3. History and Location of Jharkhand

(i) Historical Background of Jharkhand :-

Jharkhand was covered with dense forest in pre-history period. But it was not isolated from the outside world. It seems that the Kaimur and the Vindhya Mountains saved it from foreign invasions. In fact this area was not controlled for long period by any other except the Gupta rulers and Shashank.

The most primitive tribes of Jharkhand were the Kharias, Birhors and Asurs. The Mundas, Oraons and Hos came after them. The Cheros, the Kharwar, the Bhumij and the Santhal entered subsequently. The Kharias and Birhors probably came to Jharkhand from other places. The Kharias lived from Rohtas to Pataliputra in ancient period. Later they settled on the banks of entered Chhotanagpur through the Kaimur Mountains. They were one of the first tribes to move in Chhotanagpur like the Asurs and the Birjias.

The route and the timing of entry of the Mundas in the state are not definitely known. According to B.C. Mazumdar, the Mundas had pushed the original tribes of Jharkhand to towards south-east. But the view is not subscribed by other scholars. In the opinion of another scholar, they came from central India and Uttar Pradesh where their land was captured by the Aryans. Later the expansion of the Aryans forced the Mundas to escape towards Rohtas and then they gradually moved towards Jharkhand. According to another view the Mundas came to south Bihar from Tibet. They were pushed in course of time towards Chhotanagpur by the Oraons, the Cheros and the Kharwar. Subsequently they contributed to the foundation of Nagbanshi Dynasty.

The Oraons were probably original inhabitants of south India because some Linguists have found similarity between the Kurkh language of the Oraons and the Kannad and the Tamil. They were habitual wonderers who moved from place to place before reaching Jharkhand. According to another school of thought,
the Mundas and Oraons had settled in various parts of Jharkhand long before the arrival of the Aryans. Whatever the truth, this much is certain that Rohtasgarh was an important stage of their migration. After their exit from Rohtasgarh, the bank of the Ganges and reached Rajmahal. The Malers of these areas are the descendant of the Jharkhand was covered with dense forest in pre-history period. But it was not isolated from the outside world. It seems that the Kaimur and the Vindhya Mountains saved it from foreign invasions. In fact this area was not controlled for long period by any other except the Gupta rulers and Shashank.

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The Bhumij and the Santhal outnumbered other tribes in Singhbhum, Manbhum and Hazaribagh. They were staunch rivals of the Aryans. That is why the Aryans called them anti-Brahman. They regarded them as flesh-eaters and sorcerers. The Bhumij and Bhuiyan tribes had also settled in Chhotanagpur in ancient times. Their origin and later developments are not very clear. But it is certain that they were established in different parts of Jharkhand. B. Virottam has stated that the Bhumij settled in Manbhum; the Hos and the Bhuiyans were confined to Singhbhum and palamu areas. The latter always encountered the outside invaders and checked their entry in Jharkhand.

It is apparent that most of the tribes of Jharkhand except the Cheros, the Kharwars and the Santhals had settled in Jharkhand before one thousand B.C. The Mundas and Oraons got settled in Chhotanagpur area; the Hos settled in Singhbhum and Hazaribagh area; the Bhumij in Manbhum area; the Oraons in Palamu area and the Birjias also settled in Palamu itself. The Santhals became established in pre-Mughal period and similarly the Cheros-Kharwar enters in Palamu around the same time.

Some scholars have expressed the view that Gautam Buddha was born in Chhotanagpur and one scholar Amar Nath Das has gone to the extent of saying that Chhotanagpur was the Karm-Bhumi of Gautam Buddha. Amar Nath Das has mentioned the names of some places in Chhotanagpur, which were related to the life and times of Budha. But his view is not supported by archaeological evidences. Only this much can be said with certainty that the Buddhism had left deep impact
on Jharkhand. There are several ruins of the Buddhist monuments and statues in different places of Jharkhand. Some of them have been brought and preserved in the post-graduate department of history of Ranchi University. But, the upkeep of these archaeological materials is not good and they should be kept in a Government Museum.

There are several remains of Buddhism in different parts of Jharkhand such as those found in Dalmi and Budhpur in Dhanbad district. According to T. Bloch, several Buddhist remains were found at about five and seven kilometer areas. Beglar has given the dates of these remains as 10th century A.D. Some Buddhist ruins have been found in Purulia district of West Bengal. Beglar had come across some Buddhist remains near Lathon Tongri hill between Pakbira and Barahmasia villages.

There is a village named Karra six Kilometer south of Purulia. A Shastri had seen some Buddhist ruins in a garden situated at Gholmara three Kilometer North West of Purulia. There are some hot springs in Suraj Kund village under Barhi sub division of Hazaribagh district. Mr. F.M. Holo had found some figures there in 1918. One of them resembled Buddha.

There is a remain resembling Buddha's Vihar in Belwadag village located three kilometer east of Khunti in Ranchi sub division. Excavation of this site two meters inside the ground has revealed that the Vihar had the solid foundation of the brick-size of seventy inches into ten inches into three inches. This bricks size is similar to the bricks size of Sanchi Stupa. Several Buddhist statues have been discovered in places like jonha of Ranchi district, Katunga village of Gumla district, Bhula village of Jamshedpur (East Singhbhum) and Ichagarh in Dhanbad district.

Chandra Gupta Maurya was also familiar with this area as one of his rock inscriptions refers to a place named Atwi. The great historian Bhandarkar has identified Atwi as the area between Baghelkhand to the sea-coast of Orissa. Thus, Jharkhand definitely falls within this area. Chhotanagpur has been cited in another
rock inscription of Ashok. The rock inscription incorporates messages to the unconquered tribes to conduct them according to Dhamma. Scholars have identified these tribes with those living in Jharkhand.

