

SL No	Ancient Janapads	Current Location
1	Pundra	Parts of the greater Bogra, Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Dinajpur districts are special.
2	Barindra	Bogra, Pabna, Rajshahi division, and some parts of Rangpur and Dinajpur.
3	Bango	Kushtia, Jessore, Nadia
4	Gauri	Malda, Murshidabad, Birbhum, and Chapainawabganj
5	Somototh	Greater Cumilla and Noakhali regions
6	Harikel	Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Tripura, Sylhet
7	Chandra Dip	Barishal, Bikrampur, Munshiganj district and its adjoining areas.
8	Kamrupa	Jalpaiguri, Greater Goalpara District of Assam, Greater Kamrup District
9	Tamrolipto	Medinipur District
10	Arakan	Cox's Bazar, Parts of Myanmar, South of the Karnafuli River

Township of ancient Bengal

Gauro: Though Gauro's name is quite familiar there is much controversy about which area was the actual Gauro and how they named it. The first mention of Gauro was found in Panini's book mentioning the industries and agricultural products of this town. In the 7th century, Karnasuvarna of Murshidabad district was the capital of Shashanka, the king of Gauro. Gauro was most famous under the Pala dynasty. In modern times Maldaha, Murshidabad, Birbhum, and some parts of Burdwan are considered to be the borders of Gaur.

Pundra: Among ancient Janapads Pundra is very important. It has been said that a tribe named "Pundra" built up these Janpads. This nation is mentioned in Vedic literature and Mahabharata. The name of the capital of Pundra was Pundranagar. Later its name changed to Mohasthangar. Possibly at the time of Mourja king Ashok (273 AD-232 AD.), this ancient Pundra lost its independence. With the growth of prosperity, it turned into Pundrabardhan in 5th-6th century AD. Experts claim that Mohasthangar (7 miles from Bogra) is the ruins of ancient Pundrabardhan. From the historical prospect, Pundra was the most enriched Janapad.

Banga (Bangla): Bangla is a very old janapad. In a very ancient book, it has been said that Banga was the neighbor of Magadh and Kalink. The description of this janapad is also found in King Chandra Gupta, Bikramaditta, and other inscriptions and the books of Kalidas. At the southeast side of the present Bangladesh, a Janapad named Banga had built up. From different signs and other things, it seems that the place between Ganga and Vhagirathi was called Banga. At the time of the Pala and Sen Dynasty, the area of Banga had been reduced. At the end of the Pala dynasty, the Banga was divided into North Banga and South Banga. After that at the time of Keshob Sen and Biswa Sen Banga was divided into two parts- "Bikrampur" and "Nabbo". Ancient Bengal was a strong kingdom, Greater Dhaka, Mymensingh, Comilla, Barisal, Pabna, Faridpur, Nayakhali, Bakerganj, and Patuakhali's lower wetlands and the western highlands of Kushtia, Nadia, Shantipur and the adjoining areas of Bikrampur in Dhaka.

Harikel: Seventh-century writers describe a town called Harikela. It is Singh, a Chinese traveler, who said Harikela was the last frontier in eastern India. Harikela stretches from Sylhet to Chittagong, a parallel region of the Tripura range.

Somototh: According to the Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang, Samatata was a new kingdom in the southeastern part of Bengal. Some experts believe that Somotata was the ancient name of Comilla. The present Comilla and Nayakhali areas, including the Meghna, are included in the Samatat. 12 miles west of Comilla, Bara Kamta was the capital of Samatata. One of the ancient monuments found in Comilla Mainamati is 'Shalban Bihar'.

Barendra: Barendra or Barendra land was a part of North Bengal. Barendra was the most popular area of Pundrabardhan. After that, this area was introduced as Barendra. This famous janapad was situated between the Ganga and Korotoya rivers. Bogura, Dinajpur, and a large area of Rajshahi and Pabna belonged to Barendra.

Tamralipta: To the south of Harikela, to the south of Radha was the town of Tamralipta. Tamralipta was a famous port of ancient Bengal. The Tamluk area of the present Midnapore district was the center of the Tamralipta town. For maritime trade, it was a famous place.

