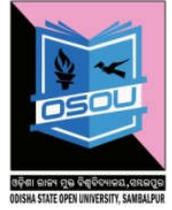

UNIT-1 THE IMPERIAL GANGAS



Structures

- 1.0. Learning Objectives
- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Vajrahasta-V
- 1.3 Rajarajadeva
- 1.4 Chodagangadeva
 - 1.4.1 Conquest of Vengi
 - 1.4.2 Occupation of Utkala
 - 1.4.3 Invasion of Bengal
 - 1.4.4 Struggle with the Kalachuris
 - 1.4.5 Again the Chola defeated
 - 1.4.6 Transfer of Capital
 - 1.4.7 Construction of Forts
 - 1.4.8 Construction of Temple
 - 1.4.9 Religion
- 1.5 Successor of Chodagangadeva
- 1.6 Anangabhimadeva-III
 - 1.6.1 War with Kalachuris
 - 1.6.2 Conquest of Bengal by Muslims
 - 1.6.3 Annexation of Chola Empire.
 - 1.6.4 Religion
- 1.7 Narasimhadeva-I
 - 1.7.1 War and Conquest
- 1.8 Bhanudeva-I
- 1.9 Narasimhadeva-II
- 1.10 Bhanudeva-II
- 1.11 Narasimhadeva-III
- 1.12 Bhanudeva-III
- 1.13 Narasimhadeva-IV
- 1.14 Bhanudeva-IV
- 1.15 Causes of downfall of the Imperial Gangas
- 1.16 Ganga Administration
- 1.17 Art & Architecture
- 1.18 Let us Sum up
- 1.19 Key words
- 1.20 Answers to check your progress exercise

1.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit you will be able to;

- Understand the establishment of Ganga rule in Odisha and their contributions to the making of Odia culture.
- Know the contributions of Chodagangadeva and his achievements
- Have an idea of the socio-religious and economic condition of Odisha under the imperial Ganga rule.
- Comprehend the political institutions and administrative apparatus of Odisha under the imperial Ganga.
- Realise the development of Art & Architecture during the Ganga rule in Odisha

1.1 INTRODUCTION

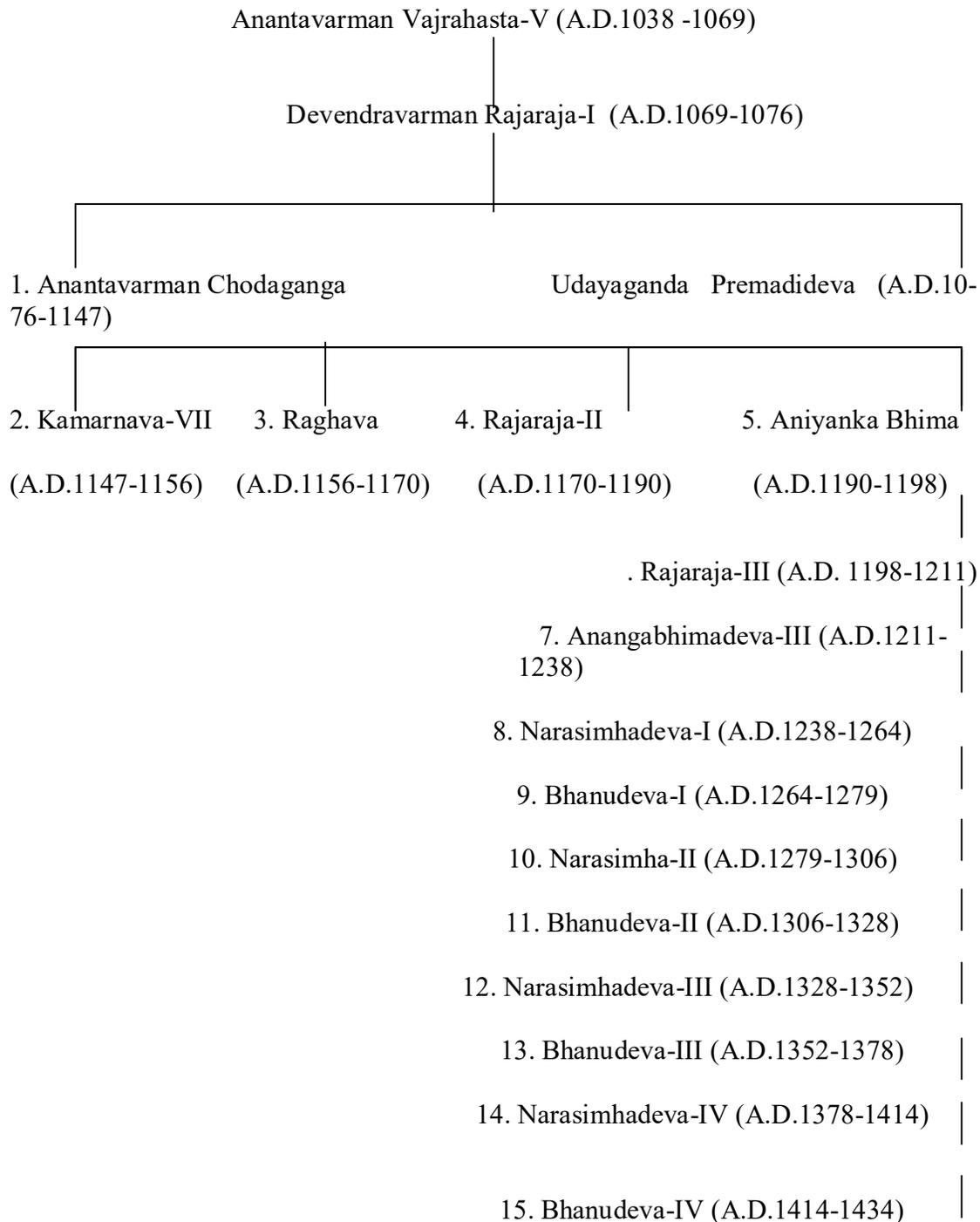
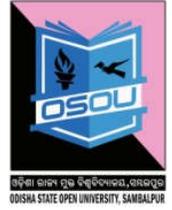
With the Advent of Imperial Gangas another important phase of Odishan History began. Their period of rule is a glorious epoch. It is an era of vigorous imperial war and conquests, of political activities and sound administration, and a period of cultural attainments. The early Gangas known as Eastern Gangas established their rule over Kalinga towards the end of the 5th century A.D. They were confined in that kingdom as petty power till the coronation of Vajrahasta-V in 1038 A.D.

Sources: To reconstruct the history of imperial Gangas the following source material such as Draksharama inscription, Kenduli plate, Kornu copper plate charter, Nagari copper plate, Kendupatna copper plate, Sri Mandira, Bhonaki Kanchipuram, and Chaudwar inscriptions etc. Besides archaeological sources some literary sources, like Madalapanji, Tabaqat -i-Naisiri of Minhaj-us-Siraj, Tarikh-i-Frirazsahi, Ramacharita of Sandhyakaranandi, Jayagondar's Kalingattuparani also throw ample information about Ganga rule in Odisha.

1.2 VAJRAHASTA –V (A.D. 1038-70)

Vajrahasta-V is considered the first Ganga sovereign. He was the son of Kamarnav-II and Vinayamahadevi, the queen mother who belong to Vaidumba family. His coronation took place in Saka era 960(1038 A.D.) His most important political achievement was that of uniting the five branches of the Ganga family ruling at Stetaka- Kalinga, GiriKalinga, Ambavadi, and Hinguli-Kalinga with the main branch of Kalinganagara. Vajrahasta-V overthrew the yoke of Somavamsis servitude and assumed the imperial epithets Paramabattaraka Maharajadhiraja, Paramamaheswara,

and Trikalingadhipati in the charter issued during his reign. Vajrahasta is known to have issued as many as seven charters. He consolidated the state of Gangas. because of the prevailing political situation when the Somavamisand eastern Chaluleyas were posing great threats against the Gangas Kindom. Vajrahasta-V to counteract this situation established a matrimonial alliance with Kalachuris who were then a raising power of Kosala.





1.3 RAJARAJADEVA-A.D (1070-1076)

Rajarajadeva succeeded his father Vajrahasta-V in A.D. 1070. He was a warlike ruler and always busy curbing the power of the Somavamsis of Utkala in the north and the Chalukyas of Vengi in the south. According to the description in the Dirghasi inscription, his commander Vanapati inflicted a terrible defeat on the kings of Utkala Janmejaya-II. He also brought political control over the kings of Chola, Khimidi, Kosala, and Vengi. After the defeat of RajendraChola-II, the king of Vengi Rajaraja married Rajasundari daughter of Chola monarch Virarajendra. Rajaraja died in 1076 and after his premature death, his worthy son succeeded him in 1076 A.D.

1.4 CHODAGANGADEVA (A.D. 1078-1147)

At the time of the death of Rajarajadeva, Chodagangadeva was only two years old. His younger brother Paramardieva was just a small boy. The two years old boy Chodagangadeva was crowned king at Kalinganagara in 1076 but his reign start from 17th February 1078 A.D.He inherited from his father a very vast country.

1.4.1. Conquest of Vengi

The Ganga kingdom at the time of the accession of Anantavarman was surrounded by powerful states and it was a very difficult task before the young king to either defend or extend the inherited kingdom. RajendraChola the most powerful king of the south was re-organising the kingdom of Vengi who appointed strong Governors in the kingdom of Vengi for the defence of the kingdom in the northern boundary.

His second son Mummudi Choda from 1076 A.D, his third son Virachoda from A.D. 1078-1084, Rajaraja Chodaganga from 1084-1089, again Virachoda from 1089-1092 and finally Vikramachoda from 1092-1118 A.D. Virachoda started developing cordial relations with Kalinga, Kulottunga was very much displeased with Virachoda for that, the relations between Ganga and Cholas was strained despite that, Virachoda gave marriage his daughter Rajasundari with Rajaraja-I. As a result, Virachoda was replaced by his younger brother Vikramachoda. Virachoda thereafter married his daughter Chodadevi to the Ganga emperor Chodagangadeva and took shelter in Kalinga. That became the issue of the Vengi-Kalinga war.

The war started between Kalinga and Vengi are known as the first Vengi-Kalinga war in 1093-94 AD. This war resulted in the loss of territory of Chodagangadeva to Vengi. The southern part of Kalinga was occupied by Cholas. Chodaganga did not lose heart in this loss and recovered the entire region from the control of Cholas in the Second Vengi Kalinga war that took place in the year 1110 A.D. This war was fought very

seriously by both sides. After this war, Chodaganga extended his kingdom up to the Godavari River in the south. According to the Tamil Poem Kalingattuparani, the cause of the war was the non-payment of dues by Kalinga. The poem was written by Jayagonder, the court poet of Kulotunga Chola. So, there may be some authenticity in the account. In the war, Kalinga suffered heavy damages Chodaganga occupied Vengi and annexed it into Ganga Empire.

1.4.2 Occupation of Utkala

Chodaganga like his father cherished the ambition of conquering the entire Odisha. After dealing with the south, he diverted his attentions to the north. Ramapala became a powerful king of Bengal. Ramapala's general Jayasingha ousted the Somavamsis ruler Karnadeva as has been shown in the Ratnagiri copper plate grant. Chodaganga immediately reversed the situation by helping Karnadeva to regain his throne. Chodaganga has no benevolent motives behind his help but was seeking an opportunity to annex the entire Somavamsi kingdom with his own kingdom. The opportunity was provided by Vasudeva, the commander in chief of Karnadeva the last Somavamsi's king and ultimately Chodagangadeva occupied Utkala in about 1110 A.D.

1.4.3 Invasion of Bengal

Chodaganga was known as an imperialist in history. After the occupation of Utkala, he led an invasion against the Palas of Bengal. The situation was also favourable to him. Ramapala had died in 1120 AD. And his successors Kumarapala and Gopala-III were weak. Without losing time, Chodaganga occupied Dandibhukti. From there he led invasions against Garh-Mandara which is identified with Arambagh of Hooghly district. The whole of Vanga came under his dominion. He appointed Samantasena as his feudatory in Vanga. He became the founder of Sena dynasty.

1.4.4 Struggle with the Kalachuris

Chodaganga occupied the entire coastal trip of Odisha but many of the territories of Somavamsis rule remained unconquered. He thus attempted to occupy these territories of the western frontier of Odisha comprising Sambalpur, Sonepur, and Bolangir tracts. At the time Chodaganga conquering Odisha this tract was under the control of the Kalachuris of Ratnapur. So Chodaganga immediately waged a war against Ratnadeva-II the Kalachuri king, but unfortunately he was defeated in the war. The Sambalpur and Sonepur region continued to be in the possession of Kalachuri till the reign of Anangabhima-III. In the course of the war with the Kalachuris Purusottama the commander of Ratnadeva-II occupied Khijinga (Mayurbhanga) and Dandabhukti (Midnapore). But Chodagangadeva subsequently recovered these territories.

1.4.5. Again, the Cholas defeated



The struggle with the Chola did not end. Chodaganga made an alliance with the Chalukya king Somevara-III against the Cholas. The combined army of Ganga-Chalukyan army was defeated by Vikrama Chola in about 1133 A.D. It was a remarkable success for the Cholas. This became the second defeat the Chodaganga inherited the capital Kalinganagara identified with Mukhalingam in the Srikakulam district of Andhrapradesh.

1.4.6. Transfer of capital

After the occupation of Odisha he shifted his capital to Cuttack which is the most centrally located for the smooth administration of the vast empire. In this new capital, the Gangas ruled for fourteen generations.

1.4.7. Construction of Forts

Chodagangadeva beside the fort of Cuttack built many strong forts in Odisha such as Jajpur fort, Amaravati fort (Near Chhatia) Choudwar fort, and Sarangagarh fort near (Baranga). Another fort is known as Kasiagarh about six miles in perimeter with walls of 10 feet thickness built out of sandstone and with big gates still exists in a ruined condition in the Chandaka to Khurda. This fort meant for the temporary residence of the soldiers is said to have been built by Chodagangadeva.

