



GENEALOGICAL ANALYSIS OF CHAUHAN RULERS OF PATNAGARH IN WESTERN ORISSA: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Patnagarh, the princely/ feudatory state of western Orissa, was a hub of Chauhans. Its history was full of events and legends. The founder of the Patnagarh was Ramai Deva (1355 - 1380) who was a scion of Prithviraj Chauhan of Delhi. It is said that, after death of Prithviraj Chauhan, 1192 A.D., a member of his family named Vishal Deva escaped to Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh and set up a small kingdom. However, Chauhan Raja of Mainpuri was killed by a Yavana ruler of Delhi and his pregnant queen Jayanti Devi fled to Patnagarh in western Orissa with her some followers. She sought asylum with the Bariha, a Binjhal tribal headman of Ramod village, where Ramai Deva was born and later on Ramai Deva was adopted by a local Brahman mullick named Chakradhara Panigrahi. Many Chauhan rulers ruled in Patnagarh kingdom. Among them Vatsarajadeva, Narasingha Deva, Balaram Deva (in Sambalpur), Hira Brajadhar Deva, Prthvisingh Deva and lastly Rajendra Narayan Deva were prominent. Political turmoil had witnesses in the kingdom as wall royal families and intervention of outsiders like the Marathas, British and Sitaram Razu. Many developmental work had done like establishment of Schools, College, literature, Club, Garhs, Bridge, Sarobar etc.

Keywords: *Patnagarh, Gangas, Chauhan rulers, Sambalpur, Garhs, Marathas, British*

Introduction:

The state of Patnagarh in the western Orissa lies between $20^{\circ} 9'$ and $21^{\circ} 4'$ N and between $82^{\circ} 41'$ and $83^{\circ} 40'$ E, and is bounded on the north by the Borasambar zamindari of the Sambalpur district, on the east by the State of Sonepur, on the west by the Zamindari of Khariar belonging to the Raipur district in the Central Province and on the south by the State of Kalahandi.¹ (Patnaik: 1985). Territory constitutes 2,399 miles over an area of 50 miles. It is an undulated plain, rugged and isolated by hill- rangers rising in various directions, a lofty irregular range forming a natural boundary to the north. The soil is for the most part light and sandy. About two-thirds of the whole area is under cultivation, the rest being forests and scrub - jungle.

The main forest area of the state stretches along the western boundary starting from Bangomunda in the Patna State and running parallel with the border of the Khariar Zamindari in the Raipur district and then it runs northward parallel to the Borasambar Zamindari of Sambalpur district.

Prior the advent of the Chauhans, this state had been ruled by many dynasties over centuries such as Somavamsi, Chindaka Nagas, Telugu - Chodas, Kalachuris and Gangas. Thereafter, this state came under the supremacy of Chauhans.

The founder of the Chuhans rule in Patnagarh kingdom was Ramai Deva in about 1360 A.D. who was a scion of Prthviraj Chauhan of Delhi. Legend goes that, after the death and defeat of Prthviraj Chauhan at the hands of Muhammad Ghor in A.D. 1192 A.D. in the second battle of Tarain, a member of his family named Vishal Deva escaped to Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh and set up a small kingdom. However, Chauhan Raja of Mainpuri was killed by a Muslim ruler of Delhi and his pregnant queen Jayanti or Asvavati fled to Patnagarh in western Orissa with some of her followers². (Sahu, Mishra, & Sahu: 1980). She sought asylum with Bariha, a Binjhal tribal headman of Ramod village where she gave birth a male child. Later on the child was named as Ramaya or Ramai Deva because he was handsome, daring, prudent, popular and darling in all. He was adopted by a local Brahman Mullick named Chakradhar Panigrahi. At that time Patnagarh was under the suzerainty of the Gangas of Orissa. After death of the last Ganga viceroy, Kurttivaasa Deva, without any issue, the territory was governed by eight Mullicks. Once he killed a ferocious tiger with his axe and relieved the terror- stricken people. Out of

gratitude, they raised him to the throne of Patnagarh. Ramaideva overthrew the oligarchy of the Mullicks and established the rule of his dynasty at Patnagarh. The Gangas kings at the time were engaged in warfare against the Muslims and did not seem to have taken any serious notice of the political changes in Western Orissa. It had been governed by Asthamalik (Eight Mullicks) or ministers who caused chaos in the area³. (Panda: 1997).

