



2,000-year-old Buddhist Site Found in Haryana

Why in News?

A team from the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has discovered signs of [ancient Buddhist stupas](#) and structural remains buried beneath the soil in the **Yamunanagar district of Haryana**.

Key Points

About the Research Findings

- **Discovery of Ancient Structures:** Signs of ancient structures, including **circular formations, walls**, and chamber-like rooms, were detected approximately 6 to 7 feet beneath the surface using advanced [Ground Penetrating Radar \(GPR\) technology](#).
 - This points to the possibility of a 2,000-year-old Buddhist site.
- **Survey and Location:** Initiated by the **Haryana State Department of Archaeology**, the survey aimed to uncover historical remains in areas like **Topra Kalan** and surrounding villages, where **old bricks are occasionally found**, indicating potential archaeological significance.
- **Evidence of a Buddhist Stupa:** GPR readings revealed **semi-circular structures**, leading researchers to hypothesize the **presence of an ancient stupa**.
 - Archaeological officials have corroborated this hypothesis, confirming the likely discovery of a stupa.
- **Significance:** These findings may date back to the [Buddhist era](#) or even the [Mahabharata period](#), according to local oral traditions.
 - They provide crucial insights into [ancient trade routes](#), religious networks, and cultural exchanges in the subcontinent.
 - If further excavations reveal similar structures, it could demonstrate the **widespread influence of this ancient culture**.

About Other Prominent Buddhist Sites in India

- **Bihar: Bodh Gaya** is the location where [Siddhartha Gautama](#) attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.
 - **Mahabodhi Temple**, a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) since 2002, marks the spot where Buddha achieved enlightenment.
 - **In Vaishali (Bihar)**, Buddha declared his imminent Parinirvana and preached his final sermon.
 - **Nalanda University** in Nalanda was a famous ancient center of learning, where Buddhist scholars from across the world gathered.
- **Uttar Pradesh:** At Sarnath, Buddha delivered his first sermon to his disciples, outlining the [Four Noble Truths](#) and the [Eightfold Path](#).
 - Dhamek Stupa in Sarnath marks the site of Buddha's first sermon.
 - **Kushinagar** is the place where Buddha passed away and attained **Parinirvana (final nirvana)**.
 - Ramabhar Stupa in Kushinagar is believed to be the place where Buddha was cremated.

- **Himachal Pradesh: Dharamshala**, especially McLeod Ganj, is home to the Tibetan Government-in-Exile and the Dalai Lama. It is a hub for Tibetan Buddhists.
- **Maharashtra: Ellora Caves** are a UNESCO World Heritage site, featuring **rock-cut temples** and sculptures of Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain traditions.
 - The **Ajanta Caves** are famous for ancient Buddhist monasteries and beautiful murals depicting Buddha's life.
- **Madhya Pradesh: Sanchi Stupa** is a UNESCO World Heritage site, known for its **Buddhist stupas**, monasteries, and pillars.

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