

Coins from Pāṭaliputr from the earliest times up to the 6th century CE

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Abstract

Pāṭaliputr was the legendary city of ancient India for nearly a millennium (450 BCE to 550 CE) and was the capital of Haryāṅk, Śiśunāg, Nand, Maurya, Śuṅg, Kaṇv, Mitr, Gupt, and Later Gupt. Various archaeological materials have been found in the city in the last couple of centuries, and coins are one of them. The city is rich in coin collections, and over 3000 coins have been recovered. These coins are precious for understanding the ancient history of Pāṭaliputr, but a detailed and collective study of these coins is yet awaiting. So, this article thoroughly studies these coins with the collation of literature and produces some unique information, like counterfeiting silver coins was a common practice from the pre-Mauryan period up to the pre-Gupt. It also discusses unsolved questions, like the absence of the Gupt gold coins in the city, though it was the capital of the Gupt dynasty. The article comprehensively describes the type, shape, size, weight, and metal, as well as the legends and symbols found on these coins.

Keywords: Pāṭaliputr, Kumrahār, punch-marked coin, copper cast coin, kuṣāṇ coin, gupt coin

Introduction

Coins are one of the authentic sources of reconstruing India's historical past in various dimensions. It tells us about political history as well as religious and economic history. It is also a leading source for highlighting regions, countries, dynasties, and kings' history, as well as the symbols of prosperity and a well-developed money-based economic system. So, in this regard, coins are also crucial artefacts for reconstructing the socio-economic history of Pāṭaliputr. It would be a more valuable source if these coins were documented and analysed better. Many coins are found in various parts of Patna, but unfortunately, they were not adequately documented, and several essential information were ignored.

Generally, all the excavated sites of the city yield coins ranging from the pre-Mauryan period up to the Mughal period; however, after the Gupt period, a discontinuity of coins is noticed for approximately a thousand years. Apart from excavations, coins around old Patna city have been recovered in recent centuries. With the expansion of the city, several construction works, such as digging wells and tanks, construction of sewage and buildings, etc., were carried out, which unearthed several coins. Scouting away the river Gaṅgā also yielded several coins of the early period. More than 3000 coins have been reported from the city so far, but the nature of their occurrence and context were not adequately documented.

Coins reported from Patna are of different kinds, like silver and copper punch-marked coins, copper cast coins, Kuṣāṇa coins, Ayodhya and Kosāmbī coins, Gupt coins, etc. They are reported from several localities like Bākarganj, Bulandībāgh, Golakpur, Gulzārbāg Press Playground, Kumrahār, Kadam Kuān, Kamaldāh, Lohānīpur, Machuāṭolī, Mahabir Ghāt, Ramnā Road, Sāh Kamāl Road, Fatuhā, etc.

Mukharji excavated many sites at Patna and found several kinds of coins right, from punch-marked coins to the Gupt coins, but he did not report any coins of the post-Gupt period; therefore, this supports Smith's view that Pāṭaliputr ceased to be the capital of the Magadh empire after the

conquest of western India by Chandragupt II ^[1]. In excavations, Waddell found silver and copper punched marked coins, as well as copper cast coins, which were not later dated than the Indo-Scythian of the first and second century CE ^[2]. Most are punch-marked coins ranging from the 6th-5th century BCE to the 3rd-4th century CE. These punch-marked coins are made of silver and copper. Apart from punch-marked coins, Kosāmbī coins, Ayodhya coins, Mitr coins, Kuṣāṇ coins, and Gupt coins are also found here, but they are available in countable numbers. Several Guptan coins were found, but not as many which would repute it as a capital city, and whatever coins came into light belonged to Chandragupt II, and some belonged to another individual named Indragupt (probably a king). Coins of other Gupt rulers, such as Samudragupt, Kumārgupt I, Skandgupt, etc., are strangely absent.

Spooner reported some moulded iron coins during his excavations. These coins are square and rectangular, having symbols on both sides, like a tree, three crescent hills, an elephant, a bow-and-arrow, a trident, and a *swāstik* ^[3].

