

APPENDIX C

On Important Geographical Names in Ancient India

अङ्ग It was one of the sixteen political divisions of India, situated on the right bank of the Ganges. Its capital was Champā, also called Angapurī, which is identified with the modern Bhāgalpur. It was the kingdom of Romapāda of the Rāmāyana and of Karṇa of the Mahābhārata.

अनुराधपुर (q. v. page 105). The branch of the celebrated Pipaala-tree of Buddha-Gayā was brought to this ancient capital of Ceylon by Mahinda, the son of Aśoka. This tree still exists in the Mahā-vihāra.

अनूपदेश The country on the river Narmadā; south Malwa; same as Haihaya, Mahiṣa and Māhiṣaka. Its capital was Māhiṣmatī.

अन्ध्र N. of a people and their country. It is the modern Telangana or Andhra. The limits of this ancient country were probably confined to the Ghāts on the west, and the rivers Godāvarī and Kṛiṣṇā on the north and south. It bordered on Kalinga (see Dk. 7), and its capital अन्ध्रनगर is probably the old town of Vengi.

अपरान्त It is the Ariaka of Ptolemy. Some scholars identify it with Konkana and others with the whole western sea-board of India. According to Dr. R. G. Bhandarkar, Aparānta was the northern Konkana, the capital of which was Śūppāraka (Mar. सोपारें) near Bassein. One of Aśoka's inscriptions is recently found in this locality.

अमरकण्टक A part of the मेकल hills in Gondwana in which the Narmadā and Śoṇa rivers have their source. It may be the आम्रकूट, referred to in the Meghadūta (verse 17).

अमरनाथ A celebrated shrine of Śiva in the Bhairavaghāṭi range of the Himalayas.

अमरावती This famous Stūpa is about 18 miles to the west of Bezwada on the bank of the Kṛiṣṇa. It was built in about 380 A. D.

अमरेश्वर A celebrated place on the opposite side of Omkārnātha, on the southern bank of the Narmadā, where one of the twelve great Śivlingas (ओंकार) is worshipped.

अयोध्या The modern Oudh. It was the kingdom of Rāma, with the capital of the same name (see अयोध्या page 213). During the Buddhist period Ayodhyā was divided into Uttara Kosala and Dakṣiṇa Kosala, the river Śarayū being the boundary line between. Vikramāditya of the Gupta dynasty restored the sacred places in Ayodhyā.

अरुणा A branch of the Sarasvatī in Kurukṣetra. It is identified by some scholars with Mārkaṇḍā.

अरुणाचल Tiruvannamalai (South Arcot).

अलकनन्दा A tributary of the Ganges—the united stream of the विष्णुगङ्गा (also called धवलगङ्गा) and सरस्वती-गङ्गा. Its source called बहुधारा is in the Himalayas.

अवन्ति N. of a country, north of Narmadā. Its capital was Ujjayanī, (also called Avantipuri and Viśalā) situated on the Sipra. It is the western part of Mālwa. In the time of Mahābhārata the country extended on the south to the banks of the Narmadā and on the west probably to the banks of the Mahī. Avanti was the kingdom of Vikramāditya. It has been called Mālava since the seventh or eighth century A. D.

अश्मक There is no agreement among scholars about the situation of this ancient country. (See page 277). Aśmaka is identified by some with the Buddhist Assaka situated between the Godāvari and Māhiṣmatī on the Narmadā and its capital was Pratiṣṭhāna. It was a part of the Mahārāṣṭra country at the time of Aśoka.

It is also an old name of Travancore.

अहिक्षेत्र, अहिच्छत्र The name अहिच्छत्र is at present confined to the great fortress in the lands of Alampur Kot and Nasratganj. It was the capital of North Pāncālā or Rohilkhand.

आनर्तपुर, also आनन्दपुर The modern Vadnagar in northern Gujarat. This was visited by Hiuen Tsiang. See आनर्त (page 334).

आभीर The country on the western coast of India from the Tapti to Devagad. The south-eastern portion of Gujarat. According to the Mahābhārata