1.4.8. Construction of temples

Chodagangadeva is remembered in the history of Odisha not only a great warrior but also a great builder of the imperial Ganga structure. He built the magnificent temple for Lord Jagannath at Puri. Madalapanji records a tradition that the great-grandson of Chodagangadeva, king Anangabhimadeva-III built the present temple. But according to the statement of Ganga copperplate grant, it is said that Chodagangadeva built this famous monument. Besides this monument, Chodagangadeva is credited as the builder of the Vishnu temple at Mukhalingam, Srikarman, and Simachalam. He also built many temples in villages.

1.4.9. Religion

Chodagangadeva was a devout Saiva like his forefather in his early life but after the occupation of Utkala, he become the devotee of Lord Jagannath. He visited Drakshrama on the bank of river Godavari in 1128 with his queens. All queens offered donations to Bhimesvara at Draksharama which indicates the Chodaganga was a sincere devotee of Siva. In his Vizagapattam grant, he declared himself as *Paramavaishnava*. It is said that by some Cholars that Ramanuja converted him to Vaishnavism which seems to be baseless as Ramanuja remained in Hayasala Kingdom till 1122 A.D. He had a liberal mind towards religions.



1.4.10. An Estimate

Chodagangadeva was a powerful king, wise statesman, and a veteran military general. He came as an invader and became the first citizen of the invaded country. A long rule for more than seven decades without any marked internal disturbances speaks of the efficiency of the Ganga administration. The victories over enemy countries exhibit the irresistible might of the Odishan army. Chodaganga improved the military system and enhanced its power by constructing number of strong forts at strategical places of the kingdom. Famous among these were Jaipur, Amaravati, Chaudwar, Kataka, Varanasikataka, Sarangagarh, Kasaigarh.

The Ganga army was famous for its elephant crops. Having been the possessor of thousands of elephants Chodagangadeva adorned himself with the lofty title *Navanavati Sahasra Kunja Radhesvara*. The Dasgoba plates of Rajaraja-III, the Ragolu plate, the Nagari plate, and the Odishanmuseum plates of Anangabhimadeva narrate the personal as well as the statesmanship qualities of Chodagangadeva in glowing terms. These grants in their prasasti (eulogy) portion proclaim his proficiency in the *Vedas, Kavyas*, and *Sastras*. His *nipunata* in *sastra* probably relate to his proficiency in the polity.

Chodaganga was himself a great fighter. Regarding his heroism *kendupatna plates* speak “before a drop of blood from his body could fall on the ground as a result of the enemy’s weapon stroke, he would see that enemy was prostrate on the ground with his limbs severed into many pieces”. He has been described in the *Nagari plates* as the foster child of Goddess Saraswati which suggests his deep inclination towards learning and literature.

Chodagangadeva was a great builder. Besides the sky-scraping temple of Jagannath, he is known to have built few minor temples at Mukhalingam, Srikurmam and many other places. A number of inscriptions record his generous donations to Gods, temples, brahmins, and other distinguished persons. Chodagangadeva was the most powerful king in eastern India at that time. A small kingdom under his paternal care soon assumed the form of an empire. The people of Odisha owed a debt of gratitude to this celebrated Ganga monarch for his contribution in the cultural and political spheres.

1.5 SUCCESSORS OF CHODAGANGADEVA

Kamarnava, the eldest son by his wife Kasturikamodini succeed Chodaganga. His name also appears in some grants as Jatesvara or Jatesvaradeva. Kamarnava continued the unfinished war with the Kalachuris but became unsuccessful. He was a lover of culture, religion and performed the Tulabharam ceremony to distribute the gold of

equal weight of his body among the Brahmins. He had built the Jatesvara Siva temple at Choudwar. He died in 1157 A.D.

Kamarnava's younger brother, Raghava born from Indiradevi, another queen of Chodagangadeva came on the Ganga throne in 1157 A.D. He had to face the invasions of Valantic chief Gonka-II of Vengi in the south and Vijayasena of Bengal in the north. He lost a part of south Kalinga to Gonka-II. Two of his inscriptions dated in his 9th *anka* are found on the Jagamohana of the Lingaraj Temple of Bhubaneswar. He died childless in 1170 A.D.

After Raghava's death his brother Rajaraja-II succeeded the throne, he was the son of queen Chandralekha. He recovered the territory between Simachalam to the Godavari River. However, it was re-conquered by the Valanti chief of Vengi Prithvisvra. He made Rajaraja his vassal. He married Suramadevi, sister of Svapneswaradeva who built Meghaswara temple of Bhubaneswar and he died in 1190 A.D.

After Rajaraja-II, His brother Anangabhimadeva-II ascended the throne. He constructed the Sobhaneswara temple of Niali in the Prachi valley and he died in 1198 A.D.

The reign of the son and successor of Anangabhimadeva-II, Rajaraja-II (1198-1211) was a period of far-reaching political effects in the history of India. The Muslim rule was established in India by Mohammad of Ghor after the defeat and death of Prithviraj Chauhan in the second battle of Tarain. In 1192 A.D. in 1198 A.D., Mohammad Bakhitayar Khiliji invaded Bengal and established Muslim rule in Lakhnauti as the capital. He deputed the two Sheran brothers Muhammad-i-Sheran and Ahmed-i-Sheran to invade Jajnagar (Odisha) in 1205 A.D. Minhaj-us-Siraj, the Muslim historian stated that the two brothers came back without achieving any success. On the other hand, the inscription of Odishan general Monkana Chamunath at Draksharama describes the victory obtained at ease by Rajaraja against the king of Gouda and Gaijjana. The Chatesvara temple inscription describes him as Rajendra. He died in 1211 AD.

1.4. ANANGABHIMADEVA-III

Anangabhimadeva-III ascended the throne in 1211 A.D. He was a warrior king and during his time he fought battles against the Kalachuris of Ratnapura and the Muslims of Bengals.

1.6.1 War and conquests:- War with Kalachuris

Anangabhimadeva-III decided to initiate war against the Kalachuris first as a token of revenge for the defeat of Chodagangadeva and his son. The main cause of the conflict of the Ganga rulers with Kalachuris was the possessions of Sonepur areas. It is claimed in the Kalachuris epigraphic records that Ratnadeva-II and Prithvideva-II defeated Chodaganga and his son Madhu-Kamarnava respectively. The venue of the

war was *Seorinarayan* on the left bank of the river Mahanadi in Bilaspur district Chhatisgarh. During the reign of Anangabhimadeva-III he successfully defended his state against the king of Tummana (The capital of Kalachuris) Vishnu the Brahmins minister of Anangabhimadeva-III frightened the Kalachuris and ultimately defeated them. The long-cherished desire of Anangabhimadeva could be materialised by his gifted minister. The Kalachuri records are silent about their defeat but the local tradition recorded in the Madalapanji the Jagannath temple chronicles is very clear about the victory of Ananga Bhimadeva-III. Sonepur region was annexed with Odisha by him. The long-standing conflict between the Gangas since the days of Chodaganga and Kalachuris came to an end. Anangabhimadeva after this gave his accomplished daughter Chandrika (Chandrikadevi) in marriage to Prince Paramardideva of Tummna. Since then, the Gangas and Kalachuris made joint venture in fighting against the Muslim forces of North India.

1.6.2. Conquest of Bengal by Muslims

Ghiyasa-ud-din Iwaz, who was appointed Nawab of Bengal by Iltutmish in 1215 A.D; asserted independence after consolidating his power shortly after. The Tabaqat-i-Nasiri of Minhaj-us-Siraj stated that he started that exacting tribute from Jainagar (Odisha) but no invasion against Odisha is referred to any other work. On the other hand, the Chatesvara temple inscription describes that Anangabhimadeva had a severe war with the Yavanas (Muslim of Bengal) and his general Vishnu crushingly defeated them. It is corroborated by the Ananta Vasudeva temple inscription of Chandrikadevi, the daughter of Anangabhimadeva-III.

1.6.3 Annexation of Chola Empire

In the meanwhile, the power Chola empire started disintegrating very fast due to the war of successor. The Katakia king Ganapati extended his empire upto the Chola Empire. Anayabhimadeva-III took advantage of the situation and directed his army against Chola Kingdom. He marched upto Kanchipuram. The delta region of the Krishna River came under him. At this critical period, the Hayasala king Narsimha-II entered Kanchipuram to rescue the Chola king Rajaraja-III, his father- in-law. When Anangabhimadeva was busy dealing with the Chola king his queen Somaladevi recorded a valuable gift on the walls of the Allanath in the city recently conquered by her husband. This inscription indicates the extent of the Ganga Empire from Ganga in the north of river Krishna in the South under Anangabhimadeva-III. Anangabhimadeva seems to have been defeated by the Kakatiya king Ganapati of Warangal and Anangabhimadeva-III had to cede the territories now known as East Godavari district. Thus, by the end of 1230 Anangabhimadeva-III was in possession of a vast territory.

1.6.4. Religion

Anangabhimadeva has described himself as *Sri Purusottamaputra, Rudraputra, Durgaputra, and Routa* (deputy) in Drakshram inscription (1216 A.D.) Whereas in the Arun-perumal temple inscription of Kanchipuram he is described as the son and deputy of Purusottam only. The ideal of deputy is maintained thereafter. It is found in the inscription of Puri 1237 A.D., and Lingarajtemple 34 anka. The Nagari plate 1231 A.D. recorded the construction of a Purusottama temple at his capital Abhinaba Varanasi Kataka. He also built the Siva temples of Chitresvara and Visvesvara on the bank of Mahanadi. He was credited with the erection of a large number of temples in Sambalpur-Sonepur regions. He granted land and gifts for worship and perpetual lamps to the temples of Kanchipuram Srikurmam, and Simachalam Puri, Abhinava Varanasi Kataka, and Bhubaneswar. He was a great devotee of Purosottama but showed high regard to Saiva and sakta deities. He was a liberal donor. Besides large numbers of *ghats* to deities, he made numerous donations to Brahmins. He performed such great yagna like *Tulapurusha* and *Hiranyagarbha*.

Anangabhimadeva's time was both eventful and glorious. He rounded up the Odishan Empire with the annexation of western tract and maintained its security and integrity defeating the Kalachuris. He was a great conqueror and an able administrator. He was also a great patron of art and architecture religion and culture. He made Lord Purusottamaan imperial symbol which become the unifying and integrating force of Odisha.

1.6.5. An Estimate of Anangadeva-III

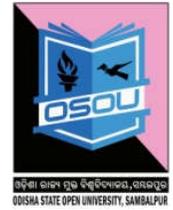
Anangabhimadeva-III was a powerful king. He was a devout worshipper of Lord Purusottama Jagannatha. But like his Predecessor. He had equal regard for Saivism, Saktism, and other religious cults. He is known to have granted lands and made gifts for the worship and burning of perpetual lamps to the temples of Kanchipuram, Srikurmam, Draksharama, Puri, Abinavavaranisikataka and Bhubaneswara.

He was a renowned builder. He is known to have built a temple of Purusottama and Siva temples namely Visveswara and Chitresvara in his new capital. An old bricks temple of Balasore in the village Tirintana near Balipatna is traditionally ascribed to him. He was as famous as a builder of temples that the erection of a large number of temples in the Sambalpur-Sonepur tract was traditionally ascribed to him. Famous among them are Bimaleswara temple of Huma, Kapileswara temple of Charada, Jagannath temple of Tamparsara and Des Kumbhari, Mahakaleswara temple of Vidyanath, Through it is known by the historical evidence that he was not the builder of these temples.

He was a philanthropist as well as a man of disposition. He had performed *Tulapurushadana* , *Hiranygar bhadana* sacrifices and made numerous gifts of lands to

the learned Brahmins. From the Chatesvara temple inscription it is learned that he had constructed roads and dug wells for public utility.

The Nagari plates describe that he was discharging his religious obligations following the prescription of *Dharma* and *Nitisastra*, *Mahabharata* and many *Puranas*. The *Srikurmam* inscription depicts him *Sakalakalapravina* i.e. adept in all arts. The Bhubaneswar Inscription depicts him as *Sakalavidyavijjanalankara* i.e. adornment of all branches of learning. The Arualperumal inscription informs that Anangabhimadeva-III became free from the evil effect of the *Kali* age by observing *Ekadasivrataraja* (The king of vratas). At the same time, he was a great warrior, an able administrator, an ideal king, a liberal donor, and a personality of the Odishan kingdom.



1.7. NARASIMHADEVA-I

The worthy son Narasimhadeva of the worthy father Anangabhimadeva-III ascended the Ganga throne in 1238 A.D. He is otherwise known as *Langula Narasimhadeva* either for his dress or his extensive kingdom in the Odishan tradition. His father left to his son the legacy for fighting with the Muslims of neighbouring countries. His mother was Kasturidevi.

1.7.1 War and conquest

The Delhi Sultanate was passing through a critical time during his region. After the death of Sultan Iltutmish in 1236 A.D. A series of wars and succession and frequent changes of Sultans of Delhi continued for a pretty long time. The authority of Delhi became weak. It encouraged the Governors and Nawabs under the Sultanate to assert independence. Tughral Tughan Khan, the Nawab of Bengal, took full advantage of the weakness of the central authority and started strengthening his position.

The rise of Tughral Khan in Bengal alarmed Narasimhadeva. Gradually he realised the political gravity and ultimately embraced an aggressive war against Bengal without waiting for their attack on him.

