CHAPTER III
CONDITIONS OF ANDHRADESA ON THE EVE OF GANAPATIDEVA'S ACCESSION

At the time of Ganapatideva's accession, unsettled political conditions prevailed in Andhradesa. The death of Mahādeva and the capture of Ganapatideva as a prisoner during the Seuna-Kakatiya conflict, made the political climate in the Kakatiya dominions highly fluid. This situation was taken advantage of by the subordinates of the Kakatiyas who tried to assert their independence.

As has been discussed earlier, the entire Telengana had come under the sway of the Kākatiyas by the time of Rudradeva and he became an unquestionable master of that region.

The Kukanur plates of Mudigonda Calukyan prince Kusumāditya indicate that they were in exile for twelve years due to the political upheaval caused by Rudra. Taking advantage of the political confusion caused after the death of Mahādeva, the Mudigonda Calukyas returned to their original home Visurunādu, with the help of their loyal ministers Idapayya and Ramayya. Kusumāditya and his brother Nagatiraja could recover the territories that were
lost to Rudradeva. On that joyful occasion he granted the village Kriwaka, as an agrahara to his loyal ministers. Soon after Recerla Rudra, the Kakatiya general put to flight all these rebellious forces and conquered that region as revealed by his Falampet inscription, dated A.D.1213².

The Recerla chiefs of Yelkurti and Pillamarri were loyal to the Kakatiya family³. They ruled parts of the present Warangal and Nalgonda districts.

The Viriyala chiefs ruling over the parts of Khammam, Nizambad, Karimnagar and Nalgonda districts were the other loyal subordinates of the Kakatiyas⁴.

The Malayala chiefs of Kondiparti who were matrimonially allied with the Viriyala chiefs, ruling the parts of Mulug taluk have joined with Recerla Rudra in suppressing the local rebellion⁵.

The Ceraku chiefs ruled the upper tracts of Sriśailam forest since the reign of Rudra. The Jalalpur inscription of Ceraku Bollaya dated A.D.1202 refers to the fact that he assisted Recerla Rudra in the suppression of local revolts at the time of the absence of Ganapatideva in the capital⁶.
COASTAL ANDHRA

The Calukya-Colas held their nominal suzerainty over the coastal Andhra. The contemporary Calukya-Cola emperor Kulothunga III (A.D. 1178-1216) had ambitious plans of bringing the feudatories under his effective control. Even in his home land, the Telugu Cōdas of Nellore rose into prominence. They held their sway further south in the districts of Nellore, Cuddapah, Chittoor, North Arcot and Chingleput. Nallasiddhi appears to be powerful and ambitious ruler. He boasted that he had collected tribute from Kāñcī. But Kulothunga III recovered Kāñcī by A.D. 1186 and his suzerainty was acknowledged by Nallasiddhi and his inscriptions were dated in the regnal years of Kulothunga III. Nallasiddhi brought under his control, the South Western region Renāḍu 7,000 which was formerly ruled by the Vaidumbas. It included the portions of Sircella taluk of Kurnool district and Jammulamadugu, Proddutur, Pulivendala and Kamalapuram taluks of Cuddapah district. The inscriptions of Nallasiddhi from Cauduri, Proddutur taluk dated A.D. 1192 mentions him as Bhujabala vīra Nallasidhanādeva ruling at Vallūr the capital of Maharājapādi and districts of Renāḍu 7,000, Kanne 300 and other districts. Thus the Telugu Cōda Kingdom became extensive and powerful under Nallasiddhi.
While Kulottunga III was engaged in the Southern affairs, the Velanāṭi Côdas who were considered as the subordinates of Čāluṅka-Čolas began to assert their independence in the coastal Āndhra.

As has been described earlier, Rudradeva could establish his hegemony in the Western parts of Velanadu kingdom as revealed by his Tripurāntakām inscription dated A.D. 1183 which registers the gift of the village Revūru on the bank of the river Krisha. But after the death of Rudradeva, the Velanadu king Prithvisvāra made extensive efforts to reassert his hegemony over the local chieftains. The Koṭas of Dharamikota, the Naivādis of Madapalle, the Kundapadumatis of Nadendla and the Ayyas of Divi reasserted their independence. Prithvisvāra had attempted to establish his hegemony over lost territories, after the death of Rudradeva.

