

Chapter – III

**UIJJAINIAS OF BHOJPUR**

Bhojpur was a *Mahal* in the *Sarkar* Rohtas of Bihar *Suba* during Akbar’s reign.¹ Later on when the *sarkar* was divided into two (Rohtas and Shahabad) they held their major portion in the *Sarkar* of Shahabad. During the reign of Jahangir, the *Ujjainias* controlled the part of the *parganas* of Arrah, Bihiya, Danwar, Pero, Punwar, Nanar, Dambar, Barahgaon and Bhojpur in the *sarkar* of Shahabad, parts of the *parganas* of Sahasram and Chainpur in Rohtas and of Kopa and Manjhi in *Sarkar* Saran. Besides these they also held Garh and Mahmoodabad.² Their strong hold were the forts of Shergarh and Jagdishpur³. Presently, it is a village situated two miles north of Dumraon in the Buxar subdivision. It has been divided into two Bhojpur namely Bhojpur Qadim (old) and Bhojpur Jadid (New).⁴ However, the whole northern part of the erstwhile district of Shahabad is commonly known as Bhojpur and its inhabitants called Bhojpuris.⁵

Shahabad one of the *Sarkar* in the *Suba* of Bihar comprised the south-western portion of the Patna-Division situated between 24°31’ and 25°43’ north latitude and between 83°23’ and 84°55’ east longitude⁶. The name Shahabad is probably associated with the memory of Mughal Emperor, Babur who had pitched his camp at Ara in 1529 A.D. after his

---

³ *Akbarnama* III, pp. 186-9.
⁴ *District Census Hand Book of Shahabad*, 1951, p. 176.
victory over the Afghans of the Province of Bihar. In order to commemorate this victory Babur named this place as Shahabad or the city of the Emperor.\textsuperscript{7}

The Shahabad (Bhojpur) region was under the domination of Chero a branch of Rajbhant tribe who ruled earlier over Magadh region and were known as Kikat\textsuperscript{8}. However their domination over the Kikat region in general and Bhojpur in particular was challenged by Parmar Rajputs who migrated from Ujjain to Bihar in early 14\textsuperscript{th} century.\textsuperscript{9}

Different versions have been given about the establishment of Ujjainia's hegemony over Bhojpur, however it is now generally believed that the chiefs of Bhojpur belonged to Ujjain and migrated to this region and established their rule in 1320.\textsuperscript{10}

The early history of the chieftaincy is, however, extremely confusing; even the family history and local tradition are at variance about the rulers of the chieftaincy. It is only after the accession of Raja Durlabh Deo that we find a clear picture of Ujjainia Raj. Raja Durlabh Dev who ascended the throne in 1489 had three wives and five sons, namely Badal Singh, Shivram Singh, Sangram Singh, Devendra Singh and Mahipal Singh.\textsuperscript{11} The trouble in the

\textsuperscript{7} P.C.Roy, Chaudhary, op. cit.
\textsuperscript{9} The migration of the Parmars of Bhojpur was in the natural process of the general migration of the Rajputs to different places as a result of the Turkish military pressure and the establishment of their rule in the mid Gangetic Doab. (R.N. Prasad, History of Bhojpur (1320-1860). P. 7.
\textsuperscript{10} The establishment of Ujjainia ascendancy over Bhojpur has been given by R.N. Prasad, in his book History of Bhojpur see in details, pp. 7-17.
\textsuperscript{11} Bodhraj of Pugal, Bhojpur mein Paramarou ka itihas 1577 Tak (Ms. in Hindi), KBL, Patna. Bodhraj belonged to Pugal in Bikaner (Rajasthan). He wrote the history of Parmar Rajputs. The author visited Jagdishpur (Bhojpur) in 1663 for the collection of materials and stayed there for six months. This Hindi document is available in Khuda Baksh library, Patna. It is an important original historical record which gives the account of the Ujjainias of Bhojpur tracing back their
family started in 1500 A.D. when Raja Durlabh Deo under the influence of his second wife declared Shivram Singh as his heir apparent and treated Badal Singh, the eldest son with indifference and neglect. The other members of the Durlabh Deo’s family including the other two Queens strongly opposed this partial decision. But Badal Singh apparently remained faithful to his father. However he left Bhojpur, went into the forest and raised his own troops to strengthen his position. Bodhraj had given a very detailed account of Badal Singh’s life during his wandering in the forest and his meeting with Farid (later, Sher Shah). It is very interesting to note that Badal’s problems and Farid’s problems were of similar nature. Both of them have to leave their home because of the mechanization of their step mothers. Hence they became very good friend and took a vow to remain faithful to each other and extend all possible help in times of need.

When Farid took the charge of Sahasram and Khawaspur Tanda in 1511, he sent an envoy with gifts to Durlabh Deo and made enquiries about his friend, Badal. He requested Durlabh Deo to send Badal to Sahasaram. Durlabh Deo received the envoy with due honours, and informed him that as he had become quite old he needed the services of Badal for running the
descent directly to the famous Raja Bhoj of Dhar in Malwa. It abruptly ends after giving the accounts till 1577 B.P. Ambashthaya, “The Accounts of the Ujjainias in Bihar”, JBRs, Jan-Dec, 1961, Vol. XLVII, Parts I to IV. P. 423).

12. Bodhraj of Pugal, Also, See B.P. Ambashthaya, “The Accounts of Ujjainias of Bihar” J.B.R.S. 1961 op cit. However Tawarikh-i-Ujjainia Vol. II, Naval Kishore Publicaton, 1898, which is a history of the Ujjainia Raj in Urdu. It records that Raja Dulha Sahi (Dulha probably a corruption of Durlabh) had two sons, from first wife and they were Badal Sahi and Ram Sahi. The Raja (Dulha Sahi) had three sons from the second wife and they were Sangram Sahi, Devendra Sahi and Dilip Sahi. Raja Durlabh Deo or Dulha Sahi had no third wife and that since Badal was blind, his younger brother Ram Sahi ascended the throne after the death of his father, Raja Dulha Sahi). The account of Tawarikh Ujjainia is however, not reliable and trustworthy as its author, namely Binayak Prasad, who was an employee of Maharaja Radha Prasad Singh towards the end of the 19th century, had little sense of history.

administration of his kingdom. Although Farid’s own fortunes declined soon because of the renewed rift between him and his father, Badal was able to retrieve his position due to Farid’s intervention.\textsuperscript{14}

Badal Singh was able to maintain his position at the court of his father till 1518. He had collected a large number of troops personally loyal to him. However after the death of his father in 1519, a war of succession started among his sons in which Badal Singh and Mahipal Singh were killed. Shivram Singh who survived, became the head of the Bhojpur chieftaincy with its capital at Bihta in 1519.\textsuperscript{15}

After the death of Badal Singh, his widow alongwith her two minor sons Gajpati and Bairisal passed her life in great distress. However after her sons became 18 and 15 years old the Rani met Sher Khan in 1532 and requested him to help her sons to get back their chieftaincy. Bodhraj tells us that with the army sent by Sher Khan, Gajpati the elder son of Badal Singh defeated and killed Shivram Singh and succeeded to the throne at Jagdishpur in 1534 A.D.\textsuperscript{16}

After this very close and cordial relations were established between Gajpati and Sher Khan. Gajpati was so much obliged to him that in the same year 1534 on his call to help him against Mahmud Shah of Bengal he immediately proceeded towards Surajgarh at the head of two thousand horses. In the hotly contested battle, fought at Surajgarh Sher Khan defeated Ibrahim Khan the commander of Sultan Mahmud.\textsuperscript{17} Bodhraj adds that Ibrahim Khan

\textsuperscript{14} Bhojpur mein Paramaron Ka Ithias 1577 Tak (Ms. Hindi).
\textsuperscript{15} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{16} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{17} Bhojpur mein Paramaron Ka Ithias 1577 Tak (Ms. Hindi)
was killed by Gajpati and all the camp equipments, elephants and artillery pieces of the Bengal army fell into the hands of the Afghans and Ujjainias. Sher Khan was so highly pleased with Gajpati’s, valour that as a reward the region of Buxar was also assigned to him. Sher Khan also gave a sword to Bairi Sal, the brother of Gajpati.

In the meantime an unfortunate development took place which created further dissension in the Ujjainia family. Mahipal’s (the son of the youngest wife of Durlabh Dev and uncle of Gajpati who was murdered in family feud due to succession struggle) widow alongwith her son Dalpat, at this time approached her brother Birbhan of Arail and requested him to help her son in getting back the chieftaincy of Ujjainias. Birbhan who knew fully well that Gajpati had cordial relation with Sher Khan, decided to seek the help of Emperor Humayun. In 1538 when Humayun marched towards Barkhnada (in Palamaau district of Bihar) in pursuit of Sher Khan, Birbhan met him on the way and requested him to help his nephew to get back his old position in the Ujjainia chieftaincy. It seems that he also apprised him of Gajpati’s close relations with Sher Khan, an enemy of the Mughals. Humayun agreed to help him and also provided some retainers. It is believed that with this army Birbhan, succeeded in defeating Gajpati and establishing his nephew Dalpat in Jagdishpur. With the passage of time Dalpat also established his control over Buxar and Bhojpur.

18. Bhojpur mein Paramaron Ka Itihas 1577 Tak (Ms. Hindi)
20. Arail was a Pargana in the Suba of Allahabad.
22. Ibid.
Birbhan felt deeply obliged to Humayun and gave him sincere support in his clash with Sher Khan. When Humayun was defeated in the battle of Chausa and was hotly pursued by Mir Farid Gaur, an Afghan commander of Sher Khan, Birbhan personally came to meet the emperor and provided him with all necessary provisions. He helped him in crossing the Ganges near Mirzapur and requested him to proceed to Agra assuring that he would deal with Mir Farid with his own army firmly and decisively. Hence Humayun was able to reach safely to Agra.23

Raja Gajpati on the other hand being dispossessed from his estate, joined Sher Khan with a strong contingent of Ujjainias soldiers. Though Bodhraj and Munsi Binayak Prasad are silent about his role in the battle of Chausa (1539) but after critically analyzing all the facts connected with the battle one comes to a definite conclusion that Gajpati took a leading part in the battle and contributed substantially in the success of Sher Khan24. We find that soon after the victory in the battle of Chausa, Gajpati, apparently with the support of Sher Khan launched an attack on Bhojpur, defeated Dalpat and captured Bhojpur. Sher Khan also conferred on him the title of Raja and the Sarkars of Rohtas and Shahabad were also assigned to him. Gajpati constructed a fortress at Jagdishpur and made it the capital of his chieftaincy.25

During the rule of Sur dynasty, there was complete peace in the Bhojpur region. Gajpati not only consolidated his position as the most powerful

---

chief of north-west Bihar but also extended the boundaries of his chieftaincy up to the borders of Jaunpur Sarkar.\(^2^6\)

With the reestablishment of Mughal rule in North India, under Humayun (July 1555) there was a possibility of Gajpati being displaced by Dalpat with whom emperor Humayun had some personal relations. But before Dalpat could contact Humayun, he suddenly died of an accident. Therefore the situation remained unchanged for Gajpati.