Buddhism started declining before the arrival of Samudra Gupta on the Later on, the accession of Shashank on throne of Bengal and his command over Bihar and Orissa caused the Buddhists Hiuen Tsang has mentioned that the empire of Shashank extended from Midnapur in West Bengal to Sarguja of Chhattisgarh. Most of the Buddhist centres were destroyed in his reign. But the Vajrayana sect of Buddhism continued to flourish in Jharkhand during the period of the Pala rulers of Bengal. It is true that the Chhinnmastika temple was established in Ramgarh during this period. In this way anti-Buddhist policy led to the resurgence of Hinduism. Hinduism became the dominant religion of Jharkhand by the tenth century B.C.

Apart from Buddhism, Jainism also made its presence in Jharkhand. The 23rd Tirthankara of the Jains, Parshvanath achieved salvation on the hills of Parasnath. Dr. Virottam has expressed the opinion that Chhotanagpur area was the main Centre of Jainism. There are several remains of Jainism in the river valleys of Damodar and Kasai. No wonder place is considered very sacred by the Jains.

According to Col. Dalton, several idols related to Jainism were found by him in Pakwira and banks of Kasai River. He had also seen the ruins of the Jain temples in Pakwira, Kora, and Boram and of the banks of Kasai River. One viewpoint maintains that Jainism had the least influence in the areas of Palamu and Garhwa. But Virottam has disagreed with this view and he refers to some worship places of the Jains near Satbarwa.

The period also witnessed the establishment of many important dynasties in Jharkhand e.g., the Nagbanshi in Chhotanagpur, the Raakshels in Palamu, and the Singhdeos in Singhbhum.
Palamu was ruled by the Rakshels. The Rakeshels had reached Palamu by moving through Rohtasgarh from the Rajputana area of Rajasthan. Later on they were thrown out by the Cheros. The Rakshels had annexed Surguja to their Kingdom. Other tribes related with Palamu were the Kharwars, the Gonds, the korwas, the paharias and the kisans. The Kharwar outnumbered other tribes. One of their important rulers was Pratap Dhawal who ruled over Japala for a long time. Many of his inscriptions have been found in Tilothu (1158 BC), Phulwari (1169BC), Tarachand (1169 BC), etc. But rest part of Palamu was under the control of the Rakshels who ruled till the arrival of the Cheros in the 16th century A.D.

In Chhotanagpur the credit for establishing a state goes to Rita Munda who was the first tribal leader of the Mundas. He selected Sutna Pahan as the ruler of the Mundas and named the new state as "Sutia Nag Khand". Sutna Pahan had divided his state into several parts namely number 1. Lohagarh (present Lohardaga). 2. Hazaribagh 3. Palungarh (present Palamu) 4. Mangarh (present Manbhum) 5. Singgarh (present Singbhum) 6. Kesalgarh and, 7. Surmug garh (present Surguja). These seven garhs were further sub-divided into twenty one parganas namely Omdanda, Doisa, Khukhra, Surguja, Jaspur, Gangpur, Porhat, Girga, Birua, Lachra, Birna, Sonpur, Belkhadr, Belsing, Tamar, Lohardih, Kharsing, Udaipur, Bonai, Korya, Changmangkar. This administration divison reveals that the state established by Sutna Pahan extended beyond the present area of Jharkhand. Unfortunately the rule of Sutana Pahan could not last long and his state disintegrated into small parts.

Many small states emerged in different areas of Jharkhand included Palamu, Surguja, Korambay, Rakshel, chhotanagpur, and Parahat. Other small states included the Panchet and Keonjhar.

One of the most important states of Jharkhand was Chhotanagpur. It was ruled by the Nagbanshi ruler in different periods of time. The initial history of
Nagbanshi is not authentic. There are many stories about their origin. The date of their origin and the period of various rulers are highly confusing. J. Reid (Survey and Settlement Operations in the District of Ranchi,) has stated that the ancestors of the present Maharaja of Chhotanagpur established themselves as the Chiefs of the Munda tribes probably in the 10th century of the Christian era. Phani Mukut Rai was the first Nagbanshi ruler. Areas like Banta, Hajam, Badam, Ramgarh, Gola, Tori, Palani, Mankeri, Barwa and Keonjhar were included in his state.

The population of Chhotanagpur during the reign of Phan Mukut Rai was dominated by the tribes but in course of time, the number of Brahmans, Rajputs and other Hindu castes began to increase. Panchet was situated to the east of Chhotanagpur and Keonjhar was located to the south of the Nagbanshi state. The Nagbanshi ruler took the help of the Panchet ruler and defeated the ruler of Keonjhar. The fourth Nagbanshi ruler Raja pratap Rai transferred his capital from Suteambe to Chutia. He invited the People to come and settle in the new capital, which was by and large peaceful.

The internal rivalry among the Gurjara Pratihara, Rashtra Kuta and Pala kings had great impact on politics of Chhotanagpur. They adopted offensive posture towards Chhotanagpur and captured its part at the slightest opportunity. One of the rock inscriptions of Mahendra Pala at Itkhor indicates that the Pratihara ruler came in Control of the bordering areas of Chhotanagpur during second half of the 9th century A.D. But the weakening of the Pala dynasty saved different areas of Chhotanagpur from falling in external hands.

