

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

17. Pre-History

The Tel river valley is rich in pre-historic relics. At the confluence of the Tel and Rahul near the village Jamupadar, Pre-historic tools belonging to the Palaeolithic, Meolithic and Neolithic periods have been brought to light. This is a very important sight for pre-historic research.

18. Archaeology

(i) Art and Architecture

Among the old monuments of the district, mention may be made of the Chausathi Yogini temple, Someswara group of temples and the Vaishnavite brick temple at Ranipur-Jhariail; the Kosaleswara temple at Baidyanath, the Kapileswara temple at Charda and few deserted temples at Kumuda, Sinni, Udayapur and Ghodar. Detailed accounts of the temples of the Chausathi Yogini, the Someswara group and the brick temples found at Ranipur-Jhariail have been given in Chapter XIX—Places of Interest. The Kosaleswara temple at Baidyanath is now in a dilapidated condition. The main shrine, i.e. the Vimana has gone out of existence and only the porch of the temple is standing in a precarious state. The temple contains a few dedicatory inscriptions of the late medieval period. There are beautiful sculptures both inside and outside the porch and those inside it are tolerably preserved. The temple was very likely constructed during the rule of the Somavamsis in the 10th century A. D. and it contains some of the finest specimens of medieval art of western Orissa. The Kapileswara temple at Charda is later in date than the Kosaleswara temple of Baidyanath and here we get both the Vimana and the Mohana (porch). The art and architecture of this temple is a continuation of that of Baidyanath. There are large number of beautiful sculptures carved in bold relief inside the porch. Some of the important sculptures are those of Uma-Maheswara, Nisha Parvati, Harihara, Ganesa and Karttikeya. On the lintel of the sanctum is found the image of Narayana reclining on the serpent Ananta. The temple presents a synthesis of both Saivite and Vaishnavite cultures.

The temples at Sinni, Kumuda, Udayapur and Ghodar are located near about the town of Titilagarh and each of them consists of a single cell of plain and rough workmanship. The dates of these monuments are difficult to determine and they may be roughly assigned to the pre-Chauhan period. In the towns of Patnagarh and Sonepur, we find large number of temples constructed by the Chauhan Rulers of those localities. Among important temples of Patnagarh mention may be

made of the temples of Someswara, Pataneswari and Jagannath. The Someswara temple is the oldest of these three and is attributed to cir. 11th-12th century A. D. while the other two were built about the 16th century A. D. The town of Sonepur boasts of a larger group, important among which are the temples of Ramanath, Suvarnameru, Gokarneswara, Paschima Somanath and Lokanath. None of the Chauhan temples of his district present the characteristics of the Chauhan architecture of Sambalpur district and while the latter had the influence of the Central Indian architecture as found in the Khajuraho group, the former show the influence of the Orissan architecture as found in the Bhubaneswar group. The Nrusimha temple also known as the Gundicha temple a Sonepur is the highest monument in the district. It was constructed in the 19th century by Gundicha Devi, the mother of Niladhara Singh and was improved during the time of Biramitrodaya Singh in the present century.

Stray images which once formed the parts of temples are found at various places in the district. Mention may be made of a large group of sculptures found at Saintala in the ex-Patna State. These sculptures are now attached to the temple of Chandi which is in ruined condition. The door-way of this temple is a piece of fine art. It is flanked by the images of Ganga and Jamuna wearing fine clothes and full set of ornaments. The door-way is decorated by divine and semi-divine beings carved with care and skill. Two broken figures of Vishnu have been recovered from the debris, one of which presents the central figure of Vishnu without the surrounding figures which have been completely broken, while the other shows the surrounding figures but not the central figure of Vishnu. The surrounding figures present Lakshmi and Saraswati flanking the main image of Vishnu. Below his feet are found Garuda to the left and a devotee to the right, while on the side panels are depicted the ten incarnations of Vishnu. The top most panel presents the churning of the sea by the gods and the demons. The main image of Vishnu is unfortunately heavily damaged. These sculptures present the characteristics of the early medieval period and may be attributed to about 8th century A. D.

Among other stray sculptures, mention may be made of the images of Ardhanariswara, Baruna, a female figure playing with parrot, as well as a carved lintel of a doorway, all found in the temple of Someswara at Patnagarh ; a panel of Sapta Matrika found at Ghodar; a decorative female figure looking out of window restored from the ruins of Ranipur-Jharial; a twenty-armed image of Mahishamardini Durga at Salebhata ; and an image of Sun-god now lodged at Rajyasri Dharma-sala at Balangir. All these images have been carved out with great skill and care and exhibit indigenous workmanship of the pre-Chauhan period.

An interesting sculpture of the Chauhan period is found in a recently built Mandapa outside the temple of Harisankar. It depicts the descent of the river Ganga according to mythological accounts. We find here Vishnu seated on the throne flanked by Garuda and Brahma, the latter pouring water from his Kamandalu (pitcher) on the left foot of Vishnu. The stream of water which comes out of the pitcher of Brahma to Vishnu's foot symbolises the Goddess Ganga who is jumping down in human form from Vishnu's foot to the matted hair of Siva represented below in Yogic posture with the bull at the background.

(ii) Coins

After merger of the ex-states with Orissa, a number of old coins were brought from Sonepur Sub-Treasury to the Treasury of Balangir—the headquarters of the district. In 1950-51, these old coins were brought to the Orissa State Museum. On examination, these coins have been classified into the following groups:

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| (1) Silver Coins | .. | (a) 162 Punch-marked coins |
| | | (b) 50 Mughal coins |
| | | (c) 2,992 Shah Alam Rupees of Murshidabad mint. |
| (2) Gold Coins | .. | (a) 27 Kalachuri coins |
| | | (b) 27 Yadava coins |
| | | (c) 49 Ganga Fanams |

The punch-marked coins discovered from Sonepur have been noticed in the Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. XIII Part I and Orissa Historical Research Journals, Vol. I, Part II. They are of irregular size and vary from 19.2 grains to 21 grains in weight. On the obverse, they contain four symbols while the reverse is left blank. The four symbols of the obverse are elephant with tiny circle on its back, two humped bulls with dots below their mouths, a pair of standing bulls with a dividing line between them and dots below their mouths, and dotted circle round an eye symbol. This type of coins having four symbols on the obverse are found from Paila and Bijnor in northern India and have been assigned to ancient Kosala. Durgaprasad who examined the Bijnor hoard and Walsh who discussed about the Paila hoard are of opinion that these coins having four symbols on the obverse and weighing 24-25 ratis are pre-Mauryan Kosala coins. In the light of this, the Sonepur hoard may be ascribed to the Pre-Mauryan period, i. e. to the 4th century B. C. when Kalinga was under the rule of Mahapadma Nanda. Coins of the Sonepur hoard weigh about 12 ratis and, as such, they may tentatively be taken as Ardhakarsapana coins of 24 ratis standard.

The next important group is the hoard of Kalachuri gold coins. Out of 27 such coins found from Sonepur, 11 belong to Ratnadeva II

Circa 1120—1125 A. D.), 5 to Prithvideva II (1135—1160A. D.) and 11 to Jajalladeva II (1160—1180 A. D.). These coins contain on the obverse a legend in two lines representing the name of the King and on the reverse the figure of a lion upon a running elephant within dotted border. Some of these coins have the letter 'Ta' below the mouth of the lion while some other have the letter 'Ma' about that place. It is supposed that these two letters stand for the mints and while 'Ta' denotes Tummana, 'Ma' probably denotes Malhara, the two important towns in the Kalachuri kingdom where these gold coins were minted. A few Kalachuri coins are also reported to have been found in the lower—Mahanadi valley but they appear to be stray coins. The Sonepur hoard, however, indicates that the Balangir district area was for sometime under the rule of the Kalachuris, a fact which has been corroborated by epigraphical evidences.

The Yadava coins belong to the Yadava rulers of Devagiri who ruled in the 13th and 14th centuries A. D. Seven Yadava kings are known to have ruled successively from 1187 to 1312 A. D. Out of the 27 coins of this dynasty found from Sonepur, 9 belong to Singhana II (Circa 1210—1247 A. D.), 5 to Mahadeva (1260—1271 A. D.), 3 to Srirama (1271—1309 A. D.) and the remaining 5 have been defaced and cannot be properly identified. These coins are cup shaped—concave on one side and convex on the other. On the obverse, they contain an eight petalied lotus in the centre around which the following symbols are generally found. To the right a letter which may be read as 'Sa', to the left a discus (Chakra) symbol below a conch (Sankha), on the top the symbol of club (Gada) above which the name of the king is found. All the coins are of pure gold and the average weight of each is 57 grains. These coins are locally called Padma tankas. Their find in Sonepur region probably indicates trade relations of that territory with the kingdom of the Yadavas.

Several hoards of Ganga fanams have been discovered in Orissa and the Sonepur hoard presents common feature of these well-known coins. On the obverse, these coins contain various symbols like the couchant bull, lion with raised paw, two fishes, Siva linga, etc. and on the reverse there is a symbol resembling the Oriya 'Sa' placed horizontally with the left face downwards. Below this symbol, one or two numerica figures are found and in many cases the symbol is flanked by two figures which look like the elephant goad (Ankusa) and the axe (Kuthara). These coins have been attributed to the Gangas who ruled over Sonepur region in the 13th century A. D.

The Mughal coins found in the district have not yet been properly examined.

(iii) Inscriptions

Seventeen copper plate inscriptions have so far been found in this district. Out of these, one belongs to the Bhanja dynasty, two to the Telugu Chodas and the remaining fourteen to the Somavamsis of Kosala.

The Bhanja inscription was found at Sonapur and it was originally issued by Maharaja Satrubhanja, ruler of Ubhaya-Khinjali mandala. The record is not dated. Of the Somavamsi inscriptions, six were issued by Janmejaya I Mahabhavagupta, five by his son Yayati I Mahasivagupta, one by Yayati II Mahasivagupta and the remaining two by Kumara Somesvaradeva. The Somavamsi charters are described below.

(a) *Inscriptions of Janmejaya I*

The Vakratentuli plates were issued in the 3rd regnal year of the king. This grant records donation of the village Vakratentuli (identified with Bantentali near Sonapur) to a Brahmin named Jaturupa, a donee hailed from the village Radhaphamvallikandara which according to Hiralal is the same as modern Rairakhol in Sambalpur district.

The Patna Museum (Balangir) grant was issued from the military camp Murasima identified with Murasingha—13 miles south of Balangir town. The record was issued in the 6th regnal year of Janmejaya and registered grant of the village Vakavedda (identified with modern village Vakti—15 miles north of Balangir). The village was located in Angatatavishaya comprising the valley of river Ang, the tributary of the Mahanadi. The second Patna Museum (Balangir) Plates of Janmejaya were issued the same year from Murasima and recorded grant of the village Pasitala in Potavishaya in favour of two Brahmins named Sri Kesava and Sri Apya who were the inhabitants of Loisrunga (modern Loisinga, 11 miles north of Balangir).

The first Kalibhana plates of Janmejaya were issued from Murasima in his 6th regnal year donating the village Jambugrama in Patavishaya to Gobinda, son of Vatakonda. In the 8th regnal year of Janamejaya was issued another copper plate grant from the same Murasima and this grant is also called the 3rd Patna Museum (Balangir) copper plate inscription. It records the donation of the village Satallama in Kosalodavishaya in favour of Bhattaputra Samthakara. Satallama is the same as modern Satalma in Sambalpur district and Kosaloda has been identified with Kusarda—10 miles north-west of Satalma.

The Sonapur plates of Janmejaya were issued in his 17th regnal year from his prosperous capital called Arama. The grant records donation of the village Gottaikela in Loputarakhanda in favour of a merchant association which in its turn registered the same village for maintenance of two temples, one dedicated to Kesava and the other to Aditya located in Gottaikela.

(b) *Inscriptions of Yayati I Mahasivagupta and his successors*

The earliest of his five grants is dated in his 8th regnal year. It was issued from his headquarters Vnitapura identified with modern Binka—20 miles north of Sonapur. It records donation of a piece of

land to a Brahmin named Kamadeva, son of Narasimha and grandson of Harsha. The second grant of the king was issued from the same Vinitapura donating a village called Chardragrama in Marada Vishaya of Dakshina Toshali to a Brahmin named Samkhapani, son of Dinakara and grand son of Ananta. The grant of a village in Dakshina Toshali by a Somavamsi king of Kosala is in fact significant. The donated village Chandragrama is identified with modern Chandgan in Cuttack district.

The Nivinna-Charter of Mahasivagupta Yayati I dated in his 15th regnal year was found from Sonepur. It records the grant of the village Nivinna in the Gandhatapati mandala (modern Gandharadhi near Baudh) in favour of a Brahmin named Dikshita. The fourth grant of the king was issued in his 24th regnal year donating the village Deladeli in Telatavishaya in favour of Bhattamahadadhi, son of Siddheswara and grandson of Parameswara. In his 28th regnal year, which is his last known year, Yayati issued a grant registering the village Luttaruma in the same Telatavishaya in favour of Mahadadhi. The next Somavamsi inscription found in this district is the Murenjura charter (also called Jatesinga-Dunguri charter) of Yayati II Mahasivagupta issued in his 3rd regnal year. The king has been wrongly identified by R. D. Banerji with Yayati I son of Janmejaya. This charter was issued from Suvarnapura, modern Sonepur, recording the grant of the villages Brihadbhusayi in Bhrandavishaya and Muranjura in Santovardda khanda of Samvaravadi mandala in favour of a Brahmin named Yasakara son of Santikara and grandson of Narayana. The other two copper plate inscriptions are known as Kelga plates and belong to Kumara Someswaradeva, later Somavamsi king of Kosala. The first Kelga plate was issued from Suvarnapura, modern Sonepur recording the grant of the village Henda in Kesaloga khanda (modern Kelga) of Uttaravallivishaya in favour of the Brahmin Bhattaputra Udayakara Sarman, son of Bidyakara and grand-son of Bhatta Jayakara. The second Kelga plate, is, however, fragmentary and was issued in favour of the son of Brahmin Udayakara, the donee of the 1st Kelga grant.

The two copper plate grants of the Telugu Chodas were issued by Someswaradeva Varma. His Mahada grant was issued in the 23rd regnal year from the headquarters Suvarnapura. It recorded the donation of 5 villages collectively called Panchapallika, as well as, another village called Champamalla in favour of a number of Brahmins. The Kumarasingha copper plates of the same king were also issued from Suvarnapura.

(c) Stone Inscriptions

Out of the stone inscriptions, the earliest one is the Binka Bramhi record found in the bed of river Mahanadi close to the modern town of Binka. The Brahmi characters of the inscription indicate that

it belongs to an early date, but the inscription has been highly damaged and it is not possible to decipher at present. The Someswara temple inscription at Ranipur-Jhariāl was caused to be inscribed by Gagana Siva, a famous Acharya of Mattamayura School of Saivism, who has been ascribed to the middle of the 9th century A. D. The inscription reveals that the Someswara temple was built by Gagana Siva.

Another temple named Kenduvalli, close to the Someswara at Ranipur-Jhariāl, contains an inscription stating that the temple was constructed by Suddhadevananda, the son of Yogeswara. The record belongs to Cir. 10th century A. D.

On the top of a rocky elevation called Rakshasa Parvata opposite to the Kenduvalli temple, there is a small inscription which reveals that the foot-prints were established there by order of a Siddhacharya.

In the Kosaleswara temple at Baidyanath, there are two small inscriptions—one at the top of the porch and the other on a piece of stone used at present by the priest to prepare sandal paste. The first inscription has not yet been read but the second one refers to one Ranaka-Vaimvika. The Khambeswari stone inscription found at Sonepur is an important record. It throws light on the Ganga occupation of the Sonepur region. It is known from this inscription that one Governor was ruling over Western Orissa from Sonepur during the rule of king Bhanudeva I (1264—1278).

