



PAKISTAN
HIGH
COMMISSION
COLOMBO



Gandhara

SEMINAR 2023

where every stone tells a story...



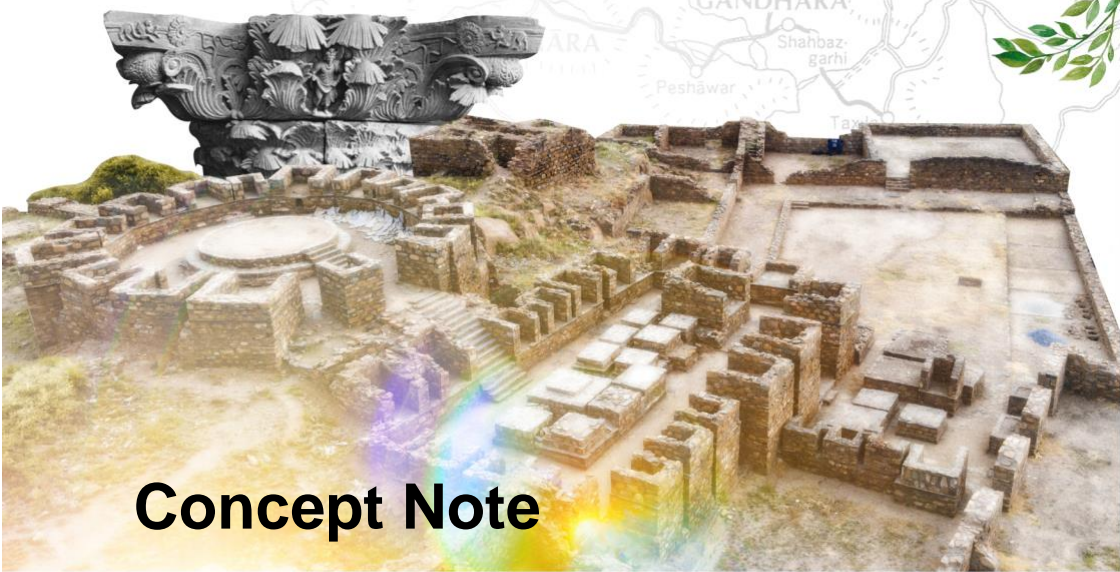
A dark, textured map of the Gandhara region, featuring a network of rivers and mountain ranges. Several locations are marked with glowing yellow points and labels: Zebāk, BO-ZHI, Chitrāl, SHE-MI, Kābul, AGARAHĀRA, Peshāwar, Shahbaz-garhi, and Taxi. The title 'Gandhara' is prominently displayed in a large, golden, serif font across the center. Below it, the tagline 'Where every stone tells a story...' is written in a smaller, white, serif font. The map also includes labels for 'HINDU KUSH' and 'UDDIN' in a bold, sans-serif font.

Gandhara

Where every stone tells a story...



Taxila Museum



Concept Note

Pakistan is a birthplace of many cultures and civilizations. The connection between Buddhism and Pakistan, particularly the Gandhara Civilization, is significant and rich in historical and cultural terms. Pakistan's Gandhara Civilization played a crucial role in the development and spread of Buddhism across the region.

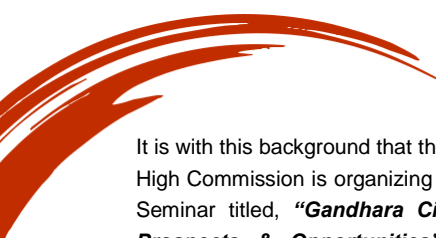
The Gandhara region was a melting pot of various cultures and ideas, where Buddhism flourished and left a lasting impact. The presence of numerous stupas, monasteries, sculptures, and other Buddhist artifacts attests to the prominence of Buddhism in the region.

It's also important to acknowledge the potential of these historical sites and artifacts in promoting religious and cultural diplomacy as well as tourism. They serve as bridges between different cultures and can foster understanding and mutual respect.

In a world facing challenges of hatred, polarization, and intolerance, the teachings of both Islam and Buddhism offer valuable principles of peace, compassion, and tolerance. Interfaith harmony and cooperation are indeed vital tools for countering racism, xenophobia, and religious intolerance. Islam and Buddhism emphasize the importance of treating others with kindness and respect, regardless of their beliefs or backgrounds. These teachings provide a common ground for fostering tolerance and cooperation, which are much-needed in today's world.

The historical and cultural heritage of Buddhism in Pakistan, particularly in the Gandhara region including Takshasila (Taxila), Purushapura (Peshawar) and Pushkalavati (Charsadda), is a testament to the country's diverse past and its potential to promote understanding and harmony in the present.





