

ANCIENT GEOGRAPHICAL PLACES AND TRIBES OF SINDH

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History records different names of geographical places and tribes of Sindh, Southern Punjab and Baluchistan as they appear in Vedas (100 – 800 B.C), Purans (600-500 B.C), Mahabharata (400 – 200 B.C), Ramayana (100 B.C), Panini (400 B.C), Periplus (100 B.C–50 A.D), Ptolemy (140 A.D) and Arab and Persian travellers (711–1000 A.D).

Present Name	Vedic Name	Puranic Name	Mahabharatan Name	Ramayana Name
1	2	3	4	5
Arabian sea (Greek Erythrean sea)	Paravat Samundra			Pascimasaga
Indus	Sindhu.	Sindhu	Sindhu	Sindhu
Jehlam	Vitasta.	Vitasta	Vitasta	
Chenab	Astkni.	Astkni	Chandrabhaga	
Ravi	Parusni	Parusni	Iravali	
Beas	Vipas	Vipas	Vipasa	
Sutlej	Satudri	Satudri	Satadru	
Hakra	Sarsviti	Sarsuiti	Sarsuiti	
Sindh Western Rajputana.	Praticya	-		
Sibians	Bhalanas	-		
D.G. Khan People.	Srinjava	-		
Multanis	Yadu	-		

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Bahawalpurians and Bikanirians	Puru	-		
North Eastern Sindh upto Southern Border Nawabshah District	?	?	Sauvir	Sauvira
Area from D.I. Khan to Larkana Dist.			Sindhu	Sindhu
Khirthar Range				Somagiri.
Deltaic area of Indus i.e. Badin and Thatta Dist.	-		Barbara	Sindhsagra and also Sangama
People of Thar (Sindh) and Indian desert	-	-	-	Maru
The Punjab	-	-	Panchanada	-
Present Sukkur and Bahawalpur Division a left bank of the Indus	-	-	Sauvira	Sauvira
D.G. Khan, Jacobabad, Shikarpur and Larkana Dist. On right bank	-	-	Sindhu	
Central Sindh	-	-	Sudra	-
Mardan and Lasbella Districts	-	-	Parda	-
People of Southern Thar Desert of Sindh and South West Indian Desert and Katch	-	-	Abhiras	-
Saravati	-	-	A town near Present Larkana	-
Panjnad		Panchnand	-	-
Indian Ocean (Greek Mare Prasodum)		Da Ksina Samunra	-	-

Deltaic area of Sindh and area along Rann of Kutch	-	-	Barbara (Barbarican?)	Sindh Sagra Sangam
Kathiawar	-	Surastra	Surastra	-
Deltaic town probably Barbarican	-	-	Varana	-
People of Southern Thar and adjoining Indian Desert	-	-	Kukura	-
People living on bank of Indus from the D.G. Khan to Kashmir	-	-	Pancanads	-

7th to 6th century B. C., some geographical names known from description of 16 Majananapadas by various sources

- Sauviva Sukkur, Rahim Yar Khan and Bahawalpur area
- Arithapura Sibi Town ?
- Ruruka Rohri and Alore (Rohri came up in the 10th century)
- Kaccha Kutch
- Saurashtra Katiawar
- Sindhu Indus
- Sindhu (country) Larkana, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and D. I. Khan Districts on the right bank of the river Indus
- Sarsuti. Part of the river Drishadvati through Bikanir
- Hakra. The Drishadvati river through Cholistan and Sindh
- Suturdi. Sutlej
- Vipasa. Bias

-	Parusni.	Ravi
-	Asikni.	Chenab
-	Vitasto.	Ravi

560 - 325 B.C., same geographic names as 8th - 6th century B.C., and with the following new names added from Panini's grammar of Sanskrit. "Astadhyaya"

-	Gedrosia	Maka or Makran
-	Patala	A new town possibly Brahmanabad or Panini's Brahmanka Capital of parguna Brahmanka
-	Brahmanka	Area between Indus and Hakra in the central and lower Sindh on the left bank of the Indus called Brahmanabad parguna
-	Sauviva	Khairpur, Sukkur and Rahim Yar Khan District
-	Paraskara	People of southern Thar desert (Tharparkur district and adjoining Indian desert up to Luni.)
-	Ruma	Luni River
-	Rauruka	Rohri or Alore?
-	Sakara	Sukkur?
-	Indra Vakra	Iranian and Pakistani Baluchistan
-	Sindhu Vaktra	Deltaic area of Sindh
-	Arbhat	Southern Kohistani People of Sindh
-	Candrabhaga	Chenab river
-	other rivers	Old names as in 6 th century B. C.
-	Sambhrayas	People settled between Hakra and Indus in Sukkur and Rahim Yar Khan Districts (Sammas?)
-	Daru Kaccha	Kathuwar
-	Kaccha	Kutch

