

SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF BIHAR, Shri Ram Nath Kovind in a programme on 'Restoring the Glory of Patliputra and Patna' Organised by the India National Turst for Art & Culture heritage, Patna Chapter.

(Date-20-12-2015 Time-3.00 P.M to 4.15 P.M)

Respected, Lt. General S.K. Sinha former Governor of Assam and J&K, Shri Prem Sharan, Convenor, Bihar Chapter INTACH, Shri JK Lall, Convernor Patna Chapter INTACH, Captain Rahul Pathak(Retd.), Senior Member Delhi Chapter INTACH, Prof Yuvraj Prasad, Former Director AN Sinha Institute, Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, Former Director Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Media representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be here to inaugurate this function which is for recollecting the glorious history of Pataliputra and later followed by Patna.

In the pre historic period Jarasandh was the ruler of Magadh comprising the two districts of Patna and Gaya. He was known to the great wrestler of his time.

During the historical period Shishunaga was the ruler of Magadh. After Shishunaga dynasty. Prosenjit started expending the Magadh Kingdom conquering Ayodhya and Varanasi. His son Udayan was fighting the Vaishali Republic being the first Republic in human history.

Lord Buddha used to transit through Vaishali to Rajgir and onto Bodh Gaya and Sarnath in Varanasi. Udayan chose a village called Pataligram at the confluence of River Ganga and Sone. At that time the river Sone used to flow along the depression in front of present Secretariat at Patna to the Boring Canal Road and joined the Ganga.

South of Patna was the Pun-Pun River. Pataligram then a small village was tactically located for conducting military operations against Vaishali. He ordered the construction of a fort here. Lord Buddha had seen the fort being so constructed in 487 B.C. and had said that this village will grow into an international mart but later it will get destroyed by flood, feud and fire.

His prediction turned true. Udayan shifted his capital to Pataligram which is now named Pataliputra. Vaishali was defeated and incorporated in the Magadh Empire. Later the Nandas came to power and they extended the Empire further to Beas river in the North and Nander in Hyderabad.

The Mauryan came after the Nanda dynasty and Chandergupta Maurya extended the empire to Kandhar in Afganistan. In the South the empire included Bengalore (now Bengaluru). Thus the Mauryan empire from Kamrup

in Assam to Kandhar and from Himalayas to Bengaluru became the largest empire in history on this sub continent. After the Mauryas came Chandergupta of the Gupta dynasty. The rule of this dynasty was considered as the golden period of Indian history in the ancient era.

Ladies and gentleman, as you know that Sher Shah Suri from Bihar defeated Humayun, the Mughal emperor and captured Delhi. He appointed Todar Mal as Governor of Bihar who later became his Revenue Minister when his capital was established in Delhi. Sher Shah was the first secular ruler of India in the medieval period. He shifted the capital of Bihar from Bihar Sharif to Patna which now became the new name of the city.

Akbar came to Bihar defeated the Pathan rulers of Bihar and captured Patna. Prince Azim Shah, grandson of Aurangzeb was viceroy of Bihar and Bengal with his capital at Patna. He did much to beautify Patna and established it as an important centre of Islamic culture.

At the beginning of the modern era, the East India Company from Calcutta conquered Patna. The city now became part of Bengal Presidency till 1911 when Bihar was separated from Bengal Presidency. During the 1857 Uprising Patna figured prominently. Vir Kunwar Singh, the

greatest military leader of the 1857 war also brought Patna under his control.

Post Independence, Mahatma Gandhi started his Freedom Movement from Champaran in Bihar. After Independence Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan restored democracy in India after the Emergency. Really Bihar has played always a significant and marvelous role in the making of modern India.

I think that today is the time to be determined ourselves for the development and remaking of our lovely Bihar.

I thank you all for inviting me in this programme which is very much meaningful for restoring the glory of Patliputra and Patna.

I also congratulate you all for the Happy New Year 2016. May God bestow upon you all his choicest blessings for your pleasant, prosperous and long life.

Jai Hind!

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