It is with this background that the Pakistan High Commission is organizing a one-day Seminar titled, ***“Gandhara Civilization; Prospects & Opportunities”*** on ***13th September, 2023*** at ***Convention Centre of Nagananda International Institute for Buddhist Studies (NIIBS)***. ***The seminar will be addressed by prominent Sri Lankan Monks and panelists from Pakistan*** dealing with ***archeology & museum*** affairs.

Objectives of the Seminar:

To promote and preserve the rich historical and cultural Buddhist heritage in Pakistan. By leveraging the power of cultural diplomacy, the seminar further aims to strengthen bilateral relationship, foster mutual understanding, and enhance cultural exchange. The seminar will feature launching of documentary showing Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan, speeches by panelists followed by Q & A session coupled with display of stalls corresponding to theme of the seminar.

Few Travel Agents from Pakistan will also be attending the seminar, which will provide an opportunity for Sri Lankan Travel Agents to workout visit packages for Sri Lankans interested in religious tourism to Pakistan.

The Seminar aims to explore the following key themes:

- a. Pathways to Peace:** Understanding Gandhara Civilization
- b. Exploring the Spirit of Gandhara:** Preserving the past & illuminating the future
- c. Buddhist Heritage:** Exploring Pakistan's rich Buddhist Legacy
- d. Religious Tourism:** Key to preservation

The Seminar will be attended by members of All Ceylon Buddhist Council, Prominent Monks, selected Ministers & Government Officials, Ambassadors of Buddhist Countries, Head of Buddhist Departments of prominent universities, students of NIIBS, Business & Media fraternity and prominent Travel Agents.

The Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs, Sri Lanka has extended all possible support in organizing the event.



Dharmarajika, Taxila

Logo Concept



The logo is a captivating representation of the event's focus on the rich heritage of Gandhara. It combines elements of calligraphy, symbolism and the serene presence of a Buddhist Monk. At the heart of the logo, a dynamic and fluid brushstroke forms the letter 'G'. This brushstroke symbolizes the artistic expression and exploration that are integral to the symposium.

Nestled, within the brushstroke "G" a Buddhist Monk stands in quiet contemplation. The Monk's presence exudes tranquility, wisdom spiritual enlightenment. With a serene expression, the Monk gazes upon the

archaeological landscape of Pakistan, symbolizing the reverence for the historical and cultural significance of Gandhara.

The maroon color palette envelops the logo, representing the deep historical roots and cultural heritage of Gandhara. The rich maroon hue conveys a sense of elegance, depth, and reverence.





Takh i Bahi, Mardan

Event Highlights

13 September

ACTIVITY

THEME

AFTERNOON

RECEPTION
(01:45 PM)

ARRIVAL OF CHIEF GUEST

SESSION I
(02:10 PM)

LAUNCHING OF DOCUMENTARY:

HIGHLIGHTING RICH BUDDHIST LEGACY & GANDHARA CIVILIZATION

SESSION II
(02:30 PM)

GANDHARA CIVILIZATION; PROSPECTS & OPPORTUNITIES:

GUEST SPEAKERS TO DILATE ON THEIR TOPICS FOLLOWED BY Q & A

SESSION III
(03:45 PM)

CONCLUDING SESSION:

ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST / GROUP PHOTO / SOUVENIERS

PARALLEL EVENTS

DISPLAY
OF STALLS

GANDHARA CIVILIZATION:
DISPLAY OF BOOKS / ARTIFACT
REPLICAS

TOURISM ATTRACTIONS:
DIGITAL & BOOKS DISPLAY

Programme of Work

13 September

TIME

ACTIVITY

RECEPTION

01:00 PM	Arrival of guests Display of videos (tourism / Buddhist heritage) Showcasing of stalls
01:45 PM	Arrival of the Chief Guest

INAUGURATION

01:50 PM	Lighting of Polthel Pahara
01:55 PM	National Anthems
02:00 PM	Welcome Address by the High Commissioner of Pakistan
02:10 PM	Launch of Documentary on Gandhara Heritage of Pakistan

SPEECHES BY GUEST SPEAKERS

02:35 PM	Speech by Ven Dr. Kirinde Assaji Thero
02:45 PM	Speech by Ven. Dr. Kallanchiye Rathanasiri
02:55 PM	Speech by Dr. Abdul Samad, Director Archaeology, KP
03:05 PM	Speech by Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, Director Taxila Museum

CONCLUSION

03:15 PM	Address by the Chief Guest
03:25 PM	Refreshments
03:55 PM	Question & Answer Session
04:15 PM	Dispersal