One of the Nagbanshi rulers Bhimkaran had to fight against the ruler of Surguja because the latter had invaded Chhotanagpur with a very big army. But Bhimkaran changed his capital from Chutia to Khukhra. He wanted to protect the capital from the Muslims invasions because Chhotanagpur fell on way to Bengal and the Turkish rulers always tormented the Nagbanshi territories. By the end of the ancient period Chhotanagpur could not remain isolated and contemporary events left deep impact on it. The Nagbanshis had firmly entrenched their rule in
Chhotanagpur and the neighboring, Hazaribagh and Manbhum areas were ruled by the Man Kings.

Ramgarh, Kunda and Kharagdiha were independent kingdom in pre-Mughal period. Baghdeo Singh had established Ramgarh state in 1368 A.D. Both Baghdeo Singh and his brother served under the Nagbanshi ruler but some differences cropped up between the Nagbanshi ruler and Baghdeo Singh and his brother Singhdeo Singh. Both of them moved towards Karnpura near Barkagaon and gradually occupied 21 Parganas. They made Sisia their first capital. Subsequently the capital was transferred to Urda, Badam and lastly to Ramgarh.

The Rakshels remained in control of the south east parts of Palamu. They ruled for a long time but later they were dislodged by the Cheros. At that time important tribes of Palamu were the most numerous among them. Pratap Dhawal was the most important Kharwar ruler who ruled over Japla areas. But Rakshels dominated in remaining part of Palamu till the advent of the Cheros on the scene.

The power of the Manbhum ruler in their area had started decaying before the beginning of pre-Mughal period. The Manbhum state disintegrated into smaller parts like Nawagarh, Katras, Jharia, Tundi, etc. Panchet was the most powerful state of the Manbhum area.

Coming to Singhbhum area, the Singh dynasty was the ruling clan. The Singhbhum dynasty claimed that their rule was established before the arrival of the Hos in Singhbhum but the Hos tribes refute these claims by saying that Singhbhum was named after their god "Singbonga". Dr.B. Virottam has endorsed the stand taken by the Hos on the ground that most of the places of Jharkhand have been named after the hills and the deities of the area. Thus Virottam has supported the claims of the Hos that they had entered the area before the establishment of Singh dynasty.

The available facts lead us to conclusion that the founders of Singh dynasty had come from western India and occupied Singhbhum around the 8th
century A.D. There are two branches of Singh dynasty. The founder of the first branch was Kasi Nath Singh but not much is known about this first branch. O’Malley has pointed out that the first branch ruled for 52 generations and each generation has an average tenure of 25 years. Thus the total period of the first branch is said to be 1300 years.

The founder of the second branch was Darp Narayan Singh who succeeded to the throne in 1205 A.D. Yudhishthir succeeded him after his death and ruled from 1262 to 1271 A.D. He was succeeded by Kasi Ram Singh. The 13th ruler of the second branch was Jagannath Singh ii. He was very cruel and autocratic. His tyrant behaviour caused the revolt of the Bhuiyans.

The 13th century proved eventful for Jharkhand. Bakhtiyar Khilji attacked Nadiya after passing through Jharkhand. The upheavals in South Bihar during the reign of Iltutmish and Balban did not have much impact on Jharkhand because the Nagbanshi ruler Harikaran was very powerful. The military commander of Mohemmed bin Tughluq, Malik Baya reached up to Chai-Champa. Later Firoj Tughluq invaded Hazaribagh and captured many areas. Firoj Tughluq later consolidated his position and made Satgaon the capital. All these facts prove that the Delhi Sultans could not advance beyond Satgaon in pre-Mughal period. One of the reasons behind this was the resistance given by the Nagbanshi rulers.

The above facts lead us to conclusion that most of the areas of Jharkhand remained independent in the ancient period and pre-Mughal period. The invasions on Hazaribagh, Singhbhum and other parts of Chhotanagpur did not have any significant impact. The rulers of Chhotanagpur had succeeded in Checkmating the foreign intruders and maintaining an independent status. It has already been seen that different rulers were ruling the different areas of Jharkhand in the pre-Mughal period. Palamu was in the control of the Rakshels, the Chhotanagpur was under the occupation of the Nagbanshi and the Singhbhum area was under the rule of the Singh dynasty. The small rulers of Jharkhand continued
to maintain their independence status without any external interference. The Muslim Army always entered Jharkhand in pursuit of enemies or in course of their invasion of Bengal.

In the medieval period the first ruler, who interfered in Jharkhand, was Sher Shah. Sher Shah sent his military chief, Khawas Khan against a ruler named Maharath Chero. Ahmad Yadgar has mentioned about this campaign in “Tarik-i-Sher Shah”. “Tarik-i-Khandan-i-Taimuria”. B.B. Ambastha has also referred to this expedition in his book. “The Decisive Battles of Sher Shah”. The military campaign ended in the surrender of Maharath Chero. It is said that the white elephant named Shyam Sundar was produced before Sher Shah as the spoil of the war. Even the defeat Maharath Chero did not stop the sure and Chero battle for supremancy.

The Nagbanshi rulers remained isolated from the foreign invasions. The Muslims inroads into Jharkhand, which took place prior to 1585 A.D., were mainly either chastising expedition or occasional passage of troops on their way to various military expeditions. The area of Jharkhand remained largely undisturbed.

The attention of the Mughals particularly that of Akbar and Jahangir was drawn toward Jharkhand because of the existence of the diamonds in rivers. However, Akbar was guided more by strategic and political considerations and not by the mere possibility of securing a few diamonds.

Akbar was well aware of the fact that Jharkhand had been the shelter of Sher Shah during his conflict with Humayun. Some of Afghan opponents like Junaid, Haji and Gaji brothers and Bayezid had been using this area for their operations against the Mughal. Janaid tried to enter Bihar
through Jharkhand in 1575. He was countered by the imperial troops and compelled to retire to the hilly area of Rampur. This hilly area of Rampur has been identified by John Beames as Pargana Rampur in Hazaribagh. Thus, it may be concluded that the Mughals had reached the out skirts or Chhotanagpur even before the actual invasions of the Naganshi territories in 1585 A.D.

