

derived from Sanskrit Rāṣṭra.¹⁵⁰ The Nāgara brāhmaṇas of Lāṭa (Gujarat) are said to have invented the Nāgarī character which is believed to have been derived from the Brāhmī alphabet.¹⁵¹

6. *Vaivya*¹⁵² (No. 40, L. 4) :

In this inscription the viṣaya of Vaivya is mentioned. The word Vaivya is inexplicable. We may, however, suggest that the term was possibly derived from Prakrit Vevva¹⁵³ which means 'fear' and hence Vaivya would mean 'fearful' or 'dreadful'.

Place-names ending in Maṇḍala

Maṇḍala

Maṇḍala is a territorial unit which is found in the inscriptions of many dynasties of the early medieval period. Originally it denoted in the Arthaśāstra and other legal texts,¹⁵⁴ a diplomatic circle of twelve neighbouring kings, some friendly and others unfriendly, in relation to a king desirous of conquest. The term could also be used for the territory under the possession of a feudatory. But in the Gupta period maṇḍala is used for some kind of administrative division though in early medieval period its use was in feudalistic association.¹⁵⁵ In Cālukyan records, the governor of a maṇḍala was usually called a Maṇḍaleśvara or Mahāmaṇḍaleśvara.¹⁵⁶ In the records of the Imperial Guptas it denoted a unit smaller than a Viṭhi.¹⁵⁷ Literally meaning a circle or round it denotes a district, province, country in general or it may signify a surrounding district or neighbouring state.¹⁵⁸

1. *Nāgiraṭṭamaṇḍala* (No. 28, LL. 1-2) :

Nāgiraṭṭamaṇḍala formed a part of Dakṣiṇāmśakavīthi in Puṇḍravardhana, the headquarters of the province of the same name. Mūla-Nāgiraṭṭa seems to have formed the headquarters of the Nāgiraṭṭamaṇḍala¹⁵⁹ Nāgiraṭṭa is a Prakritic form of Nāgarāṣṭra.

2. *Uttaramaṇḍala* (No. 52, L. 7) :

Literally it means 'the Northern Maṇḍala'. The province might have been divided into four maṇḍalas in the four directions from the point of view of administration. The village Kānteḍadaka is described to have formed a part of the Uttaramaṇḍala as mentioned in the record.¹⁶⁰