Narasimhadeva appeared on the frontiers of Bengal at the head of the standing army towards the end of 1243 A.D. Tughral Khan in no way was a match to Narasimhadeva. Tughral suddenly rose to the occasion and moved his army against Narasimha upto Kathasimha in Midnapore. The Odishan army was taking rest in this place surrounded by cane bushes and jungle for strategic defence. Tughral Khan wanted to storm the fort and to occupy it did not find anybody there as the Odia soldiers hide in the jungle. They suddenly fell upon the Muslim army when the later was engaged in their mid-day meal, many Muslim soldiers were captured. Tughral saved his life by flight. Narasimhathen captured Lakhnauti, the second capital of Muslim Bengal along with

the district of Howrah, Hooghly, Bankura and Birbhum in 1244 A.D. Minhaj-al-Siraj, the author of *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri* who was present in the spot gave an elaborate history of the defeat of Bengal in this war. The ruler of Bengal after and defeat made an appeal to Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud Shah of Delhi for immediate help against the Ganga ruler. The Sultan directed Qamurddin Tamur Khan, the governor of Oudh to come to help of Bengal. But the army of Oudh was not any help to Bengal. This was came to an end in 1244A.D. Narasimhadeva made a determined attempt to capture Lakhnauti the capital of Muslim Bengal in the next year 1245. A.D. At the head of an army, he besieged Lakhnauti. He heard of the approach of a vast army of Muslims led by Governor of Manipur and Oudh and then he withdrew his army to his newly acquired territory of Lakhnauti the headquarter of Radha. The success of Narasimhadeva in the two campaigns was commendable. When the Hindu kings were perturbed at the Muslim invasion, Narasimha won victories by following aggressive and offensive warfare. He looted both Radha and Varendra the two divisions on either side of the Ganga. The Kendupatana plate of Narasimha-II describes that the white water of the Ganga was blackened for a great distance by the collyrium flowing down in the tears of the weeping *Yavanis* of Radha and Varendra and was changed into the black water of Yamuna astounding achievement of that monarch (Narasimha)

The hero of military operations, according to Minhas was Sabantar, the general of Ganga army. Sabantar was a variant of Samantaraya and referred to Paramardideva, the Haihayaprince and the brother-in-law (Chandrika's husband) of Narasimha. The Anantavasudevatemple inscription stated that the valiant Paramardideva went himself either in fury to conquer them and threw with full display of glory.

The Odisha-Bengal war started vigorously in 1247 A.D. After Yuzbak became the Nawab of Bengal in 1246 A.D. In *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri*, it is stated that Yuzbak was successful in two encounters but he was defeated terribly in the third. Narasimha-I looted enough wealth and took away a white elephant from Yuzbak with the forces of Delhi Sultanate which came to his help subsequently. Yazbak renewed an attack against Odisha. He marched upto fort Umardan (Garh Mardhan) and captured it in 1255 A.D. However, shortly after internal disturbance made Yuzbak withdraw forces. Midnapore, Howrah, and Hooghly were annexed into Ganga Empire.

In the *Ekavali* of Bidyadhara composed in Narasingh's time, the Muslims of Bengal are variously called Saka, Yavana, and Hamira, and Narasimha-I as *Yavanavani-Vallabha*, the Lord of Yavana Kindom who defeated the Hamiras in the war.

The Lingaraj temple inscription tells us that Narasimha-I also defeated king Ganapati of the mighty Kakatiya dynasty of Andhrapradesh. Narasimha-I was a great builder. The gigantic and massive temple of the sun god at Konark marks the most perfect and artistic state of Odishan art and architecture. Like his father, he was described himself as *Paramamaheswara*, *Durgaputra*, *Purusottamaputra* and followed the ideal of

deputy kingship by calling himself a Routa of Lord Purosottama. He also granted land to gods and Brahmanas and performed the great *Tulapurushadana*. He kept intact the integrity of the territory of the empire.

1.7.2 An Estimate Narasimhadeva-I

Narasimhadeva-I was a great king and a successful military general of his age. He declared in the *Kapilas* inscription that he curbed the pride of his enemies by the might of his arms at the command issued from the feet of Lord Jagannath.

Naraasinghadeva-I built the Saiva temple at Kapilasa. The Lingaraj temple inscription mentions Sadasivaguru as the preceptor of Narasimhadeva-I. A monastery was constructed by Sadashivaguru in *Ekambra* kshetra where an arrangement of food and settlement for the ascetics from *Radha* and *Gauda* was made.

Narasimhadeva -I like his father; he followed the deputy, ideal of kingship. He also called himself a *Routa* and son of Purusottama. He also regarded Purosottama as the Lord of the Kingdom. Siva was the family deity and Purusottama was the state deity. He accepted Sun God as his personal God and erected a massive monument made up of fine-grained granite stone at Konark in honour of the deity. It is not only famous for its stupendous size but also for its sophistication, delicate carvings, and artistic beauty.

Narasimhadeva -I was a promoter of learning and patron of learned scholars. He performed *Tulapurusedana*. He granted lands to the temples for the worship of the gods and made gifts to the Brahmins. He was the first among all Ganga kings to adopt the honourable title of Gajapati which was followed by the kings of his family and Suryavamsis kings as a symbol of strength and power. His period of reign witnessed remarkable progress in the field of administration, art, and architecture, religion, and learning.

1.8 BHANUDEVA-I A.D. 1264-1278

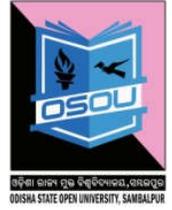
Bhanudeva-I was the son of Narasimhadeva-I born of queen Sitadevi. He inherited a vast empire in which he maintained sound administration. He was a patron of Vaishnavite saints like Narahari Teertha, the disciple of Anand Teertha. Though a saintly person he was appointed in Kalinga as Governor with designation of “Mandalika”. Bhanudeva-I, liberally patronised scholarly Brahmanas granting them tax free land.

1.9 NARASIMHADEVA-II (1278 -1306) A.D

Narasimhadev-II was an infant at the time of the death of his father. Acharya Narahari Tirtha worked as regent for the baby for twelve years. Srikurmanath temple inscription reveals that Narasimhadeva-II fought against the Muslim ruler of Bengal. It is said that



Acharya Narahari Tirtha obtained the images of Rama and Sita from the young king as gifts and left Odisha after Narasimha attained the majority.



1.10 BHANUDEVA-II (A.D.-1306-1328)

After the death of Narasimha-II his son, Bhanudeva-II came to the throne in 1306 A.D. His mother was queen Chodamahadevi. Bhanudeva like his father has also been referred to in some inscriptions found at Srikurmanath and Simanchalam. The main event of his reign was the invasion of Odisha by Ulugh Khan, famous as Mahammad-Bin-Tughlaq. Ulugh Khan took away forty elephants and a huge treasury from Odisha, the failed to sub-duct the Ganga king of Odisha completely.

1.11 NARASIMHA DEVA-III (A.D. 1328-1352)

Narasimha Deva-III, the son, and successor of Bhanudeva-II had developed hostile relation with the Reddy Kingdom of Rajamundry, Vijayanagar Empire was founded by Harihara and Bukka in 1336, and Bahamani kingdom was founded by Bahaman Shah in 1347.

1.12 BHANUDEVA-III (A.D. 1352-1378)

The Ganga kingdom was fast deteriorating the reign of Bhanudeva-III and he did not face venture to face the external danger through wars. The principal event during his reign was the Odisha invasion of the Sultan Firoz Shah Tughluq in 1361 A.D. King Bukkaraya of Vijayanagar deputed his nephew to attack Odisha at this time. He defeated Bhanudeva and occupied the southern territories of the Ganges to Vijayanagar, Samsuddin of Bengal inflicted a raid on Odisha and captured few elephants and returned to Bengal. These invasions are just passing clouds on the sky of Odisha. After the return of Firoz Shah with plenty of presentations including the elephant, Bhanudeva-III continued to enjoy power till his death in 1378 A.D.

1.13 NARASINGHADEVA-IV (1378-1414 A.D.)

The Sharqi Sultan of Jaunpur Khwajah-i Jahan attacked Odisha in the last decade of 14th century A.D. It was the nature of the looting raid. The Reddy of Rajamundry attacked Odisha. Kumaragiri Reddy's General, Katayavema occupied *Kataka Churakara*. Another general of Devaya again defeated the Ganga army in 1398 A.D. The Muslim and Reddy invasions weakened the royal power of the Gangas.

1.14 BHANUDEVA-IV (1414-1435 A.D.)

Bhanudeva-IV was the last ruler of the Ganga dynasty. He was the son of Narasimhadeva-IV and Queen Tara. The Reddy kingdom declined after its division into two branches, Kondavidu and Rajahmundry. The kingdom Vijayanagar and Bahamani were engaged in serious fighting. Bhanudeva took the opportunity of the situation and invade Kondavidu with the interference of Devaraja of Vijayanagara a treaty of peace was signed between Bhanudeva and Reddis. The Tabaqat-i-Akbari informs of the invasion of Hushang Shah of Malawa which is not believed by any present historians. A Sanskrit work, Gangavansanucharitam, informs that while Bhanudva-IV was away in the south for a campaign one of his able ministers named Kapileswar Routray staged a coup and seized the throne of the Gangas. Bhanudev-IV returned from the campaign and try to get-back his throne. He was defeated and retired to Gudarikataka. Thus, came to end of the Ganga Empire.

1.15 CAUSES OF THE DOWNFALL OF THE IMPERIAL GANGAS

Among the ruling dynasties of Odisha, the Gangas enjoyed the longest period of reign. The imperial line from Vajrahasta-V to Bhanudeva-IV covered the period (1038 A.D. -1435 A.D.) almost 400 years. In the historical process, every dynasty has its rise and fall. Several factors caused the downfall of the ruling family.

Firstly, After Narasimhadeva-I there was a series of weak successors who didnot possess the qualities of a good and efficient king.

Secondly, in course of time, the thread of external invasion mounted. The Nawab of Bengals, Oudh and Jounpur the Sultan of Delhi found Odisha Vulnerable from several angles. Even the rulers of Vijayanagar were tempted to invade from the south from occupying a piece of land. The Kalachuries were permanent source of danger.

Thirdly, the Odishan Empire became too vast in size. Since, it had extended from the Ganga in the north to Krishna or Godavari in the south.

Fourthly, the strength of the army was gradually sapped or frightened away due to constant wars.

Fifthly, in course of time due to weak successor at the helm of affairs the internal administration became weak. Inefficiency had a corrosive effect on administration.

Sixthly, another potent factor or precipitating downfall was the growth of independent governors, subordinates and disloyal general's conspiracy for the throne became frequent. The ministers and generals grew disloyal betraying the cause of monarchy. When Firoz Shah Tughluq invaded Jajanagar one minister of Bhanudeva-III was secretly conspiring with him. The disloyal general Kapileswar took the advantage of Bhaundeve-IV, absence from the capital and arrange a coup. He even proclaimed himself as the king.

Lastly, the rise of consciousness among the common men and their love for spoken Odia language is considered as a protest against the Sanskrit using priestly class. The Brahman were orthodox and conservative. They dominated the society and the Government. The socio-cultural moment represented the advent of new era and the wind of change started blowing from the time of king Bhanudeva-I.

1.16 GANGA ADMINISTRATION

The Ganga administration was a mixture of northern and southern influence. The king was the highest authority to the empire and enjoyed absolute powers in matters of administration. He had a council of ministers to advice at the time of need.

The kingdom was divided into Mahamandalas or great provinces. These Mahamandalas were administered by *Maharanaka* or *Mahamandaladalikas*. *Mahamandalas* were further divided into Mandalas or smaller provinces under the administrative control of *Ranaka* or *Mandalikas*. The *mandalas* were further divided into *Vishayas* of *Bhogas*. Vishayas were appointed to look after Vishayas. Vishayas or Bhogas consisted of number of villages or *gramas*. In each of which there appointed a *Gramika* or Headman of the villages. But villagers were sub-divided into *pallis* or hamlets. In the entire Ganga empire, there were numbers of *Nagaras* (cities) or *Puras* (towns) villages granted to the Brahmin were made rent free. The villages the lowest unit in the administration were self-governing. The headman or *Gramika* of the villages was assisted by officials like *Karanas* (accountant), *purohitas* priest *Dandapasi* or *Talvasi* (policeman) *Urikavali* (Village watchman), *Gramabhata* (Village servants). In the towns the important office were *Puravari* (head of the town and was helped by the *Dandanayar* (Magistrate) *Dandapasi* (police inspector) and many other officials.

In the capital city of Kalinganagar, *Kalinganagaradhakya*, (superintendent of the capital city of Kalinga) *Kalinganagara Rakshyapala* (perfect of the city) *Kalinganagarapalaka* (chairman of the city) *Rajaguru* (royal priest) *Mahapradhani* (prime minister) *Mahasandhivigrahi* (secretary general for peace and war) *Mahasenapati* (commander in chief) *Mulabhandara Munamudrahasta* (chancellor of privy purse), *Mahadandapasi* (inspector general of police) *Mahamandalika* (governor general) and *Mahapatra*.

The monarch collected revenue from crown lands which yielded probably one-sixth of the produce. Beside court fees, fine, customs duty, taxes from mines and forest, gifts and presents were other sources of revenue for the royal treasury. The revenue so obtained was spent on administration both in civil and military, on religion and learning, and other public works. Various kinds of coins were used in the kingdom. Thus, the Gangas became the pioneering the matter of the systematic administrative quite new in type.

1.17 ART AND ARCHITECTURE



1.17.1. Jagannath Temple at Puri

The temple of Jagannath at Puri is the earliest Ganga monument of Odisha. There is a definite mention in almost all later copper plate records of the successor of Chodagangadeva that Chodagangadeva was the builder of this magnificent temple at Puri. To reconcile the epigraphic evidence with tradition it can be said that Chodagangadeva had started the construction of this huge structure and one of his successors Anangabhimadeva-III completed or added the Jagamohana to it. The height of Jagannath temple at Puri is 215 ft. 8 inches. Jagannath temple is *Pancharatha* in plan. The temple has on three sides the small temples enshrining *Parshadevatas*. The sikhara has the usual divisions and has three chambered porches consisting of *Jagamohana*, *Natamandira* and *Bhogamandapa*. The sculpture of the last two structures clearly indicates that they were built in the later period, according to tradition these two structures were built by Suryavamsis ruler Kapilendradeva.