After the accession of Akbar, Bairam Khan appointed Ali Quli Khan-i-Zaman to expel Afghan rebels from the eastern region. He achieved some success against the rebels and established his headquarters at Jaunpur. But while the operations against Afghan were in progress Raja Gajpati who had cordial relation with them also started opposing the Mughal army. According to Badauni “Gajpati whose army and strength was such that for the space of two years, he had kept the Khan-i-Zaman uselessly employed in jungle cutting and even that jungle was not clear as it ought to be.”\(^2^7\)

From the above it appears that Ali Quli Khan-i-Zaman failed in his efforts to subdue Raja Gajpati. In the meantime Bairam Khan was dismissed and those nobles who were opposed to Bairam Khan got an upper hand at the court. As Ali Quli Khan-i-Zaman and his relations were considered very close to Bairam Khan, and they were singled out for harassment. Finding all doors of negotiations closed, Ali Quli Khan-i-Zaman along with his relation and clansmen rebelled. For almost four years (1564–67) the entire resources of the

\(^2^6\) Abul Fazl, Akbarnama III, P. 168

Mughal Empire were pooled together to suppress the rebellion. In 1568 Ali Quli Khan-i-Zaman was killed in the battle of Jhusi and the rebellion came to an end, but it strengthened the power of the Afghans and local chiefs of the eastern region. The military might of the empire which could have been used against Afghans was wasted in suppressing their own nobles. The Afghans utilized this opportunity to further improve their position.

However after the suppression of Uzbek revolt in 1568, Munim Khan was appointed as the governor of Jaunpur. Soon after reaching Jaunpur he started making efforts to bring under imperial control the local chiefs and other recalcitrant elements of the area. Bayazid Bayat writes that during 1568-69, Raja Gajpati submitted before Munim Khan and agreed to pay a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs per annum as malguzari. The entry of Raja Gajpati into the imperial service not only extended the Mughal frontiers eastward but also placed the Mughals strategically in an advantageous position in respect of the Afghans of Bihar.

In Feb-March 1573, the Afghans under Lodi Khan rebelled and captured Zamaniya. Lodi Khan also launched an attack on Jaunpur which was the headquarters of the Mughal commander Munim Khan. Munim Khan was taken by surprise by the sudden attack of Afghans. He hastily mobilized the available troops at Jaunpur and sent a detachment under the command of a number of important nobles such as Mirza Hasan Khan, Jan Muhammad Bihsudi, Tenger Quli including Raja Gajpati to oppose Yusuf Mohd.

---

qarrison of Ghazipur was ordered to cooperate with them. The imperial forces met the Afghans on the left bank of the Ganges and forced them to cross back to the side of Zamania after a brief battle. When the news of Afghan invasion spread, the Mughal officers began to pour into Jaunpur with their contingents. The armies of Tardi Muhammad Mirza, Hasan Khan, Jan Muhammad Bihsudi, Tenger Quli and Raja Gajpati were placed under the command of Nazar Bahadur and were ordered to cross the Ganges at Banaras and harass the enemy by making lightening attacks from the rear. Nazar Bahadur was defeated at the fort of Sirsi near Ghazipur. Munim Khan now collected all the Mughal forces and rushed towards Ghazipur to retrieve the situation. But when he reached there Lodi Khan opened negotiation for peace to which he responded favourably. But his demand were such that no agreement could be reached. Only two alternatives remained before Munim Khan, either to give a battle or retreat from Ghazipur and suspend further operations till Akbar’s returns from Gujrat. He was more inclined to the second alternative, but to avoid taking the entire responsibility on himself for such a step, he convened a council of war and placed the issue before the officers. The proposal of a retreat was opposed vigorously by Raja Gajpati and Bayazid Beg. In the course of the discussion, when Munim Khan pointedly asked Raja Gajpati to express his opinion on the issue, the Raja exclaimed impatiently; After all will you offer a battle to the Afghans or not? Munim Khan took serious exception to this retort from the Raja and accused Bayazid Beg of insiting him. Bayazid Beg and Raja Gajpati remained firm in their views and argued that postponing the battle would not only create disorder in the army but will encourage Afghan to harass the

imperialists. Ultimately it was decided that the Qaqshals would launch a night attack upon the enemy’s camp and if they succeeded in creating confusion among the Afghans, a general assault would be delivered.\textsuperscript{31} The plan of night attack could not materialize owing to the dubious attitude of the Qaqshals. However Munim Khan came out of the fort of Ghazipur and engaged the Afghan in an open battle. At the same time, the bridge of boats built by the Afghans over the Ganga was destroyed by a dust storm. As a result, Lodi Khan’s line of supplies across the Ganga was disrupted and there prevailed an acute scarcity inside the Afghan camp. As the situation in the Mughal camp was also no better, both the parties negotiated a settlement and the Afghan left for Patna.\textsuperscript{32}

Munim Khan’s efforts however could not make much impact on the strongly entrenched Afghans. As soon as Akbar was free from the Gujrat affairs he advanced towards eastern region at the head of a large army and flotilla of boats in 1574. After a halt at Chausa and Maner, Akbar reached Patna. After having surveyed the fort of Patna, he came to the conclusion that Patna could be captured only after the occupation of Hajipur. Therefore, Raja Gajpati alongwith M. Ali Alam Shahi, Sayyid Shams Bokhari and his sons under the command of Khan Alam were dispatched to launch an attack on Hajipur. The emperor himself personally supervised the entire operations. The imperialists defeated the garrison and Hajipur was captured. Soon afterwards Patna was also captured but Daud Khan taking the advantage of the night, secretly slipped away to Bengal.\textsuperscript{33}

\textsuperscript{31} Bayazid Bayat, op.cit., pp. 326-27.
\textsuperscript{32} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{33} Akbarnama, III, P. 98, Tabakat-i-Akbari, II, P. 291.
Akbar himself returned to Agra after appointing Munim Khan as the governor of Bihar and Raja Todar Mal was appointed as the diwan of the Suba. Besides that Muzaffar Khan was appointed to capture the fort of Rohtas which was then held by the Karrani Afghans. Soon after, the Mughals defeated the Afghans in different areas and captured places like Surajgarh, Munghyr, Bhagalpur and Kahalgaon which were then the strong holds of the Afghans.

In the same year (1574), Munim Khan dispatched Rampat Ujjainia, son of Raja Gajpati under the command of Raja Todar Mal to suppress the rebellion of Afghan chief Daud Khan in Bengal. The rebels were defeated after a number of skirmishes during October 1574. The services of Rampat Ujjainia were also utilized by Munim Khan in Orissa against Daud Khan in 1575. While Munim Khan was busy in his campaign against Daud he was suddenly taken ill and died after a brief illness in the same year.

Akbar dispatched Husain Quli Khan-i-Jahan to Bengal as its governor on 15th November 1575, and deputed Raja Todar Mal to assist Khan-i-Jahan in this campaign. Some of the Mughal officers of Bengal in the meanwhile had left that province where they had been suffering because of its bad climate and proceeded towards Bihar through Purniya and Tirhut route. This exodus was

34. The genealogical table of the Ujjainia Rajputs and their descendants who have settled in Shahabad district (Bihar) is available in Khuda Baksh Library, but it does not give the name of Rampat Ujjainia. It however gives one Ram Singh, the son of Gajpati, in Hindi MS in Khuda Baksh Library known as Ram Das Kachchawahas Ki Varta, shows Rampat Ujjainia to be the son of Gajpati Ujjainia of Bhojpur in Shahabad district and who accompanied Kishan Singh to Patna in the fight against Daud. Hence Kunwar Rampat Ujjainia is no other than Ram Singh or Sri Ram the son of Raja Gajpati, as found in genealogical table (B.P. Ambashthaya, "The Accounts of Safdar Ali, the Mir Munsi of Todar Mal and Ram Das Kachchawahas by Kanha Bard of Kachchawahas of the village Achalpurah in Jaipur State", JBR5, XLIV, Pt. I & II, March-June, 1958, p. 68).


stopped at Bhagalpur through the efforts of Khan-i-Jahan, who took up his residence at Rajmahal as the rains had set in.

In the meantime, Muzaffar Khan, who had been directed by the emperor to re-inforce Khan-i-Jahan, with the forces from Bihar, he joined him at Rajmahal. After holding consultations, they decided to attack the enemy immediately. In the hotly contested battle fought at Rajmahal (12th July 1576), Afghans were completely defeated. Junaid was killed in the fight and Kalapahar was severely wounded. Daud Khan was arrested and beheaded. The Afghan rule thus came to an end once for all.

During the absence of Muzaffar Khan from Bihar, and probably one or two months before the battle of Rajmahal, Raja Gajpati, unfurled the banner of rebellion against the imperial authority (1576). Saeed Khan Chagta who was officiating as the governor of Bihar during the absence of Muzaffar Khan, was ordered to immediately proceed along with Makhus Khan and other officers of Bihar to the assistance of Shahbaz Khan Kamboh who was specially deputed to put down the revolt of Raja Gajpati.

Although Raja Gajpati had submitted and joined Mughal service and also cooperated with Munim Khan in dealing with Afghan rebels as mentioned above, but it seems that Ujjainias could not be fully integrated in the Mughal political structure. He was neither given a rank nor any administrative responsibility by the imperial administration. It is also important to note that

39. Abul Fazl writes that “Due to his inverted fate and evil nature...this ill conditioned mischief monger took to the highway robbery and began to oppress the weak more than before. *Akbarnama* III. P. 169).
40. Nizamuddin Ahmad says that Gajpati rebelled when Muzaffar Khan went with re-inforcement to Khan-i-Jahan “leaving Bihar void of troops”. T.A. II. P. 334).
Raja Gajpati was shown no special favour by the emperor who had come to Bihar to suppress the Afghan rebellion in 1573-74 and possibly met him during the campaign.

