SOCIIO-ECONOMIC HISTORY OF NORTHERN INDIA (1030-1194 A.D.)

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC HISTORY OF NORTHERN INDIA
(1030-1194 A.D.)

By
BHAKAT PRASAD MAZUMDAR M.A., Ph.D.
Head of the Department of History, B. N. College,
Patna University, Patna.

Firma K. L. MUKHOPADHYAY
CALCUTTA 1960
To my father
Dr. BIMANBEHARI MAJUMDAR, M.A., Ph.D.,
Premchand Roychand Scholar, Bhagavatataratna
Thesis approved for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of Patna.
PREFACE

The book seeks to interpret the working of the social and economic forces which shaped the political destiny of Northern India in the period between the death of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni (1030 A.D.) and the final conquest of Ajmer by Qutb-ud-din Aibak from Hariraja, the brother of Prithviraja III (1194 A.D.). The pathetic indifference of the people to the paramount problem of defending their country against the devastating raids and invasions of the Turko-Afghans during the period of one hundred and sixty-four years has puzzled many. The present work attempts to find out whether the cause of apparent apathy towards the building up of an organisation of a quasi-permanent nature in order to offer united resistance to the invaders actually lies in the socio-economic factors.

The materials for the study of these factors are not inconsiderable in volume. These can be found in the contemporary nibandhas or digests, literary and semi-historical works, books on niti or politics, kosa or lexicon, technical works like Yuktikalpataru and Samaranganasutradhara and above all, in the voluminous body of inscriptions. A comparative study of the indigenous materials and the accounts of foreign writers yield fruitful results. Alberuni's work has been known to scholars as a veritable mine of information; but the accounts left by his pupil Gardizii are not equally well-known, because some portions of it are still preserved in manuscript in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. I secured a photostat of the relevant portions for my work.

The most important of the digests is the Krityakalpataru, written by Lakshmishhara, at first Justice and later on the Minister of Peace and War of King Govindachandra Gaha-davala (c. 1114-1154 A.D.). Prof. K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar thinks that the work was compiled in the early part of the
reign of Govindachandra. It is a voluminous work in fourteen kāñḍas, of which eleven, namely, Brahmachāri, Gṛihasthā, Śuddhi, Niyatakāla, Tīrthavivechana, Srāddha, Dāna, Vrata, Vyavahāra, Mokṣa, and Rājadharma kāñḍas have been published in eleven big tomes. As its publication continued from 1941 to 1953 A.D., no student of history, to the best of my knowledge, has as yet tried to utilize the valuable materials it contains with a view to reconstructing the social and economic history of India of the twelfth century A.D. Many of the statements of Lakṣmīdhara can be checked up with the help of the Mitākṣarā of Vījñāneśvara, and the Kālaviveka, Dāyabhāga and Vyavahāramārtikā of Jīmatavāhana. All these works were written in the first half of the twelfth century A.D. An earlier work is the Rājamārtanda of Bhoja, probably the same as the famous King of the Paramāra dynasty (c. 1000-1055 A.D.). Dānasāgara and Adbhutasāgara, ascribed to Vallaśasena and Bṛāhmaṇa-sarvasva, written by Halāyudha, the Chief Justice in the reign of Lakṣmaṇasena, also furnish us with some valuable data. These can be compared profitably with the works of Aparārka (c. 1125 A.D.) and Devaṇṇabhaṭṭa whose Smṛitiachandrikā was compiled sometime between 1150 and 1225 A.D. Whether some of the practices and institutions referred to in the digests of the twelfth century A.D. continued in later times can be ascertained by consulting the Gṛihastharatnākara and Rājaniratatnākara of Chaṇḍeśvara (c. 1290-1370 A.D.) of Mithilā, Haribhaktivilāsa of Gopālabhaṭṭa (early sixteenth century) and the Vīramitrodaya (1615-1645 A.D.). We have quoted epigraphic and literary evidence supporting many of the statements of the digests.

