CHAPTER VII
Administrative Jurisdiction of Puṇḍra /
Paunḍravardhana-Bhukti

Northern Bengal was previously known as Puṇḍravardhana. Scholars are unanimous in this identification as an administrative area. Puṇḍravardhana as an administrative division derived its name from the ancient tribal name Puṇḍra. In the early epigraphs this area is known both as Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti or Paunḍravardhana-Bhukti. Sometimes this is also known as Puṇḍra or Puṇḍra-Bhukti. These names prominently figure from Maurya to Sena inscriptions. The ancient city of Puṇḍravardhana has been identified with the unearthed city of Bogra district, known as Mahāsthān. Puṇḍravardhana both in Sena, Chandra and Varman records cover an extensive area including part of south-eastern Bengal as administrative divisions. At times it also included almost the whole of Bengal, as it appears, except a portion of western and north-western Bengal.

On the extension of Puṇḍrabhukti or Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti historians explain differently. Foremost of the scholars R. C. Majumdar refers from the evidence contained in Dhullā and
Rampal copperplates of Śrī-Chandra. According to these two copperplates lands were granted in the Puṇḍra-bhukti. His contention is that Śrī-Chandra’s supremacy extended over North Bengal. Although by Paunḍravardhana-Bhukti it connotes North Bengal but during the Senas whole of Southern Bengal right up to the sea was engulfed. This might have happened during Śrī-Chandra also.¹ Although the extent of Puṇḍravardhana-bhukti very majorly extended under the Senas but the Paunḍra-bhukti included the whole of modern Rājshāhi, Dacca and presidency Divisions, also a part of Chittagong division.²

Secondly, B. C. Sen contends that unlike other parts of India, Puṇḍravardhana witnessed political vicissitudes from 8th to 12th century A.D. under different dynasties. That is why there is reference of Puṇḍravardhana-bhukti in the inscriptions of Chandras, Varmans and the Senas.³ Regarding the gradual extension of the bhukti he writes. "The Puṇḍravardhana-bhukti gradually attained the position and dignity by far the largest administrative division in the whole province. It includes within its jurisdiction not only North Bengal, to which originally it must have largely corresponded, but south-east (Samataṭā) and

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2. ibid, p. 280
3. Some Historical Aspects of the Inscription of Bengal, Calcutta, 1942, p. 105
East Bengal (Vaṅga) as well.”

An extended territorial connotation of Puṇḍra/Puṇḍravardhana-bhukti is also thought out by Nihar Ranjan Roy in the Pāla-Sena period. Northern Bengal was its limit during the Gupta age. South-Western and south eastern Bengal was also embraced by the Puṇḍravardhana-bhukti during Pāla-Sena period.

N. K. Bhattasali after surveying thoroughly the land grants of the Pālas, Chandras, Varmans and the Senas arrived at a wider territorial connotation for Puṇḍra/Puṇḍravardhana-bhukti in which he contended to have included northern Bengal, part of south-western Bengal (up to the Bhāgirathi in the West) and south-eastern Bengal (up to the Meghna in the east) going up to the sea. Recent finding further extend the territories beyond the Meghna in Sylhet-Comillā.

While editing the recently discovered Pascimbhāg (Sylhet) plate od Sri-Chandra which grant land in the Sṛihaṭṭa-maṇḍala (obviously modern Sylhet) within Puṇḍravardhana-bhukti, D. C. Sircar writes, ‘‘It is well known that the territory of

4. *ibid*, p. 562
Puṇḍravardhana originally comprised the districts of North Bengal and had its headquarters at modern Mahāsthāna in the Bogra District of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) though its jurisdiction later extended, due to the expansion of the Pāla empire, over Vaṅga, comprising the Bhāga of Vikrampura in the Dāccā region, and also over the Khāḍī-Viṣaya in the present 24-Paragnā Dist. Recently the Mehar plate showed that Samataṭa formed a part of the same Puṇḍravardhana-bhukti and we now learn from the Paschimbhāg plate that the said bhukti also included the Srihaṭṭa maṇḍala.”7 A. H. Dani in editing the recently discovered Mainamati plate of the Chandras also subscribed the extended territorial connotation of the bhukti.