Many Punched-marked coins are found from the pre-Nand period up to the post-Maurya period, but many are worn out and blurred; therefore, they cannot correlate with particular dynasties. Coins found at Golakpur are considered the pre-Nand period, the hoard of Ramnā belongs to pre-Mauryan, and the hoard of Machuāṭolī belongs to Nand and Maurya. Coins, which are older, thin types with plain or worn or indistinct reverses, are considered predecessors of Mauryan coins, and those small and thick coins are accepted as Mauryan coins ^[4]. Various symbols are found on punch-marked coins, but two symbols are predominant: (1) three *chatrs* and three oval circles around a central circle and (2) the sun ^[5]. Hill-crescent, elephant, interlaced triangle, hill-with-peacock, humped bull, bull or cow head with garland, a pot of foliage, lion or tiger, etc. are some other symbols found on coins. The Hill-Crescent symbols are considered to be the symbol of Chandragupt Maurya, while Hill-with-Peacock is said to be the distinct symbol of Aśok ^[6]. Coins of pre-Mauryas have symbols mainly on the obverse, while coins of Mauryas or later have both side symbols. Cast

copper coins are considered later than punch-marked coins and have symbols on both the obverse and reverse. Coins of this type found at Kumrahār by Altekar and Mishra have similarities in their symbols viz., elephant, *swāstik*, hollow cross, Taurine, three crescent-hill, tree on the railing, V-shaped banner, etc.^[7]

Spooner reports a collection of fifty-two Kuṣāṇ copper coins at Kumrahār^[8], while Altekar recovered only seven^[9]. It is generally seen that many trade and commerce-based cities in the post-Maurya period released coins of their cities' names, viz., Kosāmbī, Ayodhya, Pāñcāl, Ujjain, etc., but no such coins have been recovered from Patna, though the commercial activities were one of the significant sources for the income of its native people. The absence of coins bearing the name Pāṭaliputr is quite a wonder, and no reason has been found.

Two Kuṣāṇ gold coins have been found, but both were not used as money but as ornament. The gold coin found at Śāh Kamāl Road by Spooner has a hollow filled with lac to make it stronger and has the bust of Huviṣk with the legend SHAONANOSHAO... OESHKI on the obverse, and the reverse has the image of the standing Ardoksho with the name ARHΔOXSHO. The other coin found by Altekar at Kumrahār is in fragmentary condition, bearing the standing image of a Kuṣāṇ king on obverse, and reverse the goddess Ardoksho and both sides have a legend in Greek and Brahmi letter, but is very much blurred, which does not allow to extract any meaning^[10].

A site-wise brief introduction of coins is being discussed here.

Bākarganj-Kadam Kuan, Bulandībāgh, Lohānīpur

Seventy-one coins were found along with several other antiquities, including NBPW and other potsherds, terracotta objects, etc., in 1935 and afterwards, during the sewage works in the area between Kadam Kuan and Bākarganj. Out of 71 coins, 69 coins are either copper cast coins or Punch-marked coins, while two coins are of the medieval period^[11]. Bulandībāgh is a site rich in various antiquities, yielding around 400 early rectangular cast coins corresponding to old punch-marked coins, uncommon in other parts of the country^[12]. Mills reported five copper coins here, of which two were punch-marked in rectangular shape, two Muhammadan coins, and one circular Chinese coin, which has a hole in the centre^[13]. The Chinese coins are uncommon in the antiquities of Patna. Mukharji discovered several coins, mostly punch-marked, along with one coin of Chandragupt II at Lohānīpur.

Fatuhā

Fatuhā is an outskirt of Patna on the eastern side. Eighteen Gupta coins are found here, but only five are preserved in Patna Museum, all belonging to Chandragupt II^[14].