Patnagarh at that time was under the suzerainty of the Gangas of Orissa .The Ganga king Bhanu Deva III was pleased with the charismatic personality of Ramai Deva and as a reward, he got Bhanumati, the daughter of King's brother Samarsingh married to him.⁴ (Sahu & Chopdar:2000)

With the support of Ganga king, Bhanu Deva III, Ramai Deva consolidated the Chauhan kingdom in Patnagarh area and fortified the capital town and constructed there the temple of Goddess Patneswari, who later became the tutelary deity of the Chauhans. Within a brief span of aggressive career, he became the master of eighteen Garhs. The lists of eighteen Garhs (with their old names) were part of the ex-Patna State (Balangir) and Sambalpur State during the Chauhan rule. These Garhs also famously is known as the Garhjat States. They were – Patna, Sumbulpore (Sambalpur), Sonepoor (Sonepur), Bamra, Rehracole (Rairakhol), Gangpoor (Rajgangpur), Boudh, Atmullick, Phooljur, Bunnaee (Bonai), Raigarh , Buragarh (Bargarh) Suktee, Chandarpur, Sarangarh, Bindanawagarh, Khariar, Borasambar (Padampur).

There were 8 kings who ruled over Patnagarh one by one up to the middle of the 16th century after the death of Ramai Deva. His son Mahalingadeva(1380-1385) was succeeded the throne and ruled over Patnagarh for six years. He was succeeded by his son Vatsarajadeva who was followed a policy of war of aggression for the extension of the Chauhan kingdom of Patna. He defeated the Ganga ruler of Bamanda and forced him to present sixteen elephants every year as attributed to him. The rulers of Gangapur, Banai, Baud, Khimadi, Nandapuri and Bastar were also overwhelmed by him and acknowledged his supremacy.⁵ (Op.cit Sahu, Mishra & Sahu: 1980). He also invaded Dhenkanal and plundered the state. He challenged the Ganga ruler Narasimha Deva-IV (1378-1414 A.D.) and lost his life.

Vatsaraja Deva was succeeded by his son Vaijala Deva(1410-1430). According to Narasimhanatha temple inscription, Vaijala Deva constructed the feline incarnation of Narasimha on the Gandhamardan hill on 17th March A.D.1413 and dedicated the village Lohasingha and one hundred cows for the service of the deity ⁶ (Ibid). Vaijala Deva was the contemporary of noted Hindi poet Vidyapati who wrote “Padavalis”. He referred Chandala Devi probably the Chandella Princess.

Vaijala Deva was succeeded by his son Bhojaraja Deva (1430-1455 A.D.) who built fort of Bhojgarh near the Gandhamardan about 19 miles south - west of Padampur. The next ruler of Patnagarh was Pratapmalla or Pratapa Rudra Deva (1455-1480 A.D.). We got his reference in the Nirguna Mahatmaya of poet Chaitanya Dasa. In his work the poet introduces himself as an inhabitant of the village Badamula of Khariar in the kingdom of Patna during the ruler of Prataparudra Deva. Bhupala Deva-I was ruled over Patna for long 20 years (1480-1500 A.D.). Raja Vikramaditya Deva -I(1500-1520 A.D.) came to the throne of Patnagarh and ruled over Patna another 20 years. He conquered Phuljhar from a Baina chief and appointed a Gond Sardar as its ruler. Vaijala Deva-II (1520-1540 A.D.) was succeeded by his father Vikramaditya Deva to the throne of Patnagarh. The Kosalananda Kavya describes him as a saintly king. He was famous his work Sanskrit Grammar, the Vaijal- Karika ⁷ (Ibid & JHSS: 193). After Vaijala Deva –II his son Hiradhara Deva became the king of Patna. Hiradhara Deva was a feudatory of the Raja of Orissa. Hiradhara Deva gave up the throne of Patna in favour of his eldest son Narasimha Deva and appointed his second son Balaram Deva as the commander of the Patna army and himself went to pilgrimage.

