The Srimala Purana has referred to the existence of many professions and economic activities in different chapters. These incidental references are studied to trace the economic activities of the region.  

The Srimala Purana has mentioned many castes conducting a variety of economic activities. These are described here.

Professions of the Brahmanas:

The most important group described by the Srimala Purana is the Brahmanas.

These professions were traced through the help of the study of the Avatankas of their gotras and other sources.

The main profession of the Brahmanas was to learn the Vedas, Sastras, Upanisadas and acquire knowledge and teach them to their disciples. They were to perform the Yajnas.  

1 G.S. Chury, Castes and Class in India  
2 Srimala Purana, LXXII 5, 9, VII 42
The Srimala Purana gives the number of these Vedasalas as four thousands. This may be considered an exaggerated figure. As we learn from the account of Jackson. The schools run by the brahmanas were called Brhmasalas. They existed near the present Government rest house to the East of Vakpati-sarovara, the present Jagannath temple. The Dharmasastras, Vedas, grammar and Jyotish (astrology) were studied. These are already indicated by the study of the gotras, avatankas and caikris of the Srimala brahmanas.

Study of the Vedas:

Vedas were studied as a source of income also. Davas are considered expert in two Vedas, while Trivasis are considered master of three Vedas.

The Srimala Purana mentions that there were (1)Rig Vedi brahmanas 7,000 (2) Yajurvedi brahmanas 4,000 (3) Sama Vedi brahmanas 22,000 (4) Atharvedi brahmanas 4,000, out of 45,000 brahmanas. But the study of their Avatankas indicate that the brahmanas were experts in two or three Vedas.

Other professions are also traced below:

1 Vyag had the Kathas and wrote Tikas for their earning
2 Vajnas were performed by Awasthis and Agnihotries to earn their livelihood.
3 Salyas ran the schools and earned their livelihood by

2 Srimala Purana, LXXII 7 to 12
giving education to students. There were 4,000 Brāhma-
sālas.  

4 The Jōsis did the work of Jyotisīs and earned money
5 Ojhas read sastras and gave lectures and got the Daksīna
6 Bohras (Vora) did business and lent money to others. They
were cultivators of land also and grew rice in Srimāla
Ksetra. Gautama himself was a good cultivator.  

They had four lacs cows and the milk and ghee were a
source of income to meet their financial needs.

These professions indicate that brahmanas were carrying
on a variety of economic activities including trade, agricul-
ture, study of various subjects, teaching and performing
religious duties.

Vanikas:

The second important caste recorded in Srimāla Purāṇa was
of the Vanikas. They were supposed to carry on trade and
business and do cultivation. Following the traditional
pattern, their origin is traced to be the thigh of Viṣṇu.

Their occupations also have been traced through the study
of their avatankas given in the Adhiyāya LXX of the Srimāla
Purāṇa.

---

1 Srimāla Purāṇa, LXXII 5
2 Ibid, LXXIII 38-43, 49-61
3 Ibid, XI 74-75
4 Ibid, XIII 16-19
5 Ibid, XIII 16-27
The main occupations of these Vanikas were as follows:

1. Sarāfā - Had the shops of gold and silver
2. Kupaliya - Sold the Kupa (Pot) made of Camel and other skins
3. Patvā - Cloth merchants (A seller of Pata)
4. Gandhi - Merchants in perfumed oils and scents
5. Parēkha - Worked as Sarāfā
6. Jevera/Javerī - Merchant of Jewels
7. Kapadiya - Cloth merchant sold all types of cloth
8. Cavadiya - Seller of baskets
9. Modi - Merchant selling groceries
10. Vora or Bohra - Money lender
11. Pada Sala Vachadiya - A person having a patasāla that is a cloth mill.

It shows that the Vanikas of Srimala were good traders and they were wealthy persons who carried the business of Jewels, Gold and Silver. They had mills of cloth and earned a good income.

Sunāra:

The Sunāra came out of the Varuna eight pattled Padma. Sunār prepared ornaments of gold and silver for the Srimala.\textsuperscript{1}

---

\textsuperscript{1} Srimala Purāna, XIII 1-15
The other castes and their occupations:

The Srimala Purana in Adhiyaya LXXII named as Keeta Prasansa, the number of castes with their total number and occupation is given. It seemed to be exaggerated when compared to the list given in the Appendix III, on Bhinmal by A.M.T. Jackson in the Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency, p. 450, Vol. I. Both these lists are compared below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of Gazetteer numbered in houses with their occupations</th>
<th>List given in number in Srimala Purana with occupations (S.P. LXXII, 6-22)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Brahmanas</td>
<td>1. Brahmanas 45,000 of 84 Avatankas, Veda Patha, Yajnas, Vratas and Katha were their occupations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Shrimahis 200 houses</td>
<td>A. Rigvedic brahmanas 7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Shevaks (Mage Brahmanas the worshipper of Sun) 35 houses</td>
<td>B. Yuvurvedi brahmanas 12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Sadha (Beggars) 10 houses</td>
<td>C. Samavadi brahmanas 22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Shamia (Alike beggers) 10 houses</td>
<td>D. Atharvedi brahmanas 4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Deshantris (Saturday oil beggar) 1 house</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Acharyas or funeral brahmanas 1 house</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Garodas-Priests of Phambbias Leather-workers 2 houses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Vanikas Mahajan, chiefly Oswals of many sub-divisions 475 houses

2.A. Vanikas of thirty gotras - 90,000

B. Vanikas Dhanotakatas of eighteen gotras 18,064
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Number of Houses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Kasāras or Brass Smith</td>
<td>4 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Patrias (Dancing girls)</td>
<td>30 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5*</td>
<td>Bhumias that is Solanki Jagirdārs</td>
<td>15 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. A</td>
<td>Rangrez (Dyers)</td>
<td>2 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. Bandaras (Calico Printers)</td>
<td>35 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Kariās or Salavats (Masons)</td>
<td>6 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Not given in the list</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. A</td>
<td>Naie or Barbers</td>
<td>7 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. Khavas (Bhumias servants)</td>
<td>12 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Not given in the list</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Mālis (Gardeners)</td>
<td>25 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Mahājans chiefly Oswal</td>
<td>475 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Other castes of Vanikas are not mentioned)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. A</td>
<td>Phille</td>
<td>120 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. Trigers or Arrow makers</td>
<td>5 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Bhambias leather workers</td>
<td>40 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D. Waghria castrator</td>
<td>1 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. Mirasis (Muskman Drummers)</td>
<td>8 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F. Dhollas or Drum beaters</td>
<td>12 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>G. Sargarās (Phil messengers)</td>
<td>1 house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H. Jatiyas or Tanners</td>
<td>17 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I. Khatik or Butchers - working as tanners</td>
<td>1 house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J. Moorhies or shoe makers</td>
<td>30 houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>K. Mehtars or sweepers</td>
<td>1 house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
14. Sunars - 30 houses
15. Kumbhars - 12 houses

Other castes not given in Srimala Purana:
1. Ganchis or Oilpressers - 30 houses
2. Khatis or wood workers - 12 houses
3. Bhats - 120 houses including 80 houses Gunas or grain carriers
4. Rajbhats or Brahmabhattas, genealogists - 40 houses
5. Lohar or blacksmiths - 3 houses
6. Darius or Tailors - 12 houses
7. Jata (cultivators) - 2 houses
8. Castes of Musalmans:
   i) Musalmans potters (Mohilas) - 4 houses
   ii) Kotwala or Pinjaras - 15 houses
   iii) Visyata Muslamans, Padlock maker - Locksmiths - 1 house
   iv) Turk Vohra that is memons - 2 houses
   v) Churigars Musalmans - Ivory bangle makers - Houses,
      Mirasis - 8 houses, Rangrej - 2 houses, and Karias
      Salavats - 6 houses, given in the list of Bombay
      Gazetteer are also Musalmans. The total number of
      houses was 1,400 only.

This study of lists would indicate that the Puranakar has
taken into consideration most of the professions noted by Jackson.
This study points out that the Puranakara has given a fairly
good idea of the economic activities of the region.
Srimala was constructed by Visvakarma and the city was compared to Kasi, Alkapuri, Lanka and Amravati seemed to be exaggerated one. It has fort-walls and a big and deep canal around it. Jackson and Finch Kerr and Ufflet identified the same. It had many gates and doorkeepers. There was an innerfort also where only specified persons were allowed to go. The city was more beautiful than heaven and had the houses with ivory pillars, garlands of Manis which lighted in the place of lamps in night. The number of the buildings was given seven lacs and many had Savaran Kalasas and flags over their tops, which denoted the buildings of the most wealthy persons.

1. Srimala Purana, IX 1
2. Ibid. IX 20
3. Ibid. IX 23
5. Srimala Purana, XIX 8
6. Ibid. XIX 8
7. Ibid. X 54
8. Ibid. X 55
9. Ibid. X 57
10. Ibid. LXXII 23
11. Ibid. X 56, 57
The city had 18,000 cohataś (Business and trade centres), two lac shops1 all lined and crossed on cohataś. The number of the ghat was 842 (eighty four) and it was constructed within five kos3 and its area covered five Yojanas4. It extended in North to Trembakesvarovara in East and then to Pakasarovara in South.