Jamal Garhi, Mardan

Speakers



Venerable Dr. Kirinde Assaji Thero

Deputy Chief Monk Gangaramaya
Temple, Hunupitiya, Colombo

Topic:

Pathway to Peace; understanding
Gandhara Civilization

Venerable Dr Kallanchiye Rathanasiri

Department of Buddhist & Pali Studies, Bhiksu University

Topic:

Exploring the spirit of Gandhara; preserving
the past and illuminating the future



Dr. Abdul Samad

Director, Directorate of Archaeology & Museums,
KP PhD (Archaeology)

Topic:

Exploring Pakistan's Rich Buddhist Legacy

Muhammad Iqbal

Director Taxila Museum

Topic:

Religious tourism; key to preservation





Bhamala, Haripur

Speakers' Bio Data



Venerable Dr. Kirinde Assaji Thero is Ven. Dr. Kirinde Assaji Thero is Deputy Chief Monk of the Hunupitiya Gangaramaya Temple (one of the premier temples of Colombo). He did Ph.D (Buddhist Philosophy from New Delhi University. He has served as Special Adviser to the SL President and PM. He has visited Pakistan in 2021 alongwith delegating of Monks and is quite familiar with Pakistani Buddhist Heritage. He regularly attends the international conferences on Buddhism in different countries.



Venerable Dr. Kallanchiye Rathanasiri Thero is a Senior Lecturer in Pali Language, attached to the Department of Buddhist & Pali Studies, Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka. He has done his Doctorate in Philosophy from University of Wuhan, China. He is Director of Unit of Post Graduate, External Degrees & Extension Courses, Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka.



Dr. Abdul Samad is a young Presidential Civil Award winning professional archaeologist from Pakistan with a qualification of PhD (DAAD) from the Institute of South Asian Languages and Cultures, Free University Berlin Germany and Fulbright post doctorate from the University of Wisconsin, USA. He has more than fifteen years of experience in promoting the rich archaeological heritage of Pakistan and has internationally recognized exceptional contributions through his thirty successful projects. He taught almost for ten years at Hazara University before joining as Director, Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-Pakistan.



Muhammad Iqbal Khan is serving as Deputy Director, Head of Taxila Museum and World Heritage Sites, Taxila. His research thesis work is on Ancient History of Taxila (600 B.C to Muslim Rule). Iqbal Khan joined as Visiting Lecturer at University of Punjab and had been teaching Tangible and Intangible Culture and Archaeology to M.A. classes from 2008 to 2014. He is a member of Advisory Committee as Archaeological Expert in The Department of Archaeology, University of Punjab and a Member Ad hoc Committee for Syllabus Review, Department of Archaeology, University of Punjab. He also worked as Gandhara Expert for Buddhist Heritage and for promotion of Religious Tourism.

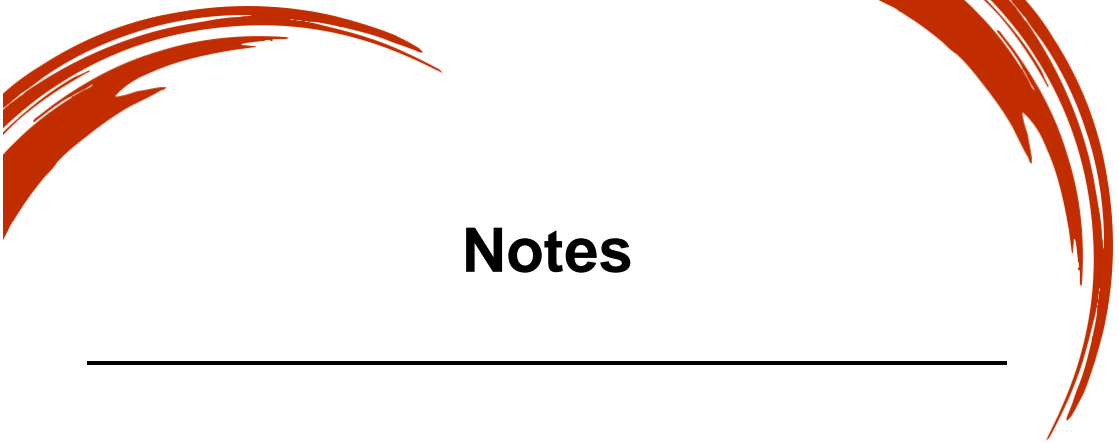




Peshawar Museum

Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper designed for taking notes. It features ten horizontal black lines spaced evenly down the page. At the top center, the word "Notes" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The top corners of the page are decorated with thick, expressive orange brushstrokes that curve upwards and outwards, framing the central area.



Notes



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