinklers, ivory objects, iron objects, votive tanks, inscribed and uninscribed sealings, etc. Although the site was settled in the NBPW phase (Period I), the extensive use of baked bricks for construction started in the Kushana period, after which the site was deserted.\(^2\)

Excavation at **Hulaskhera**\(^3\) (400-400 metre) in Lucknow district, exposed remains of a well planned settlement with three levels of large, baked brick structures, two housing complexes with many rooms, a well planned drainage system and a two kilometer broad passage connected with by lanes from Phase III which may be identified as Kushana phase. The floors were either of burnt bricks or rammed floor treated with of lime and clay mixed with potsherds or with both. Besides numerous Kushana coins of Wema Kadphises, Kanishka, Huvishka and Vasudeva, a ring-shaped copper seal with legend *Sri Vasudeva*, a gold image of Karttikeya, terracottas, iron and copper artifacts, copper and gold-coated glass beads, bone arrowheads, potter's stamps, votive tanks, red ware, skin rubbers, etc. were also unearthened from the site. All this evidence suggests that Hulaskhera was an affluent urban centre in the Kushana empire. Apart from the botanical remains of the earlier period i.e. rice, wheat, barley, African millet, bathua and indigo, remains of some new crops including green gram, grass pea, oat, jowar millet, silk cotton (semul), garden pea, jujebe-ber, bahera, blue stem grass, meadow grass, etc. were also collected during the excavations.\(^4\) Large amount of charred and uncharred animal bones, sometimes bearing cut marks were also

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\(^1\) *IAR*, 1975-76, pp.48-53; 1976-77, p.54.
\(^3\) *IAR*, 1985-86, p.82; 1986-87, p.79; 1979-80, p.77.
discovered, suggesting that meat remained an integral part of the diet of the settlers of this period.

The earliest occupational period at Ramsare Purwa\(^1\) in Lucknow district, is the late Kushana period of 2\(^{nd}\)-3\(^{rd}\) century A.D. (Period I) which is followed by Gupta (Period II) and early medieval (Period III) periods. Period I is represented by a 35 centimetre thick deposit characterized by Kushana red ware with bright red slips and stamped designs. Deep bowls with flaring sides and truncated vases are commonly found. Other ceramic shapes include sprinklers, dishes, jars, miniature vases, ink-pot type lids, knobbed lids, etc. Few terracotta figurines and a complete specimen of a potter's stamp with criss-cross design and concentric circles, was also picked up during excavation. Trench RAP-2 revealed two 'bhattis', the largest measuring 2.30 metre in diameter with a depth of 85 centimetre and the smaller one with 1.13 metre diameter and depth of 45 centimetre. The evidence suggests that Ramsare Purwa was probably a town which came up during the Kushana period.

During the period between c. 200 B.C. and 200 A.D. human activity seems to be at its helm in the Lucknow region as the number of settlements increased considerably and about three dozen sites with growing population have been identified.\(^2\) The State Museum, Lucknow houses atleast 2326 Kushana coins including 228 gold coins and 2098 copper coins of different Kushana rulers.\(^3\)

Manwan\(^4\) in Sitapur district yielded evidence of habitation from c. 500 B.C. (NBPW) to medieval period. In the Sunga-Kushana phase (Period II), sprinklers, inkpot type lids, terracotta figurines, a large number of Kushana coins and terracotta sealings with legends in Brahmi characters were unearthed.

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\(^1\) IAR, 1996-97, pp.151-52.


\(^3\) P. Dubey, 2002, op. cit., p.54.

\(^4\) IAR, 1969-70, p.44.
Ayodhya or Saket in Faizabad district seems to be habitated since the NBPW phase. A massive brick structure with evidence of construction in several phases was dug out in 1969-70 at Kuber Tila\(^1\), which perhaps belongs to the Kushana period. Kanishka claims to have ruled over the satrapy of Saketa in the Rabtak inscription,\(^2\) which confirms the inclusion of Ayodhya in Kushana empire.

Excavation at Sanchankot\(^3\) in Unnao district yielded a cultural sequence of five periods from PGW to Rajput phase. The richest deposit of 5-6 metre thickness is ascribable to the Kushana period (Period III) which is represented by red ware, both dull and slipped. The mound at Sanchankot basically consists of the remnants of a stupa. Structural remains made of kiln-burnt bricks laid in headers and stretchers in mud mortar were exposed in four phases. Walls containing 63 courses were found intact in Trench T4. Floors of houses made with rammed earth, brick-paved floors, drains of fired bricks and finished plaster, were also exposed during excavation. A large number of Kushana coins, a bone seal with a peacock figure and Brahmi legend, a circular terracotta seal with a knob, bearing a Shivalinga and Brahmi alphabets of Sunga-Kushana period, net sinkers, crucibles, ivory and shell bangles, wheels, iron and copper objects, shell-beads, stamps, gamesmen, etc. were also unearthed. A trench laid on Jaleshar mound yielded 7000 archaic terracotta figurines kept in a heap, in a room made of burnt bricks of Kushana period. A number of Kushana bowls were also recovered from this house, which indicates it to be a potter's house or shop.\(^4\) These figurines are all handmade with fine grained and well levigated clay, with diffused heads and almost all are palm-less. The common pottery shapes of the Period III are bowls, nail-headed basins, vases, button-knobbed lids, spouted vessels, handis, etc. Stamped designs are also noticed on some potsherds. All the above evidence points to the urban character of the site in Kushana period.

\(^1\) PIHC, XXXIII session, Muzaffarpur, 1972, p.78; IAR, 1969-70, p.40.

\(^2\) Lines 4 to 7 of Rabtak Inscription.


\(^4\) Ibid., p.188.
Sravasti or Sahet-Mahet, on the borders of Bahraich and Gonda districts, is another important ancient site where Kushana occupation has been attested by numismatic, epigraphic and other archaeological evidences. The twin name of Sahet-Mahet denotes two groups of remain with Sahet representing the famous Buddhist monastery – the Jetavana Vihara and Mahet – the ruins of the ancient city of Sravasti. More than 107 copper coins and several seals and inscriptions, suggesting close contact with other contemporary towns like Mathura and Saketa, have been discovered from the site, over several years of excavations and explorations. An inscribed figure of Buddha was discovered here by Cunningham, which was imported from Mathura. Vogel discovered some clay sealings and one seal die, with legends in the Brahmi characters of Kushana type during his excavation of 1907-08. J.H. Marshall's excavations (1910-11) exposed two important inscriptions of Kushana period recording pious gifts of sculptures, which were carved by a sculptor of Mathura. Two dated inscriptions of the reign of Kanishka and an inscribed bowl of Kushana period was also recovered during excavation. A jar containing 105 copper coins, of which four belong to Kanishka, two to Huvishka and as many as ninety six to Vasudeva, was discovered in one of the cells of a monastery. A large number of beads of gold and various stones along with large pearls, were also recovered from the relic chamber of a stupa belonging to the Kushana period. Excavation of 1959 by K.K. Sinha also confirmed that Sravasti was an important religious centre and a prosperous city under the Kushanas. Several structural remains of Kushana period like a concrete road, monasteries, courtyards, cells, drains, several chambers, etc. were exposed during excavations. More recently, excavations were carried out at Mahet where a massive building complex belonging to Period II B (early Christian era – A.D. 4th century) was exposed in Area 'E'. Structures of two different house complexes separated by a 2-2.5

3 ASIAR, 1907-08, pp.93-95.
4 ASIAR, 1910-11, pp.6-16.
metre wide street were noticed. Two phases of construction activities were
identified in the house complex during which mostly Kushana bricks (34 23.5 4.5; 32 24 5; 33.5 24 5 and 34 24 5.5 centimetre) were used
in Phase I but only brickbats were used in Phase II. The ceramic industry of
the Kushana period was represented by red ware with shapes like bowls,
shallow dishes, spouted vessels, sprinklers, lota, surahi, handi, etc. As many
as 664 antiquities, including terracotta figurines, a panchika figure, beads,
semiprecious stones, antimony rods, seals and sealings in Kushana Brahmi
characters and copper Kushana coins were unearthed. The excavation inside
the crescent shaped mud fortification area of Mahet,\(^1\) exposed a 80
centimetre wide and 1.50 metre high, twenty course massive wall of bricks
dated to Period II (Sunga-Kushana), a complete house complex, two ring
wells, one brick well and a pucca drain of brick running parallel to the brick
wall. During the Kushana period this area was important as the citadel area
and witnessed the beginning of major structural activity in the form of well-
planned brick house complexes, ring wells and brick wells for individual and
community purpose.\(^2\) Although the habitation at the site began in the pre-
Mauryan Period (Period I) and continued in the Gupta-Post Gupta Period
(Period III) as well, the Sunga-Kushana period (Period II A & B) was indeed
the most prosperous period of Sravasti, when it flourished as a great religious
centre.

Excavation at Sapaur\(^3\) in Gonda district yielded red ware and black
ware in medium fabric with typical Kushana shapes like spouted vessels,
spinklers, bowls, basins, dishes, vases etc. along with terracotta figurines,
beads, iron implements, etc. from Period II assigned to Kushana era. Some
potsherds were decorated with bright red slips and stamped designs.

\(^2\) Ibid.
\(^3\) IAR, 1998-99, pp.185-187.
Siswania in Basti district has been identified with the ancient city of Setavya by B.R. Mani.\footnote{B.R. Mani, 'Excavation at Siswania, District Basti', Puratattva, No. 34, 2003-04, pp.100-105.} Three mounds in a series (SWN 1, 2 and 3) are found along the Kuwana river covering an area of approximately 1000 300 metre. The excavation at the site yielded a four-fold cultural sequence, viz. pre NBPW (Period I), NBPW (Period II), Sunga (Period III) and Kushana (Period IV) period. Mostly mud structures were noticed in the NBPW and Sunga period but the building activities increased to a great extent during the Kushana period (1\textsuperscript{st}-3\textsuperscript{rd} century A.D.) when burnt brick structure were constructed. Apart from brick floors and brick walls, three ring wells and one brick well with 57 courses of wedge-shaped bricks measuring 26 24 cm to 30 8 centimetre, were exposed. Remains of a workshop of metalsmiths existing from late levels of NBPW till the Kushana period were also revealed along with slag, complete and broken pieces of crucibles, metal pieces of iron and copper and hearths of various sizes.\footnote{Ibid., p.103.} Kushana copper coins, seals, red ware with shapes like sprinklers, ink-pot lids, thumb-impressed-incurved bowls, basins, spouted pots, vases, etc. were unearthened. Terracotta animal and human figurines including heads with foreign ethnic features, figures of Hariti, Naigamesa and Naigamesi, terracotta pestles, toy carts, etc. were also recovered during excavation. The discovery of more than 4000 animal remains from the lowest to the uppermost levels suggests an economy in which domestication of animals, especially cattles was predominant.