The Kolanu region corresponding to present Elur, Tanuk, Bhimavaram taluks of West Godavari district was ruled by the Saronāthas of Kolanu. The contemporary ruler was Kolanu Keśavadeva (A.D. 1196 - 1233), who nominally allied himself with the Čāluṅka-Čolas. He seems to have given refuge to the Mudigonda Čāluṅkya chiefs Nagatiraja and Kusumaditya or Kusumayudha after their expulsion from their dominions by Recerla Rudra.
The Kona mandala was ruled by the Calukyas of Pithapuram whose sway was extended up to Simhachalam. Vijayaditya III (A.D. 1158–1202) was the king then.14

A branch of Eastern Calukyas of Vengi ruled over the parts of modern Vizag district from Paṇcachārāla and Yalamanchili. Mallapadeva (A.D. 1200) was the ruling king during this period.15

Calukya Vijayaditya I (A.D. 1150–1199) was ruling the portions of Godavari district from Srikūmam.16

Another branch of the Calukyas exercised sway over a portion of Godavari district from Vengi with Niḍadavole and Tadikalapudi as head quarters. Calukya Mahādeva (A.D. 1194–1230) was ruling Vengi 1000 from Tadikalapudi.17

The Cāgis ruled Vijayavati and Natavādi viṣayas from Gudimetta. They were allies of the Velanatī Codas and the Natavadis of Māḍapalle. Cāgi Dora II (A.D. 1190–99) and Pota II (A.D. 1199–1230) were rulers of Gudimetta.19 Dora II came into conflict with the local chiefs of Vengi probably in the extension of his empire.

The Pallavas of Guntur district ruled the portions of Satsahasta from Guntur as head quarters. They acknowledged the supremacy of Calukya-Colas through the Codas of Velanadu.20
The region of Ongole was ruled by the Yadavas of Addanki. Sarangadhara (A.D. 1150) was ruling this region during this period.

A branch of the Telugu Codas ruled Kammaṇadu from Konidena. During the period under study, no record of these chiefs is found between Kamaṇa Coda (A.D. 1160-87) and Balli Coda (A.D. 1221-22).

The Pottapi Codas ruled Cuddapah tract from Pottapi. Mallideva IV (1157) was the ruler, owing allegiance to the Telugu Codas of Nellore.

At the time of the accession of Ganapatideva, Andhradesa was surrounded by the Colas of Tanjore, the Hoyasalas of Dvarasamudra and the Seunas of Devagiri.

KULOTTUNGA III AND THE PANDYAS OF MADURA

The Calukya-Cola emperor Kulottunga desired to strengthen the imperial authority and bring the subordinates under his effective control. The Pudukkottai inscriptions of Kulottunga III claim that he had subdued Vačugus (Telugus) who were fierce in war and this brought vengai mandalam under his sway. He was pleased to shover gold and enter the golden city Urangai. But K.A.N. Sastry held that such a war ending so favourably for the Cola monarch
there are no indications except the vague statements of
the two Pudukkottai records. No details of this campaign
are forthcoming and the entry of the Cōlas into Warangal
is the real meaning of these inscriptions must hold to be the case of fabrication. In the present state
of evidence one cannot even say if there was any basis
for the tall claims set up on behalf of the Cōla monarch
in the records of his reign. The analysis of the events
between A.D. 1200-1213 in Andhra country clearly show that
Kulottunga claims as found in the Pudukkottai inscriptions
are a fabrication as has been pointed by K.A.N. Sastry.

Kulottunga III had to fight three wars with the Pāṇḍyas who were rising into prominence. Jatavāmā Kulasekhara (A.D. 1190-1217) succeeded Vikrama Pāṇḍya, though the relation between them is not known. Vira Pāṇḍya another cousin of Kulasekhara challenged the succession of Vikrama Pāṇḍya and there followed a Civil War into which Kulottunga was drawn. The first of the wars aimed at the reinstatement of Vikrama Pāṇḍya of Kerala and his Ceylonese ally. An inscription from Chidambaram26 dated in the 9th regnal year of Kulottunga III states that the king dispatched an army when Vikrama Pāṇḍya sought his aid and in the campaign that followed, the son of Vira Pāṇḍya fell. Elagam was subdued, while the Singala soldiers had
their noses cut off and driven into the sea. Vira Pandya was defeated and Vikrama Pandya became the Pandyan King. It can be assumed that the war was actually fought before A.D. 1182, the time when the title Maduraiyum Pandiyonum mudittalaiyum Kondaraliya began to appear in the records of Kulottunga III. It seems that this battle was fought during the last days of Parakrama Prabhu I of Ceylon and the Singala soldiers referred to in the Chidambaram record must have been the forces furnished by that king in aid of his ally Vira Pandya of Kerala.

After the reinstatement of Vikrama Pandya on the throne Kulottunga III was again drawn into war with Vira Pandya who made futile efforts to test his fortunes. The Chidambaram inscription of Kulottunga III dated in his 11th regnal year, the two records from Tirukkadaiyur dated 11th and 16th regnal years, one record from Tiruvidaimarudur dated in 16th year, one from Srirangam dated in the 19th regnal year furnish details regarding the second Pandyan war of Kulottunga III. It can be surmised, based on the information provided by the above records that the efforts of Vira Pandya to resist Kulottunga III were crushed on the battle field of Nettur. The battle may be placed in or slightly before the year A.D. 1189. As Ilam, the Ceylonese king first figures in the 10th regnal year of
Kulottunga III is doubted whether this battle took place during the life time of Parāntaka Prabhu or later.

