

his imperious commands.⁶⁴⁷ Samataṭa is the only territory in Bengal to be referred to in the Allahabad Praśasti.⁶⁴⁸ The first epigraphic reference to Samataṭa is to be found in this inscription.⁶⁴⁹ Literally the name means 'the shore country' or 'Level country'.⁶⁵⁰ 'Samataṭa in the Gupta period denoted a territory lying to the east of the Brahmaputra'. The Bṛhat-saṁhitā mentions it as a country situated in the East.⁶⁵¹ The Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang proceeded from Kāmarūpa southwards and after a journey of 1,200 or 1,300 li (6 li-1 mile) reached the country of Samataṭa. According to him, this country was on the seaside and was low and moist and was more than 3,000 li in circuit.⁶⁵² From Samataṭa, the pilgrim journeyed towards the West for over 900 li and reached Tanmolihti,⁶⁵³ or Tāmralipta, the modern Tamruk in the Midnāpur district.⁶⁵⁴ Samataṭa, therefore, must have been the South-eastern part of the Bengal presidency corresponding to the Dacca, Faridpur, Backerganj, Jessore and Khulna districts.⁶⁵⁵

It is known from the Baghaura Inscription⁶⁵⁶ that the Tipperah district was in Samataṭa. The Ārya-Maṅjuśrī Mūla-kalpa states that Samataṭa was situated to the east of the Lohitya.⁶⁵⁷ The Yādavaprakāśa equates Bhaurika with Samataṭa.⁶⁵⁸

Epigraphical evidence, however, shows that Samataṭa comprised the districts of Comilla, Noakhali and Sylhat.⁶⁵⁹ Its capital Karmmanta has been identified with Baḍ-Kāmatā, 12 miles west of Comilla district.⁶⁶⁰ After the rule of the Guptas, Samataṭa was successively under the Khaḍga, Candra, Varman and Sena dynasties.⁶⁶¹

13. *Veṅgī* (No. 1, L. 20) :

Inscription No. 1 mentions it with its king Hastivarman who was subjugated by Samudragupta. It seems to be an abbreviated form of Veṅgīpura by dropping the suffix Pura.⁶⁶² It is identified with Vegī or Peḍḍa-vegī, a village near Ellore Taluka between the Krishna and the Godavari rivers.⁶⁶³ Banerjee describes it as one of the Pallava kingdoms of South.⁶⁶⁴ But the capital of the Pallavas was Kāñcī. Veṅgī was the capital of the Cālukyan kings⁶⁶⁵ and was also known as Vengai-nāḍu.⁶⁶⁶