

in known epigraphs. In short Puṇḍravardhana signified North Bengal.

Puṇḍravardhana, as the name suggests, was a settlement of the Puṇḍras.⁵⁶ The first reference to the Puṇḍras is found in the Aitareya Brāhmaṇa.⁵⁷ The earliest literary reference to Puṇḍravardhana is to be traced in the Buddhist work, the Divyāvadāna, where it is mentioned as the easternmost city of India.⁵⁸ The Puṇḍra country is mentioned also in the Bṛhat-saṃhitā,⁵⁹ as situated in the east.⁶⁰ The Kāvya-mīmāṃsā also mentions it as a Janapada in the east. In the inscriptions of Bengal the name Puṇḍravardhana was changed into Pauṇḍravardhana in the early part of the 12th century, when it occurs first in the Manahali grant of Madanapāla and remained in use till the end of the Sena rule. The Rājatarāṅgiṇī mentions Puṇḍravardhana as the capital of Gauḍa which is also proved by a reference in Puruṣottama's lexicon (11th century A.D.)⁶¹

The city lost its importance from the third quarter of the 12th century A.D. as the later Sena kings shifted their capital to Gauḍa in the Malda district. Towards the end of the 13th or the beginning of the 14th century A.D. Puṇḍravardhana was occupied by the Muhammedans.⁶²

Place-names ending in Viṣaya

Viṣaya

According to Monier Williams it means a dominion, kingdom, territory, region, district, country, or abode and in plural it meant lands or possessions.⁶³ In the Aṣṭādhyāyī⁶⁴ it denotes regions or provinces, called after their inhabitants, e.g. Śaiba, the region of the Śibis; Mālavaka, the region of the Mālava people; Rājanyaka, of the Rājanya tribe and so forth. 'The names according to Viṣaya seem to be based on the ethnic distribution of population over particular areas for the time being without reference to the form of government'.⁶⁵

The word Viṣaya in the sūtra Viṣayo deśe⁶⁶ is significant. Jainendra, Śākaṭyana and Hemaçandra take it as rāṣṭra, and Vardhamāna as Janapada. The Kāśikā takes it as grāma-samudāya. Kātayāyana and Patañjali interpret Viṣaya as being identical with janapada in some cases, but their comments give the impression that even such geographical units as were