

the capital of Bihar.<sup>319</sup>

(9) *Piṣṭapura* (No. 1, L. 19) :

It has been mentioned as one of the southern regions which were first captured and then liberated by Samudragupta.<sup>320</sup> Mahendragiri is mentioned as its king. *Piṣṭapura* is the same as the fortress *Piṣṭapura* captured by the Cālukya king Pulakeśin II. The Tāṇḍivāda grant of Pṛthivī Mahārāja also refers to *Piṣṭapura*.<sup>321</sup> *Piṣṭapura* is modern Pithapuram in the Godavari district of the Madras Presidency.<sup>322</sup> It was the capital of Kaliṅga.<sup>323</sup> 'Kaliṅgādhipati' Anantavarman issued a grant<sup>324</sup> from the victorious city of *Piṣṭapura*. This grant records that Anantavarman's grandfather Guṇavarman ruled over Devarāṣṭra with *Piṣṭapura* as its chief city.<sup>325</sup> In our inscription Devarāṣṭra<sup>326</sup> has been treated separately. It seems that during Samudragupta's time these two States (Devarāṣṭra and Kaliṅga) were separate states but later on under Guṇavarman they were amalgamated.

Guha ruled over the whole of Kaliṅga and the neighbouring regions.<sup>327</sup> Guha belonged to the Sālaṅkāyana family of brāhmaṇas. Samudragupta installed him as his viceroy in Kaliṅga.<sup>328</sup> Guha was already reigning over Kaliṅga (with his capital at *Piṣṭapura*) when Samudragupta conquered him and placed him as his feudatory. 'Mahendragiri' may have been another name given to him on account of the extension of his dominion over the Mahendra mountain.<sup>329</sup> It is interesting to note that Kālidāsa<sup>330</sup> refers to Raghu defeating a king named Mahendranātha in the course of his southern campaign. It is tempting to connect Mahendranātha with Mahendragiri. After the victory of Samudragupta, Guha was confirmed in the enjoyment of sovereignty under the imperial tutelage.<sup>331</sup>

At *Piṣṭapura* there is a Vaiṣṇava temple named Kuntimādhava.<sup>332</sup> We get references to *Piṣṭapurī* or *Piṣṭapurikādevī*, a form at Mānapura, of the goddess Lakṣmī, in the inscriptions of the Privrājaka Mahārājas and the Mahārājas of Uccalapa during the Gupta period.<sup>333</sup> This must be a local form of some popular goddess at *Piṣṭapura* itself.<sup>334</sup>