

In ancient Indian history extending over several centuries, we do not find uniformity in the nomenclature of the different territorial and administrative divisions in the various kingdoms flourishing in different centuries and provinces. In the small kingdoms like those of the Pallavas, the Vākāṭakas and Gāhaḍavālas we usually find reference to only one territorial division, the district variously called *viṣaya* or *rāṣṭra*.<sup>15</sup>

Following are the names with this ending :

1. *Devarāṣṭra* (No. 1, L.20) :

It has been mentioned as ruled by Kubera one of the kings ruling in Southern Region who were subdued by Samudragupta. Dey<sup>16</sup> identifies it with the Maratha country (i.e. Mahārāṣṭra). Fleet and Smith are also of the same opinion. G. Ramdas slightly differs from them when he identifies Devarāṣṭra with modern Devagiri in the Dharwar district.<sup>17</sup> According to R.D. Banerjee<sup>18</sup> Devarāṣṭra is the name of a district or province in Kalinga. B.C. Law<sup>19</sup> identifies it with Yellomanchili taluka of the Vizagapatam district, which is also the view of H.C. Raychaudhuri,<sup>20</sup> S.B. Chaudhuri,<sup>21</sup> Dubreuil and Bhandarkar.<sup>22</sup> This view is generally accepted at present. Earlier scholars held that Samudragupta made a round of the South crossing from the eastern to the western coast of India. But this involves serious difficulties about his potential relations with the Vākāṭakas. Now, scholars describe southern campaign of Samudragupta as confined to the eastern coast. Thus it becomes apparent that Devarāṣṭra was conterminous with Kośala (Sirpur). Tāmralipti may have been included in Devarāṣṭra.<sup>23</sup>

2. *Mūla-Nāgiraṭṭa* (No 28, L.2, L.8, L.15) :

L.2 of the inscription mentions a maṇḍala (sub-division) called Nāgiraṭṭa (Nāgiraṭṭa-maṇḍalika) and later on refers to Mūla-Nāgiraṭṭa which seems to have been the headquarters of this maṇḍala. It is clear from the inscription itself that Mūla-Nāgiraṭṭa was situated in the neighbourhood of Nitva-Gohālī.<sup>24</sup>

Mūla-Nāgiraṭṭa literally means 'Nāgiraṭṭa Proper'. The word Nāgiraṭṭa is the Prakritic form of Nāgarāṣṭra meaning 'a country of the Nāgas'.

3. *Surāṣṭra* (No. 14, L.8, L.9) :

In L.8 Surāṣṭra is used in plural<sup>25</sup> while in L.9 it is an adjective of *avani* (land).<sup>26</sup> In this inscription great importance has been