Exploratory soundings at Bankata and Deoraon in Basti district also provided evidence of similar cultural assemblage from pre NBPW to Kushana period and similar material, as discovered at Siswania.\footnote{Ibid., p.105.} A trial excavation at Orai\footnote{IAR, 1996-97, p.135.} revealed a cultural deposit of 2.72 metre with a sequence of two periods represented by red ware and brick structures of Kushana and Gupta period. A very large tank of Kushana period was noticed at Mundiar,\footnote{Ibid., p.126.} constructed of
typical large sized Kushana bricks (40-41 20-21 6.5-7 centimetre). Twelve courses of a burnt-brick wall (1.50 m 1.50 metre) of the longer axis of the tank were exposed in the exploratory sounding. About 500 metre southeast of the tank, a habitational site was discovered at village Dakharia, the cultural assemblage of which goes back to the Kushana period.\(^1\) *Mehandaval\(^2\) and Vehalinga (Behil)\(^3\) in Basti district also yielded evidence of habitation from NBPW to Kushana period. About 81 sites were explored in the Basti and Siddharthanagar districts of which more than 63 sites revealed Sunga-Kushana assemblage.\(^4\) These sites yielded more than 100 copper coins of Wema Kadphises, Kanishka, Huvishka and Ayodhya rulers. Another exploration along the Manwar river in Basti district\(^5\) brought to light 20 ancient sites of which 13 came into existence during the Sunga-Kushana period of these, **Nakdepur** is a single culture site. Out of 3 NBPW sites, one continued till the Kushana period while the other two continued till the medieval period. Other systematic explorations conducted earlier in the districts of Basti and Siddharthanagar had revealed evidence of Kushana occupation from 52 out of 58 explored site of this region.\(^6\) Out of these 52 Kushana sites, habitation at 23 began in the late phase of NBPW and they continued upto the Kushana period. As many as 25 single culture settlements were noticed with evidence of occupation only in the Kushana period. Some of these appear to have been townships. This evidence suggests an increase in the population and spread of urbanization during the Kushana phase. It needs to be pointed out that most of these settlements are within a distance of 25 to 30 kilometre from the

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\(^1\) *IAR*, 1996-97, p.126.  
famous Buddhist stupa site of Piprahwa.\textsuperscript{1} It is likely that these sites emerged due to the proximity of the great Buddhist pilgrimage.

The excavation at Kopia in Sant Kabir Nagar district (earlier in Basti) brought to light evidence of glass production from the Kushana period. This fortified site surrounded by a moat, is situated on the right bank of river Ami and its mound extends over an area of about 1 square kilometer with a height of about 12 metre.\textsuperscript{2} Excavation at locality 1, inside the fortification, revealed remains of a habitational area with many structures, in five layers, all belonging to the Sunga-Kushana period. Remains of walls of a burnt brick structure (37 22 5 centimetres and 35 23 6 centimetre), with floor made of rammed bricks and mud, were exposed. Use of tiles for roofing was in vogue. A burial chamber with animal burial was also exposed. Locality II, which is outside the fortification, yielded vast quantity of chunks of glass, crucible pieces and other evidence related to production and working of glass.\textsuperscript{3} These glass production furnaces were located on the northwest slope of the mound which represented the industrial area. Four layers were identified at Locality II, all yielding material of Kushana period. Seventy percent of the total ceramic assemblage of Kopia is red slipped ware with spouts, large globular storage jars, sprinklers, basins, etc. as important shapes. The concept of stamped pottery was introduced during the Kushana times. A very fine specimen of decorated pot of red slipped ware stamped with Nandipada symbol is worth mentioning. Thirty two terracotta figurines were recovered from the site, mostly of the Kushana period. These typical Kushana figurines are coarsely modelled, having large goblin like bulging eyes, with a handmade body and head made of mould. Almost all Kushana figurines are fragmentary, broken at the joint. Few outsized figurines may

\textsuperscript{1} B.P. Singh and R. Kumar, 'Explorations in district Basti and Siddharthnagar in the Saryupar plains of Eastern U.P.', Pragdhara, No. 4, 1993-94, pp.1-10.


represent Hariti or Parvati.\(^1\) Other important finds include six Kushana coins (one each of Wema Kadphsies and Kanishka and three of Huvishka), seals, stamps, beads, bead polishers, bangles, etc. These evidences clearly prove that Kopia developed as an important industrial centre for glass production during the Kushana period.

**Lahuradeva**\(^2\) in Sant Kabir Nagar district is a Neolithic site with rice cultivation, which yielded remains of Sunga-Kushana phase (Period V) from its last period of occupation. Period V representing the early historic period (early centuries B.C./A.D.) revealed a 70 metre thick occupational deposit, characterized by the appearance of burnt brick structures with brick paved floors.\(^3\) A multiroomed house having well-laid brick walls and a deep brick well was exposed. The ceramic industry is represented by only red ware with ink-pot type lids, high-necked water vessels, bowls with incurved rim, sprinklers, etc. Some terracotta figurines and terracotta beads\(^4\) were also discovered from the site.

The excavation at Piprahwa and Ganwaria in Siddharthnagar district by K.M. Srivastava, revealed some structures dated to the Kushana period (Period IV – 2\(^{nd}\)-3\(^{rd}\) century A.D.). A monastic complex of well burnt bricks was exposed with as many as 17 rooms and an extensive floor of baked bricks, which might have served the purpose of a public hall.\(^5\) The site was identified with Kapilavastu by K.M. Srivastava and yielded 58 Kushana copper coins from Period IV, of which 45 were found at Ganwaria (including a hoard of 37 coins), the main township and 13 at Piprahwa, the monastic complex. Of these, 4 coins are of Wema Kadphises, 24 of Kanishka and 15 of Huvishka.\(^6\) This numismatic evidence along with the discovery of many seals in Kushana characters with the expressions ‘Devaputra Vihara’, ‘Kapilavastu’ and ‘Bikhu

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Sanghas' does suggest the influence of Kushana rule. As the hoard of 37 coins from Ganwaria contains 20 coins of Kanishka and 11 coins of Huvishka, it seems that the hoard was collected during the rule of Huvishka, when the coins of Kanishka, his predecessors, were in wide circulation in and around Ganwaria. ¹ Although habitation started at this site around 800 B.C., the occupation became impressive only in Sunga-Kushana times when a larger structural complex came up along with other material signs of urban life, such as use of baked brick for construction, beads of glass, semi precious stones, bangles, a mature money economy, etc. ² The wide acceptability of Kushana currency in Piprahwa and Ganwaria is sufficiently attested by the numismatic evidence, if not direct Kushana rule.

The excavations conducted by John Marshall at Bhita in Allahabad district, brought to light structural remains of residential houses, a line of shops and a ring well, belonging to the 1st century A.D. and late Kushana phase. ³ This ancient city flourished from the Mauryan times up to the Gupta period and developed as an important industrial-cum-mercantile centre during the Kushana period. A large number of religious and mercantile seals and sealings, inscribed in Kushana characters, at least 29 copper coins of Wema Kadphises, 7 of Kanishka, 8 of Huvishka and two coin moulds, one being obverse of a Kushana coin (No. 34) and the other, the reverse of a gold coin of Vasudeva (No. 35) were discovered at the site. ⁴ Of these 17 copper coins of Kanishka and Huvishka were discovered from the house of Nagadeva assigned to the 1st century A.D. Marshall also discovered a seal die of ivory having the legend of Nagadiasya in the late Kushana script and a clay sealing with swastika and other symbols with the legend Ksakasa, belonging to the late Kushana phase. ⁵ The excavations also brought to light terracotta figurines, pottery of Kushana period such as water bottles, water jars, cooking

¹ MASI, No. 94, ASI, New Delhi, 1996, p.72.
³ ASIAR, 1911-12, pp.34-39.
⁴ Ibid., p.42.
⁵ Ibid., p.34.
pots, crucible and melting pots with lip-in-rim for pouring molten metal.\textsuperscript{1} During a more recent excavation a Kushana deposit of more than 3 metre was encountered in the Garha mound whereas the deposit of NBPW period was only 1.75 metre. A deep vertical structure of rectangular walls and cistern (2.10 2.02 0.56 metre) with 38 courses of bricks was also exposed.\textsuperscript{2} The above evidence of seals and sealings belonging to guilds and artisans along with Kushana coins moulds suggests that Bhita was an important mercantile township and probably a mint town during the Kushana period.

The large scale excavations conducted at \textbf{Kausambi} by Allahabad University under G.R. Sharma, exposed the remains of a well-planned fortified city with voluminous evidence suggesting Kausambi’s inclusion in the Kushana empire.\textsuperscript{3} The excavations brought to light four Kushana inscriptions (three of Kanishka and one of Vasishka), several seals and sealings including a seal of Kanishka with the legend "\textit{in the service of Maharaja Rajatiraja Devaputra Kanishka}"\textsuperscript{4}, numerous Kushana coins of Kanishka, Huvishka and Vasudeva, typical red pottery with spouted vessels, beads etc. from subperiods V (c. A.D. 25-100) and VI (c. A.D. 100-175).\textsuperscript{4} The city had a well-built stone fortification (320 150 metre) and a palace in which two circular towers were added, during the Kushana period.\textsuperscript{5} The excavations exposed six brick-built residences, with provisions for roads, lanes, bye-lanes and several devices for draining out refuse water. Three septic tanks which could be periodically cleaned, were also discovered. The other antiquities discovered from Kausambi such as objects of iron, copper, ivory, shell, stone, glass, terracotta figurines and a large number of crucibles, all tend to suggest that it was a flourishing town under the Kushana rule.\textsuperscript{6} Majority of the Kushana coins from this site were obtained from three hoards which had a mixture of Kushana-Magha coins. The first hoard consisted of 54 coins with five

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\textsuperscript{1} \textit{ASIAR}, 1911-12, p.83.
\textsuperscript{5} \textit{CAKP}, Vol. II, 1975, p.331.
\textsuperscript{6} \textit{MASI}, No. 94, 1969, \textit{ASI}, New Delhi, pp.93-98.
\end{flushleft}
Kushana coins (1 of Kanishka, 3 of Huvishka and 1 of Vasudeva). The second hoard of 136 coins had only one thin copper coin of Kushana period and in the third hoard of 171 coins all, except four, belong to Magha rulers. The Kushana intrusion at Kausambi effected a break in the series of the Mitra coins which cease with sub-period V, in which some Kushana coins have also been found. It seems that Kausambi witnessed a Kushana invasion during sub-period V (A.D. 25-100), corresponding to the layers 5 and 4, which have yielded considerable evidence of Kushana occupation in the form of coins, inscriptions and seals. It is interesting to note that most of the symbols occurring on these seals and sealings are noticed on contemporary coins as well. The coins of Huvishka and Vasudeva may be taken to suggest that the Kushanas ruled Kausambi throughout Huvishka's reign and may have lost it in the beginning of Vasudeva's reign. The occurrence of a few Kushana coins along with the coins of King Neva and Magha rulers suggests that the Kushana coins continued to be in circulation even during the rule of the Maghas when the Kushanas had been ousted from Kausambi.  

Excavations at Sringaverpur in Allahabad district conducted by B.B. Lal brought to light a seven-fold cultural sequence suggesting continuous habitation from OCP period (Period I) onwards till the 17th and 18th centuries (Period VII). While there is no trace of urban development till Period II (Black slipped ware, Black and Red ware and burnished grey ware), ramparts were raised and urbanization began in Period III (NBPW). It is the upper part of Period IV (Kushana) that witnessed the maximum expansion of the settlement. A massive burnt brick tank with an elaborate inlet-channel to bring water from Ganga, with intercommunicating system and terraced sides was exposed during the excavations which has been dated to the Kushana times (1st century A.D.). A few copper and gold coins of Kushanas were also recovered. This perhaps is the largest tank of ancient times discovered so

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The Kushana layers (Period IV) have revealed baked brick structures, which are far more impressive, when compared with other periods. A couple of coins of Wema Kadphises, bowls with vertically sharpened rims, ink-pot shaped lids, sprinklers, etc. were also discovered. The habitation of SVP-I was abandoned after Period IV, along with the destruction of the tank, but subsequent settlements do occur in other parts of the site. The material relics exposed at the site leave little doubt that the site had a strong urban orientation in post-Maurya times and the Kushana phase was the most prosperous phase at Sringaverpur.