1.17.2 The Laxmi temple

The Laxmi temple inside the complex of Jagannath temple standing in three chambered porch seems to be contemporary of the main temple. The temple is well ornamented built in laterite stone. Jagannath has been conceived as Vishnu and therefore the construction of the temple for his consort Laxmi seems to have been warranted by the time-honoured custom.

1.17.3 Megheswara temple of Bhubaneswar

The Mekteswara temple was built by Swapneswardeva, son of Abhiram and grandson of Muladeva as per the discloser of the epigraphic records. Swapneswardeva was the commander in chief of the Ganga army under Anangabhimadeva-II. This is sikhara type of temple and the Jagamohana which is *pidhadeula* is wholly undecorated. Many images like *Yogapatta*, *Godhanaharana* by Brahma and Sri Krishna seated on the conch with *Sankha* and *Chakra* in hand are well projected in the Jagamohana.

1.17.4. The Sun temple at Konark

Narasimghadeva-I is remembered in the history of Odisha as a great builder of the famous temple of Konark. This magnificent temple of Konark, consisting of *Natamandira*, *Bhogamandapa*, *Jagamohana* and the *Vimana* signify the imperial majesty. The joint structure of *Vimana* and *Jagamohana* were conceived in form of a *Ratha* (chariot) having 24 giant wheels being dragged by seven horses. This temple complex took twelve years' time for completion (1244-1256). There is an intervening space of thirty feet between the *Jagamohana* and *Natamandira*. As per the structural calculation the other temple of *Rekha* portion it is said that the height was 227 ft. There stood a beautiful sixteen sided monolithic of thirty-four feet height with an

image of Aruna but it was removed to Puri in the 18th century by Marathas and has been now set up in the Eastern gate of Jagannath temple.

The decorative female figure in the Jagamohana in the present form reflects about the socio-economic condition of the people of that period. Each of the figures like a piece of love poem composed on stone. Many erotic sculptures in the great temple create doubt in the minds of the scholars. Some accused the artisans for the pervasive treatment on stone sculpture and some other claim the style as an instrument to testify the integrity and devotion of the visitors. In the eastern portal, figure two finely designed elephant each of them carrying a man upon his trunk, in the western portal sculpture of two horsemen with trapping and ornaments each of horse carrying a dismounted attendant and in the northern portal there were two lions rampant on elephant (Gaja-Simha) clearly exhibit military character of the soldiers engaged in the war against Bengal by Narasimhadeva.

The Nabagraha images in one piece of chlorite stone slab beautifully carved must have been placed in *Vimana* near *Grabhagriha* to symbolize as *Parshadevatas* now kept in one hall in the compound. Thus, this Black Pagoda with all its grandeur speaks everything of the rule of Narasimhadeva.

1.17.5 Ananta Vasudeva temple

The inscription originally attached to this temple was later detected and sent to England where it is now preserved in the hall of Royal Asiatic society of Great Britain. The epigraphic was first edited by Mr. Barnet in her *Epigraphica Indica*. It is stated in the epigraph that this temple was built for Sri Krishna and Balarama on the bank of Vindusorabara by Chandrikadevi the daughter of Anangabhimadeva-III in 1278 A.D. After the death of her husband Paramardideva on the battle field. This temple was built for Achyuta for whom she had developed devotion from her childhood. The plan of Ananta Vasudeva temple is different considerable from other temples. The main temple stands on a cruciform platform which is the first in its kind and has a three-structure frontal adjust consisting of the *Jagamohan*, *Natamandira* and the *Bhogamandapa*, three small *pidas* temples in alignment with the central niches were on the northern eastern and southern side of the *Vimana*. The *Natamandira* is an open hall but *Bhogamandapais* comparatively closed one.

The Anantavasudeva temple being a Vaishnava shrine, the cult images appearing on it are different totally from those of Shaiva temple. There are some images which are common to temples of both sets and are accepted as *Dikpalas* or the guardian deities on the northern side of the *Jagamohana* there appears images of Rama, Laxmana, Sita, Hanumana and Vibisana and the southern side there are also images of Srikrishna and Gopis. A few other cult images like Laxmi, Saraswati are also depiction on the *Jagamohana*. This temple is thus a different style with the depiction of verities of images that speaks about cosmopolitanism of religion during that period.

The Ganga period also witnessed the erection of many other big and small temples in and outside Bhubaneswar. The temple of Parvati inside the Lingaraj temple, the Yameswara temple of Bhubaneswar, the Chandreswara temple near Tangi in the Puri district and the Bhaskeraswara temple of Bhubaneswar. The Mitreswara and Baruneswara temple situated near Yameswara temple at Bhubaneswar and the Chitreswara temple on the vicinity of Lingaraj temple. The *Sarideula* near *Vindusagar* and many other small temples in Cuttack district are included in the list of Ganga monuments. Some half-ruined temple standing on the foot of Dhauligiri bear the Ganga characteristic also.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. How do you justify Chodagangadeva as the founder of the Ganga dynasty in Odisha?

2. Account for the achievement of Anangabhimadeva-III.

3. Why the reign of Narasimhadeva is regarded as the golden period in the history of Odisha.

4. What were the causes of the downfall of Ganga Empire?

5. Briefly discuss about administrative system of Gangas.

-
-
-
6. Briefly discuss about the art and architecture during Ganga period.
-
-
-

1.18 LET US SUM UP

The four hundred years from 1038 AD to 1435 AD of the rule of Ganga is unique in many senses in the history of medieval Odisha. The able rulers of this dynasty like Chodagangadeva, Anangabhimadeva-III & Narasimhadeva-I were great warriors and men of exceptional ability who succeeded in keeping their vast kingdom independent when the Hindu kingdoms one after another were falling victims to Muslim aggression. During his reign the land was united both politically and culturally. The economic prosperity of that time led the Ganga monarch build the gigantic structure like Jagannath temple at Puri and Sun temple at Konark. The Odishan School of temple architecture reached the zenith during the Gangas period. The Sanskrit literature developed to a great extent during that period. The overall picture of this period, socio-economic-political & cultural testified the fact that peace and tranquillity prevailed all over the empire during the reign of the mighty rulers of Ganga dynasty.

1.19 KEYWORDS

Bhogamandapa	: Hall of Offering of porch.
Campaign	: A planned series of attacks in a war
Coronation	: An official ceremony at which somebody is made a King or Queen
Cruciform	: Having the shape of a cross (Adj)
Deteriorating	: To become worse
Dikpalas	: Guardian of the four cardinal and four intermediate digas viz. Indra (East), Agni (South-East), Yama (South), Nirrtya (South-West), Varuna (West), Vayu (North-West), Kubera (North) Isana (North-East)
Disintegrating	: To break into many small pieces.
Dominion	: To have dominion over an area
Epigraphy	: The study of ancient inscriptions.



Garbhagriha	: Sanctum sanctorum
Jagamohana	: Poarch, in front of Sanctuary also known as Mukhasala or Mandapa.
Magnificent	: A building or statue that is built to remind people of a famous person or event extremely impressive and Attractive.
Mahamandala	: Great province
Nawab	: A native governor during the time of Mogul empire. A Muslim noble man or person of high status
Natamandira	: The dance hall of a Hindu temple
Parshadevata	: Attendant deities in the niches of a sanctuary
Pidha-Deula	: A temple in which pyramidal roof is made of pidhas Usually Jagamohana, Natamandira & Bhogamandapa
Platform	: A hall with or without pillar in front of the Sanctuary A flat surface higher than the level of the floor, on Which public speakers or performers stand so that The audience can see them.
Sikhara	: Literally head, denote a tower or spire, a distinctive Feature of North Indian or Odishan temple.
Vimana	: A pyramidal tower built over the central shrine of a Temple in India

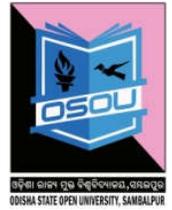
1.20 ANSWER TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISE

1. See Section- 1.4
2. See Section-1.6
3. See Section-1.7
4. See Section- 1.15
5. See Section- 1.16
6. See Section- 1.17

1.21 SUGGESTED READING

1. R.D. Banarjee, *History of Orissa*, Vol-I, Prabasi Press, Calcutta , 1930-31.
2. H.K.Mahatab, *History of Orissa*, Part-I
3. W.W. Hunter, *Orissa –I & II*
4. K.C. Panigrahi, *Archaeological remains at Bhubaneswar*.
5. R.Subha Rao, *The history of the Eastern Ganga of Kalinga*.
- 6.

UNIT- 2 THE SURYAVANSI GAJAPATIS



Structure

- 2.0 Objectives
- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Kapilendradeva
 - 2.2.1 Accession
 - 2.2.2 Early difficulties and suppression of Rebels
 - 2.2.3 Southern Campaign: Rajahmundry
 - 2.2.4 Bengal
 - 2.2.5 Kondavidu
 - 2.2.6 Vijayanagar
 - 2.2.7 Telangana
 - 2.2.8 Bahamani Kingdom
 - 2.2.9 An Estimate
- 2.3 Purusottamadeva
 - 2.3.1 His troubles
 - 2.3.2 Conquest of Rajahmundry and Kondavidu
 - 2.3.3 Conquest of Udayagiri
 - 2.3.4 Kanchi-Kaveri Episode
 - 2.3.5 An Estimate
- 2.4 Prataprudradeva
 - 2.4.1 Early Expeditions
 - 2.4.2 War with Bengal
 - 2.4.3 War with Vijayanagara
 - 2.4.4 Prataprudra and Quli Qutab Shah
 - 2.4.5 An Estimate
- 2.5 Sri Chaitanya
- 2.6 Administration
- 2.7 Religion
- 2.8 Art & Architecture
- 2.9 Let us Sum Up
- 2.10 Keywords
- 2.11 Answer to check your progress exercise

2.0 OBJECTIVE

After reading this unit you will be able to know the:

- Achievement of Kapilendradeva and his career
- Southern campaign of Kapilendradeva
- Achievement of Purusottamadeva
- Achievement of Prataparudradeva
- Growth of Art & Architecture, Religious condition, and administrative structure of this period.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

After the fall of the Gangas, Kapilendradeva heralded a new era in the history of Odisha by founding the glorious Suryavamsi Gajapati dynasty. The rulers of this dynasty are also known as *Viruda*, *Gajapati* (Lord of elephants) as they used to possess a large number of elephants in their army. The ruler of the dynasty traced their descent to the ancient solar Kshatriya dynasty. The circumstances under which Kapilendradeva occupied the Ganga throne are not known to us except the source mentioned in *Madalapanji*. They claim to have belonged to the solar race and thus are designated as the Suryavamsis in Odisha.

SOURCES: To reconstruct the history of Suryavamsi Gajapatis, literary sources including contemporary Sanskrit works like *Abhinava Benisanharam*, *Trikandashesam*, *Sarswativilasam*, *Jagannath Vallabham*, etc. and Odia book such as *Sarala Mahabharata*, *Chaitanya Bhagabata*, *Bhagabata of Jagannath Das*, *Dandi Ramayana of Balaram Das* have been useful for the reconstruction of the society and religion of Suryavamsi Gajapatis rule. The Bengali texts such as *Chaitanya Charitamrita*, *Chaitanyamangala* also throw ample light on Odisha during the Gajapatirule. Among the Telegu literature *Manucharitam*, *Krishnaramavijayamu* and Persian literature such as *Tarik-i-ferishta*, *Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, *Akbarnama*, *Burhan-i-Manasir*, also provide information on the Gajapati rule. Besides epigraphic records such as the *Velagalani copper plate charter*, *Lingaraj temple inscription*, *Jagannath temple inscription*, *Dasagoba*, *Srisailyam*, *Nagari*, *Srikurmam*, *Simachalam*, *Velicherla inscriptions* give ample evidence about the administration of Gajapati dynasty.

2.2. KAPILENDRA DEVA (AD 1435-1467)

Kapilendradeva was the founder of SuryavamsisGajapati rule in Odisha. No reliable information is available to know his early life and career. Madalapanji throws some light on the early life of Kapilendradeva. It gives some anecdotes in that regard. He was variously described as a cowherd boy, a thief, and a beggar. All these suggest a humble parentage of Kapilendradeva. He started his career as an ordinary soldier (*Rauta*) but eventually rose to be a *Mahapatra* and then a *Bhramaravara*. Those were military titles indicating his rise under the last Ganga ruler Bhanudeva-IV by virtue of military ability. His grant father Kapileswara and Father Yogeswara have been described with such feudal titles like *Nayaka*, *Nrpa* and *Maharaja*. It appears that they were feudal ruler in some small principality in the Ganga dominion. Kapilendradeva took advantage of it and entered into the Ganga service. His popularity and ability on the one hand and the other unpopularity and weakness of Ganga throne. He legitimized his royalty with the story of adoption by Bhanudeva-IV under the orders of Lord Jagannath.

2.2.1 Accession

According to the Gangavansanucharitam by Vasudev Ratha, Kapilendra was the founder of Suryavamsi- Gajapati dynasty. He was a minister of king Bhanudeva-IV while the king was engaged in a war against the Reddi of Rajahmundry, Kapilendra arranged a *coup de tat* to usurp power. In the absence of king, he proclaimed himself as the king of Odisha. His coronation took place on 29th June-1435 at *KrttivasaKataka* (Bhubaneswar). He introduced a new *abda*(Era) from the date of coronation, which found mentioned in the almanacs and record as '*Kapilabda*'.

2.2.2 Early difficulties and suppression of rebels.

The political situation was critical for the new king of Odisha. The Reddis of Rajahmundry and the Sultan of Bengal were ready to invade Odisha. The ruler of Vijayanagara and Bahamani were also waiting for the opportunity to pounce upon Odisha. On the home front, the feudatories of Odisha viz. The Ganga ruler of Khimandi, the Silavamsis of Nandapura, the Matsya king of Oddadi, and the Vishnuvardhan Chakravartis of Panchadharala rose in revolt. Kapilendradeva suppressed the revolts and maintained his authority upto Visakhapatnam.