The impending Mughal invasion of Kokra could not take place before 1585 A.D. The immediate reason of Mughal invasion on the Nagbanshi kingdom had been the lack of respect to the Mughal emperor. Abul Fazi has said that the Nagbanshi ruler thought that the Mughals could not cross the mountain very easily. In the 30th year of Akbar reign, Shahbaz Khan Kambu dispatched a force against the Nagbanshi ruler. The Mughal army over ran the country and plundered it wealth. The Mughals obtained a rich booty. The Kokra ruler became a tributary under the Mughal government. Thus Madhukarn Shah became the Malguzar of the Mughals. The defeat of the Kokra ruler strengthened the position of Ramgarh ruler who assumed independent status in 1592. Madhukaran Sahi or Madhu Singh participated in the Mughal expedition against Qutlagh Khan of Orissa.

He served in the detachment of Yusuf Chak Kashmiri and had played an admirable rile in the fight against the Afghans of Orissa. Thus towards the close of 16th century the existing isolation of Kokra appears to have ended the areas had been brought under Mughal suzerainty and an annual tribute had been fixed.
Durjan sal succeeded Madhukarn Sahi. It seems that immediately after his accession to thorne, the Nagbanshi ruler threw off all his allegiance to the Mughal and withheld the customary tribute. Naturally the independent postures of Durjan Sal coupled with the possibility of acquiring diamonds from Kokra induced Jahangir to order an expedition against the Nagbanshi ruler. He ordered Zafar Khan to invade Chhotanagpur and occupy the diamond mines of the area. But Zafar suddenly left for Bengal without completing the assignment of Chhotanagpur.

The Mughal emperor Jahangir became displeased and replaced him with Ibrahim Khan. Ibrahim Khan also proceeded to complete the expedition against the Nagbanshi ruler. He invaded Durjan Sal’s territories and finally Durjan Sal was defeated and arrested. Chhotanagpur (Kokra) was placed under the Mughal Empire. After his capture, Durjan Sal offered ransom to Ibrahim Khan in the form of jewels, gold and silver worth 84 krors of rupees. But the latter did not release him and took him as captive to Patna. From Patna, Durjan Sal was sent to the Gwalior fort as a prisoner. According to the Nagbanshi tradition, Durjan Sal’s confinement lasted for 12 years.

Durjan sal was released from prison due to his expertise of diamonds. He was asked to verify the genuineness of two diamonds, which he did very successfully. The emperor was so much pleased that he not only ordered the release of Durjan Sal but also restored the property taken from him. He also succeeded in getting the release of neighboring rulers who were confined in the Mean while Durjan Sal’s absence from Kokra had resulted in the capture of Nagbanshi throne by one of his relatives. Durjan sal was compelled to fight for regaining his lost position. Fortunately he was helped by some of rulers who accompanied him from the Gwalior prison. In this
feud Durjan became victorious but the internal strife of the Nagbanshi family compelled some of the members to migrate to distant places. Meanwhile Durjan Sal transferred his capital from Kokra to Doisa because of strategic consideration. The selection of Doisa was made because it was surrounded on three sides by lofty hillocks and on the fourth side by the river South Koel. Durjan Sal constructed a beautiful place called Navratangarh. Originally the palace was five-storied structure. But at present it still exists in a dilapidated condition.

The Mughals succeeded in subduing kikra but they could not make much headway against the Cheros of Palamu. Till the year 1589 A.D. Man Singh assumed the charge of Governorship of the province of Bihar in the same year. Man Singh marched against Cheros. The ruler at that time was Bhagwat Rai. The Cheris made an abortive attempt to block the passage but Man Singh forced his way killing hundreds of soldiers and took many Cheros fighters as prisoners. He returned to Patna along with huge booty. Nothing is known about subsequent history the Cheros till Akbar’s death in 1605 A.D. It seems that the Palamu was left in possession of the Chero ruler Bhagwat Rai but the Mughal troops continued to be stationed there.

The Cheros of Palamu took advantage of the confusion created by the death of Akbar. They reasserted their independence and drove out the Mughal army from Palamu. Meanwhile Anant Rai had succeeded Bhagwat Rai. According to Mirza Nathan, Anant Rai was the Chero ruler at Palamu during the early years of Jahangir reign. In the second year of Jahangir reign, Afzal Khan was appointed the Governor of Bihar. Afzal was the son of Abdul Fazl. Iradat Khan was appointed as a Diwan in 1607. Jahangir ordered
an expedition against Anant Rai but it failed because of the sudden death of Afzal Khan. Anant Rai ruled for 31 years from 1630 to 1661 but this is not supported by the details given by Mohammedan historians. Sabhal Rai as the Chero ruler succeeded him. Sabhal Rai proved to be very powerful rule of Palamu. His rule extended up to Chauparan. He also started creating problems for the Mughals. This forced Jahangir to order Mughal campaign against Sabhal Rai who was defeated and was captured. He was taken as a prisoner to Delhi. All these facts reveal that the Mughal-Chero relations remained strained during Jahangir reign.