In the first half of the 16th century, the Gajapati king Prataprudra Deva died and the civil war started between his sons Ramachandra Deva and Purusottam Deva and his minister Govind Vidyadhar for the crown of Utkala ⁸ (Op.cit Sahu, Mishra & Sahu :1980). Thus, the Gajapati of coastal Orissa had no time to look after in the political affair of the Chauhans of Patnagarh although it was considered part of their domain. Taking advantage of that Narasingha Deva (1540-1547), the son of Hiradhar Deva declared himself independent with the help of his brother Balaram Deva (1570-1577).⁹ (Das:1962) and ruled over Patna. Narasingha Deva (1568-1575), was the last great king of Patnagarh.

Kingdom of Sambalpur was founded by Balaram Deva (1570-1595), during the reign of Narasingha Deva. The event was a turning point in the history of the Chauhans. Many traditions and stories say about the foundation of Sambalpur kingdom. One popular tradition, Balarama Deva got the territory as a reward from Raja Narasimha Deva for his service at the time of the delivery of the Queen. It is said that in stormy night he swam across the flooded river Mayavati to bring a nurse from the other bank. Another tradition as per Jaya Chandrika that a quarrel between Narasimha Deva and Balarama Deva for partition of the kingdom and the dramatic settlement made by their mother who declared shares, Balarama Deva founded the kingdom of Sambalpur in the territory, he got. However, the earlier work, the Kosalananda Kavya describes Balarama Deva was very submissive brother rendering faithful service to Narasimha Deva.

It is believed that, the kingdom of Sambalpur was established out of a military necessity. The western frontier of the Chauhan kingdom was then in danger of invasion by the Kalachuri ruler Kalyan Sahai of Ratnapur. It was probably to counteract the ambitious design of the monarch that Balaram Deva was allowed to consolidate the Chauhan rule on the western front. Balaram Deva was military genius to whom Narasimha Deva sent him to help Gajapati Raja Mukunda Deva when Utkala was invaded by the Muslim in 1568. Balaram Deva also ungrudgingly helped Narasimha Deva in consolidating his kingdom. It is therefore, very probably that Narasimha Deva sent him to check the Kalachuri menace by carving out the semi-independent kingdom of Sambalpur. ¹⁰ (Op.cit Sahu, Mishra & Sahu: 1980)

Initially, Balarama Deva built his headquarters of Baragarh on the bank of the river Jira and later on shifted to Sambalpur on the Mahanadi. He fortified the new capital and erected there a temple for goddess Samalai, the tutelary deity of his family. After that, Balarama Deva vanquished Lakhman Sahai, the weak successor of Kalyana Sahai of Ratnapur who forced to relinquish him Sarangagarh, Raigarh, Baragarh and Sakti. Even Balaram Deva defeated the rulers of Bamanda, Gangpur and Surguja and forced them to acknowledge the suzerainty of Sambalpur. He married a princess of Surguja and brought from the state the Anantasayya image. Kamal Kumari, princess of Gangpur, was another queen of Balarama Deva. ¹¹ (Ibid)

So, with the emergence of Sambalpur kingdom, the hegemony of kingdom of Patnagarh declined and its rulers became subordinate to Sambalpur. Thus, the political barometer began to

shift from Patnagarh to Sambalpur. Raja Narasimha Deva passed away in 1575 and succeeded by his son Hamira Deva (1575-1580) who ruled for only three years. At the time of death of Raja Hamira Deva, his son Pratapa Deva (1595-1620) was a minor. That's why, Balarama Deva sent his Hrdyanarayana Deva (1580-1593) to govern Patnagarh as regent. The ministers of that kingdom, who complained against the interference of Sambalpur were dismissed. The dowager queen became suspicious of the situation and fled to her parental abode Nandapur with her young son. When Hrdayanarayana Deva succeeded to the throne of Sambalpur, after death of Balarama Deva, he brought Pratapa Deva from Nandapur and restored him to the chiefship of Patnagarh. From that time Patna became a vassal state under Sambalpur. ¹² (Ibid).

