



Welcome

History of Bangladesh Ancient Period

The History of Bangladesh

- ▶ We are starting from beginning.
- ▶ We can know about the history of Bangladesh and our nation if we see the history of Bengal.
- ▶ The historic period of Bengal (Bangladesh and West Bengal) is usually classified into the Ancient, Medieval, and Modern periods.

Ancient Period

- ▶ No one can determine the exact time when people started living in this place. The historians think that 500 BC to 1300 AD is the ancient age of history, whereas some others think 500 BC to 600 AD should be treated as early historic period.
- ▶ Bangladesh is situated in southern part of Asia. Here, political condition changed from the beginning of the history. That's why the boundary also changed in the course of the time.

Gangaridai

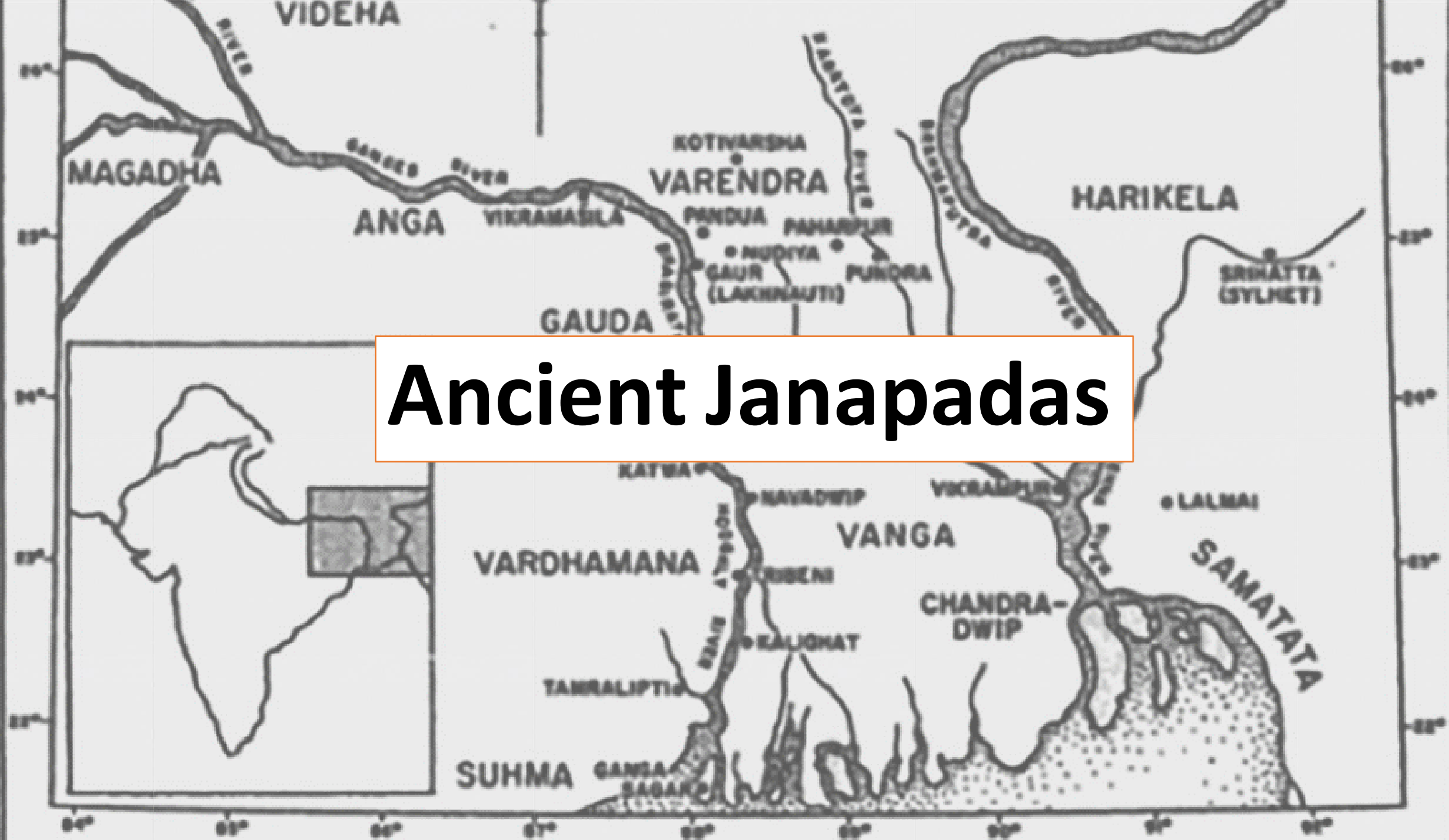
The word 'Gangaridai' was derived from the word Ganga which means Ganga people. It is a terminology used by the Ancient Greco-Roman writers. It represents a people or a geographical region of the ancient Indian continent.

