

## C H A P T E R. II

### WESTERN ORISSA ON THE EVE OF CHAUHĀN RULE :-

Records and accounts, legends and traditions unanimously give the credit of the foundation of Chauhān rule in Western Orissa to Rāma Deva or Ramāi Deva who was a scion of Prithvirāja III. But there is a lot of controversy regarding the time of this remarkable man. The Pātnā Manuscript of the "Kosalānanda", which is the earliest available literary work on the Chauhāns of Orissa, makes our confusion more confounded when it states that "the renowned king (Rāma Deva), after reigning for 52 years, enjoyed the company of the gods in \*Kali year 4312. (Ravi Rāma Yugāvdake)." <sup>1</sup> 4312 of Kali Era is equivalent to 1212 A.D. and, if we take it as the last year of Ramāi Deva, the date of his accession would be 1160 A.D. (1212-52). But in that case, Ramāi Deva becomes a predecessor of Prithvirāja III which is obviously unacceptable. This verse, however, does not occur in the Sonepur edition of the Kosālānanda.

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1. KN (Pātnā MS) Canto XXII Vs. 9-10

Ravi- 12, Rāma-13, Yuga-4.

The Gangas of Orissa were using such terms to denote particular number and the usual process of their counting was from right to left.

This system also seems to be in vogue in Western Orissa under the early Chauhān rulers.

Most probably, it is a later interpolation.

The date of the foundation of the Chauhan rule in Western Orissa can, however, be approximately fixed on the internal evidence of the 'Kosalānānda'. The Kāvya places as many as ten kings in between Prithvirāja III and Ramāi Deva.<sup>1</sup> Prithvirāja died in the year 1192 A.D. and, if the ten kings, following him, would have reigned 160 to 170 years, Ramāi Deva might have come to the throne at about 1360 A.D.

The literary evidence, discussed above, is corroborated by the Narasimhanātha Temple Inscription of Vaijala Deva I, Ruler of Pātnā. This inscription has been dated in the cyclic year Vikāri, Chaitra Pūrṇamī, Sukravāra, and Hastā Nakshatra. According to Swami Kannu Pillai 's' 'Indian Ephemeris'<sup>2</sup> this date falls on 17th March 1413 A.D.. Sri L.P. Pāndeya has the credit to calculate the date for the first time correctly by working out the details. Pāndit Vināyaka Miśra<sup>3</sup> and Sri K.N. Mahāpātra<sup>4</sup> further observe that in consideration of the language and paleography of this inscription, it may

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1. KN (Sonapur Ed) Verses 1-9. Vide Appendix Genealogy Chart 1(A)
  2. Vol. V p.28.
  3. I.H.Q. Vol. XII p.485.
  4. O.H.R.J. Vol. III No.3 p.143.

safely be placed in the first quarter of the 15th Century A.D., Vaijala Deva, the fourth ruler of Pāṭnā, must, therefore, have come to the throne before A.D. 1413. If the three kings, who preceded him, ruled about 50 to 60 years, Ramāi Deva might have become king at about 1360 A.D.

0/ B.C. Majumdār fixes the date of Ramāi Deva's accession at c/1400 A.D.<sup>1</sup> But, in that case, we have to assign hardly ten years to the first three kings of this dynasty, which seems improbable. For these reasons, we may assume circa 1360 A.D. as the date of accession of Ramāi Deva and the foundation of Chauhan rule in Pāṭnā region of Western Orissa.

The political condition of Western Orissa in the middle of the 14th Century A.D. was favourable for the advent of this new dynasty. The Somavamsins of SOUTH Kosāla had long since been ousted as a result of the military campaigns of Rajendra Chola in 1022-23 A.D.<sup>2</sup> Synchronous

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1. Orissa in the Making p.224.