Jhusi in Allahabad district revealed evidence of continuous occupation in five cultural phases from Mesolithic-Neolithic period to the early medieval period with Phase III representing Sunga-Kushana period. Layers 9-18 of Jhusi representing Kushana period yielded typical Kushana pottery, terracotta objects, iron and copper objects, beads of semi-precious stones and terracotta, bone objects, etc. Burnt brick walls, rooms with brick floors, hearths, a few sealings with legends, etc. were also exposed during excavation. The thickness of Kushana layers (9-18) along with two Sunga layers (19-20) is 3.15 metre, which suggests concentration of population during this period. The Gupta layer (Period II) at the site is only 1.68 metre thick while the NBPW layers (Period II) have a thickness of 5.84 metre.

Lachhagir in Allahabad district is a massive archaeological site with a fortified citadel and lower mounds where four cultural periods have been identified, viz. NBPW (Period I), Sunga-Kushana (Period II), Gupta-Post Gupta (Period III) and early medieval (Period IV). The height of the northern mound, measuring around 100 metre is 10-12 metre, which represents a citadel, fortified with brick walls on a pre-existing mud fortification. The height of the lower mound is 3-5 metre. While no brick structures are found from

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2 *IAR*, 1979-80, p.77; 1985-86, p.82; 1986-87, p.79.
5 *IAR*, 2002-03, pp.272-275.
Period I, two house complexes separated by a passage were exposed belonging to the Kushana period in which one house has a ring well inside the complex. Remains of two walls were also exposed belonging to the Sunga-Kushana period. A total number of 323 antiquities in the form of objects of terracotta, stone, bone, shell, glass, copper, iron, ivory and beads of semiprecious stones were discovered from the limited area of excavation.

The Allahabad Museum houses at least 26 gold and 33 copper coins of Kushana rulers most of which were collected from the neighbouring archaeological sites.¹ The coin holdings of Bharat Kala Bhavan, Museum of Art and Archaeology, Banaras Hindu University, consist of at least 91 gold coins belonging to Kushana rulers, of which some are extremely rare.²

The ancient site of Varanasi has been identified with the ruins of Rajghat, situated on the north-eastern outskirts of the present city. The excavations at this approximately 3.5 square kilometre fortified site brought to light six periods of human occupation from 6th-5th centuries B.C. onwards to the A.D. 17th century³ of which Stratum III (A.D. 1-300) has been assigned to the Kushana phase. Here, maximum structural activity is noticeable in the NBPW (Period 1b) and Kushana phases.⁴ The structural remains of the Kushana period (Period III) include eight blocks of brick buildings separated by lanes, a well-paved brick platform and a well. A well-planned city with laid out roads and lanes, both ordinary and magnificent tile-roofed houses and an elaborate arrangement for public and private drainage, came into existence during this period. The discovery of typical Kushana pottery with sharp-edged bowls, ink-pot type lids, spouts, karahi with handles, votive tanks, typical Kushana terracottas – among which elephant seems to be very popular along with Naigamesha, a large number of inscribed seals and sealings, all tend to suggest that Rajghat continued to flourish as an administrative and commercial centre during the Kushana period. This period represents the

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² Ibid., p.101.
⁴ IAR, 1957-58, p.50.
most prosperous period at the site, when it became much more densely populated, than during any of the preceding periods.\footnote{A.K. Narain and T.N. Roy, \textit{Excavation at Rajghat}, Vol. I, Varanasi, 1978, p.28.} Archaeological finds show not only a sudden increase in the luxury goods but also an unprecedented growth of crafts and industries such as manufactures of beads of semi precious stones, glass and shell, bangles, ivory works, textile, etc.\footnote{R.S. Sharma, 1987, \textit{op. cit.}} A spurt in the industrial activities is also discernible from the discovery of numerous implements of iron and copper, together with iron slags and three furnaces which were possibly used for smelting iron. Two Kushana coins were discovered here along with Ayodhya, Kausambi and Varanasi coins suggesting a flourishing mercantile economy with regional exchange. The discovery of rouletted ware along with red polished ware and sealings with depiction of Graeco-Roman deities prove wide commercial contacts not only with eastern and western parts of India but also with Central Asia and the Graeco-Roman world.\footnote{\textit{IBid.}, pp.35-36.} The administrative importance of Rajghat is attested by the discovery of an inscription of Kanishka at Sarnath which mentions the names of \textit{Kharapallana} and \textit{Vanaspara} as the governors of Varanasi.\footnote{\textit{El}, Vol. VIII, 1905-06, pp.173-77.}

The Buddhist religious centre of \textbf{Sarnath}, in the vicinity of Varanasi has brought to light an inscription of Kanishka’s reign,\footnote{\textit{Ibid.}} monastic remains of the Kushana period\footnote{\textit{ASIAR}, 1919-20, p.26.} and a copper coin of Huvishka. The inscription, dated in the year 3 of Kanishka, records the dedication of an inscribed Bodhisattva statue and an umbrella with a post, by Friar Bala along with \textit{Mahakshatrapa Kharapallana} and \textit{Kshatrapa Vanaspara} of Varanasi. This inscriptions evidence sufficiently proves that Sarnath was included in Kanishka’s empire and flourished as a religious town during the Kushana period.

The excavation at \textbf{Aktha} in Varanasi district revealed a five-fold cultural sequence beginning with pre NBPW phase (Period I) to the Gupta period (Period V). Period IV of the site revealed antiquities of the Kushana
period in the form of structures, beads of terracotta and semi-precious stones, iron objects, glass bangles, sprinklers, bowls, basins, etc.¹ Aktha and Rajghat appear to have survived simultaneously as twin settlements from around circa 800 B.C. Around 4th century B.C. Rajghat entered the stage of urbanization while Aktha with a rural base, receded to the status of a peripheral settlement.²

Another supporting settlement of ancient Varanasi was discovered at Ramnagar,³ situated on the right bank of Ganga. Ancient habitational deposit at Ramnagar is spread on a stretch of about 3 kilometre, that yielded a five-fold cultural sequence begining with pre NBPW (Period I) period till the Gupta times (Period V). The archaeological debris from Layers 3-6 of Period IV belong to the Kushana period and are marked by structural activities in the form of walls of large sized bricks and rammed floors. In the associated red pottery, there is a predominance of bowls with incurved rim and flaring sides, sprinklers, inpot lids and handled pans. A sealing engraved in Kushana Brahmi, a good number of terracotta human figurines bearing Kushana stylistic features, bone points, an antimony rod, etc. were also discovered from Ramnagar.⁴

The excavation at Masaon in Ghazipur district yielded cultural deposits belonging to four phases, covering the period from 600 B.C. to A.D. 600.⁵ This site is spread over an area of about 450 250 metre. Kushana copper coins, light red ware pottery with sprinklers and large storage jars, terracotta figurines, votive tanks, inscribed seals and sealings and other antiquities were unearthed from Period III (c. 100-200 A.D.) which can be termed as the Kushana period. Remains of three rooms of baked bricks, a brick built floor, drain, remains of common passage, partial remains of a house consisting of

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¹ IAR, 2001-02, pp.283-285.
⁴ Ibid.
four rooms and a road were also exposed in Period III,¹ which suggest that Masaon emerged as a flourishing urban centre during the Kushana period.

**Sohagaura**² in Gorakhpur district yielded some brick structures, ringwells, stamped pottery (comparable to pottery found from Hastinapur IV), red ware and some Kushana coins along with coins of Ayodhya and Panchala rulers from Period III which is the Kushana phase. The site came under occupation from pre NBPW period (Period I) and continued uptill the medieval period (Period IV) with Period II representing the NBPW phase. Its location on the borders of India and Nepal must have helped in its development as a trading centre in ancient times.

Excavation at **Kasia**³ in Gorakhpur district revealed some religious structures, a fragment of an inscribed stone datable to the reign of Kanishka and about 12 copper coins of Wema Kadphises (4) and Kanishka (8). The site has been identified with Kushinagara, where Buddha got his *Maha-parinirvana* and must have developed into a religious centre attracting pilgrims.

The excavations at **Kheradih** (710 510 11 metre) in Ballia district have revealed the remains of a well-planned Kushana township with residential complexes along roads running in the cardinal direction, joined by lanes at right angles. Though the site was first occupied by chalcolithic settlers (Period I) and flourished during the NBPW phase (Period II), it reached its zenith in the Kushana period (Period III – 200 B.C.-300 A.D.) which is characterised by a spurt in building activities.⁴ The residential buildings of Period III have brick-paved floors, drains, tiled-roofs and brick-lined wells. One of the larger houses revealed an underground structure of 2.4-1.68 metre tapering towards the base where it measured 1.40 1.8 metre. Some houses even had a boundary wall encircling the house. A road

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³ *ASIAR*, 1904-05, pp.45-51; 1905-06, pp.61-74.
flanked by residential buildings was constructed in two phases and brickbats, *kankar* and broken pieces of pottery were rammed to provide the soling of the road.¹ The excavation also revealed coppersmith's and ironsmith's workshops, a tile-making kiln, several smelting-forging areas, remains of a 30 centimetre bowl shaped furnace-bottom with plenty of slag and three shaft furnaces in a row, along with large amount of slag pieces, ore as well as finished iron objects of wrought iron of high purity. There is a sharp rise in the use of iron and copper during the Kushana period with about 125 iron objects and 114 copper objects in Kushana levels, as against only 27 iron and 23 copper objects in NBPW levels. A significant improvement is noticed in number, typology and technology of iron as the technique of lamination as well as steel making was definitely known during Kushana period.² Other important antiquities discovered at Khairadih include Kushana coins, ceramics, stamps, seals with Kushana-Brahmi characters, typical Kushana figurines, beads of semi-precious stones such as carnelian and basalt, ivory, gold and silver foiled beads, skin rubber, potter's stamp, dabbers, unique pieces of red glass tiles, green glass, a great number of glass beads and bangles suggesting glass working. The chemical analysis of the glasses from Khairadih revealed [sample No. 4 (KDH 2262) – Na₂O-K₂O-CaO-Al₂O₃Fe₂O₃-SiO₂] that glasses with similar composition but lower quantity of oxides of iron were produced in Bactria on a large scale in Kushana times.³ The above evidence sufficiently proves that Khairadih evolved as an important centre of trade and manufacturing during the Kushana period with flourishing iron, copper and glass industry.

