

loyalty of the citizen to the state.⁷²⁵ Pāṇini mentions Vāṅgī (the lady of Vaṅga Janapada) along with Avantī, Kurū and Yaudheyī.⁷²⁶ Patañjali also refers to the Vaṅgas by way of illustration.⁷²⁷ Kauṭilya makes similar references to the country.⁷²⁸ The Bhāgavata Purāṇa also mentions it as a country.⁷²⁹ Kālidāsa states that Raghu after conquering the Sumhas,⁷³⁰ defeated the Vaṅgas with his force.⁷³¹ The Kāvya-mīmāṃsā mentions Vaṅga as a janapada situated in the east.⁷³² The Bṛhatsamhitā also mentions it in the east along with Upa-Vaṅga.⁷³³

According to the Mahābhārata⁷³⁴ Vaṅga, son of Bali, had established this country. The Amarakośa⁷³⁵ mentions Vaṅga as a synonym of Raṅga (lead), but lead is not available in Bengal and is found in abundance in Malaya, Pegu and East Indies. People in other parts of India may have received lead through the people of East Bengal. Suśruta also uses Vaṅga in the same sense as Amara does⁷³⁶

R.C. Banerji⁷³⁷, on the basis of the Ablur Inscription of the Kalacuri king Bijjala⁷³⁸ takes Vaṅga and Vaṅgāla as two distinct people or tribes. This view has been correctly refuted by S.B. Chaudhuri⁷³⁹ who concludes that Vaṅgāla was within Vaṅga and hence was not altogether a separate geographical entity as is maintained by some.

The confusion may be due to the fact that the geographical location of the Vaṅga country changed in different periods. The same country Vaṅga was known as Vaṅgāla with the addition of the Prakrit suffix 'āla'⁷⁴⁰ which was transliterated by the Muslims as Bangālah (pronouncing Bangāla) in their script⁷⁴¹ and this was changed into Bengal by the English people.

The Yādavaprakāśa equates Vaṅga with Harikeli⁷⁴² but the Kalpadrukośa, a work of the seventeenth century states that Śrihaṭṭa is Harikeli.⁷⁴³ The commentary of Yaśodhara on the Kāmasūtra refers to Vaṅga as situated to the east of the Brahmaputra.⁷⁴⁴

REFERENCES

1. Fz. p. 879, col. 2.
2. iv. 42, 1; VII, 34, 11; 84. 2; X. 109, 3; 124, 4 etc., vide Vg. Vol. II, p. 223.