2. E.I. IX p. 223 ff and S.II. Part I pp.108-09.

with the fall of the Somavamsins, a branch of the Kalachuris established themselves as rulers in western part of Kosala with Tummāna as the capital. The leader of this new branch of the Kalachuris was Kaliṅgarāja.<sup>1</sup> His great-grandson Prithvī Deva I claims himself as the lord of the entire Kosala in his Amod grant dated 1079 A.D.<sup>2</sup> His son Jajālladeva, in his Ratanpur Inscription dated 1114 A.D.,<sup>3</sup> takes the credit of defeating and capturing in battle one Someśvara, Lord of Kosala. Someśvara of this inscription has been identified by Rai Bahādur Hīrālāl with Someśvara of the Chindaka family of the Nāga race of Bastar, the old name of which was Chakrakota.<sup>4</sup> Prof. G. Rām Dās takes him to be the Telugu-Choda ruler, Someśvara II.<sup>5</sup> In order to examine the two views, we shall have a brief discussion of the rise and role of the Chindaka Nāgas and their feudatories, the Telugu-Chodas, in the western region of Kosala.

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1. E.I. Vol. I p.45 ff.
  2. E.I. Vol XIX p.78
  3. E.I. Vol. p.32 ff.
  4. Hīrālāl- Inscription of C.P. and Berār. p.117.
  5. K.H.R.S. Vol. I No.3 pp. 233-34.

The earliest record of the Chindaka Nāgas, available to us, is a fragmentary epigraph from Errākot, about ten miles from Jagdalpur.<sup>1</sup> This inscription bears a date in Saka 945 corresponding to 1023 A.D. which suggests that the Chindaka Nāgas entered Bastar in the train of Rājendra Chola's army that had set out on an expedition against the eastern countries sometimes before that date.<sup>2</sup> The Barsur inscription of 1060 A.D.<sup>3</sup> refers to the reign of Chindaka Nāga Mahārāja Dhārāvarṣa Jagadekabhūṣaṇa and records that his Telugu-Choda feudatory Mahāmaṇḍalesvara Chāṇḍrāditya Mahārāja, Lord of Ammagāma, built a Śiva temple called Chāṇḍrādityesvara, excavated a tank, Chāṇḍrāditya Samudra and laid out a garden, Chāṇḍrāditya Nāṇḍana Vana in its vicinity. Dhārāvarṣa died soon after 1060 A.D. and the throne was usurped by another member of the same family, Madhurāntaka. We get two records of his reign viz. the Dantēṣwārā inscription of 1061 A.D.<sup>4</sup> and

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1. Hīrālāl p. 166.

2. D.C. Sircar- Some southern dynasties in M.P. and Orissa p.2.

3. Hīrālāl pp. 158-59.

4. Hīrālāl. p. 165 NO.283.

the Rājpur Plates of 1065 A.D.<sup>1</sup> ~~Axiaraga~~ Madhurāntaka was dethroned and killed by Dhārāvārsa's son Someśvara<sup>2</sup> sometimes before 1069 A.D.<sup>3</sup> A <sup>ar</sup>large number of inscriptions, belonging to the long reign of Someśvara, are available to us. In one of them, he is credited with the annexation of six lakhs and nintysix villages of Kosāla country.<sup>5</sup> It is interesting in this connection to note that Yasorāja I, father of Dhārāvārsa's Telugu-Choda feudatory, Chandrāditya, is known to have carved out a kingdom in Kosāla<sup>6</sup>. Dr. D.C. Sircar's suggestion that Yasorāja entered Kosāla as a

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1. E.I. Vol. IX pp.174 ff.
2. Kuruspal Insc. E.I. Vol. X pp.174 ff.
3. The earliest record of the reign of Someśvara is one of the two Kuruspal Inscriptions of Dhāranā Mahādevī, the second queen of Someśvara and it bears a date in the cyclic year Khara which fell in Saka 991 corresponding to 1069 A.D.. E.I. Vol.X p.31 ff vol. IX p.163.
4. We know from Barsur Inscription ( E.I. Vol. IX pp. 162 ff) that Someśvara was living in 1108 A.D. The earliest available inscription belonging to the reign of his son Kanhāradeva was the Nārāyanpāl Inscription of Gundā Mahādevī dated 18th October III A.D. Hirālāl. p.160.
5. E.I. Vol X pp.25 ff.
6. Patnā Museum Plates E.I. Vol. XIX No.16.

lieutenant of Chindaka Nāga Someśvara, appears<sup>1</sup> quite reasonable. After this conquest, Someśvara probably appointed Yasorāja to govern that territory on his behalf.

