

not a janapada were called Viṣaya.⁶⁷

If Viṣaya and Janapada had been identical, Pāṇini would not have treated the former under a separate heading.⁶⁸ A Viṣaya denoted both a bigger unit having the status of a Janapada, and a smaller area which was but an estate. In the Rājanyādi gaṇa, viṣaya denotes janapadas, while in the Bhauriki and Aiṣukāri gaṇas,⁶⁹ it is landed property, the share of estate which was the source of livelihood.

In the post-pāṇinian period, distinction between Janapada and viṣaya was lost, both being called by the same names, for example Aṅgāḥ, Vangāḥ, Sumhāḥ, and Puṇḍrāḥ. In some Janapadas like Rājanya, the distinction was retained, as Rājanyaka denoted a viṣaya and Rājanyāḥ, the Janapada of the Rājanya tribe. Similarly we have Vāsataḥ, Vāsatayaḥ; Gandhāraḥ, Gāndhārayaḥ; and Śaibaḥ, Śibiyāḥ. Other smaller units were only viṣayas or estates like Bailvavanaka, Ātmakāmeyaka, Bhaurikavidha and Aiṣukāri-bhakta.⁷⁰

The viṣaya usually corresponded with the district of the modern administration.⁷¹ Minor bhuktis, maṇḍalas and the viṣayas were used to denote the same administrative division in many cases.⁷² The district administration was well organised in the Gupta period. Some of the land-grant charters bear the seals of the district administration.⁷³ Sealings of the district administration of Rājagṛha and Gayā have been found at Nālandā, showing that their correspondence to outsiders bore the impress of their official seals.⁷⁴

We have the following place-names ending in Viṣaya :

1. *Gayā* (No. 21, L. 7) :

A village named Revatikā belonging to the Gayā viṣaya was granted as an agrahāra to a brāhmaṇa, ostensibly by Samudragupta.⁷⁵ Gayā is at present headquarters of the Gayā district, 60 miles due south of Patna. It comprises the modern town of Sahebganj on the northern side and the ancient town of Gayā on the southern side.⁷⁶ Much has been written on Gayā,⁷⁷ all of which is not possible to discuss here. We will confine ourselves to the origin of the name Gayā and the importance of Gayā.

In the Ṛgveda Gaya is a proper name applied to a composer of hymns.⁷⁸ In the Atharvaveda⁷⁹ Gaya appears to be a