

## CONTEXTUALIZATION OF AN ASSEMBLAGE OF GRAVE GOODS FROM HINDUKUSH HEIGHTS HOTEL-SINGOOR, DISTRICT CHITRAL, PAKISTAN

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### ABSTRACT

*The present paper presents a brief report on an assemblage of grave goods that was discovered during the construction of the Hindukush Heights Hotel, Chitral. The grave goods were salvaged from destroyed grave(s) by the owner of the hotel and were photographed during a non-random systematic transect survey of the hills around Singoor village in 2005. These grave goods were divided into three categories, namely pottery vessels, copper/bronze vessels and copper/bronze personal ornaments. These included six complete vessels, a copper/bronze bowl, a copper/bronze bottle and two copper/bronze bangles or anklets. Functionally, it seems that the pottery vessels and copper/bronze bottle were meant for drinking/storage of water or other liquids, while the copper/bronze bowl was possibly used for eating food or drinking liquids. A comparison of the grave goods from Hindukush Height Hotel with dated graves in Chitral suggests that the copper/bronze vessels possibly belonged to mid-1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE, while the copper/bronze bangles/anklets could probably be dated from 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE to 1<sup>st</sup> century CE. The jug with pinched lip may belong to 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> century CE, while the drinking pots could possibly be dated to the last quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium CE. The site of Hindukush Height Hotel was probably in existence from mid-1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE to the end of 1<sup>st</sup> millennium CE.*

**Keywords:** Gandhara Grave Culture; Protohistoric Cemeteries; Singoor Graves; Gankoreneotek Graves; Geographical Distribution; Chitral Archaeology; Chitral Chronology;

### INTRODUCTION

The Hindukush Height Hotel is one of the best known hotels in Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Pakistan (Figure 1). The hotel is located at latitude 35° 54' 11.51'' N and longitude 71° 48' 14.38'' E, on a hilltop at the northern tip of the Singoor hills, above the Gankoreneotek village. The hotel offers an unhindered view of the Singoor valley, the Chitral airport and surrounding areas, including parts of the Chitral city. The

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hotel is known for its beautiful location, surrounding landscapes and for its local food. The hotel was built between 1993 and 1997; however, the grave goods were encountered from the onset of excavations for the foundation of the hotel in 1993 (pers.comm. Quaid-i-Azam Kalash 2005/2019). The site was not properly excavated or reported to the Directorate of Archaeology and Museum, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Government of Pakistan for proper excavations at the time.

The hotel is located near the Singoor village, which is dotted with about a dozen protohistoric and early historic non-Muslim cemeteries that have received dedicated attention from archaeologists during the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century CE (Figure 2). In fact, District Chitral has received intermittent attention from archaeologists and only limited explorations and excavations have been conducted so far (for example see Ali et al., 2002; Ali et al., 2005a, b; Ali et al., 2008; Hemphill et al., 2018; Ali et al., 2016; Ali and Zahir, 2005; Zahir, 2016a, 2016b, 2017a, 2017b, 2020a, 2020b). However, most of the excavation activities remained confined to and around Singoor village. The sites of Shah Mirandeh, Gankoreneotek and Chakasht Graves had been extensively excavated by archaeologists. In fact, the Hindukush Heights Hotel and Gankoreneotek, the most extensively excavated site in Chitral to date, share the same low hill; the Gankoreneotek Graves are located at the foot and edge while the Hindukush Heights Hotel is located on the top of the same hill. The relatively low hills of the piedmont Hindukush mountain series make an arc around the Singoor village, and the Hindukush Heights Hotel and Gankoreneotek Graves are located at the north-eastern tip of this arc.

A non-random systematic transect survey in 2005, centred around the site of Shah Mirandeh graves, recorded the presence of a dozen grave sites in the vicinity of the Singoor village (Figure 2). These sites were primarily located on the slopes and top of the low hills, spread around Singoor. During the same survey, a group of artefacts was shown to the author by the owner of the Hindukush Heights Hotel, Prince Siraj ul Mulk and Mrs. Ghazala Siraj ul Mulk, claiming it to have come from grave(s) that were destroyed during the construction of the hotel. The grave goods, especially the pottery vessels, were unique and seemed to have similar characteristics as other grave goods that have come from protohistoric cemeteries' excavations in the nearby vicinity. The present paper presents a brief account of the grave goods and their possible contextualization within the archaeology of Chitral (Figure 3).