Three copper-plate grants, issued from Suvarnapura by the Telugu- Chōḍa rulers of South Kōśāla, are available to us. They are the Kumārisikṣṁhā plates,<sup>2</sup> the Patnā Museum plates<sup>3</sup> and the Mahadā Copper-plates.<sup>4</sup> The first two were granted by one Someśvara in the 11th and 17th year of his reign respectively and the last was issued by another Someśvara in the 23rd year of the reign of his overlord, whose name was also Someśvara.<sup>5</sup> This last mentioned Someśvara can be no other than the Chindaka Nāga Someśvara who, as noted above, came to the throne sometimes before 1069 A.D. So the date of accession of Someśvara of Mahadā plates may be circa 1090 A.D. The genealogical tables,

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1. D.C. Sircar- Some Southern Dynasties in M.P. and Orissa, p.8.
  2. E.I. Vol. XII No.29.
  3. E.I. Vol. XIX No.16.
  4. E.I.Vol. XXVIII pp.283 ff.
  5. Mahadā Copper-plates. Lines 9-11 (Second plate) Dr. D.C. Sircar takes Someśvara, the overlord, as Someśvara, the feudatory.

we get from these three copper-plates, are as follows.

Kumārisimhā plates.

Chāndrādityadeva  
 Yasorājadeva  
 Somesvaradeva (donor)

Paṭnā Museum plates.

Challamarāja  
 Yasorājadeva I

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Somesvaradeva I

Unnamed Son

Yasorājadeva

Somesvaradeva  
 (donor)

Mahadā Plates :-

Somesvaradeva  
 Dhārālladeva alias Yasorāja  
 Somesvaradeva (donor)

The Unnamed son of Yasorāja I of Paṭnā Museum

Plates can be no other than Chāndrādityadeva of Kumārisimhā grant and can be identified with Chandrādityadeva, Lord of Ammagāma of Barsur inscription. As he has been ignored in the genealogical table of Paṭnā Museum Plates and at the same time has not been mentioned as king in the Kumārisimhā Plates, it appears that he did not succeed to the throne of Kosāla. Somesvaradeva, the grandfather of the donor of Mahadā Plates, can be identified with Somesvaradeva I of Paṭnā Museum Plates. Comparing the three copper-plates, we can thus make a consolidated genealogical table of the Telugu- Choda rulers of Kosāla.

Challamarāja<sup>1</sup>

(1) Yasorāja I c. 1070 A.D. ( Lord of Kosala)

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(2) Somesvara I

Chandrāditya (Lord of Ammagāma)  
c. 1060.

(3) Dhārālladeva alias  
Yasorāja II

(5) Yasorāja III (Successor of  
Somesvara II)

(4) Somesvara II c. 1090  
(donor of Mahadā  
plates)

(6) Somesvara III  
(donor of Paṭṇā and  
Kumārisimhā Plates)

As already noted, Somesvara II was the Lord of Kosala in cir. 1090 A.D. He, probably being issueless, was succeeded by Yasoraja III, who must have been sufficiently aged by that time and hence must have ruled for a very brief period. Somesvara III, therefore, came to the throne towards the close of the 11th century or in the beginning of the 12th century A.D. It is mentioned in Kumārisimhā Copper-plates that a gift of land was made at the time of the lunar eclipse that happened on the 15th of the month of Māgha (Māghamāsi Purnamāsyam Tithau Chandragrahoparāge). According to Sewell's "Eclipse of the moon in India" there were two lunar eclipses on the full moon days of Māgha in the first decade of the 12th century A.D. They took place on 21st January, 1106, Sunday and 10th January, 1107, Thursday. If one of these dates be the 11th

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1. Figures in the bracket on the left of the rulers indicate their succession to the throne chronologically.

year of the reign of *Somesvara II*, his *Pātnā* Museum grant, which is dated in the 17th year, *Jyestha*, *Sudi*, will correspond to May 1112 or 1113 A.D. and his year of accession must, therefore, be 1095 or 1096 A.D. We do not get any record of *Somesvara III* or any of his successors after 1113 A.D. It is, therefore, plausible that he was defeated and was captured by *Jajalladeva* of *Ratanpur* and consequently the rule of the *Telugu-Chodas* ended in *South Kosala* comprising *Western Orissa*.