Golakpur

In 1917, a hoard of 108 coins was found in the Gaṅgā bed at Golakpur in the Patna-City area. These are all punch-marked coins made of silver and copper. The coins found here are quite distinct. Some of the silver coins found here are mixed with molten copper, which would be an example of the debasement of coins^[15]. The debasement of coins is not unknown in ancient India, and several methods are referred to in Arthaśāstr for debasing the currency^[16]. Some of the coins from here are made of copper but are quoted

with silver, which would be an example of forged coins. Similar forged coins are also found at Kumrahār. Walsh quotes Theobald, who, by referring to Mahāvamsī, states that Cāṇakya, to raise royal treasury, converted coins by re-coining each *Kāhāpaṇ* into eight and amassed eighty *Kotis* of *Kāhāpaṇs*^[17]. Although counterfeiting of coins was prevalent among the masses during those days, several provisions were made to prevent it^[18]. However, the reference mentioned above indicates that the Mauryan Prime Minister indulged in counterfeiting, indicating that the state also practised forging the coins to some extent. Most of the coins found here are considered Aśoka or pre-Aśokan times^[19]. The weight of these coins varies from 53.4 grains to 52 grains^[20]. These coins are, as Walsh said, older than the coins of Machuāṭolī and Ramnā, and no Mauryan marks are reported on any coins of the Ramnā hoard; therefore, they are considered as the pre-Mauryan period^[21]. Thus, the date of Golakpur coins could go back to the pre-Nand period.

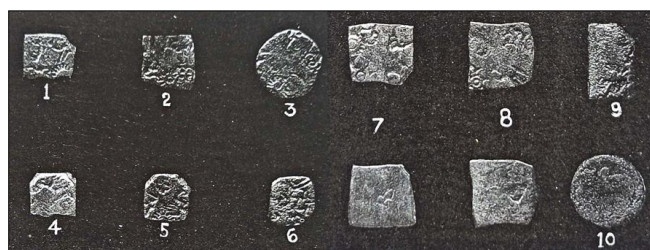
Golakpur coins are, by their specialities, often considered peculiar. The weight of these coins, which is correlated with 32 *rattis* or 16 *māṣ* (actual weight varied between 52-53.4 grains), are different from the coins of Rājagṛh, which was around 20 *māṣas* as found in Aṭṭhakathā. It indicates that these coins were not struck in the mint of Rājagṛh, the earlier capital of Magadh. The symbols of these coins are also unknown to other places, but coins of similar weight are found in some places like Aurihar, Rājghāt, and Jaunpur. This similarity alludes to coins of the places mentioned above minted in those days when the principalities of Magadh domains were expanding and influencing its monetary system on others. Thus, coins of Golakpur belong to that period when its territory was not spread more and would be minted most probably in the *takaśāl* of Pāṭaliputr, though traces of *takaśāl* are yet to be found at Patna^[22].

Kumrahār

It is one of the most promising sites in Patna, which yields plenty of antiquities, including coins from the 3rd century BCE to the Gupta period. Various archaeologists excavated the site at different times. Mukharji carried on diffuse but limited excavations in small trenches at several places in 1896-97. He found the bust-type copper coin of Chandragupt II, whose reverse has a depiction of a peacock^[23]. Spooner unearthed 123 coins, including a hoard of 52 Kuṣāṇ copper coins containing the coins of Vim Kadaphisas, Kaniṣk, and Huviṣk and two Kuṣāṇ gold coins, one of Vāsudev and another one a later king^[24] and two copper coins of *Vāyu* type of Kaniṣk^[25]. Several are in good condition, while some are blurred and unable to identify. These coins can broadly be divided into nine types - silver punch-marked coins, copper punch-marked coins, copper cast coins, elephant and *caitya* type, Mitr coins, Kosāmbī coins, Kuṣāṇ coins, Gupta coins, and Mughal coins. These coins have different sizes and shapes. Seven silver punch-marked coins are found; six are square, and one is round. Copper punch-marked coins are in three shapes: square, rectangular, and oblong. Copper cast coins are also in different shapes - square, rectangular, and circular. The rest of the coins are generally circular^[26]. Elephant and *caitya* coins seem too common. A unique Kosām copper coin of the 2nd century BCE is found here, which is big, thin, round and in dull condition^[27]. A rare Chandragupt II copper coin has been found here, and two duplicate copper coins were

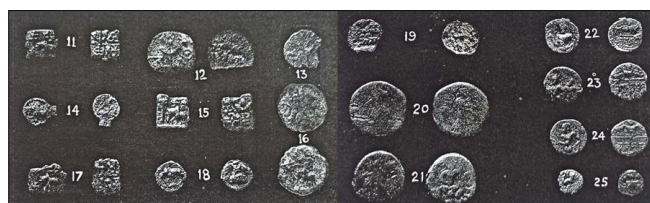
also found, which were strangely well-preserved along with the inscribed legend [28].