### **THE GRAVE GOODS**

The grave goods included six complete vessels, two large copper/bronze bracelets/anklets, a copper/bronze bowl and a copper/bronze bottle. It was not clear if all the artefacts came from a single grave or these were collected from different graves. However, the manager of the hotel, Mr. Quaid-i-Azam Kalash claimed that the grave goods came from different graves and that the graves were constructed of large schist slabs (pers.comm. Quaid-i-Azam Kalash 2005/2019). He further informed that the graves were

primarily encountered on the edges of the summit of the hill. The author do not know that whether these were the only complete or unbroken findings from the graves or whether there were other complete forms of grave goods that were not selected for safeguarding by the hotel management. It was also not clear whether unimportant or broken grave goods were selected or thrown away or left in the ground. The fate of the skeletal materials in the ground, or from the graves, was also not known. In addition, it was also not clear whether the decision to not destroy or to keep the complete artefacts was influenced by their somewhat unique shapes and aesthetics, and that others with rather common shapes were destroyed. The details of the available grave goods are given below:

### **POTTERY VESSELS**

The pottery vessels could be divided into four sub-categories, namely bottles or flasks, a small-sized water pitcher, a jug and two drinking pots. All the vessels were primarily of the red-ware category. The water pitcher type vessel had blackened areas, possibly by soot, on its exterior surface. The vessels seemed to have been prepared on turn table rather than thrown on the wheel. These vessels had relatively thin, but irregular, sections. The outer and inner surfaces of all the vessels were mostly covered with white encrustation, possibly due to their presence in the grave during the process of the decomposition or their use prior to the burial or deposition of calcium carbonate within the grave contexts. However, the scientific reason of the white encrustation was not known and chemical analyses in future may reveal its possible reason.

- a) The first sub-category of the pottery vessels consists of two bottles or flasks. Both the vessels had a rounded body with a high narrow neck. The larger of the two had a straight mouth. The mouth of the smaller bottle/flask is outward turned and it had a flattened round neck. The larger bottle/flask was broken on one side and the interior of the body and section of the vessel were visible (Figure 4). The mouth of the smaller bottle/flask was broken at two places but the pot is largely intact (Figure 5). At least, in the larger of the two vessels, the neck and the body seemed to have been prepared separately and joined later on. The neck was relatively much thinner as compared to its body. The smaller vessel's neck and body seemed to have been prepared at the same time. On the exterior of the larger bottle/flask, three round protuberant and relatively, to the surface of the pots, large decorative dots had been provided, possibly indicating a potter mark or a form of decoration or a measure counter of the bottle/flask (Figure 4). There was no applique design on the surface of the smaller bottle/flask. No appliqued decorative elements were provided to the smaller vessel. Both the bottles/flasks seemed to have functioned as part of the drinking or storage of liquids, for example water and/or wine; however, the actual use of these vessels in the past can only be accessed through scientific analyses.
- b) The second sub-category is represented by a single but unique example of a jug (Figure 6). The jug was relatively smaller in size and had a rounded body with

- raised and pinched lip. Small portions of the rim and lip had broken off. The jug was red in colour and is well-fired. No handle was attached to the body; however, it is possible that the handle had broken off but no distinct marks were visible on the surface during the preliminary documentation process.
- c) The third sub-category is represented by a single small-sized pitcher with a round body and flaring rim (Figure 7). Most of the rim is broken. The pitcher seemed to have been constructed on turn-table technique as evidenced from the presence of irregular inner surfaces. The red colour of the pitcher was broken by relatively large patches of black soot. The presence of soot on the outer surface may indicate that this pot was probably used for heating liquids, such as water or milk. It may be possible that the vessel was used as cooking pot; however, the narrow neck of the pot made it distinct and it did not fall in usual category of cooking pots from other sites in northwestern Pakistan.
- d) The fourth sub-category is represented by two drinking pots. The pots were similar in size but had differences in texture and size of the mouth. The first, with the wider mouth and outward turned rim than the other, was made of red-clay; however, the pot did not seem to have been well-fired or was fired in reducing environment as indicated by greyish core (Figure 8). It is also possible that the greyish core might have been caused by the presence of oxides and minerals in the clay and not just as a result of the firing environment. The pot had a broken hole in the middle of the body, probably caused by the excavations of the grave. The second pot was perhaps the most beautiful vessel of the collection and it was red in colour and was provided with red slip (Figure 9). The mouth of the pot was smaller as compared to the other and had a straight thin rim.