The *Chindaka Naga* king, *Somesvara*, was succeeded by his son *Kanhāradeva* in cir. 1110 A.D.<sup>1</sup> and this dynasty continued to rule over *Bastar* down to the 14th century.<sup>2</sup> We know that there was a struggle for power between *Ratanpur* and *Kosala* even before *Jajalladeva* whose father *Prithvī Deva* claims to have defeated the *Kosala* king sometimes before 1079 A.D. After that, the *Telugu-Chodas* seem to have been reinstalled in that region by their over lord, *Somesvaradeva*. It must have injured the martial spirit of *Jajalladeva*, who was seeking opportunity to reoccupy *Kosala*. So, when after a long rule, the powerful *Somesvara* was succeeded by his son, *Kanhāradeva*, *Jajalladeva* invaded *Kosala* and defeated and captured its *Telugu-Choda* ruler *Somesvara III*. Since then, that region came under the

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1. The earliest record belonging to this king is the *Nārāyanapāla* inscription of *Gunḍa Mahādevī* dated 18th October IIII A.D. *Hirālāl-* p.160 No.272  
*E.I.* IX p.311 ff and pp.161-162.
  2. *Themera Sati* inscription of *Saka Samvat* 1246 corresponding to 1324 A.D. *Hirālāl-* NO.282 p.165.  
*E.I.* Vol. X pp.39-40.

sovereignty of the Kalachuris.<sup>1</sup> This took place sometimes before 1114 A.D., the date of Ratanpur inscription of Jajalladeva.

It was about this time that the Ganga king, Chodaganga of Kalinga, occupied Utkala, defeating the last Somavamsi king, who was very likely Karnadeva. The Korni Copper-plate grant of Chodaganga, dated Saka Era 1034 or 1112 A.D., reveals that he was the overlord of Utkala on the east and Bengi on the west by the time of the issue of that grant.<sup>2</sup> An ambitious king like him, who conquered the entire coastal territory from the Godavari in the south to the Ganges in the north,<sup>3</sup> felt the necessity of acquiring

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1. For Kalachuri reign of Orissa please vide K.C. Panigrahi's 'Chronology of the Bhaumakaras' (Madras 1961) pp. 9-10. Also 'Kalachuri coins from Sonepur' by B.B. Nath in O.H.R.J. Vol. I No.1 April, 1952.

2. J.A. H.R.S. Vol. I p. 113.

पूर्वस्थां दिशि पूर्वमुत्कलपतिं राज्यं निधायाद्भूत  
पश्चात् पश्चिम दिक्पटे विद्वितं वेङ्गीश मध्ये  
लक्ष्मीवन्धनमालिकामिव जयत्री तौरण सम्भयोः  
विश्रुतिस्म शमिद्म कीर्ति विभवैः श्रीगंडुचुडामी

3. OHRJ Vol.1 NO.4 p.274.

Western Orissa which once formed a part of the Somavaṁśin kingdom. As a successor of the Somavaṁśins in Utkala by conquest, he now made preparations to recover that area from the hands of the Kalachuris. The first Gaṅga-Kalachuri conflict took place in or about 1113 A.D. and the struggle between the two continued for a long time. The Kharod<sup>1</sup> and the Peṇdrābaṇḍha<sup>2</sup> inscriptions issued by the successors of Jajālladeva clearly testify to the defeat of Chodagaṅga and his son Kāmārnava at the hands of the Kalachuri kings, Ratnadeva II and Prithvideva II respectively. The Gaṅga epigraphic records of the period, however, remain completely silent about these defeats.