Geographical names of 5th and 4th centuries B.C.:

-	Brahmanka	Panini the Sanskrit grammarian of 5 th and 4 th centuries B.C., mentions a town of Brahmanka and also a Parguna of Sindh called by the same name and occupying the present Hyderabad and Nawabshah and Sanghar districts on the left bank of the river Indus in the Central Sindh, Brahmanka would certainly be Brahmanabad of later period
-	Sindhu - Vaktra	The coastal Districts i.e., Karachi, Thatta, and Badin

- Arabhate Kohistan
- Sauvira Sukhur and Bahawalpur division on the left bank
- Sindhu The area from Panjnad to Sehwan on the right bank of the Indus
- Rann of Kutch A vest creek of sea and bad fresh water in inundation months (June to September) brought by the Indus, the Hakra (Sarsuti) and the Luni rivers
- Pari Nagar A port was established on the coast of this creek showing that rain-fall had increased and travels through Thar Desert was common
- Opiai Hecateus based on skylax (Greek Admiral of Derius- I) describes a tribe Opiai living on left bank of the Indus, having a strong fortress at Brahmanka or Brahmanabad where Darius-I stationed troops. On the east of it was the Great South – Asian Desert.

Geographical names and their equivalents as per Roman and Greek writings (500 B.C. to 100 A.D.)

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|------------------|------------------------------|
| - Erythrean Sea | Arabian Sea |
| - Mare Prasodum | Indian Ocean |
| - Gedrosia | Makran |
| - Archosia | Qandhar |
| - Gandhara | Northern Punjab and N.W.F.P. |
| - Sinus Parsicus | Persian Gulf |
| - Sinus Arabicus | Red Sea |
| - Hindu (Indu) | Sindh |

200 B.C. – 200 A.D. geographical places during Bactrian Greek, Parthian and Scythian rule of South – Asia and their present equivalents:

Old Name

Modern Name

- Barbarican	Bhanbhore
- Barygaza	Broach
- caspayra	Peshawar
- Erythean Sea (Greek)	Arabian Sea
- Indus	Indus
	Jehlum
- Mare Prasodum	Indian Ocean
- Minnagara	?
- Ozenc	Ujain
- Pura	Kej
	Sehwan
- Sagala	Aialkot
- Sarsuti	Sarsuti
- Suvirva	North Eastern Indus Plains of the Northern Sindh, Rahim Yar Khan and Parts of Bahawalpur District
- Sincus Gangeticus	Bay of Bangal
- Rahamabaica	Lashella town
- Tarrobane	Sri - Lanka

Town of Sindh and adjoining areas on Ptolemy's Geography (140 A.D.):

The table below shows names of places in Sindh according to Ptolemy.

Ptolemy's	Equivalent by Eggramont	Equivalent by M. H. Panhwar
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Embolima	Ambela village near Ambela Pass in Buncr area	
Asigrama	Asgram in NE corner of Peshawar	Uch Asgrama is located below confluence of Punjab rivers with Indus and can only be Uch, which was on right bank then.)
Tiausa	Sanskrit Cukhsa now called Chach above Attockon left bank	
Aristobatbra	Shahbazgarhin Ghandhara	
Azeica	Oxycanus	

Ptolemy's	Equivalent by Eggermont	Equivalent by N.H. Pahwar
Pardabatha	Praesti – Prasiane, Porticanus	(An island in the territory of Oxycanus.)
Pisca	-	Mohenjo Daro or Dhamraho – jo – Daro
Pasipeda	-	Sehwan
Susicane	Musicana	Probably area from Alore to Rahim Yar Khan.
Bonia	-	-
Cocala	Crocala	Aban Shah (Lambri ok) Karachi Bay (M.H. Panhwar)
Patala	-	Brahmanabad
Barbia.	-	Barbarican
Azeic	Axica Axycanus	Khairpur, Noashero Feroz and Nawabshah Districts

