



Zehanpora Stupa Excavations

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News Context: Recent excavations in Baramulla have revealed a massive Buddhist complex dating back to the **Kushan Period** (1st–3rd Century CE).

- **Historical Context:** Kashmir was a major center for the **Sarvastivada** school of Buddhism. The **4th Buddhist Council** (under Kanishka) is believed to have taken place in nearby Harwan or Kundalvana.
- **Architectural Significance:** The Zehanpora site shows a mixture of **Gandhara** and local Kashmiri styles, featuring diaper pebble masonry typical of the Kushan era.
- **Wholistic Insight:** This discovery reinforces Kashmir's role as a "Gateway" for Buddhism moving from the Indian heartland to Central Asia and China via the Silk Route.