On the extent of the Bhukti H. C. Raychoudhury also defined on the wide expansive connotation of the bhukti. “It seems to have been the biggest administrative division or province of the Gauḍa empire. It extended from the summit of the Himalayas (himavach-śikhara of a Damodarpur plate) in the north to Khāḍī in the Sundarban region in the south. The Bhāgirathi (Jāhnavi) separated it from the Vardhamāna-bhukti in the west. The Madhyapāda plate of Viśvarūpasena extends its eastern boundary to the sea, apparently the Bay of Bengal and the estuary of

7. El, XXXVII, p. 294
the Meghna. According to the Mehar copper plate, dated 1234 A.D. it comprised even a part of the district of Tipperā. A. H. Dani also subscribes to the extended territorial connotation of Bhukti.

From the above reference it is clear that the administrative headquarter of the region during the Mauryas was at ‘Puṇḍanagalate’. This was same as Puṇḍranagarā, identified with Mahāsthān in Bogra.

**Gupta:**

Reference of Puṇḍravardhana as figured prominently in the inscriptions of the Gupta age is given below:

1. Damodarpur plate of Kumāragupta -I (G.E. 124/444 A.D.)
   Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti,
   Koṭivarṣa Viṣaya.¹⁰

2. Damodarpur plate of Kumāragupta-I (G.E.128/448 A.D.)¹¹
   Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti,
   Koṭivarṣa Viṣaya.

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8. R. C. Majumdar (Ed.), *HB*-I, p. 24
9. Damodarpur is in Dinajpur district, *EI*, XV, 130 ff; *Select Inscriptions*, pp. 283ff.
3. Baigrām plate of G.E. 128/448 A.D.\textsuperscript{12}

The district officer addresses from Pañcanagari.

Lands granted in two villages connected with the villages Vayigrāma modern Baigram (Bogra district).

4. Pāhārpur plate of G.E.159/479 A.D.\textsuperscript{13}

Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti,

Nagiratta maṇḍala,

Dakṣiṇāṁśaka Viṭṭhi

Villages : Palasatta, Nityagohāli, Vatagohāli etc.

(The last identified with Goālbhitā near Pāhārpur.)\textsuperscript{14}

5. Damodarpur plate of Buddhagupta (G.E.163/482 A.D.)\textsuperscript{15}

Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti.

From Palāsavrṇndaka

Candagrāma.

Lands bounded on south, west and east by the northern boundary of the village Vayigrāma.

(Same as plate No. 3 above).

6. Damodarpur plate of Buddhagupta (476-95 A.D.)

Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti.

\textsuperscript{12} Baigrām (Bogra dist.) then under Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti and Pañca Nagara is to be identified with modern Panchibi in of Bogra district.

\textsuperscript{13} Pāhārpur is in Rājshhāhi dist. \textit{E.L.}, XX, 61ff; \textit{Select Inscriptions}, 337ff.

\textsuperscript{14} \textit{ibid}

\textsuperscript{15} \textit{EI}, XV, 135 ff.; \textit{Select Inscriptions}, 324.ff
Koṭivarsa Viṣaya, in Himavacchikhara.\textsuperscript{16}

7. Damodarpur plate of G.E. 224/543 A.D.\textsuperscript{17}

Puṇḍṛavardhana-Bhukti,
Koṭivarsa Viṣaya,
Purāṇavṛndikahari grāma.\textsuperscript{18}

It appears that in all these 7 Nos. of Epigraphs the name of the Bhukti is Puṇḍṛavardhana. Koṭivarsa identified with Bāṅgarh of Dinajpur district is the prominent Viṣaya. Location of the Bhukti was broadly in the region of north Bengal covering Rājshāhi, Bogrā and Dinajpur districts.