At Patnagarh, close to the temples of Someswara and Pataneswari, there is a raised platform with a flight of steps. The first step contains the fragment of an inscription which reveals that king Someswara donated a village called Ghasrani in Patana Dandapata for perpetual supply of flower garland probably for Someswara Siva. King Someswara was very likely the Telugu Choda Someswara II who ruled towards the close of the 11th Century A. D.

Inside one of the temples at Harisankar, there is an inscribed image of Bhairava. The inscription is in Proto-Oriya script, but it is badly damaged and cannot properly be read. The Nrusimhanath temple inscription of Vaijal Dev, the fourth Raja of Patna, is however found in good condition. It is written in Proto-Oriya characters and in Oriya language. It records that Vaijal Dev, the son of Vaccharaj Dev caused to be built a temple for the feline Nrusimha on the Gandhamardan hill in the Cyclic year Vikari, on Hasta Nakshatra, Friday, the full-moon day of Chaitra, corresponding to March 14th, 1413 A. D. and dedicated the village Luhasingha and one hundred cows to the service of the god.

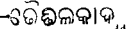
19. Ancient History

The territory comprising the present district of Balangir was in ancient times a part of South Kosala. According to tradition, the origin of South Kosala dates back to the time of Rama and scholars like

Pargiter believe that Rama's long stay in that region gave rise to the name of South Kosala after his original homeland Kosala. According to Padmapurana, the kingdom of Kosala, after Rama, was divided between his two sons Lava and Kusa, the former obtaining the northern half and the latter the southern half. Kusa founded the city of Kusasthalipura and ruled over the southern half of Kosala which came to be known as South Kosala. These accounts cannot, however, be taken to be based on sober history. But nothing definite can be said about the origin of the territory of Dakshina Kosala with the present state of our knowledge.

During the time of the Grammarian Panini (5th century B. C.), a territory named Taitila Janapada flourished to the west of Kalinga and that territory has been associated by some scholars with the modern town of Titilagarh in Balangir district. Taitila Janapada was famous for trade in some commodities described by the Grammarian as 'Kadru' the meaning of which may be either horse or cotton fabrics¹. According to V.S. Agarwala, the word 'Kadru' denotes some tawny coloured material, probably rhinoceros' hides². The discovery of Punch-marked coins in Sonapur, similar to those found at Paila and Bijnor, also indicates that there was commercial communication of this region with important cities of northern India as early as the pre-Mauryan period to which these coins are attributed.

It is not possible to say whether the territory forming the present Balangir district was included in the empire of Mahapadmananda in the 4th century B. C. or in that of Asoka in the 3rd century B. C. The Special Kalinga Edict II of Asoka reveals that the Maurya emperor conquered only the coastal plains of Kalinga and the wild uplands in the west which was known as the Atavika territory was left unconquered by him. His Edicts, however, are silent about the territory of South Kosala and so it is not possible to say as to whether that kingdom was included in his empire or not. The *Malavikagnimitram*, a Sanskrit drama attributed to the poet Kalidasa, indicates that the Vidarbha region forming part of South Kosala was included in the Maurya empire. By the time when Pushyamitra Sunga killed the last Maurya emperor and usurped the throne of Magadha, the territory of Vidarbha declared independence under one Yajnasen. But the Sungas fought with Vidarbha and very soon brought that territory under their sway. Vidarbha in the work of the great poet probably stands for South Kosala but nothing definite can be said about its extension during the time of which the poet speaks in this drama.

1— See Panini's *Ashtadyayi* VI. 2. 42

2—*India as Known to Panini*, P. 61 also P. 440

It is known from the Jaina Harivamsa that in ancient times one Chedi prince named Abhi chandra founded a kingdom near the Vindhya hills in the valley of the river Suktimati which has been identified with the Suktel river of Balangir district. That the Chedi kingdom was located close to Kalinga is known from the Vessantara Jataka, where it is said that the capital of the Chedi kingdom was at a distance of only ten Yojanas from Dunnivitha, a Brahmin village of Kalinga. According to the Chetiya Jataka, the capital of the Chedi country was Sothivatinagara which is the same as Suktimatipuri of Harivamsa and Suktisuhvaya of the Mahabharata (Vana Parva). The epic (Adi Parva) also states that the capital of the Chedis was situated on the bank of river Suktimati, modern Suktel¹. The ancestors of Kharavela were thus ruling over the territory drained by the Suktel in Balangir district, wherefrom they advanced towards the east and became master of Kalinga by the 1st century B. C.

In his Hathigumpha inscription, Kharavela refers to one Rajarshi Vasu as his remote ancestor, who is probably the same as Vasu, the son of Abhichandra, the founder of the Chedi kingdom. This Vasu may also be identified with Uparichara Vasu of the Mahabharata (Adi Parva) where he is described as the king of the Chedis.

Kharavela, the third in the line of the Chedi rulers of Kalinga, was ruling about the middle of the 1st century B. C. and under him Kalinga became the strongest power in India. The territory comprising the present district of Balangir formed a part of his far-flung empire. Kharavela was probably succeeded by his son Kudepasiri, whose inscription is found in the Manchapuri cave of Udayagiri. Balangir region continued to be under the rule of the Chedis during the 1st century A. D. but in the 2nd century it came under the possession of the Satavahanas, whose king Gautamiputra Satakarni extended his sovereignty from the Western Ghats to the Eastern Ghats.

Gautamiputra is said to have built a magnificent Vihara for his philosopher friend Nagarjuna on the 'Po lo mo lo kil' or Parimalagir identified with the modern Gandhagiri or Gandhamardan hills on the borders of Sambalpur and Balangir districts. The Chinese pilgrim Yuan Chwang visited the monastery in the 7th century A. D. It was then having cloisters and lofty halls and those halls were arranged in five tiers each with four courts with temples containing life-size gold images of Buddha.

1. Pargiter identifies the river Suktimati with the river Ken and locates the city of Suktimati at the neighbourhood of Banda. D. C. Sircar in his *Ancient Geography of India*, P. 55, identifies the Suktimati with the river Suktel in Balangir district. We agree with Dr. Sircar.

The history of South Kosala remains obscure till the middle of the 4th century A. D., when Samudragupta is known to have made his campaign against that territory. The Allahbad Pillar inscription reveals that king Mahendra of South Kosala was defeated along with king Mantaraja of Kosala and Vyaghraraja of Mahakantara at the hands of Samudragupta. South Kosala of this inscription has been identified with the territory comprising the modern Bilaspur-Raipur and Sambalpur districts and, according to scholars like Dr. H. C. Raichoudhury, R. N. Dandekar and others, the Sonepur region comprised the territory of Kosala under king Mantaraja. Mahakantara has been identified, in the History Chapter of Koraput District Gazetteer, with the ancient Mahavana comprising probably the forest tracts of modern Koraput and Kalahandi districts. It appears plausible that Samudragupta before stepping into the coastal regions of Kalinga had to subdue the territories of Kosala, Korala and Mahakantara. The present Balangir district very likely constituted the kingdom of Korala and its king Mantaraja continued to rule after the retreat of Samudragupta.

20. The Panduvamsis:

The history of Balangir-Sonepur region after Samudragupta remains obscure till the rise of the Panduvamsis (also called Somavamsis) about 700 A. D. Early in the 6th century A. D., Kosala, came under the rule of the kings belonging to the Sarabhapuriya family whose copper plate charters have been found from Raipur, Sarangarh, Arang and Khariar. These rulers struck gold and silver coins of the Gupta type and ruled about a century enjoying semi-independent status. But it is not known for certain whether they extended their political sway over Balangir-Sonepur area or not. Towards the close of the 7th century A. D., the Panduvamsi Chief Tiveradeva got possession of South Kosala and succeeded Pravararaja, the last Sarabhapuriya king. Tiveradeva was an ambitious monarch and it is known from the records of his son Nandaraja II that he not only became the lord of entire Kosala but also conquered Utkala and other Mandalas. So the present Balangir district was included in the dominion of the Panduvamsis during the rule of Tiveradeva.

It was about this time that the territory of Kongada, comprising the parts of modern Ganjam and Puri districts of Orissa, began to rise in power. The Sailadbhava ruler Ayasobhita Madhyamaraja died leaving behind two sons—Madhava and Dharmaraja, who bitterly quarrelled for succession to the throne. Tiveradeva tried to exploit this chaotic situation in Kongada and actively took the cause of Madhava, but the combined strength of Madhava and Tiveradeva was crushed by Dharmaraja. The defeat of Tiveradeva led to the retreat of the Panduvamsis from eastern Orissa.

21. The Bhanjas :

In the 8th century A. D., the Sonepur area is found to be under the occupation of the Bhanjas of Khinjali mandala (modern Baudh-Daspalla region) who ruled from their headquarters Dhalipura. The earliest known Bhanja king of Khinjali mandala is Salabhanja whose son Satrubhanja is known to have extended his territory to the west comprising the modern Sonepur subdivision. One of his copper plate charters found from Sonepur reveals that he granted land to a Brahmin in the Vishaya (district) of Royara identified with modern Raha on the Mahanadi, three miles off the town of Binka. The son and successor of Satrubhanja was Ranabhanja who is known to us from a large number of copper plate grants issued by him. He ruled over Khinjali mandala including the Sonepur region for more than 58 years. He was a worshipper of Vishnu and a devotee of goddess Stambheswari.

22. The Somavamsis :

In the mean time, the Somavamsis of South Kosala, being defeated by the Kalachuris, came towards Sambalpur-Sonepur region and their king Janmejaya Mahabhabagupta occupied Sonepur, wherefrom he issued grant in his 3rd regnal year. There was long-drawn-out between Janmejaya and Ranabhanja and subsequently the Somavamsi king came out victorious. It is known from the Bramheswara temple inscription that Janmejaya defeated and killed the king of Odra in a hotly contested battle. This Odra king was very likely Ranabhanja of Khinjali-mandala after whose death the Bhanjas left the Baudh region and migrated towards Ganjam. Janmejaya not only occupied the Sonepur-Baudh region but also had his sway over the Trikalinga territory comprising the modern Koraput and Kalahandi region. He was busy throughout his career in consolidation of his newly conquered territories and was engaged in war both with the Kalachuris in the west and the Bhanjas in the east. His war with the Bhanjas was over after the defeat of Ranabhanja and his occupation of Khinjali mandala, but the war with the Kalachuris continued even after his death up to the time of his son and successor Yayati-I.

Janmejaya Mahabhabagupta had probably no time to build a permanent capital town and we find him granting charters from his military camps. After some years, he fixed his headquarters at Murasima from where he issued grants from his 6th to 11th regnal years. Murasima has been identified with modern Mursing in Tusa Police station. In his 11th regnal year, he issued a charter from Kisarakella identified with a village of the same name about 6 miles to the east of Balangir. A new headquarters developed by the time of the 17th regnal year and it was named as Arama, which may be identified with modern Rampur in Sonepur subdivision. This place continued to be his capital till his death sometimes after his 31st regnal year.

Janmejaya Mahabhabagupta had matrimonial alliance with the Bhauma Karas of Tosali. The Bhauma king Subhakaradeva-IV *alias* Kusumahara, who came to the throne about 880 A. D., married Prithvi Mahadevi, daughter of Janmejaya who was also known as Swabhavatunga. Thus Janmejaya was in friendly terms with the Bhauma Karas of Tosali. Janmejaya was succeeded by his son Yayati-I Mahasivagupta. The earliest known grant of this king was issued from Vinitapura in his 8th regnal year. Thus, the Somavamsi capital was transferred from Arama to Vinitapura during the time of Yayati-I. Vinitapura has been identified with modern Binka situated on the right bank of the Mahanadi in the Sonepur subdivision. The charter of the 8th regnal year reveals that Yayati-I inherited a war with the Kalachuris from his father and very probably this war was decided during his time in favour of the Kalachuris. Being thus foiled in the west, he turned towards the east to extend his territory at the cost of the Bhauma Karas of Tosali. He built a new capital called after him as Yayatinagara, which may be identified with the modern village Jagati on river Mahanadi. By the time he was ruling over Kosala, his sister Prithvi Mahadevi was the monarch of the Bhauma-Kara dominion with her capital at Guhesvara Pataka identified with modern Jajpur. It was probably during this time that Yayati-I granted some lands to a Brahmin of Odradesa in a village called Chandragrama in Maradavishaya of Dakshina Tosali which was a part of the Bhauma-Kara dominion. As Prithvi Mahadevi is known to be ruling over Tosali in 894 A. D., the time of the above grant of Yayati-I which coincided with his 9th regnal year cannot be said to be far removed from that date. There appears to have been a close alliance between the brother and the sister, and the nobles and chiefs of Tosali naturally apprehended danger from the Somavamsis. Prithvi Mahadevi was replaced by Siddha Gauri Tribhuvana Mahadevi sometimes before 896 A. D. by a Court rebellion in the capital of the Bhauma-Karas and that probably foiled the ambitious designs of Yayati-I.

Yayati-I Mahasivagupta ruled at least for 28 years and was succeeded by his son Bhimaratha Mahabhavagupta who ruled about 15 years. After Bhimaratha, his son Dharmaratha came to the throne and as he died childless was succeeded by his brother Naghusa. The rule of this king was not peaceful and the Bramheswara temple inscription reveals that the Somavamsi kingdom was laid waste by the rebellious chiefs and nobles of the time. After the death of Naghusa, Chandihara Yayati who was a scion of the collateral line ascended the throne. It was about this time that the territory of Tosali was also without a ruler. The Muranjmura charter of Yayati-II issued in his 3rd regnal year from Suvarnapura, modern Sonepur, reveals that he was invited not only by the ministers and the courtiers of Kosala but also by the nobles and feudatories of Utkala (Tosali) and Kongada to ascend the

throne of their respective territories. Thus, Yayati-II Mahasivagupta became the ruler of Kosala and Utkala and saved both these kingdoms from anarchy and political chaos. The Muranjnura charter is the only available record issued by Yayati-II and it eulogises him as the conqueror of Karnata, Lata, Gurjara, Kanchi, Gauda and Radha. This, however, seems to be an exaggerated claim, but there is no doubt that Yayati-II, who was the ruler of the territory roughly comprising the whole of modern Orissa, was a vigorous and able ruler and he succeeded in consolidating his newly earned kingdom by defeating his enemies. Yayati-II very likely constructed the temple of Lingaraja at Bhubaneswar and his queen Kolayati constructed the Brahmeswara temple during the 18th regnal year of her son Udyota Kesari.

Yayati-II was succeeded by his son Udyota Mahabhabugupta, popularly known as Udyota Kesari. During his rule, the Somavamsi dominion faced the danger of invasion from the Kalachuris of Dabala in the west and it was probably to effectively check such invasion that Udyota Kesari divided his territory into two parts called Kosala and Utkala. The Kosala portion was placed under the administration of Abhimanyu who belonged to the collateral branch and Utkala portion was retained under his direct administration. The Kelga copper plate grant reveals that the Kosala portion was also known as Paschima Lanka, but Utkala is not known to have been called Purva Lanka. After Abhimanyu, Kumar Someswara became the ruler of Kosala owing allegiance to Udyota Kesari. After Udyota Kesari, the Somavamsi rulers both in Kosala and Utkala became very weak. The last known Somavamsi ruler of Kosala was Indra Ratha who was defeated and captured by Rajendra Chola at Yayatinagar in 1022-1023 A. D. Thus the Somavamsi rule in Kosala was brought to an end although it continued in Utkala till the first decade of the 12th century A. D.