Location: Located to the east of the Ganges river in Bengal region which was 30 states wide

Capital: Ganges or Patliputra was the capital of Gangaridae or Gangaridai.

- At present two rivers have been observed which are related to the term Gangaridai-
 1. Bhagirathi (West Bengal)
 2. Padma (West-Southern part of Bangladesh)
- **Didorus** states that Gangaridai had never been conquered by the foreign countries because of its strong elephant force. He further states that **Alexander the Great** advanced up to after subjugating other Indians, but decided to retreat when he heard that the Gangaridai had 4,000 elephants.

Ancient Janapadas



Ancient Janapadas (settlement) in the lands of Bengal

The land of modern Bengal was divided into many settlements.

A few became famous such as Pundra/Pundraverdhana, Varendra, Banga, Gaur, Radh, Samatata, Horikel; as time went on, Banga and Gaur became dominant.



Gaur

Roughly the areas of present Rajshahi and Chapai-Nawabganj districts of Bangladesh and Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal of India were the Gaur Janapada.

In the seventh century Sasanka was the king of Gaur. Karnasuborna, in the present district of Murshidabad, was the capital at that time. Sometimes before the Muslim conquest, Lakhnauti of Maldah district was also known as Gaur. This region was known as Gaur during the Muslim period too.



Banga



The regions bordered by the Jamuna on the north, the Padma on the south, and the Meghna on the east was the ancient Banga Janapada (present Khulna and Barisal regions. Present Mymensingh regions were also sometimes included in the Banga Janapada).

There was another janapada (human settlement) in Bakla/Bakerganj, i.e. present Barishal, known as Chndradip (Chandra Island).

Pundra

The Pundra was situated on the northern banks of the Ganges-Padma. On the south, it was bordered by the Jamuna. It was indeed the lower part (southern part) of the present northern districts of Bangladesh.

The Pundra Janapada was the oldest janapada. It is said that before the coming of the Muslims, the oldest Pundra Janapada was replaced by the Varendra Janapada.



Ancient Janapada: Varendra

- Varendra is an historical region in the northern part of Bangladesh and the southwestern part of West Bengal, India. It was an important center of Hindu and Buddhist cultures and civilizations and has a rich history and heritage.
- It is supposed that it constituted a part of Pundra. A large portion of Bogra district and Rajshahi district was included in the Varendra.
- The region was ruled by various kingdoms and dynasties, including the Vanga Kingdom and the Pala Empire.
- The archaeological sites of Mahasthangarh, Mainamati, and Paharpur are located in Varendra and are considered some of the most important archaeological sites in South Asia. The region is also known for its rich culture and traditions, including music, dance, and art.



Ancient Janapada: Samatata

- Samatata was an ancient kingdom located in present-day Bangladesh. It was a significant centre of Hindu and Buddhist cultures and civilizations and was one of the four major kingdoms in Bengal during the early medieval period.
- The kingdom of Samatata was ruled by a line of independent kings who maintained control over a large area of present-day Bangladesh and parts of Assam and West Bengal, India. Samatata was an important centre of trade and commerce, and its capital, Samatata (modern Comilla), was a major centre of Buddhism and a hub of maritime trade.
- The kingdom of Samatata was eventually absorbed into the larger Pala Empire, which dominated Bengal from the 8th to the 12th centuries.



Ancient Janapada: Harikela

- Harikela was a historical kingdom in ancient Bengal, which covered parts of present-day Bangladesh and the Indian state of Tripura. The kingdom was established in the 8th century and was one of the four major kingdoms in Bengal during the early medieval period, along with Samatata, Vanga, and the Gauda Kingdom.
- Harikela was known for its wealth and prosperity, and its rulers were patrons of the arts, including music, dance, and literature. The kingdom was also known for its rich cultural heritage and religious traditions, including Hinduism and Buddhism. Harikela was eventually absorbed into the larger Pala Empire, which dominated Bengal from the 8th to the 12th centuries.



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**Thank You for Your
Attention**