The information supplied by smṛiti works can be usefully supplemented by facts gleaned from the nīti works. Besides the Rājadharmakāṇḍa of Lakṣmīdhara, Nītikalpataru of Kṣemendra, a contemporary of King Ananta of Kashmir (1028-1063 A.D.), which had been published by the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in 1956 and Laghrvarhanītī-
śāstra, written by the famous Jaina scholar Hemachandra, can definitely be ascribed to the period under review. Thomas has ascribed the Bārhaspatya Arthaśāstra to the twelfth century A.D. Somadeva’s Nātivākyāṃṛita, though written in c. 951 A.D. and the Rājanītiratnākara of Chaṇḍesvarā, written early in the fourteenth century A.D., may be taken to reflect conditions which prevailed also in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. This is also the case with the startlingly original book, Sukranītisāra. It is known from Kauṭilya’s Arthaśāstra that there was an old school of political thought represented by Śukra, Uśanas or Bhārgava. Chaṇḍesvarā quotes verses from Sukranīti in as many as four places (f.n. of Jayaswal’s edition of Rājanītiratnākara, Chapter XI. Pp. 42, 70, 72, 76-77) but none of these verses occur in the edition of Oppert or of Jivananda Vidyasagara. The Nītikalpataru of Kṣemendra however, quotes ten verses from the work of Bhārgava, which have been traced to the printed edition of Sukranītisāra, though in some cases the lines interchange their positions in the Sukranītisāra.* The citation of so many verses by an author who wrote in the middle of the eleventh century may be taken as a positive proof of the existence of the Sukranītisāra in some form or other in the eleventh century A.D. There have been some interpolations no doubt, for example, passages relating to fire-arms. But such instances of interpolation are not rare in medieval works. We have, therefore, drawn rather extensively from the Sukranītisāra.

Yuktikalpataru and Samarāṅgaṇasaṃādhyāra, both attributed to Bhoja of the eleventh century A.D. and Mānasollāsa written by Someśvara (c. 1127-38 A.D.) constitute a class by themselves and throw important light on feudalism, military organisation, manners and customs and above all, on some of the important industries of the time.

* Nītikalpataru, section 98 verses 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61 = Sukranītisāra IV. 7, 133, 134-135, 129, 130-131, 132, 124, 125, 126 and 127 respectively.
No other epoch of the Hindu age is so rich in historical and semi-historical writings as the period under our survey. *Rāmaśāstra* of Sāndhyākaranandī, written in the reign of Madanapāla (c. 1144-1161 A.D.) of the Pāla dynasty, *Vikramāṇkadevaśāstra* of Bhārana, composed before 1088 A.D., the masterly history of Kashmir by Kalhana completed in 1159-1160 A.D. and the *Dvīśrayakāvyā* or *Kumārapālacakrīta*, written by Hemachandra in the latter half of the twelfth century A.D., are rich mines of information relating to social and economic life of the people.

We have also pressed into service poetical works like *Naśadhaśāstra* of Śrīharṣa, who most probably flourished under Vijayachandra and Jayachandra of Kanauj, *Prabodhacandra* of Kṛṣṇamiśra, written at the command of Gopāla, the chief of the vassals of Kṛttivāman (1098 A.D.), *Samaya-mātrakā, Kalāvīlaśa, Bodhisatvatīvatadāna-kalpatalā, Lokapratikāśa, and Daśāvatāraśāstra* of Kṛṣṇendrā as also *Gītagovinda* of Jayadeva and the works of his contemporaries like Dhoiś, the author of *Pavanadīta*, Govardhana, the author of *Āryāsaptasati* and the poems contained in the *Saduktikarṇāmṛita* compiled by Śridharadāsa on the 11th February, 1206 A.D. The information contained in the *Charvṛṣapadas, Udayasundarikathā* of Saḍāhala (composed sometime between 1026 and 1050 A.D.), *Tṛiṣaṭṭitiḥalakā-puruṣa-śāstra* of Hemachandra, *Pṛthvīrājarāsa* of Chānd Baradāyī, *Pṛthvīrājāvijaya* (commented by Jōnarāja) written sometime between 1178 and 1200 A.D., *Hammīran-adīamārandana*, written in the thirteenth century A.D., *Yaśastilakachampū*, written by Somadeva in Śaka 881/c. 959 A.D. has also been drawn upon.