After the death of Sahbal Rai, Pratap Rai became the Chero ruler of Palamu. Pratap Rai was contemporary of Shan Jahan. He was a powerful chief but the middle of reign was plagued by large scale by Mughal invasions. As a result the relations between the Mughal and the Chero of Palamu continued to be hostile even during the early year of Pratap Rai’s reign. Palamu was given out as a jagir to the Governor of Patna in 1632 A.D. in return for annual payment of one lac thirty six thousand. The Governor of Bihar tried to squeeze more money from Pratap because of the high annual payment fixed for his new Jagir (Palamu). Pratap Rai found the difficult to meet the rising demand of the Mughals and consequently withheld the payment of customary tribute. Abdula Khan, who was the Governor of Bihar at that time, could not pay attention towards Palamu because of his other preoccupations. This made Pratap Rai more arrogant.

Meanwhile Shayista Khan became the Governor of Bihar. When he reported the matter to the emperor, Shah Jahan ordered him to attack Pratap Rai. Shayista Khan marched from Patna on October 12, 1641. It appears that the Mughal governor approached Palamu through Manatu Ghat
and captured the same after wars. The Mughal army entered Aru on January 26, 1642 and proceeded towards the Palamu fort. Shyista reached Baoli Cherwan. The Mughal army surrounded Palamu fort. As a result Pratap Rai offered to compromise and surrendered. Shayista Khan accepted the proposal and after receiving the Peshkash of Rupees eighty thousand, he returned to Patna of Feb 12, 1642.

Meanwhile Shayista Khan was transferred to Allahabad and was replaced by Itqab Khan. In the meantime Pratap Rai again became defiant and he also failed to pay tribute to the Mughals. He started giving shelter to the opponents of the Mughals. Pratap Rai also lost the affection of the people and offended his chiefs. Two of his uncles, Dariya Rai and Tez Rai allied with Itiqab Khan. Both of them imprisoned Pratap Rai with the help of Itiqab. Tez Rai became the ruler of Palamu but he refused to hand over Pratap Rai to the Mughals on various excuses.

Dariya Rai, the elder brother of Tez Rai became dissatisfied with his younger brother. He conspired with Itiqad Khan. Accordingly Itiqab Khan sent Zabardast Khan to attack the Palamu fort. Tez Rai dispatched a force under Madan Singh Thakuri. The Cheros suffered many setbacks. Tez Rai left the Palamu fort with a hunting party. During his absence Surat Singh and Sahbal Singh, the sons of Madan Singh Thakuria, came out openly in favour of Pratap Rai. They released Pratap Rai and put the Palamu fort in his possession. Tez Rai hid himself in the forest of Palamu.

In the second phase, Pratap Rai realized the futility of fighting with Mughals. He proposed to accept the sovereignty of Mughals.
Zabardast Khan replied to this proposal by asking him to go to Patna. But Pratap Rai was not willing to go there. He wanted a guarantee of his safety and security. At last Zabardast Khan departed from Palamu accompanied by Pratap Rai on November 19, 1643. Pratap Rai presented an elephant and agreed to pay a tribute of Rupees one lac to the Mughal emperor. Shan Jahan gave him the rank of a Monsabadar of one thousand and Palamu was given to him at a rental of one kror of dams. Pratap Rai remained loyal to the Mughal up to the year 1647. Nothing is known about his activities after this.

Pratap Rai’s successor was Bhupal Rai who ruled only for few months. Later Medini Rai became the ruler and continued for a longer period. He took full advantage of the confusion in the Mughal fort towards the end of Shan Jahan’s reign. Medini Rai paid attention on the welfare of Palamu.

No much information is available regarding Mughal relations with Singhbhum, Manbhum and Hazaribagh but this much is certain that the Mughals were able to capture the Kunda fort. But they could not overcome Chai, Champa, Kharagdiha, and Ramgarh. Undoubtedly Ramgarh enjoyed a permanent place in the area. Ultimately it fell under the influence of the Mughals. The ruler of Ramgarh was required to assist the Mughals in accordance with needs. During Shah Jahan reign, the capital of Ramgarh was Badam, which was later shifted to Ramgarh.
The rulers of Singhbhum maintained cordial relations with Mughals because they used to pay annual tribute to the Mughal emperors.

During the reign of Aurangzeb the ruler of Kokra (Chhotanagpur) was Raghunath Shah. Raghunath was highly religious and charitable. He constructed a number of temples such as one in Doisa and Hagannath temple in Ranchi. He also builds the Madan Mohan temple in Borea village in Kanke. It was completed in 1682 A.D. at a total cost of Rs. 14001. The temple also has an inscription containing several information. In 1685 Raghunath constructed a temple of Ram and Sita at Chutia in Ranchi town. Raghunath’s reign was marred by the invasion of Medini Rai, the Chero ruler of Palamu. He ransacked Doisa and carried away a huge booty. The plunder included a big gate, which Medini Rai installed in the new Palamu fort. The gate is still known as the Nagpuri Gate.

Raghunath’s reign came to an end in about 1690 A.D. His successor was Ram Shah who ruled for 25 years. It appears that Ram Shah maintained friendly relations with Mughals, particularly Aurangzeb. At this time certain portions of Kokra were included in Orissa. The revenue of this portion was paid to Aurangzeb through the Mughal revenue officers of Orissa. In 1692 A.D., Ram Shah paid to the Mughal total revenue worth Rs. 9705. But Ram Shah had followed aggressive policy towards Singhbhum. He invaded Singhbhum and destroyed Jayantgarh. Later both the rulers entered into conciliation and established matrimonial relations. Two of the sisters of Ram Shah were married to Jagannath Singh. It was at this period that
Singhbhum was renamed Porhat. Ram Shah also attacked Palamu. But the detailed results are not known.

In Palamu, Medini Rai had taken full advantage of the prevailing confusion in the Mughal camp and reverted to the traditional policy of hostility. Aurangzeb did not like this. He ordered Daud Khan, the governor of Bihar to invade Palamu. The emperor also ordered the Jagirdar of Bihar to assist Daud Khan. Daud Khan took position of Kothi without any opposition in 1660 A.D. On June 3, 1660, Daud Khan also captured the Kunda fort and razed it to the ground. Surwar Rai murdered the chief of Kunda, Chun Rai.