2.2.3 Southern Campaigns. (Rajahmundry)

Virabhadra-I the Reddi ruler of Rajahmundry was in possession of a part of Ganga territory upto Simachalam. The Reddis were completely under the control of Devaraya of Vijayanagar Empire. Kapilendradeva started his campaign to regain the lost territories of Odisha in 1444 A.D. and against that campaign, Virabhadra offered

his first resistance. He was supported by Devaraya-II. Mallapa Odeyar was appointed by Devaraya-II to help Virabhadra with a big contingent of an army against Kapilendra. When Kapilendra was busy in the campaign, he heard about the attack of Ahmed Shah, the Sarqi Sultan of Jaunpur, Kapilendra immediately rushed towards the north to resist the Jaunpur invasion. This led to the defeat of his army in the hands of Mallappa. The first southern campaign thus came to an end without any result.

It took no time for Kapilendra to word off the Jounpur Sultan and after that he concentrated his focus on Rajahmundry. He sent his son Hambiradeva with a large army against Rajahmundry. By that time the political situation underwent a great change after the death of Devaraja-II in 1446 A.D. His son Mallikarjuna became very weak, stopped giving military aid to Rajahmundry Kapilendra took advantage of this situation and inflicted a great victory on Rajahmundry and brought the kingdom under the political sway of Odisha in 1448. Rajahmundry lost her independence and became a part of Odisha.

2.2.4 Bengal

After the occupation of Rajahmundry, Kapilendra wanted to extend the north-eastern frontier of his empire upto the Ganga. His Jagannath temple inscription refers to a Digvijaya against Malik Parisa Sultan Nasiruddin of Bengal. He adopted the title of *Goudesvara* after the conquest. The administration of new territories was entrusted to Raghudeva Narendra Mahapatra, the trusted and able Governor.

2.2.5 Kondavidu

The control of Vijayanagara over the kingdom of Kondavidu became weak. The feudatory chiefs of the kingdom declared their independence. Kapilendra seems to have taken due advantage of their situation and occupied the Kondavidu kingdom before 1454 A.D. Ganadeva was made the Governor of Kondavidu.

2.2.6 Vijayanagara

The next target of Kapilendra was Vijayanagar whose king Mallikarjuna was not able or efficient. Besides, there were internal troubles in the kingdom. According to the Anantavarma plate of king Prataparudra prince Hamvira advanced further and launched an attack on Vijayanagara. He also forced the Raja to pay him tribute. But it appears that the facts are slightly different. Hamvira's success were limited to the border area. He could not conquer the capital of Vijayanagara, nor force the king to pay tribute. In 1460 A.D. Udayagiri was conquered and the architect of victory was TimmaBhupala. He also conquered Chandragiri in 1464. According to an inscription in the temple at Srirangam, Dakshinakapileswaradeva the son of Hamvira and the grandson of the Gajapati ruler donated cows for ritual purpose. If the Manur inscription is to be believed then Kapilendra was the Lord of the entire seacoast region



of Vijayanagara in the east upto the Kaveri. DakshinaKapileswara was appointed by him as the revenue officer of the vast territory.

2.2.7 Conquest of Telangana

Kapilendradeva became the master of the Krishna-Godavari delta that prompted him to conquer the Telangana which lay between the former Reddikingdom and Bahamani Kingdom of Deccan. Rachakonda, Devarakonda and Warangal were three important forts of Telangana. These forts were under the occupation of the Velama chiefs who were very hostile to the Reddis and Friends of Bahamani Kingdom. The friendship between Bahamani and Velama chiefs came to end after the later support of Vijayanagara. Ahmed shah the successor of Firoz Shah on the Bahamani throne wanted to punish Velama chiefs. Sultan Ahmed Shah sent Khan-i-Azim against the Velama chiefs. Khan-I-Azim succeeded in subjugating the whole within four months. The Sultan after getting hold of the Telanganaregion appointed Sanjar Khan as its Governor. Sanjar Khan after being the Governor brought the entire Telangana under Muslim authority by 1435 A.D.

2.2.8 Conquest of Bahamani Kingdom

After establishing his authority in the coastal strip of Telangana, Kapilendradeva concentrated his attention on the highland to the west. It was essential for the security of the newly conquered coastal plains. The capital of Devarakonda was ruled by Hindu Velama under the suzerainty of Bahamani. The Velama chief Madayalinga helped two nobles of Bahamani who revolted against Sultan. So Bahamani Sultan besieged Devarakonda. The Velama chiefs appealed Kapilendra for help. The arrival of the Odishan army was so sudden and unexpected. The Bahamani force was taken by surprise. They were defeated. It was known as the battle of Devorkonda which was fought in 1459 A.D. Telangana came under the suzerainty of Odisha. Since the Bahamani Sultan was defeated, Kapilendra adopted the epithet *Kalavargeswara* after the name of Kalavarga or Gulvarga, the capital of Bahamani Kingdom.

The situation of Bahamani kingdom became critical when Sultan Humayun Shah died in 1461 A.D. and his minor son Nizam Shah became ruler. The combined army of Telangana and Odisha started a campaign against Bahamani and were about to reach the capital. By 1464 A.D. Kapilendradeva became the master of an empire stretching from the Ganges in the north to the Trichinopoly in the south. He assumed the titles of *Vira Sri Gajapati Goudesvara Navakoti Karnata Kalabargeswara* before his death as has been described in same in his epigraphic records.

The days of glory didn't continue for a long time. In the closing years of his reign, he suffered from the loss of territories. Ruknuddin Barbak Shah, the Bengal Sultan seized the strategic frontier fort of Mandaran and built a gate called "*Uriya Mardan*" in commemoration of his victory. Mandaran was lost to Bengal for

good. In the south, Vijayanagar's general SaluvaNarasimhaorganised wars to regain the lost territory which is known as “*OddiyanaGalabhai*” or confusion created by Odia in the same inscription dated 1470 A.D. of south Arcot district recorded by an agent of Saluva Narasimha. Chandragiri has been occupied by SaluvaNarasimha in 1466 A.D. Kapilendradeva could not reconcile with the loss and marched upto the Krishna. In the meantime, his decision to make Purosottama his successor made his eldest son and ablest son Hamvira, the victor of the south to rebel against his father. He was in ill health, in hot haste Kapilendra anointed Purosottama on the bank of Krishna and he died there shortly after in 1468 A.D.

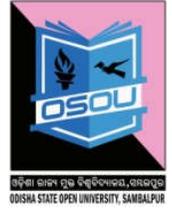
2.2.9 An estimate of Kapilendradeva

It has been stated earlier that the family in which Kapilendra was born has been described in the inscription as Suryavamsa or the Solar dynasty, a legendary origin claimed by many a ruling family of ancient and medieval India, but he was a man of humble origin holding a rank of some importance in the Ganga army, when he effected a violent change of regime. Kapilendradeva is only next to Kharavela in building up an Odishan empire. As a general, he becomes unsurpassed in his age. His abilities endeared him to the people and soldiers of Odisha. He enlisted the support of the people by making Odisha a strong military state in which the protection and extension of the kingdom came to be a joint responsibility of the ruler and ruled. Militarism penetrated all ranks of people irrespective of their castes and all castes bore military titles which are numerous in Odisha even today. A lover of Odisha and its language and literature became the order to Kapilendra's reign and inspired by this new idealism Sarala Das a Sudra by caste, created the first and the vast Odia literature which quality, contents, and bulk is still considered to be the greatest single Odialiterature. Thus during the rule of Kapilendra a new age of renaissance started in Odisha.

After Centuries Kapilendra brought Odisha into the arena of all India politics and broke her isolation. His contemporaries Nasir-ud-din Humayun Shah of Bahamani, Saluva Narasimha, and Mallikarjuna were all out general led and defeated by him. In consequence, he succeeded in building up a far-flung empire stretching from Hooghly in the north to the river Kaveri in the South. This was no mean achievement of a man who made his way to the throne from a humble position. The distant monarchs like those of Jaunpur, Delhi, Malwa felt the weight of his powers. From his reign, Odisha become a standard-bearer of Hindu culture and he maintained his position in the region of his son and grandson also.

It has generally been stated by some scholars that though Kapilendra was a great general, he lacked statesmanship. They say that Kapilendra should have concentrated his power and energies in fighting with the Muslim power of Bengal which was a real menace to the security of the Hindu kingdom of Odisha. Kapilendradeva's aggression against Vijayanagara, the kings of this country became

the hereditary enemies of the Odishan king and in the reign of the Krishnadeva this enmity was responsible for the disintegration of Odishan empire. Kapilendra was a creature of his age is not to be blamed, if he had not the higher conception of an all-India Hindupolicy. Kapilendrawas no doubts one of the greatest kings of his age in India.



2.3 PURUSOTTAMA DEVA (1467-1497 A.D.)

Kapilendradeva set aside the claims of his eldest son Hamvira and other princes for the throne and nominated the most favourite youngest son. Purusottamadeva in 1466-67 as his successor. Purusottama has been introduced differently by different traditions as the son of the maid (*Dasiputra*) as the son of a concubine (*Bhogininandana*) as the son of a *Phul-Vivahi*, as a Brahmin's named Mangala Raya, and as the youngest son of Kapilendradeva. Interestingly Purusottama has not described himself as Kapilendras son in any of his own records. He is described as Kapilendra's son in Prataparudra's records. A Sanskrit work named *SaraswatiVilasha* has described him as the son of Kapilendra and *Parvatidevi*; it appears that he was not born of any married queen but of a concubine who was of Brahmin caste. She influenced both the emperor and the priestly class. She made a conspiracy to make her son the emperor and succeeded. The claim of the legitimate successor Hamviradeva was superseded.

2.3.1 His Troubles

Kapilendradeva elder son Hamviradeva was not prepared to accept the so called will of Lord Jagannath and ignited the fame of an open rebellion against him. He asserted his independence in the southern province of Odisha. But the situation was not conducive to such attack. Purosottma as the *sevaka* of Lord Jagannath did receive popular support and he had to his credit all resources of the state. Hamvira lacked in these things. Hamvira made a revolt, had an alliance with Bahamani's Sultan, Muhammad and defeated Purusottama. He gave Rajahmundry and Kondapalli to the Sultan for his help. Purosottama on his part continued war with the help of royal officers and the imperial army against Hamvira. He has popular support as well. The war between the two continued for about four years. Hamvira was defeated ultimately and Purusottama regained the Gajapati throne in 1476 A.D.

2.3.2 Conquest of Rajahmundry and Kondavidu

Purusottama made attempts to recover Rajahmundry and Kondavidu ceded by Hamvira to the Bahamani Sultan. Purusottmadeva started a campaign against Rajahmundry just at that time Vijayanagar's general Saluva Narasimha was also marching with his army against Bahamani. The Bahamani Sultan also sent an army for the defence of Rajahmundry. The entire situation was in a state of mess and confusion. One of them did not know who of the other two his enemy was. Purosottamadeva allied

with Bahamani ruler. He was afraid lest the later might join hands with third party. Neither Purosottama nor Saluva achieved anything. Purosottama was waiting for a favourable situation to occupy Rajamundry and Kondavidu. A rebellion took place in Kondavidu. Bahamani suspected that Salubha Narasimha had instigated it. So Bahamani Sultan, Mahammad Shah-III attacked Kanchi and looted it. While his army was returning the Vijayanagara General Iswara Nayaka defeated the Bahamani forces in 1481 A.D. The Bahamani Sultan died broken hearted in 1482 A.D. He was succeeded by his twelve-year-old son Mamud. The condition of Bahamani was very disturbed; Purusottama took the opportunity and annexed Rajamundry and Kondavidu into Odishan Empire by 1484 A.D.

2.3.3 Conquest of Udayagiri

Purusottamadeva next turned his attention to the recovery of the southern district from Saluva Narasimha, who by this time had strengthened his hold over Udayagiri. Purusottama immediately abolish the taxes on marriages in the occupied areas and gain the sympathy of the people of Udayagiri. Pasupati Basavabhupala whom Kapilendradeva made the Governor joined the Odishan army against his master Saluva Narasimha. The fort was captured by Purosottamadeva. The exact date of the conquest of Udayagiri fort is not known but it must have taken place before the death of Narasimha till 1513 A.D. When it was conquered by Krishnadeva Raya of Vijayanagara. *Prabodha Chandrodaya* a Sanskrit epic refers to the conquest of Udayasila after which Basaba was made the Governor of the fort of Udayagiri by Purusottamadeva.

2.3.4 Kanchi-Kaveri Episode

The invasion of Kanchi has become a very powerful legend in Odisha. It occurs in *Bedha Parikrama* by Balaram Dasa, *Madalapanji*, *Chakadadasana* and an account of Gangavamsa as well as in the painting of the audience hall of Jagannath temple. It is described that Purusottama deva wanted to marry the beautiful princess Padmavati of Kanchi. The king of Kanchi refused the proposal on the ground that he performs the work of a sweeper. He sweeps the cars in the cars festival. Purusottam attacked Kanchi but he was defeated. He prayed to Lord Jagannath and again marched against Kanchi. He came out victorious while coming back he learned that the two horsemen had taken curd from a milkmaid in a village on the shore of Chilika lake. It took no time for the king to realize that the two Lords Balabhadra and Jagannath had come to fight for him. The king instructed the minister to arrange the marriage of the Kanchi princess with a sweeper to humiliate her father. The minister waited till the arrival of the next car festival. When the king was performing the sweeping ritual, he offered the princess to him in marriage.

R.D. Banarjee has considered the legend as a piece of mere romance and G.N. Dash has thought that it was meant to glorify *Chhera Pahanra*. (*Sweeping ritual*). On the other hand others like R. Subhramanyam, K.C. Panigrahi and P. Mukharjee have

believed in the tradition to embody genuine historical facts. The Kanchi princes Padmavati has been identified with Rupambika, the mother of Pratrprudradeva and the daughter of SaluvaNarasimha. The episode became untenable from the standpoint of history. SaluvaNarasimha became the king of Karnata in 1486 A.D. and Purusottama attack Udayagiri in 1489 A.D. When he must have been quite advanced in age. It is too much to think that he would have fought a war to win the hands of a princes with the help of Lord Jagannath at that age. The fact is that the episode is one of the various traditions which have grown up centering on the Lord. It was made to prevail in later times to glorify the *ChheraPahanra* ritual as well as the institution of Gajapati as the first servant (*sevaka*) of Lord Jagannath.

