MAHĀDEVA: A.D. 1196-1198

As Rudradēva left no issues of his own, his younger brother Mahādeva son of Muppamāmba sister of the Natavādi Chief Durga, succeeded him in A.D. 1195-6. Mahādeva was a faithful devotee of Śiva and took Śaiva đākṣha from Dhruvēśvara Pandita. Soon after his accession to the throne he too like his brother Rudra initiated wars of aggression in or about A.D. 1199 invading the Yadava country and died in the hands of Jaitugi. The title Katakachurakāra attributed to Mahādeva in the Bayyaram tank inscription indicates that he plundered Kataka that is Kalyāna probably in course of his expedition against the Sēuna country. The enmity with the Sēuna kings did not end with the death of the two Kākatiya kings.

Jaitugi is said to have imprisoned Mahādeva's son Gaṇapattideva and later the Kākatiya nobles and ministers headed by Rēcherla Rudra managed to obtain the release of their young prince and crowned him in A.D. 1199.

Besides Gaṇapattideva, Mahādeva had two daughters Mailamāmbā and Kundamāmba as known from their respective Bayyaram and Kundavaram inscriptions. These two sisters were given in marriage to the Natavādi chief Rudra son of Buddha and grandson of Durga who was holding a fief in the Imugurti region. The marriage of the two sisters with Natavādi Rudra still remains a puzzle. There is a possibility of their being step-sisters, Mailamāmbā being Gaṇapati's own sister whereas Kundamāmbā their step-sister.
Ganapati, after consolidating his position on the throne with the assistance of the loyal commanders like Recharla Rudra and Malyala Chaunda, made preparations for an expedition on the coastal region.

The mere occurrence of few inscriptions of Rudradeva in the Dakshāramam temple cannot be taken as evidence to establish his suzerainty over the east coast. The Velnāti chief Rājendra Chōda II died in about A.D. 1181 and his son Goṅka III seems to have led a peaceful career without any political conflicts with Rudra.

The Velnāti chief Prithvīśvara, son of Goṅka III, according to his inscription1 at Pithapurām dated Śaka 1108, seems to have his territory in the Gōḍāvari region. It is interesting to note that in the same year, Kākati Rudra had also set up an inscription2 in the Dakshāramam temple in Śaka 1108 corresponding to the 5th regnal year of Sarvalōkāśraya Vishnuvardhana, who is identified with Mallapadeva of the Pithāpurām branch of the Eastern Chālukya dynasty. This clearly shows that Kākati Rudra went there to assist Mallapadeva III, who seems to have lost Pithapuram to Prithvīśvara. But Rudra did not gain any benefit in this campaign also. Prithvīśvara's influence, in the Krishna region, also continued till about A.D. 1201 as is evident from his inscriptions and literary tradition, though the autonomous or semi-autonomous petty feudal chiefs, of the Kota, Chāgi,
Kolanu and the Haihaya lineage set a limit to his authority in the area.

The inscription dated A.D. 1201, in the Kanakadurga temple at Bezwada of the Natavadi prince Vakkadimalla marks the beginning of the Kākatīya conquests in the East. Kākatīya armies proceeded to the island of Divi near the mouth of the Krishna which was then under the sway of the Ayya chiefs, probably subordinates of the Velnāṭi Prithvīśvara. In spite of the stubborn resistance offered by these chiefs, the Kākatīya armies invaded the island fortress and compelled its occupants to surrender. The two Kondiparti inscriptions of Mälāla Chaunda dated in A.D. 1203 and that of his son Kāṭa dated A.D. 1241 respectively state that these two generals had invaded the island and enriched Gaṇapati’s treasury with the precious diamonds plundered from the safe vaults of Prithvīśvara. In recognition of his services the King conferred the title Drīṇi-lunṭaka (plunderer of the island) on Kāṭa. Gaṇapati for diplomatic reasons, not only did not annex the conquered territory to his kingdom, but allowed the Ayya chiefs to retain it and contracted marital relation with them by marrying Narāmba and Pērāmba, the two daughters of Ayya Pīna Chōdi. He also took their brother Jāya or Jāyapa into his service as commander (senapati). It is not improbably that as a consequence of these victories, as the language of the two Kondiparti inscriptions would make us believe that along with the island the entire Velanāṭu might have passed into the hands of
Ganapatidēva before A.D. 1211 the date of Ganapēsvaram inscription. The fact that like Ganapatidēva the Telugu Chōla king Tikka-bhūpāla of Nellore, the Yādava chief Viśva-nātha and some other subordinates of Ganapatidēva also bear the title Prithvīśvara - śirah - Kanduka - Kṛiḍā - Viṅgōda suggests that they all participated in this battle, in which Prithvīśvara was killed. Ganapatidēva thus putting an end to the power of the Velanāṭī kings made Jāya-sena-pati the governor of this newly acquired part of the country.

