

**Speech of H.E. the Governor of Bihar on the occasion of Book
Release Ceremony at 12.00 Noon on 19.11.2016
at Raj Bhavan, Patna.**

Authors of the book Dr. M.R. Kazmi ji, and Mr. Mithilesh Kumar ji, our Principal Secretary Dr. Bala Prasad ji, ladies and gentle men.

I am delighted to release Vol. III of the Historic Patna series today and wish to congratulate the two co-authors for their great effort .The earlier two volumes had been released by my predecessor in office and I had the opportunity of going through them.

45 Heritage buildings were covered in Vol I and 22 Mohallas in Vol II. In Vol 1 ,nine Government buildings are of the British era post-1912. All these are majestic constructions before construction material like cement and steel came into play. The authors have even procured a photograph of the High Court building when the Union Jack was to be lowered. The high clock tower on the pattern of Big Ben in London is a striking feature of the Main Secretariat building.

This city has been compared with London in length and width by many learned writers with the difference that Tames is a small river whereas Ganges is mighty. The frontage on the river bank is second to none in the country. In medieval times ,we had as many as 20 gardens in Patna but none now.

Patna has changed its name from Patliputra to Kusumpura to Azimabad and finally to Patna. It became the capital in 1540 AD when Shershah shifted it from Bihar Sharif. Akbar the Great came in August 1574 and he was the only great Mughal to have visited Patna. 3 Sikh Gurus- Guru Nanak Devji, Guru Tegh Bahadur and Guru Gobind Singh have graced Patna with their presence. Guru Gobind Singhji was born in Patna and , fortunately , we are here to celebrate his 350th Birth anniversary within a few weeks.

What worries me is the irreparable damage and destruction of heritage buildings one by one. Two majestic buildings- The Sultan Palace opposite to Circuit House, Patna and the Rizwan Castle on Fraser

road ought to be saved and preserved at all costs. We have already lost Hasan Manzil, Wali Manzil, Shanti Niketan, Nash e-man, Indian Nation Building and Dumraon Kothi among others in the past few years.

Once again, I wish to congratulate Dr. M. R. Kazimi and Shri Mithilesh Kumar for their great work in bringing out Volume-III and request them to cover the unprecedented Patna floods of 1975, the Gandhi Maidan, the house occupied by the first Lt. Governor in 1912 and now earmarked bungalow of the Chief Justice of Patna High Court and the Patna police firing of 1942 resulting in loss of life of 7 Martyrs, among others in their forthcoming volumes.

Thanking you all. Jai Hind!!

Presentation-Public Relation Section, Raj Bhavan, Patna