For more than fifty years after Kāmārnava, we do not hear of any war between the Kalachuris and the Gaṅgas from any inscription. In the Ghātesvar inscription dated 1220 A.D., it is described that Vishnu, the Commander-in-chief of Anaṅgabhimadeva III (1211-1238 A.D.), went in an expedition towards Tumāna for a trial of strength with

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1. Kharod Insc. of Ratnadeva III (Kalachuri Śamvat 933)  
E.I. Vol. XXI p.161  
Ind. Ant. Vol. XXII p.82.
  2. E.I. Vol. XXIII p.1 ff.

the ruler of that country, who was greatly terrified<sup>1</sup>. This fight with Tummana king, who was very likely Pratāpamalla, took place about 1211 A.D. and <sup>2</sup> resulted in the defeat of the Kalachuris and the annexation of Western Orissa by the Gaṅga king. This is also supported by the Mādālāpāñji, where it is stated that the king had increased income of the state by increasing the territories up <sup>to</sup> Sonepur in the West<sup>3</sup>. The occupation of Western Orissa by the Gaṅgas is also supported by the Khameswari Temple Inscription of Sonepur which discloses the fact that a Gaṅga Governor was stationed in that region probably with headquarters at Sonepur during the rule of Bhanu Deva I (1264-1278 A.D.), the grandson of Anagabhīmadeva III.<sup>4</sup> After the conquest of Western Orissa, the subsequent Gaṅga rulers appear to have left the internal administration of this territory to some feudatory chiefs and they themselves remained satisfied with the tributes, they paid<sup>5</sup>. One Madana

1. E.I. Vol. XXIX p. 125, 127 & 131.

विष्णुवैश्वानरौ च सीमं भीमं तद्विनी कुञ्जं तद्वैश्वानरौ-  
विष्णुवैष्णु रक्षावशावतिभयाद्यै तन्विद्युः पश्यतः  
योगाभास्त परिश्रमेण न तथा वैश्वानशानामिदम्

2. O.H.R.J. Vol. X No.4 1962 p. 161. Pratāpamalla was the king of Tummana in cir. 1210 A.D. ( K.H.R.S. Vol. I No.2 p.161.

3. Mādālāpāñji ( Prāchi edition) pp. 28-29.

4. O.H.R.J. Vol. X No.4 & E.I. XXXII pp.325 ff.

5. KN Canto I, Verses 25-26.

तुम्भ्राण  
पृथ्वी पतेः ।

Mahādeva, ruling over Kamala Maṇḍala (Modern Kalāhāṇḍi State) in Śaka year 1153 ( Rāma Vāna Rudra Saṁvastara) or 1231 A.D., was, very likely, one such feudatory of the Gaṅga king.<sup>1</sup> The Khameswari Temple Inscription, referred to above, states that an officer, named Śankar, with the titles of Samanta and Vishayapati, had been stationed by the king at Sonepur as the Governor of that part of his kingdom.<sup>2</sup> Another Governor of the Gaṅgas, who was probably Harināth Deva of the local tradition, was administering the Paṭṇā region with his headquarters at Paṭṇāgarh.<sup>3</sup> Since about that time Paṭṇāgarh became a flourishing metropolis in Western Orissa. After Harināth Deva, his son, Kurtibāsa Deva, became the ruler of Paṭṇā<sup>4</sup>. He died without any issue and his widow queen, <sup>Hemaṁta</sup> Kumārī, ruled the country for sometimes with the help of her eight generals known as Mullicks. In the time of war, these Mullicks were leading the army to the battle-field, while in the time of peace, they were in charge of internal

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1. Temple Inscription at Narlā. Śaka Saṁvat 1153. The inscription has not yet been edited.
  2. E.I. Vol. XXXII pp.325 ff.  
O.H.R.J. Vol. X No.4.
  3. S.C. Mallick- ' A short history of Kosāla' or Paṭṇā' ( in Oriya) p. 82.
  4. Ibid p.83.

administration. Each of them had been assigned with a 'garh' as an administrative headquarters. The eight garhs were :-

(1) Pāṭnāgarh (2) Kangān-garh (3) Sālebhaṭa-garh  
(4) Jarāsiṅgha-garh (5) Sindhekela-garh (6) Kolhan-garh  
(7) Kumnā-garh and (8) Gorā-garh.<sup>1</sup> After the death of Rānī Hemanta Kumārī, no single chief assumed the rein of administration and the eight Mullicks evolved a tradition of governing the territory, one day each by turn. A Brahmin, Chakradhara Pānigrāhī, was the leader of these Mullicks.<sup>2</sup>

