

Phanigiri

April 7, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



About Phanigiri

- It is a famous **Buddhist site located** 110 km away from Hyderabad.
- This site derived its name from the shape of the hillock, which appears to be like a **snake hood**. The word Phani in Sanskrit means snake and Giri means hillock.
- It is believed to be one of the important Buddhist monasteries strategically located on the **ancient trade route** (Dakshinapatha) connecting the west and the east coast of the Deccan.

Other findings of the excavation

- **Coins:** Lead coins with elephant symbol on one side and Ujjain symbol on the other side are found.
- According to the archaeologists, the coins belong to the **Ikshvaku period** dated between 3rd century and 4th century Common Era.
- Also stone beads, glass beads, shell bangle fragments, stucco motifs, broken limestone sculptures, a wheel of a toy cart, final nails and pottery are excavated.
- Mahastupa, apsidal Chaityagrihas, Votive stupas, pillared congregation halls, Viharas, platforms with staircases at various levels, octagonal stupa chaitya, 24-pillared mandapam, circular chaitya, and cultural

materials that included **terracotta beads, semi-precious beads**, iron objects, **Brahmi label inscriptions** and holy relic casket are also excavated.

- All the cultural material is datable from the **1st century BCE to 4th century CE**.
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Q1: What is a stupa?

It is a hemispherical or dome-shaped structure that contains relics of the Buddha or other sacred objects. Stupas are a fundamental element of Buddhist architecture and have been built across the Buddhist world for thousands of years.

Source: [Telangana | An earthen pot containing 3,730 lead coins from Ikshvaku period unearthed in Phanigiri, Suryapet](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/phanigiri/>

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