23. The Telugu Chodas

Shortly after Rajendra Chola, the Kosala portion with its capital at Suvarnapura came under the rule of the Telugu Chodas. It has been mentioned in the Chapter on History of Koraput District Gazetteer that Yasoraja-I, father of Dharavarsha's Telugu Choda feudatory Chandraditya, carved out a kingdom in Kosala. It has also been suggested there that Yasoraja was a lieutenant of the Chindaka Naga king Someswara. It is known from one Kuruspal inscription that Someswara became king sometimes before the Saka year 991 corresponding to 1069 A. D. So the occupation of Kosala by Yasoraja may be attributed to about 1070 A. D. Yasoraja was the son of Challamaraja about whom we do not possess any record. The Telugu Chodas are known to be of Kasyapa gotra. The descendants of Yasoraja assumed

the title of Kaverinatha indicating that they belonged to the house of Karikala Chola. After Yatoraja his son Someswara-I became the ruler of Kosala and the latter was succeeded by Dharalla Deva *alias* Yatoraja II. The next king was Someswara-II about whom we know from his Mahada copper plate grant issued in circa 1090 A. D. Someswara declares himself in this grant as the king of Paschima Lanka having capital at Suvarnapura. He registered this grant in the 23rd year of his reign when he was standing before Lankavartaka on the bank of the river Chitrotapala, i. e. Mahanadi. Lankavartaka is identified with the big whirlpool of the Mahanadi near Sonepur which is locally known as the Lankesvari Darha. Someswara-II died issueless and was succeeded by Yatoraja-III, the son of Chandraditya, the brother of Someswara. This king was sufficiently aged by the time he got the throne and he seems to have a very brief rule. Towards the close of the 11th century A. D., he was succeeded by Someswara-III about whom we know from his Kumarasimha and Patna Museum copper plate grants issued during the 11th and 17th regnal years, respectively. The Kumarasimha grant was issued at the time of the lunar eclipse on the full moon day of Magha. Such an eclipse took place on the 21st January 1106, Sunday and also on 10th January, 1107, Thursday. This being the 11th regnal year of the king, he may have come to the throne in 1095-96 A. D. The Patna Museum grant was issued in 1112-13 A. D. Someswara-III was the last Telugu Choda king of Suvarnapura. The Ratnapur inscription dated 1114 A. D. reveals that the Kalachuri king Jajalla Deva defeated and captured king Someswara of Kosala

24. The Kalachuris

Almost synchronous with the foundation of the Telugu-Choda rule in eastern part of Kosala, a branch of the Kalachuris of Dahala established itself in western Kosala with Tummana as the capital. The leader of this new Kalachuri branch was Kalingaraja, whose great grand-son Prithvideva claimed himself in his Amoda grant of 1079 A. D. to be the Lord of entire Kosala. About the beginning of the 12th century A. D., the Telugu-Chodas were ousted from Sonepur region by the Kalachuris of Tummana. The Ratnapur inscription dated in 1114 A. D. reveals that the Kalachuri king Jajalladeva defeated and captured a king named Someswara who as stated above was the same as Someswara-III, the Telugu-Choda chief of Sonepur.

The Kalachuris ruled over western Orissa for about a century. When Chodagangadeva occupied Utkala in about 1110 A. D. and extended his territory from the Ganges to the Godavari, he desired to conquer western Orissa from the hands of the Kalachuris. He invaded the Sonepur region with a large army but was defeated by the Kalachuri king Ratnadeva-II. Kamarnavdeva, who succeeded Chodagangadeva, continued the war with the Kalachuris but he too was

defeated by Prithvideva-II, the son and successor of Ratnadeva-II. The struggle between the Gangas and the Kalachuris lasted for a long time and it was decided during the rule of Anangabhima Deva-III in 1112 A. D. This king not only repulsed the Muslim invaders but also defeated the king of Tummana who fought on the banks of the Bhima, at the skirts of the Vindhya hills and on the shore of the sea.

25. The Gangas

It was the victory of the general Vishnu that enabled the Gangas to occupy the western part of Orissa during Anangabhima Deva-III. The Khambesawari temple inscription at Sonepur reveals that during the rule of Bhanudeva-II (1264–1278), a Ganga Governor was ruling over Sonepur region, thus testifying to the fact that western Orissa was already in the possession of the Gangas by that time.

The Gangas of Orissa became weak in the 14th century A. D. and in 1361 A. D. Sultan Feroz Shah Toghluk invaded Orissa and forced the Ganga king Bhanu-III to pay tribute. It was about this time that the Ganga rule in Patna-Sonepur region came to an end and was supplanted by a new oligarchical administration of 8 Cliefs or Mallicks, which lingered for sometime till the advent of the Chauhans to this region.

26. The Chauhans:

(i) The early history of Chauhan rulers of Patna is known from a Sanskrit work 'Kosalananda' written by Pandit Gangadhar Misra belonging to the first half of the 16th century A. D., a Hindi work called 'Yayachandrika' by Prahlad Dube written in Simvat 1838, i. e. 1282 A. D. and an Oriya work named 'Nrusimha Mahatmya' by Lakshmana Misra who was living in the later part of the 19th century. Major H. B. Impey, who was a Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur, prepared on the 29th May 1863 a note on the Gurjat State of Patna which is of great help for study of the history of the Chauhan rulers of this ex-State. All these authorities have written about the origin of the Chauhan rulers in Patna on the basis of the long preserved tradition and although they differ on some minor details they agree on the salient point that one Ramai Deo, scion of the Chauhan ruling family of Garhsambar usurped the throne of Patna and founded the rule of his dynasty in that territory. Major Impey writing in 1863 states "the Maharajas of Patna claim direct descent from a race of Rajpoot Rajahs of Gurhsambul near Mynpooree and count back the individuals of this race for 32 generations".

On the basis of the available evidence, it may be said that one Hamir Deo was killed about the middle of the 14th century A. D. by the Sultan of Delhi who was very probably Feroz Shah Toghluk after which his queens excepting one named Asavati (*alias* Yayanti) performed the rite of Suttee. Asavati fled away to save her life and honour and

* Notes on the Gurjhat State of Patna by major H. B. Impey is given in appendix 1.

ultimately got shelter at the residence of a Brahmin of Patna named Chakradhar Panigrahi. There she gave birth to a son who was named Ramai and the child became virtually the adopted son of Panigrahi.

It was the time when the territory of Patna was being administered by an oligarchy consisting of eight Chieftains (Astamallik). These Chieftains were the Lords of eight forts (Garhs) which were—(1) Patnagarh, (2) Kagaongarh, (3) Salebhattachagarh, (4) Jarasinghagarh, (5) Sindhelagarh, (6) Kholangarh (7) Goragarh, and (8) Kumnagarh. These Chieftains used to rule as head of the territory for one day by turn. The Kosalananda while referring to these eight Chiefs (whom it calls eight Mantrins) ruling the country by turn like brothers, also reveals that the real sovereignty was vested in the people who were selecting and appointing these Mantrins. This work further states that once a ferocious man-eater wrought great devastation and when all attempts to kill it became futile it was decided by the people that whosoever would kill the man-eater would be the king of Patna. The Mantrins also hailed the decision of the people. Subsequently it was Ramai Deo, then a young man, who succeeded in killing the tiger; and the people, true to their promise, appointed him as king. The Yayachandrika, however, presents a different story. According to it, Chakradhar Panigrahi, who was virtually the adoptive father of Ramai, was one of the eight Chieftains who were ruling over Patna by turn for a day. When once the turn of Panigrahi came, he deputed Ramai to run the administration that day. The young Ramai lavishly rewarded the army and the people and made them highly satisfied while at the same time he grossly misbehaved with the other Chieftains. Next time when once again Ramai was deputed to rule by Chakradhar Panigrahi, he managed to kill all the seven Malliks with the help of the army and usurped the throne of Patnagarh.

It is difficult to know about the correct evidence regarding the foundation of the Chauhan rule in Patna. This much, however, can be said that prior to the coming of the Chauhans the territory of Patna was being ruled by a popular form of Government which was destroyed by Rama Deo who started the monarchical system of Government. Sri L. P. Pandeya remarks: "A branch of Patna family of the Chauhan dynasty of Orissa, which the Indian students of History will ever remember as the destroyer of an ancient Indian system of popular Government soon rose to power and importance extending its sovereignty over 8 Chiefs or Lords of forts or Garhs as they are usually called¹".

As Ramai Deo was born about the middle of the 14th century A. D., he usurped the Gadi of Patna sometime during the second half of that century. He has been represented as a very ambitious ruler and during his rule he is said to have extended his territory as far as the border of Baudh in the east by occupying Suvarnapattana (modern

1. Ind an Historical Quarterly Vol. VI, P. 568

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Sonepur). He fortified the capital Patnagarh and constructed there the temples of Pataneswari and Jagannath. The Kosalananda states that the then Gajapati ruler of Orissa recognised the authority of Ramai Deo over Patna and gave the daughter of his brother in marriage to him. After Ramai Deo, his son Mahalinga Deo became the ruler of Patna. He ruled only for 6 years and was succeeded by his son Vachharaj Dev. This ruler is known to have fought with the Chief of Bastar. He reduced the fort of Dantewada, the capital of Bastar, and forced the Chief to sue for peace. The daughter of the king of Bastar was given in marriage to the son of Vachharaj Dev, who brought the goddess Bastarani to Patna probably as a trophy of his victory. After Vachharaj Dev, his son Vaijal Dev-I became the ruler of Patna. The Kosalananda has, however, given a different account, according to which Vatsaraj Deva (Vachharaj Dev) was the son of Vaijal Deva and the grandson of Mahalinga Deo and this account has been accepted by Prahlad Dube, the author of Jayachandrika, and many other scholars of the subsequent period. But the Nrusirhanath temple inscription of Vaijal Dev clearly reveals that Vaijal was the son of Vachharaj Dev, the ruler of Patna. This being a contemporary record should be taken as authentic and the date of it as pointed out above falls on the 14th March, 1413. So Vaijal Dev flourished during the early part of the 15th century A. D. Cobden Ramsay describes his activities on the basis of Kosalananda as follows :—

“It appears from the Koshlanand, a local work on the history of the Patna Raj family, that Baijal Deva, the third Chief from Ramai Deva, was the most powerful Chief and extended his dominions far and wide. He fought with Ram Chandra and Mahaling, Gajapatis of Orissa for six years. Bamra was reduced to an annual tribute of 16 elephants. Gangpur, Bonai, and other neighbouring States submitted without a fight, and Baud and Sirguja also submitted. It is said that 72 Chiefs were made tributary to Patna by Baijal Deva-1. Dhenkanal was also subdued and the temple of the golden Mahadeo at Sonpur was built by him”. The temple of Nrusimhanath on the Gandhamardan hill was built by Vaijal Deva who granted the revenue of the village Luhasingha for the worship of the god and maintenance of the temple. His queen Durlava Devi caused to be built another temple on the southern side of the same hill for the worship of Harihara. Probably from his time onwards, the peaks containing the temples of Nrusimha and Harihara were respectively known as Nrusimhanath and Harisankar.

Vaijal Dev was succeeded by Bhojaraj Deo, who is said to have built a fort on the Gandhamardan hills near Nrusimhanath. This fort is known after him as Bhojarajgarh and the ruins of it may be seen even at present. The next ruler, according to Kosalananda, was Biramalla Deva. But in the list of the kings of Patna furnished by Impey, the name of Prataparudra is found after Bhojaraj Deo. Biramalla appears to be an

epithet rather than a proper name and so Prataparudra Deo who has been represented as Pratapamalla by the Kosalananda may be said to be a successor of Bhojaraj Deo. The rule of Prataparudra has been referred to by the poet Chaitanya Das in his Nirguna Mahatmya where he states that he was living in Khadial (Khariar) during the rule of Prataparudra.* This indicates that Khariar was a part of Patna the rule of Prataparudra. The next ruler was Bhupal Deo, son of Prataparudra Deo. He is known to have improved the construction of Bhojagarh close to which he established a township and encouraged people to reside there by giving lands free of rent. Nothing more is, however, known about this ruler and after him Nagasirgh Deo became the ruler of Patna who on his turn was succeeded by his son Bikramaditya Deo. In 'Kosalananda' and 'Jayachandrika', Nagasingh Deo does not find any place. His name has been restored by Impey from some documents which we do not get at present. Shri Ram Chandra Mallik, the writer of 'Kosala Itihas', seems to have taken this ruler from the lists of Impey. About Bikramaditya-Major Impey writes as follows :

“Maharaja Bikramaditya Deo, the ninth Rajah of Patna erected a fort in Phooljhur at Seespalgarh, where its remains are said to be still traceable—a proof of the unflinching authority then exercised over the Gurjhat States”. Bikramaditya was succeeded by his son Vajjal Dev II who is known to be the author of the famous lexicon 'Prabodha Chandrika'. In this work he states that he was the son of Vikramarka or Bikramaditya, the consort of Chandrabati, and was the king of Chauhan family of Patna. He further states that he was the worshipper of Harihara and his Guru and that he was a powerful munificent and beautiful person, well-versed in Logic and Tantra.

Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Sastri wrongly observes the author of Prabodha Chandrika, the Chauhan ruler of Patna, as a Jagirdar in Bihar and writes about him as follows :—

“During the reigns of Jehangir and Shah Jahan, there was a Chauhan Raja at Patna, whose name was Vijjala or Vajjala, and he had four Praganas as his Jagir. Following the example of Vidyapati and of Vijjala's ancestor Vikramaditya, he got one of his Pandits, Jagamohan, to write a Sanskrit Gazetteer of Eastern India entitled Desavaliviviti. He had a son named Hiradhara. For the education of Hiradhara in Sanskrit, he wrote a short grammar entitled Probodha Chandirika in

* କହ୍ନବି ରାଜ୍ୟର ଭବନା
ନାମ ତା କାହିଁ ରା ପାଠଣୀ
ପ୍ରତାପ ଚୁଡ଼ା ଗ୍ରାମ ଦେଶ
ନଗ୍ର ଶତ୍ରୁଫଳ ବିଶେଷ ।

throughout anustup metre. His object was to preach the glory of Rama" The opinion of Pandit Sastri is without doubt untenable as Vajjal Dev clearly states in the Prabodha Chandrika that his territory Patna was located to the west of Utkala and that he was a famous Chauhan ruler of that territory. In the genealogy of Vajjal Dev, Jagirdar of Patna, as furnished by Pandit Sastri, we find that Vajjal the author of a Prakrit Vyakarana was the grand son of Bikramaditya of Tirhut and the son of Vajjal was one Banahari. This genealogy is not corroborating the accounts of Prabodha Chandrika. Thus, Vajjal Dev the author of Prabodha Chandrika is no other than the ruler of Patna in Orissa who flourished during the early part of the 16th Century A.D.

Vajjal Dev was succeeded by his son Hiradhara Deo who has been represented as a powerful king both by the Kosalananda and Jayachandrika. Hiradhara encouraged education in his kingdom and established many schools both for general and technical studies. Among the technical subjects, taught in the schools, were Ayurveda, Agriculture and Industry. According to Shri Rama Chandra Mallik Hiradhara Deo was a feudatory of Gajapati king Prataparudra who, being defeated by Krishna Deva Rai of Vijayanagar, ceded some territories including Patna to him. Shri Mallik thus concludes that Hiradhara was paying tribute to the ruler of Vijayanagar. This, however, seems to be doubtful as no records to substantiate this opinion have yet been available.

Hiradhara Deo was succeeded by his son Narasimha Deo during whose rule the kingdom of Patna was very powerful. Balaram Deo, the brother of Narasimha Deo, was an ambitious and war-like prince. He defeated the Raja of Surguja and took possession of the territory of Sambalpur.