SOUTHERN EXPEDITION

The Chebrolu epigraph of Jāyapa-senaṁi dated A.D. 1213 refers to an expedition of Ganapatidēva against the Southern kings who in all probability were the Telugu Chōla chiefs of Nellore. The Chōda emperor Kulottuṅga III invaded the Telugu Chōda kingdom comprising the region between Nellore and Kāṇchi in or about A.D. 1180, defeated Manumāsidhī-I and installed his younger brother Nalla Siddhi on the throne. Nallasiddhi and his younger brother Tammusiddhi ruled till A.D. 1207-8 and were loyal to their suzerain. But Manumāsidhī's son, Tikka the rightful heir to the throne solicited Ganapatī's help and joined the latter's forces which were waging war against Velanāṭī Prithvīśvara, who was slain as noticed above in about A.D. 1206. In return for this help of Tikka, Ganapatī marched against Nellore and having put Tammusiddhi to flight installed Tikkabhūpāla on the throne of Nellore. The Māṭtevāḍā inscription of Ganapatidēva dated A.D. 1228 states
that he had plundered the Chōla capital, probably Kāñchī. A more graphic picture of this adventure of Gaṇapatiḍēvā is given in the Gaṇapēśvaram inscription of his commander Jāyapa-
śēnāṇi, dated A.D. 1231, wherein it is stated that Gaṇapati having subdued the countries of Chōla, Kaliṅga, Sūna, Karnāṭa, etc. made Vēlanāḍu his own together with Dvīpa. So by A.D. 1231, Tikka was well established by Gaṇapati in his ancestral kingdom which included Kāñchī.

KALIṅGA EXPEDITION:

The first phase of Gaṇapatiḍēvā's expedition over the east coast includes his march on the modern agency tracts of Bastar, Chakrakūṭa, the Kaliṅga and the Gōḍāvāri region. The Upparapalli epigraph of Kākiṭiya General Rājanāyaka dated Śaka 1157 (A.D.1236) enumerates his victories in that region. He is said to have reduced the rulers of the Manniyas (the country extending as far as the frontier of the Bastar and Orissa), Bokkera in the Aska taluk of the Ganjam District and drove away certain Gōdhumarāṭi and Pādiyarāya near Udayagiri in the Pedakimidi agency and annexed the territories. These rulers might have been the subordinates of the Eastern Gaṅga king Rājarāja III who was ruling the Kaliṅga country at that time. The Kākiṭiya general after his victorious march into Kaliṅga finally reached Dakṣāraṇam where he made a gift for maintaining two perpetual lamps to the god Bhīmēśvara in the Śaka year 1134 (A.D. 1212). But the victory of Gaṇapatiḍēvā over these north-eastern rulers did not result in any
territorial additions to the kingdom as the defeated kings soon became independent or remained subordinates to the Eastern Gaṅga king as before. It is also quite possible that the Kākatīya armies met with a defeat at the hands of the Kaliṅga king, as evidenced by the absence of any Kākatīya records to the north of Godavari. The Kākatīya conquest of the coastal Āndhra and souther Kaliṅga appears to have been effected in phases and covering a period of about three decades. The powerful principality of Kolanu (Sarasā-puri) did not come under his sway until A.D. 1231. Mahāmandalēśvara Kolani Keśavadēva, who came to the throne in A.D. 1229 as is evident from his records was ruling independently until A.D. 1228. After the death of this chief Anīyaṅka Bhīma III the ruler of Kaliṅga made attempts to subjugate Veṅgi.