#### **COPPER/BRONZE VESSELS**

This is the most unique category of the grave goods as complete copper/bronze vessels had never been discovered from protohistoric or historic non-Muslim cemeteries' excavations in Chitral and from other protohistoric cemeteries in northwestern and northern South Asia. Two copper/bronze vessels were recorded at the Hindukush Heights Hotel, including a deep bowl and a round body flask with high narrow neck, similar to the pottery flask from the same site but smaller in size. The bowl was complete and was in almost perfect condition; however, there was a small fracture on one side. The bowl had a round body, straight rim and had a round flat base (Figure 10). The body of the bowl expands from the base till the middle and then straightens up till the rim. There was no decoration visible on the surface of the bowl, as the surface is covered by green patina (possibly caused by the chemical reaction of copper carbonate and hydroxide) and white encrustation. However, three equally spaced grooved lines were visible on the edge of the rim of the bowl. The bowl seemed to have been obtained through casting rather than beating of the copper/bronze sheet.

The copper/bronze bottle/flask had a rounded body with high narrow neck; however, the round neck of the copper/bronze bottle/flask seemed to be relatively wider as compared to the flasks in pottery (Figure 11). The mouth of the neck was relatively wider as compared to its body as it has flaring rim. It was relatively in poor state of preservation as most of its base is missing and the lower body is covered by dents, cracks, punctures and wrinkles. These might have been caused by the use of the flask prior to the burial in the grave. The body of the flask is almost completely covered by green patina and some patches of white encrustations. No decoration was visible on the surface of the of the flask. The body of the flask was much thinner as compared to the body of the bowl and its own neck. Based upon preliminary documentation, it may be conjectured that the neck of the bottle/flask was cast while the body was constructed of beaten sheet and that these were joined afterwards. However, the accurate construction technique can only be known after scientific investigations.

### **COPPER/BRONZE PERSONAL ORNAMENTS**

Two relatively large sized copper/bronze bangles, which were most probably used as anklets as evidenced from other burial sites in Chitral, represented the personal ornaments' category of the grave goods from Hindukush Heights Hotel. The two bangles/anklets were almost of the same size and make almost a perfect circle (Figure 12). Both the bangles/anklets were patinated green and have patches of white encrustations. These bangles were possible constructed of a round copper/bronze rods and these rods were beaten flat and thin at two locations (points) in both the bangles/anklets. The ends of bangles/anklets were slightly apart from each other and relatively thick in size as compared to the body, making a stub like feature at the ends of the bangles.

### **DISCUSSION**

Hindukush Heights Hotel is located in the immediate vicinity of the Singoor village in District Chitral; in fact, the Hotel is located on a relatively higher hill to the north of the village overlooking the Singoor village and valley. The Singoor village is situated on the right bank of the Chitral River, near the junction of Chitral and Lut Kho rivers and it forms a sub-valley of its own within the larger lower Chitral valley. The sub-valley is opened on the north, east and west by these rivers respectively (Zahir, 2017b, p. 4). The Singoor valley is about 2.5 kilometres long and about a kilometre wide from north to south and east to west respectively. This sub-valley is perhaps one of the most fertile valleys in the lower Chitral region and its plains are watered by the Chitral and Lot Kho Rivers, and the local Chitral Gol and Singoor Gol quasi-perennial streams (Zahir, 2017b, p. 4). The strategic location of the Singoor village at the mouth of the Garam Chashma Valley and Upper Chitral regions, such as Mastuj, make it an important centre on the ancient routes connecting lower Chitral with Upper Chitral, Gilgit – Baltistan, Badakhshan, Central Asia and China and these routes passed through or near to Singoor Village (Zahir, 2017b, p. 6). The Singoor village is surrounded by the piedmont hills of the Hindukush range, making a

semicircle or arc on the northern and western sides; this arc measures more than two kilometres in perimeter. This arc is dotted with protohistoric and early historic cemeteries (Figure 2).

