

Kandāvara-Kanthāvara occurring in a Kharoṣṭhī inscription.¹⁵

There are also instances when place-names have been very lengthy.¹⁶

1. The longest place-name in Great Britain has 58 letters—
Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlilllantsysiliogogoch—
a railway station on the Holyhead-Euston line.¹⁷
2. Kardivilliwarrakurkurricapparlarndoo¹⁸.—
This is not a misprint. It is an Australian aboriginal word. It is the name of a lake in the Northern territory, and it means 'the starlight shining on the waters of the lake'.¹⁹

Modern place-names suffixes and prefixes may be divided into three main categories.

- (i) Endings with Sanskrit influence—Pura, Purā, Nagara, Koṭa, Thala (Sthala), Kuṇḍa, Pokhrā, Pāḍā, Bāḍī, etc.
- (ii) Endings with Persian-Arabic influence :—Tālāba, Gañja, (Nawabganj, Daraganja, Vishveshwaraganja), Chaka.
- (iii) Vernacular terms added before : Derā, Mohalla, Basti, etc.
- (iv) English:- Colony, town, street, Road, Fountain, Sector, Block, Enclave, Gate, Bridge, Place and Cantt. (Cantonment).

According to the Mahābhārata²⁰, 'a place must be named after any of its peculiar features'.

In the Mahābhārata²¹ 'Janapada' 'Deśa' and Rāṣṭra are used synonymously.²² Yet in practice, they must differ slightly. 'Deśa' means 'a country', province or any patch of land', 'Janapada', a tribal settlement,²³ whereas 'Rāṣṭra' is definitely a political term, denoting 'whatever fell under the jurisdiction of the sovereignty'.

It will be interesting to note the antiquity of place-name terms. We find Rāṣṭra²⁴ as the oldest right from the Ṛgveda, and used for the biggest unit. Its equivalent Janapada came into being in the Brāhmaṇa-period.²⁵ The Ṛgveda frequently refers to tribes viz. the Yadus, the Purus, the Anus etc. who were residing in particular area without mentioning their territory, province or kingdom.²⁶ The ordinary people of a Janapada were called Viś which were divided into grāmas or unions