Raja Gajpati arrested Peshrau Khan, who was sent by the imperialist to negotiate with him, and besieged Arrah where Farhat Khan had taken shelter.\(^{41}\) Farhang Khan, the son of Farhat Khan whose *Jagir* lay to the east of river Sone, with a view to relieve his besieged father, advanced towards Arrah alongwith Qarataq Khan. But both of them were killed in hand to hand fight with Gajpati. This stirred up Farhang’s father to come out of the fort but he also shared the same fate.\(^{42}\) Gajpati took hold of the town of Arrah and its fort and being emboldened with the victory, he crossed the Ganga and rushed towards Ghazipur to capture the family-members of Khan-i-Jahan.\(^{43}\) Meanwhile Shahbaz Khan Kambo who was also marching towards Ghazipur, overtook him near the town and a battle was fought in which Gajpati was defeated and put to flight. Pursuing him, the imperialists reached the fort of Moheda\(^{44}\) which was held by a local chief, named Sangram. Under the pressure of imperial army the Raja surrendered the fort to Shahbaz Khan.\(^{45}\) Gajpati however escaped and took shelter in the dense forests of Bhojpur. The area was almost inassessable for the Mughal cavalry. Inspite of his best effort Shahbaz Khan failed to reach Gajpati’s headquarters. At this juncture Sangram the local *zamindar* who had recently joined imperial service came to his help. On his direction the Mughals

\(^{41}\) Akbarnama III. P. 169.
\(^{42}\) Ibid.
\(^{43}\) Ibid., pp. 169-70.
\(^{44}\) The Survey map shows Moheda about 7 miles west of Bhojpur.
\(^{45}\) Akbarnama III, pp. 185-86.
attacked Dawa,\textsuperscript{46} which was the home of Gajpati and put it to pillage and plunder. Gajpati immediately rushed toward Dawa and to save the town made a night attack on the Mughal army. But he was defeated and forced to flee. He took shelter in Jagdishpur which was situated around a thick forest. Shahbaz Khan dispatched a strong army and Jagdishpur was put to siege. The siege operation continued for about three months and ultimately Gajpati was defeated. Although the fort and several of his family members, huge amount of money and the entire chieftaincy came into the hands of the imperial authority but Gajpati along with his brother Bairisal and son Sri Ram (Rampat Ujjainia) managed to escape.\textsuperscript{47}

Bairisal along with Sri Ram took shelter in neighbouring hilly forest and defied imperial authority for some time. But the Mughals made a surprise attack and defeated and killed Bairisal.\textsuperscript{48} Almost at the same time Gajpati was also killed and the career of a powerful territorial chief came to end in an uneventful manner.

From the above discussion one may conclude that the Mughal imperial administration so far, had no clear cut policy towards the zamindars of Bihar. We have seen that even after Gajpati accepted the subordination of Mughals and agreed to pay malguzari of 5 lakh of rupees, he was neither admitted in imperial service nor given any official position in Bihar administration. Apparently the Mughal officers posted in Bihar were given complete freedom to deal with them depending on the local conditions.

\textsuperscript{46} Akbarnama III, pp. 185-86.
\textsuperscript{47} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{48} Ibid., pp. 188-89.
Gajpati and his son Sri Ram continued to cooperate with Mughal administration until Munim Khan was incharge of the affairs of Bihar. During Muzaffar Khan’s tenure also, he remained loyal to the Mughals. But after the arrival of Khan-i-Jahan, Gajpati’s attitude completely changed. He declared his independence and attacked imperial officials posted at Arrah.

The sources are completely silent about the causes of his revolt but by a closer examination of Akbarnama it appears that Raja Gajpati was extremely unhappy with the attitude of Khan-i-Jahan and we find that in the course of rebellion he directed his all energies in capturing the family and belongings of Khan-i-Jahan. Besides that Gajpati may also have noticed that under Khan-i-Jahan the Mughal resistance has grown weak and it would be possible for him to recover his territories from the imperial control.

However his son Sri Ram escaped and took shelter in the strong fortress of Shergarh. Hotly pursuing the rebels Shahbaz Khan reached Rohtas and captured it after a siege of few days. The fort was held by Sayyid Mohammad on behalf of deceased Junaid, an old ally of Gajpati. His position had become very weak after Junaid’s killing because a number of his supporters joined Mughals. However with the capture of the fort of Rohtas, the position of Sri Ram who was hiding in Shergarh became vulnerable. He immediately approached Shahbaz Khan, offered his submission and handed over the keys of the fort.49 Thereafter we have no information about Sri Ram in our records.

49. Akbarnama, III, pp. 188-89.
After the rebellion and killing of Gajpati and his son Bairisal, Dalpat son of Mahipat, uncle of Gajpati laid claim to the chieftaincy of the Ujjainias. Although Sri Ram the eldest son of Gajpati was the rightful heir of the Ujjainia chieftaincy, his claims were disregarded on account of the rebellion of his father and his own conduct and Dalpat was recognized as the ruler of Bhojpur by Emperor Akbar. Dalpat remained loyal to the Mughals only for about four years and in 1580, he also raised the banner of revolt against imperial authority. The reasons of his rebellion have not been discussed in any of the contemporary persian records or family accounts. But it seems that Dalpat nursed grievance against Mughal imperial authority for neglecting his claims for the Bhojpur throne and giving undue favour to Gajpati, who had been a favourite of Sher Shah and had fought against Humayun in the battle of Chausa. After restoration of Mughal rule he expected that Gajpati would be removed and the chieftaincy would be restored to him for the help that his maternal uncle provided to Humayun during his flight after his defeat at Chausa. But that had not happened and Gajpati was not only recognized as the chief of Bhojpur but was also admitted in imperial service.

Therefore he availed the opportunity and succeeded to the throne of Bhojpur but he was not happy with the Mughal administration. In 1580 when the rebellion in Bihar and Bengal broke out, Dalpat also joined the rebels and established close contact with the rebel leader Arab Bahadur. To strengthen his position, he shifted his capital from Bihta-Danwar to a safer place called Bahuara in Piru in Ara subdivision and built a strong fort at Dalpatgarh. As mentioned above, around 1580 Afghans rebelled under the command of Arab

Bahadur attacked Patna and put to siege the fort of the town.\textsuperscript{51} As the situation became extremely serious, the Emperor appointed Mirza Aziz Koka as the governor of the suba to suppress the rebels and retrieve the situation.\textsuperscript{52} Mirza Aziz Koka proceeded towards Patna but after crossing Chausa, he was informed of the rebellion of Dalpat Ujjainia.\textsuperscript{53} Those officers who were posted in the area further informed him that Dalpat had become quite powerful and it would be extremely dangerous to move forward without suppressing him. Aziz Koka accepted their advise and started making determined efforts to quell the rebellion. Arab Bahadur now realized that he will not succeed in capturing the fort early raised the siege and fled to Bhojpur. On reaching there Dalpat not only gave him shelter but also assured him complete cooperation in his struggle against the Mughals.\textsuperscript{54}

In the meantime Shahbaz Khan Kambo who was specially deputed by the emperor to assist Mirza Aziz Koka also reached Bihar. Now both the commanders launched an attack on Jagdishpur. The town was plundered but Dalpat and Arab Bahadur escaped in the Jungles and continued their struggle. As the area was full of defiles and dense forests, the Mughal army could not force them into an open battle. On the other hand the rebels adopted guerrilla tactics and harassed and killed Mughal soldiers in large numbers.\textsuperscript{55} But shortly afterwards serious differences arose between Aziz Koka and Shahbaz Khan and ultimately Aziz Koka withdrew himself from the campaign and went to join

\textsuperscript{51} A.N. III, p. 323.
\textsuperscript{52} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{53} T.A., p. 347.
\textsuperscript{54} A.N. , III, p. 323.
\textsuperscript{55} Ibid.
Raja Todar Mal. However Shahbaz Khan continued his campaign; ordered clearing of the jungles and stationed troops on important routes. The fort of Kant was assigned to Saadat Ali Khan and Payenda Khan. Rustam and Rup Narayan a local chief were also called upon to assist him. But before Sadat Ali Khan was able to strengthen his position Arab Bahadur and Dalpat made a surprise attack on Kant and killed him after a bitter fight. As soon as Shahbaz Khan came to know of this attack, he swiftly moved towards that direction and drove them towards Sahasram. After Arab Bahadur’s defeat and flight, Dalpat was also forced to accept the submission of imperial authority. However from Sahasram, Arab Bahadur moved to Saran and began to plunder and harass the people of the area. Shaham Khan and other nobles were sent to punish Arab Bahadur. But before serious military operation could start, Arab Bahadur fled to Jaunpur and joined rebel Masum Khan Farakhudi.

Dalpat Ujjainia after remaining under the subordination of the imperial authority for about eight years, rebelled again in 1599. Abul Fazl writes that he had become rebellious on account of the strength of his place and of his abundant equipment. Abul Fazl simply informs us that prince Daniyal who had been appointed as governor of Allahabad, was ordered to check Raja Dalpat Ujjainia who had become defiant in his attitude. He further adds that when Danial reached Hajipur, Raja Dalpat Ujjainia came and submitted before the prince and presented elephants. But soon after out of smallness of wisdom he

56. A.N., III, p. 323.
57. An Important place nine miles from the Sone and now in Mirzapur District in U.P. but then a dependency of Rohtas in Bihar. See Tarikh of Banaras.
59. Ibid.
60. A.N., III, p. 325.
61. Ibid., p. 750
fled from the court and rebelled. However within a short time he was captured and brought back to the court. He was pardoned and allowed to go to his home. From a reference in Akbarnama it appears that a daughter of Dalpat was married to Prince Danial and in 1604 a son was born to her and Akbar named him Farhang Hushang. When Dalpat was on his way to Patna, Barkhurdar, the son of Abdur Rahman and some of his friends who had gone out from Agra to hunt, came to know that the Ujjainia chief was having his food on the river bank. Barkhurdar decided to attack and kill Dalpat because his father had been killed by Dalpat in a battle fought some time back. But Dalpat escaped by swimming across the river. When this matter was reported to the Emperor he became very angry with Barkhurdar, got him arrested and decided to hand him over to Dalpat Ujjainia. However on the request of some senior nobels he was pardoned and released. However Dalpat was not destined to live long and was treacherously murdered by his own kinsmen in 1601.