It is necessary to bring here the reference of Hiuen Tsang, who made his travel in Puṇḍṛavardhana in the second quarter of the 7th century A.D. This account\textsuperscript{19} of his journey helps us to locate correctly Puṇḍṛavardhana and its capital collating it with Gupta epigraphs. During the Guptas and in the succeeding century Puṇḍṛavardhana comprised the whole region of northern Bengal from the Rājmahal, the Ganges and the Bhāgirathi to the Karatoya\textsuperscript{20}, it is vast tract. Although Nihar Ranjan Roy, R. C.

\begin{itemize}
\item\textsuperscript{16} Taken to denote the hilly region on this northern end of Bengal.
\item\textsuperscript{17} \textit{EI}, XV 142ff; \textit{Select Inscriptions}, 337ff.
\item\textsuperscript{18} It may be Brindakooree, 14 miles to the North of Damodarpur. cf. \textit{ibid}, p. 339, fn. 4
\item\textsuperscript{19} S. Beal, \textit{Records}, II, pp. 194-195
\item\textsuperscript{20} \textit{Bāṅgālir Itihas}, Ādi Parva, (Abridged Edition) p. 66; R. C. Mazumdar, \textit{HB-I}, p. 49
\end{itemize}
Majumdar, B. C. Sen, N. K. Bhattasali differ in opinion regarding this.

Pāla:

There are numerous references of Puṇḍravardhana in Pāla Epigraphs.

Dharmapāla (C 781 - 821)
1. Khalimpur plate
   Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti,
   Vyāghraṭati Maṇḍala,
   Mahāntaprakāśa Viṣaya.

Gopāla- II (952 - 969)
2. Jajilpāra plate,
   Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti,
   Kuddālakhata Viṣaya.

21. Some Historical Aspect of the Inscriptions of Bengal, 104 ff
22. JRAS, 1935, p. 75
23. Khalimpur is in Mālā district.
   EI. IV, 243ff.
24. Its reference is also available in Nālanda plate of Devapāla. The Dūtaka of the plate is t Vyāgrataṭi Maṇḍala. But its identification is not certain. Different scholars identify it different with Bāgdi including Sundarbans (Archaeological Survey Reports, XV. pp. 145- 46). Bhatt with Purmeā district, east of the Mahānadā (JRAS, 1935, pp. 75-76); R. C. Majumdar, places Viṣnupur Region (HB, p. 217).
Mahipāla-I (C-995 - 1043)

3. Belwa plate.26
   Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti
   One village, Nandiswāmini in Puṇḍarikā Maṇḍala
   One village, Gaṇeśvara in Pañcanagari Viṣaya

4. Bāngarh plate.27
   Pundravardhana bhukti
   Kotivarsavisaya.
   Gokalikā mandala.
   Village, Kuratapalikā with the exception of Chatapallikā.

Vigrahapāla - III (C- 1058 - 1075).

5. Belwā Plate.28
   Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti,
   Phāṅitavithi Viṣaya
   Puṇḍarika Maṇḍala (same as in the Belwā plate of
   Mahipāla-I).
   It mentions Vallava (Line - II, 13 as the abode of the donee. This
   may be identified with modern Belwā. The village Bahada may
   also be modern Cak Bairā, a few miles to the north-west of
   Belwā.

27. Bangarh is in Dinajpur District, XIV, 324 ff.; JASL, XVII, 117ff.
28. Belwā is in Dinajpur Dist. JASL, XVII 132 ff.; EL, XXIX, 9 ff.
6. Ṇmgāchi plate.29
Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti,
Koṭīvarṣa Viṣaya,
Brāhmaṇigrāma Maṇḍala.

Madanpāla (C 1143 - 61).

Manahali plate.30
Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti
Koṭīvarṣa Viṣaya,
Halāvarta Maṇḍala,
Kāsthagiri grāma.