It is said that in one rainy night when the Rani of Narasimha Deo was suffering from labour pain Balaram Deo swam across a hill-stream named Mayabati which was flowing in between the capital town of Patnagarh and the village Barapada, and brought the nurse from that village to attend the Rani. It was as a reward for this courageous and faithful service that Narasimha Deo gave the north-eastern part of his dominion to Balaram Deo. Later on, there was quarrel between these two brothers regarding the extent of their respective territories. It was, however, amicably settled by the intervention of the queen mother. Tradition goes that the dowager queen took her sons to the bed of the river named Surangi and asked the elder and the younger to sit on her right and the left laps respectively. Then she told them that the river Surangi should be taken as her own limbs (Anga), the elder brother should possess the territory to the right of the river and the younger one to the left of it. The decision of the mother was accepted by both

the brothers and from that time onwards the river was called Ang and was regarded as the boundary line between Patna and Sambalpur territories.

It appears that Narasimha Deo placed the Sambalpur region under the charge of his brother Balaram Deo to check the aggression of the Haihaya power of Ratanpur. The Haihaya rulers of Ratanpur were casting longing eyes on Sambalpur territory and particularly Kalyan Sahai, who was contemporary of Balaram Deo, was counting 48 Garhs under him including Patna and Sambalpur. It was very probably to counteract the aggressive design of the Haihayas that Balaram Deo was given the Sambalpur tract where he later on assumed the power of a defacto ruler.

After the death of Narasimha Deo, the territory of Patna became weak and Sambalpur under Balaram Deo acquired great prominence. In fact, from that time onwards Patna lost her glory and was reduced to an appanage of Sambalpur.

Hamir Deo, the son and successor of Narasimha Deo, ruled only for four years and died leaving behind a son who was only 7 months old. His widow Rani came forward to rule the kingdom on behalf of her minor son, but she was misguided by the ministers and not being able to face the chaotic situation that resulted from the mal-administration of the officers, she left Patna and went to Nandapur where her father was the ruler. Patna thus plunged into anarchy and confusion. Balaram Deo, who was then the powerful ruler of Sambalpur, sent his son Hrudayanarayan Deo to take up the charge of administration of Patna till the young prince Pratap Deo, the son of Hamir Deo, attained the age of majority. Hrudayanarayan Deo thus became the defacto ruler of Patna and ran the administration according to the advice of his father. Sometimes after that Balaram Deo died and was succeeded by Hrudayanarayan Deo to the Gadi of Sambalpur. The Gadi of Patna became vacant and Hrudayanarayan Deo accompanied by the Zamindars and Umras personally went to Nandapur and brought back Pratap Deo and his mother to Patnagarh where the coronation of Pratap Deo was celebrated with pomp. Pratap Deo had two sons named Bikramaditya and Gopal Roy. The younger son Gopal Roy was given the estate of Khariar, where a new branch of Chauhan family was thus established. Bikramaditya succeeded his father to the Gadi of Patna and ruled over the kingdom for about 30 years. He was a benevolent ruler and was loved by his people. After him, his son Mukunda Deo became the ruler of Patna. The next ruler was Balaram Deo, who was succeeded by his son Hrudesha Deo. During the period of these rulers the royal family of Patna and that of Sambalpur were considered to be one and indivisible although the kingdom of Patna was regarded as subservient to Sambalpur.

Hrudesha Deo, the 20th Raja of Patna, died leaving behind two young sons and the eldest son Raisingh Deo was brought up by his uncle Bachharaj Singh who had the ambition of usurping the Gadi. He, therefore, murdered the widow Rani and also made plans to kill the two princes. But these two boys were secretly carried away by their maternal uncle to Phuljhar where they were brought up and given education. Raisingh Deo after being grown up sought the assistance of the Marathas of Nagpur and succeeded in taking possession of his State by killing his uncle. He had three wives, the first one being without issue, the second having two sons and the third only one son. The son of the third queen was the eldest, who was the favourite of the father. The second Rani, apprehending that the claim of her own sons would be set aside by the Raja, instigated the people to support her cause and to rise in rebellion. Raisingh Deo who was then nearly 80 years old failed to control the situation and fled away to Sonapur. Patna remained in anarchical condition for about three years and during that period the Rani and their partisans quarrelled among themselves on the question of succession. Many responsible persons felt their life and property insecure and fled to Sonapur. The old Raja before his death appointed his grandson born of his eldest son as his successor and put the royal pugree on his head. This ruler was called Pruthviraj Singh Deo who ascended the Gadi at young age. His father Chandra Sekhar Deo ruled the State apparently on behalf of the son for about five years but he could not stay in Patna because of the general disturbance and retired on pilgrimage to Prayaga where he died. Pruthviraj Singh could not rule long and died in 1765 three years after the death of his father.

The next Raja was Ramachandra Deo II, the posthumous son of Pruthviraj Singh. He obtained the Gadi as a baby in 1765 and the widow-mother managed the administration with the help of ministers. The kingdom of Patna suffered from mal-administration taking advantages of which Sitaram Raju of Vizianagaram extended his power over the territory for sometime. Subsequently, however, Patna came under the occupation of the Marathas in 1775.

After attaining the age of majority, Ramachandra Deo ruled with a strong hand defying at times the authorities of the Marathas. He created the Zamindary tenures for Atgan and Loisinga and the Khorakposakdari tenure of Jarasingha.

During the rule of Ramchandra Deo, the Raja Raghuji Bhonsla of Nagpur was defeated by the British in 1803 in the Second Anglo-Maratha War. In course of the war Col. Broughten occupied the fort of Sambalpur on 31st December, 1803 and on 8th January, 1804, Lt. Fountain was despatched to disperse the Maratha troops who were carrying on depredation in Sonapur area. He succeeded in completely routing and dispersing the Marathas from Sonapur. Major Forbes had defeated

the Marathas at the Barmul pass on the 2nd November, 1803. After all these victorious engagements the Rajas of Sonapur, Patna and Baudh offered submission and Major Forbes referred these cases to Lt. Col. Harcourt who concluded treaties with them.

On 17th December, 1803, Raghuji Bhonsla ceded Orissa to the British Government in the treaty of Deogan. The Sambalpur group of States including Patna and Sonapur were also ceded to the British Government.

Lord Wellesley, the Governor-General, left India in July 1805 and Sir George Barlow, who succeeded him followed a feeble policy of 'Non-intervention'. He laid down the principle that "Certain extent of dominion, local power and revenue, would be cheaply sacrificed for tranquillity and security within a contracted circle, and withdraw from every kind of relation with the Native States, to which we were not specifically pledged by Treaty, and the minor principalities, adjacent to or intermixed with the Maratha possessions were left to their fate".

In pursuance of this policy the Sambalpur group of States including Patna and Sonapur were given back to the Raja of Nagpur in 1806 in spite of strong protest from the Rani of Sambalpur and Raja Ramchandra Deo of Patna. In the meantime, Ramchandra Deo was taken captive by the Marathas and kept in the fort of Chanda along with other royal prisoners,—Chandra Sekhar Bhanj, the Raja of Baudh, Prithvisingh, the Raja of Sonapur, Jayanta Singh, the Raja of Sambalpur and his son Prince Maharaja Sai—who had been there since 1800. In the 3rd Anglo-Maratha War Appa Saheb Bhonsla, the Raja of Nagpur, was crushingly defeated on 27th November 1817 at Sitabaldi as a result of which he was deposed and the Sambalpur group of States reverted to British Government. Raja Ramchandra Deo was released from Chanda after long confinement of about fourteen years and was installed on the Gadi of Patna. He died in 1820 at Jarasingha where his second son Jugaraj Singh was the Kharposdar zamindar, and was cremated on the bank of the Sonagarh river. His fourth Rani performed the rite of Suttee in the funeral pyre.

Ramchandra Deo II was succeeded by his eldest son Bhupal Deo who was a feeble ruler. During the rule of Ramchandra Deo, the kingdom of Patna had some territorial loss. The estates of Khariar and Borasambar seceded from Patna, while the Raja of Sonapur took away 82 villages lying between the Ang and the Tel rivers.

Ramchandra Deo had appealed to the British Government sometime before his death against forcible possession of 82 villages* by the

* In Pargana Mendā	..	22 villages
In Pargana Tarbha	..	24 villages
In Pargana Kudarku	..	12 villages
In Pargana Singari	..	16 villages
Other villages	..	8
Total	..	82 villages

Raja of Sonapur. Bhupal Deo presented another petition to George Swinton, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort William, against Prithvi Singh, the then Raja of Sonapur. The case was heard by Major Mackenzie in 1829 and as the Raja of Sonapur could not attend the case a decree was given in favour of the Raja of Patna. But later on, on the 9th May 1829 the Raja of Sonapur presented his appeal which was heard by Major Mackenzie during his second visit to Sambalpur. The decree was subsequently issued in favour of the Raja of Sonapur. During his rule a Maratha Chief named Mathuajee entered the Patna kingdom with a large troop to loot and plunder the territory, Bhupal Deo fought against the Marathas but was defeated by them and took shelter in the fort of Bhojpur. The commander of the Bhojpur fort continued the war and Mathuajee was killed while attacking the Bhojpur fort. His two wives Andibai and Daryabai collected the retreating troops and invaded the fort of Bhojpur, but subsequently the Marathas were defeated and dispersed. Bhupal Deo had also to fight Ramjal Bariha, the zamindar of Borasambar. In the first battle that took place near the village Badibahal on the Ang river, the troops of Patna were defeated and the Dewan Balabhadra Sai was killed. Subsequently however, Ramjal Bariha was defeated by Dharam Singh, the zamindar of Atgan. Bhupal Deo honoured Dharamsingh by conferring on him the title of Mandhata and allowed him to wear sacred thread. Dharam Singh also suppressed the plundering hordes who entered into Patna kingdom from Bastar and Bindra Nuagarh. Raja Bhupal Deo was a kind and generous ruler and he donated large number of villages to Brahmins and his relatives. He died in 1848 and was succeeded by his son Hiravajradhar Deo. During his rule Raghuji Bhonsala-III, the Raja of Nagpur, died without any issue and his territory lapsed to the British Government in the year 1853. The Kingdoms of Patna and Sonapur thus came under direct administration of the British Government.

During his time, the Khonds of Ghumsur and Kondhamals rose against the British under the leadership of Chakra Bisoyee and the rebellion spread over to Kalahandi and Patna. The zamindar of Madanpur in Kalahandi and Dharamsingh Mandhata, the zamindar of Atgan in Patna rendered help to Chakra Bisoyee. In Kalahandi, the Kondhs attacked the camp of Lt. Macneill, the Agent in the Hill tracts of Orissa, at a jungle village called Orla-dhoni. The position of the Agent was extremely critical for sometime. He was saved by Dinabandhu Patnaik, Tahsildar of Kondhmals, who came to his help with a party of Sebundis. Chakra Bisoyee came to Patna from Kalahandi where Dharamsingh Mandhata gave him shelter. In March 1856 Lt. Macdonald, Assistant to the Meriah Agent in the Orissa hill tracts, sent some troops along with the Sebundis under Dinabandhu Patnaik to apprehend him at Atgan. Chakra Bisoyee escaped into the

jungle but his principal adherent Bhitari Sardar Bhoori was captured. Dharamsingh Mandhata went to the point of resisting the British troops by arms and so he was also taken captive. Chakra Bisoyee escaped to Paralakhemundi where he joined the rebellion of the Sabaras. Dharamsingh Mandhata, the patriot zamindar of Atgan, who was a pillar of strength to the Raja of Patna died in the prison.

Hiravajradhar Deo was ruling over Patna at the time of the Sepoy Mutiny. Surendra Sai, the hero of Sambalpur in his fight against the British, was getting help and support from the aboriginal people of Patna. One of his brothers named Ujjal Sai was organising the Khonds of Patna, for which the British Government put pressure on the Raja to apprehend him and suppress the Khonds. But Hiravajradhar connived at the escape of Ujjal Sai from his kingdom. This greatly enraged the British and the Raja was fined one thousand rupees for his negligence. Subsequently however, the Raja captured Ujjal Sai and made him over to Colonel Forster who hanged him. The Government was highly pleased and the fine of one thousand rupees was forthwith remitted.

Surendra Sai was assisted by the Gond zamindars of Sambalpur, principal among whom were Kamal Singh and Ujjal Singh of Ghes. One of the lieutenants of Kamal Singh was Salik Ram Bariha who was a patriot from Patna. Even after surrender of Surendra Sai, Kamal Singh with the help of Salik Ram continued guerilla war against the British and his marauding bands committed atrocities in Bargarh subdivision.

Hiravajradhar Deo was warned by the British as he failed to capture Salik Ram Bariha in his kingdom. He was even threatened that his State was liable to confiscation under the express order of the Chief Commissioner. But Major Impey saved the situation by giving him one more chance to capture Salik Ram Bariha. When Kamal Singh and Salik Ram Bariha were hiding themselves in the Barapahar range in Bargarh subdivision, Major Impey personally went there accompanied by an escort of 60 infantry men, a dozen horsemen and a contingent supplied by the Raja of Khariar. But he could not capture Kamal Singh and Salik Ram. This operation ruined the health of Major Impey and he fell ill and died in December, 1863 at Sambalpur. Subsequently however, Kamal Singh, Kunjal Singh and Salik Ram Bariha were all arrested in 1866.

The States of Patna and Sonapur were placed under the Government of the Central Provinces in 1861. During the years 1863-66 when enquiries were made regarding the status of the feudatory Chiefs, Patna was recognised as a feudatory State. The same recognition was also extended to Sonapur in 1867.

Hiravajradhar Deo had three sons named Surpratap Deo, Biswanath Singh and Dalaganjan Singh. He died in 1866 and was succeeded by

[14 B. of R.—9]

Surpratap Deo. During the rule of this king, the Khonds of Patna rebelled against the Durbar Government and refused to pay revenue and other taxes. Some Khonds represented their case before the Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur and as the oppressive rule of the Raja was not appreciated by the Government, the State of Patna was placed under the rule of the Court of Wards. Surpratap Deo and his brother Biswanath Singh were taken away to Sambalpur and were kept in confinement there. In 1872, a son of Biswanath Singh was born at Sambalpur and as Surpratap Deo was issueless, he adopted the baby who was named as Ramchandra Deo. Surpratap Deo died in 1878.

The State of Patna was under the administration of the Court of Wards from 1871 to 1893. It was during this period that much improvement was done both in administration and land revenue system of the State. The Khonds were pacified and the people enjoyed security of life and property. A pucca road from Salebhata to Belgan was constructed during this period and it extended from the north-eastern to south-eastern border of the State. The present town of Balangir was planned and constructed and was made the headquarters of the State. In 1893, Ramchandra Deo was made the ruler of Patna. The first English School in Balangir was established by him and the road from Balangir to Tarbha was also constructed during his rule. Ramchandra Deo shot his wife to death and himself committed suicide in 1895 and after him his uncle Dalaganjan Singh was declared the Raja of Patna. It was during his time that the States of Patna and Sonapur were transferred from the control of the Central Provinces and placed under the charge of the Commissioner of Orissa Division in October, 1905.