Dalpat was succeeded by his son Mukutmani in 1601. He was incompetent, and highly unpopular amongst his kinsmen. Within six years of his rule Mukutmani became so unpopular that he was forced by his own kinsmen to abdicate in favour of his nephew, Narayan Mal (son of Hol Singh) in 1607 A.D. Munsi Binayak Prasad writes that after succession, Raja

63. Ibid., p. 826.
64. Ibid., p. 758.
65. A.N., III, p. 578.
67. Geneological table of the Ujjainias given in T.U.
68. T.U. II, p. 21. However, Baharistan-i Ghaybi informs us that Raja Narayan Mal was the son of Raja Bhatmal Bishan (p. 722).
Narayan Mal went to Agra and remained there for some times in the service of Khurram.\textsuperscript{69}

Although Narayan Mal had succeeded to the throne of Jagdishpur with the support of his kinsmen but his claim was weak because Sangram Singh, the son of Bairisal (brother of Gajpati) was a much more stronger claimant of Jagdishpur throne. He therefore decided to visit Agra to plead to the imperial authority to recognize him as the rightful ruler of the Ujjainia Raj. \textit{Tawarikh-i-Ujjainia} informs us that in Agra, he succeeded in entering the service of Khurram and gradually gained his favour. However before he could find favour of the Emperor, \textit{Cheros}, taking advantage of his absence from Bhojpur unfurled the banner of revolt against the \textit{Ujjainias}. Therefore Narayan Mal immediately returned to Jagdishpur to suppress them.\textsuperscript{70}

The \textit{Cheros} nursed a serious grievance against them since the \textit{Ujjainia} had deprived them of their suzerainty over the land of Kikat which included Bhojpur and forced them to go towards Palamau. They were also unhappy with the Mughals because the latter had given support to the \textit{Ujjainias} in driving them not only out of Bhojpur but also out of the fort of Rohtas which had become their stronghold ever since they were expelled from Bhojpur. Hence it can be said that the uprising of 1607 was partly directed against Ujjainias and partly against the Mughal government in Bihar.\textsuperscript{71} The prevailing political situation of \textit{Sarkar} Shahabad was quite favourable for the rebels. Narayan Mal, the chief of Bhojpur was at Agra on a political mission and those who remained

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{69} \textit{Tawarikh-i-Ujjainia}, Vol II, pp. 21-28.
\item \textsuperscript{70} Ibid.,
\item \textsuperscript{71} After their expulsion from west Bihar, \textit{Cheros} often rose in rebellion to give vent to their anger and also recover their territories but their revolt was always suppressed.
\end{itemize}
in Bhojpur were fighting among themselves for establishing their hold over the chieftaincy. Besides that Afzal Khan, son of Abul Fazl, who had recently joined as governor of the suba was not able to establish his grip over the administration of the province firmly.

The Cheros were led by Siya Ram Rai, a prominent Chero chief. He was actively assisted by a band of Chero leaders such as Sonpari Chero, Raja of Kaddhar. Rajas of Anandichak and Balaunja, Raja Madhava Munda and Charran Chaap, son of Raja of Lohardaga and son-in-law of Kaddhar. The Mughal administration took Chero uprising quite seriously. Narayan Mal, as mentioned above, immediately proceeded towards Bhojpur and soon after reaching there launched an offensive against the rebels. Having come to know of the rebellion of the Cheros Emperor Jahangir also ordered Rai Kalyan Singh to immediately proceed towards Bhojpur to help Narayan Mal to suppress the rebellion.

In the mean time the Cheros established themselves in Buxar and from there started harassing the Ujjainias. Narayan Mal with his contingent attacked Buxar to expel them. A fierce battle was fought and the Cheros were completely defeated and were on the point of fleeing when Madha Mundra (Madhav Munda) with a large contingent of Munda Soldiers came to their rescue. The Cheros now reassembled themselves and with the support of the

72. The successors of Gajpati who considered themselves as lawful heirs were looking for an opportunity to rise in rebellion against the Bhojpur chief. Another claimant to the throne, Sangram Singh Ujjainia, son of Bairisal, also contemplated rebellion. *Shahabad District Gazetteer, (1966)* P. 72.
73. Kaddhar is a village in the district of Nawada in Bihar.
75. Kalyan Singh was the founder of Kayastha family of Murar in the district of Bhojpur. He was the son of Bhog Chandra, Diwan-i-Khalsa of Akbar’s time.
76. T.U. II. 28-29.
contingent of Munda soldiers relaunched an attack on the Ujjainias. The Ujjainia lost heart and when they were just about to leave the battle ground, Kalyan Singh who was watching the battle from a distance joined the Ujjainias with 500 Mughal horsemen, and a fierce battle restarted. Suddenly a rumour spread of the arrival of another contingent of Mughal soldiers. This completely demoralized the Cheros and they fled from the battlefield. The Ujjainias achieved complete victory over the Cheros. Harath Pal the Raja of Lohardaga and Raja Madhav Munda were killed along with a number of Cheros. After the end of the rebellion, Narayan Mal was conferred the title of ‘Raja’ and a mansab of 1000 zat and 800 sawar was also granted to him.

Raja Narayan Mal also suppressed the rebellion of Dhar shahi (Dhar Singh) a local zamindar, with the help of Mukund Rai. Raja Narayan Mal also helped Afzal Khan the governor of the suba in suppressing the rebellion of Qutb of Uch (Multan) who pretended himself as Prince Khusrau and claimed that he had escaped from prison. Raja Madhukar who had joined Qutub was killed in the battle in 1611.

We hardly get any reference of Narayan Mal’s activities in the next 11 years. Possibly he remained at Bhojpur without any important duty being assigned to him. In 1622 Khurram rebelled but after suffering successive defeats and hotly chased by Pervez and Mahabat Khan, he came over to Orissa

78. T.U. II, p. 34.
79. An Ujjainia rebel and a descendant of Raja Durlabh Rai.
81. According to Geneological table given by Bodhraj of Pugal, he was son of Mukutmani, son of Raja Dalpat Ujjainia.
and occupied Cuttack. Shortly afterwards he entered into Bengal and captured Burdwan and Rajmahal and killed Ibrahim Khan, the governor of Bengal. Thereafter he marched towards Bihar and captured Patna and Hajipur easily. From Hajipur he proceeded to Bihiya, where he was joined by Raja Narayan Mal with his followers. Raja Narayan Mal was given the rank of 5000 and his brother Rudra Pratap was raised to the rank of 3000. Other brothers were also given the *mansabs* of 2000/1000. Sometimes in 1624 Raja Narayan Mal died. He ruled for about seventeen years (1607-24). He extended the boundaries of his kingdom over *parganas* of Arrah, Bihiya, Danwar, Pero Punwar, Nanar, Dambara, Barahgaon and Bhojpur in the *sarkar* of Shahabad, parts of *parganas* of Sahasram and Chainpur in Rohtas, and of Kopa and Manjhi in *sarkar* saran. Besides these areas, he also held Gadh and Mahmoodabad. One remarkable feature of his rule was that unlike his predecessors he never rebelled against the Mughals and therefore, his capital was never invaded or plundered by the Mughal soldiers. He extended all possible help to the Mughal governor of Bihar in suppressing the revolt of the local *zamindars*. Further, he freed Bhojpur from the *Cheros* by inflicting a crushing defeat on them and his services were greatly appreciated by the Mughals.

Pratap Singh, the younger brother of Narayan Mal succeeded to the throne of Bhojpur instead of his minor son, Amar Singh. But it is quite significant to note that on this issue there was hardly any difference of opinion

---

83. *Baharistan-i-Ghaybi*, op.cit., p. 722. However Munsi Binayak Prasad informs us that Raja Narayan Mal became victim of the internal discussion and was killed by one of his kinsmen in 1621.
84. T.U. II, p. 35. All region except Chainpur are given as *Parganas of Rohtas in Ain*, pp. 22-23, Kopa in Saran, Gadh and Mahmoodabad were not identified (Ahmad R. Khan, *Suba of Bihar under the Mughals* 1582-1707) unpublished thesis, Aligarh 1985, p. 176).
85. Narayan Mal had two sons, Amar Singh and Prabal Singh (T.U. II, p. 55)
in the *Ujjainia* ruling family or important *Ujjainia* nobles. Raja Pratap with the support of the family, consolidated his position and effectively governed the chieftaincy.

*Tawarikh-i-Ujjainia* informs us that emperor Jahangir conferred on him the title of 'Raja' and a *mansab* of 1000/800. He further writes that Raja Pratap shifted his capital from Jgadishpur to old Bhojpur where he built an imposing palace called 'Navratna'.

In recognition of his past services Shahjahan after ascending the throne assigned him the rank of 1500/1000 and recognized him as the Raja of Bhojpur. He also granted him *jagir* in *sarkar* Shahabad. From *Tawarikh-i-Ujjainia*, it appears that he remained posted at Agra for sometimes.

Shahnawaz Khan the author of *Maasir-ul-Umara* writes that Raja Pratap returned to his chieftaincy after about a decade. But soon after his arrival, his relation with the *suba* administration started straining. He was accused of inefficiency and exploitation of his peasantry by the officials of the *suba* administration. Some of his relation particularly officials of his deceased brother Raja Narayan Mal and the Qanungo family of Bakhra Kayasthas who had good relations with *suba* administration exploited the situation in creating further hostilities. Several *parwanas* issued by the governor of the *suba* were also ignored by him. In the meantime it was discovered that he had not paid revenue for the last nine years. Therefore an imperial order was issued ordering him to immediately pay up the entire amount due on him. He was further asked

86. T.U. II, pp. 43-44.
to present himself before the emperor to explain his conduct for other lapses. *Tawarikh-i-Ujjainia* writes that in response to the farman he decided to go to the imperial capital and even went up to Ayodhya, but after reaching there he changed his mind and rose in revolt\(^9^9\).

As soon as Shahjahan came to know of the rebellion of Pratap he issued an order to Abdullah Khan Firoz Jung and Baqar Khan Najm Sani, governor of Bihar and Allahabad respectively to march simultaneously against the rebel. Fidai Khan, the *Jagirdar* of Gorakhpur and Mukhtar Khan, the *faujdar* of Munghyr were also ordered to march on Bhojpur.\(^9^0\) Although Raja Pratap was no match to the combined armies of the Governors of Allahabad and Bihar, but offered stiff resistance. Muzaffar Khan and Fariddun Beg the two sons of Zabardast Khan succeeded in making a breach in the wall of the garden surrounding it.

After conquering the fort of Tribaq, Kalur and ten other smaller forts, the imperialist laid siege to the main fort of Bhojpur. The siege operation continued for six month but the *Ujjainia* Raja continued to resist and killed Fariddun Beg and Muzaffar Khan. But the situation inside the fort became critical because of shortage of provisions. In desperation, the Raja made an attempt to escape but could not succeed. But as no resistance was possible any more sent his men to Abdullah Khan Firoz Jang and sued for piece.\(^9^1\) According to one account he disguised himself in a loin cloth and holding the hand of his wife, he directly approached Abdullah Khan to negotiate a

---

89. T.U. II, p. 44.
91. Ibid.
settlement. But on the way he was arrested and brought before the Khan. Abdullah Khan immediately dispatched a report to the emperor detailing the suppression of the rebellion, conquest of Bhojpur, arrest of Pratap and his wife along with the list of elephants treasures and other valuables captured during the campaign. The emperor after going through the report ordered execution of Pratap. The Raja was taken to Patna and probably executed at the western gate of the city.