From the above references there is major reference of Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti save this last one. There is unanimity in identification of Koṭīvarṣa with Bāngarh in Dinajpur district. All the find spots are is north Bengal. The maṇḍala, viṣayas and grāmas of Belwā plates may probably lay lands having reference of Koṭīvarṣa, Ṇmgāchi and Manahali which lay in Dinajpur and in nearby areas. From the above it appears that Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti of Pāla records is to be placed in northern Bengal; on this the connotation stands.

29. Ṇmgāchi is in Dinajpur Dist. EI, XV, 293ff..
30. JASB, LXIX, 66ff. Manahali is in Dinajpur Dist. Interpretation is doubtful. But the name of the village may be Madhugohāli, 31.
Simultaneously when the Pālas held northern, north-western and south-western Bengal and part of Bihar, the records connected with the ruling dynasties holding sway in South eastern Bengal can be looked into.

Candra (C. 900 - 1045):

1. Rāmapal plate.31
   Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti,
   Nānya Maṇḍala, 32
   Nehākaṣṭhi grāma.

2. Dhullā plate 33
   Paundra-Bhukti,
   Ballimunḍā Khāṇḍala, 34
   Khadiravilli Viṣaya
   Yola Maṇḍala.35
   Ikkadasi Visaya.

3. Madanpur Plate36
   Puṇḍra-Bhukti,

32. It may be Nāvyā Maṇḍala.
33. El, XXXIII, 134 ff. 1B-III, pp.165-66
34. N. K. Bhattasali identified the villages mentioned in this plate with the villages of almost similar names in the Mānikganj sub-Division of Dacca dist. JRAS, 1935, pp. 76-77
35. Yola Maṇḍala has been identified with Manikganj sub-Division. Villages of similar names of Dacca dist. El, XXVII, p. 137
36. Ibid, 51 ff. Madanpur is near Savar in Dacca district.
Yola Mahanḍāla,
Vanga Sāgara Sambhāndariyake 37

4. Idilpur Plate.38
   Satata Padmāvati Viṣaya.39
   Kumāratālaka Maṇḍala.40
   Leliyā Grāma

5. Paschimbhāg Plate 41
   Puṇḍravardhana-Bhukti,
   Śrīhaṭṭa Maṇḍala,
   Garalā, Pagāra and Chandrapura Viṣaya. 42

Kalyāṇa Chandra (c. 975-1000)

6. Dacca Plate 43
   Paunḍra-Bhukti,
   Khati Maṇḍala,
   Kuśa grāma

37. Its meaning properly cannot be identified. But the presence of the name of Vaṅgasāgara is indicative.
38. Edilpur is in Faridpur district. EL, XVII, pp. 189-90
39. Satatapadmāvati Viṣaya was probably the name of a dist. on the bank of the river Padmā in Dāccā-Faridpur Region. EL, XVII, p. 189
40. The name of the Maṇḍala is connected with the river Kumāra and still preserved in Kumārakhāli in Faridpur district. HB. I, pp. 195- 96
41. EL XXXVII, 289 H; Kamalakanta Gupta, Copper Plates of Sylhet, Sylhet, 1967, 81ff.
42. These three Viṣayas fall in Maulavibazar sub-Division of Sylhet, ibid, 133 ff; EL. XXXVII, pp. 294-95
43. Dani discovered it and refers Khati may be bhāti.
Laḍaha Chandra (c. 1000- 1020)

7. Maināmati Plate (No - 1)  
Paundra-Bhukti  
Samataṭa Maṇḍala,  
Pattikerāke  
Campāvani

8. Maināmati Plate (No.2)  
Paundra-Bhukti,  
Samataṭa Maṇḍala,  
Peranātana Viṣaya,  
Land is granted for the temple of Laḍahamādhava in Pattikerā.

Govinda Chandra (c. 1020- 1045)

9. Mainamati Plate  
Paundra-Bhukti,  
Samataṭa Maṇḍala,  
Peranātana Viṣaya  

Here a note on Pattikerā seems necessary. This was in Comillā district. The copperplate of Ranavankamalla established that

Pattikerā was the headquarter of Samataṭa. Pattikerā is still a

45. HB- I, pp. 85-86, Fn. 4  
46. ibid.  
47. ibid. Mainamati is in Comilla District.
Parganā in Comillā district. This identification helps in placing Peranātana Viṣaya in the region of Comillā and its neighbour­hood. Broadly Samataṭa covers Comillā-Noākhali region.