Ganapati's Kaliṅga expedition was more a measure of retaliation against the Kaliṅga king who taking advantage of the pre-occupation of the Kākatīya armies in the South, invaded Veṅgi brought under his sway petty chiefs like the Chālukyas of Pithapuram and the Manniyas of the Orissa border and posted one of his own officers at Dakshārāmam some time before A.D. 1230. Ganapatidēva dispatched an army under Induñīri Soma Pradhāni to conquer the Gōdāvari region. Ganapati's exploits in this region are vividly described in Śivayōgasāra, a Vīraśaiva treatise of the 16th century, written by Kolanu Ganapati. Therein it is stated that Induñīri Soma Pradhāni, one of the author's ancestors conquered Kolanu and
Kalinya in a single campaign, and re-established Kakatiya authority there.

An epigraph in the temple of Påśvara at Iragavaram in the West Godavari district dated A.D. 1281 which records that Kolanu (Vêngî) was conquered by the Kakatiyas in that year confirms the version of Śivavēṣasāra. After the death of the Kaliṅga king Aniyāṅka Bhīma, his son Narasimha I who ascended the throne in A.D. 1238 invaded the Godavari region to establish Ganga hegemony but did not succeed in his efforts. The Kakatiya power remained undisturbed in this part till the end of the dynasty. It may be noted in this connection that though the Kakatiya armies are said to have invaded Kalinya their sovereignty over that region beyond Dakshārāmam was not borne out by any epigraphic or other evidences.

SECOND SOUTHERN EXPEDITION:

Tikka, the king of Nellore, died in A.D. 1248 and the affairs of Nellore which fell into chaos again called for Gaṇapati's intervention. Certain Vijayaganda Gōpāla, who claims himself to be a scion of the Telugu Chōla family, formerly seized Chingleput and North Arcot districts which form part of the kingdom of Nellore. Only the northern parts comprising the present Nellore and Cuddapah districts remained under the authority of the righteous king Manumasiddhi II son of Tikka. Vijayaganda Gōpāla entered into alliance with the kings of Dravida and Karnāṭa countries to strengthen his
position. Added to this the Padiharis Bayyana and Tikkana raised the standard of revolt in Nellore against Manumasiddhi II and drove him out of his capital. A Vaidumba chief named Tikka rasa Ganga alias Rakkasa Ganga occupied Manumasiddhi's territory in the Cuddapah district, after defeating Gangaya sāhīni, the commander of Manumasiddhi's forces. Thus deprived of all his kingdom Manumasiddhi II appealed to Gaṇapati Deva for help. The famous Telugu poet Tikkana author of Telugu Mahābhārata was sent on this mission to Gaṇapati's court, as an emissary. He was warmly received at the Kākatīya court and a powerful army under Sāmanta Bhōja was dispatched to the South to reinstate Manumasiddhi II on his ancestral throne.

According to the undated Nayanapalli inscription in the Guntur District, the Kākatīya army reduced Nellore to ashes, played a game of ball with the heads of the Padiharis Bayyana and Tikkana and having entered the Drāvida-mandala captured Kulottuṅga Rājendra Chōda. Sāmanta Bhōja fought a decisive battle at Palaiyaru in the Tanjore district against the combined armies of Drāvida, Kṛṣṇa and Vijayaganda Gōpāla and captured Kaṁchi in A.D. 1250. But the provenance of Vijaya Gandagōpāla's inscriptions in Kaṁchi till A.D. 1282 indicates that Manumasiddhi failed to re-establish his power in Kaṁchi, though he did so in the Nellore district. Then the Kākatīya armies marched against the Vaidumba chief Rakkasa Ganga who has been mentioned earlier defeated Gaṅgaya sāhīni, the Kāyastha chief, the commander of the forces of Chōda Tikka in
Pākanādu and seized the territory. Rakkasa Gaṅga was worsted in battle and the territory of Manumasiddhi seized by him was taken away and given to the Telugu Chōda king. Gaṇapati perhaps recognising the ability of his commander Gaṅgaya sāhīni appointed him as bāhattara-niyōgāchārapati (the superintendent of seventy two niyōgas) at his court. This fact is recorded in one of the inscriptions at Tripurantakam dated A.D. 254. He also conferred on Gaṅgaya sāhīni the region of Mārjavāḍi conquering it from the Vaidūmba chief Rakkasa Ganga as a family estate. Although the great poet Tikkana claims the entire credit of the victory for his master Manumasiddhi II, the part played by the Kākatīya army cannot be overlooked.