(711 – 1000 A.D.) from Arab Geographers maps or Arab Travellers Accounts:

Name and Places shown in Arab maps and modern equivalents:

Mehran	The Indus below Alore. An eastern Branch of the Indus Passed through Alore Gorge most probably since 5 th century B. C., to 10 th century A.D.
Brahmanabad originally Brahmanka was renamed as Mansura	A town going back to the 5 th century B.C., as Panini calls it Brahmanka. The city survived 1500 years due to seasonal water supply one branch of the Indus passing to its east and joining Hakra
Sharusan, or Sadusan	Siwistan or Sehwan
Nirun	Some where on Ganjo Takar Hills and not necessary at the present site of Hyderabad but probably about 10 miles south
Barbarican was renamed as Debal in 3 rd to 7 th centuries	Most probably due to presence of a synogoupe built by the Zoarostrians or Percian Jews, who had a colony there, from 3 rd century A.D., until its destruction in 1226 A.D., at the hands of Jalaluddin Khawarizm Shah
Gulf of Turan	Soanmiani Bay
Armail	At or Near Lasbella
Kambali	At Soanmiani
Uqli	Uthal
Kasdan or Kusdar	Khuzdar
Kizkanan or Kaikan	Kalat
Mastanj	Mastung
Sndhu Sagara	Sea near the delta of Indus
Sindan	A port on the western coast of Kutch
Sea of Lar or Larawi	The Sea surrounding Kathiawar
The Sindhu river	The Indus above Alore

- * Vitastal	Jehlum	[Reported by Beruni
* Candraha	Chanab	
* Irava	Ravi	
* Shauadar	Sutlej	
Sarsuti	Dry river except spill waters of the Sutlej and the Indus	
- Baniya	On the Eastern Puran and could be represent by Kahu - jo - Daro	
- Panchanada	Indus between Panjnad and Alore	
- Lahorani	Beruni (1030 - 1048) names a port of Loharani, probably an early port on the Indus delta. Later on for at least 600 years all ports on the main branch of the Indus were called Lahri Bander	
- Multan	Multan	
- Uch	Uch	
- Basmad	Bhatia or Bhtinda	
- Mau	(In Rahim Yar Khan District about 25 miles north of Sindh border)	
- Mathelo	Mathelo	
- Vinjrot	(Ruins on Raineer River)	
- Dribh Dethari.	(Ruins South of Vinjrot on Raineer River).	
- Baghrur	Probably Rohri	
- Alrud	Alore (Ruins 4 miles from Rohri)	
- Mir Rukan	(Ruins, north of Nawabshah, but village of the same name exists)	
- Kalari	(Ruins, in Deh Kalari district Nawabshah)	
- Abri	(North of Kalari)	
- Mansura	(Brahmanabad Ruins)	

- Baiaza / Dhaliya / Bania / Manija	(Vicinity of Mirpur Khas near Kahu - jo - Daro)
- Kankot	?
Nerunkot	(Ruins probably near Khathar and not Hyderabad ?)
Sudheran	(Ruins Near Bathoro)
Budh jo Takar	(Ruin in Badin District)
Talti	Talti
Gujo	Gujo
Tatar	Thatta ?
Manjabari	Manghopir
Sadusan	Shwan
Pari Nagar	Ruins near Virawah
Virawah	Virawah
Naggar	Nagar Parker
Mastunj (Masih)	Mastung
Boqan	Sibi
Kalat	Kalat
Kandabil	Gandava
Kanzburd	Panjgur
Amrail / Arnabel	Lasbela
Kandrach	Hinglog
Tez	Gawar
Kez	Kech (Near Turbat)
Qusdar	Khuzdar
Kirkanan / Kaikan	Kalat District

- Bahr – e – Fars	Arabian Sea (Persian Sea)
- Gulf of Sindh	Rann of Kutch
- Bodhia	Sibi – Kachi and Kachho (piedmont) of Larkana District
- Samand.	?
- Debal	Bhambhore ruins
- Sindon	Sunjan
- Kabili	Probably Thano Bhula Khan / Thano Ahmed Khan
- Bandrah	In Sindh Kohistan (probably Karchat)
- Subari	Near Sindhri on Korcee Geck
- Alhaidrus	Jaisalmir
- Cambaya	Khumbhat
- Kumhal	Khumbhat