2.3.5 An Estimate of Purusottamadeva

Purusottama was a generous and kind hearted monarch of Odisha. Like Kalpavriksha he granted all the desires of his subjects as has been described in the Anantavarma plate. A teach man himself he took a keen interest in the diffusion of learning with them pertaining to different religions and literature. Among the poets of his courts the author of Sahitya Darpana, Visvanath Mahapatra was famous. Two Sanskrit works Haravali and Trikandasesam are ascribed to the king.

In the early part of his reign, he lost some possession that his father owned but he gradually recovered them as far as Udayagiri. The political condition of Bahamani and Vijayanagar kingdoms provide him ample opportunity to recover his father's possession no doubt but there is evidence to show that like his brother Hamvira he was a successful general who helped him in getting the enemies to their knees. In the later part of his reign he exhibited the quality of a diplomatic and energetic king who mastered over vast territory.

Purusottamadeva neglected the affairs of his northern frontier when he was completely engaged in the southern campaign between 1467 to 1493. The Abyssianian nobles Shahzada and Malik Andil etc. made their progress to the throne of Bengal through Bloodshed and the country was in a state of turmoil. Prof. P. Mukharjee further argued that his war with Vijayanagara state was an unwise step that made Vijayanagar an enemy country always. But wounded pride made him mad for which he missed a good opportunity for which his son had to suffer. The charge of failure to buildup a Hindu solidarity against Muslims is also stamped against Purusottamadeva. However, Purusottama consolidated his political hold in southern territories. Purusottama was a devotee of lord Jagannath and claimed to be the deputy of Jagannath over the throne. He is so much so engaged in wars for which he did not have the time to think of anything else other than war. Purusottama added a definite chapter in the military history of Odisha.

2.4 PRATAPARUDRADEVA (A.D. 1497-1533)

Prataparudradeva inherited an extensive empire from the Ganga in the north to Nellore in the south. They failed to maintain it and lost the entire southern territories. In fact, the decline of the empire started from his reign.

2.4 .1 Early Expedition

Vijayanagara kingdom was the chief enemy of Odisha. She had been trying to recover Udayagiri and Kondavidu since those places were annexed by Kapilendradeva. In the north, Hussain shah of Bengal wanted to drive away from the Odishan army from Hooghly area. Prataparudra marched with a large army to occupy southern quarters. The bank of the Krishna was occupied as known from the Anantavarma plate. For some reason he gave up the expedition and came back to Odisha.

2.4.2 Warwith Bengal

Border clash between Odisha and Bengal began in 1500 A.D. The Idupulupadu grant states that Virabhadra, the king of Utkala defeated the king of Gouda. Hussain Shah also styled himself as the conqueror of Jajnagar on his coins dated (1504-05 AD.) It appears that skirmishes continued without any territorial advantages to any side in the first phase. Odisha's north frontier of Hooghly remained intact. Between 1510-15 A.D. Hussain Shah seized from the Gajapati a narrow strip between Chhatrobhog to Pichchalda which was the last outpost of Muslim Bengal.

2.4.3 War with Vijayanagara

In 1505 AD Veera Narasimha, the son of TaluvaNarasa Nayaka disposed the Saluvas and ascended the throne of Vijayanagara. Prataprudradeva could not utilize the opportunity provided by the political disturbances of the Vijayanagara as he was busy in fighting against Bengal. Things started taking a better turn for Vijayanagara with the accession of Krishnadeva Raya on the Vijayanagar throne in 1510 A.D., after the death of his brother Veera Narasimha, he was a great conqueror. He resolved to recover Udayagiri and Kondavidu from the Gajapati. He waged incessant wars known as seven-year war between 1512-1519 A.D. Prataparudradeva's positions was made miserable. He seized Udayagiri fort in 1513 A.D. after a siege of one and half year. The Odishan army in Kondavidu fort was defeated in A.D. 1515. Prataprudra's son Birabhadra, nephew, Naraharipatra and two Muslim generals Malla Khan and Uddanda Khan were taken captive by Vijayanagara's General SaluvaTikka. Then Krishnadeva Raya attacked Kondapalli the last stronghold of Odisha in the south and captured it. Three inscriptions at the Simachalam temple record his victorious expedition.

The death of his son Virabhadra in the captivity of the Vijayanagara was too shocking for Prataparudra. He sent an army to take revenge against Krishnadeva but it was defeated. Krishnadeva arrived at Puri in victorious march when a treaty was signed in 1519 between the two. The Krishna River was accepted as the boundary

between the two kingdoms. Prataprudra's daughter Jagamohini (Tukka) was given in marriage to Krishnadeva Raya. Prataparudra attacked Vijayanagara in 1520 A.D. after the death of Krishnadev Raya. But he was defeated by Achyuta Raya, the successor of Krishnadeva.

2.4.4 Prataprudra and Quli Qutab Shah

During the reign of Mahammad Shah the great Bahamani Kingdom was divided into five new kingdoms. Golkunda was one of them. This new kingdom near Hyderabad was founded by Quli Qutab Shah one of the generals of Mahammad Shah Bahamani. Quli Qutab Shah declared his independence in 1512 A.D. during the seven years' war when Krishnadev ray was busy against Gajapati Prataprudra. Quli Qutab Shah got an opportunity to bring the Hindu principalities of Telangana region under him. Again, after the treaty with Prataparudra, Krishnadev was engaged in a war against the Sultan of Bijapur Ismail Adil shah in 1520. This provided another opportunity for the Sultan of Golkunda to occupy some territories of the Telangana region belonging to Vijayanagara Empire. Further according to the arrangement in the treaty Prataparudra gain back territories north of Krishna River except Udayagiri and Kondavidu. Thus, Prataparudra made Kondapali the seat of his southern viceroyalty. The peace of Kondapali did not last long as Quli Qutab Shah believed that Prataprudra became considerably weak because of the protracted war against Vijayanagara and therefore he would not be able to give a stiff fight against him. The Sultan of Golkunda then achieved sweeping victory over the officers in charge of the southern viceroyalty. On receiving the news of the power of Golkunda, Prataprudra marched against Quli Qutab shah had forced him away to his native state Golkunda. He constructed a temple at *Mangalagiri* on the bank of Krishna in 1525-26 A.D.

Meanwhile, Krishnadeva Raya died and was succeeded by Achyutadeva Raya in 1529 who was a notorious king for that he lost popularity. This situation in Vijayanagar prompted Quli Qutab Shah to resume his attack on Odisha. He captured the southern provinces of Odisha in early 1531 A.D. The reduction of the fort of Kondapali the headquarter of Odishan Southern provinces led to the fall of other forts as well. The commandant of the Kondapali fort Ramachandra the son of Prataparudra accompanied by Sitapati with large army consisting of three hundred thousand foot and thirty thousand horses failed miserably to save the fort. After the death of Prataparudra, Quli Qutab Shah occupied Rajahmundry in 1540 A.D., when Govinavidyadhara was the ruler of Odisha. A treaty was signed that declared river Godavari as the boundary between Odisha and Golkunda.

2.4.5 An Estimate

Gajapati Prataparudra was a great patron of learning. In the inscription of Undavali he is called the master of all arts and the repository of Sixty- four kinds of learning. He is called as *Vidyanidhi*. Poets and musicians sought his protection and Prataparudra patronised a number of Scholars in Sanskrit. The renaissance in Odia

literature had its birth during his reign. According to *Madalapanji* he built the audience hall of Jagannath temple. He also built the temple of *Chandrasekhra* on the Kapilas hill and renovated with some additions in the temples of *Varaha* of Jaipur. This testifies the catholicity of his religious outlook. He himself was well versed in Vaishnava theology. He was always very keen on the matter of administration. For his help, the activities of the *panchasakha* altered the socio-religious life of the people of Odisha. In spite of his military reverses Prataparudra could retain the extensive empire stretching from the mixture of a religious awakening with a touch of social change and the evils of the political decline.

2.5 SRI CHAITANYA

Sri Chaitanya, the great Vaishnavite saint of Bengal flourished in the reign of Prataparudra. Apart from religion Sri Chaitanya is said to have played an active role in political history which had an adverse effect in the unity of the kingdom and stability of Gajapati Government. R.D. Banerjee has held him responsible for the political and military decline of Odisha. He had quoted from Jayananda's *Chaitanyamangala* which states that the advice of Chaitanya was sufficient to cause this cowardly and religiously minded king to desist from a proper defence of his territories. The influence of Chaitanya on Prataparudra has been exaggerated in *Chaitanya Charitamrita* and *Chaitanya Bhagabata* and some other Bengali texts.

Prataparudra was busy in warfare in the south when Chaitanya arrived at Puri in 1510 A.D. Then he was busy fighting against Hussain shah of Bengal from 1510 -12 A.D from 1512-19 A.D. he was engaged in fighting severe wars against Krishnadeva Raya. Further, never did he show any negligence for the defence of his frontiers nor did he lose any opportunity to attack. Despite his defeat in the hands of Krishnadeva at Udayagiri he never stopped attempts to maintain his hold over Kondavidu and Kondapali. He had even attacked Vijayanagara in 1520 A.D. after the death of Krishnadeva. Although he was defeated by Vijayanagar he still had the strength to defeat Quli Qutab Shah. His empire extended from the Ganga to Godavari till his death. Of course, Prataparudra came in contact with Sri Chaitanya after 1519 A.D. The series of defeats, death of his son and humiliating treaty with Krishnadeva made him depressed. The influence of Chaitanya if any might have been confined to his personal life to such a situation. Besides, Chaitanya is not known to have interfered in matters of state.

The struggle with such a powerful contemporary like Krishnadeva, his lack of the military genius of his father and grandfather, the treachery of high officials like Govinda Vidyadhara and weak successor are the causes of which contributed to the downfall of the Gajapati empire after Prataparudra.



2.6 ADMINISTRATION

The Suryavamsis mainly followed the administration of Gangas and introduced a few innovations. The king enjoyed the supreme power in the state but his power to some extent was checked by the minister's generals and the priestly class who were the conditions of Lord Jagannath. The rulers of this dynasty also subscribed to the theocratic conceptions that Lord Jagannath was the real king of Odisha and they were their deputies. Kapilendra, Purusottama, and Prataprudra in the beginning of their reigns paid homage to Lord Jagannath and presented certain objects to him and recognised him as their overlord.

The empire established by Kapilendradeva extending the Hooghly in the north to the Pennar in the south was known as Maharaja. The smaller divisions of the empire were known as *Rajyas*, *Dandapats*, *Visayas* or *Khandas*. Both in the north and south Odisha there existed a number of these political divisions and sub divisions. In Rajyas the princes of royal blood were generally employed as Governor or Viceroys. The officer in-charge of *Dandapatwas* known as *Dandapariksha* or *Adhyaksha* and the Governor lived in the state as much as the kings did.

The Somavamsis inherited the practice of maintaining a well organised military system from Ganga rulers. They have improved the strength of the army to make it a strong force that helped the making Odisha an empire after the wars in the south and north. During the reign of Kapilendradeva Odisha was virtually made a military state and all the castes and communities were called upon to render military service of the time of emergency. The Brahmins seem to have been exempted from compulsory military service. The protection of the state and its expansions were the joint responsibilities of the entire population and not of the king alone.

2.7 RELIGION

Towards the end of Suryavamsis reign, Vaishnavism entered as a predominant belief in Odisha on the account of the visit of Sri Chaitanya and his long stay in Puri. The ascendancy of Jagannath cult popularly affiliated to the Vaishnava cult was more in evidence at Bhubaneswar. Vaishnavism was allowed to exist here on equal terms but this position was changed with the growing popularity of Vaishnavism due to the result of Sri Chaitanya's activities and the patronage of Vaishnavism by Prataprudradeva.

The temple of Lord Jagannath was visited by the great saints like Shankara, Ramanuja, Ramananda, Madhaba Tirtha, Narahari Tirtha, Kavira, Nanaka and Sri Chaitanya. The process of the growth of the Jagannath cult marked by changes modifications and innovations reached in the highest point by the end of the Ganga Period and after that it ceased to have any growth. Jagannath was the sole source of inspiration to the earlier Odishas from the 16th century A.D developed a diversified

religious interest and started to be the followers of all sorts of seats. The debasement of Jagannatha cult and the diversification of the religious interests synchronised the gradual decline of the moral and military spirits of the Odias.



2.8 ART AND ARCHITECTURE

After the Ganga dynasty the glorious period of temple building activities in Odisha ceased to continue but the spirits lingered on during the succeeding period of Suryavamsis supremacy. This period witnesses the erection of some notable temples. The inscription in the Papanasini temple on the bank of Papanasini tank referring to the reign of Kapilendra deva proves beyond doubt that the structure belongs to his reign.

The other notable temple of Bhubaneswar that seems to have belongs to the Suryavamsis period is that of Kapileswara, situated on the bank of Gangua about a mile to the south of Lingaraj. The present temple occupies the site of earlier monuments. The sculptures are analogous to those of the Papanasini in general style and it is possible hence that Kapileswara as we see it not belong to the same period of Suryavamsis dynasty. There is also a tradition that temple of Dhabaleswara standing on an Island of river Mahanadi was built by Kapilendradeva. A similar tradition also speaks about the credit of Prataparudradeva with the erection of Varaha temple of Jajpur. Thus, the activities of temple construction during the Suryavamsis rule remain dormant and this period did not contribute anything to the growth of temple architecture.