RELATIONS WITH THE SŪNAS:

Gaṇapatideva’s relations with the Sūnas were normally amicable throughout his long reign of sixty years. Gaṇapati gave asylum to the Sūna princes and entertained them in his service. One Yadava chief named Viśvanātha according to an unpublished inscription is known to have acquired the title *Prithviśvara-sīrah-kanduka-krīḍā-vinoda*; which indicates his participation in the Kākatīya campaign in the coastal Andhradeśa in the early years of Gaṇapati’s reign, when the Velnāṭi king Prithviśvara was killed by the former. Similarly, in his southern campaign against the Pāṇdya Gaṇapati was assisted by some Aryan or Yadava chiefs as commanders of his armies.
PANDYAN INVASION:

Manumāsiddhi the Telugu Chōla king of Nellore alias Viḍagadhagopāla, the friend and ally of Ganapati had again some troubles from the South due to the invasion of the Pāṇḍya king Jatāvarman Sundara Pāṇḍya I in or about A.D. 1257. Pāṇḍya attack on the Telugu Chōla chief formed part of Pandyan invasion aimed against Kūlottūṅga Rājendra Chōla and his ally Vijayaganda Gopāla of Kāmchi. The Pāṇḍya army made its first attack on Vijayaganda Gopāla and his ally Kopperuṇjiṅga a formidable Kadava chief. Both of them not only surrendered themselves to the victor but also joined hands with him in attacking the Nellore kingdom. Manumāsiddhi II apprehending the danger immediately appealed to the Kākatiyas, the Sēunas and the Bāṇa rulers for help. The occurrence of the inscriptions of Rājendra Chōda III and Kopperuṇjiṅga vassals of the Pāṇḍyas, at Tripurantakam in the heart of the Kākatiya kingdom indicates that these chiefs were commissioned to penetrate into the Kākatiya territory by the Pāṇḍyas. Kopperuṇjiṅga proceeded up to Dakṣaṛānam probably with the object of establishing contact with the king of Kalinga, the enemy of the Kākatiya monarch but was defeated by Gaṇapati. The latter perhaps to bring about a split in the Pāṇḍyan camp and win over the Kadava chief is said to have honoured him with the decoration of Vīra-pāḍa-mudra, (presentation of the anklet of the heroes).

According to the Pāṇḍyan records, it is believed that while the expedition under Kopperuṇjiṅga was in advance in the north, the main Pāṇḍyan army led by Jatāvarman Sundara Pāṇḍya, Bhuvanaika-
vīra Vikrama Pāṇḍya and Jataśvarman Vīrapāṇḍya captured Nellore and killed Viraganda Gopāla in a fierce engagement at Muttukuru in A.D. 1263. His allies the Kakatiya the Seunas and the Bānas were put to flight. The Telugu Chōla kingdoms of Nellore and Kāñchi were annexed to the Pāṇḍyan empire and as a mark of this great victory Jataśvarman Sundara Pāṇḍya celebrated his Vīrabhisheka, anointment of conquest at Nellore and Kāñchi and issued special coins bearing the symbol of the Kakatiya Boar on the obverse besides the Pāṇḍyan emblem of the fishes on the reverse. This was the first and the last military defeat of Gaṇapati-deva which coincide with his final retirement from the active politics of the kingdom.

Though begun under unfavourable circumstances, the reign of Gaṇapati was one of the most brilliant epochs in the history of the Andhra. At the time of his accession to the throne the Andhra country was in a state of political disorder. The power of the Chālukya Chōlas and the Chālukyas of Kalyāṇi had finally disappeared, leaving behind several feudal states small and big engaged in constant fight for supremacy. He set before himself the task of restoring the political unity of the country and by war or diplomacy Gaṇapati succeeded in a large measure in accomplishing this object.