After the execution of the Raja, the chieftaincy was brought under Khalsa and Nemat Khan son of Sayyid Khan, was deputed to look after the affairs of Bhojpur. Sometimes after the appointment of Nemat Khan as incharge of Bhojpur as mentioned above, the eldest son of Raja Narayan Mal, Aman Singh approached governor of Bihar to recommend his candidature for the chieftaincy of Bhojpur, since Raja Pratap had died without any male heir. But the governor of Bihar was so much annoyed with the Ujjainias on account of their recalcitrant and rebellious nature that he refused to recommend the restoration of the Bhojpur throne even to their rightful heir. He did not listen to the entreaties of Amar Singh and the estate of Bhojpur continued to remain under governor’s control. However the unsympathetic attitude of the governor of Bihar did not dishearten Amar Singh; he continued his efforts and ultimately succeeded in getting back the possession of the Bhojpur estate with the help of the Shah Shuja, the then governor of Bengal in 1648 A.D. after a lapse of nearly twelve years, through a Nishan of Shah Shuja. Later on emperor Shahjahan conferred on him the title of ‘Raja’ and a mansab of 1000/800 was

also assigned. Araj Singh shifted his capital from old Bhojpur to Mithila because it was associated with the happy memory of his childhood.

_Ujjainias and the War of Succession_

On Sept. 6, 1657 Shahjahan suddenly fell ill. With the illness of Shahjahan started the war of succession among his four sons for the imperial throne. On hearing the news of illness of Shahjahan, Murad crowned himself at Ahmadabad and Shah Shuja proclaimed himself as a emperor in Bengal. Dara Shikoh, the eldest son who had been conferred the title of _Shah-i-Buland Iqbal_ (the king of lofty fortune) by his father, enjoyed the _mansab_ of 60,000. He carried on the government of the empire in the name of his father. Aurangzeb the craftiest and the ablest of all, did not do any such thing. He simply completed his preparations to try his luck in the ensuing war of succession. With his excellent part of artillery and accompanied by Mir Jumla, he set out from Burhanpur towards Agra in March 1658.

Bhojpur figured prominently in the war of succession among the four sons of Shahjahan. Eastern provinces formed one of the zones of the fratricidal war. This region was dominated by Shah Shuja. The prince also started for Agra with a large army to try his luck. Dara Shikoh sent his eldest’s son Sulaiman Shikoh with 20,000 Mughal forces, accompanied by Raja Jai Singh of Amber, to face his uncle, Shah Shuja. The _Ujjainia_ Rajputs of Bhojpur were brave fighters and their support was considered valuable for gaining victory in the eastern zone of the fratricidal struggle. Hence, both Dara Shikoh and Shah.

---

94. Persian papers of Dumraon Raj.
95. Mithila is a village 20 km southwest of Dumraon in Buxar subdivision of Bhojpur.
Shuja tried to win over the support of Amar Singh, chief of Bhojpur, to their side.

In one of his *Nishans* Shah Shuja directed Amar Singh to join his camp. The *Nishan* runs as follows:

"The best of the peers and contemporaries, worthy of receiving favours and privileges, Amar Singh, being duly honoured with royal gifts may know that in the present time the fact of having up right faith and true intentions of the one (Amar Singh) accustomed to bravery, deserving of favours, privileges, gifts and kindness, has been brought to the notice of the enlightened and the holiest (Shah Shuja) by Raja Bahroz who is noted for his bravery and valour. Therefore this order of high magnitude and conspicuous greatness received the honour of being issued and dispatched to the effect that immediately on receipt of this high auspicious and prosperous *Nishan* you (Amar Singh), being contended in every way, should come to the service of the wholly fortunate with as many men as you can afford to collect so that after viewing the threshold you shall be rewarded with royal bounties and special favours. Take this as urgent".97

A similar *Nishan* was sent by Dara Shikoh to Amar Singh in which the latter was asked to render all assistance to Prince Sulaiman Shikoh in his fight against his uncle, Shah Shuja. The *Nishan* is dated 26th January, 1658 A.D. The *Nishan* runs as follows:

"The prop and pillar among his likes and contemporaries worthy of favours, Amar Singh *Ujjainia*, being duly rewarded with royal favours may know that whereas Prince Sulaiman Shikoh, the progeny of the rulers and victors, the sum and substance of the family greatness, the mandate of the Sultanat.... Therefore this order of high magnitude received the honour being issued to the

effect that the pillar among the equals (Amar Singh) shall immediately on receipt of this high Nishan proceed successfully along with his brothers and followers to the service of the fortunate and noble prince (Sulaiman Shikoh) and shall render excessively loyal and faithful services and shall rest assured that the services rendered by the best among the equals (Amar Singh) shall be amply rewarded by imperial favours and grace. His rank shall of course be raised. Take this as urgent and know that the favours of the emperor shall be with you”.

Raja Amar Singh’s attitude was a foregone conclusion. While the Bhojpur estate was under the possession of the governor of suba Bihar, Amar Singh had got the help of Shah Shuja in securing the possession of Bhojpur estate. Naturally he was under the deep debt of obligation to the prince. It was natural that when request for help came from Shah Shuja, the Bhojpur chief rallied to his support in preference to that of Dara Shikoh.

When prince Sulaiman Shikoh found that Amar Singh had joined the side of his uncle, he turned to Koklat Ujjania a rival of Amar Singh and a claimant of the chieftancy of Bhojpur who immediately agreed to support the prince. Sulaiman’s action was approved by his father, Dara Shikoh and the prince issued a Nishan to Koklat which was handed over to him through Mirza Raja Jai Singh. The Nishan runs as follows:

"Mirza Raja Jai Singh may know that his Majesty, the holder of the caliphate and the Solomon of the time, had according to my request, raised the mansab of Koklat Ujjainia to 1000 Zat and 800 Sawar and bestowed upon him the jagirs in Pargana Piru and Danwar and in this respect the Nishan in favour of Koklat has been sent to pillar of the state (Mirza Raja Jai Singh) so that he may

99. Koklat was the son of Hardat Shah and a great grandson of Chilbar Shah, a younger son of Sangram. He had been recognized as the chief of Bhojpur by Dara (District Gazetteer of Shahabad, 1966, p. 75).
issue a *farman* by his own hands to further assure him*.100

The forces of Shah Shuja and those of Sulaiman Shikoh had taken up their position near Bahadurpur (near Varanasi). Shah Shuja’s forces were stationed in the midst of a dense forest. It was difficult for the soldiers of Sulaiman Shikoh to enter into the forest and attack Shah Shuja’s forces. Hence, Sulaiman’s army stood helpless. When Dara Shikoh came to know of it, he at once dispatched instructions to Mirza Raja Jai Singh, through a letter written on behalf of emperor Shah Jahan. It is dated February, 1658 A.D. The letter was written on the very day when the battle of Bahadurpur took place. The *Nishan* contained the following instructions:

“How long will it continue like this? What plan you have made to destroy the enemy? If you have not decided upon anything, make it clear to me so that from this place I may suggest some plan and send instructions as to what should be done? At present you should request Gokul Chand *Ujjainia* (Koklat *Ujjainia*), the *zamindar* of that place to send the footmen and soldiers in all directions and close the roads of grain supplies to the enemy, and a similar force should be sent over to Banaras side, for carrying on an irregular fight and closing the enemy’s roads for the supply of foodstuffs. It is very likely that the enemy, sick of trenches, may come out and decide to fight or fly”101.

On 14\textsuperscript{th} of Feb. 1658, the armies of Shah Shuja and Sulaiman Shikoh clashed with each other. Shah Shuja was helped by Amar Singh *Ujjainia* and

100. The *Nishan* is dated 21\textsuperscript{st} *Rabi-us-Sani* 1068 A.H. corresponding to 16 January, 1958 A.D. Here is some confusion. The *Nishan* addressed to Amar Singh from Dara is dated 26\textsuperscript{th} January, 1658 whereas *Nishan* to Jai Singh is dated 16\textsuperscript{th} January, 1958. The *Nishan* to Amar Singh from Shah Shuja was issued sometime in the end of 1657. It appears that Sulaiman who had already proceeded to Eastern Provinces had come to know about Amar Singh joining the side of Shah Shuja. Hence, he entered into alliance with Kokalat which was approved by Dara Shikoh in his *Nishan* dated 16\textsuperscript{th} Jan, 1958. The *Nishan* to Amar Singh by Dara Shikoh seems to be a diplomatic move to wear away Amar Singh from the side of Shah Shuja.

Sulaiman Shikoh was backed by Koklat Ujjainia (Gokul Chand Ujjainia). The battle took place at Bahadurpur near Varanasi. Sulaiman Shikoh inflicted a crushing defeat on Shah Shuja. Shah Shuja fled towards Bengal and was hotly pursued by his victorious nephew. In a Nishan issued by Dara Shikoh, Sulaiman Shikoh was ordered to pursue the enemy (Shah Shuja) and to besiege the fort of Munger if he had taken shelter there. He was further asked that if the rebel (Shah Shuja) had fled to Rajmahal, the siege of Munger be continued, but some forces should be dispatched in his pursuit.\textsuperscript{102}

However Sulaiman Shikoh had to give up his campaign against Shah Shuja because Dara Shikoh had urgently summoned him to Agra to help him in his war against the combined forces of Aurangzeb and Murad. Compelled by the circumstances he concluded peace with Shah Shuja and proceeded towards Agra. Therefore for sometime, Shah Shuja was left with no rival and became an undisputed master of the Eastern Provinces. In all his campaigns Amar Singh the Bhojpur chief, gave unstinted support to Shah Shuja. In appreciation of his services Shah Shuja issued a farman (since Shuja was now a self styled Mughal Emperor) dated 5\textsuperscript{th} July 1658, assuring him to give him promotion for the services rendered in the campaigns against Sulaiman Shikoh. Shah Shuja also mentioned that it is hoped that he would continue to provide sincere services in future also. Soon afterwards, he was asked to come to his presence. But it appears that Amar Singh did not visit his court. The reason seems to be that he might have analyzed the then prevailing condition of Bhojpur and found that even his temporary absence for a few weeks might spell disaster to his small estate on account of the intrigues and mechanizations of Koklat Ujjainia.

\textsuperscript{102} The Nishan is dated 25th March, 1658, available at Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner.
He therefore, sent his younger brother, Parbal Singh, to receive the rewards on his behalf. He also requested Shah Shuja to take necessary steps to humble Koklat Ujjania, who had become a powerful force in that region.\(^{103}\)

Shah Shuja was unhappy with Koklat Ujjainia because he had joined Dara Shikoh and was present on the side of Sulaiman Shikoh in the battle of Bahadurpur (Feb, 1658). Therefore Shah Shuja appointed one of his officers Syed Jan-i-Alam to punish Koklat Ujjainia. Amar Singh also accompanied Jan-i-Alam and the combined forces inflicted crushing defeat on Koklat Ujjainia and forced him out of Bhojpur.

