

THE PALAS

(PART-4)

B.A, PART-2, PAPER-3

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CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Palas ruled for four hundred years on Bengal and Bihar. Their rule is memorable for cultural contributions also.

- ❖ During the rule of Devapala, an embassy sent by Java-Sumatra ruler, Balputra Deva arrived.
- ❖ Munger and Pataliputra were two important centres.

Pala Literature

- ❖ The period witnessed development of Sanskrit literature
- ❖ Sandhyakaranandi composed the historical poetical work “Ramacharita” during this period.
- ❖ The great scholar Bhavadevabhata lived in the Pala court.
- ❖ Poet Haribhadra belonged to this age.

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- ❖ Jimutavahana composed “Dayabhaga” on Hindu law
- ❖ A number of Buddhist scholars like Kamalshila, Rahulbhadra, Kalyanrakshita, Dharampala, Atisha Dipankar were product of this age.
- ❖ In Pala period Buddhist poet Vajradatta, composed the “Lokeshwarshatak”
- ❖ This period witnessed the origin of Bengali language and literature.
- ❖ Composition of “Charyapadas” by Buddhist scholars

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Establishment of educational institutions

- ❖ The Palas were founder of Somapura, Oddantapuri and Vikramshila mahavihara
- ❖ Vikramshila University:- Situated near Bhagalpur, foreign students also studied, mention of 109 famous Punditas.
- ❖ Atisha Dipankar of Vikramshila University, visited Tibet and composed about seventy works there.
- ❖ During the period of Devapala, a hostel was constructed at Nalanda on the request of king Balputradeva of Java

PALA ART

This age is also known for the development in the field of art.

- ❖ Dhiman and Vithpala were famous painter and sculptor. They excelled in the art of metal casting.
- ❖ Pala rulers patronized the art of sculpture and architecture
- ❖ They constructed a large number of Chaityas and Viharas in the whole Bengal and Bihar.
- ❖ Kurkihara in Gaya was the main centre of bronze sculpture art. This site yielded a large number of bronze images of this period.

PALA ART

- ❖ Images of black stone were found from different sites
- ❖ Pala art made great impact on not only Indian art but also the art of South East Asia. A number of Viharas of South East Asia were constructed on the pattern of Somapura Vihara.
- ❖ During excavation a large number of terracotta images were found.
- ❖ Pala art was a mixture of spirituality and worldly desires
- ❖ Painting also developed during this age. They are preserved in Bengal Asiatic Society, Library of Cambridge and British Museum

RELIGION

- ❖ Impact of tantra and vajrayana on painting

Religion

- ❖ Most of Pala rulers were follower of Buddhism, but were tolerant .
- ❖ Gave donation to Brahamans and appointed them as minister.
- ❖ Pala rulers also built Hindu temples
- ❖ Vajrayana cult of Buddhism developed in this period

SUMMARY

The rule of Pala dynasty is important from cultural point of view. They contributed not only in the field of religion and culture in India but also encouraged their propagation in foreign lands.