Trial excavations at **Waina**⁴ in Ballia district yielded a four-fold cultural sequence beginning with pre Narhan (Period I-A) and Narhan culture (Period I-B), through the NBPW (Period II), Sunga-Kushana (Period III) and Gupta (Period IV) periods. Burnt brick structures, terracotta human and animal

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figurines, pestles, iron and copper objects, sprinklers of red ware, etc. were discovered from Period III (Sunga-Kushana).\textsuperscript{1}

**Agiabir** in Mirzapur district grew from a small hamlet of chalcolithic settlers (Period I) into a well-developed township by the Sunga-Kushana period (Period IV). It is located on the left bank of Ganga, with an area extending over a kilometre along the river in the form of a series of four mounds.\textsuperscript{2} Remains of Period IV are found at mound 2 and 3 and the Sunga-Kushana deposit is 2.2 metre thick at mound 2, comprising layers 4-8. Three phases of burnt brick structures were exposed, including a house complex of eleven rooms with a courtyard, a boundary wall and a small ring well within its premises.\textsuperscript{3} Walls of two rooms of another structure and an underground structure made of complete bricks of Kushana period with rectangular holes at regular intervals, were also exposed. From another nearby house complex a large amount of charred rice grain in the form of lumps was discovered. In the first phase mostly large size bricks, viz. 52 × 28 × 8 centimetre were used. In the second phase bricks of a smaller size, viz. 44 × 27 × 6 centimetre and 41 × 26 × 6 centimetre were in vogue where as the structures of the upper phase were built of reused bricks.\textsuperscript{4} Typical Kushana red ware and red-slipped-ware with sprinklers, large storage jars, bowls with incurved rim, bottle-necked jars, button-knobbed and inkpot lids, basins and miniature vessels, lugged-*Karahi*, as the main types were found in Period IV (Sunga-Kushana). Terracotta votive tanks, eighteen copper coins, an ivory seal with four Brahmi letters, six terracotta sealings, a typical terracotta female figurine, beads of semi-precious stones, glass beads, iron and copper objects, a copper mirror, terracotta human and animal figurines were also unearthed. These finds confirm that Agiabir entered the "developed urbanization phase" in the Sunga-

\textsuperscript{1} P. Singh and A.K. Singh, 'Trial Excavations at Waina, Dt. Ballia', *Pragdhara*, No. 6, 1995-96, p.53.
Kushana period\textsuperscript{1} when kiln-fired bricks were extensively used for building structures, floors, drains and wells. Baked tiles were profusely used for roofing. The discovery of a large number of copper and iron objects, beads of semi precious stones and glass, coins, seal and sealings and a well developed clay art in this period suggests that it was the most prosperous period of the site. This prosperity continued in the early phase of the Gupta period (Period V)\textsuperscript{2} as well but signs of degradation are noticed in the later phase after which the site was deserted.

Excavations at Bhagwas and Nai Dih in Sonbhadra district also yielded antiquities related to Kushana age. A floor made of rammed brick jelly and brick nodules mixed with ash was discovered at Bhagwas along with red ware and grey ware from Period III (Sunga-Kushana).\textsuperscript{3} Red ware ceramic industry datable to Sunga-Kushana period and a wall of seven courses of a brick structure was encountered in Period III of Nai Dih.\textsuperscript{4}

Malhar\textsuperscript{5} in Chandauli district yielded red ware with typical Kushana shapes such as inkpot-type lids, bowls with in-turned rim, water vessel, etc., along with terracotta figurines, two copper coins including one Kushana coin, bone objects, iron objects and iron slag from Period IV (early historical phase – 200 B.C. to 300 A.D.). Not a single brick was found at Malhar suggesting that the site continued to have remained a rural settlement although evidence of iron-smelting is found from about 1800 B.C.\textsuperscript{6}

Excavation at Erich\textsuperscript{7} in Jhansi district revealed evidence of structural activities in the habitational deposit of Period III belonging to the Kushana period. Typical Kushana pottery and a terracotta seal suggesting the existence of a monastic establishment was also found.

\textsuperscript{1} V. Tripathi and P. Upadhyay, Puratattva, 2006-07, op. cit., p.128.
\textsuperscript{2} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{3} IAR, 1997-98, pp.185-6.
\textsuperscript{4} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{6} Ibid., p.102 and 195.
\textsuperscript{7} IAR, 1980-81, pp.100-101.
## EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN UTTAR PRADESH

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Pd. II – NBPW  
Pd. III – Sunga  
Pd. IV – Kushana  
Pd. V – Gupta  
Pd. VI – medieval | (i) Seven Kushana structure  
(ii) Apsidal temples  
(iii) 120 copper coins in a jar  
(iv) Large number of plaques. | IAR, 1966-67, pp, 40-43,  
IAR, 1968-69, p, 40.  
Excavation at Sonkh, by Herbert Hartel, 1993 |
Pd. II – NBPW  
Pd. III – Sunga  
Pd. IV – Kushana  
Pd. V – Gupta  
Pd. VI – Medieval | (i) Stone inscriptions of Kanishka Huvishka and Vasudeva.  
(ii) Reference to several stupas, shrines and Viharas  
(iii) Large number of coins & sculptures. | IAR, 1976-77, p. 54,  
IAR, 1954-55, pp.15-16  
IAR, 1974-75, p 50  
IAR, 1975-76, p. 55 |
| 3.     | Dhulkot Mound 27° 51' 05"; 77° 56' 08" | Mathura | Kushana | (i) Fortification, brick structures  
(ii) Red ware  
| 4.     | Kaseri 28° 21' N; 77° 15' E | Meerut | Pd. IV – Kushana | (i) Baked bricks with finger marks  
(ii) Red ware | IAR, 1969-70, p. 43. |
| 5.     | Moradhwaj 29° 05'; 78° 44" | Bijnor | Pd. I- NBPW,  
Pd. II B-Red ware (c. 200 B.C.-A.D. 300) | (i) Ku temple complex  
(ii) Stupa  
(iii) Kushana coins.  
(iv) Site abandoned after Kushana period | IAR, 1982-83, pp. 94-95  
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<td>IAR, 1981-82, pp. 73-74.</td>
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<td>Pd V – Gupta</td>
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<td>(i) Well of wedge shaped burnt bricks</td>
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<td>Pd. II – Gupta</td>
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<td>Pd. III – Medieval</td>
<td>Typical pottery of Kushana period.</td>
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<td>Period I corresponds to the period between 2nd century BC. And AD. 2nd century</td>
<td>Red ware, bowls vases, basins, spouted jars</td>
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<td>Pd. II – eighth cen. A.D. to twelfth cen. A.D.</td>
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| 21. | Ramasare Purwa            | 26°50'36" N; 81°00'49" E | Lucknow dt.  
Pd. I – late Kushana period  
Pd. II – Gupta.  
Pd. III – early medieval  
(i) 35 cm. thick deposit in Pd. I  
(ii) Kushana red ware  
(iii) Two bhattis  
IAR, 1996-97, pp. 151-52 |
| 22. | Fatehpur-Sikri            | 27°05'37" N; 77°39'36" E | Agra  
Pd I – OCP  
Pd II – PGW  
Pd. III – NBPW  
Pd. IV – Sunga-Kushana  
Pd. V – Medieval  
(i) Structure of Sunga–Kushana period, walls, floors, house complex  
(ii) Sunga–Kushana pottery  
IAR, 1988-89, pp. 81-82. |
| 23. | Atranjikheda             | 27°40'; 79°05'   | Etah  
Pd. I – PGW  
Pd. II – NBPW  
Pd. III – Sunga  
Pd. IV – Kushana  
Pd. V - Gupta  
Pd IV corresponds to 200 BC and AD.300. mound size 3960x1500x65 feet  
(i) House complex of burnt bricks  
(ii) Dominant red wares  
(iii) Coins and a coin mould  
IAR, 1963-64, pp. 34-36.  
IAR, 1979-80, p. 75. |
| 24. | Kanauj                    | 27°03' N; 79°68' E | Farrukhabad  
Pd. I – PGW  
Pd. II – NBPW  
Pd. III – Kushana  
Pd. IV – late medieval  
(i) Red ware from Kushana levels  
| 25. | Darau                     | 28°34'48" N; 78°37'23" E | Bulandshahar  
-  
(i) A Ku structure  
(ii) Twelve courses  
IAR, 1985-86, pp. 78-79 |
| 26. | Jajmau                    | 26°25'; 80°05'  | Kanpur  
Pd. I – NBPW  
Pd. II – Kushana  
(i) Structure of baked bricks (38x24 x 4 or 5 cm)  
(ii) Ink pot type lids, sprinklers, Makarmukha spouts  
IAR, 1976-77, p. 54. |
| 27. | Hulaskheda                | 26°40'27"N; 81°00'49"E' | Lucknow  
Occupation from 6th cen. BC to 5th cen. AD.  
Phase III – Kushana  
Phase IV - Gupta  
(i) About 2 Km broad passage connected with by – lanes, 2 housing complexes, drains  
(ii) Ring shaped cu seal with legend Sri Vasudeva  
(iii) Large number of Kushana coins.  
IAR, 1985-86, p. 82.  
IAR, 1986-87, p. 79.  
IAR, 1979-80, p. 77. |
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<td>IAR, 1979-80, p. 76.</td>
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G.R. Sharma, Excavation at Kausambi, 1969


Puratattva, No. 36, 2005-06, pp. 85-92

EI, Vol VIII, 1905-06, pp 173-177
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| 43  | Aktha          | Varanasi | Pre NBPW to Gupta period, Pd IV- Kushana period | (i) Structures.  
(ii) Beads of semi precious stone, iron object | Puratattva, No. 39, 2009, pp. 141-46 |
| 44  | Bhagwas        | Sonbhadra dt. | Pd. I – BRW  
Pd. II - NBPW  
Pd. III – Sunga–Kushana  
Pd. IV – Gupta  
Pd. V – Medieval | (i) A floor made of rammed brick jelly  
(ii) Red ware | IAR, 1997-98, pp. 185 |
| 45  | Nai Dih        | Sonbhadra dt. | Pd. I – Pre NBPW  
Pd. II - NBPW  
Pd. III – Sunga-Kushana | (i) Red ware  
(ii) Brick structures. | IAR, 1997-98, pp. 186 |
| 46  | Bhita          | Allahabad dt. | Maurya –Gupta period. | (i) Structures, shops, ring well  
(ii) Large number of seals and sealings  
(iii) 17copper coins of Kushanas | ASIAR, 1911-12, pp. 34-42  
IAR, 1996-97, pp. 108-08 |
| 47  | Erich          | Jhansi   | Pd III – Kushana | (i) Evidence of structural activity,  
habitational deposit of 1.50 meters  
(ii) Ku ware with typical pottery such as inkpots, sprinklers, knife edged bowls, carinated handi  
(iii) A terracotta seal suggesting existence of monastic establishment | IAR, 1990-91, p.87. |
| 48  | Birdpur        | Basti    | -               | (i) Structural phase of Kushana period  
| 49  | Piprahw        | Siddharthnagar | Occupation from 800 B.C. onwards  
Pd IV – Sunga-Kushana | (i) Structural activity  
(ii) Stupa  
(iii) Terracotta sealing  
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(v) Inscriptions | IAR, 1976-77,p. 50.  
IAR, 1973-74, p. 33 |
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<td>Puratattva, No. 34, 2003-04, pp.1001-05</td>
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EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN UTTAR PRADESH
Excavation at **Orajhar**\(^1\) in district Balrampur brought to light three distinct cultural periods, viz. Kushana, Gupta and medieval period. Period I revealed a monastic complex in the form of small cells of Kushana period having brick paved floors (37 24 5 centimetre). An entrance and staircases were exposed in the southern part of the mound, proceeding towards the centre where cells of uniform size (2 1.7.5 metre) were found. Uniform sized cells were noticed in the western side of the mound also, surrounded by an enclosure wall. During the Kushana period, these cells were constructed all around the mound. Sprinklers, vases, inkpot-type lids, miniature pots, typical stamped pottery of Kushana period, animal figurines, terracotta arecanut beads, a pestle and a votive or ritual object, are among the finds of the site. Habitation at Orajhar seems to have begun in the Kushana period in the form of a monastic settlement.

**Hariharpur**\(^2\) in Jaunpur district yielded a three-fold cultural sequence representing pre-NBPW (Period I), NBPW (Period II) and the Sunga-Kushana periods (Period III). The ceramic industry of Period III is essentially red ware of different varieties including shapes like vases, spouted vases, sprinklers, inkpot lids, miniature pots, etc. The excavation revealed evidence of flimsy structural activities of fired bricks. Some copper coins, iron and copper objects, beads of terracotta, stone and glass were also noticed.