After this victory, Shah Shuja again issued a farman to Amar Singh. The contents of the farman quoted below clearly shows Shuja’s desperate attempt to keep Amar Singh to his side in future also.\(^{104}\)

“Amar Singh may know that since at present time the facts of his bravery Syed Jan-i-Alam, the brave and the gallant and the devoted Servant in the act of resisting and punishing the accursed Koklat have been brought to the notice of the enlightened, most sacred and most humble self (Shah Shuja) by the Said Khan (Syed Jan-i-Alam) and they have attracted the extra attention of the Emperor, by way of imperial favour, the robe of honour has been given to him (Amar Singh). In the circumstances, the high and exalted command has received the honour of being issued to the effect that the best among the contemporaries (Amar Singh) grateful to the great and high gift and bounty that has emanated from the excessive royal favours in respect of his, should show his devotion and efforts and in discharging his duties, in assistance and association with the aforesaid Khan (Jan-i-Alam), he (Amar Singh) should make such efforts as might bring more royal favours so that he may become more exalted and high amongst the

\(^{103}\) T.U. II, P. 59.

\(^{104}\) B.P. Ambashthaya, “Some Historical papers of ..... op. cit. PP. 276-77.
contemporaries, and that the Said Khan may continue to report to him (Shah Shuja) about his (Amar Singh) sincerity and devotion”.

After the battle of Samugarh, Shah Shuja received the whole of Bihar in addition to Bengal and Orissa and Dara Shikoh directed his officers at Allahabad, Banaras, Chunar, Jaunpur and Rohtas to handover the charge to Shah Shuja. As a result of this, Shah Shuja found the Eastern Provinces completely at his disposal. But some of the officers posted in these regions refused to obey the orders of Dara Shikoh. Therefore, Shah Shuja dispatched an army, and conquered Rohtas, Chunar, Varanasi and Allahabad. In all these exploits Amar Singh rendered valuable services for which he won high appreciation from Shah Shuja. Shah Shuja was also extremely pleased with Amar Singh on account of his sincere support in exterminating Koklat Ujjainia.

This is evident from the farman of Shah Shuja dated 21st Nov. 1658:

“By this time, the light spreading and auspicious farman received the honour of being issued and released to the effect that since the accursed and unlucky Koklat (Gokul Chand) had turned his face from the road of obedience to the wilderness of rebellion, he has in consequence of his mischievousness come into the valley of destruction, whereas Amar Singh, the best among the contemporaries and the likes by sincere faith and pure-heartedness has come into the knowledge of the high (Shah Shuja) for his having rendered loyal and good service, the said prop among the contemporaries (Amar Singh) has been rewarded by way of royal favour with the charge of Bhojpur etc, as detailed below after dispossessing the accursed Koklat (Gokul Chand) and that he has been given the title of ‘Raja’ by way of distinction among his likes and equals. It is necessary that Mutasaddis (Peshkars or head clerks) performing the administration, the faujdars, Jagirdars, and the Karoris of the time and onwards and the zamindars,

Chaudhris, Qanungos, Mugaddams, the tenants, cultivators, all inhabitants and ordinary residents of the said Mahal should regard the aforesaid Amar Singh as the Raja of that place. All privileges connected with the above mentioned dismissed one (Gokul Chand Ujjainia) must be treated as having been bestowed upon the said (Amar Singh). That the state officers and subjects, all shall do their best in enforcing and obeying this order. Worthy to be performed and that they shall regard him (Amar Singh) as being powerful in discharging his duties and that they shall not disregard his advice which would be conducive to loyalty and good administration and maintenance (Nankar etc.) which are in consonance with the old traditional law, are to be dealt with, by him. He has been empowered to appoint or dismiss at his discretion. It is incumbent on the recorded best among the contemporaries (Amar Singh) to remain obedient and loyal to the state with sincerity and good faith. He (Amar Singh) shall leave no stone unturned in performing, loyal, good and meritorious services by associating himself with the officiate of the state alongwith his followers, shall satisfy all legal demands and dues of the Diwani (writ state dues) faithfully and uprightly shall make good efforts for the prosperity and progress of the Mahal (Big Village) and shall treat every one nicely so that they may be delightful, prosperous, and grateful and Mahal may become more and more prosperous and populated day by day. Treat this with utmost strictness and act according to orders”.

However Shah Shuja could not remain at peace for a long time in the region because the war of succession took a new turn. Aurangzeb after defeating Dara Shikoh in the battle fought at Dharmat and Samugarh succeeded to the throne and despatched an army under Muhamamd Sultan and Mir Jumla to expel Shah Shuja. In the battle fought at Khajwah, Shah Shuja was defeated and forced to flee towards Tanda. He was hotly chased by Muhammad Sultan and Mir Jumla and driven out of Bengal to die a miserable death at some unknown place in Arakan hills. It appears that Amar Singh never betrayed his

patron, the unfortunate Shah Shuja in his vicissitudes. He rendered all possible help to his benefactor. His services were appreciated by Shah Shuja again through a farman issued on 22nd January 1659 soon after the battle of Khajwah. Shah Shuja writes:

"Raja Amar Singh may know that Sadqat Khan, the brave dignified and Dayanat Khan, the frugal, have repeatedly submitted in letter to the exalted self that the best among the likes (Amar Singh) alongwith his followers remains present (with Shuja's followers). Thus he has fulfilled his obligations. It is expedient that he should be prepared to appear with full confidence before the light spreading (Shah Shuja), as soon as he is wanted. In the meantime while he should persuade his son to come with a Wakil before the Huzur (Shah Shuja) so that he may explain sacred (Shah Shuja) all the facts about Bhojpur and his brother (Prabal Singh) who is already with the King (Shah Shuja) shall be then sent back. This must be treated with utmost strictness and act according to orders".  

In the above farman of Shah Shuja high sounding epithets are not used for Amar Singh. Similarly in the farman, Amar Singh had also not been promised of any reward and other favours despite the fact that he provided all possible help to Shah Suja; commanded and fulfilled his all other commitments. This may indicate that Shah Shuja had actually became weak as a consequence of his defeat at Khajwa. Moreover, it also appears from the study of the document that Amar Singh was having problems with his kinsmen in his chieftaincy. He was asked to send his son with a wakil to explain the problem at the Shah Shuja court. The aforesaid farman also contains the information about the presence of Prabal Singh brother of Amar Singh in the camp of Shah Shuja. It seems that Prabal Singh had come to Shah Shuja to
explain the difficulties of Amar Singh and seek his cooperation. However, it is also possible that Prabal Singh had been kept as an hostage for the safe conduct of Amar Singh. Because during those days of mutual intrigues, disaffection and political instability, the change of the camp had become the order of the day. In the farman it had been clearly indicated that Prabal Singh would be sent back after the arrival of Amar Singh's son.

Amar Singh like many other nobles and local chiefs shifted his loyalty after the defeat of Shah Shuja at Khjwa and joined Aurangzeb. The emperor received him favourably and allowed him to continue as the chief of Bhojpur. He was also confirmed to his previous rank and title. Amar Singh continued to help the governor of Bihar in the discharge of his administrative and political responsibilities. The last six years (1659-1665 AD) in Amar Singh's life were on the whole peaceful. He died in 1665 A.D.108

Amar Singh as discussed above played a prominent role in the eastern province during the war of succession specially in the battles fought between Shah Shuja and the imperial army under the command of Sulaiman Shikoh and afterwards between Shah Shuja and the army of Aurangzeb under his son Muhammad Sultan. It goes to the credit of Raja Amar Singh that he remained loyal to Shah Shuja even in his worst days. He changed his loyalty only after the departure of Shah Shuja from Bengal. Another important feature of this period in the history of Bhojpur is the emergence of Kokalat Ujjainia a rival of Amar Singh. He had become so powerful in the region that Dara Shikoh thought it useful to bring him to his side before fighting a battle against Shah

108. T.U., p. 70.
Shuja. However after the defeat of Dara Shikoh, Koklat *Ujjainia* was also defeated and expelled by Shah Shuja from Bhojpur region. It also emerges from our study that Bhojpur chieftaincy was divided into two rival factions and the warring brothers (Dara & Shuja) took advantage of the situation and both of them succeeded in getting support of the *Ujjainias* towards their side. Thus, Bhojpur presented a divided house during the period of the war of succession and consequently they could not take full advantage of their support from the new emperor. However, Amar Singh’s reign as the Chief of Bhojpur which lasted for about eighteen years was quite eventful. Bhojpur once again figured prominently in the arena of imperial politics. He constructed a large number of buildings at his new capital, Mithila. Several mounds are still there and the ruins of the old fort can be seen outside the present village of Bhojpur.\(^{109}\)

*Ujjainias chieftaincy between 1665-1707*

After the death of Raja Amar Singh the conflict started between his son, Rudra Singh and his younger brother Prabal Singh for the throne of Bhojpur. Rudra Singh ultimately succeeded to throne of Bhojpur after defeating his uncle Prabal Singh.\(^{110}\) However unlike his father he could neither get the recognition of his position as the chief of Bhojpur nor granted a rank by Emperor Aurangzeb. He had to wait for seventeen long years to get a rank (1000/800) and the title of Raja.\(^{111}\) It seems that the grant of imperial *mansab* was delayed for such a long time because Prabal Singh after his defeat at the hands of his

\(^{109}\) History of Bhojpur, op. cit. P. 72.


nephew, went to Delhi and tried to get the chieftainship of the *Ujjainias* with the support of Emperor Aurangzeb. According to local tradition he was promised the *gaddi* of Bhojpur if he becomes a Muslim. Prabal Singh even converted himself to Islam but he was not given the chieftaincy of Bhojpur. The reasons are not clearly mentioned but apparently by that time Rudra Singh had established himself in Bhojpur and also showed his complete devotion and loyalty to the Emperor. He was also very young and popular among the *Ujjainia* people. Besides that he was also regarded as the rightful ruler of the chieftaincy, being the eldest son of the deceased Raja Amar Singh. The provincial administration also had no complaint against him. On the other hand, Prabal Singh lost the confidence and sympathy of the *zamindars* of the region and the people of Bhojpur on account of his becoming a Muslim. Besides that Prabal Singh had become quite old and thus he had lost the initiative and drive necessary for gaining the cooperation of the powerful elements of the region for regaining the possession of the throne. Moreover, he was also not in the direct line of succession, being the brother of the former ruler of Bhojpur. Probably keeping all these factors in mind Rudra Singh was recognized as the ruler of Bhojpur in preference to Prabal Singh. However Prabal Singh was assigned a *jagir* in *pargana* Piru of *sarkar* Shahabad and the title of 'Raja' was also conferred on him.\(^{112}\)

Prabal Singh returned from Delhi to Bhojpur in 1671 A.D. completely disappointed and frustrated but when he was advised to re-embrace Hinduism, he refused to do so. He died in 1772 A.D.\(^{113}\)

113. Ibid. P. 100.
In the first seventeen years of his chieftainship (1665-1681 A.D.), Rudra Singh remained loyal to the Mughal government and offered complete cooperation to the provincial administration. He also visited the imperial court at least on one occasion. There are several references of his administrative activities in the Akhbarat.