2.9 LET US SUM UP

The Political history of Odisha was moving towards a climax with the advent of the Suryavamsis. Literature, Epigraphs, Art & Chronicles bear evidence of the fame of Odisha had earned for the elephant force. A vast empire could be built and maintained with the support of elephants only.

There were three rulers of the Suryavamsis Gajapati dynasty, Kapilendradeva his son Purusottama and grandson Prataparudra successively they ruled for almost a century. It was a century of great stress and strain. The size of the empire shrank gradually, the temple building activities came to a grinding halt and the economy did not show signs of affluence. But in literary activities of Odisha excelled her earlier period of history.



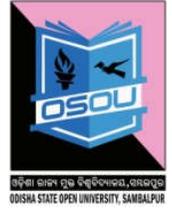
2.10 KEYWORDS

Accession	The act or process by which someone rises to a position of honour or power.
Almanacs	A yearly book that contains information about movements of planets; the phases of moon etc.
Anecdotes	Short interesting story about a person or event.
ChheraPahanra	Ritual of Ratha Yatra. It is performed by king of Odisha every year during Ratha Yatra.
Commandant	The officer in-charge of a particular military group.
Conception	An understanding of what or how something is the process of forming an idea or plan.
Concubine	An women who lives with a man but has lower status then his wife or wife's.
Coup-de-tat	The sudden violent overthrow of an existing government by a small group
Digvijaya	Victorious in all directions, victory over several countries.
Exaggerated	To make something seem larger, better, worse etc than it really is.
High land	Connected with an elevated land that has mountain.
Hostile	Having a strong feeling against something.
Innovation	Coming up with something really new.
Legitimate	Reasonable, acceptable allowed by law.
Madalapanji	It is a chronicle of the Jagannath temple; Puri Odisha describes historical events of Lord Jagannatha.
Reign	Used about a King or Queen to rule a country.
Siege	The situation in which an army surrounds a town for a long town so that nobody can get in or out.
Sweeping victory	A victory that is owned by margin.
Theocratic	Relating to or denoting a system of government in which priests rule in the name of a god.
Vice Royalty	The Office, position or authority of viceroy.

2.11. CHECK YOUR PROGRESS.

1. Account for the achievements of Kapilendardeva as an Empire builder?
2. Describe the Southern campaign of Kapilendradeva?
3. Describe the conflict between Odisha and Bahamani Kingdom during the reign of Purusottamdeva?
4. Describe the achievement of Prataprudradeva?

5. . What part Sri Chaitanya did play in political decline of Odisha during the reign of Prataprudradeva?



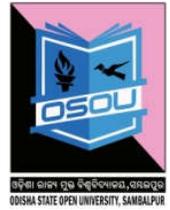
2.12 ANSWER TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISE

1. See Section-2.2
2. See Section-2.2
3. See Section-2.4.4
4. See Section- 2.3
5. See Section-3.5

2.13 SUGGESTED READING

1. R.D.Banerjee, *History of Orissa*, Vol-I
2. P.Mukharjee, *Gajapati Kings of Orissa*, 1981
3. R.Subrahamanyam, *The SuryavamsisGajapati of Orissa*
4. H.K.Mahatab, *History of Orissa*, Vol-II.
5. Mayadhar Mansingh, *History of Odia Literature*, New Delhi, 1962

UNIT 3 POST GAJAPATI POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT UPTO 1568



Structure

- 3.0 Objectives
- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Govinda Vidyadhara
- 3.3 Chakrapratap
- 3.4 Narasimha Jena
- 3.5 Raghuram Chhotraya
- 3.6 Makunda Harichandana
 - 3.6.1 Early Career
 - 3.6.2 War and Conquest
 - 3.6.3 Achievements
- 3.7 Causes of the Downfall of Odishan Empire
 - 3.7.1 Weak successors
 - 3.7.2 Occupation of South
 - 3.7.3 War of succession/Fatricidal War
 - 3.7.4 Place intrigues and revolts
 - 3.7.5 Vastness of Empire
 - 3.7.6 War with Krishnadeva Raya
 - 3.7.7 Muslim Invasions
 - 3.7.8 Sri Chaitanya and his responsibility
 - 3.7.9. Incessant War
 - 3.7.10 KALAPAHAR
- 3.8 Let us sum up
- 3.9 Key words
- 3.10 Answer to check your progress exercise



3.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit you will be able to know

- Political development after Prataprudra's reign.
- Coup-de-tat of Govinda Vidyadhara
- Important events during the reign of Chakrapratap, Narasimha Jena and Raghuram Chhotrai
- Achievement of Mukunda Harichandana.
- Causes of the downfall of Odishan Empire

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The history of Odisha after Prataprudradeva witness a period of revolts, civilwars, conspiracies, treachery and usurpation of power, and external invasions. All of which continues unabated for thirty five years from A.D. 1533 to 1568 and ultimately led to downfall of Odishan empire and paved the way for the Muslim conquest of this country. Virabhadradeva the eldest son of Prataprudra had died long back at Vijayanagara and his other sons were not competent enough to bear the burden of kingship in that critical situation. In the Madalapanji it is stated that Prataparudra was succeeded by his minor son Kaluadeva who ruled for seventeen months and the later by his brother Kakharudeva who was king for only three months. It is likely that Kuluadeva and Kakharudeva of nick names of Ramachandradeva and Purusottamadeva. They were murdered by his general Govindavidyadhara and usurped the throne in 1533-34 A.D. He founded the rule of Bhoi dynasty in Odisha.

3.2 GOVINDA VIDYADHARA (A.D. 1535-1546)

Govinda Vidyadhara was an able general and minister of Prataprudra. He was in charge of the Kataka fort. He was well known for his treachery, disloyalty and unscrupulous nature. He played treachery against the Gajapati and joined hands with Sultan Allauddin Hussain Shah of Bengal in 1509 A.D., but the Gajapati showed him undue sympathy and retain in service. As an efficient minister Govinda Vidyadhara regained the royal confidence and assumed a very powerful position. At the time of Prataprudra's death, he was the defecto ruler of the state. He killed the two sons of Gajapati and himself became the ruler.

After restoring peace and order in the country, Govinda Vidyadhara entrusted the security of the capital to his minister Mukunda Harichandana and led his army in expedition against south. Mukunda Harichandana was at that time the Governor of Cuttack and commandant of the fort of Barabati. Leaving everything to his charge Govinda Vidyadhara proceeded against Quli Qutab Shah of Golkunda. But in his

absence two of his nephews named Raghubhanja Chhotraya and Valmini Srichandan took recourse to open rebellion. They killed the head priest of Jagannath temple at Puri and drove away Mukunda Harichandana from Barabati fort. In this critical situation Govinda Vidyadhara made peace with the sultan of Golkunda by ceding all the territories laying between the Godavari and Krishna. Whatever territory was left now in the south was entrusted to the care of Danai Vidyadhara, a trusted minister to govern. Govinda Vidyadhara rushed back to Cuttack, recaptured it and chased his rebel nephew towards Bengal. While returning from campaign he fell ill and died at *Dasasvamedhaghat* of river vaitarani in 1549. Govinda Vidyadhara doesnot seem to have been recognised as the Gajapati by his feadatories. This is very clear from his inscription on the *Jagamohan* of Jagannath temple. His reign period as per *Madalapanji* was only seven or eleven years. He also retained the ornamental title of the Gajapati kings like “ *Managovinda Vira Sri Gajapati* over the lord of Gauda, Karnata and Kalabarga. He also style himself as *Suvarna Kesari* in the Simachalam inscriptions.

3.3 CHAKRA PRATAP (A.D 1546 – 1556 A.D.)

The son and successor of Govinda Vidyadhara was Chakrapratap. After assumption of power he appointed Janandardhan Vidyadhara as the Prime minister. Since Janardhana was holding dual charge of Prime minister and Governor of southern province. He did not stay at the capital for long. Chakrapratap very soon became unpopular for his tyranny. Abul Fazl says that he was killed by his own son Narasimha Jena in the premises of Jagannath temple in 1557 A.D.

3.4 NARASIMHA JENA (1557-1558 A.D)

Narasimha Jena’s position became dangerous from the beginning due to conspiracies of his own officials and generals. He called Danai back from the south but before Danai would arrive his general Mukunda Harichandana killed him and put his brother Raghurama as his pupped on the throne.

3.5 RAGHURAM CHHOTRAYA (1558-1559 A.D.)

After the death of Narasimha Jena, his son Raghuram Chhotaraya was placed over the throne who ruled Odisha only one year. *Madalapanji* describes that there was a tripartite struggle for the throne among three aspirants Danai Vidyadhara, Mukunda Harichandana and Raghubhanja Chhotaraya. Mukunda Harichandana finally succeeded. Danai Vidyadhara was put in the prison and Raghubhanja Chhotaraya was defeated and made a prisoner. Mukunda Harichandana after eliminating other two rivals killed Raghuram Chhotaraya and ascended the throne in 1560 A.D.

3.6 MAKUNDA HARICHANDANA (1560-1568 A.D.)

Madalapanji tells us that Mukunda Harichandana popularly known as Mukundadeva belong to the Chalukya family. He claimed his descent from the Eastern Calukyas of Vengi established by Pulakesin-II of Vadami. In the inscription of Bhimesvara temple of Draksarama in the east Godavari district. Mukundadeva is described as the son of Sarvaraju and grandson of Singharaju. He is known as Telenga Mukundadeva. Farista makes a reference of a feudatory dynasty rulling in the Sarvasidhi *Taluka* of Visakhapatanam district. Bahuvalendras and Harichandanas of this dynasty were rulling over this *Taluk*. Mukundadeva possible belonged to this dynasty who were originally the feudatories of Gajapati of Odisha. Mukundadeva became a Prominent figure in the history of Odisha by defending the fort of Kataka from the attack of Raghubhanja Chhotaraya. He hailed from Telinga for which he is popularly called as Telinga Mukundadeva.

3.6.1 Early Career:

Mukundadeva started his career as the soldier under Prataparudradeva. He made a distinguishing career by virtue of his skill and ability in the wars of the south. He was promoted to a higher rank in the reign of Govinda Vidyadhara. He was given the charge of the defence of the Barabati fort. He became ambitious and killed the last who scions of the family of Govinda Vidyadhara to usurp the throne.

3.6.2 Was and conquest

Five inscriptions of Mukundadeva have been discovered and the fourth inscription prove that that his Odishan kindom extended upto Godavari till 1568 A.D. This inscription historically is an important evidence of his reign. It further states that Mukundadeva defeated the king of Gouda and after that he performed that *Tululapurusha* ceremony. He remitted taxex on marriages. This inscription further states that Mukundadeva extended his kingdom upto *Triveni* in the north before 1567. He constructed some steps on the *Trivenighat* on the Ganga which is still known as Mukundaghat.

Mukundadeva successfully managed to keep the Gajapati Empire intact. He restores internal peace and security in his kingdom. During the early part of his reign he allowed shelter to Ibrahim Sur the greatest enemy of Sulaiman Karani, the Sultan of Bengal. Mukunda established codial relation with the mughal Emperor Akbar. In 1560 he welcomed Raja Mansingh the envoy of Akbar and sent Paramananda Ray. For these reasons Sulaiman Karani invade Odisha in 1568. He sent his own son Bayazid assisted by Kala Pahar for his invasion. Mukundadeva was not prepared for this invasion and sent Raghubhanja Chhotaraya to resist the invaders. Raghubhanja Chhotaraya seems to have been released from the prison by Mukundadeva. In spite of



all precaution Bengal army reached Kataka and Mukundadeva having no other alternative submitted before the Sultan. Raghubhanja turned to be a traitor as before that resulted in the defeat of Mukundadeva.

Madalapanji describes that two division of Bengal army marched against Odisha one of which fought against Mukundadeva and the other proceeded towards Kataka led by Bayazid and Kalapahar. Mukundadeva was defeated and was forced to take refuge in the fort of Kotsima on the western bank of the river Damodara in the Hooghly district. Bayazid and Kalapahar defeated Koni Samanta Simhara who were in-charge of the fort. Mukundadeva wearing the news of the fall of Cuttack hastended to the capital but due to the rebellion engineered by Ramachandra Bhanja. He had to submit before invader. Mukundadeva then marched against the rebels of Sarangagarh and killed him. Another tradition says that Mukundadeva fought with the invading army at Gohiritikira near Jajpur and was killed in the battle field. Some other tradition tells us that two generals of the king Sikhi and Monnai Mahapatra engineered plan to show the secret route in the jungle to Kalapahar to attack Mukundadeva from the rear that his death. This has been corroborated i the Khurda manuscript. The kingdom of Odisha thus passed to the Bengal supremacy in the month of margasira in the 11th anka of Telinga Mukundadeva.

3.6.3 Achievements:

Mukundadeva ruled Odisha for eight years only but became an important figure in the history of Odisha for his abilities. He by virtue of his administrative calibre became the master of the Gajapati Kingdom stretching from the river Ganga in the north to Godavari in the south. He is remembered as the creator of many Brahmin *Sasanas*. He established many *Sasanas* in and around Puri for the habitation of Brahmanas. He also constructed many structure in Jagannatha temple complex.

Mukundadeva patronised Jivadeva Kavidindima a famous court poet of Prataparudra. *Bhakti Bhagabata* written by Jivadeva acknowledged the quality of Mukundadeva's reign. Saesare Frederike, a marchant of Venice who visited East India paid high tribute to Mukundadeva. He said that Odisha was a fair kingdom of trusty.

According to Badooni, "The Rajah of Odisha was maintained distinguished for his army and military pomp". Thus Mukundadeva, the splendour of his court and managed the administration effectively. He was a great king both in war and peace.

The sultan of Bengal made odisha a province under his control. The Afgan made the fort of Barabati their headquarter. The death of Mukundadeva was the beginning of a dark chapter in Odishan History.