Pratapa Deva had two sons, the eldest son Vikramaditya-II succeeded him to the throne and the younger son, Gopal Rai obtained the chiefship of Khariar, where he founded a new Chauhan estate. Vikramaditya-II was succeeded by his son Mukunda Deva after whom his son Balarama Deva and the latter's son Hrdesa Deva became rulers of Patna. Hrdesa Deva died leaving his widow wife and two young sons under the guardianship of his younger brother Vatsaraja Singh but due to intention of usurping of throne, Vatsaraja murdered the Rani and endeavoured to kill two princes. However, before he could achieve this, the boys were secretly carried by their maternal uncle to Phuljhar where they were brought up with great care.

The elder prince, Raisingh Deva, after attaining his age, sought the help of the Marathas of Nagapur and succeeded to kill Vatsaraja to get back the kingdom of Patna. As a result, the kingdom was opened out to the depredatory incursions of the Marathas. The reign of Raisingh was long but inglorious. The Maratha of Nagpur had been plundering the kingdom from time to time, before they finally conquered and annexed it to their empire in 1775 A.D. They took the minor ruler Raja Ramachandra Deva as captive to Chanda, citadel of Nagpur and detained him for about 14 years. The young king was released on attaining adulthood and was crowned as the ruler of Patna as a tributary chief under them. Later on, the state of Patna had gone to the British under the rule of the Court of Wards from 1871 to 1893. ¹³ (Ibid). It was during this period that, the present town of Bolangir had been planned and constructed and it was made headquarters of the kingdom of Patnagarh.

Raisingh Deva had three queens of whom the first was without a child, the second gave birth to two sons and the third had only one son named Chandra Sekhar Deva who was the eldest of all and the most favourite of the Raja. The second queen desired that one of her sons should secure the throne in support of the cause. The old king of 84 could not suppress the rising and fled to Sonapur taking with him his grandson Prthvi Singh, the eldest son of Raisingh Deva. He gave a word to the Raja of Sonapur to grant of the estate lying between the Ang and the Suktel in lieu of the protection and the assistance of the latter. So, as per promise, the king of Sonapur secured the estate of proposed areas from Raisingh.

On the other hand, with the flight of Raisingh Deva to Sonapur, the kingdom of Patna plunged into a state of anarchy. The Queens and their partisans quarreled among themselves on the question of succession. Important personalities and respectful persons also felt their life and property unsecured and fled to Sonapur. Raisingh spent three years of exile and died with broken heart there. On the time of his death, he nominated his grandson Prthvisingh Deva, as his successor. After that the ministers and officers of Patna brought back Prthvisingh and installed him on the throne. People were also accepted him due to tire of lawlessness prevailing in the kingdom. However, Chandra Sekhar Deva, father of Prthvisingh was disappointed at the preference given to his son and he retired to Prayag where he spent the rest of his life.

Prthvisingh Deva ruled for only three years and died in 1770. His wife delivered a child posthumously. The prince name was Rama Chandra Deva-II and he became king of Patna from his birth. His mother acted as the regent.

The fate of the kingdom Patnagarh sank low during Ramachandra Deva –II (1770-1820). The kingdom had long since been suffering from anarchy and it needed a strong and powerful government to put an end to the lawlessness. The arrangement of putting a baby on the throne with a weak and inexperienced lady to help him worsened the situation. It encouraged the neighbouring states to meddle in the government of Patna kingdom and paved the way for its foreign conquest.

Due to political anarchy of Patnagarh, Sitaram Raju of Vijayanagaram estate extended his sway over Patna and issued copper plate charters to the holders of the village Bhakti. The Marathas, who had been plundering the country from time to time, conquered and annexed it to

their empire in A.D. 1775¹⁴ (Ibid) They took the minor Raja Rama Chandra Deva-II as captive to Chanda and detained hi there for about fourteen years. The young Raja was released on his attaining of age and was installed on the guddee of Patna as a tributary chief under the Marathas.

In January, 1804, the British conquered Sambalpur – Patna states from the Marathas. But these statuses were restored to the Raja of Nagpur in August, 1806 according to the treaty of Deogaon. Finally, the British reconquered this territory by defeating the Marathas at Sitabaldi on 27th November 1817. ¹⁵ (Ibid)

During the reign of Rama Chandra Deva, the Kandh Zamindar of Atgan named Thakur Majhi rebelled against the Raja and was put to death. His family had taken shelter under the Zamindar of Borasambar. Raja Bhupal Deva restored the Atgan Zamindari to Lokanath Majhi, a descendant of Thakur Majhi. On the death of Lokanath Majhi, his son Dharamsingh Majhi was confirmed in the Zamindari.