In the meantime Medini Rai, the Chero ruler of Palamu, offered Daud Khan a tribute and requested him to return to Patna. But Daud Khan rejected his proposal and proceeded towards the Chero capital. Medini Rai promised unconditional surrender and proposed to pay to Daud Khan one lac. rupees as Peshkash. But Daud Khan could not do much because the Emperor Aurangzeb had sent him in different direction. Aurangzeb had ordered that the Chero ruler should embrace Islam, pay the Peshkash and retain the position of Palamu. This imperial order was conveyed to Medini Rai. But before Medini could send a reply, Tahawwur Khan (one of the Mughal commanders) launched an attack from the right on the left flank of the Cheros. Ultimately battle between the Chero and the Mughals took place. The Cheros became panicky and abandoned the Palamu fort. The ruler of Palamu took shelter in the neighboring Surguja. Daud Khan handed over Palamu to
Mankali Khan who was appointed as Faujdar by the Mughal Emperor. But Mankali remained as Faujdar at Palamu till 1666. Afterwards he was transferred and Palamu was put under the charge of the Governor of Bihar. This provided Medini Rai with an opportunity to regain his lost territory. He took position of Palamu and ruled it till 1674 A.D. The reign of Medini Rai is regarded as golden period because he made sincere efforts to promote agriculture and make palamu prosperous.

Medini Rai’s rule ended in 1674 and Rudra Rai who ruled from 1674 to 1680 A.D succeeded him. After Rudra Rai, Drik Pal ascended on the throne and ruled up to 1697 A.D. Drik Pal’s successor was Shabal Rai who ruled up to 1716 A.D.

The preceding description proves that Aurangzeb was not in control of the present areas, Hazaribagh, Singhbhum and Manbhum. The Mughal area of influence was confined to the present Palamu, Lohardagga, Gumla, Latehar, Simdega and Ranchi. The contemporary Hazaribagh consisted of five parts-1. Kunda 2. Ramgarh 3. Chai Champa 4. Kendi and 5. Khargdhia. The kunda estate was located to the south present Hunterganj block of Chatra district. It is said that Ram Singh was one of the trusted officers of Aurangzeb founded Kunda. Kendi also existed in the present Chatra district. Ramgarh was to the west of Kendi and chai was in the east. Khargdhia was also a part of old Hazaribagh district. In 1670 A.D. the capital of Ramgarh was shifted from Badam to Ramgarh to provide safety. The present Dhanbad (old Manbhum) also survived the Mughal attacks. Similarly the geographical location of Singhbhum kept it out of their reach. Thus Aurangzeb did not commanded full control over modern Jharkhand.
The control of the last Mughal rulers over Jharkhand began to decline Aurangzeb as a result the Maratha’s posted a new danger for the area of Jharkhand. In course of time the rulers became so weak that foreign trading companies like East India Company started extending their foot hold over the Jharkhand.

Ram Shah’s successor was Yadhunath Shah who ruled from 1715 A.D. to 1724 A.D. He was powerful ruler who took full advantage of the prevailing chaos and withheld the customary tribute to the Mughal Government. Yadhunath Shah had to face the invasion of the Palamu ruler Ranjit Rai. Evidences suggest that Ranjit Rai took the help of ruler Ramgarh and conquered Tori in 1719 A.D. and held it for three years. Meanwhile Yadhunath Shah had stopped the payment of tribute. As a result Surbuland Khan, who was the Mughal Governor of Bihar, launched a campaign against the Nagbanshi ruler. The latter offered to pay Rupees One Lac as Nazrana. The proposal was accepted by Surbuland Khan Yadhunath Shah paid the agreed amount and after this Surbuland went back to Patna.

The attack of surbuland proved to be an eye opener for the Nagbanshi ruler. The Nagbanshis felt that Doisa was not safe from the foreign invaders. Consequently Yadhunath Shah decided to transfer his capital from Doisa to Palkot. The new place was more distant from the frontiers of Bihar and therefore considered more secure than Doisa. But
even the choice of Palkot proved wrong. After a few decades the Marathas began their inroads in Palkot.

Yadhunath Shah died in 1724 and he was succeeded by Shivnath Shah. Shivnath Shah ruled from 1724 to 1733. It appears that the Mughal rulers of Bihar had no control over the Nagbanshi territory. The annual tribute from the Nagbanshi to the Mughals was not fully paid. Shivnath Shah tried his best to withhold it. But things started hanging when Fakhruddaula became the Governor of Bihar in 1727. He decided to teach all the defiant rulers a lesson. He proceeded towards Chhotanagpur in 1730 A.D. through Kunda. He faced considerable resistance and was happy to compromise by getting Rs. 12,000 from the Ghatwal of Ramgarh on account of the Chhotanagpur ruler. But the agreement of payment of tribute was once more broken three years later in 1733.

Shivnath Shah died in 1733 and his successor was Udainath Shah, who ruled till 1740 A.D. The failure of Fakhruddula in Chhotanagpur bolstered Udainath Shah, Udainath adopted a stiff posture towards the Nawab of Bengal. In 1733 Alivardi Khan was appointed Deputy Governor of Bihar. Alvardi decided to suppress the unruly zamindar from the very beginning. He attacked Sunder Singh who was the Zamindar of Tekari. Sunder was arrested but his family fled to Chatra and took shelter there. This necessitated military action of Chatra. Sunder’s family could not be captured but the Chatra fort was destroyed. All these incidents made the Ramgarh Chief very panicky.
The chief, Bishun Singh promised to pay tribute to Alivardi Khan. By this step the Ramgarh ruler saved Chhotanagpur from an imminent attack.