Here was found almost all plates mentioned the name of one Bhukti Paundra and not Puṇḍra. The extent of the Bhukti is evident from the find places as referred in the plates. All plates except Rāmapāl plate of Śrī-Candra and Dāccā plate of Kalyāṇa Candra lands were granted in Dāccā Faridpur, Comillā-Noākhali region of delta Bengal and Sylhet area.48

Varmans :

1. Belāva Plate 49
   Pauṇḍra-Bhukti,
   Adhahpattana Maṇḍala, 50
   Kauśāmbi, Aṣṭagaccha Khanḍala, 51
   Upyalikā grāma.

48. If ‘Nānya’ of Rampal plate and ‘Khati’ of Dacca plate can be taken as ‘Nāvya’ and ‘Bhāti’, respectively, of the area then possibility cannot be ruled out that Paundra-Bhukti of all the Candra Plates could be said to connote areas in south-eastern Bengal.
49. EI, XII, 37 ff; IB-III, 15ff. Belāva is in Dacca district.
50. Equating Adhahpattana-maṇḍala with Khādi-maṇḍala of Sena records, N. K. Bhattacharyya rejects R. D. Banerjee’s identification of Kausambi of Belava plate with Kusumba of Rajshahi dist. which was at that time under Rāmapāl, the Pāla king. The Varman kingdom, opined Bhattacharyya, appears to have been founded on the east, north and west by the Meghnā, the Ganges and the Bhagirathi, respectively. JRAS, 133, p. 83-84 ff.
51. EI, XV, 278 ff. Barackpur is in 24 Pargana district.
In the Varman records, it may be observed, the name of the Bhukti is same as that in Candra records, i.e. Paundra.

Sena:

Vijaysena (C. 1097 - 1160)

1. Paundravardhana-Bhukti
   Khādi Viṣaya ⁵²
   Ghasasambhoga-bhāṭṭabaḍa-grāma ⁵³

Lakṣmaṇasena (c. 1178 - 1206)

2. Anulia plate ⁵⁴
   Paundravardhana-Bhukti
   in Matharandiya grāma.

3. Tarpandighi plate ⁵⁵
   Paundravardhana-Bhukti,
   in Varendra (Varendra),
   Velahisti grāma.

4. Madhainagar plate ⁵⁶
   Paundravardhana-Bhukti
   near Kāntāpura in Varendra (Varendra)
   Dapaniya grāma.

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⁵² Khādi has been taken as Khādi Pargana of the diamond Harbour sub-Divison of 24 Parganas. HB-1, p. 25-26; JRAI, 1935, 79 ff.
⁵³ N. K. Bhattasali suggested the identification of village in JRAI, 1935, 97 ff.
⁵⁴ IB-I, III, 81 ff.
⁵⁵ EL, XII, 6 ff; IB-III, 99 ff. Tarpandighi is in Dinajpur dist.
⁵⁶ IB-III, 166 ff. Madhainagar is in Pabna.
5. Bhowal plate  
Pauṇḍravardhana-Bhukti  
Vaścasavṛtti,  
Vatumvi Caturake  

6. Sundarban plate  
Pauṇḍravardhana-Bhukti  
Khāḍi Maṇḍala.  

Viśvarūpasena :  

7. Sāhitya Parisat plate  
Pauṇḍravardhana-Bhukti  
Vaṅga Nāvye  
Rāmasiddhi Pāṭaka  

8. Madanpada plate  
Pauṇḍravardhana-Bhukti  
Vaṅga Vikrampurabhāge  
Pinjokasthi grāma.  

Keśavasena :  

