# Place-Names and Their Suffixes

Now we shall arrange the place-names occurring in our inscriptions with their suffixes and discuss each one of them.

*Place-names ending in Rāṣṭra*

*Rāṣṭra*[1] (from √rāj) :

It is the oldest and biggest territorial term. In the Ṛgveda[2] and later Saṁhitās,[3] it denotes 'kingdom' or 'royal territory'. It is considered to be one of the Prakṛtis (constituents)[4] and refers to a country.[5] It was the name of a Commissioner's division under the Rāṣṭrakūṭas.[6] In South India, under the Pallavas, Kadambas, and Sālaṅkāyanas also it denotes only a district, if not a tehsil.[7] The Samarāṅgaṇasūtradhāra[8] says that 'all the rāṣṭra including *nagara* is called *deśa* or *maṇḍala* while nagara is excluded in janapada'.

It divides rāṣṭras into three kinds :—

(i) Big : It consists of nine thousand and ninety villages, but some scholars say that the nine thousand and sixty four villages make a big rāṣṭra.[9]

(ii) Middle : It consists of five thousand, three hundred and eighty four villages.[10]

(iii Small : It consists of one thousand, five hundred and forty eight villages.[11]

It further discusses that seven cities should be established in each rāṣṭra.[12]

In place-names rāṣṭra is changed into :[13]

(a) Rāṭhā, as Mahārāṣṭra, Marāṭhā

(b) Rāṭ, at Mayarāṣṭra, (=Mayarāṭ), Mirāṭ

It also changes into raṭṭa,

Cf. Nāgiraṭṭa. Walde also derives it
from √rāj-(n.sg. rāṭ)
Sk. *rāṣṭra* : AV. *rāstar—*,[14]