Altekar and Mishra found 165 coins here, of which 20 were made of silver, while others were of copper. Eight copper coins coated with silver are found together in the same trench [29]. Coins that are found on this site are categorised into seven kinds: Punch-marked coins, copper cast coins, Kosāmbī coins (Lanky Bull Type), Pāñcāl and Ayodhya coins, Kuṣāṇ coins, Gupt coins, and Mughal coins. Punch-marked coins are divided into three types: Punch-marked silver coins, Silver-coated copper Punch-marked coins, and Punch-marked copper coins. Silver Punch-marked coins of this site prevailed up to the early level Kuṣāṇ. The site did not report these coins at the Mauryan level. Eight silver-coated coins were found, which were initially copper coins and later coated with silver, and all such coins were found between 100-300 CE [30]. These coins would be forged coins, authenticating the quotation of Arthaśāstr that counterfeiting coins were also in practice [31]. The site recorded thirty-two Punch-marked copper coins from the Mauryan period to the pre-Gupt period (300 BCE to 300 CE) [32].



(A) Silver Punch-marked Coins 1-8; Copper Punch-marked Coins 9; Ayodhya Coin 10.

Courtesy: Altekar & Mishra, 1959



(B) Copper Cast Coins 11, 14-18; Koṣāmbī Coins 12, 13, 16; Coins of Bhūmimītr 19; Kaniṣk 20; Huviṣk 21; and Candragupt II 22-25.

Courtesy: Altekar & Mishra, 1959

Fig 1: Coins, Kumrahār Excavations, 1951-55

Like silver punch-marked coins, the site does not record copper cast coins from the Mauryan stratum. These coins were dominant in the post-Mauryan eras, and even a few were found in the Gupt stratum. Altekar and Mishra provided a list of seventy-two such coins. Six Lanky Bull type of Kosāmbī coins made of copper are found at this site. A Pāñcāl coin of Bhūmimītr of the Śuṅg-Kaṇv period and an Ayodhya coin are also reported. Seven copper coins of Kuṣāṇ are recovered from this site; two belong to Kaniṣk, while the rest are probably Huviṣk. No Kuṣāṇ gold coins are found here.

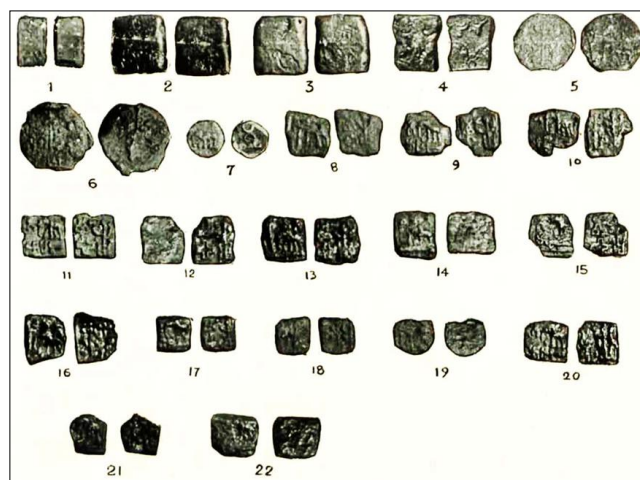
Several Gupt coins are found, and all are of Chandragupt II. These are round-shaped copper coins. "They may be divided into the following four groups: (a) Bust of the king to the left; (b) King standing and holding flower in a right hand bend up; (c) King standing and offering oblations by the right hand; (d) King with umbrella bearer [33]." Several

Mughal coins have also been reported but are not under this research period.

Mahābīrghāt, Sadargalī, Begum-kī-Hawelī, and Government Press Play Ground (Pāṭaliputr Excavations)

In 1955-56, B. P. Sinha and L. A. Narain excavated four different sites of Patna, named Mahābīrghāt, Sadargalī, Begum-kī-Hawelī, and Government Press Play Ground. Owing to the dense population of these parts of the city, they dug up one or two trenches at all these sites; therefore, not many coins are reported. These sites produced a variety of coins, like silver and copper punch-marked coins, uninscribed coins, and lanky bull type of Kosāmbī coins, which substantiate the prosperities of these areas from the pre-Mauryan period up to the 5th century CE. However, many coins were unearthed from these sites, wherein twenty-two coins were identified exclusively, and the remaining were predominantly worn; therefore, they could not correlate with a certain period, kings and dynasties.

