

# PATALIPUTRA (PART-2)

**M.A.(HISTORY) SEM-2 PAPER CC:7**

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# HISTORY OF PATALIPUTRA

Besides that it has *advantage from economic point of view*. It was one of the important river port having brisk trade. In the days of Ashoka the daily octroi duty at the city is said to have amounted to four laks *Karshapanas*. The most important trade route of the period called *Uttarapatha* mentioned by early writers connecting Rajgriha to Taxila, going through Pataliputra, is known to us of having regular flow of trade of many articles of luxury goods and consumption items.

# HISTORY OF PATALIPUTRA

After the collapse of the Mauryan empire, this prosperity of Pataliputra received a setback in the first half of the 2nd century B.C. This has reference in the *Gargi-Samhita* which is also attested by archaeological excavations. This was a period of political chaos. *The Kushanas* captured Pataliputra. That *Viana Kadphises* ruled over Pataliputra is attested by the findings of his coins in an around the modern Patna. *Milindapanho* tells us that merchants of Pataliputra ventured to go far as the regions of *Sagala*.

# HISTORY OF PATALIPUTRA

In this period the industries of various shapes and kinds, organized under the guilds had come into existence. The findings of this period suggests that *a good number of industries of textiles, terracotta figurines, carpentry, smith's work and others flourished* in the localized centres of Pataliputra.

# HISTORY OF PATALIPUTRA

The city has religious importance also. The remains of Buddhist monasteries are the clear evidence of it. The Kushan kings were the great patrons of Buddhism which helped in building activities of this period. After the end of Kushanas rule in 150 A.D. the Scythian chiefs continued to rule Pataliputra till the arrival of Guptas on the political scene.

# HISTORY OF PATALIPUTRA

The history of Pataliputra emerges once more clearly with establishment of Gupta dynasty in 275 A.D. It was the capital from the days of its foundation by Srigupta. *The Allahabad Prasasti of Samudragupta and Udaigiri cave inscription* suggest the unanimous view of its having the capital of Gupta surpassing in its glory from any other city of India at that time. The literary works also testifies the prosperity and grandeur of Pataliputra.

(To be continued)