The site of Hindukush Heights Hotel was documented in 2005 during the first non-random systematic transect survey in Chitral and the site was first mentioned in 2012 (Hemphill et al., 2018, p. 2; Zahir, 2012, p. 331). The non-random transect survey was conducted at the time of the excavations of the Shah Mirandeh graves at Singoor village and was meant to identify protohistoric graves through field walking the landscape in the vicinity of Shah Mirandeh graves at Singoor. The survey was planned around the fact that most of protohistoric cemeteries were located on either fans/terraces or slopes of the mountains. As the site of Shah Mirandeh graves was also located on the slope, so it was assumed that it is highly likely that similar sites would be located in comparable locations. Thus, the purpose of the non-random survey, where the existence and geographical settings of a single large protohistoric site was already known, was to identify similar sites in analogous landscape settings. The survey was optimized to document the existence of protohistoric cemeteries in the immediate surrounding hills of the Singoor village. As a consequence of the survey, eleven cemeteries, including the sites of Gankoreneotek, Gankoreni village, Hindukush Heights Hotel, Chakasht 1 & 2, Mirandeh, Noghur Dhok, Lashino Dhok, Kolambi and Sinjal Graves were identified. The site of Dolamuch near Seen Lasht was recorded in a subsequent survey in 2008 during the excavations of Gankoreneotek Graves. Thus, the site of Hindukush Heights Hotel is located in a dense cluster of protohistoric and early historic non-Muslim cemeteries in a limited area around the Singoor village.

The earliest Chitral cemeteries are much later than the protohistoric cemeteries excavated in the Dir and Swat valley; however, the Chitral cemeteries continue much longer than the Dir and Swat cemeteries (Zahir, 2012, 2016a). In fact, new radiocarbon dates suggest that the Chitral cemeteries possibly continued right up to the end of 17<sup>th</sup> century CE (Narasimhan et al., 2019, pp. 161 – 162).

Site Name	Lab. Identification No.	Context	Radiocarbon age (BP)	Calibrated date (95% confidence)
1.Gankorenotek	WK-22036	Grave 1	2494 ± 30	790 – 420 cal.BC
2.Shah Mirandeh, Singoor	WK-22040	Grave 22	2167 ± 30	360 – 110 cal.BC
3.Shah Mirandeh, Singoor	WK-22038	Grave 1	1975 ± 30	50 cal.BCE – cal.CE 90
4.Shah Mirandeh, Singoor	WK-22039	Grave 21	1499 ± 30	cal.CE 440 – 640
5.Parwak	WK-22759	Grave 31 / Burial 2	1157 ± 37	cal.CE 770 – 980

6.Parwak	WK-22758	Grave 31 / Burial 1	1148 ± 36	cal.CE 770 – 980
7.Parwak	WK-22760	Grave 51	1138 ± 37	cal.CE 770 – 980
8.Parwak	Beta- 428663	Grave 52	1200 ± 30	cal.CE 720 – 895
9.Shah Mirandeh, Singoor	Beta- 428668	Grave 51	310 ± 30	cal.CE 1485 – 1650

Table 1: Radiocarbon measurements from protohistoric and historic cemeteries in Chitral (Ali et al., 2008; Narasimhan et al., 2019, pp. 161-2; Zahir, 2016a)