Coins reported from these sites can be classified into four groups: (a) Punch-marked coins, (b) uninscribed cast coins, (c) Lanky bull type of Kosāmbī coins (copper), and (d) Muslim coins. Both silver and copper punch-marked coins are found in the period from 5th-4th century BCE to 1st century CE and are rectangular shaped. Uninscribed cast coins are invariably made of copper and are generally rectangular. Such coins are associated with punch-marked coins and regulated up to the 2nd-3rd century CE predominantly, though some also survived in the early Guptan period [34]. A bust-type Huviṣk's coin having the legend *Shaonano Shao Ooeshki Koshano* on the obverse and a depiction of Roman goddess Ardoksho on the reverse with her name in Greek characters is found here [35]. No identified Gupt coins are found here so far, albeit the available material remains and building structures of this period established the fact that all these sites were densely populated during the Gupt period. The absence of Gupt coins is a conceivable fact that needs attention.



Punch-marked Silver coin 1, Period I; Punch-marked Copper coins 2, 3, and 4 from the lower level of Period II; Copper Lanky Bull type coins 5 and 6 lower level of Period II; Cast Copper coins 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, and 22, Period I; 7, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, and 21 lower level of Period II.

Courtesy: Sinha & Narain, 1970

Fig 2: Coins, Pāṭaliputra Excavations, 1955-56

Out of twenty-two identified coins, four are punch-marked coins, two lanky bull-type Kosāmbī coins, and sixteen uninscribed cast copper coins are found. Among Punch-marked coins, one is of silver and three are of copper; one coin is of lanky bull-type of Kosāmbī; and ten uninscribed cast copper coins are reported from Mahābīrghāt. Another coin of lanky bull-type of Kosāmbī and three uninscribed cast copper coins are found in the Government Press Playground. One uninscribed cast copper coin from Śāh Kamāl Road and two from Begum-kī-Hawelī are also reported.

Kamaldāh

This place is around 500 meters east of Agam Kuān. The site has an old Jain temple with an inscription of the 18th century having the word Pāṭaliputr. A sepulchre, considered to be Sthūlbhadra, the great Jain monk of the Mauryan period, is situated near the temple. Waddell found some silver and copper punch-marked coins dated not later than 1st-2nd century CE. Some Gupt coins were also reported here [36].

Machuāṭolī

Machuāṭolī, like other sites, coins were unearthed during the sewage construction work. Here, a hoard of 2232 silver punch-marked coins is reported. It is said that an uncountable number of coins were reported, but 2232 were recovered under the Treasure Trove Act. It is the largest hoard of coins at Patna and belongs to the 3rd-4th century BCE. Like Golakpur coins, these coins are not pure silver coins. After chemical analysis of these coins, it was found that these were a small mixture of copper and iron. Walsh has tasted fifty specimens, of which fifteen are of the pre-Mauryan period, and the remaining thirty-five are of the later or Mauryan periods. Coins of earlier types are thinner and usually have four symbols on the obverse, and reverse marks are worn out and distinct. But, some of them were punched on the reverse with the Mauryan symbol of the Hill-Crescent show, indicating that during this time, most of the early coins were used to re-strike for common circulation. Therefore, Walsh says, "in the list of Machuāṭolī coins, the case in which the Mauryan Mark of the Hill-Crescent has been subsequently stamped on the Reverse of

the older coins authorising their circulation in the Mauryan Empire [37]." Coins of this period are thicker than earlier coins and have five or more symbols along with symbols on the reverse.

Coins from this site are found square and round-shaped. The fifteen coins of older or pre-Mauryan class vary from 46 grains to 51.75 grains, except for one coin (38 grains), while thirty-five specimens of Mauryan contain one coin of 45 grains, two are 53 grains, and the rest are between 46 to 52.75 grains. The average weight of these coins is a little less than 52 grains.