In one such report it had been mentioned that Raja Rudra Singh after returning from the court, went to Shaikh Ibrahim, the faujdar of Sarkar Shahabad and informed him that he had been bestowed the zamindari of dismissed Raja Bhakhtamand Ujjainia (one of the Ujjainia chiefs holding the mansab of 500/500). Shaikh Ibrahim communicated this order to all the other faujdars of the area and requested them to support Rudra Singh in getting control over the zamindari. Thereupon Shaikh Ibrahim along with Rudra Singh led an expedition against the rebel Raja. They burnt down the houses of those peasants who had helped Raja Bhakhtamand to escape to Gharhi (Teliagarhi). Being hard pressed the peasants agreed to help imperial administration and by stratagem killed Raja Bakhtamand.114

From the Akhbarat it also appears that between April and June, 1681 Rudra Singh raised the standard of rebellion. The Akhbarat states that a farman was issued to Jafar Khan, the subedar of Bihar in which he was directed to proceed with Hamid Khan, the Faujdar, to chastise Rudra Singh. It seems that the rebellion of Rudra Singh was just in conformity with the age-long tradition of the Ujjainias. It was an old practice with the Bhojpur chiefs right from the period of Mughal emperor, Akbar to remain loyal to the Mughal government at

first for a few years and after a decade or two to rebel. Hence, there was nothing very surprising if Rudra Singh also revolted.115

However Rudra Singh was having his own grievances against the Mughals. He had become the chief of Bhojpur as early in 1665 but still he was not conferred the title of ‘Raja’ or the usual mansab of 1000 like his predecessors. According to some local traditions, Kunwar Dhir Ujjainia a rebel, instigated Rudra Singh against the Mughal authority and compelled him to take up arms. Kunwar Dhir was the son of Vikram Shahi. His principality having devolved on Rudra Singh, Dhir’s forefathers were allowed only the zamindari of Asawa, Pargana Pero in Shahabad for the maintenance of the family.116 But the zamindars were very irregular in paying dues to the state and as a result arrears accumulated. In the reign of Shahjahan sometimes in 1654, Kunwar Dhir’s father was the zamindar who was ordered to clear the dues immediately and Dhir was taken captive on the order of the Emperor, Shahjahan in 1654. He was detained at Delhi as a surety for the payment of revenue. However, having released on personal surety he collected troops and began to fight against the Mughals. As he was a childhood friend of Rudra Singh, he appealed him to help him in his struggle against the imperial authority. It had also been suggested that Kunwar Dhir raised the issue of re-imposition of Jizya and persecution of the Hindus to win his support.117 Rudra Singh as mentioned above was also unhappy with the imperial administration for ignoring his

115. History of Bhojpur, op.cit., p. 76.
117. Letter of the Manager of Dumraon Raj dated 18/30 July, 1893 to Honorary Philological Secretary, Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta.
rights. So, he unfurled the banner of revolt and along with Kunwar Dhir expelled imperial officials from Mithila area.

Therefore Jafar Khan, the Subedar of Bihar was ordered to suppress the rebellion of Rudra Singh. But before Jafar Khan could start his campaign against the rebels he was transferred and Safi Khan was appointed the governor of Bihar and also given the responsibility of crushing the rebellion of Bhojpur zamindars. The campaign however got delayed due to the onset of rainy season. In the meantime it also came to the notice of the governor that Kunwar Dhir had joined Rudra Singh and due to that the rebels had become quite strong in the whole of Mithila region. Therefore after the end of the rainy season, Safi Khan along with Hamid Khan faujdar marched towards Mithila at the head of a large army. Rudra Singh avoided to face the Mughal forces directly and he managed to escape in a nearby dense forest in October 1681. The Akhbarat also inform us that twelve mahals of the estate of Rudra Singh were given to the charge of Amils and Karoris and the fort at Mithila was raised to the ground. Though Rudra Singh was driven out of his fort, he carried on the guerilla fight from the place of his hiding. The Mughal army stationed at Mithila felt greatly harassed on accounts of these raids. Besides, his friend Kunwar Dhir, was erstwhile also creating much trouble in Tekari region. The alliance between Rudra Singh and Kunwar Dhir was considered dangerous for the Mughal interest in Bihar. Hence to break this alliance Saif Khan, the governor of Bihar an old friend of Rudra's father Amar Singh, personally

120. Ibid.
approached Rudra Singh and became successful in bringing about reconciliation between Rudra Singh and the Mughal governor of Bihar\textsuperscript{121}. Rudra Singh agreed to apologise for his rebellion and also accepted to make a payment of one lakh and thirty thousand rupees to the Mughal authority as the war of indemnity. He accepted all these provisions on the assurance that the rank and title held by his father will be restored to him.\textsuperscript{122} On the recommendation of Safi Khan, the emperor pardoned Rudra Singh and also restored him the title and rank of his father on condition that “Rudra Singh must accompany the imperial army to Bengal for suppressing the rebellion there”.\textsuperscript{123} Rudra Singh agreed to obey the orders. Thus all opposition to the Mughal government in the district of Shahabad came to an end with the submission of Rudra Singh. Soon after Kunwar Dhir also went underground. \textit{Akhbarats} have rightly mentioned that no rebel zamindar now existed in this district (i.e. Shahabad).\textsuperscript{124}

Although, as mentioned in the \textit{Akhbarat}, settlement had been reached between the provincial authority and Rudra Singh after the terms were approved by the Emperor, the rank and title however was not immediately restored. Perhaps Aurangzeb was not convinced of the complete loyalty of Rudra Singh. He himself enquired about the situation in the region and the attitude of the Raja and conferred the rank and title on him only when he was convinced that the Raja had left the path of rebellion and had also completely disassociated himself with Kunwar Dhir. In its report of 29th April 1682 A.D.,

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{121} Letter of the Manager of Dumraon Raj to the Secretary, Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta dated 18/30 July, 1893.
\item \textsuperscript{122} \textit{Akhbarat-i-Darbar-i-Mualla}, vol. XXVII, p. 6, Zilhijja 25th R.Y. i.e. 27th Dec. 1681.
\item \textsuperscript{123} \textit{Akhbarat}, dated 16 safar, 25th R.Y. of Aurangzeb, 1093 A.H. dated 14th Feb. 1682 A.D.
\item \textsuperscript{124} Ibid.
\end{itemize}
Akhbarat records that “Rudra Singh Ujjainia, the zamindar of Bhojpur, was given the rank of 1000 zat and 800 sawar. He was deputed with Safi Khan, the governor of Bihar”.125

Kunwar Dhir, disillusioned at the turn of events, but he continued his rebellious activities. He attacked and took under his possession a village named Holo Konwari, near Betia (in West Champaran) in the zamindari of Nanda Shahi Jaithiya. Nand Shahi immediately approached the governor of the suba and requested him to help him in getting back his zamindari village. Consequently Rudra Singh, was ordered by the governor to punish the Ujjainia rebel and reconquer the lost village. The Bhojpur chief marched to Bettiah region with a strong Bhojpuri contingent and defeated Kunwar Dhir.126

Sometimes afterwards Raja Rudra Singh was appointed the faujdar of Sarkar Shahabad after the transfer of Shaikh Ibrahim to Badaon.127 Though this new assignment was only for a short period but it shows that the Ujjainia chief was now able to win back the confidence of the Mughal administration.

It appears that the faujdar of Sarkar Shahabad was held by the Bhojpur chief only for a few months because in 1683 Aqidat Khan had been mentioned as the faujdar of Bhojpur. The Akhbarat informs us that the services of Rudra Singh were requisitioned for the suppression of the revolt of Kunwar Dhir. The Akhbarat adds that war between Kunwar Dhir and the combined

125. Akhbarat-i-Darbar-i-Mualla, vol. XXXVII, p. 276 S/L No. 20232
126. Letter of Manager, Dumraon Raj to the Secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta, dated 18/30 July, 1893.
127. The Akhbarat dated 16th August, 1682 informs us that Shaikh Ibrahim, the nephew of late Daud Khan, faujdar of Shahabad alias Bhojpur was appointed the faujdar of Badaon and conferred the rank of 600 zat and 600 sawar (Do Asapa) and was awarded 60,00,000 dams or two lakh rupees for establishment Se Bande. The Faujdar of Bhojpur was conferred upon Rudra Singh Ujjainia and the above mentioned rewards were to be deducted out of the revenue of Bhojpur (Jaipur Akhbarat S/L No. 2125 (1-2), p. 549).
forces of Raja Rudra Singh and Aqidat Khan was fought on 29th Feb, 1683, and Rudra Singh and Aqidat Khan were completely routed by the rebels.128

Emboldened with his victory, Kunwar Dhir started making preparation to launch an attack on Arrah, the headquarters of Sarkar Shahabad.129 Aqidat Khan, the faujdar of Shahabad, sent urgent appeal to the Mughal emperor for reinforcement. Imperial farman was issued to Ummid Khan, subedar of Bihar, and Tahmasp Khan, faujdar of Chainpur (Bhabhua) for rendering all possible help to Aqidat Khan. Besides, the latter was also asked to seek the help and cooperation of the local zamindars for crushing the rebellion of Kunwar Dhir. When the rebel chief came to know about preparations of the faujdar of Shahabad, he marched towards Arrah and from there fled to Gorakhpur.

The Bhojpur chief helped Amils of Parganas Manjhi and Narhan in collection of revenue from the recalcitrant zamindars of sarkar Saran. The Bhojpur chief was too pleased to render the desired assistance and on account of his active help and cooperation, the revenue arrears of the Mughal government were realized.130

The services of Raja Rudra Singh were highly appreciated by the imperial government. Jagirs worth annual revenue of 83 lakhs of dams (more than Rupees two lakhs) in pargana Haveli Shahabad was granted to him in reward for the services rendered. Earlier these jagirs belonged to Shaikh Ibrahim, the faujdar of Shahabad.131

128. The Akhbarat is dated 7th Rabiul Awwal 26th R.Y. of Aurangzeb, i.e. Ist March 1683 A.D.
129. Ibid.
130. Persian Papers of Dumraon Raj.
131. Ibid.
In the 27th year of the region of Aurangzeb (1684 A.D.) Rudra Singh was also granted the priviledge of *Bhai Saruma*\(^{132}\) which was enjoyed by the previous chiefs of Bhojpur.\(^{133}\) Sometimes in 1685, he was also granted village Belawar in *Pargana Danwar, Sarkar Shahabad*\(^{134}\).