Rarh: Rarh is an ancient town in Bengal. From the west bank of the river Bhagirathi, the southern part of the river Ganges belongs to the Rarha region. The river Ajay divides the Rarha region into two parts. North Rarh the whole of Birbhum district in the western part of the present Murshidabad district.

Chandradip: Bakla Pargana mentioned in 'Ain-e-Akbari' belongs to the present Barisal district. In the Middle Ages, the present-day Barisal district was the mainland and heart of Chandradwip. This ancient town was situated between Baleshwar and Meghna. In the Pala period, it was ruled as a territory under the rule of the Trilakeya Chandra.

Kamrupa: Jalpaiguri, Greater Goalpara District of Assam, Greater Kamrup District, these areas belong to Kamrupa.

Arakan: Cox's Bazar, parts of Myanmar, south of the Karnafuli River belongs to Arakan.

Gangaridai Empire

Believed to have been established around 300 BCE, the state of Gangaridai and its capital city of Gange was located in the historical and geographical region referred to as Bengal – an area including present-day Bangladesh and India's West Bengal State. The ruins of the city of Gange have not yet been discovered, but it has been suggested by scholars that either the Wari-Bateshwar ruins in the Belabo Upazila of Bangladesh or the Chandraketurgh archeological site on the banks of the Bidyadhari River in India may be the lost city of the state of Gangaridai. The earliest reference to Gangaridai is found in the written works of the Greek ethnographer Megasthenes (350-290 BCE). In the writings of Greek historian Diodorus Siculus, recorded between 60 and 30 BCE, he speaks of Alexander the Great pursuing King Porus of the state of Paurava to the nation of Gandaridai, which he described as “a nation possessing the greatest number of elephants and the largest in size.” Historians have proposed that Alexander the Great left the region in anticipation of a joint attack by the Prasii and Gangaridai Empires. The invasion of the region and the subsequent withdrawal of Alexander the Great are mentioned in several other writings by Greek and Roman historians. The aforementioned Megasthenes also wrote of the wealth and might of the people he referred to as the Gangarides, noting that their king possessed 1,000 horses, 700 elephants, and 60,000 troops.

Dhana Nanda, the last ruler of the Nanda dynasty, was king of the Gangaridai region at the time of the invasion by Alexander the Great. The Nanda dynasty was an amalgamation of the Prasii and Gangaridai Empires. Dhana Nanda was later dethroned by Chandragupta Maurya, the founder of the Maurya Empire, which ruled until 185 BCE. Renowned Bengali historian, Rakhaldas Bandyopadhyay, noted that during the rule of Chandragupta Maurya, the state of

Gangaridai was independent. Visitors to the Wari-Bateshwar ruins can gain insight into the ancient history of this region of Bangladesh, which once was the scene of battles between dynasties, and against foreign invaders.

Matsyanyayam

Matsyanyayam the condition of Bengal in the century following the death of Shashanka and before the rise of the Pal dynasty (750-850 AD) has been described as Matsyanyayam. The Sanskrit term Matsyanyayam, used in ancient texts, bears special significance. The Kautilya Arthashastra defines the term as follows: When the law of punishment is kept in absence, it gives rise to such disorder as is implied in the proverb of fishes, i.e., the larger fish swallows a smaller one, for in the absence of a magistrate, the strong will swallow the weak. Matsyanyayam refers to a condition of anarchy and disorder like when the big fishes catch and swallow the small fishes in a pond. The powerful kings of Bengal took complete control over small regions in such a way. This period of anarchy lasted for one hundred years. In the middle of the eighth century, this anarchy and disorder came to an end with the rise of the Pala reign.

Tibetan historian LAMA mentioned that all of Bengal was pervaded by unprecedented anarchy in the century before the rise of the Pala dynasty. The government was fragmented, with no king having real control over GAURA, VANGA, and SAMATATA. Brahmanas, merchants, and townsmen all were kings in their own homes. The sufferings and strife of the common people were intolerable.

From the above, it appears clear that in the century following the reign of Shashanka Bengal saw very little stable government. The country was torn into many small kingdoms and warfare among them caused the instability. In the absence of a strong force capable and efficient of enforcing law and order, a situation prevailed that has been termed Matsyanyayam. Physical strength was the only strength. To put an end to this state of affairs, Gopal emerged as the king of Bengal and founded the rule of the Pala Dynasty.