An important event which redounds to the credit of Gaṇapati was the change of the capital from Anumakonda to Urugallu. The foundations for the new capital were laid by Gaṇapati's uncle Rudradēva in the last years of his reign.
Ganapati continued this work and built two forts one within the other, constructed respectively in stone and mud. The new fort according to tradition was provided with seventy five bastions the protection of each of which was entrusted to a nāyaka in the service of the king.

GANAPATIDEVA'S VASSALS; MINISTERS AND COMMANDERS:

The Rēcharla and the Malyala chiefs were the oldest of the Kākatīya feudatories. Rudra the head of the Rēcharla family played an important part in re-establishing the fortunes of the kingdom in the opening days of Ganapatisēva's reign. On the death of Kākatī Rudra and his brother Mahadeva in their wars against the Yādava kings and when Ganapati was imprisoned at Devagiri, the nobles rose in revolt and tried to destroy the very fabric of Kākatīya kingdom. Rudra stood loyal and took upon himself the task of preserving the integrity of the kingdom. He put down the nobles with a stern hand drove away the foreign invaders and governed the kingdom until the return of the young king from captivity at Devagiri. Rājanāyaka, the commander of Rudra's armies led expeditions into Kaliṅga, and rendered distinguished service on several fields of battle.

Among the Malyalas, Chaunda and his son Kāta deserve particular mention, for they took a leading part in the conquest of Divi and Vēlanādu regions. Next in importance were the Ayya chiefs of Divi who were taken into royal service by Ganapati after subjugating them as a conciliatory measure. Jāyapa was a distinguished commander or sēnāni who appears to have been
specially skilled in leading elephant force as his title gaja-sāhini would indicate. Jayapa was also a renowned connoisseur of art and man of letters; he composed a treatise on dancing and choreography called Nṛttaratnāvali which is considered to be the best work extant on the subject.

The Telugu Chōla king Manumasiddhi II of Nellore, Eruva Bhīma and Opili Siddhi of Konidena are the most important and powerful among the subordinate allies rather than feudatories of Ganapatī's time. The Chakrānārayaṇa princes named Mādhava Mahārāja and his son Sarangadharadeva were another line of subordinates, who ruled the Addanki region in the present Ongole district. Certain chiefs of the Eastern Chālukya descent figure in the inscriptions of Ganapatideva, but nothing of importance is known about them though his daughter Rudrama was given in marriage to Viṣṇuḥadra, one of the members of this family. Among the ministers of the king Sōmaya of the Indulūri family was the most eminent. Though a brahman by birth and ranking as a mahāpradhāna at the court, he followed the profession of arms and by sheer dint of merit rose to the position of one of the foremost generals in the king's service. Śivayogasārā credits him with many a victory in Ganapatī's Kalinga campaign of A.D. 1212. Another mahāpradhāna of Ganapatī was Prola Bhīma-nāyaka, who bore several distinguished titles like Aruvēla-dvīshaka (the destroyer of Velanādu), Kānchi-Chūrakāra (plunderer of Kanchi) etc. Gaṅgaya sāhini of the Kāyastha lineage was another distinguished officer, who has been taken into the king's service in the latter part of
his reign. He held the high office of kāhattara-niyogadhāhipati i.e. the president of the seventy two catagories of royal services in which the senādhvākṣhas, mahāpradhānas, pradhānas, etc., were included. Besides this exalted position at Gaṇapati's court Gaṅgaya-sahīni also held the post of a military rank as turaga-sādhanika, commander of the cavalry as mentioned in the Tripurantakam inscription. Gaṇapati also conferred on him an extensive tract of territory extending from Pānugal in Nalgonda district to Kaivaram in the Kolar district of the Mysore State, which he ruled from Valluru-Patṭana in the Cuddapah district as his capital. He died in A.D.1257 and was succeeded by Jannigadeva of Janārdana his nephew, the son of his younger sister Chandaladevi.
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9. SII, IV, 181; X, 262
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17. AR. 1913, Nos.332,340,356, 361 and 365
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