Dalaganjan Singh established the printing press in Balangir and built a road from Balangir to Khaprakhol. During the famine of 1900, various relief works were undertaken to save people from starvation. Dalaganjan Singh was an enlightened ruler and had good knowledge in Oriya, Hindi, Bengali and Sanskrit. He died in 1910 and was succeeded by his eldest son Pruthviraj Deo. This ruler improved both agriculture and education of the State. He used to organise agricultural exhibitions for encouragement of good cultivation and laid out an experimental garden at Balangir for imparting agricultural training. During his rule, the High English School was established in Balangir and was named after him. Pruthviraj Deo was also a famous builder. He built a temple of Samaleswari at Balangir and a palace at Sambalpur. Some of the bridges in Patna State were constructed during his rule, the notable one being the Sonagarh river bridge which was named 'Wheeler Bridge' to commemorate the visit of Sir Henry Wheeler, the Lt. Governor, to Balangir. It was also to commemorate the visit of Sir Edward Gait, the

Governor, that a large tank named 'Gait Sorobar' was excavated by him in Balangir. The new palace of Balangir was also constructed by him and was originally named Badal Mahal. Pruthviraj Singh died in 1924 and was succeeded by his adopted son Rajendranarayan Singh Deo.* Rajendra Narayan belongs to the royal family of Saraikella and is connected with the Chauhan family of Patna through his mother, the Rani of Saraikella who was the daughter of Ramachandra Deo. As the new ruler was a minor, the administration of Patna came once again under the Court of Wards till February 1933 when his investiture ceremony was performed at Balangir. Under Maharaja Rajendranarayan Singh Deo, Patna was considered to be one of the best administered States of Orissa. The capital town of Balangir was improved and beautified by good streets, parks and buildings, as well as, by street lighting. The revenue administration was reorganised in the interest of the peasants and the system of forced labour was abolished, while all the roads were opened to bullock-carts. A college was established in Balangir which was named as Rajendra College. The State of Patna merged with Orissa along with other States on 1st January, 1948.†

(ii) **Chauhan Rulers of Sonepur**—The first Chauhan Chief of Sonepur was Madangopal Singh Deo, the second son of Maharaja Madhukar Sai, the 4th Chauhan Ruler of Sambalpur. The Sonepur tract was originally a zamindari of Patna and was created a tributary state of Sambalpur under Madhukar Sai about the middle of the 16th century. The brother of Madangopal Singh named Bansigopal turned a Sanyasi and established a Math at Sambalpur which is known as the Gopaljee Math. Madangopal Singh is credited to have constructed the temple of the god Suvarnameru on the bank of river Tel. He was succeeded by his son Lalsai Singh Deo, during whose rule the town of Sonepur saw many improvements. After Lalsai Singh, Purushottam Singh Deo came to the Gadi and was succeeded by Raj Singh Deo. This ruler married in the family of the Khemidi Rajas and brought the image of Khambeswari the tutelary goddess of Khemidi to Sonepur where he built a temple for her worship. The next ruler was Achal Singh Deo and after him his son Dibya Singha Deo came to the Gadi.

This new ruler was a contemporary of Maharaja Ajit Singh of Sambalpur against whom Bhagirathi Jenamani, the Chief of Rairakhol, had organised a revolt. Maharaja Ajit Singh directed Dibya Singha Deo to suppress the rebellious Chief of Rairakhol. In the fight between Sonepur and Rairakhol, Jarawar, the young prince of Sonepur, showed great courage and skill. It is said that when this prince was first defeated and returned to Sonepur his mother presented him a piece of Saree

* A note on events leading to adoption of Shri Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo, is given in Appendix II

† The genealogy of Chauhan Rulers of Patna is given in Appendix III-A

indicating that the prince was coward like a woman. This inspired Jarawar to fight for the second time and to get victory over Rairakhol. As a result of the victory Dibya Singh Deo obtained 63 villages* as reward from Maharaja Ajit Singh. These villages were taken out from Rairakhol and given to Sonepur. After Dibya Singh Deo, Jarawar Singh succeeded to the Gadi but died without any issue after a rule of only one year. He was succeeded by his paternal uncle Subha Singh after whom Pruthvi Singh Deo became the ruler. During that time the Marathas occupied Sonepur and Baudh. The Maratha general Nana-saheb imprisoned Pruthvi Singh and the Chief of Baudh and over-ran Sambalpur in 1800. Pruthvi Singh remained as a prisoner at Chanda and during the period of his captivity his only son Raghunath Singh died. In 1803, the Maratha ceded Orissa including Sonepur and Patna to the British. But Patna and Sonepur, along with the Sambalpur group of States, were restored to the Marathas in August 1806. The administration of Sonepur became chaotic as Rani Lakshmi Priya Devi was completely under the influence of the Court officers including the Dewan. One Lakshmana Panda drove away the Dewan and some officers with the help of the Marathas and assumed power of the Dewan. He collected about one lakh rupees from the people of Sonepur to purchase the liberty of Raja Pruthvi Singh. The Marathas released Pruthvi Singh receiving a heavy ransom. After his release, he married a second wife named Gundicha Devi who gave birth to a son in 1837. This son was named Niladhar Singh who came to Gadi after the death of Pruthvi Singh Deo in 1841. As Niladhar Singh was a minor, the administration was managed by the widow Rani Gundicha Devi who was an intelligent and strong-willed lady. But some influential persons and zamindars created troubles for her and resisted her authority. One Palau Mallik openly revolted against her and he could be suppressed by the help of the British. Niladhar Singh was loyal to the British Government and rendered help during the rebellion of Chakra Bisoyee, as well as, of Surendra Sai. He died in 1891 at the age of 54 and was succeeded by his son Prataprudra Singh Deo. This ruler encouraged both English and Sanskrit education in his State and constructed good roads. He died in 1902 and was succeeded by his son Biramitrodaya Singh Deo who was an enlightened ruler. In 1908, the title of Maharaja was conferred upon him as a personal distinction. In 1915, a revised Sanad was granted and on the 1st January 1918 a permanent salute of nine guns was sanctioned. The title of Maharaja was made

In the Pargana of Khandahata	.. 25 villages
In the Pargana of Surguria	.. 10 villages
In the Pargana of Mursund	.. 13 villages
In the Pargana of Kirgeriapali	.. 15 villages
Total	.. 63 villages

hereditary in 1921. This ruler codified the laws regarding tenancy and land revenue in a book entitled *Bhumi Bidhi* and organised different departments of administration according to his own ideas. He received from the British Government the title of K. C. I. E. and his wife Lady Parbati Devi also received the Kaisari-Hind Medal. This Maharani is famous for her acts of public charity. She opened Post-Graduate Department of English in the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. Maharaja Biramitrodaya Singh Deo also donated money for opening Post-Graduate Department of Oriya in Calcutta University. His Durbar also published a number of books in different languages, details of which are given at appendix – IV.

After Biramitrodaya Singh Deo, his second son Sudhansu Sekhar Singh became the ruler of Sonepur as the eldest son Sambhubhusan had predeceased his father. During the time of this ruler, the State of Sonepur merged with Orissa on the 1st January 1948. *

27. Freedom movement

There was practically no political agitation in the ex-State of Patna and Sonepur before the establishment of popular Government in the province of Orissa in 1937. The impact of the popular Government led to mass upsurge in almost all the ex-States of Orissa. In Patna and Sonepur, the Krushak party was organised to lead the rising tide of agitation but a counter party was soon formed under the name Prajamandal sponsored by the Durbar administration. The States People's Conference which had been formed since 1931 was agitating for freedom of the people of the ex-States. To counter-act this agitation the Eastern States Union was formed by the ex-States of Orissa and Chhatisgarh with a common High Court and other joint institutions. The people of these ex-States were, however, not satisfied with this Union and wanted to enjoy fullest possible privileges like their brothers in neighbouring provinces. After the Second World War, an agitation for the amalgamation of the ex-States was started by the Provincial Congress leaders, and to counteract this agitation some rulers led by Maharaja of Patna started a campaign for formation of a separate territory known as Maha-Kosala. This campaign was based on the theory that the States of Western Orissa together with the district of Sambalpur were once a part of Kosala territory. By this time, the survey of the Mahanadi Valley Project was undertaken and people were under the apprehension that hundreds of villages would be submerged by the construction of the Hirakud Dam. The people of Sambalpur started an agitation against the proposed acquisition of lands and the opportunity was utilised by the supporters of Maha-Kosala Movement. Prior to independence of India, the Maharaja of Patna made some administrative reforms in his State, according to which a Cabinet was formed consisting of the Chief Minister, the Revenue Minister and the Development Minister, the Maharaja being the President

*The genealogy of Chauhan Rulers of Sonepur is given in Appendix III B.

and the Chief Minister the Vice-President. Similar administrative reforms were also effected by the Sonapur Durbar. After independence the agitation for the merger of the ex-States gathered great momentum and this problem was peacefully solved by the statesmanship of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. On the 15th December, 1947, the Rulers of the Orissa Feudatory States signed the merger agreement as a result of which Patna and Sonapur with other ex-States merged with Orissa and these two together with the ex-State of Kalahandi formed the district of Balangir-Patna on the 1st January, 1948. Subsequently on the 1st November, 1949, the ex-States of Patna and Sonapur together constituted a separate district named Balangir district after the headquarters town of Balangir.

APPENDIX I

Notes on the Gurjhat State of Patna by Major H. E. Impey, (1863)

The following sketch of the history of the Gurjhat States of Patna is founded upon the records, genealogical trees (Annexure No. 1) and traditions maintained by successive Rajahas. Although there may be errors in the calculation of periods and mistakes in the incidence of events, yet considering how all Natives of pretension or position strive to keep up a remembrance of their ancestors through the services of Brahmins, and how strictly they themselves cherish the links of private history (as instance the custom of the Hindoos to religiously pronounce the names of three preceding generations while engaged in their ablutions) it may be assumed that such records and links, when adjusted by other circumstantial data, as is in this case, will generally form a pretty correct chain of evidence in respect to main facts.

2. Origin of the Muharajahs

The Muharajahs of Patna claim direct descent from a race of Raj-¹poor¹ Rajahs of Gurh Sumbul² near Mynpooree³ and count back the individuals of this race for 32 generations.

3. Foundation of one State, Patna from a cluster of 8'' gurhs

It is narrated that these Rajahs used to be in constant attendance at the Court of Dilhee⁴ till the last named Hutumbur Sing, having intrigued and run off with one of the daughters, was pursued and killed and his family forced to fly.

(1) Patna.

(2) Salabhata.

(3) Kangaon.

(4) Jhorasinga.

(5) Sindaekela.

(6) Kholagurh.

(7) Goorhagurh.

(8) Koomnagurh.

Amongst the wives of this Rajah was one who escaping arrived enceinte, in Patna, and found refuge with the chief of Kholgurh⁵, being one of 8 gurhs, as marginally noted which at that time alone formed the territories of Patna, being comprised within the three rivers, Ung⁶, Mahanuddy⁷ and Tel and bounded on the west by Khurriar⁸ (a possession then of Jeypoor) and Bindanawagurh⁹; and

the chiefs of which took it in turns, a day at a time to exercise full authority as Rajah over the whole. She was placed in charge of the said Chief's Brahmin at Ramoor¹⁰, and there gave birth to a boy, named Ramace¹¹ Deo. The Chief adopted the boy and subsequently on his coming of

1. Rajpur, 2. Garh Sambar, 3. Mainpuri, 4. Delhi. 5. Kolagarh, 6. Ang, 7. Mahanadi, 8. Khariar, 9. Bendra Nawagarh, 10. Ramur 11. Ramai,

age, himself being sick and weary of rule, resigned his position to him. Ramace Deo soon after this succeeded in murdering the other seven Chiefs, and usurping to himself the whole and permanent authority in Patna. Finally he married a daughter of the Ruler of Orissa through whose influence and power he was enabled to maintain his usurped position.

4. Extension of territory and dominion to the right of bank of the Mahanuddy.

It would appear during the time of Ramace Deo and the two succeeding Maharajahs that the territories and dominion of Patna, became extended beyond the Ung river to the right bank of the Mahanuddy, embracing:

1st—Patna Proper, as now, but with the addition, to the west of 3 gurhs, viz. Kholagurh, Goorhagurh¹, and Koomnagurh² at present included in the Gurjhat³ State of Khurriar, and of 12 villages known then as “Baragam” afterwards as “Borasambur”⁴ and subsequently detached as portion of the Gurjhat State of that name, and to the east in continuation between the rivers Ung and Tel to the Mahanuddy.

2nd As annexed to Patna Proper, all the land embraced within the Ung and Mahanuddy rivers, and bounded on the west by Phooljhur⁵ and Sarungur⁶, which now comprises the southern portion of Sambulpore⁷ and parts of Sonepore⁸.

3rd, 4th and 5th—As tributary dependencies, the Gond Gurjhat States Bindanawagarh, Phooljur and Sarungurh.

5. The lands and estates lying contiguous to the left bank of the Mahanuddy were, it is believed, at that time attached to Surgooja⁹, with the exception of the north-western portion of the present Sumbulpore district, known as Chundurpore¹⁰ and Bhortia¹¹, which belonged to Ruttunpoor¹².

6. Subjugation of States and Acquisition of Territory on Left Bank of Mahanuddy.

The fourth Maharajah, Pirthee Sing¹³ Deo subjugated and made tributary to Patna, the three dependencies of Sirgooja, named Bunace,¹⁴ Gangpoor¹⁵, and Bamra, and annexed to Patna itself by dispossession from the Rajah of Bamra the Zemindaree¹⁶ of Rehracole¹⁷ and so much of the lands (now) of Sumbulpore on the left bank of the Mahanuddy, as were contained between Rehracole and Bamra to the east, Bamra and Gangpoor to the north, and to the west, by the river Eebe¹⁸ to its

1. Gurhagarh, 2. Kennnagarh, 3. Garhjat, 4. Borasambar, 5. Phuljhar, 6. Sarangarh, 7. Sambalpur, 8. Sonapur, 9. Surguja, 10. Chandrapur, 11. Not known, 12. Ruttanpur, 13. Pruthari Sinha, 14. Bonai, 15. Gangpur, 16. Zamindari, 17. Rehrakhol, 18. ib.

sudden bend westward and from thence by a line running south, to the spot at the extremity of the present city of Sumbulpore where now the jail bridge stands.

7. Erection of a Fort in Phooljhur—

Maharajah Bikrumadit¹ Deo, the ninth Rajah of Patna, erected a fort in Phooljhur at Sees-palgarh,² where its remains are said to be still traceable—a proof of the unflinching authority then exercised over the Gurjhat States.

8. Acquisition of the Gurh of Chunderpoor

It is probable that the erection of this advanced post in a tributary State had, for its aim, as much the extension of dominion, as the maintenance, in security, of existing dominancy, for no sooner did the next ruler, Maharajah Baijul Deo³ (2nd) succeed to the Guddee⁴, then he advanced to Chunderpoor and forcibly dispossessed the Ruler of Ruttunpoor of that “Gurh” with its surrounding lands.

9. There still remained, to complete the circle known afterwards as the “18 Gurhs”, 1st, the three Northern Gurjhat States of Raigarh⁵ and Suktee⁶ (dependencies of Sirgooja), 2ndly the central tract of land (now an integral portion of the Sumbulpore district) falling between the Eebe and the line drawn therefrom, as before observed, to the present Sumbulpore Jail Bridge, and the Gurjhat State of Sarungurn (also belonging to Surgooja), and lastly the two eastern Gurjat States of Boud⁷ and Atmullick⁸.

10. It never fell to the lot of Patna itself to include these remaining States and lands within the scope of its authority or possession. The completion of the circle was not effected till Patna had retired from the banks of the Mahanuddy, so far as the mouth of the Ung river near Binka, and a new State had sprung up under its auspices (on the north of the Ung) afterwards known as Sumbulpore⁹. It might therefore seem foreign to the object of these “Notes” as touching Patna to speak of the rise and power of this second State. Nevertheless the advance of the latter was so intimately connected with, and so immediately the result of, the dominion of the former and against the decline of the former so direct an issue of the rise of the latter, that it is necessary to trace the History of the extension of power across the Mahanuddy in so far as the grouping of the once known 18 “Gurhs” shall be concerned.

