

*Place-names ending in the Suffix Nagara**Nagara :*

Nagara means a town, a city.<sup>335</sup> we find the term being used by Pāṇini (IV. 2. 142).<sup>336</sup> The word Nāgaraka (or Nāgarika)<sup>337</sup> also occurs in Sanskrit literature as standing for 'an inhabitant of a town' but sometimes its use was restricted for the chief of a town or a police-officer. In modern times nāgarika is used to refer to 'a citizen of a state whether living in city or village'.

In the early Vedic literature Nagara is found only as the derivative adjective Nagarin, used as a proper name, but it appears in the sense of 'town' in the Taittirīya Āraṇyaka (I.11, 18 : 31, 4) and frequently in the later works.<sup>338</sup>

Nagara is an important factor which helps us to distinguish Janapada from rāṣṭra : nagara forms a part of the rāṣṭra but is excluded from the Janapada.<sup>339</sup> Samarāṅgaṇasūtradhāra uses Nagara and Pura as synonyms.<sup>340</sup> It is significant that the word Nagara is of late occurrence.<sup>341</sup> It is likely that in the early Vedic times city life does not seem to have developed much. In the Epic,<sup>342</sup> there are references to Nagara, 'a city' : Grāma 'Village' : and Ghoṣa 'ranch'. Vedic literature especially of the earlier period is generally confined to the village. The siege of puras is mentioned in the Saṁhitās and Brāhmaṇas.

The word Nagara is changed into :<sup>343</sup>

- (a) Nar as Kuśīnagara, Kusinar, Girinagara, Girnar
- (b) Ner as Jirṇanagara, Jooner.

In modern times the suffix nagara is sometimes used to denote an inhabitation or Mohalla e. g. Tilak Nagar, Subhash Nagar, Patel Nagar, Jawahar Nagar, Lajapat Nagar.

We do not find any place-name with the suffix 'nagara' in our records but with a little change in the same sense with the suffix nagarī, which is given below :

*Pañcanagarī* (No. 44, L. 1) :

It was the chief town of the district, where Kulavṛddhi's Court was situated.<sup>344</sup> D. C. Sircar considers it to be modern Pāncbibi in the Bogra District and the same as Pentapolis of Ptolemy.<sup>345</sup>