Many other sites in Uttar Pradesh have revealed Kushana red ware and other antiquities during excavations including **Bateshwar**\(^3\) (Agra district), **Fatehpur Sikri**\(^4\) (Agra), **Darau**\(^5\) (Bulandshahar district), **Durvasa**\(^6\) (Allahabad district), **Musanagar**, **Sarai Mohana**, **Drupad Kila**\(^9\) (Kampilya, Bareilly

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3 *IAR*, 1975-76, pp.42-44.
4 *IAR*, 1988-89, pp.81-82.
5 *IAR*, 1985-86, pp.78-79.
6 *Puratattva*, No. 16, 1985-86.
district), Narhan\(^1\) (Gorakhpur district), Dhuriapar\(^2\) (Gorakhpur district) and Pakkakot\(^3\) (Ballia district).

Even by the most conservative calculation at least 9445 coins (173 gold and 9272 copper) have been retrieved as coin hoards from different parts of Uttar Pradesh and this number does not include unspecified or stray finds.\(^4\) The coin holdings of four select museums of Uttar Pradesh, viz. State Museum, Lucknow; Government Museum, Mathura; Allahabad Museum and Bharat Kala Bhavan, Varanasi consist of at least 399 gold and 5739 copper coins of different Kushana rulers.\(^5\) This numismatic evidence is indicative of a high level of monetization and entrenched Kushana rule in Uttar Pradesh.

In the light of the evidence of 70 excavated Kushana sites and 711 explored sites from Uttar Pradesh, we can convincingly argue that the Kushana influence was pervasive in the entire Ganga-Yamuna doab. Almost all the excavated sites in the state have revealed flourishing Kushana layers and numerous sites attained their peak of prosperity during the Sunga-Kushana phase. Apart from a few pockets like the south-western districts of Lalitpur, Jhansi, Hamirpur, etc. and the western hilly tracts, Kushana currency and related antiquities are profusely found all over the state of Uttar Pradesh. Both the numismatic and inscriptive data furnish enough evidence of the well-entrenched Kushana power in the Ganga-Yamuna doab with a large number of urban centres.

In the neighbouring Kingdom of Nepal, material related to Kushanas has been discovered at a few sites. During the excavation of Tilaurakot in the Taulihawa district of Nepal, a large number of Kushana coins were found

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1 IAR, 1985-86, p.90.
3 Puratattva, No. 40, 2010-11, pp.200-204.
along with Ayodhya coins. Tilaurakot, about 90 kilometre east of Sravasti, yielded NBPW from Period I and Kushana terracottas, iron pans and sockets, carnelian beads, Kushana coins, etc. from Period II.\(^1\) Kushana copper coins, red ware and terracottas were discovered from Pipri\(^2\) and Kadzahawa\(^3\) in Bhairwa district and Sisania\(^4\) in Taulihawa district of Nepal. A large number of copper coins of Wema Kadphises and Kanishka were also discovered from Bua Dih\(^5\) (Kapilavastu). Moreover the reckoning used by the Early Licchavis of Nepal is now supposed to be identical with the Kanishka era of A.D. 78,\(^6\) suggesting Kushana influence in the region.

In the Rabtak inscription of year 1, Kanishka claims to have ruled over India as far as Shri Champa (Bhagalpur) and Pataliputra. The eastern conquest of Kanishka is recorded in the Chinese chronicle, *Fu fa-tsang yin yuan chuan*, which states that Kanishka attacked the king of Pataliputra and obtained the three most valuable gifts, i.e. Buddha's alm-bowl, a miraculous cock and Ashvaghosha.\(^7\) The *Ma-ming p'u-sa-chuan* also narrates a similar story about the invasion of Magadha by the little Yueh-chih\(^8\) (should be the great Yueh-chih). On the strength of these literary and epigraphic records we can safely conclude that at least for some time some parts of Bihar were indeed a part of the vast Kushana empire. The archaeological and numismatic data also lends support to the above, as a number of sites in Bihar and present day Jharkhand have yielded Kushana coins and rich Kushana antiquities.

The ruins of ancient Pataliputra have been located at Kumrahar near Patna. Several excavations conducted at the site have brought to light rich

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\(^1\) IAR, 1970-71, p.31; 1972-73, p.33.

\(^2\) IAR, 1961-62, pp.70-72.

\(^3\) Ibid.

\(^4\) Ibid.

\(^5\) Ibid.


\(^7\) B.N. Mukherjee, *The Rise and Fall of the Kushana Empire*, 1988, pp.74-75.

remains of brick structures of monastic establishments and terracotta objects of the Kushana period.\textsuperscript{1} A hoard of 43 copper coins of the Kushanas was discovered during excavation by Spooner.\textsuperscript{2} The excavation of Kumrahar yielded a five-fold cultural sequence beginning from the PGW till the late medieval phase.\textsuperscript{3} Period III (c. A.D. 100-300) of the site was represented by bowls, miniature vases and rimless carinated vases in red ware and coarse grey ware. Other antiquities of Period III include terracotta figurines with typical Kushana peaked head-dresses, copper antimony rods and spoons, inscribed sherds with letters \textit{na} and \textit{sa} and a sealing inscribed as Saghasa. At Sadargilli in Patna city an amulet of gold, fashioned after one of the coin-types of Huvishka showing the bust of the king on the obverse and goddess Ardoksho on the reverse, was found during excavation.\textsuperscript{4} During the Ratan Tata excavation of 1912-13, two gold Kushana coins, one each of Vasudeva and a later Kushana ruler were discovered,\textsuperscript{5} apart from three Kushana copper coins.\textsuperscript{6} In 1913-14, another 52 Kushana coins were discovered from Pataliputra.\textsuperscript{7} The excavation of 1951-55 also brought to light seven copper coins of Kanishka and Huvishka\textsuperscript{8} and another broken golden talisman, imitating the gold coins of Kushanas.\textsuperscript{9}

Excavation at Champa in Bhagalpur district yielded structures, red ware, copper rods, bangles, stone and terracotta beads, a few terracotta stamps and female figurines of the typical Kushana type, from Period III (post NBPW phase).\textsuperscript{10} In trench CMP-IM Kushana period was represented by a two roomed structure and beads of stone and terracotta.\textsuperscript{11} The earliest occupation at Champa is represented by Black and Red ware and the site continued to

\textsuperscript{2} JNSI, XIII, 1951, pp.144-47.
\textsuperscript{3} IAR, 1955-56, pp.22-23.
\textsuperscript{4} IAR, 1955-56, pp.22-23.
\textsuperscript{5} JNSI, XIII, 1951, p.146.
\textsuperscript{6} ASIAR, 1912-13, p.84.
\textsuperscript{7} ASIAR, 1913-14, p.74.
\textsuperscript{8} Altekar and Mishra, 1958, \textit{op. cit.}, pp.10 and 99.
\textsuperscript{9} \textit{Ibid.}, p.131.
\textsuperscript{10} IAR, 1982-83, pp.15-16; 1975-76, p.7.
\textsuperscript{11} \textit{Ibid.}
be inhabited up till the early medieval phase through NBPW, Kushana and Gupta periods.

Excavation at **Rajgir**, the ancient capital of Magadha, by A. Ghosh, revealed evidence of habitation in the pre NBPW phase (Period I), NBPW phase (Period II) and 1st century B.C. (Period III) and early centuries of the Christian era (Period IV) that partly represent the Kushana period. Later excavation at Rajgir revealed three cultural periods, viz. NBPW, Sunga and Kushana, in the construction of the defence wall. Traces of three roads linking Rajgir with other cities have been noticed from the period spanning from the 1st century B.C. to 1st century A.D. It has been surmised that the last phase of occupation of the city spread over the 1st century A.D. after which it was deserted.

Excavation at **Buxar** in Shahabad district brought to light ceramics of the early centuries of the Christian era from Period III, that included typical Kushana shapes like sprinklers, bowls and jars. Terracotta human figurines characterized by Kushana type head-dress, blades, sealings and iron objects were also discovered from this period. A large hoard consisting of 354 Kushana copper coins, comprising of 23 coins of Wema Kadphises, 159 of Kanishka and 172 coins of Huvishka was also discovered at Buxar.

During the excavation of **Sonpur** in Gaya district structures of baked bricks (43 30 6 centimetres) were encountered in Period III (200 B.C. – A.D. 200) which determine the time frame of urban existence at the site. Iron objects, including nails, knife-blade, axes, daggers, lances, crucibles, ivory objects, beads of terracotta and semi precious stones, bangles, antimony rods of copper, terracotta toy carts and figurines, cast coins, votive tanks, etc. have

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1. Al, No. 7, pp.70-78.
4. Ibid.
5. ASIAR, 1907-08, p.83; 1908-09, p.33; JNSI, XIII, 1951, pp.144-147.
been found all of which show that the site was a flourishing urban centre in the Kushana period. The main ceramic industry of Period III was red ware characterized by sprinklers, spouted basins, inkpot type lids, etc., of which some were incised and stamped. Remains of the post-Kushana period have so far not been reported from the site.¹

Excavation at Taradih (Bodhgaya) in Gaya district shows evidence of continuous occupation in a seven-fold cultural sequence beginning with the Neolithic phase (Period I) followed by Chalcolithic (Period II), Iron age (Period III), NBPW (Period IV), Kushana (Period V), Gupta (Period VI) and Pala (Period VII) phase.² Period V of the site was represented by red ware of the Kushana period, of which the main types were sprinklers, spouts, frying pans with handles and flat-based bowls.³ Burnt brick structures of the Kushana period were exposed, which represent the usage of burnt brick for the first time at the site. Other important antiquities of Period V of Taradih include terracotta-stoppers, earlobes, beads of glass, stone and terracotta, gamesmen, copper and glass bangles, iron nails, sickles, razors and terracotta figurines.⁴ A thin disc of gold or a talisman bearing the impression of the bust of Huvishka on both sides was also found by Alexander Cunningham in a deposit below the Vajrasana at Bodh Gaya.⁵

Long years of excavation at the ancient site of Vaishali (Basarh) have brought to light a four-fold cultural sequence beginning with NBPW phase [Period 1(a) and Period 1(b)] followed by Black and Red ware and Red ware in Period II (300 B.C. – 100 A.D.). Period III (100 – 300 A.D.) covers the Kushana period when NBPW and Grey ware were absent but Red ware continues to occur plentifully and Period IV (300 – 500 A.D.) can be assigned to the Gupta period.⁶ The site was first excavated by Spooner⁷ but further

³ IAR, 1988-89, pp.6-8.
⁴ IAR, 1988-89, pp.6-8.
⁵ JNSI, Vol. XX, pp.1-3.
⁷ ASIAR, 1913-14, p.99.
excavations by Krishna Deva and Vijay Kant Mishra in 1950 and then by B.P. Sinha and S.R. Roy in 1958-62 confirmed that Vaishali was a flourishing city under the Kushanas. Massive brick structures including one having a length of 170 feet, concrete floors, roads, drains, corridors, etc. have been exposed in Period III which covers the Kushana phase. At Raja-Vishal-ka-Garh or the fortress having a circumference of about 5000 feet, three successive walls of fortification were encountered of which first two belong to the Sunga period while the third has been assigned to the Kushana period (2nd cen. A.D. or later). In Period III a 9 feet wide brick rampart with military barracks was constructed. Kushana coins, seals and sealings with Kushana legends, remains of a community-well, sprinklers, lipped-bowls, deep bowls, etc. have been found in the Kushana levels. The other notable finds include terracotta human figurines, characterized by non-Indian faces and wearing typical Kushana turban, large number of beads of semi-precious stones, glass bangles, exquisite gold ear-rings, silver amulets and metal objects. A curious seal of Kushana period belonging to Ravidasa with the emblem of a Persian fire altar (no. 26) has also been discovered. One copper coin of Wema Kadphises was found during the earlier excavation of 1911-12 and 9 coins were found during 1958-62 belonging to Wema Kadphises (2), Kanishka (3), Huvishka (3) and a later Kushana ruler (1). The above material and numismatic evidence indicate that Vaishali was a prosperous city under the Kushana but no evidence of a post-Gupta habitation has been found at the site.