Nine radiocarbon measurements are now accessible for proposing a relatively accurate reconstruction of the archaeology and history of the District Chitral. These dates provide a clue to the existence of protohistoric burial traditions and early historic non-Muslim/pre-Muslim burial traditions from at least 8<sup>th</sup> century cal.BCE to 17<sup>th</sup> century cal.CE (Table 1). The radiocarbon measurements from Gankoreneotek suggest a date range from 8<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> centuries cal.BCE. From the same site, two Chinese Tang Dynasty coins of mid-8<sup>th</sup> century CE have been discovered from a grave (for details see Zahir, 2019). It may be argued that the Gankoreneotek Graves, located immediately below the site of Hindukush Heights Hotel, were at least in existence from 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE till 8<sup>th</sup> century CE. There are two radiocarbon measurements from Shah Mirandeh graves which suggest 4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> centuries cal.BCE as the earliest date ranges for graves therein. A couple of other radiocarbon measurements from the same site suggest 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries cal.CE as the latest date ranges. It may imply that the Shah Mirandeh graves were in existence from at least 4<sup>th</sup> century cal.BCE till the end of 17<sup>th</sup> century cal.CE. Thus, the protohistoric and historic cemeteries in the vicinity of the Hindukush Heights Hotel are datable from 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE at the earliest and 17<sup>th</sup> century CE at the latest. The date ranges from Parwak in the upper Chitral region are consistent and extend between the early 8<sup>th</sup> to the late 10<sup>th</sup> centuries cal.CE (Ali et al., 2008).

The grave goods assemblage from Hindukush Heights Hotel was very interesting and diverse. A comparison of the Hindukush Heights Hotel's assemblage with assemblages from other protohistoric cemeteries in District Chitral lead to a tentative chronological settings of the site in question. Thus, bottles or flasks similar to the Hindukush Heights Hotel specimen had been documented from protohistoric graves in Ayun village, in the lower Chitral region (Allchin, 1970, p. 1). The vessels from Ayun had been broadly compared with the pottery assemblages from Swat and Dir region and had been dated to the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE (Allchin, 1970, p. 4). Similar flasks had also been recovered during the excavations of graves at Shah Mirandeh and Gankoreneotek Graves in the Hindukush Heights Hotel neighbourhood.

A similar jug with pinched lip from Hindukush Height Hotel had also been discovered from Ayun. However, the Ayun specimen had a handle and had been dated to the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE (Allchin, 1970). In fact, it was noted that jugs of

similar forms were 'extremely rare' in South Asia and their comparable specimens come from protohistoric graves in Swat and Dir (Allchin, 1970, pp. 1–2). A similar jug, albeit with a handle, was unearthed during the excavations of the Shah Mirandeh graves (Figure 13). The Shah Mirandeh specimen come from grave 21 and was dated through radiocarbon dating method to  $1499 \pm 30$  BP (WK-22039) or 440 – 640 cal.CE (Ali et al., 2008; Zahir, 2016a). The Shah Mirandeh jug was almost a copy of the Ayun specimen; however, the radiocarbon measurements suggested a much later date than the suggested dates for the Ayun's jug. It may be argued here that the dating of the Ayun's jug were based upon comparison with the then only available comparative materials and shall not be taken as accurate as the current radiocarbon dates. This means that it was possible that the Ayun specimen might have been of rather a later age than the suggested date. In addition, it might not be wrong to argue that the Hindukush Heights Hotel's specimen was probably of the same age as that of the Shah Mirandeh specimen and both possibly belonged to the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> century CE.

The drinking pots from Hindukush Heights Hotel did not have comparable dated materials from protohistoric cemeteries in Chitral. Similar drinking pots, albeit with handles, had been discovered from Parwak graves in the upper Chitral region (Ali and Zahir, 2005, pp.152, 155, 157). As mentioned earlier, the Parwak cemetery could be broadly dated, based upon radiocarbon measurements, from the last quarter to the end of 1<sup>st</sup> millennium CE (Ali et al., 2008; Zahir, 2016a). Thus, it may cautiously be argued here that the Hindukush Heights Hotel's specimens probably belong to the same time period as the Parwak specimens.