1 Edilpur plate  

57. EI, XXVI, 1 ff. Bhowal is in Dacca district.  
58. The words appear doubtful. These means : Vaścaspati-Vithi.  
59. IB-III, 140 ff. found in the neighbourhool of Dacca.  
60. IB-III, 140 ff. found in the neighbourhood.  
61. In the Navya region of Vaṅga.  
63. Pinjokasthi-grāma has been identified by N. N. Vasu with Painjari, in Kotalipada Pargana in Faridpur district. JASB, 1896, 6 ff.  
64. Edilpur is in Faridpur district. IB-III, 118 ff.
General observation out of the above reference can be made on the Sena records:

Here Bhukti appears to be Paundravardhana and not anywhere Puṇḍravardhana. Location of the land granted as per Barrackpur and Sundarban plates are in Khāḍi Maṇḍala. If the identification of Khāḍi as suggested if accepted it will be somewhere at South-Western Bengal. Similarly land granted by Anulia plates was included in Vyāgrataṭi and its location will be at South-Western Bengal. Further the lands granted by Tarpandighi and Mādhainagar plates lay in part of North Bengal which has become obvious due to expression of ‘vārendryam’ in two plates. Similarly lands granted by copperplates of Viśvarūpasena and Keśavasena lay in South-Eastern Bengal as Muslims occupies the North-Western and Northern part of Bengal. ‘Nāvye Vaṅge’ and ‘Vaṅge Vikrampura bhāge’ indicate the location of the land more specifically in South-Eastern Bengal. Same is the case of the location of the land of Bhowal plate.

Our problem is to differentiate if any between Puṇḍravardhana-bhukti of Gupta and Pāla records with...
Paunḍravardhana-bhukti of Candra, Varman and Sena records. Also to find out if there is any scope of the presence of both the Paunḍravardhana-Bhukti or Bhuktis at a time and whether under one dynasty or under separate dynasties and as in Sena period when the two areas came under one dynasty one name was used.

It required mention here that territorial connotation of the bhukti is considered when the bhukti becomes very much expansive. The contention of the scholars are that Pāla rule extended to South-Eastern Bengal, the bhukti, which originally connected the area of South Bengal, came to engulf the whole area of South-Eastern Bengal. The recent finding of Maināmati and other plates help to reconstruct the history of this region with fresh light. Till Gopāla-II (c. 952-969) not a single inscription refer to the Pāla occupation of South-Eastern Bengal. Which area was under continuous paramount rule of the Chandras from 900 to 1050 so Gopāla-II could not rule that area.

Although Pāla rule extended to South-Eastern Bengal sometimes between the reign of Mahipāla-I and Mahipāla-II.65 (between 1043 and 1075 A.D.) but the Pāla interregnum was short

65. Bagnaura and Nārāyanpur image Inscription should be assigned to Mahipāla-II.
lived and in the last quarter of the 11th century. A.D. the Varmanas established their power in South-Eastern Bengal taking advantage of the failure of the Pālas to curve the rising Kaivarta leader in northern Bengal. So the truth of Pāla power in South-Eastern Bengal is not warranted by available sources. Hence the idea of Pāla power in pre-Chṛandra period is not based on good ground and so it is to be given up. So the appearance of the name Puṇḍra-bhukti in the Chṛandra epigraphs is to be explained. On extension of Puṇḍra-bhukti the extension of Pāla power has no relation.

All the Chṛandra plates record Puṇḍra and from the records internal survey of the bhukti must be plated in South-Eastern Bengal, including parts of Sylhet. When Chandras ruled independently in South-Eastern Bengal with their headquarter at Vikramapura and their contemporary Pāla rulers ruled in North-Western and South-Western part of Bengal. So it is rather obvious that their administrative unit Puṇḍra/Puṇḍravardhana-bhukti was definitely different from the Puṇḍravardhana-bhukti of the Pāla records.

On the basis of this contemporaneous presence of the administrative unit in two different kingdoms by containing same name, it appears rather very much strange. The analysis is that
Chandras may have named their territorial division after the old and well known division of Bengal. It is a case of change or duplication of place names which was not uncommon. Kambojadesa in Tibet,\textsuperscript{66} or in Lusai Hills and modern Cambodia are the examples of such transferred name.

