



ANCIENT REMAINS OF KUDAR KOT, AURAIYA

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This research paper is an effort of highlighting an ancient site on the left bank of the river Rind in the Kudarkot area under the jurisdiction of Auraiya district of Uttar Pradesh. It lies on the 40km from Etawah at N.H. 91A and about 60km from Auraiya. The site is popularly known as Rukmini Nagar (Lat 26° 48' 38" N and Long 79° 23' 34"E) and about 8 km from the river Rind. According to local tradition the wife of Lord Krishna lived at this place.

The area of the site is spread in about 2 square Kms. and its elevate constitute a mountain like formation. The site reflects heavy structural mound but few portions have been dug out by local villagers. Three layer of construction are clearly visible. The top layer of construction is looking around 14th to 17th century. Construction of 2nd and 3rd layers, obviously going further past years. Due to the reason of unwanted digging of different portions of the land the archaeological remains have been exposed. The site has been presumably divided into several cultural habitations. It is assumed that it belongs to pre-Christian era to early medieval period. Another important aspect is some chattered bones have been seen from the area.

The soil formation in the area is basically alkaline in nature and silted in texture. The major bricks are found having size 35cm x 20cm x 5cm. in the area, several other bricks size have also been noticed. The size of these bricks are 45.7cm x 25.4cm x 6.3cm and 15.24cm x 25.4cm x 5cm. The brick is mainly molded in character. Normally mud mortar is used. The space difference of the joining is about 12 cm. The structural evidences highlight the ancient habitation in this region. Beside this, it reflects architectural skills of the ancient people.

Several numbers of sculptural evidences have been noticed from this site during the period of unwanted digging. The first image is a *nagi/nag devi* made by white *chunar* stone. Her smiling lips, broad eye lashes, charming face highlights the remarkable specimen of art in the middle Ganga plain. The specimen of art presumably dated on pre-Gupta period on stylistic consideration.



A *Vishnu murti* has been discovered from this site and it is about 25 cm in height. The face of the image is corroded. But its four hands and distinct *ayudhas* prove it is a *Vishnu* image. The image can be dated 7th - 8th century A.D. in stylistic consideration. An image which is probably the *matyasa avatar* of *Vishnu* can be dated c. 8th century A.D. have been seen from this site.

Several potteries are also found which have with ornamental effect. Some ornamental design is done at the neck of the vessel and some designs are found at the mouth of vessel. Some fragment of black polished ware also seen. In the some fragment have been found with mesh type ornamental design at the body of ware, which can be dated 6th to 2nd century B.C. have been seen from this site.

Several decorated pillars, doorjambs and lintel have been noticed in this site. One of them is beautifully carved and the architectural motif of *Kalasa* which are encircled by the decorative flowers and leaves motifs. Another pillar shows a *Yaksha* image which is lifting some flower baskets. Another lintel depicted temple motif in the architectural form.

The sculptural mainly made on Chunar sand stone and ortho - quatize. This is mainly a metamorphic rock. The colours of the stones are red and white in nature. The rocks might have come from adjacent area of Rajasthan.

The primary survey in the region reflects this area is highly potential not only archaeo-historical concept but as settlement history around Rind river also.

A proper survey or excavation must be conducted by the proper authorities. This report highlights the ancientness of this area to protect the archaeological site and restore the archaeological evidences in proper way. Beside this, the site must be saved from unwanted digging by the locals.