The copper/bronze vessels, both the deep bowl and bottle/flask, were very unique and had no comparable materials from protohistoric cemeteries in northern and northwestern South Asia. A similar bronze bowl, with analogous grooved line decoration at the rim but with a pronounced base, was claimed to have been found as part of a large hoard of copper and gold objects of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE, on the bank of the Darel River at Lower Manikhal village, Darel valley in District Diamer, Gilgit-Baltistan Province. However, the collector, Prof. Karl Jettmar, who saw it first hand, relegated it to be a modern specimen based upon the argument that it resembles modern wooden bowls from Eastern Turkistan and Tibet and modern metal vessels from Punjab, Pakistan (Jettmar, 1961, pp. 100–101; Mughal, 1985, p. 215). It shall be pointed out here that Prof. Jettmar association of the bowl was not based upon sound evidence and broad archaeological knowledge and it ignored the tremendous continuation of cultural and pottery forms within South Asia from historic times to the present. The bronze bowl had a diameter of 13.3 centimetres (Mughal, 1985, p. 235). However, broken parts of similar bowls, of probably two copper/bronze bowls, were picked up from robber trenches at the site of Gankoreneotek Graves in 2016 by the author (Zahir, 2017a). As the Gankoreneotek Graves are located at the end slope on the hill where the Hindukush Heights Hotel is located, it may be argued that these were probably contemporaries. The Gankoreneotek Graves, based upon a single radiocarbon measurement and the presence of Chinese Tang Dynasty coins, were most



likely in use from 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE to 8<sup>th</sup> century CE. Although future comparative studies of the copper/bronze vessels from Singoor (Hindukush Height Hotel and Gankoreneotek Graves) with those from Gilgit-Baltistan region may reveal a different chronological framework, it may tentatively be suggested that the copper/bronze vessels from Hindukush Heights Hotel could be dated to the mid-1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE.

Bangles similar to the Hindukush Heights Hotel specimens had been discovered from the Parwak, Shah Mirandeh and Gankoreneotek Graves' excavations in District Chitral. The Parwak specimens were dated from around the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium CE (Ali and Zahir, 2005; Ali et al., 2008; Zahir, 2019). Similar metal rings were found in situ from burials at Shah Mirandeh in 2005 and were worn by the deceased as anklets in grave 21. Grave 21 at Shah Mirandeh have been dated through radiocarbon dating method to  $1499 \pm 30$  BP (WK-22039) or 440 – 640 cal.CE (Ali et al., 2008; Zahir, 2016a). A similar but relatively thin specimen came from grave 22 at Shah Mirandeh graves, which was dated to  $2167 \pm 30$  BP (WK-22040) or 360 – 110 cal.BCE (Ali et al., 2008; Zahir, 2016a). Similar bangles were worn by deceased in grave 1 of the Shah Mirandeh graves and the grave was dated to  $1975 \pm 30$  BP (WK-22038) or 50 cal.BCE – cal.CE 90 (Ali et al., 2008; Zahir, 2016a). In addition, similar bangles were worn by deceased in graves 31 and 51 at Parwak, which are dated through radiocarbon to  $1148 \pm 36$  BP (WK-22759) or 770 – 980 cal.CE and  $1138 \pm 37$  BP (WK-22760) or 770 – 980 cal.CE (Ali et al., 2008; Zahir, 2016a). Similar specimens, with relatively thick and widely separated ends, also came from graves 32 and 52 at Parwak (Ali and Zahir, 2005, pp. 160, 172). The Hindukush Height Hotel's bangles are closely linked with the Shah Mirandeh graves specimens then the Parwak specimens and these might have belonged to the same chronological period. Thus, we may suggest that the Hindukush Heights Hotel's bangles/anklets may be dated from 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE to 1<sup>st</sup> century CE. It is possible that both the Hindukush Heights Hotel and Shah Mirandeh specimen were produced by the same workmen or workshop in the Chitral region.

The comparison of the grave goods from Hindukush Height Hotel with grave goods from dated graves in Chitral suggested that these grave goods had probably come from different graves, at least from four different graves belonging to four different chronological periods. The copper/bronze vessels possibly came from the earliest graves, from mid-1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE. The copper/bronze bangles/anklets probably came from the second oldest graves at the site, datable to 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE to 1<sup>st</sup> century CE. The jug with pinched lip conceivably came from the third chronological period's graves at the site and was probably dated to 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> century CE. The drinking pots perhaps came from the latest graves at the site and were probably dated to the last quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium CE. Thus, considering the comparative analyses of the grave goods and radiocarbon measurements from the nearby cemeteries, we may argue that the site of Hindukush Heights Hotel was in existence from mid-1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE to end of 1<sup>st</sup> millennium CE and that there were at least four broad chronological periods at the site of Hindukush Heights Hotel.