E. E. Pargiter on the basis of \textit{Mahābhārata} and Purāṇa interpreted Puṇḍra and Paundra differently. He found separate mentions of the Paundra along with the Puṇḍras. Postulated about the possibility of Paundra being an area different from Puṇḍra. He opined that Puṇḍra must have lain on the south side of the Ganges and Paundra on the north side between Aṅga and Vaṅga. He located Paundra in the Santal parganas, Birbhum and a portion of Hazaribag district and Puṇḍra in Purnea, Māldah, Rājshahi and Dinājpur. He further postulated that Paundra are presumably an offshoot of the Puṇḍras. The latter established themselves in the region north of the Ganges and the former crossed the river and formed a sister kingdom under the name Paundra.

Concerning extension of Pāla rule in the region of South-Eastern Bengal a tribal movement,\textsuperscript{67} i.e. subsequent settlement of a branch of the Puṇḍras in the region south of the Ganges and


\textsuperscript{67} S. C. Das (Ed.) pag. Sam. Jon Zang, part-I, pp. 4, 74 \& Index, p. 10
consequent naming of the area of habitation after the original name of the tribe gives credit as opined by Shri B. C. Sen.\textsuperscript{68}

Further a question may naturally arise on the appearance of the name Paunḍra in Madanapāla’s plate whether all other plates of his predecessors there is reference of Paunḍra. The Pāla Suzerainity (during Mahipāla-I and Mahipāla-II) in south-eastern Bengal after the end of Chandra rule acquainted people of Pāla administration with the term Paunḍravardhana. This is a scribal mistake as it appears.

Varmans also used the name Paunḍra following the Chandras. Basing of the identification of Adhahpattana-manḍala with Khāḍi-manḍala as opined by Bhattasali, extension of Varmanas in South-Western Bengal was possible but the exact sway was difficult to be located. This is also the case with the Chandras.

But the case is different with the Senas having control over the entire area of Bengal. They probably took possession of south-east Bengal even before their control of North Bengal freeing from the control of the Pālas.\textsuperscript{69} Senas took up the term Paunḍra as per the tradition in South-Eastern Bengal applied in

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{68} \textit{Some Historical Aspects of the Inscription of Bengal}, 127 ff.
\item \textsuperscript{69} Sequence of events of VijaysenaEs exploits are different but suggestion may be offered.
\end{itemize}
records. The Paunḍravardhana-bhukti of the Sena records had the wide expansive territorial connotation engulfing regions of northern, south, western and south-eastern Bengal. On the occupation of these regions the Sena rulers found the names of two bhuktis having similarity. Although they prepared the use of one but used some more identifying terms, e.g. Vārendryam. Vyāghrataṭāṁ, Vaṅge Nāvye and Vaṅge Vikrampura-bhāge in their records to denote location of the land. But in the other plates where they did not use any such identifying term but granted lands in South-Eastern Bengal. Possibly Khādi and Byāghrataṭi were too popular to add further values in the reference to the name of an administrative division.

If identification of Vyāghrataṭi area of western Bengal is correct then Pāla administrative division of Pauṇḍravardhana may connote territories of northern Bengal with part of south western Bengal included in it.

Further Vyāghrataṭi when included in Pauṇḍravardhana should be contiguous to north Bengal and on this ground. Bhattasali’s conjecture about its identification with Purneā district need consideration.

70. Lands granted by Bhawāl grant was in South-Eastern Bengal.
71. Both in Khādi Maṇḍala and in Vyāghrataṭi suggestion have been made of their location in South-Western Bengal.
The coverage of the area of the Pundra-bhukti, Chandra and Varman records should be taken to be in South-Eastern Bengal.

The Sena records used the term Pauṇḍra in the wider connotation due to amalgamation of the two Bhuktis of more or less of similar names under one rule; but the necessity of the use of identifying terms to denote proper location was felt.