In the meanwhile, the Zamindar of Borasambar had a quarrel with the Raja of Patna. According to a convention, the Zamindar of Borasambar was used to put the crown (paga) on the head of the Raja of Patna at the time of coronation ceremony of the latter. For this service, the Zamindar of Borasambar had been enjoying the revenue of three parganas namely, Agalpur, Belpara and Ghasian. However, Raja Bhupal Deva, on the advice of Dewan Balabhadra Rai, confiscated the right of the Zamindar over this parganas. Therefore, Zamindar Ramjal Bariha broke into open rebellion. Raj sent Balabhadra Rai to put down the rebel but the Dewan was defeated and killed in the battle of Badibahal. By getting the news, king himself was preceded to Borasambar but on the way at Gaisilet his gunes were all lost due to fire incident and he was forced to retreat. That's why, he sent Zamindar of Atgan, Dharamsingh Majhi, who defeated the rebel Bariha and brought him to the king. However, Bariha was pardoned and restored his Zamindari. Dharam Singh was honoured with the title of Mandhata and was raised to the status of the Dewan. Dharam Singh gave shelter to Chakra Bisoyee who had rebelled against the British government in 1856. In 1820 and 1827 A.D. Bhupal Deva was granted by the British government separate sanads by virtue of which he became independent of Sambalpur but subordinate to the British authority.

Bhupal Deva had three wives. The pat- Rani gave birth to Hir Bajradhara Deva, the second Rani had no issue and the youngest was the mother of six sons - Vajjala Deva, Ajambara Deva ,

Hamira Deva, Divya Deva, Hatta Hamira Deva and Mukunda Deva who were assigned different estates for their maintenance. Hira Bajradhara Deva was not good relations with his half brothers. So, after death of Bhupal Deva 1848, he protested against the maintenance grants and confiscated the grants when he became the king. As a result, the six brothers jointly petitioned the British government which was effected a compromise and restored about 76 villages to the princess. The eldest of them Vaijala Deva became the Zamindar of Agalpur estate.

During the reign of Hira Bajradhar Deva, the kingdom of Patna was involved in two great rebellions of Orissa against the British. The first was the rebellion of Chakra Bisoyee who organized the Kandhas of Ghumsar and Kandhamal. Chakra Bisoyee fled to western Orissa and took shelter in the Zamindar of Madanpur in Kalahandi. After that, Chakra fled to Patna and he was given shelter by Dharamsingh Mandhata, the Zamindar of Atgan. When the British began to start action against Chakra Bisoyee, he escaped to Paralakhemundi to join there the rebellion of the Sabaras. On the other hand, Zamindar Dharam Singh was arrested and put in prison where he met his end.

The second, most important resistance movement was led by Surendra Sai for the guddee of Sambalpur. In this rebellion, most of the tribal leaders of western Orissa whole heartedly supported him. It seems that Raja Hira Brajadhar Deva of Patna was in surreptitious collusion with him. When Ujjal Sai, one of the brothers of Surendra Sai organized the Kandhas of Patna kingdom, The Raja even helped him. As a result of which, Cockburn, the Commissioner of Cuttack fined the Raja a sum of Rupees one thousand for this negligence to capture the notorious rebel. Rup Singh was sent to Patna to study the situation. Both Rup Singh and the Dewan of Patna, Jhariar Singh persuaded the Raja to detain Ujjal Sai and put forward him to the Government. So, captured Ujjal Sai was hanged at Bolangir without any trial. The Raja was shocked at about the incident and he did not remain faithful in his subsequent activities towards Government. The principal commissioner of Sambalpur reported that the Raja was not cooperated and obeyed orders any case related to his people concerned. Major Impey believed that the capture of Surendra was within the power of Hira Brajadhar Deva. The Raja was again alleged to have give help to Salikram Bariha, another notable leader in the rebel army of Surendra Sai. So, Impey gave out that the “Patna man” would be deprived of his state, if he

would fail to capture the rebel Bariha. Salikram Bariha, however, arrested 1865. By the death of Hira Brajadhar Deva in 1865, the revolution of Sambalpur was completely crushed.