1. Birabikramaditya. 2. Sisupalgarh, 3. Vaijal Deo. 4. Gadi,

5. Raigarh, 6. Sakti, 7. Baudh. 8. Athamallik, 9. Sambalpur,

11. Relinquishment by Patna of Territory and Dominion on the Left Bank of the Ung River. Creation of New State of Chowunpoor¹, Subjugation of other states dependencies of Sirgooja and Acquisition of further territory—erection of Fort of Sumbulpore and foundation of Sumbulpore State in lieu of Chowunpoor—

Nursing Deo,² the 12th Maharajah of Patna, and his brother Bulram³ Deo quarrelling, the former made over absolutely to the latter (probable on compulsion) all such portions of his territories as lay north of the river Ung, the engagement between the two brothers being, that each was to be perfectly independent of the other. Bulram Deo taking possession of his allotment erected a fort on the right bank of the Mahanuddy exactly opposite the present city of Sumbulpore, at Chowunpoor (where to this day the traces of his fort are visible) and adopted the title of Rajah of Chowunpoor. Shortly after this he dispossessed Sirgooja of the dependencies of Suktee, Raigurh, and Burgurh and of the remaining portion, as before noticed, of Sumbulpore and finally included Boud and Atmullick (now Gurjhat State of Cuttack) amongst the number of this tributary Muhals. After this he abandoned the fort of Chowunpoor, and crossing the river erected a new fort on the opposite bank. To this he gave the name of Sumbulpore from the number of Seemul trees that existed then on its site. Then changing his own title to that of Maharajah of Sumbulpore, he founded a dominion which soon too the real ascendancy over the parent State of Patna.

12. The two States of Patna and Sumbulpore were now distinct and the area of the "18 Gurhs" was now fully embraced; But as yet this number of Gurjhat States with independent Chiefs, tributary to the two paramount rulers of Patna and Sumbulpore were not fully formed.

13. Enumeration of the 15 'Gurhs' of the Sumbulpore and Patna Group—

The then existing Tributary Gurjhat States attached to Sumbulpore were Phooljur, Sarungurh, Suktee, Raigurh, Bunnaee, Gangpoor, Bamra, Boud, Atmullick, and, by admission of the Sumbulpore Moharajah, Rehracole. To these may be added Chundurpoor retained by the Maharajah under his own immediate authority. In Patna the only dependency was Bindanawagurh. The total therefore of the "18 Gurhs" or Gurjhat States, during the time of Nursing Deo and Bularam Deo Maharajahs, respectively of Sumbulpore and Patna was 15. Wanting to complete were Sonepore in the one case, and Khurriar and Borasambur in the other.

1. Chowanpur. 2. Narasimha Deo. 3. Balaram Deo.

14. Formation of the 8 remaining Gurjhat States

The necessity of providing for younger sons caused the alienation from the parent States of Sonapur and Khurriar. Thus Sonapore, as far as the left of the river Ung (the land on the right to the Tel river till, as before need belonging to Patna) its chief town being Binka, was constituted independent tributary Gurjhat State by the 4th Rajah of Sumbalpur, who made it over with the title of Rajah to his 2nd son Muddun-Gopaul¹. And again the 15th Maharajah of Patna giving over three "Gurhs" of the original 8 of Patna, viz., Kholagurh, Goorhagurh, and Koomragurh, to his younger son Gopaul Ray, and the latter obtaining Khurriar as a dowry on his marriage with a daughter of the Rajah of Jaipoor², those gurhs merged into Khurriar, and the whole now constituted one Gurjhat State with the title of Rajah.

15. The last created Gurjhat was Borasambar³, the present Chief of which owes his position to the cunning and power of an ancestor. Originally Borasambur consisted of eight villages, which went by the name of "Atgaon", and formed a small Zemindari part of the integral estate of Patna. It is stated that one of the Zamindar of "Atgaon" having saved the life of a Sambur deer by killing a "bora" or boar constrictor, which had attacked it, the name of the Zamindari was changed to Borasambur. Notwithstanding the smallness originally of the area of the Zamindari the proprietor was a man of some importance. he was Chief of his caste-man, Bhinjawal⁴ and, on the occasion of a new Maharajah being raised to the guddee it was his especial duty to take the latter on his lap and fold over his head the turban of State. Again the Zamindar held an important position. His lands were situated alone on the north side of the range of hills called Goondamardhum⁵ which form part of the northern boundary of Patna, and thus he could hold the approaches through those hills to Patna for or against any hostile forces. It would appear that during the first inroads of the Mahrattas the Zamindar of Borasambur was successful in guarding these approaches. For this service he was granted an extension of property on the Patna side. What the real grant was it is impossible now to say, but when the Maharajah of Patna, in A. D. 1818 was released from the captivity, in which he had been kept for 14 years by the Mahrattas, under orders of the British Government and replaced in possession of his estates by Major Roughsedge, it was found that the Zamindar had encroached upon a large tract of Patna territory, and it is said had possessed himself also of some 84 villages of the Phooljur Gurjhat. Complaint was made by the restored Maharajah of Patna, and he was forced to retire to his proper side of the hills, a gainer however so far that he retained the 84 villages of Phooljur and was allowed to hold possession of Borasambur with them in his own right from that time as an independent tributary chieftain.

1. Madangopal, 2. Jeypur 3. Borasambar, 4. Binjhal, 5. Gandhamardan

16. Completion of the 18 "Gurhs"

Thus then was completed the cluster of the 18 "Gurhs" as follows:—

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| (1) Patna | (10) Bunnaec |
| (2) Sumbulpore | (11) Raigurh |
| (3) Sonepoor | (12) Buragurh |
| (4) Bamra | (13) Suktee |
| (5) Rehracole | (14) Chundurpoor |
| (6) Gangpoor | (15) Sarungurh |
| (7) Boud | (16) Bindanawagurh |
| (8) Atmullick | (17) Khurriar |
| (9) Phooljur | (18) Borasambur |

17. Loss to Patna of the land on the Right Bank of the Mahanaddy between the Ung and Tel Rivers.

Before proceeding to notice the ultimate severance and distribution of these States, it is necessary to refer back briefly to the time of Ram Sing Deo, the 21st Muharajah of Patna. This chieftain, having recovered possession of his Guddee from one usurping uncle, after a reign of nearly 60 years, and at the age of 80 was ultimately forced, on a general insurrection, to flee his country. He sought refuge at Binka, the seat of the Rajah of Sonepoor, and fearful of pursuit or treachery promised the latter a grant of that portion of his estate which fell between the Ung and Tel, if he would protect and assist him. The Rajah of Sonepoor was not slow to take advantage of the offer. The son secured to himself the possession of the promised land, but assistance was confined to personal protection. The aged Muharajah 3 years after died a refugee in Sonepoor, without blow being struck for his restoration. This insurrection caused the loss to Patna of the last relic of its early acquisition.

18. Gurjhat States brought under direct supervision of the British Government.

The incursions and depredations of the Mahrattas had now caused the intervention of the British Government for the protection of the Gurjhat States. This ultimately resulted (in 1821) after that Boud and Atmullik had been transferred to Cuttack, in the rest being separately disconnected and placed under the immediate control and supervision of British agency.

19. In 1861 the States of Bonai and Gangpoor were transferred to Ranchee¹, and thus the circle of Gurjhats States become reduced to those exhibited in the annexed Schedule (Annexure No. 2).

1. Ranchi

20. Summary

To sum up, reverting to Patna. It will be observed that, between the time of its foundation by Ramaee Deo and the reign of its 12th Muharajah, or say, during a period of 340 years, Patna had grown, from a comparatively small State of 8 united gurhs, held by chiefs who each in turn for a day aped supreme authority over the rest to a powerful province extending in territory and dominion for miles across the Mahanaddy to the confines of Sarungurh, and on the left bank from the borders of Athmullick to a line drawn northward from the west end of the (present) city of Sumbulpore falling in with the river Eebe, to Gangpoor, and its authority-embracing the Gurjhat States, surrounding these possessions, of Bindanawagarh, Phooljur, Sarungurh, Gangpoor, Bunnæe and Bamra, that by the abandonment of all its property and dominion on the north or left side of the Ung river, it relapsed to the area of its original Gurhs, including the plain between the Tel and Ung rivers, and to the authority over the one Gurjhat State of Bindanawagarh. That subsequently at first alienated 3 of its original Gurhs and afterwards had to relinquish 12 of its most important villages, in return for all which, with additional lands from other quarters, it obtained control over two newly created Gurjhat States, viz., Kharriar and Borasambur. That previously to the last noted relinquishment it had lost the tract of land between the Tel and Ung rivers, and that lastly being brought itself under the direct control of the British, it became deprived of the last vestige of its power, the control of its three tributary States (Bindanawagarh, Kharriar and Borasambur) and thus finally fell into a smaller circle of power and property than that which it embraced when, some 600 years before (dating from the usurpation of Ramaee Deo) it had first sprung into powerful existence.

21. Such then is the history of the extension and contraction of the territories and dominions of Patna. Like as its first a sacrifice of ground, and of prospect of further advancement was owing to family dissension, so also was the final loss of the last tract of its former acquisitions caused by family dissensions. In the one instance however it was left with the substances of conquest, and the opportunities, from arrested ambition of employing such to the development of its own reserved dominions, but in the other it was brought ultimately to entire ruin. A glance at the present features of the country of Patna, and a brief review of the dissensions that occurred during the time of Ram Sing Deo, and of their results, will serve to explain these last assertion.

22. Description of the present area of Patna

It is calculated that the present territories of Patna contain 5,000 square miles although they are dotted, at distant intervals, with a few small hills, yet it may be stated that they compose a plateau of

undulating surface, so peculiarly favourable for the cultivation of rice, the pulses, oil-seeds and sugarcane. There are certainly, besides the few scattered hills, interruption also of gravelly or rocky rises covered with jungle and a few forest trees. But making allowance for the deduction of these from the general area, there remains a vast expanse of culturable lands the soil of which is of a good description.

23. Present condition of the area and indications of past prosperity

Tracts or scrubby jungles have usurped the sites of former fields, and wild beasts now hold domain where once stood the habitations of men. The guruh of Patna is now the centre of such a jungle, radiating east or say 20 miles in every direction. Close around the "Guruh", at distances varying from one to two miles, are about 100 tanks, and in the rounding jungle beyond these, at intervals of four or six miles are said to be the remains of other tanks, with traces of villages, marked, not only by the general certain evidence of planted trees, such as the mango, but also by the unmistakable proof of old broken tiles, and brick foundations of houses and temples. Nor is it alone, immediately around the "Guruh" of Patna, that signs of former welfare and former energetic rule are to be found. Turning to the southern portion of the State, in the Kondhan Zamindaries of Torva¹ and Topa, at Jhoorwal² in Torva, at Titoola³ and Odeypoori⁴ in Topa, are numerous ruins of solid buildings, of from one three stories high, and generally through the Kondhan lands are the walls of neglected temples at distance of two or four mile apart. Moreover to prove in some measure the earnestness which formerly existed for developing the country and the respect which is still held for the race of its once energetic rulers, it is to be remarked that the Khondhs of the oldest Kondh settlement at Saintala, claim to have been brought to Patna from Jeypoor by Rumaee Deo, and pride themselves in being still loyal and khalsa subjects of his descendants. Further indication of decayed prosperity and past enterprise might be adduced, and not least this, the innate respectability and intelligence of some of the Zamindars and Gountiahs⁵ of old families, but enough perhaps, has been noticed to prove that there is just ground for the boast of the Patna people, that their country was once thickly populated, and flourishing of such an extent that even rich merchants were numbered in it up to the time when anarchy, at first, and the depredations of the Mahrattas afterwards, compelled them to depart. Till the occurrence of these events, which now remain to be noticed it is believed then that the attention of the rulers of Patna, 20 in succession, was given to the welfare and prosperity of their country and subjects.

1. Tarbha 2. Jharial 3. Tillagarh 4. Udaypur 5. Gauntias

24. Cause of decline of power and Prosperity

Hiradur Shah Deo¹ the 20th Muharajah of Patna died leaving two young sons the eldest, named Raae Sing Deo², under the guardianship of his younger brother, their uncle, Buckraj Sing³. This uncle in view to the usurpation of the Guddee, murdered the mother of the two boys and intended to kill also the latter. But he was frustrated in this intension, for the boys were carried off in security to Phooljur by their maternal uncle and there brought up. Raae Sing Deo, on coming of age, sought assistance from Nagpore, and procuring a force of Mahrattas, proceeded to regain his rights. He attacked and killed his uncle, and thus obtained possession of his estate. But however much this was beneficial to himself and pleasing perhaps to a portion of his subjects, still the country paid heavily at the time of his restoration, while party spirit and enmity having now been excited, it was to be expected that, an occasion of offering conflictings intertsts might again stir them to a blaze, and again the plains of Patna having now been opened out to the view of the Mahrattas it might have been regarded as certain that their greed would spend itself on the first opportunity of home dissensions in depradatory incursions. And this prospect was indeed brought to issue as follows : Raae Singh retained his position for many years, but, during this period, he roused spiri of discontent and rebellion was spreading through the land, till ultimately it was brought to burst upon the unfortunate Muharajah then nearly 80 years old, by the intrigues of his second wife. The story is that he had three wives, no offspring by the first, two boys by the second and one son, the eldest of all by the third; the second wife was fearful that the oldest son by the third Raae would, being his father's favourite, succeed to the Guddee unless, during the Muharajah's life she should take steps to prevent it. The measures she took for prevention were the exciting a general rebellion which resulted, as before noted, in the flight of the Muharajah Raae Sing Deo to Sonapur. The Muharajah however frustrated the design of his second wife, for he took him with to Sonapur, his grandson, son of his eldest born, and on his death, 3 years afterwards, appointed him his successor, by putting the regular pugree on his head. During these three years the whole of Patna was in a state of perfect anarchy, the Ranees at Patna were quarrrelling for dominion, and their partizans were pillaging the country indiscriminately around. Life and property were no where secure. All respectable persons fled to Sonapur and were followed by numbers of the general population. On the death of old Rajah the people acknowledged his appointed successor who then returned to Patna. He was however but a youth, and found no one to advise or assist him, except such as bad and hazed* in the outrages of the inter-regnum.

1. Hiradhar Singh Deo 2. Rai Singh Deo 3. Batsaraj Singh Deo

* The writing here in the Ms is very indistinct and unintelligible.

Even his father, dismayed at the state of general disturbance, and disappointed at the preference given to his son, retired on a pilgrimage to Allahabad and there died. The young Muharajah, Prithce Singh Deo¹ lived only three years after succeeding to the Guddee. The next ruler was Ramchundur Deo² the captive of the Maharattas, who now had completely overrun and splited the country already so unhappily ripe for spoliation.

25. It was scarcely to be expected that, after an anarchy of 3 years and a total disruption of order, under the force of subsequent events that the Zamindars of the frontier, who had been so long revelling in wild independency, would soon be brought back into proper subjection, especially when the power, by entire loss of resource, of the succeeding Muharajah (father to the present one) was almost utterly paralyzed. Still less could it be supposed that, within the short space of the reign of that one Muharajah, the vacuum in the population could be filled up. Yet it is satisfactory to be able to state, that a more towards a clearance of the jungle, and an extension of cultivation is certainly being made and that out of 22 Zamindars four only are complained of and of these four, only one is rebellious.

26. Description of land tenures

The various land tenures may be thus described.

- 1st Zemindarees (Zamindari)
- 2nd Gurhoteeahes (Gurhtiahi)
- 3rd Babooans (Babuan)
- 4th Jageerdars. (Jagiridar)
- 5th Sendor Teekas (Sinduratika)
- 6th Burhumoters (Brahmottara)
- 7th Dhurumoters (Dharmottara)
- 8th Home Villages

27. Classification of Zemindarees

The Zemindarees may be divided into four parts.

1stly—Those held as Khorak-Poshak by near relatives of the Muharajah.

2ndly—Hereditary holding of Gonds and others in the centre o Patna.

