

Kampilya in India Dr. Bhagwan Singh Suryavanshi

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Abstract

Kampilya, identified with modern-day Kampil in Uttar Pradesh, was a prominent city during the Mahabharata era and served as the capital of the Panchala kingdom. Archaeological findings, including coins, statues, and ancient fort ruins, highlight its historical significance. The region, situated along the Budhi Ganga River, is associated with King Drupada and events like Draupadi's swayamvara. Texts like the Mahabharata, Puranas, and Brahmanas describe Panchala as a prosperous and culturally advanced kingdom, divided into North and South Panchala. The area also played a crucial role in resisting Turkic invasions during the medieval period, showcasing its enduring martial spirit. The legacy of Kampilya remains preserved in local folklore and historical sites.

Keywords: Kampilya, Mahabharata, Panchala Kingdom, Archaeology, Drupada.

Kampilya is one of the most famous cities of Mahabharata. It has been identified with village Kampil in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh. The area of Patiyali Ganga near here is important from the viewpoint of archaeology. Coins, statues, potsherds and inscriptions etc. have been found in abundance here, and at some places there are ruins of ancient forts as well. There is an ancient fort in Patiyali, which is about 50 feet high and spread over an area of 1 meter. The common people call it 'Raja Drupada's Fort'. There is a popular belief that King Drupada's palace was here. Many miraculous events related to this fort are popular. Some local people are still in awe of it. Both the cities named Patiyali and Kampil are situated on the banks of Budhi Ganga (ancient stream of Ganga). During rainy season, the old Ganga fills up but during the rest of the year, it does not have much water.

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The name of Patiyali does not appear in Mahabharata. But research has led to the conclusion that like Kampil, this must have been an ancient city. Being near Kampil, it is also called The Panchayat Janapada is considered to be the capital. In the Mahabharata, there is a description of a Magar named Makandi near Kampil. It had the same importance as the capital:

Makandimad Gangayastire Janapadaayutam.

(Adiparva 137, 73)

Makandinagar has not been properly identified yet. If the region is surveyed from the archaeological point of view, then no other place comes in Ramgarh except Patiyalo. Kanyakubj is also among the cities of that time settled on the banks of the Ganga, but it cannot be identified with Makandi, because its separate description comes in Adiparva, Aranyakparva and Udyogparva. No relation of Kanyakubj with King Dupadri is also mentioned. Hence, from the geographical point of view, Makandi can be identified with Patiyalo.

In Mahabharata, Kampilya has been called the capital of Panchal Pradesh. Its description is also found in Brahmin texts. In Shatapaya and Aitareya Brahmin, the word Pachal has been used in both the terms “Janapad” and “King”. Manu has described Panchal district as being under Brahmvarta. Chandogya Tapa Brihadaranyaka Upanishads give a glimpse of the political life of the Paschalas. The question arises that who established Panchal district? According to Indian tradition, Bahupaa region was named after some king or great man. Rajpi Panchal is described in Shanti Parva of Mahabharata. It seems that Panchal district was settled by Rapi Panchal. Due to the long rule of Rajdhika's descendants over this region, it must have been named Panchal. It is known from Brahmin texts that its ancient name was Krivi Pradesh, 'Kriya Itipura Panchalana Chakshte', here the word Kivi has been used in the meaning of country. According to this, Kaivya, son of Kshatriya caste, woman, Kaivya and Kaivya means king of agricultural country.

Later, Rajpi Panchalaka dynasty got divided into five clans, which have been called Mudgal, Sunjaya, Brihadiyu, Yakar and Kumilashva in Matsya Purana. In Bayupuraan, the name of the fourth son is Yaviman and the name of the fifth is said to be Kampitya. There is relative similarity between the names of Vishnu Purana and Bayu Purana. He has been called the son of Maharaj Haryadhwaka. The region protected by these Panchal men was called Panchal.

*Tasmanmudgal Sunjay Vrihadipu Yavinar Kampilya Sangyaah Panchanameva Teshan
Vish-Yaanaam Rakshanayalamete Matputra Iti Pitrabihitaah Panchalaah.
(Vishnupuran 4, 19, 59)*

From a historical point of view, the tradition of Vishnu Purana seems logically consistent. Many examples of this can be presented. For example, descendants of Vaivaswat Manu established Banarat Vasaya, Ikshvaku dynasty's Dhavas established Dhavasti city and Kuru dynasty Pratik's son Balhika established Balhik region. There is a description of Puruvansh in Vishnu Purana, according to which, in the seventh generation from Ajmidh, there was Huryavya, who had five sons. Kampilya was the fifth son among them. Therefore, it can be assumed that it was this Prince Kampilya who established Kampilyanagar. Puranakars have described Panchal district and its capitals as part of Madhya Pradesh. It is described in Matsyapurana.