No more information is available about Udainath, but Bishun Singh of Ramgarh blocked paying tribute and this included the tribute of Chhotanagpur also. Alivardi Khan made Zainuddin Ahmd Khan Deputy Governor of Bihar. Zainuddin sent a force under Hedait Ali against the Ramgarh ruler. Hedait was supported by Sunder Singh of Teakari, Jaikrishan Rai of Palamu and Zamindars of Siris, Kutumba and Sherghati. In this struggle Bishun Singh was defeated and was obliged to pay Rs. 80,000 partly in cash and partly in immoveable property.

After the death of Udainath Shah in 1740 A.D., his younger brother shyamsunder Nath Shah succeeded him. The ruler ruled Chhotanagpur for five years. It was during his reign that the Maratha invasion began and continued to torment Chhotanagpur till early 19th century. But in 1741 A.D. the Marathas were able to establish their control over Chhattisgarh. It is assumed that the rulers of Surguja, Chhotanagpur and Singhbhum started paying tributes to them.

The Marathas invaded Bengal for the first time in 1742 A.D. They were led by Bhaskar Pandit, who appeared in Chhotanagpur from Chhattisgarh and then proceeded to Bengal. Grant duff in his “History of the Maratha” informs that the Marathas emerged from the hills and
woods of Ramgarh and started plundering Panchet. Thus Bhaskar Pandit must have passed through Chhotanagpur on his way from Chhattisgarh. But Alivardi Khan defeated him in 1742 A.D. Bhaskar fled to Panchet and consequently the Maratha forces also fled away.

In the year 1743 A.D. Raghuji Bhonsla marched into Bengal with a large army. To counter the advance of Raghuji, the Mughal emperor Mohammad Shah and the ruler of Bengal, Alivardi Khan sought the assistance of Balaji Rao who was a great rival of Raghuji. Raghuji Bhonsla entered into an agreement in 1743 A.D. According to this, the areas of Malwa, Agra, Ajmer, Allahabad and the estates of Tekari, Bhojpur and Daudanagar in Bihar were given to the Peshwa. The rest of Bihar and the Subahs of Oudh and Bengal fell in the share of Raghuji. In this way Chhotanagpur, Manbhum and Palamu came under the control of Raghuji. These areas faced the extortions of Marathas.

Meanwhile Shyamsundar Shah was succeeded by his younger brother Balram Nath Shah, who ruled for three years. After Balram his eldest son Mani Nath Shah came on the throne and ruled for 14 years till 1762 A.D. His reign witnessed the last vestiges of Mughal authority over the Nagbanshi kingdom. The Nagbanshi ruler started asserting and consolidated his authority over the petty estates like Bundu, Silly, Barwa, Rahe, Tamar etc. All this estates were completely subdued and were compelled to accept the Nagbanshi rulers as their Chief. Mani Nath Shah died in 1762 A.D. and the next ruler was Drip
Nath Shah. Drip Nath ruled for about three decades. His reign marked the end of Mughal authority over the Nagbansi kingdom but faced Maratha invasions and internal disturbances. The period also witnesses the British entry into Chhotanagpur.

The Maratha invasions had left deep impact on the social and economic life of Palamu, Chhotanagpur and Manbhum. Their inroads ravaged large areas. The people of such areas became so terrified that they left their home and fled to take shelter in the forest. The power of the Nagbanshi increased between 1750 and 1765. As a result the authority of external rulers almost disappeared. However the changed situation also paved the way for the entry of British.

By 1734 A.D. Palamu was rented to Raja Sunder Singh of Tekari. Jaikrishan Rai was allowed to continue as a Chero ruler of Palamu. The latter assisted Hidayat Ali Khan against Raja Bishun Singh of Ramgarh in 1740 A.D. The annual rent of Palamu at that time was fixed at Rs. 5000 and this amount continued till 1771 A.D. but the Mohammdan interference ceased after Hidayat Ali Khan. As a result the Marathas emerged on the scene and they started playing important role in Palamu. But Hidayat Ali Khan was responsible for founding the town of Hussainbad and made residence there. After the death of Hidayat Ali Khan in 1764, his son Gulam Hussain Khan succeeded him in the estate of Japla. The Raja of Sonpura could not retain control over Belaunja. Sirajuddaula wrested Belaunja from him and granted it in Jagir to the
family of Naqi Ali Khan. But Naqi Ali Khan was dispossessed of Belaunja, when Nawab Mir Qasim occupied Rohtasgarh in 1762 A.D. and imprisoned him. In 1765 Belaunja was granted to Fakhruddula who was maternal grandfather of Hazi Sayad Wallayat Ali Khan of Patna.

Palamu was suffering from chaos and disorder at this period of time. The Bhaiyas at Untari and Thanurais of Chinpur and Ranka were the most powerful Rajput Zamindars of Palamu. The Chero and the Kharwar Zagirdars had their hold over Deogan, Bishrampur and Mantu. The court of Raja Jaikrishna Rai was facing intrigues and complicacies making the situation favorable for external invasion.