Hira Brajadhar Deva was succeeded by his eldest son, Sur Pratap Deva. The Raja was no so strong to handle and the administration smoothly because he was sensual and lazy and indulged in opium. So, his affairs were in the hands of native mukhtars who frequently abused their power to serve their own ends.

Sur PratapDeva had two brothers named Viswanath Singh and Dalganjan Singh. Viswanath Singh was entrusted with the administration of the Kandhan estate where he became unpopular because of his tyranny and highhandedness. One of his officers murdered Chhinu Bhoi, the Khandha Umrao of Saintala, as the latter refused to pay the land tax. The Kandhas carried the dead body of Chhinu to Patnagarh and protested before the Raja but the Raja did not pay any heed to them.

In 1870 Sur Pratap Deva and his brothers had encamped at Saintala in their way to Kalahandi to attend the wedding ceremony of the daughter of Raja Udit Pratapu Deva of Kalahandi with the Yuvaraj of sonepur. The Kandhas got the opportunity to attack the camp and the royal party escaped to Kalahandi with great difficulty. With their returning time, the Raja brought a number of soldiers who not only suppressed the Khandas but also Kandha leaders were mercilessly murdered and their villages were set fire. One of the Kandha leaders escaped to Sambalpur to inform the government about the happening. The Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur at once investigated the matter and accused the Raja of tyranny and maladministration. Thereafter, Raja Sur Pratap and Viswanath Singh were arrested and kept in confinement at Sambalpur. The state of Patna was placed under the rule of the Court of Wards from 1871 to 1893.¹⁶ (Ibid)

During this period that the present town of Bolangir was planned and constructed and was made the headquarters of the state in place of Patnagarh.

At Sambalpur, Viswanath Singh was blessed with a son who was given the name of Rama Chandra Deva. This boy was adopted by Raja Sur Pratap Deva who had no issue of his body to succeed him. On the death of the Raja in 1878, Rama Chandra Deva was recognized by the

government as the chief of the Patna state. But as he was then a minor boy, the rule of the Court of Wards continued and Rama Chandra Deva was given education at Rajkumar College, Jabulpur, till 1898. After that, he was installed on the guddee of Patna kingdom. He married the sister of Raja Raghu Kesari Deva of Kalahandi. He had only daughter from her who was wedded to the Yuvaraj of Saraikela, Aditya Pratap Singh Deva.

The relation between Rama Chandra Deva and his Rani was not happy. Regarding the trip petition to the government, the Raja was so greatly agitated and shot the Rani and he committed suicide in 1895. So, he was succeeded by his uncle Dalaganjana Singh, the youngest brother of Sur Pratap Deva.

During the reign of Dalaganjana Singh, the administration of Patna state was transferred from Central Provinces to Orissa Division of West Bengal in October 1905. Cobden Ramsasay was appointed as the Political Agent to guide and supervise the administration of all the Garhjat states of Orissa. In 1909, Sir Andrew Fraser, Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, paid a visit to Bolangir. The Fraser Circuit House was built on this occasion.

After death of Dalaganjana Singh, his eldest son Prthviraj Singh succeeded to the guddee of Patna state. Prthviraj Singh was a great builder and an able ruler. He constructed the palace “Badal Mahal” at Bolangir, the Patna palace at Sambalpur, a number of temples in his state and the Wheeler Bridge on the Sonagarh river. He also established the George Literary Club and Prthviraj High School at Bolangir. A large tank named “Gait Sarobar” was excavated by him to commemorate the visit of Sir Edward Gait.

The state Patnagarh was in a declined condition. The original Patnagarh kingdom was divided into four kingdoms i.e. Patna, Sambalpur, Khariar and Sonepur following the family partition of the Chauhan Raja in West Orissa ¹⁷ (Pasayat: 2005)

During the reign of Dalaganjan Singh (1895-1910), the administration of Patna state was transferred from the then Central Provinces to Orissa Division of West Bengal in October, 1905 ¹⁸ (Ibid). Cobden Ramasay was appointed as the political Agent to guide and supervise the administration of all the Garhjat states of Orissa.