Chechar Kutubpur in Vaishali district is strategically located near the confluence of the Ganges, Gandak and Punpur rivers. The excavation of the site yielded antiquities belonging to pre NBPW (Period I), NBPW (Period II),

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7 ASIAR, 1913-14, p.181.
Kushana (Period III) and Gupta (Period IV) period. A large burnt brick structure in large sized Kushana bricks, perhaps a part of some residential complex, was exposed in the Kushana period (Period III). A few Kushana coins including a gold issue of Kanishka and a Buddhist image were also discovered from the site.

Excavation at Hella Bazpur in Vaishali district revealed a 3.60 metre thick habitational deposit, divisible in five layers, of which layers 3 to 5 belong to the Kushana period. Pottery recovered from these layers (3-5) mainly include plain red ware, slipped red ware and some fragments of polished red ware. The other antiquities include iron pieces, copper bangles and pendent, terracotta human and animal figurines, head of a nagi figure, skin-rubber, wheels, whistle, bead, bone-dice and a circular stone-weight. The animal figurines found commonly show horse with saddle, dog, wolf, etc. No habitational remains were found in the lowermost deposits (6-7) while mixed material of early medieval period was found in layer (2), suggesting that the site was first inhabited in the Kushana period and was deserted thereafter.

Period IV of Ramchaura, Hazipur in Vaishali district belongs to the Kushana level and is mainly represented by layer 4. Pottery recovered from the Kushana level is marked by red ware, red slipped ware and red polished ware including shapes like bowls, dishes, handis, sprinklers in different colours, sizes and shapes and vases bearing designs. A pucca floor made of surkhi-lime (2.40 × 1.65 × 0.16 metre) connected with a covered brick (35 × 22 × 5.5 centimetre) drain of 2.90 metre in length and 0.23 metre in breadth running from west to east was also exposed during excavation. Terracotta

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2 Ibid.
3 Y. Mishra, Svetapur (Chechar) ki Khoj Aur Uska Itihasa, Patna, 1979, pp.129-47.
4 IAR, 1999-2000, p.16.
5 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
human and animal figurines, wheels, balls, beads, stoppers, sealings and iron objects were also discovered from the Kushana levels.\(^1\)

**Katragarh** in Muzaffarpur district was fortified in the Sunga period in three phases. Excavation within the fortification have revealed four periods of occupation of which a 1.0 metre thick deposit of Period III yielded a gold coin of Huvishka.\(^2\) A few terracotta sealings bearing legends in Brahmi characters of the Kushana times, a crucible, red ware including sprinklers, vases, jars, handis, a few micaceous red ware sherds, some vases with incised and stamped designs were also discovered which show continuous existence under the Kushana.\(^3\) Structures of brick walls and probably tiled-roofs were exposed in the Kushana period.\(^4\) The occupation of Period IV belongs to the Pala times suggesting that the site was deserted after the Kushana period.

Excavation at **Kolhua** in Muzaffarpur district exposed a brick lined tank and a massive stupa of Sunga-Kushana to late Gupta period.\(^5\) The magnificent gigantic shrine, in its initial two phases of construction was turned into a residential apartment in the third phase.\(^6\) From the Sunga-Kushana phase (Period II) red ware and black ware was discovered which included sprinklers, spouts, wide-mouthed storage jars, vases, lid-cum-bowl, in fairly good number.\(^7\) The pots are mostly treated with thin ocherous red slip and are well fired.

Long years of excavation at **Chirand** in Saran district show that this site was under continuous habitation from the Neolithic times (Period I) to the Kushana period (Period IV) through Chalcolithic (Period II) and NBPW (Period III) phase.\(^8\) The last cultural deposit (Period IV) at Chirand is represented by typical Kushana pottery and terracotta figurines with marked foreign traits of

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\(^3\) IAR, 1976-77, p.12; 1975-76, pp.3-8.
\(^6\) Ibid.
\(^7\) IAR, 1991-92, p.6.
\(^8\) IAR, 1964-65, p.7; 1980-81, pp.9-10; 1971-72, pp.6-7.
Kushana period.\(^1\) Burnt brick residential structures with provisions for bathrooms and drains and a Buddhist monastery complex were exposed in the Kushana phase along with rich antiquities like glass and copper beads, skin rubbers, terracotta discs objects, iron objects, a votive tank with three seated drummers, stone objects, copper Kushana coins,\(^2\) etc. A hoard of 88 Kushana copper coins was also found during excavation.\(^3\) The above material suggests that Chirand was a flourishing urban settlement under the Kushana period but the site was apparently deserted after Kushana times.

**Manjhi** in Saran district has a huge mound of about 526 metre in circuit and 14 metre in height, that yielded a three-fold cultural sequence of Black and red ware (Period I), NBPW (Period II) and the Sunga-Kushana red ware (Period III).\(^4\) It was already an iron-using urban settlement in the NBPW phase (Period II) which continued to flourish in the Sunga-Kushana period (Period III) as well. Period III (50 BC. to A.D. 300) at Manjhi is marked by an exclusive red ware industry with bowls with incurved rim, ink-pot lids, spouted basins, bottle-necked sprinklers, etc.\(^5\) Baked brick structures ascribable to two structural phases, walls, an ivory scale, an inscribed terracotta sealing of 2\(^{rd}\)-3\(^{rd}\) century A.D., large number of terracotta human and animal figurines, pestles, stoppers, gamesmen, ornaments, pendent, etc. have been discovered from the period.\(^6\) Manjhi seems to have been deserted after the third century A.D.

Excavation at **Lauriya-Nandangarh** in Champaran district brought to light evidence of urban development during the period 200 B.C. – A.D. 200. A huge brick stupa (80 inch high), a massive rampart wall and several brick structures were exposed apart from terracotta figurines and iron objects

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\(^1\) IAR, 1980-81, p.9.
\(^2\) IAR, 1964-65, p.7; 1971-72, pp.6-7.
\(^3\) IAR, 1968-69, p.6.
\(^6\) Ibid.
including dagger and arrowheads.\textsuperscript{1} Three copper coins, (1 of Kanishka and 2 of Huvishka)\textsuperscript{2} and a hoard of 48 Kushana coins (44 of Kanishka and 4 of Huvishka) along with 14 Kushana imitations were found\textsuperscript{3} during excavations. Archaeologically speaking the site seems to have declined after c. A.D. 200.\textsuperscript{4}

The Sunga-Kushana phase in the five terraces of the stupa of \textbf{Kesariya} in Champaran district was represented by bricks of 36 21 6 centimetre. This phase yielded exclusive red ware pottery including miniature pots, pot-cum-lids, spouts, stamped pottery and sprinkler heads.\textsuperscript{5}

Excavation at \textbf{Panda} in Samastipur district revealed a sequence of four cultural periods in an occupational thickness of 6.88 metre deposit, viz. Chalcolithic (Period I), NBPW (Period II), Kushana (Period III) and Gupta (Period IV) period.\textsuperscript{6} The rich NBPW layer was followed by a Kushana township in Period III when vigorous structural activity has been noticed in two phases – (a) and (b). A five course brick wall, four ring wells having 13, 15, 16 and 24 courses respectively, a solitary Kushana copper coin and a sealing inscribed in Kushana Brahmi were unearthed in the Kushana horizon.\textsuperscript{7} Other notable antiquities found are terracotta beads, pendants, human and animal figurines, copper-earings, iron knives, antimony rings, ivory objects, beads of semi precious stones and ceramic shapes like bowls, incurved rims, dishes, etc.\textsuperscript{8} Structures made of broken bricks and robbed from earlier period were encountered in Period IV that suggests decline in the post-Kushana phase.

Excavation at \textbf{Viratpur} in Saharsa district brought to light four major stratas, of which layer 3 (80 metre thick) yielded a few potsherds showing Kushana influence.\textsuperscript{9} Apart from being micacious in appearance, some

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{1} \textit{ASIR}, 1935-36, pp.55-56; 1936-37, pp.4950.
\item \textsuperscript{2} \textit{ASIR}, 1935-36, pp. 64 and 49-55.
\item \textsuperscript{3} P.L. Gupta, \textit{op. cit.}, 1994, p.78.
\item \textsuperscript{4} R.S. Sharma, 1987, \textit{op. cit.}, p.50.
\item \textsuperscript{5} \textit{IAR}, 1997-98, pp.13-14.
\item \textsuperscript{6} \textit{IAR}, 2002-03, pp.47-48.
\item \textsuperscript{7} G. Chaudhury, 'Brief report on a few Recent Excavations', \textit{Puratattva}, no 33, 2002-03, p.160.
\item \textsuperscript{8} \textit{Ibid.}
\item \textsuperscript{9} \textit{Ibid.}, pp.160-61.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
potsherds include typical Kushana shapes like vases, carinated handis, long and narrow necked jars while some others are of pre-Kushana period.¹

**Senuwar** in Rohtas district yielded deposits of four cultural periods, viz. Neolithic (Period IA & IB), Neolithic-Chalcolithic (Period II), Iron and NBPW (Period III) and Kushana phase (Period IV).² At the end of Period III Senuwar was abandoned and the site was reoccupied in the Kushana times around the beginning of the Christian era. Period IV (c. 1st-3rd century A.D.) was represented by ceramics of Kushana period like bowls, sprinklers and carinated handis, etc.³ Fragmentary remains of burnt brick walls, floors of a residential complex, a large sized terracotta figurine of a female deity, stone beads, iron implements, terracotta figurines marked by foreign ethnic features, terracotta balls and wheels were unearthed during excavation.⁴

Excavation at **Juafardih** in Nalanda district yielded a three-fold cultural sequence with evidence of occupation in Chalcolithic (Period I), NBPW (Period II) and Sunga, Kushana, Gupta and Post Gupta (Period III) phase.⁵ The ceramic industry of Period III was dominated by red ware represented by bowls, handis, large and small channel-spouted pots, lid-cum-bowls and miniature bowls. A mud stupa was constructed at the site sometimes in the fifty century B.C. (Period II) which was later enlarged.⁶ In Period III the height of the central portion of the stupa was raised to 4.65 metre and large sized bricks (37 28 7, 36 27 2/8, 35 26 6 centimetre) were used for encasing the wall of the stupa and pradakshinapath. A terracotta human head, made out of a mould, with protruding eyes and graceful facial expression, applied with ochreous slips has been ascribed to early Kushana

⁶ Ibid., p.72.
Beads of semi-precious stones and terracotta objects were also found during excavation.