It was a big centre of commerce and business. The figures given above seem to be exaggerated, when compared to the list of the Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency, the number was only 1,400 inhabited houses.6

The businessmen dealt mostly in cloth prepared in Patasalas,7 gold, Jewels, scent, gold and silver ware and groceries.8

There were other craftsmen also like Kanasaras (brass smiths), potters, barbars, gardners, washermen and masons9.

Singing and dancing was also enjoyed by the people and Natas enacted their plays.10

1. Srimala Purana, LXXII 23
2. Ibid. XIX 56
3. Ibid. VIII 14
4. Ibid. LXXII 24
5. Ibid. IX 51, VIII 13
7. Srimala Purana, LXXII 12-23, IX 11
8. Ibid. LXXII 12-23
9. Ibid. LXXII 12-22
10. Ibid. LXXII 12-22
Currency of 'Srimala :

Dinner was used as the coin in 'Srimala, Bhiik Jinjar sold his flowers in 10 dinars.1 Niska was the gold coin. The Venika Sunanda gave nine lac Nisakas and took Laksami to Patan.2

Ratanas were also used in 'Srimala. Naga Takaaka bribed Kasyapa with them and later returned to 'Srimalanagara.3

Ratanas could be achieved by digging in Ratanmala that is Srimala said the goddess Laksami.4

Drama which was the coin of Srimala was not mentioned in Purana.5 Dr. B.J. Sandesara is of the opinion that this coin was operated by the famous King Varmalata in 'Srimala.6 It was used up to the thirteenth century. Bombay Gazetteer says that it was a Boar coin and was known to Indosassanian.

1 'Srimala Purana, XIX 7
2 Ibid. LXXV 4-18
3 Ibid. LXVI 15, 22, 24
4 Ibid. LXII 80
5 Jin Grantha 'Nisitha Curni' writes the Drama was the coin of Bhimal,
it is also in Upkaisa Gaac Patavali, Bhrta Kelpa Bhasiya Tika, Part II p.574 and Lekha Padhati, pp.20, 33, 35, Bhrata Kalpasutra by Acharya Ksemkritani, Part II, pp.574
6 B.J. Sandesara, Jain Agam Sahityama Gujarat, Srimtha (Bhimm)
The indistinct image of a fire temple on a coin was wrongly imagined to be an ass-head and this error lead to the coining of the term ‘Gadhia Paisa’. It was used in Iran and West India.

Subsidiary means:

I Agriculture: The majority of the population were cultivators. The land of Śrīmāla has been called ‘Sajalāmaidani’ in Śrīmāla Purāṇa and it grew crops like rice in abundance which could feed the persons for seven years in famine.

II Herdsmanship and Pasture resources: The bank of the river Sravanti as pasture resources and as the list of Bombay Gazetteer in Appendix III in Śrīmāl mentioned the number of houses of Rehbarīs or herdsmen 70, denoted that sheep and goats were also a means of income.

III Animal husbandry: Viṣṇu gave four lac cows to the Brahmānas which fed in the pastures of Sravanti shows that animal husbandry was also a source of income.

1 Bombay Presidency Gazetteer, p.468
2 Śrīmāla Purāṇa, LXXIII 47-48
4 Śrīmāla Purāṇa, XI 5 74,75
It shows that "Srimala was based socio-economically on sound footings and its society was self-sufficient.

Forests and their resources:

Srimala had forests called Nāmīgarāṇya and Varuna Kānana where the trees like Sāga, Tādi, Tamāla, Punaga, Coconut, date-palm, Bakula, Kovidāraka, Jamuna, Pipala were grown. These were a great source of income for the people of Srimala.

The beautiful furniture, Toranas, images and pillars of houses were prepared from the wood of Srimala Ksetra.

From the above description of Srimalakastra we gather that it was blessed with an abundance of natural resources which led to economic prosperity of its people. Moreover, the economic resources were of such nature that the society of the town could lead an economically self-sufficient life.

1 Srimala Purana, LXIII 26
2 Ibid, LXIV 19, III 21-23
3 Ibid, IV 3-4
4 Ibid, XLIII 91 -Torana of Sun temple was of wood
5 Dr. B. J. Sandesara says the images of Laksamā and Sun brought from Srimala to Patana are of wood. There are two images of Laksamā on the temple of Sundhamātā, Sogandhika and Srimala Purana, LXXV 9-18
6 Srimala Purana, IX 4-8