Prithviraja Deva (1910-1924) married two wives, Kishorimani Devi and Prema Manjari Devi but neither of them bore him a son. He, therefore, adopted Rajendra Narayan Singh, a son of Raja Aditya Pratap Singh of Saraikela. Rajendra's mother Padmini Kumari Devi, the only daughter of Raja Ramachandra Deva, belonged to the Patna Chauhan family. When Prthviraj died on 12th February 1924, his adopted son Rajendra Narayan Singh was hardly 12 years old. So, the state was governed by Court of Wards for a decade. After attaining prince hood, Rajendra ascended the throne with full suzerain powers handed by Sir John Sifton, the Governor of Bihar and Orissa on 3rd February 1933. ¹⁹ (Ibid).

Rajendra Narayana Singh (1933-1948) was an enlightened ruler and was very popular in his state. For better administration, he formed a small cabinet consisting of a chief minister, a home minister and a revenue minister. He established a college in his name for the promotion of higher education. It was during his time that there was a political reawakening among people in Patna State owing to the impact of the Indian National Movement. Rajendra Narayana Singh introduced all these measures of self-government in his state in order to get the support of his people in his favour when there was a strong movement on the side of the Government of India for the merger of States.

The glorious chapter of the Chauhan's rule in Patnagarh and Sonepur came to an end and these two states merged with the province of Orissa on 1st January, 1948 ²⁰(Merger of princely states -144-166).

List of Chauhan rulers of the Patna state -

- Raja Ramai Deva (1355-1380 AD)
- Raja Mahalinga Deva (1380-1385AD)
- Raja Vatsaraja Deva (1385-1410 AD)

- Raja Vaijala Deva I (1410-1430 AD)
- Raja Bhojaraj Deva (1430-1455 AD)
- Raja Pratap Rudra Deva I (1455-1480 AD)
- Raja Bhupal Deva I (1480-1500 AD)
- Raja Vikramaditya Deva I (1500-1520 AD)
- Raja Vaijal Deva II (1520-1540 AD)
- Raja Bajra Hiradhara Deva (1540-1570 AD) (Had two sons, Narasingh Deva and Balaram Deva, who later founded the Sambalpur Kingdom)
- Raja Narsingh Deva (1570-1577 AD)
- Raja Hamir Deva (1577-1581 AD)
- Raja Pratap Deva II (1581-1587 & 1600-1620 AD) (Between 1587-1600 it was looked after by Hridaya Narayan Deva, son of Sambalpur Raja Balaram Deva)
- Raja Vikramaditya Deva II (1620-1640 A.D) (His younger brother Gopal Rai was made the Raja of Khariar)
- Raja Mukunda Deva (1640-1670 AD)
- Raja Balaram Deva (1670-1678 AD)
- Raja Hrdesha Deva (1678-1685 AD)
- Raja Raisingh Deva (1685-1762 AD)
- Raja Chandra Sekhara Deva
- Raja Prthvirajsingh Deva (1762-1765 AD)
- Raja Ramachandra Deva I (1765 - 1820 AD)
- Raja Bhupal Deva (1820-1848 AD) (His brother Maharaj Yuvraj Singh Deo was granted the estate of Jhariasingh in 1765)
- Maharaja Hiravajra Singh Deva (1848-1866 AD)
- Maharaja Sur Pratap Singh Deva (1866-1878 AD)
- Maharaja Rama Chandra Singh Deva II (1878-1895 AD)
- Maharaja Dalaganjan Singh Deva (1895-1910 AD)
- Maharaja Prithviraj Singh Deva (1910-1924 AD)
- Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deva (1933-1948 AD)
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Conclusion:

The Chauhans rule from (1360-1948) witnessed a longest dynastic rule in Patnagarh kingdom. It was a glorious period in the galaxy of dynastic rule of western Orissa that many developmental works had been done by the rulers regarding administration, education, literature, expansion of empire and many public works. Growth and development of Chauhans art and architecture was an epoch making contribution of the Chauhans rulers like erection of Patneswari temple, Sambaleswari temple, Astasambhu temples, Narasimhanath temple etc. Though the Gangas, Marathas, British and neighbouring rulers casted their temptation eyes on the Patnagarh kingdom and in the stream of timeline they relapsed away but the Chauhans continued their stability and ruled over this area till the merger of princely states in Indian union 1948.

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