As regards Singhbhum, the rulers of Porhat Mahi Pal Singh, Kasi Ram Singh, Chatrapati Singh, Arjun Singh, Jagannath Singh, Prushotam Singh and Vishnu Singh established Saraikela state in the post Mughal period. They adopted an expansionist policy and wrested Kandu, Baksai and Patkum from their rulers. The successor of Arjun Singh was Amar Singh and after him Jagannath IV ascended on the throne. It was during Jagannath reign that the British entered Singhbhum in 1767. Chhotanagpur Khas, Tamar, Patkum and Barabhum had become shelter place of the rebels before the entry of the British. The warriors of Kolhan used to plunder the areas of Chhotanagpur Khas, Gangpur, Keonjhar and Bonai. The ruler of Porhat became fed up with the hostility of Kolhan marauders and sought the help of the British.
Coming to Hazaribagh, Ramgarh was ruled by Dalel Singh during the time of Aurangzeb and afterwards (1667-1724) Dalel defeated the ruler of Chai, Magar Khan and killed him in 1718 A.D. He occupied the capital of Chai, Pargna Jagodih and other eight Taluks. Chai remained in possession of Dalel Singh from 1717 to 1724. Two years later in 1719, he helped the Palamu ruler Ranjit Singh in capturing the Tori Pargana of the Nagbanshi rulers. Later on Dalel Singh was defeated and as a result Ranbast Khan, who was the son of Magar Khan, regained his lost areas. In the same year Dalel Singh died and was succeeded by Vishnu Singh who fraudulently annexed chai.

Vishnu Singh of Ramgarh became arrogant due to his initial success. He ignored the Nawab of Bengal and stopped paying tributes to him. This attitude compelled Nawab Alivardi Khan to send Hidayat Ali Khan in 1740 against the Ramgarh ruler, who was ultimately defeated. The Ramgarh ruler had to pay rupees eighty thousand by way of arrears. The annual tribute of Ramgarh was fixed at Rs. 12,000 per annum, which continued till the entry of the British.

Vishnu Singh remained in control of Chai till 1747. Meanwhile Mahipat Khan died and was succeeded by Lal Khan. Accompanied by Ratan Singh of Rampur pargana went to the Zamindar of Narpat Samya, Kamgar and sought his help against Vishnu Singh. Kamgar attacked Ramgarh and defeated Vishnu Singh. This defeat restored the position of Ratan Singh and Lal Khan who regained their lost territories. Later on Kamgar raided Ramgarh once again and
destroyed it. The second defeat ended in an agreement among both the parties. According to the new agreement Rampur and Jagodih were restored to their rulers. The areas lying to the north of Barakar River were given to Kamgar Khan and the area to the south of the river was retained by Vishnu Singh.

But Vishnu Singh did not remain idle even after the agreement. He began to conspire with the opponents of the Nawab of Bengal. When this news reached Nawab Mir Qasim, He immediately sent a force under Markat Khan and Abdullah Khan. The forces of the Nawab routed Vishnu Singh. The battle resulted in the restoration of all the captured areas to their rightful owners. At this time Markat Khan kept area to the north of Barakar River under Chai Pargana for the Nawab of Bengal.

After the death of Vishnu Singh, his elder brother Mukund Singh ascended the throne. He was a very big opportunist and after getting a chance he immediately capture Bigha and Itkhori. This victory gave him the artillery and other equipments of the defeated Army. In 1766, Mukund Singh was defeated by Waris Khan. Mukund was forced to give three-year arrear payment of rupees twenty seven thousand. Mukund Singh however regained the lost area of Chai after three years and he incorporated it with Ramgarh. At this time chai Pargana of Ramgarh was divided into five parts-Rampur, Jagodih, Parbaria, Itkhori and Pitty.
The Mughal power was considerably weakened in Manbhum in the post Mughal period. The Nawabs of Bengal were mostly concerned with the problems of Bihar and Bengal and they had no time to interfere in the affairs of Manbhum. In fact the army of the Nawab was very weak at that time and was not in a position to penetrate the forest of Manbhum. Barabhum was also beyond the control of the ruler of Ramgarh in Chhotanagpur. Jhalda formed a part of Panhet and Barabhum was a part of Midnapur. Patkum, Nawabgarh, Katras, Jharia and Tundi were parts of Ramgarh. In this way it is apparent that Manbhum area was almost independent of the Mughal control and the Maratha meance could not affect them.

(ii) Location of Jharkhand :-

The state extends from 21°58'10"N latitude to 25°19'15"N latitude and 83°25'50" E longitude to 88°4'40" E. longitude. It is a land locked state being surrounded by five states named Bihar in the north, Orissa in the South, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the west and west Bengal in the east.

The state comprised an area of 79714 sq. Km. the state now comprises five division and 24 districts. The Jharkhand emerged as the 28th. State of India on 15th. November 2000. The capital of Jharkhand is Ranchi and the Sub-capital of Jharkhand is Dumka. The average density of population in Jharkhand is 414 in 2011 and 338 in 2001. Dhanbad is the most densely populated district of the state and Simdega is the least densely populated district of the state.
There were 18 District in the state of Jharkhand at the time of 2001 Census. The number of district in the state has gone up to 24 by Census 2011. The jurisdiction of the six new districts created after 2001 Census from which they have been carved out, are shown below:

1. Seraikella kharsawan  :  Old Seraikella subdivision of Paschimi Singhbhum district.
2. Simdega  :  Old Simdega subdivision of Gumla district.
4. Ramgarh  :  Old Ramgarh sub division of Hazaribagh district.
6. Latehar  :  Old Latehar sub division of Palamu district
The number of district affected due to carving out of new districts is 6 while in other 3 districts geographical changes took place. Only 9 districts remained intact without any geographical change.

Figure- 3.2
## DISTRICTS OF JHARKHAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>State/Districts</th>
<th>Area (Sq.Km.)</th>
<th>Total Population 2011</th>
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Table- 3.1

(Source-census of India, 2011)
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**Table – 3.2**

(Source: Census of India, 2011)