



Queen Heo Hwang-ok

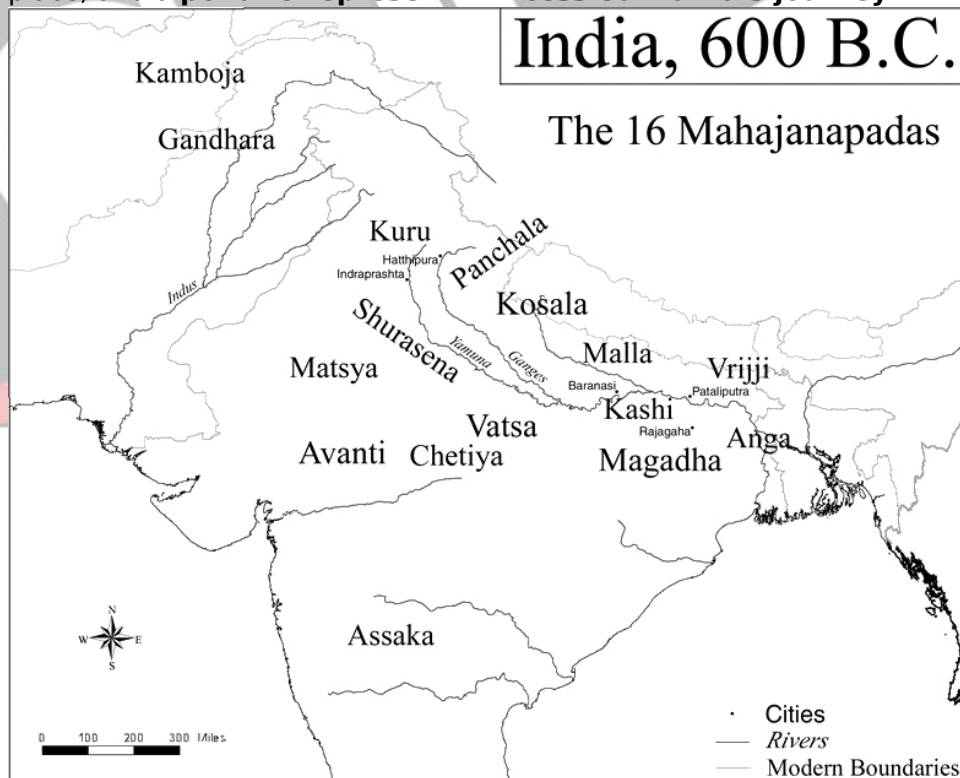
Why in News

Recently, on the banks of the Sarayu in Ayodhya, the Ram Katha Park has been renovated which will be **renamed as Queen Heo Hwang-ok memorial park**. The Korean queen is **believed to have had Indian roots**.

- In 2000, India and South Korea signed an agreement to develop **Ayodhya and Gimhae as sister cities**.
- Earlier, in March 2021 Indian Defence Minister and his South Korean counterpart inaugurated the **India-Korea Friendship Park** in a ceremony at the Delhi Cantonment.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - She was a Korean queen who is believed to have been born **Princess Suriratna of Ayodhya**, daughter of King Padmasen and Indumati.
 - Padmasen **ruled the ancient kingdom of Kausala** (Kosala), a region that extended from **present-day UP to Odisha**.
 - The memorial park now **comprises Queen and King pavilions** with their busts in place, and a **pond to represent Princess Suriratna's journey**.



- Her story is described in **Samguk Yusa (Memorabilia of Three Kingdoms)**.
 - It is a 13th-century collection of legends, folktales and history of Korea's three kingdoms — Goguryeo, Baekje and Silla — and some other regions.
- In 48 BC, the princess travelled to Korea from the ancient land of '**Ayuta**' and **married Kim Suro**, founder and King of Geumgwan Gaya in south-eastern Korea.
 - There is **no consensus among historians** on the location of '**Ayuta**' as **some historians** believe that the princess could actually be from **Thailand 's Ayutthaya kingdom**.
 - While in the popular imagination, it is associated with **Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh**, there is no Indian account of the legend.
- **Princess Journey From India to Korea:**
 - She **travelled by boat along with an entourage**, having been sent by her father, who is said to have **had a dream about her marrying king Suro**.
 - A **pagoda**, believed to have been brought by the queen from India to calm the ocean gods, is placed next to the tomb.
 - According to the legend, **the princess had taken a golden egg to Korea**, and the park includes an egg made of granite.

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