The tradition of the rule of the eight Mullicks, is, indeed, too strong to be ignored or overlooked. We will see in the next chapter that it has been referred to in almost all the records, foreign or indigenous, dealing with the history of the Pāṭnā State. It was first hinted in the 'Kosalānanda' where it is stated that eight ministers were ruling successively over the country like eight loving brothers.<sup>3</sup> But a detailed description of the event is found for the first time in the 'Jaya Chandrikā' of Prahlād Dubey.<sup>4</sup>

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1. K.H.R.S. Vol. I No. 1 p.110

2. J.C. Canto I.

3. KN Canto I Verse 30.

4. J.C. Canto I.

*2 This*  
In this connection it is interesting to note that the number of the members of a cabinet as recommended by Manu is seven or eight.<sup>1</sup> The number 'eight' had become nearly fixed when the 'Sukraniti' was written<sup>2</sup> and on (its) tradition the Aṣṭa Pradhāna of Śivājī was founded.<sup>3</sup> Aṣṭa-Kulaka, a judicial council of eight members in the case of a gaṇa or republic, was also prevalent in ancient India.<sup>4</sup> So, the Aṣṭa Mullick rule in Pāṭnā State was in full consonance with Hindu polity.

*Spelling*  
The middle of the 14th century was a critical period for the Gaṅga rule in Orissa. In the north, Shamsuddin Illiyas Shah, Governor of Bengal, rose in power and declared himself independent of the Sultan of Delhi in 1345 A.D. In the south, two powerful and independent states were founded:- Vijayanagara empire in 1336 A.D. and Bahmani kingdom in 1347 A.D. All of them were casting longing eyes on the extensive Gaṅga empire of Orissa. Besides, the Sultans of

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1. Manu VII-54

2. Sukraniti II 71-72.

3. K.P. Jayaswāl- Hindu polity. (second edition) p.293.

4. Ibid. p. 40-50.

Delhi were making serious efforts to bring the whole of India under their sway. The Gaṅga rulers at that time, being engrossed with these foreign dangers, did not seem to have taken any serious notice of the political changes in Western Orissa.

The Gaṅga king, Bhānudeva III, who came to the throne in 1352 A.D., had to encounter a stormy and troublous period. In the very year of his accession, Shamsuddin Illiyas Shah of Bengal led a raiding expedition on Orissa and took away a number of elephants.<sup>1</sup> Three years after that, in 1356 A.D., Saṅgam II, nephew of the founder of Vijayanagara empire, Bukkā I, invaded Orissa and defeated Bhānudeva III. The Portuguese traveller, Fernao Nunez, states that the Rājā of Vijayanagara "took the kingdom of Oriya which is very great; it touches on Bengalla."<sup>2</sup> But, most probably, it was a mere raid and not a war of conquest.<sup>3</sup> Bhanudeva III had to face the greatest onslaught in 1361 A.D. when Sultan Firuz Tughluq invaded and raided Orissa. He had to make "Overtures for peace

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1. Ain-i-Akbari Vol. II p.219 note 1.  
Ferishta, trans by Briggs Vol IV.

2. Sewell- A forgotten empire p.300.

3. H.K. Mahtāb- History of Orissa p.253.

giving twenty elephants to the Sultan and further agreed to furnish a certain number every year as tribute."<sup>1</sup>  
The victorious Firuz returned to Kara via Sambalpur.

All those inroads and invasions had a great effect on the politics of the Patna region, where the Ganga Governor had long since died and the state was governed by Asta Mullick oligarchy. There was a sort of anarchy in that territory and the common people longed for a king of Kshatriya blood. The opportunity was utilised by Ramai Deva, a Chauhan Rajput, who had been brought up by the chief of the Mullicks, a Brahmin. Prudent and popular, he studied the general feeling of the common people, won over the state army to his side and at last seized the throne by a coup de etat. Thus was founded the Chauhan dynasty in Patna State. "A branch of Patna family of Chauhan dynasty of Orissa" remarks of Sri L.P. Pandeya," which the Indian students of history will ever remember with interest as the destroyer of an ancient Indian system of a form of republic Government, soon rose to power and importance."<sup>2</sup>

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1. Elliot and Dowson. - pp 212-216.  
2. O.H.R.J. Vol. 1 No. 1 pp 31-35.  
2. I.H.Q. Vol. VI - P.568.