

Antiquity of Kehribal, Martand Could Be Much Older Than We Thought

By **Tahir Bhat** - 8:46 pm May 29, 2022

by **Tahir Bhat**

SRINAGAR: Fresh archaeological survey conducted in Kehribal and Wantrag area of Martand in south Kashmir by Dr Abdul Rashid Lone suggests that the evidences suggest these are much older spots than presumed so far. The revelations were part of the assessments during a training programme on field surveying methods in which four researchers – Irfan, Subzar, Yasir and Rasik, participated.

[Join Kashmir Life Whatsapp Group to stay updated](#)

Dr Lone is an Assistant Professor of Archaeology at the Department of History, University of Kashmir and is teaching history and archaeology of ancient Kashmir.



Copper coin that resembles the Samgrama Raja's Kashmir era currency is also found and preserved. Pic: special arrangement.

While providing archaeological field survey training to the research students, presently enrolled for PhD and working on various aspects of the history and archaeology of ancient Kashmir, Lone said his team came across a lot of archaeological material culture, which predates the anti-Martand some 700 years early than previously thought.

Boy Reveals Dad's Secret At School, Doctors Take Him To Hospital The Next Day

Tip Parents | Sponsored

[Read Next Story >](#)



A 1900 photograph of the Sun Temple of Martand in South Kashmir

As far as the past of Martand is concerned, it is generally believed that the earliest known history of Martand starts with the construction of Sun Temple by Lalitaditya Muktapida of the Karkota dynasty of Kashmir, who built this structure during the eight century CE. Its details are given in Kalhana's *Rajatarangini* (*Tarang* IV, verse 192), a unique work in the classical literature of early south Asia written in 1148-49 CE in verse in the Sanskrit *kavya* style and is divided into eight cantos (or *tarangas*), which number close to 8000 verses.

You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Chadoora: The price (& size) of these hearing aids might surprise you

Hear.com

Boy Reveals Dad's Secret At School, Doctors Take Him To Hospital The Next Day

Tip Parents

Don't Dress Yourself Old: These 17 Fashion Items Make You Look Older

Topbunt

However, a recent archaeological survey training programme carried around this area assessed that the earliest occupations at the Kehribal and its vicinity can be traced back to the first century CE when the valley was under the occupation of Kushanas, a mighty empire that ruled parts of south Asia in the first few centuries of the Christian era, and whose historical evidences are visible at many places across Kashmir.

Boy Reveals Dad's Secret At School, Doctors Take Him To Hospital The Next Day

Tip Parents | Sponsored

[Read Next Story >](#)



Cowries are small sea shells that in ancient were a form of currency. A huge quantity of this currency of the bygone era are protected by people living in Kehribal area of south Kashmir. Pic: Special Arrangement

During the training sessions many unexplored villages of this area were surveyed for providing hands-on training to the students, where various aspects of the past material culture were observed including potteries of various historical dynasties, huge terracotta storage jars, pieces of old stone bowls, burnt bricks of various historical dynasties including Kushanas, rubble masonry bases of old structures, coins of some rulers of ancient Kashmir, cowries, grinding stones etc. The recovery of typical Kushana period burnt bricks and pottery along with other data suggests that this area was probably occupied by the humans much earlier than thought previously. Some conscious residents have been protecting and preserving these materials at individual levels and help researchers to under Kashmir's past better.

It was not immediately possible to fix the absolute chronology of these material remains to conclude the era or the dynasty these antiquities may belong to.

Boy Reveals Dad's Secret At School, Doctors Take Him To Hospital The Next Day

Tip Parents | Sponsored

[Read Next Story >](#)



A huge terracotta storage jar measuring 4.5 x 8.5 ft that belongs to ninth century CE is protected in Kehribal area of South Kashmir. Pic: Special Arrangement

The presence of material remains in relation to the present ecological settings of the area lead us to believe that the earliest settlements in the area around Martand *karewa* perhaps started by the beginning of the Christian era, Dr Lone said.

It is pertinent to mention that some Kushana period settlements are located on top of the mountains in south Kashmir e.g., at Daradkut (Huthmura), Hoinar (Lidroo) and Kutbaletc. The Kushana material culture at Kehribal and its surroundings, however, was observed for the first time during the survey. Other important new discoveries include the sites at Ich Nar, Nag Narin and Chitirgul. Fresh explorations at Kutbal, Hoinar and Daradkut opened up new vistas related to the settlement patterning behaviour of Kushanas in Kashmir.