It appears in the Puranas, Brahma Purana, Agni Purana, Markandeya Purana, Bhavishya Purana, Garuda Purana, Srimad Bhagavatam, and Demo Purana. The description of the Mahabharata shows that it was a vast kingdom, whose borders extended from the foothills of the Himalayas to the Chambal River. In the Bapunik map, it includes Bareilly, Badaun, Etah, Karmasyad, part of Mainpuri, Pattaya, etc. In the Adigarva of the Mahabharata, the southern boundary of Iraq is called the Chamval River:

"Dakshinanschapi Panchalan yavatcharmanvati river" In the west its Soma was as far as the Kur district. In the Bhishma Parva, the Pankhal Janapada is clearly of the Somatras. The description is:

There in me the Kurupachalas, the Shalvas, the Madrayajangalas, X

X Panchala Kosalarachav Nekaprishtayu randhara

The other ends are the Pachalas leather circles.

In the first description it is associated with the Kuru Janapada. It is therefore clear that the Panchal Janapada had its western boundary with the Kuru Janapada and beyond it in the Shalva Taya Matra Janapada. In the second description it is said to be with the Kosala Janapada, which forms its eastern boundary. In the third it is described with the leather circle. The tannery can be identified from the Chamwalki Valley (modern Bhind, Murana, etc.). The division of the

Panchal Janapada is not described in the Vedic literature. The Mahabharata gives the story of its division, according to which it was divided into North Panchal and South Panchal.

The Ganges was the boundary between North and South Panchal. From the banks of the Ganga to the Chambal River was called South Panchal and from the north bank of the Ganga to the foothills of the Himalayas was called North Panchal. Maharishi Patanjali has called it Eastern Panchal and Northern Panchal. This district was situated on the highway from Ayodhya to Hastinapur.

The Mahabharata describes Yagnasena, king of Panchal. Magyasena must have been the name of King Dupada; 'Hupad' must have been his title, in this region there were many glorious kings like Ajmidha, Naul, Shanti, Sushanti, Puranjaya, Riksha, Haryashwa, Kampilya, Prishat, Dupada, Brahmadatta and Dhristayumna. The Adi Parva tells the story of the quarrel between Dronacharya and King Dupada.

It was in Kampilya that the swayamvara of Princess Draupadi took place. The narrative of Shikhandi described in the Mahabharata took place in Kampitya. It was here that Shirandi married the daughter of Dashanani Narayana Hiranyavarman. Angered by the news that Shikhandi was a woman instead of a man, the armies of Hiranyavarman surrounded the city of Kampilya. The vicinity of Kampilya continues till modern times but at that time it was a dense forest that no one dared to enter. The Yaksha Sthulakarna, who lived in the forests here, had given his manhood to Shikhandi to make her a man from a woman. 78: Kampil-kalpa

The glorious Panchal kings like Kaivya and Durmukh described in the Shatapatha Brahmana had achieved Ashvameśha fame here.

There is no shortage of scholars. Vedic times were the famous center of Panchal learning. Scholars from home and abroad were invited to the meetings here and debates took place on very profound subjects. An observation of Vedic literature sheds light on these assemblies. The pious noble Brahmins here were famous for their high ideals and practices. Not only the humans here, but also the animals and birds were said to be intelligent. The Shanti Parva describes the wise bird worshiper who lived in the inner court of Brahmadatta. Here is the Rajash Panchal who had received the 'order division' of the Vedas:

Pāñcāla obtained order from that eternal being.

Thus, in ancient times, it was a popular region of India. In the Vanaparva it is counted among the holy places. The roads of the cities can also be inferred from the descriptions found in the Udyogaparva of the Mahabharata. On the occasion of Shikhandi's marriage festival, the 'Chaitya' crossroads ('Chatushpathan') of Kampil town were heavily decorated. The Mahabharata also describes the practice of decorating and worshiping crossroads on festivals.

The martial arts and enthusiasm of the heroes here are described in texts ranging from the Mahabharata to Arabic and Persian. At the end of the 12th century AD, when the fortune of India began to return to the feet of the rhymes, the heroes of the Panchal region had struggled terribly. The history of Panchal Janapada from the 12th to the 15th century AD is a history of countless sacrifices. The people here accepted thousands of executioners of Turkish sultans to pour boiling water on their bodies and take off their skins to protect the Aryan religion, but they did not abandon their religion. Historical research shows that even after the defeat of Maharaja Prithiviraj Tomar, Raipithaura Chauhan and Jaichandradev Gahdwal, countless Durgapatis continued to fight and did not lay down their arms. The Turkish sultans faced real manpower here. Patiali, Bhojpur, Kampil, Rapari and Katehar were the forest centers of manpower to confront and attack the victorious armies of the Turks. Turkey had to take iron from them for a long time, but they could not completely suppress the region. This land was badly trampled by the hardline Sultans like Balwan, Alauddin Khilji, Muhammad Tughlaq, Feroz Tughlaq. But even their largest armies were afraid to leave the forests of Kampil. The glory stories of ancient Panchal district are still preserved in the villages of Patiali, Kampil, Bhojpur, Rapari, Asauli, Naunher, Badaun, Jujhaura, Vilram, Sankisa, Shivrajpur, Kanyakubj, Mahoday, Vilsar, Soron, Ahichhatra, Ataranji, Saunhar etc.