**SUMMARY**

Hindukush Heights Hotel is one of the new landmarks for tourists in District Chitral and the finding of graves and grave goods from the construction site represent a valuable contribution to the archaeology of Chitral. The grave goods were recorded as part of the non-random systematic survey of the piedmont hills around Singoor village, making an arc around the village. Twelve protohistoric and historic cemeteries, including the site of Hindukush Heights Hotel, were recorded during the survey. A total of ten grave goods, including six pottery vessels, two copper/bronze vessels and two copper/bronze bangles or anklets were documented at the Hindukush Heights Hotel. These grave goods were closely linked with other excavated grave goods in the vicinity of Singoor in particular and Chitral in general. Based upon the comparison of the grave goods from Hindukush Heights Hotel with the artefacts from dated graves in District Chitral, it is tentatively suggested that the site of Hindukush Heights Hotel had been used for burials for more than fifteen hundred years at least, from mid-1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE to till the end of 1<sup>st</sup> millennium CE.

The findings of Hindukush Heights Hotel, and other sites in the Singoor sub-valley, need the attention of scholars. Research projects with robust research questions and methodologies, theoretical frameworks and analyses, and the application of new interpretative regimes have the capacity to tremendously increase and enhance the knowledge of the region. The involvement of new researchers and research frameworks hold keys to unlocking the true potential of Chitral archaeology and its past linkages with both South Asia, Central Asia and China.