In 1687 Raja Rudra Singh was empowered to collect 2½ per cent of revenue as *Rasoom-i-Rajgi*\(^{135}\) from *Pargana Kharid in Sarkar Jaunpur in Suba Allahabad*.\(^{136}\) He was awarded a sum of Rs. 1500/- for some special expenses in 1690 and was directed to collect the said amount from the villages of *pargana Kharid of Sarkar Jaunpur, Suba Allahabad*.\(^{137}\)

Taking advantage of his good relation with the Mughals, Raja Rudra Singh tried to consolidate his position in his own chieftaincy. From security point of view, he shifted his capital from Mithila to Buxar.\(^{138}\) Mithila had been destroyed by the Mughals when he had rebelled against them during 1680-81. His choice fell on Buxar because it was located on the bank of the holy river Ganga and it also lay nearer to his *Jagirs in suba Allahabad*.

Meanwhile Kunwar Dhir who had fled to Gorakhpur, as discussed above, established his headquarters at Barhaj in the dense and impenetrable jungles of Gorakhpur and built a strong fortress. He again started plundering imperial territories and harassing officials posted there. Raja Rudra Singh was again deputed to suppress the rebellious activities of Kunwar Dhir. The

---

132. It was a feudal right.
133. *Persian papers of Dumraon Raj*.
134. This Persian document of Dumraon Raj is dated *Rabiul-Awwal, 28th R.Y. of Aurangzeb (7th Feb. 1685)*.
135. A grant for meeting administrative expenses.
137. *Persian papers of Dumraon Raj*.
successive defeats suffered by Kunwar Dhir at the hands of Rudra Singh, convinced Kunwar Dhir that he will not be able to humble Rudra Singh in an open battle because of the vast resources that he had at his command. He also knew that unless Rudra Singh was eliminated, he will have no future in the Bhojpur region. Therefore to fulfill his ambition, he hatched a conspiracy and poisoned him in a strange manner.

The poison worked and the Raja felt that his end is near. However, he managed to reach Buxar fort in full sense. After reaching the fort, he instructed his eldest wife to declare his cousin Mandhata Singh (son of Prabal Singh) as his successor immediately after his death. The eldest Queen did as instructed by her dying husband. It was made out in public that Raja Rudra Singh had crowned Mandhatta Singh as his successor which was accepted by the nobles and the people of Bhojpur and also by the Mughal government.

Raja Rudra Singh died of poisoning in 1699. Raja Rudra Singh ruled for thirty four years. He was a successful ruler. His services to the Mughal government were duly recognized. He enjoyed the confidence of the Mughal emperor so much so that he was appointed though temporarily the faujdar of Sarkar Shahabad. It was indeed a rare honour for him. He was assigned the Jagirs worth the annual revenue of 83 lakhs of dams (more than rupees two lakh) in Pargana Haveli Shahabad. He was also empowered to collect 2 ½ per cent of revenue as Rasoom-i-Rajgi from Pargana Kharid in

139. Letter of the Manager of Dumraon Raj to the Secretary of the Asiatic Society, Bengal, Calcutta, dated 18/30 July 1893 A.D.
140. Ibid. PP. 84-85, 101-102.
141. Ibid.
Sarkar Jaunpur in Suba Allahabad. In 1690 he was awarded a sum of Rs. 1500/- for some special expenses which he had to collect from the villages of Pargana Kharid of Sarkar Jaunpur, Suba, Allahabad.

Although Raja Rudra Singh was succeeded by his cousin Mandhadata Singh son of his uncle Prabal Singh as the chief of Bhojpur in 1699 AD. Prabal Singh had one other son named Sujan Singh. Sujan Singh was equally brave and ambitious. He was extremely affectionate to his elder brother Mandhata Singh and promised to remain loyal to him. In their early life, they had suffered together because of family feud.\textsuperscript{143} Later on both of them worked, in close cooperation with the provincial officials of Bihar and jointly received imperial favours during the life time of Raja Rudra Singh. In 1682 A.D. they were assigned village Baharanpur alongwith Sonbarsa in Pargana Behia for their maintenance.\textsuperscript{144} In 1687, Jagirs worth 12,58000 dams (i.e. Rs. 3,14,500) in Haveli Sarkar Shahabad, were also awarded to them which formed a part of the Jagir of Raja Rudra Singh, the former Ujjainia chief of Bhojpur.\textsuperscript{145}

According to another Persian document, we learn that Ghulam Muhammad, the Shiqdar of Pargana Samal, in the Sarkar of Shahabad agreed to pay the revenue of the Pargana jointly to Mandhata Singh and Sujan Singh as per the terms of the Qubuliyat\textsuperscript{146}. The grant of these Jagirs jointly to Mandhata and Sujan Singh is indicative of the fact that both the brothers enjoyed the confidence of the Mughal government, and both of them pulled on well with each other during the chieftainship of Raja Rudra Singh.

\textsuperscript{143} T.U. II. P. 103.
\textsuperscript{144} Persians Papers of Dumraon Raj.
\textsuperscript{145} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{146} Persian document is dated 1083 A.H. or 1631 and it is addressed jointly to Mandhata Singh and Sujan Singh.
Mandhata Singh retained Buxar as his headquarters till 1702 A.D. but in the same year he shifted his capital to Mithila. It had become an age old tradition of the Ujjainias Raja that the chieftains frequently changed their capitals soon after coming to the throne. Mandhata Singh considered Mithila as centrally located from where he could administer his chieftaincy in a better way. Besides that he had childhood memories associated with Mithila and local tradition are of the view that, this was the most important factor for the change of capital. Though the capital was shifted from Buxar to Mithila, the widow Maharani Devi Kunwar, (eldest wife of late Raja Rudra Singh) decided to stay at Buxar because of her late husband had close association with the town. Due to that and also because it was holy place situated on the bank of Ganga, the town remained prosperous even after the change of capital.

Mandhata Singh was very keen that his younger brother should also take some responsibility in the administration of the chieftaincy, and following arrangements were made : Mandhata Singh himself looked after the general administration of the estate with Mithila as his headquarters, while Sujan Singh, his younger brother was given commandant of the army. He was also entrusted with the responsibility of looking after the administration of Jagdishpur and the adjoining areas from his headquarters at Jagdishpur. In the beginning, the arrangement made by Mandhata Singh worked very well, but Kunwar Dhir who had attempted to capture Bhojpur at the time of Rudra Singh’s, death, attacked Buxar and occupied several villages of Parganas Piru.

148. Ibid., p. 108.
149. Ibid. P. 107.
150. Ibid.
and Nonar. Mandhata Singh and Sujan Singh having failed to check the advantage of Kunwar Dhir appealed to Prince Azimus Shan (the grandson of Aurangzeb) the governor of Bihar to protect him and his chieftancy from the onslaught of the rebel Kunwar Dhir. The Prince took him under his protection and issued a Nishan in 1705, directing Muhammad Ali, Imperial Bakhshi to proceed to Bhojpur for maintaining order and security and to give due honour and eminence to Mandhata Singh. Mandhata Singh was also ordered to extend full cooperation to Muhammad Ali, the Imperial Bakhshi, in his work. As a result of the efforts of the Imperial Bakshi, order was restored in Bhojpur and Kunwar Dhir had to withdraw from the areas that he had occupied.

Mandhata Singh felt obliged to the Prince and out of a sense of gratitudes, he gave all possible help and cooperation to him in his administrative work. He was granted Jagir of Pargana Kopachi in Sarkar Ghazipur in Suba Allahabad for the observance of Rasoom Rajig and also for meeting expenses of Bhojpur officials for performing government duties.

The situation took a new turns in 1707 after the departure of Azim-us Shan to Delhi. Husain Ali the new governor of Bihar was a strong and efficient administrator. He started realizing the land revenue with free hand. As the Bhojpur chieftaincy was in arrears, the governor sent an army to force the chief to pay the entire dues due on him (Mandhata Singh). Kunwar Dhir took

---

152. Persian Papers of Dumraon Raj.
153. Ibid.
154. A feudal custom.
advantage of the situation and joined the camp of Bihar governor against Bhojpur chief in this conflict.

But unfortunately Mandhata Singh became a victim of the conspiracy jointly hatched by his younger brother, Sujan Singh and Kunwar Dhir. As long as Janki Bharathi Gosain the mother of the two brothers Mandhata Singh and Sujan Singh was alive, the relationship between the two brothers remained cordial. The brothers were actually brought up by Janaki Bharathi Gosain all by herself because her husband Prabal Singh remained imprisoned at Delhi for a long time. Even in those adverse circumstances she provided her sons best possible education and other necessities of life. This must have created a great impression on them and quite naturally they obeyed their mother’s orders without any reservation. Hence, during her life time both of them were affectionate to each other and lived in complete harmony. But after her death differences cropped up between the two; mainly because of usual clash for political power among the sons of deceased chief. Janaki Bharathi Gosain Devi was able to restrain the brothers, whenever a problem arose between the two. The main cause of friction was an area assigned in Jagir by the Mughals to the two brothers jointly during the life time of Rudra Singh. Now this problem which mainly related to the management of the assigned villages and the distribution of its income aggravated. Kunwar Dhir was waiting for an opportunity to get support from the Bhojpur chief for his own cause, widened their differences and succeeded in mining over Sujan Singh to his side. Besides, the dowager, Rani Mahadevi, the eldest wife of Raja Rudra Singh was also displeased with Mandhata Singh, because the latter had deserted, Buxar (established by her late husband with which she had emotional attachment) the
headquarters of her late husband and shifted to Mithila. She considered Mandhata's action as most ungreatful because he could succeed to the throne only with her crucial support. Thus three powerful forces combined to oppose Mandhata Singh. It may be said that a triple alliance was formed consisting of the dowager queen of Bhojpur, Mahadevi, the arch rebel and an enemy of Mandhata Singh Kunwar Dhir and Sujan Singh, the Younger brother of Mandhata Singh. They jointly conspired to murder Mandhata Singh. The conspiracy was successfully carried out and Mandhata was brutally murdered in 1708 A.D. But Sujan Singh's desire of succeeding to the Bhojpur throne was also not fulfilled because he too was murdered by one of the loyal servants of Mandhata Singh.156

156. T.U. II, p 110.