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B.A. Part I (Paper III) CULTURAL DHARMPALA & DEVPALA: CONTRIBUTION

Pala dynasty holds important place in the annals of India. Lama Tarnaji and Sandhyakar Nandi give us valuable insight about the origin of Pala. Palas during their period contributed in every field including cultural.

Pala made its mark in the cultural field. Art and Architecture reached zenith under the able rule of Devapala and Dharmapala. Art was influenced by the religious practices of people. Economic condition also induced the flourishing growth of art.

Literature and Education were given priority by the enlightened rulers. So, both India especially Bihar and Bengal became centre of activity during the rule of Devapala Dharmapala.

Distinguishing achievement of Palas are seen in the field of architecture & sculpture. turnakata, painting and wall painting. The Pala art came to a sudden end after the destruction of the Buddhist monasteries at the hands of Muslim invaders in the first half of the 13th century.

Architecture

- A) Inspired by religious themes.
- B) The first two hundred years of Pala period were dominated by Buddhist art.
- C) Hindu religion influenced last 200 years.
- D) Mahavihara like Nalanda, Vikramshila, Somapura, Devikola, Pandita are remarkable.
- E) Monk vihara were set up with proper layout.
- F) Dharmapala built the Vikramshila Mahavihara and Odantpuri Vihara in Bihar.
- G) Somapura Vihara and Vikramshila Vihar were acknowledged in the Buddhist world.

as two important centres of Buddhist learning.
in the period between 9th and 12th centuries AD.
At Vikramshila, remains of one temple and stupa
have also been found.

- Odantpuri Mahavihara (750-770) was so magnificent that it served as a model for first monastery built in Tibet.

- The remains of BODH GAYA and NALANDA gave a magnificent and majestic memory of these monasteries. NALANDA was education centre for entire Buddhist world.

- SOMAPURA MAHAVIHARA created a unique place and it also was also climax of Pala architecture. It is one of the biggest Buddhist Mahavihara and its style evolved in the soil of Bengal. In the Nalanda inscription of VIPULASRIMITRA it has been described as JAGATAM NEtraikavishramo bhv.

- Its architectural plan, especially the gradually widening cruciform plan of its central shrine had influence on architecture of neighbouring countries.

- Devapala granted FIVE villages at the request of the Sailendra king of Java for the upkeep of the maha established at Nalanda for the scholars of that country.

- The ROCK CAVE TEMPLE at Kabalgarhi the ardhamandapa of Vishnupada Temple at Gaya, Suryagarha are examples of Pala art.

- It showed the CABLED VAULTED roof characteristic of the South India Architecture.

- The brick build medieval SIWA TEMPLE at Konch in the Gaya district is architecturally important.