The third campaign of Kulottunga III in the Pandyan country is described in his Pudukkottai records dated in his 34th regnal year. These inscriptions state that he had conquered Ilam, the King of Ceylon waged a fierce war against Kongu, entered Karvur, performed Vijayabhiseka and assumed the title Sola Kerala. He then entered Madurai and drove Pandyas his younger brother, mother into forests and held the title Cola Pandyan.

Jatavarma Kulasekhara, the successor of Vikrama Pandyas issued his records in Madura, Ramnad and Tirunelvelly dts. One of his inscriptions set up the proud claim that before the Pandyan fish, the fierce tiger of Cola and the bow of Cera hid themselves in fear. This claim and the desire of Kulottunga III for Virabhiseka and the Vijayabhiseka must have been the probable causes for the growth of enmity between Kulasekhara and Kulottunga III. Moreover the records of the former ruler do not mention the war or any of its nature. However the war ends with the restoration of Kulasekhara and so the claim of Kulottunga III for driving away the Pandyan King and his allies into the forest seems to be figurative. But the seige of forts,
destruction of the armies of Maravas, the demolishing of the coronation hall of Pandyas contributed for the growth of differences between the Colas and the Pandyas. Such type of facts of vandalism and harshness weakened the political stature of Kulottunga III and contributed to the Pandyan supremacy.

After the death of Jatavarma Kulasekhara, Maravarma Sundara Pandya in A.D. 1216 avenged the acts of Kulottunga III. The Pandyan forces marched as far as Chidambaram and forced Kulottunga to flee. The capture of the Cola throne by Sundara Pandya and the reinstatement of Kulottunga were notable developments in the history of South India. The Cola power was restored with the intervention of the Hoyasalac Ballala. Thus a new dimension was added to the politics i.e. the Hoyasala dominance in the Cola country. The political developments noted above led to the weakening of Central authority and the rise of local kingdoms. Notable among them were the Telugu Codas of Nellore and the Kadavarayyas, who though acknowledged the Cola authority were quasi independent. The situation is aptly summed up by K.A.N. Sastry: "For nothing stands clear relief from the records of the time than the absence of a central co-ordinating authority and the readiness with which treasons and conspiracies seem to have been set on foot we have traced
the growth of the practice among the local chieftains of contracting alliances for the offence and defence without any regard to the Central Government."

THE SEUNAS AND THE HOYASALAS

Ballāla II (A.D. 1173-1220) was ruling the Hoyasalas by maintaining friendly relations with the Imperial Colas. One of his queens was Cola Mahādevi, a Cola princess. He had hostile relations with the Seunas of Devagiri and the Pandyas. Ballāla III by A.D. 1189 was able to capture a considerable portion of the region as far as Krishna including tracts of Puligere and Belevola. He extended his sway Northwards upto the river Malaprabha. Bhillama V, the Seuna king was defeated in the battle of Soratur in the hands of Ballāla II. One of the records of Narasimha II son of Ballāla II dated A.D.1202 states that the Seuna king came with his large force consisting of two lakhs of soldiers, twelve thousand horses and the like. Ballāla with his single elephant pushed back the rival army and pursued the enemy from Soratur to the river Krishna. He further states that he had defeated Jaitrapāla son of Bhillama V captured Lokkigundī before A.D. 1194. As a result Ballāla II became an undisputed master of the entire Kuntala. He occupied the forts of Viraranaranga, Kurgōd, Matanga,
Dorevadi, Gutti, Guttavolal, Haluve, Manuve, Uddhara, Kaladi, Bandanike, Ballarre, Soratur, Eramarge and Lokkigundi all situated in the upper Tungabhadra valley.  

Jaitugi (A.D. 1192-1200), son of Bhillama V was the ruler of the Seunas of Devagiri, on the eve of the accession of Ganapatideva, Jaitugi attempted to conquer the South Eastern flanks and came upto China Tumbalam near Adoni in Kurnool dt. The Hoyasalas did not check the marches and Jaitugi returned to Devagiri by January A.D.1193. Neither Jaitugi had made attempts to reconquer Lokkigundi, Haluve and Manuve nor Ballala II tried to expand his dominions. The former might have attempted to consolidate his position and later his gains.

As has been discussed already the Seuna-Kakatiya conflict resulted in the death of Rudradeva and Mahadeva and the capture of Ganapatideva as a prisoner by the Seunas. The Seuna records portray Jaitugi as an ocean of compassion who released and restored Ganapatideva to his throne. But the political situation weighed greater for the release of Ganapatideva. It appears that the aggressive policy of Vira Ballala II and the Northward expansion of his kingdom alarmed Jaitugi. He further felt it necessary to consolidate his kingdom instead of maintaining
an army to check the revolts in the Kākatīya Kingdom. He feared that if the Kākatīya kingdom is left without a king it would easily become a prey to the ambitions of Ballāla and thus the Hoyasalas would become irresistible enemies. Therefore Jaitugi wisely decided to set free Ganapatideva and reinstated him on his throne so that the latter remained as his ally and the Kākatīya Kingdom would remain a check to Hoyasala Ballāla II.
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