3.7 CAUSES OF THE DOWNFALL OF ODISHAN EMPIRE



Rise and fall of ruling dynasties are the logic of history. Changeability is the law of nature. Nothing lasts eternally in transient world. All things are subject to change and decay. Rise and fall of empires are never isolated event; rather they are concurrent and interdependent, but History witness the ascents and descents of many king's kingdoms and dynasties. It is not astonishing that the Odishan kingdom fell. It was normal and natural. The Hindu kingdom maintained its independence upto 1568 A.D. but when northern parts of India including Bengal and Bihar went to the grip of Turkish invaders. The following causes are made responsible for the downfall.

3.7.1 Weak successors

The later Gangas rulers were weak. The weakness encouraged internal as well as external enemies to take advantage of the situation. Similar was the state of affairs after Prataparudradeva and Govinda Vidyadhara. The general and high officials made the kings puppets in their hands. Kapilendradeva usurped the throne from Bhanudeva-IV, Govinda Vidyadhara from the successors of Prataparudradeva and Mukundadeva from the successors of Govinda Vidyadhara. The regicides could not get popular support.

3.7.2 Occupation of South

The seed of the downfall of Odishan Empire was sown by Kapilendradeva. The hostility between Vijayanagar and Odisha became intense after the latter's conquest of Kondavidu, Udayagiri and Chandragiri. It was a political blunder committed by Kapilendradeva. He extended the boundary further by conquering warrangal and Telengana coast which made him a better enemy of Bahamani Sultana. He annexed those territories to his kingdom and appointed his officers as Governors to rule the area. He could not apprehend the administrative problems in the far south. In those days, the problems of communication were enormous. It was difficult to control his far off area from Cuttack. He could not retain the distant region. Saluva Narasimha started his task of reconquest of Chandragiri and Udayagiri. It was a challenge of Raja of Vijayanagar. This hostility which was initiated by Kapilendradeva in the total defeat of Prataprudradeva. It causes a colossal wastage of man and money. The Bahamani Sultan also made desperate attempts to recover his lost territories. Odisha had to exhaust most of the resources in the south through the real danger was looming large in the north. Odisha's back bone was seriously hurt because of its policy in the south.

3.7.3 War of succession/Fratricidal War

Kapilendradeva did another mistake by violating the law of primogeniture. He nominated Purosottamadeva, the youngest and illegitimate son setting aside the legal claim Hamviradeva. He knew the difficulties and problems of illegal transfer of royalty as he himself was an usurper. It was the strict adherence to the law of inheritance of *Dharmashastras* that maintain the dignity and stability of the Ganga throne. Being aware of these facts, he committed the political error of illegal nomination, which had disastrous effect on the king and the kingdom. Hamvira the legal claimant, revolted in the south against his father's authority. Civil war broke out between Hamvira and Purosottama. This weakness was exploited by Vijayanagar and Bahamani Kingdoms. They stanch away the southern territories of Odishan Kingdom from

Rajahmundry to Udayagiri. Purusottamadeva was fortunate enough to re-conquer these territories by continuous wars and aggrandisement but at a heavy cost of human lives and the military resources.

3.7.4 Place intrigues and revolts

Place intrigues were always at work. It became manifest at the time of usurpation of Kapilendradeva, at the time of nomination of Purusottamadeva and in subsequent murders of kings. The treachery initiated by Kapilendradeva came to an end with the death of Ramachandradeva, The Chief of Sarangarh in 1568 A.D. The unwanted generosity of Prataparudradeva extinguished his own line, Govinda Vidyadhara turned a traitor during the seizure of the fort of Mandaran. He should have been sentenced to death by Prataprudra, but instead he was pardoned and reinstated. Govinda Vidyadhara killed the sons of Prataprudra and occupied the throne speaks volumes about court intrigue. This legacy of regicide went on. Chakrapratap was killed by his own son Narasimha Jena. Narasimhajena and his successor Raghuram were murdered by Mukundadeva. The frequent succession of regicides and patricides to the throne shattered the faith of the public, who gradually withdrew their allegiance from the usurpers and the less of public trust adversely affected by administration. In addition to this rebellion became a common occurrence. Raghubhanja Chhotraya rebelled against the king Govinda Vidyadhara when he was fighting. The Sultan of Gulkunda, Ramachandradeva of Sarangagarh defied the authority of Mukundadeva and declared himself as the king of Odisha when Mukundadeva was at war against Sulaimen Karani for the defence of Odishan Kingdom. Sikhi and Monai two traitors showed Bayazid, the son of Sulaiman, the jungle path to Odisha for which the latter could reach Cuttack without any opposition. The arrival of the Muslim army in the capital of Odisha hastened the fall.

3.7.5 Vastness of Empire

In Indian polity king is the keystone of the administrative arch. In Odishan polity also kings plays a pivotal role in the administration. The longevity and strength of a kingdom always depend upon the personality of the ruler. If the king is powerful, the kingdom became powerful and if the king is weak, the kingdom suffers and decline. The early medieval states were military states and their sustenance depended on military strength of the states and volour and skill of the ruler. The strong and powerful kings of Odisha were engaged in making bold bids for an empire. They were only concerned with their victory and paid no heed to the adverse affect of frequent wars. It resulted in fluttering away the economic and military resources of the country. The first three rulers of the Suryavamsis dynasty were inspired with the traditional imperial policy of territorial aggrandisement. They were conquerors but not statesmen. Kapilendradeva and Purusottamadeva had never thought of a lasting empire. They could not thing that a dynasty may not provide energetic and vigorous ruler forever. To make their dynastic rule more lasting they should have made alliance with other countries.

3.7.6 War with Krishnadeva Raya.

Krishnadeva Raya engaged Odisha in a war which continued for seven years to recover Udayagiri-Kondavidu region. The contemporary Odishan emperor Prataparudradeva was humiliatingly defeated and gave up the region. The military strength of Odisha was seriously affected.

3.7.7 Muslim Invasions.

Since the time of Ganga rule Odisha had been a target of all Muslim powers. They had been invading Odisha from the time of Ganga king Rajaraja-III. Odisha was encircled by a number of hostile Muslim states during the rule of Suryavamsis Kings. The Bahamani kingdom, Malwa, Jaunpur and Bengal had invade Odisha several times. The Suryavamsis king neither could crush the Muslim power nor makes them allies. From the time of Kapilendradeva upto the time of Prataprudradeva though the Sultan were under check, their invasion at crucial time obstructed the success of Gajapati. The Jounpur Sultan Mahmud Shah Sarqi attacked Odisha in 1444 A.D. but when Kapilendradeva was fighting battle against Reddis kingdom. Hussain Shah Sharqi invaded when Kapilendradeva was busy in a war against Bahamani Sultan. Both the time Odisha had to sustain defeat when Prataprudradeva was fighting Krishnadevaraya the Sultan of Bengal invaded Odisha for which Gajapati had to retreat. Krishnadeva was won an easy victory. Quli Qutab Shah of Golkunda repeatedly invaded Odishan Kingdom and was able to snatch way the territories of Krishna-Godavari delta from Govinda Vidyadhara. Finally the Afghan ruler of Bengal Sulaiman Karenii made a war against Odisha, crushed the Odishan army and occupied the throne of Odisha. The Muslim army always derived Victory from a tremendous religious enthusiasm where as the Odishan soldiers were fighting the battle with a pretentious patriotism that brought them failure in almost every military enterprise.

3.7.8 Sri Chaitanya and his responsibility

R.D.Banerjee opines that the influence of Chaitanya on the society and administration was disastrous for the kingdom of Odisha. According to him, Chaitanya was one of the Principle causes of the Political decline of the country and the people. He further adds that the Neo-Vaishnavism was the real cause of the Muslim conquest of Odisha twenty eight years after the death of Prataprudra. He has also charged Chaitanya of Interfering in the policy of the state.

R.D. Banerjee further states that Ramananda Raya, the Governor of Rajahmundry was influenced by the teaching of Chaitanya. He became a disciple of the saint and resigned from the Governorship. He was an experienced administrator and his resignation weakened the administration of Rajahmundry.

The popularity of *Sahajia* form of Vaisnavism among the people caused the production of a large mass of Odia literature depicting the amorous adventure and illicit love affairs of Krishna and Radha. Lord Krishna began to be represented as a “*Lampata*” i.e; Lascivious character. This erotic religious literature had disastrous impact on the Socio-religious life of Odia people. So Chaitanya should not be held solely responsible for demoralising the society and diminishing the martial spirit of the army.

3.7.9. Incessant War

P.Mukharjee, states that the military strength of the kingdom had been exhausted by the war of aggression launched by Kapilendra and Purusottama. The people began to rejoice with the wealth accumulated by plundering and looting the enemy states during their victorious campaigns. They indulged in easy virtues. Having been addicted to sensual pleasure they lost their soldierly spirit and dexterity.and it was the glaring example of their weakness in the battle of Kondapali where despite the gathering of all stalwarts of the Gajapati army Odisha

could not offer a stiff resistance to the army of Vijayanagar. The poor performance of the Odishan soldiers was probably due to the effect of the frequent wars of Suryavamsi's Gajapati. The soldiers were always away from their family and friends. They would have created aversion to war in the mind of the soldier. A general apathy to warfare grew gradually not only among the soldiers but also among the civilians. This causes decline in martial spirit and contributed in its own way to fall of Odishan kingdom.

3.7.10 Kalapahara

To make a reference about the Muslim invasion of Odisha it is worthwhile to describe the activities of Kalapahar. Kalapahar destroyed a part of the Jagannath temple upto the *Amalakasila*. *Madalapanji* states that when the servants of temple got the information of fall of the capital Kataka they took away the deities of Lord Jagannatha, Bhalabhadra & Subhadra to secret place in the Island of Chilika Lake, but Kalapahar got the information about this and captured the images and took them to Bengal on an elephant. A Vaishnava saint Bishar Mohanty followed him and managed to recover the *brahmas* from the half burnt images which were burnt by Kalapahar. He brought the *brahms* back to Odisha inside a Mridanga.

There is a tradition in Bengal that Kalapahar was originally a Hindu Brahmin. Dulari the daughter of sultan of Bengal fell in love with him and ultimately married her. Kalapahar had two Hindu wives and he intended to remain a Hindu even though he married the Muslim girl. He came to Puri to perform the ceremony of expiation in the temple of Jagannath but *Brahmins Pandits* did not permit him to perform it. Kalapahara's reaction made him a fanatic against Hindu religion. This tradition however been challenged by many Scholars. Prof. P. Mukharjee observed that the Muslim chronicles conclusively prove that Kalapahar was a full blooded Afgan and not a Brahmin renegade.

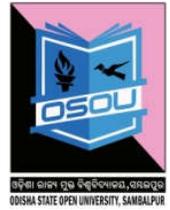
Kalapahar is a popular figure as a destroyer of Hindu monuments of Odisha. As a matter of fact that he destroyed many temples of Odisha but not all temples. It was not possible on his part to visit every nook and corner of Odisha with a view to destroy the temple. Moreover he was very much busy in the affairs of the war for which he did not have the time to move to every part of Odisha for this purpose only.

The new approach to the religion, the degradation of the Jagannath cult, and the general degeneration of the Odia society and degradation of the moral conduct of the people combine became responsible. And also the struggle with such a powerful contemporary like Krishnadev Raya, his lack of the military genius of his father and grandfather, the treachery of high officials like Govinda Vidyadhara and last but not the least weak successor are in fact the cause of which contributed to the downfall of the Gajapati empire after Prataprudradeva.

3.8 LET US SUM UP

Govinda Vidyadhara played treachery with Prataprudra during the siege of Mandaran fort. Govinda was apologised and was re-instated. Instead of becoming grateful to the sovereign, he killed his sovereign's successors and occupied the throne. The history of Odisha for 20 years. After Govinda Vidyadhara was one of conspiracies and place-

intrigues. Govinda's son Chakrapratap was murdered by his own son Narasimha Jena. Whereas, the Mukunda Harichandana killed Narasimha Jena, Raghubhanja Chhotrai, Raghuram Jena and Danai Vidyadhara. Mukundadeva himself fell a victim to the treachery fo his feudatory Ramachandra Bhanja. Thus revolts and treachery reigned supreme and brought about the end of Odishan Empire by in 1568 A.D.



3.9. CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. Account for the reign of the last Hindu King of Odisha

.....
.....
.....

2. Describe the achievements of Telinga Mukundadeva

.....
.....
.....

3. How far do you justified the responsibility of Mukundadeva towards the decline of Odishan Empire.

.....
.....
.....

4. Describe the causes of downfall of Odishan Empire.

.....
.....
.....



3.9 KEYWORDS

Chronicle	A written record of historical events describing them in the order in which they happened.
Commandant	The officer in-charge of a particular military group or institution.
Defacto	A Latin expression used to say that something exists even through it may not be leglly accepted as existing.
Eliminating	To remove somebody or something that is not wanted or need. To stop somebody going further in a competition etc.
Expiation	The act of making an ends or reparation for guilt or wrongdoing; atonement.
Feudatory	Owing feudal allegiance to another. A person who holds land under the condition of the feudal system.
Haled	Drag or Draw forcibly.
Manuscript	A very old book or document that was written by hand.
Puppet	A person or an organization that is controlled by somebody else.
Refuge	Protection from danger, trouble etc.
Resist	To fight back against something or somebody.
Sovereign	(Used about a country) not controlled by any other country, independent having the highest possible authority.
Taluk	(In South Asia) an administrative district for taxation purpose, typically comprising a number of villages.
Unabated	Without becoming weaker
Unscrupulous	Being dishonest, cruel or un fair in order to get what you want
Usurpation	To seize and hold

3.10 ANSWER TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISE

1. See Section 3.2
2. See Section 3.6
3. See Section 3.6
4. See Section 3.7

3.11. SUGGESTED READING

1. R.D. Banarjee, *History of Orissa*, VOL-II, 1930
2. P.Mukharjee, *The Gajapati Kings of Orissa*, 1953
3. K.C.Panigrahi, *History of Orissa*, 1981
4. R.Subhramanyam- *The Suryavamsis Gajapati of Orissa*, Waltair, 1957
5. H.K.Mahatab, *History of Orissa*, Part-I