The preliminary field observations around the area concluded that the people during the early historic period were sustained by large agricultural operations, craft activities and partially by trading and commerce. The irrigation facilities were provided to the *karewa* fields by means of a canal presently known as Shahkul or Ranbir Canal, whose ancient bed was probably dug during the Kushana period.

The textual evidences from the *Rajatarangini* and archaeological evidences from terracotta tile pavements, a conspicuous feature of settlements of the Kushana period in Kashmir, at Daradkut, Huthmura suggest that extensive grape cultivation was done in these areas during the early historic period. Additionally, the location of a large number of settlements on top of the mountains in this area at the same altitudes suggest commercial contacts and linkages between these settlements and even with outside communities at least during the early historic period.

The fresh material remains observed during the survey is a curious scientific study and needs to be cross checked with knowledge on the subject, whose results shall be shared

Boy Reveals Dad's Secret At School, Doctors Take Him To Hospital The Next Day

Tip Parents | Sponsored

[Read Next Story >](#)

You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

The actual size of these hearing aids in Chadoora might surprise you

Hear.com

Finding Visa Sponsored Jobs in the USA from India in 2022 May Be Easier Than You Think

Visa Consultancy | Search Ads

Don't Dress Yourself Old These- 17 Fashion Items Make You Look Older

Tipmansion

Husband Leaves Wife For Her Sister, Then She Wins Big

Travel Sent



Join Our WhatsApp Group

I agree to the Terms and Conditions of Kashmir Life

Chadoora: The price (& size) of these hearing aids might surprise you

Hear.com | Sponsored

Boy Reveals Dad's Secret At School, Doctors Take Him To Hospital The Next Day

Tip Parents | Sponsored

Don't Dress Yourself Old: These 17 Fashion Items Make You Look Older

Topbunt | Sponsored

The actual size of these hearing aids in Chadoora might surprise you

Hear.com | Sponsored

Boy Reveals Dad's Secret At School, Doctors Take Him To Hospital The Next Day

Tip Parents | Sponsored

[Read Next Story >](#)

Finding Visa Sponsored Jobs in the USA from India

Fashion Tips You Think

Visa Consultancy | Search Ads | Sponsored

Don't Dress Yourself Old These- 17 Fashion Items Make You Look Older

Tipmansion | Sponsored

Ya Allah, My Son's Been Unconscious For The Past 3 Months....

Your generosity is our only hope. Please assist me in saving my son. He's been bedridden for the past 6 months and unconscious for the past 3 months. I can't see him like this any longer.

Ketto | Sponsored

Totally Fake - The 35 Most Fake Reality Shows People Actually Believed Were Real

Articlesmansion | Sponsored

Residential Township Starting Rs. 9 Lakh Onwards at Shadnagar Highway

99acres | Sponsored

Jammu And Kashmir - prices for unsold SUVs might surprise you

Unsold 2020 Suvs For Sale | Sponsored

Encounter Breaks Out In South Kashmir

Kashmirlife

Two JeM Militants Trapped In Encounter, Says IGP

Kashmirlife

Couple Makes A Bet: No Eating Out, No Cheat Meals, No Alcohol. A Year After, This Is Them

HealthyGem | Sponsored

Residential Plot, ₹ 5999/- Per Sq.Yard at Kothur

99acres | Sponsored

Boy Reveals Dad's Secret At School, Doctors Take Him To Hospital The Next Day

Tip Parents | Sponsored

[Read Next Story >](#)

Husband Leaves Wife For Her Sister, Then She Wins Big

Travel Sent | Sponsored

Affordable Prices of Unsold SUV Sale in Chadoora - Take a Look!

Find an Affordable SUV Near You

SUV Deals | Sponsored

Advertisements

Tahir Bhat

<https://kashmirlife.net/>

With more than 5 years of experience in Journalism, Tahir Bhat is an Online Editor at Kashmir Life. Tahir has reported on Human Rights, Economy, Polity, Society.



KASHMIRLife



Boy Reveals Dad's Secret At School, Doctors Take Him To Hospital The Next Day

Tip Parents | Sponsored

[Read Next Story >](#)

Boy Reveals Dad's Secret At School, Doctors Take Him To Hospital The Next Day

Tip Parents | Sponsored

[Read Next Story >](#)