The information gathered from literary works and digests has been corroborated and supplemented by epigraphic records, wherever available. These evidences culled together reveal to us a feudal society, characterised by social and political disintegration, economic stagnation, moral bankruptcy and a pathetic dependence on stars and omens.
The author craves the indulgence of the readers for certain misprints, broken types and errors in diacritical marks like Thakkura for Thakkura, Brahmana for Brähmana which crept into the text.

To the great regret of the author, this volume could not be printed during the life-time of Sri Baldeva Sahay, ex-Advocate-General of Bihar, who first infused into him the desire to carry on researches in Indian history. No less is the debt of gratitude to two other notable Indologists, Dr. A. S. Altekar and Dr. T. P. Chowdhury, of the Patna University, who passed away last year. They made many constructive criticisms.

The book owes much to a number of other scholars. Among them Dr. J. N. Banerjea, formerly Carmichael Professor and Head of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture, Dr. D. C. Sircar, Epigraphist to the Government of India, Dr. Iqbal Hussain, Principal, Patria College, Prof. S. N. Bhattacharyya, formerly Professor of Sanskrit, B. N. College, Patna, Prof. S. H. Askari of the Department of History, Patna University, Prof. A. Khair, Head of the Department of Persian, B. N. College, Patna, Dr. T. P. Bhattacharyya, former Head of the Department of History, B. N. College, Patna, Mr. Q. Ahmed, Research Scholar, K.P.J. Research Institute, Patna, Prof. S. K. Dutta, former Principal, R. D. & D. J. College, Monghyr and Prof. Bhagaban Prasad Majumdar of the Department of English, B. N. College, Patna, made valuable suggestions. No words can express the author's sense of gratitude to his teacher Dr. K. K. Datta, Director, K. P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna, for his encouragement, criticisms and guidance. Thanks are also due to Mr. Samar C. Dutt for help and suggestions.

Patna
November 21, 1960.

Bhakat Prasad Mazumdar
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIOC</td>
<td>Proceedings and transactions of the All-India Oriental Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Rāṣṭrakūṭas and their Times by A.S. Altekar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASC</td>
<td>Archaeological Survey of India, Reports by Sir A. Cunningham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASI</td>
<td>Archaeological Survey of India (Annual Report).</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASS</td>
<td>Anandarasa Sanskrit Series, Poona.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BG</td>
<td>Bombay Gazetteer, Vol. I.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bh. List.</td>
<td>A List of Inscriptions of Northern India by D. R. Bhandarkar (Appendix to EI. XIX-XXIII).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL</td>
<td>Bibliotheca Indica, Calcutta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahmacāri</td>
<td>Brahmacārikāṇḍa section of Krityakalpataru (GOS. VOL. No. CVI).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briggs</td>
<td>Ta'rikh-i-Firishta, translation in English by Briggs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSS</td>
<td>Bombay Sanskrit (and Prakrit) Series, Bombay (and Poona).</td>
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<tr>
<td>CII</td>
<td>Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>Copper-plate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dānakāṇḍa</td>
<td>Dānakāṇḍa section of Krityakalpataru (GOS. Vol. XCII).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHNI</td>
<td>Dynastic History of Northern India by H. C. Ray in 2 volumes, Calcutta 1931 &amp; 1936.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DV</td>
<td>Dvyāśrayakāvyā of Hemachandra.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EI</td>
<td>Epigraphia Indica.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOHRS</td>
<td>Journal of the Orissa Historical Research Society.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JRASB</td>
<td>Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, (Letters), Calcutta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUPHS</td>
<td>Journal of the U. P. Historical Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KE</td>
<td>Kalachuri Era</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Kāvyamālā, NSP., Bombay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KV</td>
<td>Kālaviveka of Jimūtavāhana (Bibliotheca Indica).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LP</td>
<td>Lekhāpaddhati.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASI</td>
<td>Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niyata</td>
<td>Niyatakālakāṇḍa section of the Krityakalpataru, (GOS. Vol. No. CXI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSP</td>
<td>Nirṇaya-Sāgara Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAI</td>
<td>Political History of Ancient India, by H. C. Raychaudhuri, Calcutta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIHC</td>
<td>Proceedings of the Indian History Congress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO</td>
<td>Poona Orientalist, Poona.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRAS, WC</td>
<td>Progress Report of the Archaeological Survey of India, Western Circle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rāj.</td>
<td>Rājadharmakāṇḍa section of the Krityakalpataru, (GOS. Vol. No. C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC.</td>
<td>Rāmacharita, edited by R. C. Majumdar, R. G. Basak and N. G. Banerji, Rajshahi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLARB.</td>
<td>Revised List of Antiquarian Remains of Bombay Presidency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RT.</td>
<td>Rājatarāṅgiṇī of Kalhaṇa, translated by M. A. Stein.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBE.</td>
<td>Sacred Books of the East, Oxford.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sachau</td>
<td>Alberuni’s India, edited with notes and Indices by E. C. Sachau, two volumes in one (popular edition), London.</td>
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SI. ... Stone Inscription.