Red ware of the Sunga-Kushana period along with grey ware and black slipped ware has been encountered in Period III of **Jhimhimia-Kalistan** in Sahebganj district.\(^2\) Typical Kushana shapes like spouted vessels and sprinklers in red ware were also noticed during the excavation of **Antichak** in Bhagalpur district.\(^3\)

**Saradkel** in Ranchi district of present-day Jharkhand has a huge mound spreading over 14-16 hectares with a height of about 9 metre. It seems to be a single-culture site in which two occupational periods belonging to the early centuries of the Christian era were noticed.\(^4\) Evidence of iron smelting ovens has been found in one occupational level while the other is marked by intensive building activity, mostly in baked bricks. A number of houses with some floors made of brick-bats set in a clay base and solidly rammed, were noticed.\(^5\) In one of the rooms, a stone anvil was found which might have been used for beating iron. A massive defence wall of baked bricks (41 26 7 centimetre) was exposed along the periphery of the mound.\(^6\) Red ware of coarse fabric and thick section dominated by jars, bowls and vases represented the pottery of the period. The assemblage of such typical pottery forms as the ledged lid, flat based bowl, sprinkler, combined with incised designs strongly suggest it to be a Kushana complex.\(^7\) A large number of iron objects of diverse utility and slag was found during the excavation which indicates that iron industry was an important part of the economy of Saradkel.

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\(^3\) *IAR*, 1978-79, pp.41-42.
\(^5\) *IAR*, 1964-65, p.6
\(^6\) *Ibid.*
\(^7\) *Ibid.*
It has been reported by Rani Srivastava that in the Rakha hill mine belt in Singhbhum district of Jharkhand, a large number of stamps bearing terracotta moulds were found scattered in a large area. According to her "this was a centre for casting coins during the Kushana period".\textsuperscript{1} But as pointed out by P. Bhatia, Kushana coins were die-struck coins. An earlier reporting of Rakha hill moulds show that these were used to fabricate 'Puri Kushana coins'. If these moulds bear Kushana portraits and legends, this may have been a centre of preparing imitation, duplicate or forgeries of Kushana coins, which are often met with in India and Pakistan.\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1} R. Srivastava, \textit{Mining and Metallurgy in Ancient India}, Delhi, 2006, p.64.
## EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN BIHAR

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<th>S. No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Buxar (25°34'N; 84°00'E)</td>
<td>Shahabad dt.</td>
<td>NBPW, red ware, medieval glazed ware Pd.III-early centuries of the Christian era.</td>
<td>(i) Typical Kushana pottery&lt;br&gt;(ii) A hoard of 354 Kushana copper coins.&lt;br&gt;(iii) Sealings, iron objects, terracotta, figurines, etc.</td>
<td>IAR, 1965-66, p. 11; 1963-64, pp. 8-9.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Hella Bajpur</td>
<td>Vaishali dt.</td>
<td>Kushana period (Layers 3 to 5)</td>
<td>(i) Earliest habitation belongs to Kushana pd.&lt;br&gt;(ii) Red ware, terracotta figurines, copper bangles, iron pieces, etc.</td>
<td>IAR, 1999-2000, p. 16.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Place Name</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Phases</td>
<td>Red Ware</td>
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</table>
| 6 | Jhimjhimia-Kalisthan | Sahebganj dt. | Pd I – BRW  
Pd II – NBP  
Pd III – Sunga – Kushana  
| 7 | Juafardih (25° 08’ N; 85° 27’ E) | Nalanda dt. | Pd I – Chalcolithic  
Pd II – NBPW  
Pd III – Sunga, Kushana, Gupta, post Gupta | (i) Red ware  
(ii) A stupa  
| 8 | Katragarh (26° 12’ N; 85° 36’ E) | Muzaffarpur dt. | Pd I – NBPW  
Pd II – Sunga  
Pd III – Kushana  
Pd IV – Pala pd. | (i) A gold coin of Huvishka  
(ii) Terracotta sealings, red ware  
| 9 | Kesariya (26° 19’ N; 84° 52’ E) | Champaran dt. | Stupa complex | (i) Bricks of 36x21x6cm used in the Sunga – Kushana phase  
| 10 | Kolhua (25° 10’ N; 86° 06’ E) | Muzaffarpur dt. | Sunga-Kushana to late Gupta period | (i) Massive stupa and brick lined tank  
(ii) Red ware | IAR, 1991-92, pp. 5-6; 1990-91 pp. 3-4; 1989-91 pp. 11-13 |
| 11 | Kumrahar (25° 37’N; 85° 10’E) | Patna | PGW till late medieval phase  
Period III – c.AD 100-300 | (i) Monastic establishments  
(ii) A hoard of 43 copper coins  
(iii) Typical Kushana red ware and terracotta figurines  
(iv) Sealing, copper antiomony rods etc. | IAR, 1955-56, pp. 22-23. |
(ii) A hoard of 48 Kushana coins  
(iii) Iron objects, terracotta figurines, etc. | ASIAR, 1935-36, pp.55-56; 1936-37, pp.49-50. |
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<th>Site Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Saradkel (23° 05’ N; 85° 27’ E)</td>
<td>Ranchi dt.</td>
<td>Single-culture site of early centuries of the Christian era</td>
<td>(i) Mound of 14-16 hectare, with a height of approx. 9m. (ii) Baked brick structures and a defence wall (iii) Iron smelting ovens, stone anvil, red ware, iron objects, etc.</td>
<td>IAR, 1964-65, p. 6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Phase</td>
<td>Periods</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>Taradih (24° 42' N; 85° 00' E)</td>
<td>Gaya dt.</td>
<td>Neolithic to Pala phase</td>
<td>Pd V – Kushana</td>
<td>(i) Burnt brick structures (ii) Red ware with typical Kushana shapes (iii) Beads of glass, stone and terracotta, bangles, iron nails, etc (iv) A gold talisman bearing the impression of the bust of Huvishka on both sides</td>
<td>IAR, 1997-98, p. 15; 1988-89, pp. 6-8; 1987-88, pp. 9-10.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
EXCAVATED KUSHANA SITES IN BIHAR AND JHARKHAND
Apart from the above discussed excavations, plenty of Kushana coins have been found all over Bihar and Jharkhand as stray finds. A find of three Kushana gold coins, with at least one of Huvishka was reported by S.C. Roy from Belwa daga\(^1\) in Ranchi district. Two looped Kushana gold coins were discovered as Treasure trove along with a lump of gold at Lohardaga\(^2\) in Ranchi district, one gold coin each of Wema Kadphises and Huvishka with loops were reported from Kumharia, again in Ranchi district.\(^3\) Some gold coins of Vasudeva were found in Bhagalpur district\(^4\) and a looped later Kushana gold coin was found along with Samudragupta’s coin and ornaments in a pot at Sultanganj in Bhagalpur district.\(^5\) Eighteen Kidara Kushana gold coins were discovered at the village Puraria (Rafiganj) in Gaya district.\(^6\) R.K. Chaudhury had seen two Kushana gold coins,\(^7\) one of Huvishka and the other of a post Vasudeva Kushana ruler with a goldsmith at Monghyr. In Saran district three Kushana copper coins were reported from Belwa\(^8\) and a hoard of several hundred Kushana copper coins mixed with the coins of Mitra rulers of Ayodhya was found in an earthen pot at the village Laghusa.\(^9\) In Champaran district a small hoard of Kushana copper coins was found at Cherithan\(^10\) and about a thousand Kushana coins were found in an earthen pot in Radhia village.\(^11\) A hoard of 500 Kushana copper coins was discovered at the village Uttara in Darbhanga district.\(^12\) In the Chhota Nagpur region 130 Kushana copper coins, including 110 of Kanishka, were found at Kositanan in Hazaribagh district,\(^13\) one copper coin of Kanishka was discovered at Karra in Ranchi district.\(^14\) Some Kushana coins were reported from Nandangarh,\(^15\) 281

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\(^2\) P.L. Gupta, *ibid.*, p.76.
\(^3\) *IAR*, 1966-67, p.62.
\(^5\) *INC*, II, p.84.
\(^6\) P.L. Gupta, 1994, *op. cit.*
\(^7\) *Ibid.*
\(^8\) *ASIAR*, 1918-19, pp.46 ff.
\(^15\) *ASIAR*, 1936-37, p.50.
Puri-Kushana coins were found at Masubazar in Purulia district and 93 Puri-Kushana coins at Birbhum in Manbhum district. In the Singhbhum district, 12 Puri-Kushana coins were found at Kusum bagan, 26 at Maholia, a big hoard of Puri-Kushana coins at village Pindrabera and 363 Puri-Kushana coins as a hoard on Rakha hills.

We have come across 22 excavated sites and 83 explored sites from Bihar (including Jharkhand) that yielded Kushana material. An exploration conducted in the Sitamarhi district brought to light 55 sites and all of them yielded Kushana red ware suggesting occupation during the Kushana period. Thus, on the strength of the proclamation made by Kanishka in the Rabtak inscription, combined with archaeological and numismatic evidence we can affirmatively argue that some parts of Bihar were under the Kushana empire right from the year 1 of Kanishka era. The territory of north Bihar was so congruous with the main lands of the Kushana empire in Uttar Pradesh that the political expansion in the area seems to be a logical possibility.

A few excavated sites in Orissa have brought to light Kushana coins, Puri-Kushana coins and antiquities related to the Kushana period. Excavation at Sisupalgarh near Bhubaneshwar in Puri district yielded a three-fold cultural sequence with evidence of occupation from the beginning of the 3rd century B.C. to the middle of the 4th century A.D. Six copper Kushana coins, including one coin each of Kanishka and Huvishka, a gold coin pendant and four Puri-Kushana coins were unearthed from Period II B (c. A.D. 100-200) and Period III (c. 200-350 A.D.). The gold coin, which was used as a pendant had the image of a sacrificing standing king like that of Kushana king Vasudeva, with Brahmi legend, on the obverse and a Roman head with a

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1 P.L. Gupta, 1994, op. cit., p.79.
3 P.L. Gupta, Ibid., p.80.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
legend on the reverse. Red ware pottery, with applied and incised decorative patterns, imported rouletted ware, iron objects and clay bullae were also discovered during excavation. Regular occupation at the site came to a close after Period III. Jaugada in Ganjam district yielded 11 Puri-Kushana coins which were found freely scattered in Period II, represented by red ware.

Excavation at Lalitagiri in Cuttack district revealed a monastic complex (approximately 36 36 metre) belonging to the Kushana or even an earlier phase. Ten circular stone stupas, four brick stupas, fifty votive stupas, at least three monasteries, fourteen cells and a water reservoir were exposed during the excavation that showed three phases of structural activities. In the lower most layer (4) an apsidal chaityagriha, "Kushana inscription" (two pieces of inscribed potsherds assigned to c. 2nd-3rd A.D.) and red ware represented by sprinklers, kadahi and handis was discovered. Another huge monastic complex of later period was excavated at Udaygiri in Cuttack district. Period I (early phase) of the site yielded a ceramic industry represented by grey and red wares with jars, basins, carinated at the waist, sprinklers, incense burners and spouted vessels.

