

Naulagarh/Nawalgarh

It is one of the most famous archaeological sites of the district. It is situated on the northern flank of the Bainti, almost 20km. north-northwest to the district headquarters of Begusarai and almost 3.5 km in the same direction to the block headquarters of Birpur. The huge mound is almost intact and is under agriculture practices. The Birpur-Sanjat road intersects this mound. The remains of fortification over this mound has been explored several times by dept. of A.I.H.C & Archaeology, G.D. College, Begusarai.

Naulagarh is a huge mound. It is expanded right from Bhith(Bhit) in the east to Fansiare Tola in Makhwa Panchayat in the west, The Balan in the east and the Bainti in the south creates a

remarkable topology for the mound. Both of them join in the east almost 1km. from here. In fact, this huge mound seems to be divided in three parts:

- (i) The central fortification area covered by a 3m. wide fortification wall made of baked bricks.
- (ii) Sodhni mound measuring 400m x 100m to the north of the fort.
- (iii) The mound of Dih and Bhit to the east of the fortified area.

Naulagarh is one of the earliest explored sites of the distt. The Dept. of History and A I H & C , G.D.College,Begusarai: under supervision of Prof. R.K.Choudhary explored and surveyed this site in 1950-52. A local resident Shri Ram Nath Singh had gifted the antique collection from this site to the Museum of G.D.College, Begusarai;. A black stone sculpture being the inscription of Vighraha Pala III is protected and displayed in the Museum (Dept. of A.I.H.C & Archaeology). The concerned inscription is narrated in **On Bihar, Buletin-2** of G.D.College, Begusarai.

Naulagarh is remarkable for its multicultural background and continuous cultural sequence. A number of coins- from punch marked coins to muslim coins- have been reported to be explored by local people during agricultural practices. The southern part of the mound nearing the Bainti, the Balan, and the Burhi Gandak connect this site to the heart of Mithila as well as to the outer world.

The expansion and the evidence of dockyard as well as the expanded NBPW influenced area strongly suggest this site to be the Apar Nigam mentioned in the Buddhist literature. The 200m x 100m old tank which is connected by river Bainti with a 50m wide deep channel seems to be made for the purpose of transportation. It is possible that the eastern side of the tank would have been a platform for loading-unloading goods. According to the local tradition, this particular tank used to be a secret path of the royal family to go outside but the topology and the finding till now doesn't support this traditional story.