3rdly—The Bhinjeer estates (Binhari estate)

4thly—The Kondhmals (Kandhamalas)

Khorak-Poshak estates

Of the 1st part there are two only, but in comparison with the size of Patna and the present resources of the Muharajah they are far too large. One Jhorasinga, is the property of the Muharajah's uncle

1. Prithviraj Singh. 2. Rama Chandra Deo.

Jograj Singh¹ and was a grant by the late ruler. The other is an allotment by the present Muharajah to his younger half brother Baijul Singh² made however upon pressure of superior authority.

Insubordination of the two Khorak-Poshaddars

It is of the proprietors of these two estates that complaint has been made, and justly, that they do not sufficiently respect the authority of the Muharajah. This complaint it is hoped will not be of further duration. Jograj Singh, an old man upwards of 80, is a fine specimen of a Rajpoot—Baijul Singh is a worthless drug consumer.

Of the 2nd sort there are Zemindarees the proprietors all respectable and loyal.

The Bhinjeers, or estates of Bhinjwal population, are six in number, lying under the hills of Gondhmardhun and Rabaeedinga which form the northern and north-western boundaries respectively between Bora-sambar and Khurriar. All the Zemindars of these are subject to authority but one, Salik Ram Burhmya³. This man is a reputed harbourer of dacoits—for the last 5 years he has refused to pay any revenue, and has completely thrown off his allegiance. The Muharajah is at this moment advancing with a large force to apprehend him.

There are nine Kondhan estates situated on the southern frontier bordering on Kalahandy, one only of the chiefs of these is said to be slow to obey the Muharajah's orders. He was punished a year ago for such disrespect and as he is decidedly an intelligent man it is hoped that punishment will have good effect. The rest of the Chiefs are under proper subjection, and all are regular in the payments of their fixed revenue, but two who will not admit of a regular assessment but still are ready every three years, when the Muharajah goes himself to them to make him an equivalent present, increasing it even if by chance the Muharajah be accompanied by his mother.

28. Designation of Gurhotteeahees Jurisdictions

There are 5 Gurhotteeahees, or clusters of villages under the Police jurisdiction of 5 Gurhotteeahees. The pay of these officers and that of the pikemen under them, is met by service lands out of one or more of the village or villages in which their headquarters are located. The circle of a Gurhotteeahee jurisdiction does not only include such service paying villages, but also contains home villages and rent free tenures. For instance (referring to the schedule attached to these notes), Salabatha⁴ is noted as one village. But the Gurhotteeahee is resident and deriving his pay in land produce there has police authority over 21 other villages of which 5 are Khalsa, 6 Rent free, and 10 Jhageers.

1. Jugaraj Singh. 2. Vaijal Singh. 3. Salik Ram Bariha. 4. Salebhata.

29. Number of tenures held by Baboos or connections of the Muharajah

The Baboos are 3 in number; of these one is rent free, another at nominal rent, the third peppercorn.

30. Number of Jagheerdars

The Jagheerdars 27 in number are held by illegitimate offsets or distant relatives or friends of the Muharajah.

31. Villages held by Ranees

The Sendor Teekahs are the marriage portion of various Ranees and amount to 19 villages.

32. Grants to Brahmins and Endowments to Temples

The Burhomoters and Dhurumoters are grants and endowments to Brahmins and temples. The former at 2 festivals according to a scale present the Muharajah with a golden *jineo* (Brahminical thread) of a rupee in value, and one cocoanut.

33. Number of Home Farms

The Home farms in consequence of the absorbing proportions of the Khorak Poshak tenures, amount only to 38 in number.

34. Revenue and Expenditure

The Revenue derived from the whole estate by the Muharajah at this present time is shown in the annexed schedule to be Rs. 8,823.

	Rs.
Out of this he has to pay Peshkush	600
Sums income fixed	1,000
Body Troops	1,000
Total	2,600

35. Land Produce

The produce of Patna consists of Rice-paddy, Khooltie, Til, Mung, Goor, Castorseed, Linseed, and Cotton, Rice-paddy is only grown in sufficiency for home consumption. There is a small export of the remaining produce in cotton to about the extent of 1,200 maunds.

36. Castes

The Castes inhabiting Patna are—

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| (1) Kondhs | (8) Bhooleahs |
| (2) Bhinjuals | (9) Keunts |
| (3) Gonds | (10) Telees |
| (4) Souras | (11) Ghasees |
| (5) Khooltas | (12) Gours |
| (6) Agurias | (13) Soondees |
| (7) Gandas | |

37. Condition of the Gurjhat State

From all that could be gathered from the village holders and Zamindars it would appear that Patna is in a quiet and peaceable state. Cattle lifting is not uncommon and house breaking occasionally perpetrates but it does not appear that dacoitees or other heinous offences are prevalent except it may be near Ramoor where a dacoitee was reported a short time back.

H. B. IMPEY MAJOR

Deputy Commissioner

ANNEXURE No. 1

Genealogical Tree of Muharajahs of Patna

No.	Name	No.	Name
<i>Rajahs of Sambargurh</i>		<i>Rajahs of Patna</i>	
1	Richpal Sing (1)	1	Rumae Deo (Ramai Deo)
2	Bhab Sing	2	Mahaling Sing
3	Dalbhunju Sing	3	Baijal Deo (1)
4	Bahan Sing	4	Buckraj Deo (Vatsaraj Deo)
5	Bhan Sing	5	Bhojraj Deo
6	Nath Sing	6	Purtab Roodra Deo (Prataparudra Deo)
7	Kurun Sing	7	Bhopal Deo (1)
8	Bhun Sing	8	Nagsing Deo
9	Soor Sing	9	Bikramadit (1) Bikramaditya Deo.
10	Dheer Sing	10	Baijal Deo (2)
11	Chatturpaul Sing	11	Bujur Heeradhar Deo (1) (Bajra Hiradhar Deo).
12	Ukhaee Sing (1)	12	Nursing Deo
13	Prithee Sing	13	Chutturpal Deo (Chhatrapal Deo).
14	Oujo Sing	14	Baijal Deo (3)
15	Kaisaree Sing (1)	15	Hirdai Narain Deo (1) (Hruday Narayan Deo).
16	Murkut Sing	16	Purtap Deo
17	Jai Sing	17	Bikramadit Deo (2)
18	Bulwunt Sing	18	Mukund Deo
19	Pudun Sing	19	Balaram Deo
20	Richpal Sing (2)	20	Herdanarain Deo (2) (Hruday Narayan Deo).
21	Nursing Sing	21	Raeesing Deo (Raising Deo)
22	Sumondur Sing	22	Pirthee Raj Sing Deo (Prithvira Sing Deo).
23	Uchit Sing	23	Ram Chandra Deo
24	Govind Sing	24	Bhopal Deo (2)
25	Kaisaree Sing (2)	25	Bhujjur Heeradhar Deo (2) (Bajra Hiradhar Deo) Presen Rajah.
26	Duswant Sing		
27	Ukhaee Sing (2)		
28	Dip Sing		
29	Dhoul Sing		
30	Nag Sing		
31	Hutumbur Sing		

ANNEXURE No. 2

List of the Gurjhat States attached to Sumbulpore in 1861

No.	Name of Gurjhat State	Name and Caste of present Chiefs	Remarks
1. Patna	..	Bhujjur Heera Dhur Deo, Muharajah, Caste Chowan.	Originally a cluster of 8 united gurhs the chiefs of which took it in turn to rule for a day under the title of Rajah was formed into one compact state under one paramount ruler Muharajah about 600 years ago by Ramaec Deo a Rajput who derived his origin from a race of western Rajput Rajahs.
2.	Bindana-yagarh (Bendra Nawagarh)	Rajah Oomraosai Caste Gond.	Was an independent tributary State of Patna from the first.
3.	Kharriar	Rajah Bussoon Chander Sing Caste Chowan.	Was constituted into an independent tributary State with title of Rajah by Hirdhur Deo 15th Muharajah of Patna for his younger son Gopaul Roy being composed of 3 gurhs of the original 8 Patna gurhs and the area of Khariar given in dowry to Gapaul Roy by the Rajah of Jaipore (Madras Presy) on his marriage with the latter's daughter

No.	Name of Gurjhat State	Name and Caste of present Chiefs	Remarks
4.	Borassambar	Soonder Barhia Zamindar Caste Binjwal.	Created an independent tributary State by Ram Chandra Deo A. D. 1818 with the sanction of the then Political Agent being composed of 12 villages originally of Patna which formed the small Zamindaree called first Atgaon and afterwards Borasambar and 84 villages wrested from the Phooljur State during the inroads of the Mahrattas.
5.	Phooljur	Rajah Sai Caste Gond	Was an independent tributary State with title of Rajah from the first.
6.	Sarangurh	Rajah Sangram Sing Caste Gond.	Was an independent tributary State with title of Rajah from the first.
7.	Suktee	Rajah Ranjeet Sing Caste Gond.	Originally an independent tributary State of Sergooja without a title was brought under the dominion of Sumbulpore by Balaram Deo Muharajah of Sumbulpore. The title of Rajah was created by Narain Sing last Muharajah of Sumbulpore.
8.	Raigarh cum	Rajah Ghansham	
9.	Bargarh	Sing, Caste Gond	Originally 2 independent tributary States of Sergoorjah, the first with title of Rajah were

No.	Name of Gurjhat State	Name and Caste of present Chiefs	Remarks
10.	Bamra	Raja Tribhooban Deo, Bahadoor, Caste Chowan.	brought under the dominion of Sumbulpore by Balaram Deo, 1st Muharajah of Sumbulpore. Baragarh being confiscated in 1833 for the rebellion of its Chief was made over to the Raigarh Rajah by the British Government.
11.	Rehracole	Bissoon Chunder Jenamonee.	Was originally a Zamindaree of Bamra was created a Tributary Gurjhat State of Sumbulpore

No.	Name of Gurjhat State	Name and Caste of present Chiefs	Remarks
12.	Sonepur	Rajah Nilladree (Niladri) Sing Deo, Caste Chowan (Chauhan).	by Bala r a m D e o Ist Maharajah of the Sumbulpore. Was originally a Zamin-daree of Patna. Was created a tributary State Sumbulpore with title of Rajah Bansee Gopal Deo, 4th Rajah of Sumbulpore for his second son.

H. B. IMPEY

Major, Deputy Commissioner Sambalpore

APPENDIX II

Events leading to adoption of Shri Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo

(This account has been obtained from Raja Aditya Pratap Singh Deo of Saraikela).

Maharaja Sur Pratap Singh Deo of Patna (1866—1871) had no male heir. He adopted Shri Ram Chandra Singh Deo, the son of his brother Biswanath Singh Deo. Ram Chandra Singh Deo succeeded Sur Pratap Singh Deo to the Gadi of Patna after attaining the age of majority in 1893. Dalganjan Singh, the third brother of Maharaja Sur Pratap Singh Deo, was not happy with this arrangement and he tried to succeed to the Gadi of Patna State. His activities annoyed the British Government who banished him from the State. The order of banishment was, however, withdrawn on representation of Ram Chandra Singh Deo who wanted that his thread ceremony would be performed by his uncle Dalganjan Singh. Maharaja Ram Chandra Singh Deo married the Raj Kumari of Lanjigarh who had been adopted as a daughter by Srimati Biswas Kumari Devi, the third Maharani of Kalahandi and the sister of Maharaja Sur Pratap Singh Deo of Patna. Dalganjan Singh Deo tried to create estrangement between Shri Ram Chandra Singh Deo and his Maharani, as a result of which relation between them tended to be unhappy. A proposed trip of Maharaja Ram Chandra Singh Deo to England could not be materialised as the Maharani, on persuasion of Dalganjan Singh, filed a petition to the Government opposing such a trip. This made Maharaja Ram Chandra Singh Deo greatly agitated and he shot his Maharani to death and himself committed suicide. By that time he had only a daughter named Padmini Kumari who was one and half years old and the Maharani was enceinte. After their tragic end, Dalganjan Singh was allowed by the British Government to succeed to the Gadi of Patna State. Some interested persons vainly attempted to make Padmini Kumari, the ruler of Patna State. This led to embitter relationship between Maharaja Dalganjan Singh Deo and the dowager Maharani of Sur Pratap Singh Deo, who brought up Padmini Kumari under her fostering care.

When Padmini Kumari was about 5 years of age her marriage with Shri Aditya Pratap, Yubaraj of Saraikela was arranged by Maharaja Pratap Rudra Singh Deo of Sonapur and his consort Maharani Amulyamani Devi. The betrothal ceremony was performed and the ceremonial pan was sent to the Saraikela house through Babu Upendra Singh of Banksahi.

The marriage of Shri Aditya Pratap Singh with Srimati Padmini Kumari was celebrated on the 3rd February 1907. Padmini Kumari developed into a talented lady. She was proficient in five languages—Oriya, Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit and English. She had considerable skill in embroidery and oil painting. In later life she exhibited her talent as a poet philosopher. She was a mother of nine children, six sons and three daughters. Her third child Rajendra Narayan was born on the 31st March 1912.

Maharaja Dalganjan Singh Deo of Patna died in 1910 and was succeeded by his son Pruthviraj Singh Deo. Pruthviraj was very fond of his niece Padmini Kumari and after coming to the Gadi used to take keen interest in her welfare. Once in 1914 on his way to Calcutta, he broke journey at Sini Railway Station and sent for Maharaja Aditya Pratap of Saraikela and his consort Padmini Kumari. He spent the day in company with the children of Padmini Kumari, particularly with Rajendra who was then only two years old. In 1917 after the birth of her fifth child Bhupendra, Padmini Kumari suffered from acute dyspepsia. She was taken to Sambalpur for a change and stayed in the Sonepur House as the Patna House was then occupied by Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo. Maharaja Aditya Pratap and his Maharani shifted to Patna House on request of Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh and stayed there for a couple of months. A very cordial relation developed between the Patna and Saraikela royal families.

Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo had no issue and he wanted to adopt a son of his brother Patayat Shri Batsaraj Singh Deo. But the first born boy of the Patayat became deaf and dumb and died at an early age. His second child was still-born. Shri Batsaraj Singh feared that his children were dying because of the desire of Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo to take them in adoption. When the third boy was born to him the Maharaja wanted to adopt him from his very birth by performing the Nabhi Chhedan ceremony (cutting of umbilical cord). But the parents firmly refused. Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo had four other brothers but none of them had any issue by that time. So the Maharaja being disappointed to get a son from his own family turned towards the family of his beloved niece, and the natural choice was Rajendra. Pruthviraj Singh was, however, advised to marry for the second time so that the second queen could give birth to a son. He married the daughter of Badalal Harish Chandra Bhanja of Mayurbhanj but no issue was born to the junior Maharani for several years and it was found that there was no possibility of a child on medical grounds.

Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo was constructing a new palace called Badal Mahal. Once he went to see the Palace, while it was

under construction, accompanied by his Dewan Jugal Kishore Tripathi and the Agency Engineer Becket. The Maharaja was then very weak due to after-effects of influenza and he was advised not to climb stairs. So the Maharaja remained in the car in the porch while his Dewan and Becket went up-stairs to see the construction of the palace. They returned a little late and the Maharaja asked the reason for their delay. They, however, hesitated to say anything to the Maharaja, but being pressed by him humbly told him that they were discussing so long as to who would occupy the palace after the Maharaja. This greatly shocked him and he decided to adopt a boy soon.