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FIGURES FOR THE HINDUKUSH HEIGHTS HOTEL PAPER

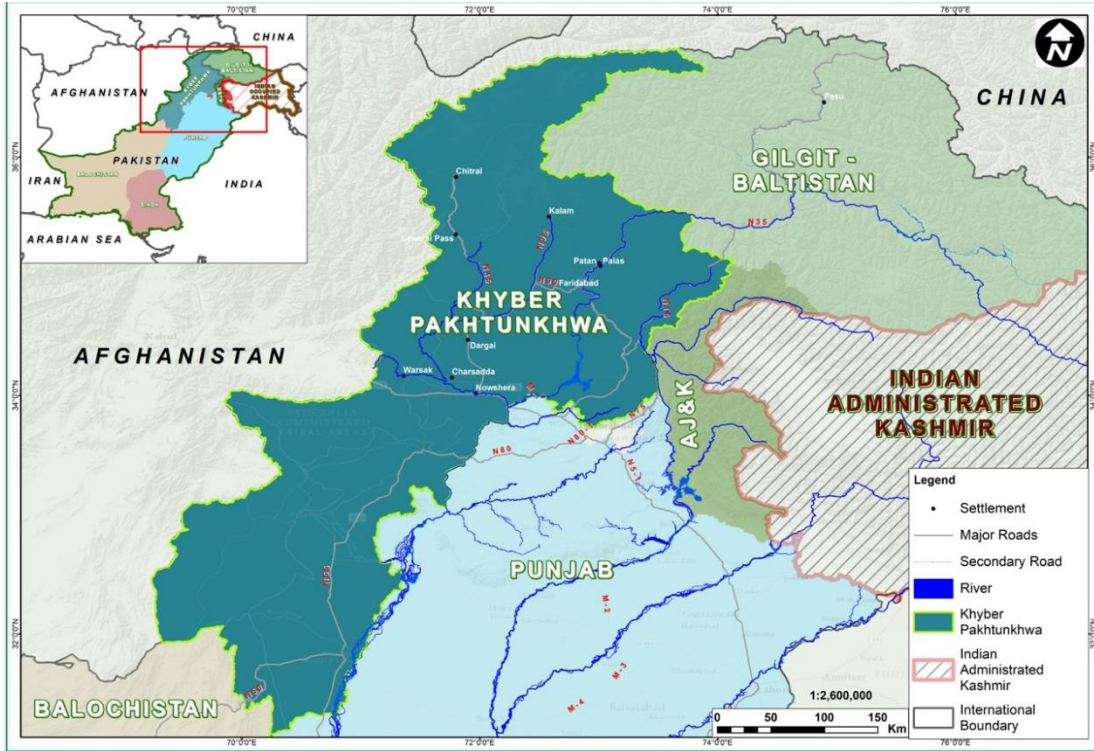


Figure 1: Map of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan

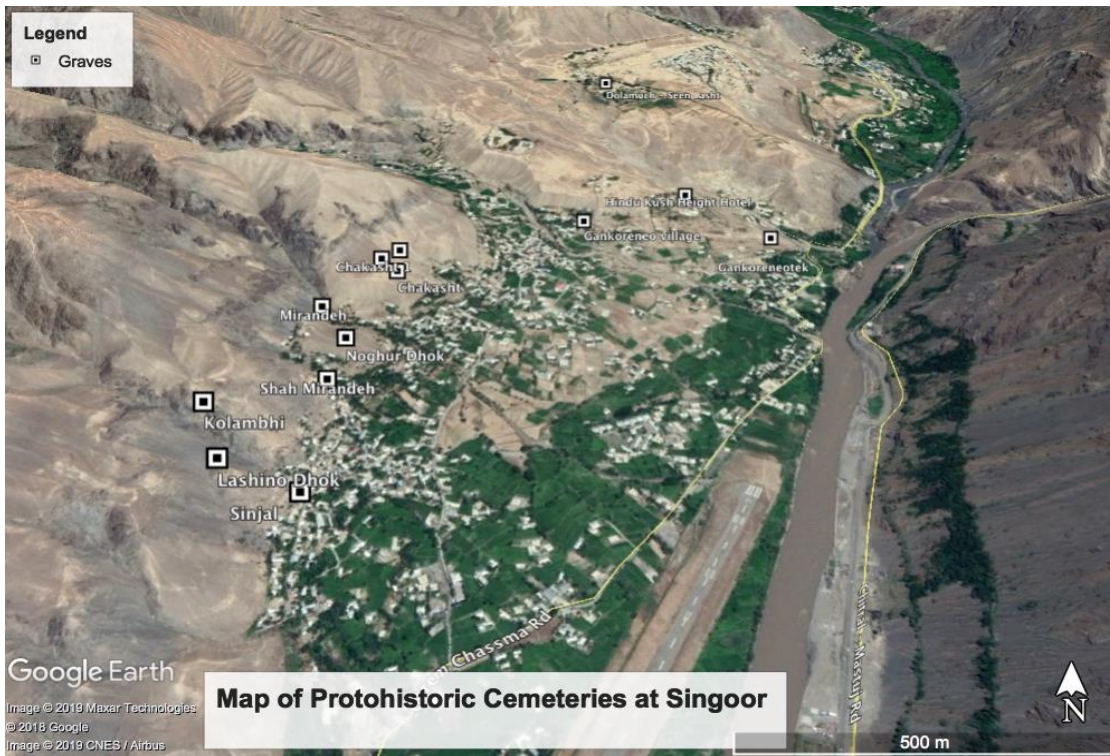


Figure 2: Location of Protohistoric and Historic Cemeteries (including Hindukush Heights hotel) at Singoor



Figure 3: Grave goods from Hindukush Heights hotel, Singoor



Figure 4: Details of bottle or flask with narrow neck, Hindukush Heights hotel, Singoor



Figure 5: Details of bottle or flask with wide mouth, Hindukush Heights hotel, Singoor



Figure 6: Detailed photograph of the jug with pinched lip, Hindukush Heights hotel, Singoor



Figure 7: Detailed photography of the water pitcher, Hindukush Heights hotel, Singoor



Figure 8: Details of the drinking pot, Hindukush Heights hotel, Singoor



Figure 9: Details of the drinking pot, Hindukush Heights hotel, Singoor



Figure 10: Bronze bowl, Hindukush Heights hotel, Singoor



Figure 11: Bronze bottle or flask with narrow neck, Hindukush Heights hotel, Singoor



Figure 12: Bronze bangles or anklets, Hindukush Heights hotel, Singoor



Figure 13: Photograph of the handled jug with pinched lip, Shah Mirandeh Graves, Singoor