Ramnā Road

In 1935, an earthen pot full of silver punch-marked coins was reported from Ramnā during Sewerage excavation. The Patna Museum recovered forty-six silver punch-marked coins, though it is said that incalculable coins were in the pot. These coins were also chemically analysed in the laboratory and found the same result as Machuāṭolī coins. These silver coins were found in a little mixture of copper as well as iron, etc. The two different hoards of coins from two different places are found the same by chemical analysis, showing that either the coins were struck in the same mint and in the same period or mixing copper, iron and other metal for striking coins would be a common phenomenon during a specific period, if not permanently. Both round and square coins are found. The standard weight of these coins is unavailable, but they vary between 40 grains and 52.14 grains. Ramnā coins are earlier than Machuāṭolī coins and can be correlated with Nands or maybe older. Out of forty-six coins, one dumpy coin was found, which is considered to be of a much earlier date than others. A unique coin is found here, but not a part of the hoard, which is a copper clump bear marks on both faces, which are different from other punch-marked coins. The weight of the coin is 90.10 grains, which does not connect with the standard weight for copper *pañ* (80 *rattis* or 124 grains) as described in Arthaśāstr. By the distinctive nature of its marks, it would be assumed that it is the oldest copper coin [38]. One peculiar feature of these coins is that no two coins are precisely similar to each other.

Table 1: Coins Findspots, Number and Types

Sl. No.	Site Name	No. of Coins	Type of Coins	Sources
1	Bākarganj-Kadam Kuān, Bulandībāg	69	Copper Cast Coins, Punch-marked coins	Patil, 1963, p. 395 & 400; Kuraishi, 1931, p. 100.
2	Bulandībāg	400	Early Rectangular Cast Coins, Punch-Marked Coins	Patil, 1963, p. 395; Kuraishi, 1931, p. 100.
3	Fatuhā	18	Candragupt II Copper Coins	Ray, 1999, p. 16.
4	Golakpur	108	Punch-marked coins (silver and copper)	Walsh, 1919, p. 17.
5	Lohānīpur	Unknown	Punch-Marked Coins, One Candragupt II Copper Coin	Mukharji, 1898.
6	Kumrahār, 1912-13	123	Punch-Marked Coins (silver and copper), Copper Cast Coins, Kuṣāṇ Coins, Gupt Coins	Mukharji, 1898, p. 18; Kuraishi, 1931, p. 109; ARASI, 1912-13, p. 79.
7	Kumrahār, 1951-55	165	Punch-marked coins (silver and copper), Copper Cast Coins, Silver-Coated Copper Cast Coins, Kuṣāṇ Coins, Gupt Coins	Altekar & Mishra, 1959, pp. 86-102.
8	Mahābīrghāt, Śāh Kamāl Road, Begum-kī-Hawelī, Gulzārbāg	Many coins were found, but 22 coins were identical	Punch-marked coins (silver and copper), Inscribed Cast Coins, Lanky Bull type of Kosāmbī Coins, Gupt Coins	Sinha & Narain, pp. 48-51; IAR, 1955-56, p. 23.
9	Kamaldāh	Unknown	Punch-marked coins (silver and copper)	Waddell, 1903, P. 58.
10	Machuāṭolī	2232	Silver Punch-Marked Coins	Walsh, 1939, pp. 96-106.

11	Ramnā Road	46	Silver Punch-Marked Coins	Walsh, 1939, pp. 93-94.
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Discussion and Conclusion

Fining coins from the pre-Mauryan period up to the Gupta period indicates the cultural continuity of the city. Coins like silver and copper punch-marked coins and copper cast coins are found from the pre-Nand period up to the pre-Gupta period, suggesting that these coins were common currency till the beginning of the Gupta period, though other coins like Kuṣāṇ and Mitr coins were introduced. Finding an enormous treasure of coins mentioned above also reflects a well-developed monetary system where common people used coins in commercial exchanges and day-to-day expenditures. However, the number of Gupta coins is surprisingly reduced; only a limited number of coins are available, and available coins are made of copper, and no gold coins have been reported. The significant shortage of Gupta coins may correlate with Fahien's statement that common men in the Gupta period used *kaudīs* (shells) for daily exchanges.