Shortly after that, Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo met Maharaja Aditya Pratap at Patna (Bihar) on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wells in December 1921. Pruthviraj Singh told him that his Dewan would be deputed to Saraikela for some important talk with him. Aditya Pratap wanted to know the purpose of the deputation of the Dewan but Pruthviraj Singh only said that his Dewan would tell him the purpose at Saraikela. It was arranged that Shri Jugal Kishore Tripathi, Dewan of Patna, would meet the Maharaja of Saraikela at Saraikela on the 1st January 1922. The Dewan came to Saraikela on the appointed date and proposed to Maharaja Aditya Pratap to give one of his younger sons, either Rajendra or Bhupendra, in adoption to Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo. He wanted to take the horoscopes of both the boys to get them examined by a renowned Pandit of Banaras proficient in Bhrgu Samhita and to choose one of them for adoption. He further said that the education of the boy to be adopted would be the sole concern of Pruthviraj Singh Deo and there would be no interference from Saraikela side. Maharaja Aditya Pratap Singh agreed to the proposal but he put forth the following conditions:

1. That the Government of India's prior sanction be procured for the adoption.
2. That the approval of Maharanis of Patna was to be taken and that they should be present at the time of adoption ceremony.
3. That the adoption ceremony was to be performed at Sambalpur in the presence of the Political Agent.
4. That the voice of the Maharaja of Saraikela be effective in the matters of selection of guards, servants etc., for the safety of the boy to be adopted.

The Dewan accepted the suggestions of the Maharaja and promised to confirm by a letter. He also promised to take necessary steps to procure approval of Government of India for the proposed adoption. The final choice of Maharaja Pruthviraj fell upon Rajendra. Maharaja Aditya Pratap wrote to Political Agent C. L. Philip, I. C. S., informing him all the details of talk with the Dewan of Patna and requested him to procure the sanction of Government of India for the proposed adoption. The Political Agent informed him, as well as, the Maharaja of Patna that the Government regarded taking of adoption as a private and personal matter and that no official sanction was necessary for the purpose. He, however, agreed to be present at the adoption ceremony.

It was decided to celebrate the adoption at Sambalpur. On the appointed day, Maharaja Aditya Pratap Singh came to Sambalpur with his family and Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo came there with his Dewan but not with his Maharanis. Adoption ceremony was duly performed in Sonepur House. Political Agent C. L. Philip was also present. After the ceremony was over, Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo and his Dewan told Aditya Pratap that Rajendra Narayan be taken to Saraikele wherefrom he would be sent to the Mayo College, Ajmer to study there under the guardianship of Principal Leslie Jones.

In the mean time, Patayat Sri Batsaraj Singh of Patna put forward the claim before the Government that his son Bhupal Singh had already been adopted by Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo prior to the adoption of Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo and prayed for recognition of Bhupal's adoption. Sir Henry Wheeler, the Governor of Bihar and Orissa, visited Balangir to ascertain the claim of the Patayat. He tried to meet the Maharaja, who however evaded him on various pretexts. Sir Henry examined a Bill in which Patayat Sri Batsaraj Singh had drawn Rs. 100 from the Treasury to celebrate the birthday ceremony of his son Bhupal Singh after the alleged date of the boys adoption. This proved the falsity of his case and on the report of Sir Henry Government of India rejected Patayat's claim and recognised the adoption of Rajendra.

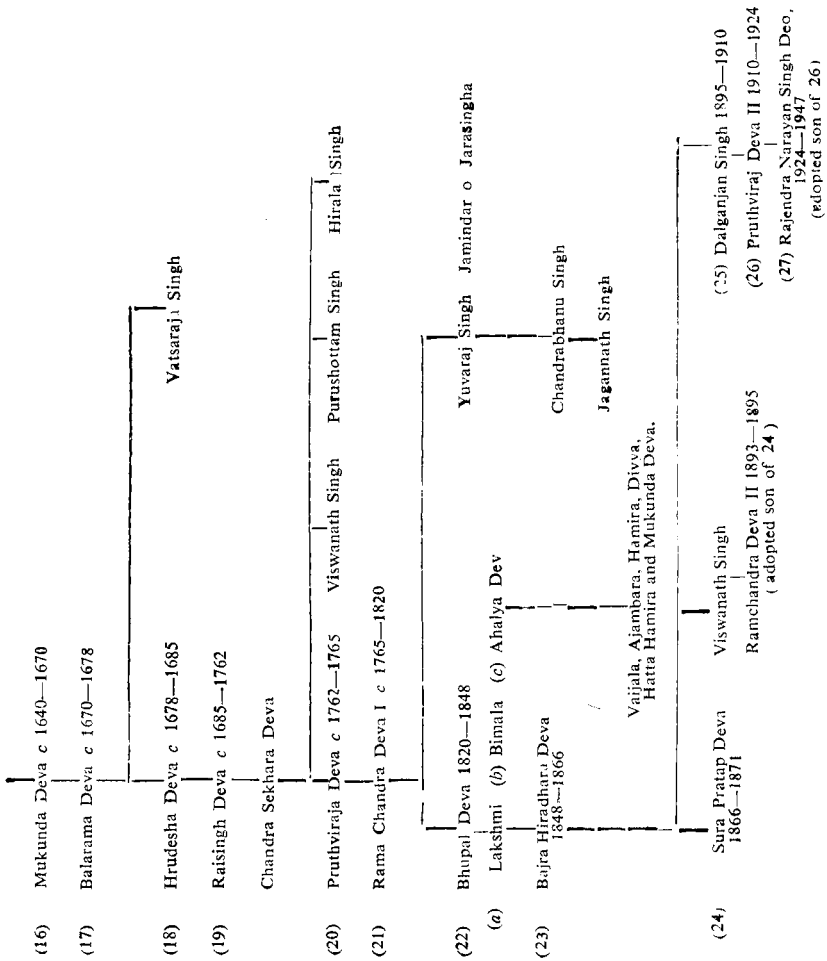
Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo died in 1924. After his death, his Maharanis represented that Bhupal Singh had been duly adopted by the Maharaja and as such he should be recognised as the legal heir for the Gadi. The question of adoption was thus opened again. Maharaja Aditya Pratap requested the Political Agent to arrange an interview with the Governor of Bihar and Orissa. The Governor

assured the Maharaja that he would report to the Viceroy and the Governor-General his opinion for recognition of the adoption of Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo.

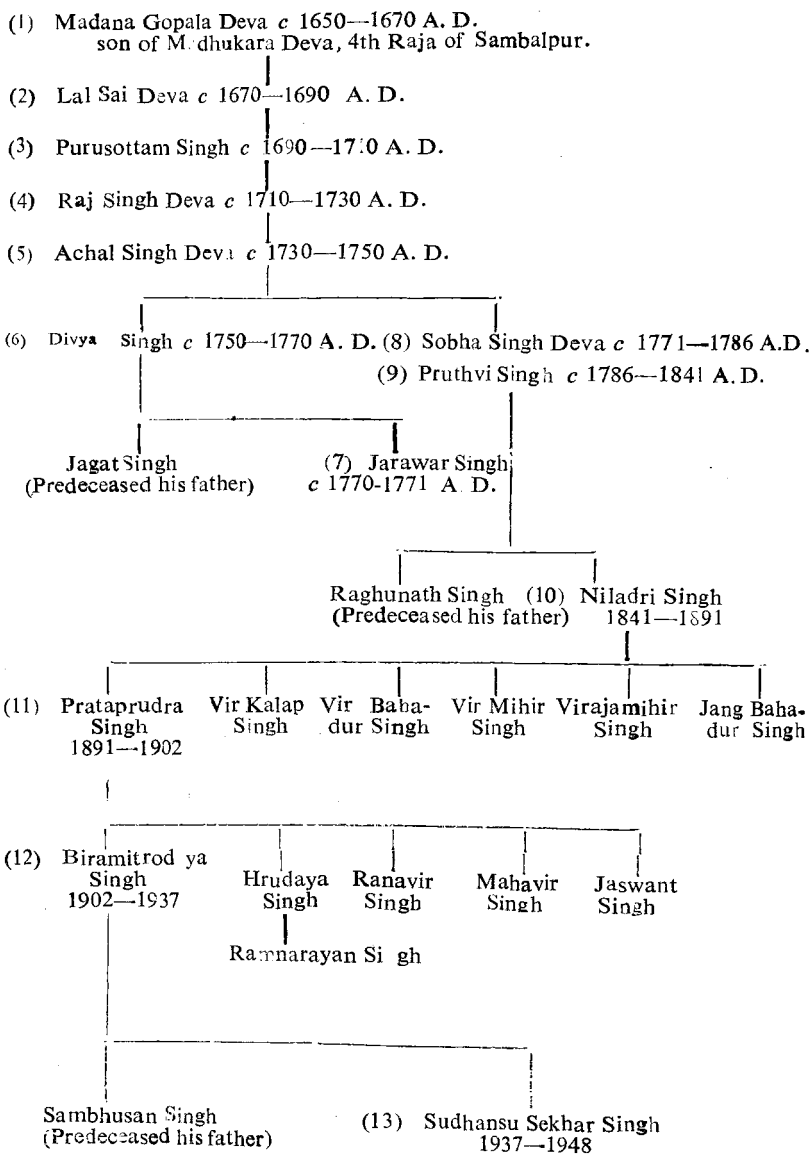
The representation of the Maharani was rejected by the Government of India and Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo was duly recognised as the adopted son and successor of Maharaja Pruthviraj Singh Deo. Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo was installed on the Gadi with full ruling powers by Sir John Sifton, the Governor of Bihar and Orissa, on the 3rd February, 1933.

APPENDIX III
A. Genealogy of Chauhan Rulers of Patna

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| (1) | Ranai Deva c 1360—1385 A. D. | |
| (2) | Mahalinga Deva c 1385—1390 | |
| (3) | Vatsaraja Deva c 1390—1410 | |
| (4) | Vaijaj Deva I c 1410—1430
(Rani Durlabha Debi) | |
| (5) | Bhojaraj Deva c 1430—1455 | |
| (6) | Prataprudra Deva I c 1455—1480 | |
| (7) | Bhupal Deva I c 1480—1500 | |
| (8) | Vikramaditya Deva I c 1500—1520 | |
| (9) | Vaijaj Deva II c 1520—1540
(Rani Chandravati Devi) | |
| (10) | Bajra Hiraadhara Deva c 1540—1570 | |
| (11) | Narasimha Deva c 1570—1577 | Balaram Deva (Raja of Sambalpur) |
| (12) | Hamira Deva c 1577—1581 | (14) Hrudaya Narayana Deva 1587—1600 |
| (13) | Pratapa Deva II c 1581—1587 &
c 1600—1620 | |
| (15) | Vikramaditya Deva II c 1620 | Gopal Rai (Raja of Kharjar)
Vide Genealogy Chart No. 5 |



B. Genealogy of Chauhan Rulers of Sonepur



APPENDIX IV

List of books published by Sonepur Durbar

Sl. No.	Name of the Book	Name of the Author	Date of Publication
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Stotra Tarangini (Sanskrit)	Shri Biramit r o d a ya Singh Deo.	1893
2	Ratnabali (Oriya) ..	Ditto	1894
3	Abhijnana Sakuntala Nataka (Oriya).	Ditto	1899
4	Chandraprabha K a v y a (Oriya).	Ditto	1902
5	Gajendra Mokshana (Oriya)	Shri Somabhusana Singh Deo.	1908
6	Swarnapura Bedha Parikrama (Oriya).	Shri Biramitrcdaya Singh Deo.	1910
7	Shri Upahara Puspanjali (Oriya).	Ditto	1910
8	Bikramovrasi (Oriya) ..	Ditto	1910
9	Sonepur in the Sambalpur Tract (English).	Shri B. C. Mazumdar	1913
10	Gita Gobinda (Bengali)	Shri Bijaya Chandra Mazumdar.	1913
11	Chandravati Parinaaya (Oriya).	Shri Prataprudra Singh Deo.	1914
12	Sonepur Feudatory Rajyara Prachalita Bibidha Bidhi (Oriya).	Shri Biramitrcdaya Singh Deo.	1915
13	Bhumi Bidhi (Oriya) ..	Ditto	
14	Rutu Sanghara O' Bibidha Kavya (Oriya).	Ditto	1915
15	Life of Rani Amulyamani Devi (English).	Shri Bepinbihari Dasgupta	1915
16	Brata Charitra (Oriya) ..	Shri Somabhusana Singh Deo.	1915
17	Panigrahana P a d a p a h (Sanskrit).	Shri Biswanatha Rath Sarma.	1918
18	Chakra Saram (Sanskrit)	Shri Nilamani Rath	1918
19	Chaturdasa Padi Athaba Chauda Poi (Oriya)	Shri Prataprudra Singh Deo.	1918
20	Sridama Daridrya Bhanjana (Oriya).	Shri Somabhusana Singh Deo.	1920
21	Syena Girih (Sanskrit) ..	Shri Aditya Prasad Guru	1920
22	Ayurveda Rat n a m a l a (Oriya).	Shri Loknath Misra	1921
23	Sat Panchasika (Sanskrit)	Shri Nilamani Rath	1921
24	Purascharana Barnana Champu (Sanskrit).	Shri Aditya Prasad Guru	1921
25	Swarnapura Gunadarsa (Sanskrit).	Shri Damodar Misra	1921

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
26	Stri Sikhsha (Oriya) ..	Shri Lakshmi Narayan Sahu.	1921
27	Maharudra Yajna Kabya (Sanskrit).	Pandit Damodar Misra	1921
28	Niladri M o h a d a y a (Sanskrit).	Shri Biramitrodaya Singh Deo.	1922
29	Bira Sarbaswam (Sanskrit)	Shri Gopinath Tunga	1922
30	Naisadhiya Charita (Oriya)	Shri Biramitrodaya Singh Deo.	1923
31	Haripriya (Oriya) ..	Shri Loknath Misra	1923
32	Sambala Manasa (Oriya) ..	Shri Swapneswar Das	1923
33	Krutajnata Puspanjali (Oriya)	Shri Swapneswar Das	1924
34	Udahanana Sloka Manjari (Sanskrit).	Shri Biramitrodaya Singh Deo.	1924
35	Asirvada Mala (Sanskrit) ..	Shri Gopinath Panigrahi..	1925
36	Sangita Ratnahara (Oriya) ..	Shri Bir a m i t r o d a y a Singh Deo.	1925
37	Ananga Rangini (Oriya) ..	Shri Bir a m i t r o d a y a Singh Deo.	1925
38	Orissa in the Making (English).	Shri B. C. Mazumdar	1925
39	The Chouhan Rulers of Sonapur (English).	Shri B. C. Mazumdar	1925
40	Astapadi Ba' Athapoi (Oriya)	Shri Bir a m i t r o d a y a Singh Deo.	1926
41	Kumara Janmotshava (Oriya)	Shri Gopinath Panigrahi	1927
42	Syamantaka Mani (Oriya) ..	Shrimati Lady Parbati Debi.	1928
43	Dasakumara Charita (Oriya)	Shri Bir a m i t r o d a y a Singh Deo.	1928
44	Sisupala Badha (Oriya) ..	Shri Biramitrodaya Singh Deo.	1928
45	Anna Prasanotsva (Oriya) ..	Shri Gopinath Panigrahi	1928
46	Ekadasi Udyapana (Oriya)	Shri Gopinath Panigrahi	1928
47	Kosalananda Kabya (Sanskrit)	Shri Biramitrodaya Singh Deo.	1929
48	Kalika Purana (Oriya) ..	Shri Biramitrodaya Singh Deo.	1929
49	Uttara Ramacharita Kabya (Oriya).	Shri Biramitrodaya Singh Deo.	1930
50	Kutira Basini (Oriya)	Shri Aditya Prasad Guru	1931
51	Shri Sangita M i t r o d a y a (Oriya).	Shri Biramitrodaya Singh Deo.	1932
52	Purana Kathasara (Oriya) ..	Maharani Srimati Lady Parbati Debi.	1932
53	Krishna Premodaya Champu (Kavyam) Evam Sangita Sudha Sagar (Astaka) (Oriya).	Shri Biramitrodaya Singh Deo.	1933
54	Bira Mitrodaya (Oriya)	Shri Narayana Misra	1937