During the excavation at Asurgarh in Kalahandi district, a copper coin of Kanishka was found along with a mould for the preparation of beads and ornaments and ground stone tools assignable to the period between 1st to 4th century A.D.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Site/Geocordinates</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Cultural Sequence</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1.    | Asurgarh (29° 54' N; 83° 21' E) | Kalahandi district | 3rd cen. B.C. to 5th cen. A.D. | (iii) A copper coin of Kanishka  
(iv) A mould for preparation of beads, ground stone tools, etc. | IAR, 1972-73, p.27         |
| 2.    | Jaugada (19° 33' N; 84° 50' E) | Gangam district  | -                 | (iv) 11 Puri-Kushana coins from Pd. II  
| 3.    | Lalitagiri (20° 59' N; 86° 24' E) | Cuttack district | -                 | (v) Monastic complex of Kushana or earlier period.  
| 4.    | Udaygiri (20° 16' N; 85° 47' E) | Cuttack district | -                 | (i) Grey and red wares with jars, basins-carinated at the waist, sprinklers, incense burners, spouts etc. from Pd I (early phase) | IAR, 1988-89, pp.66-91; 1987-88, pp.90-95. |
| 5.    | Sisupalgarh (20° 13' N; 85° 51' E) | Puri district    | 3rd cen. BC to mid 4th cen. A.D. | (i) Six copper Kushana coins, a gold coin pendant and four Puri-Kushana coins from Pd II-B and Pd III  
Kushana and Puri-Kushana coins were found in excavations at Viratgarh in Khiching of Mayurbhanj district.¹ Thirteen Kushana coins of Kanishka and Huvishka were found near the foot of Kayema Hills² in Cuttack district, a hoard of Kushana and Puri-Kushana coins was found in the neighbourhood of Purusottampur³ in Ganjam district and another hoard of 135 Kushana and Puri-Kushana coins were found at Sitabhanji in Keonjhar district.⁴ Some other Kushana and Puri Kushana coins⁵ and 5 Puri-Kushana⁶ coins were also thereafter found at Sitabhanji. Three hoards of Kushana and

¹ JNSI, II, p.124.
³ Ibid., p.81.
⁴ JNSI, II, p.124.
⁵ P.L. Gupta, 1994, op. cit.
⁶ JNSI, XIII, p.69.
Puri-Kushana coins were found at Bhanjakia\(^1\) in Mayurbhanja district, including 22 Puri-Kushana\(^2\) in one hoard and 1261 Puri-Kushana coins along with a coin of Kanishka\(^3\) in another. In Mayurbhanj district, 105 Puri-Kushana coins were found at Nuagoan\(^4\) and a hoard of 282 copper coins including 112 coins of Kushana and 170 of Puri Kushana\(^5\) was found at some place. J.D. Beglar had found some 'Indo-Scythain' (Kushana) coins at Jaugada and Gulk near Purusottampur in Ganjam district.\(^6\) Eighty four Kushana and Puri-Kushana coins were found in a hoard at Gauribari Salt factory, near Manikapata\(^7\) in Puri district and 26 Puri-Kushana coins were found in Cuttack district.\(^8\) As many as 910 Puri-Kushana coins were discovered in Balasore district\(^9\) and more than 1000 coins belonging to Kushana dynasty were discovered in three hoards at Banitia\(^10\) in Balasore district. Some more Puri-Kushana coins were found in erstwhile Nayagarh state\(^11\) also. It must be pointed out that most Kushana coins in Orissa have been found along with the Puri-Kushana coins, which have been variously designated as Oriya-Kushana or Imitation Kushana also. A hoard of such coins was at first found in the Puri district of Orissa, for which the type was characterized as "Puri Kushana". These coins were most probably issued by some local rulers of Orissa, imitating Kushana motifs, after the downfall of the Kushana empire. The tendency of the local rulers to imitate the Kushana coinage speaks in volume about strength of the Kushana monetary system.

In the state of **West Bengal** also few sites have yielded sculptures with distinct affinity with Kushana art idioms, coins and pottery related to the

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2. *INC*, VI, p.79; P.L. Gupta, *ibid*.
3. *Ibid*.
Kushana age. Archaeological excavation at Mangalkot in Burdwan district revealed the existence of an urban centre in Period IV (c. A.D. 100-300) datable to the Kushana period.\(^1\) Remains of large scale building activities in two structural phases in well burnt bricks (38 28 5 centimetre and 36 24 6 centimetre), ring wells and drains were exposed in Period IV. Other important finds of the Period are beads of semi-precious stones like carnelian, jasper, agate and glass, inscribed seals and sealings, copper bangles, terracotta figurines, cast copper coins, iron nails, net sinkers, copper rings, etc.\(^2\) The dominant ceramic industry of the period was sturdy red ware represented by shapes like bowls, sprinklers, vases, lids, long-necked surahis, some with stamped and incised designs. Sherds of rouletted ware were also found which signify connection with Indo-Roman trade.\(^3\)

Chandraketugarh in 24 Pargana district yielded beads of glass and stones, seals and inscriptions in Kharoshthi, Brahmi and mixed Kharoshthi-Brahmi characters. Typical Kushana terracotta human figurines were found including one showing a headless warrior from Period IV, assignable to the Sunga-Kushana period.\(^4\) A head and bust of a Buddha-Bodhisattva in mottled red standstone was also discovered which shows close affinity with the early Kushana Buddha-Bodhisattva type of Mathura.\(^5\)

Excavation at ancient Tamralipti near Tamluk in Midnapur district brought to light some copper Kushana coins including a coin of Kanishka\(^6\) and terracotta sculptures of the Sunga-Kushana style along with rouletted ware from Period III.\(^7\) B.N. Mukherjee is of the opinion that settlements of Yueh-chih merchants existed in Tamralipti, Chandraketugarh and some other places in

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\(^1\) IAR, 1989-90, pp.108-09.
\(^3\) Ibid.
\(^6\) PASB, 1882, p.113.
\(^7\) IAR, 1964-65, p.43; 1965-66, pp.93-94.
south Bengal, who were principally horse dealers but seems to have indulged in corn-trade also.¹

**Dihar** in Bankura district yielded a large number of cast copper coins, stone beads, iron objects and Sunga-Kushana pottery from Period II assignable to the early historical period.² The township of Dihar seems to have declined after the early historical period as no occupational deposits are found at the site after Period II.

Excavation at **Pakhanna** in Bankura district brought to light a four-fold cultural sequence representing early NBPW (Period I), Sunga-Kushana (Period II), Gupta (Period III) and Pala-Sena (Period IV) phases.³ The ceramic type of the 'Maurya Sunga period' was followed by that of the Kushana period, which comprised red ware, buff ware, grey ware, black ware but as a whole was dominated by red ware. The main shapes included large storage jars of red colour. Some pottery was stamped and a few sherds of rouletted ware were also found.⁴ The most flourishing stage at Pakhanna was from 1st century to the 3rd century A.D., when it was an urban centre, but progressive decline is noticed thereafter in the material culture of the site.⁵

Two Kushana gold coins including one each of Kanishka and Vasudeva⁶ and a red stone torso of a deity (probably Karttikeya) with Kushana affinity⁷ was discovered at Mahasthan. A gold coin of Vasudeva was reported from Malda,⁸ another from some place in Bogra district⁹ and one coin of Vasudeva in debased gold was found in Murshidabad district.¹⁰ A large number of copper coins of Kushana type were collected by the Directorate of

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² *IAR*, 1983-84, pp.92-93.
⁸ *JPASB*, XXVIII, 1932, p.127.
¹⁰ *PASB*, 1890, p.162.
Archaeology, West Bengal, apparently from the southern districts of Bengal.\(^1\) A copper coin of Kanishka was found in Midnapur district\(^2\) and a few Puri-Kushana coins were found from Brahmandeha\(^3\) in Bankura district. More than 135 inscriptions, either stamped or incised with Kharoshthi or Brahmi letters or mixed letters have been found from Chandraketugarh, Bangarh, Hadipur, Ataghara, Dealpota and Tamluk region of West Bengal. According to B.N. Mukherjee, Kushana merchants from Gandhara and Oxus regions, who used Kharoshthi script migrated to lower Ganga valley in Bengal and settled in Chandraketugarh and Tamluk region. They gradually synthesized Kharoshthi and local Brahmi, as a result a mixed script of Kharoshthi-Brahmi developed\(^4\) in this area. A few sculptures with distinct Kushana affinity include the Surya images from Kumarour and Niamatpur, the Vishnu image from Hankrail and a colossal head from Dinajpur.\(^5\)

\(^3\) *IAR*, 1980,81, p.77.
## EXCAVATED SITES IN WEST BENGAL YIELDING KUSHANA MATERIAL

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<td>2.</td>
<td>Dihar (23 17’ N; 87 22’ E)</td>
<td>Bankura district</td>
<td>Pd II – early historical period No post Pd II occupation</td>
<td>(vi) Sunga-Kushana pottery (vii) Stone beads, iron objects, cast copper coins</td>
<td>IAR, 1983-84, pp.92-93.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXCAVATED SITES IN WEST BENGAL YIELDING KUSHANA MATERIAL
As a fairly large number of Kushana coins and their imitations (Puri-Kushana) have been discovered from Orissa and West Bengal, along with red ware, some scholars like A.S. Altekar, Adris Banerji and P. Singh have argued in favour of the possibility of inclusion of these areas within the Kushana empire. But others like P.L. Gupta have summarily dismissed this view. No inscription issued by the Kushanas has been found east of Ganwaria in Siddharthanagar district of Uttar Pradesh, though the Rabtak inscription of year 1 of Kanishka mentions Saketa (Ayodhya), Kausambi, Pataliputra and Sri Champa, as the satrapies that had submitted to Kanishka's will. So at best it can be surmised on the strength of the epigraphic records that the Kushana rule extended up till Pataliputra and Champa (Bhagalpur) in Bihar. It is generally argued by numismatists that copper being a cheap metal, copper coins did not usually travel far away from their place of issue. But as copper coins are known to have been the principal currency of the Kushana times, having considerable purchasing power, the migration of copper coins from one region to another by traders, soldiers, pilgrims, etc. does not seem to be improbable. The Kushana coins seem to have been in circulation even after the fall of their empire. The Guptas issued a large number of gold coins but failed to issue a regular copper currency leaving a vacuum for small-scale daily transactions. So it is not unlikely that Kushana copper coins, which were profuse and readily available, were used as small currencies for day to day needs, in post Kushana times as well. Kushana copper coins could have travelled to the eastern territories of Orissa and West Bengal through trade not only as currency but as a commodity of need. The prolific discoveries of Kushana coins in West Bengal and Orissa clearly prove that at least copper coins of Kushanas and their imitations were in use in eastern India, even after the eclipse of their empire. About 6 excavated sites in Orissa and 5 excavated

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1. JNSI, XII, pp.121-23; JNSI XX, pp.1-3.
2. JNSI, XIII, pp.107-07.
3. JNSI, XXXV, p.127-41.
7. Ibid.
sites in Bengal apart from some explored sites, have yielded material related to the Kushana period. While it is difficult to speculate political occupation of these areas by the Kushanas, on the basis of coins and sculptures, the extension of Kushana influence on art motifs and monetary economy of eastern India is beyond doubt.

In the light of above evidence, we can convincingly conclude that Kushana influence is writ large on archaeology of entire north India, stretching from Kashmir to West Bengal. We have come across as many as 165 excavated sites and approximately 1500 explored sites during our study which have yielded material related to the Kushana period. While most sites were inhabited from an earlier time, almost all the excavated sites have revealed flourishing Kushana layers, suggesting that they attained their peak of prosperity in the early centuries of the Christian era coinciding with the Kushana age. We can discern a spurt of urbanism all over north India and in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan as well, which seems to be a direct result of increased commercial activity and a high degree of monetization in the Kushana period. This period witnessed expansion both in terms of occupational area as well as in economy. Old settlements were consolidated and substantially expanded while new habitational pockets came up on fresh ground. The Kushana age was marked by well-planned structural activities with large baked bricks, roads, drains, unprecedented growth of money economy and evidence of proliferation of crafts, industries and trade, in the archaeological layers. New forms of ceramics, art, coins, inscriptions and architecture appear in profusion, affecting the entire millieu. It is no longer a question of a few Kushana influences here and there but it seems that the Kushana authority was working as a phenomenon, transplanting the whole Kushana complex in the entire area stretching from Kashmir to eastern India and transforming the material culture of its age.