One crucial factor that needs to be considered is regulating the mixed silver punch-marked coins throughout time. As it is said, the coins of Golakpur are one of the oldest coins of Pāṭaliputr and probably from the pre-Nand period; some of them were found debased by mixing of molten copper, and copper coins were coated by silver, showing some counterfeiting in coinage. Like above, copper, iron, and other metal-mixed silver coins of Nand, Mauryas, and later periods are also found. Eight silver-coated copper coins are reported from Kumrahār from the 1st to 3rd century CE. Silver-coated copper coins are also found in Golakpur coins from the pre-Nand and Nand eras. So, a tradition of such coins has been observed from at least the 4th century BCE to the 3rd century CE. However, reaching the correct conclusion is difficult without properly analysing more specimens. But, at first look, it seems that the state used to regulate such kinds of coins to increase their royal treasure if we believe the quotation of Mahavamsa that Cāṇakya increased the royal treasury by re-coining each *Kāhāpaṇ* into eight and amassed eighty *Kotis* of *Kāhāpaṇs*. There would be another reason for the prevalence of forged coins that the system was deep-rooted developed, and the administration was unable to handle the situation as Kautilya says that striking forged coins was practised in the society; therefore, he made a detailed discussion on it.

Further, the regulation of forged coins by the state indicates some sort of adversity that forced a state to strike silver coins with a mixture of other metals like copper, iron, etc., without debasing the value of coinage. Silver was not easily accessed in early India and seemed to be exported from foreign countries; so, in particular space and time, access to silver was not adequate, and in the lack of silver and regulating the treasury of a state, it would be necessary. But these are all merely hypotheses developed on the lack of scientific analysis of all kinds of coins found at Patna.

Another notable fact is the lack of gold coins in the city. Finding merely two gold coins throughout Patna is a kind of puzzle. Why does Patna not yield gold coins adequately, while it was the prosperous city during the Kuṣāṇ period and the capital of Imperial Gupts? Waddell points out a crucial incident which would probably be one of the primary reasons for the absence of gold coins. He says, "*Gold coins are not infrequently found by the villagers, but the latter melts them up immediately through fear of the penalties*

attaching to procedure under the Treasure Trove Act. I reported to the police more than one such recent find, but the coins were never recovered, and such valuable clues are yearly disappearing ^[39]." It alludes that gold coins were often found here, but local men were unaware of their historical value, and they considered these coins merely a precious commodity. So, due to fear of acquiring these gold coins and charging penalties by the government, all such coins were immediately melted by villagers. So, it would probably be a common phenomenon throughout Patna and one of the leading causes of the absence of gold coins in Patna.

Ravenshaw, the British surveyor in the mid-nineteenth century who surveyed Patna, quotes his experiences, "*As the southern bank of the Ganges gradually gives way to the undermining power of the current, several old brick wells, long since closed and built over, have been discovered, and in the rainy season many Hindoo coins gold, silver, and copper are found. Gold ones of the Gupta or Canoge series, and Buddhist coins of cast silver and copper are the most common* ^[40]." This quotation explains that gold coins of the Gupta period are not rare at Patna but frequently found and visible in the rainy, when the bank of Gaṅgā eroded due to the rain and as Waddell blames that, local people immediately melted them so that they could escape from the penalties and the government's possession of those coins under the Treasure Trove Act.

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 17. Walsh EHC. *Op. cit*, 1919, 17.
 18. *Arthaśāstr* II. 5, IV. I. 48, IV. IV. 20-22.
 19. Walsh fixes the of these coin by three different reason (1) the depth which they found; (2) the fact that their marks are all of a simple nature; (3) the absence of any marks which indicate the Buddhist religion which might be expected to be found on coins on later than Asoka. Walsh E. H. C., *op. cit*, 1919, 33.
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 21. Walsh EHC. *Op. cit*, 1939, 96-97.
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 25. *ASIAR*, 1912:13:79.
 26. *ASIAR*, 1912:13:86-88.
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 29. Altekar AS, Mishra VS., *Op. cit*, 88-89.
 30. Altekar AS, Mishra VS, *Op. cit*, 86-89.
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 35. *IAR*, 1955:56:23.
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