Sm. C. ... Śrī-Viṣṇu-śaṅkara-paddhati, edited by P. Lathey.

ŚP ... Śārṅgadhara-paddhati, edited by P. Peterson.


Tīrthavivechana. ... Tīrthavivechanakesṇṇda section of the Kṛitya-kalpataru (GOS. Vol. No. XCVIII).

Vaij. ... Vaijayantī of Yādavaprakāśa.

VRS. ... Varendra Research Society, Rajshahi.

Yāj. ... Yājñavalkya-smṛiti.
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CHAPTER I

Feudalism

The collapse of the Gurjara-Pratihāra empire ushered in the age of feudal disintegration in Northern India. Families, which had been faithful vassals of the Gurjara-Pratihāra emperors for generations, threw off their allegiance to their overlord in the tenth century A.D. Thus the Chandellas or Chandrātreyas of Jejakabhukti, the Kalachuris of Tripuri and of Sarayūpāra, the Guhīlas and the Chāhamānas, asserted their independence and began to fight interminable battles amongst themselves. They themselves had to depend, to a considerable extent, upon those vassals, who transferred their allegiance to them or those who aspired for important fiefs in recognition of their faithful service. The feudatories welcomed the ambitious designs of an energetic King, because, they had to be appeased with land and wealth before they could be induced to go out on an expedition. Thus Someśvara Chālukya of Kalyāna in his Mānasollāsa¹ says, that, on the day preceding the date of starting out on an expedition, the King should convene an assembly of Princes, feudatories, rulers of maṇḍalas and soldiers and satisfy them with presents of gold, dresses and ornaments and encourage them by singing their praises. Another mediaeval work on Politics, the Śukranītisāra,² lays down the maxim that a King would be well advised to make peace with his own feudatories before going out to conquer his enemies. Sandhyākaranaṇandī³ also describes how Rāmapāla of Bengal conciliated his feudatories before undertaking the war against Bhīma Kaivarta: “by that King (Rāmapāla) that (body of Sāmantas), who attained great strength by possession of cavalry, elephants and infantry was gained over (i.e. made favourable) by
presents of land and enormous wealth.” Brāhaspati also advises a king to welcome feudatories as if they were himself, with viands, clothing etc.

As war was a passion with the kings of this age, the feudatories went on increasing their power. Succession of weak kings afforded them a suitable opportunity for extending their power still further. A war of succession, which was not infrequent in this period, was eagerly awaited by them, because, on such an occasion both the contestants for power tried to win them over by gifts.

Another factor responsible for the increase in the number, if not in the power, of feudal chieftains was the devastating raids by rulers of distant territories over vast stretches of land in Northern India. Rājendra Chōḷa I raided Eastern India (c. 1021 A.D.). His raid was thus almost simultaneous with that of Sultān Mahmūd of Ghaznī. The mantle of the Rāṣṭrakūṭas fell on Chāluukyas of Kalyāṇa and, like Govinda III, Kṛṣṇa III and Indra III, Vikramāditya VI and Someśvara III, they made rapid conquests of distant parts of Northern and Eastern India. Eastern India was raided by the Kalachuri Kings, Karna and Yaśāḥ Karna, Anantavarman Chōḍagaṅga and the Gāhaḍavāla ruler, Govindachandra. Such raids weakened and sometimes sapped the vitality of the reigning dynasty in the invaded country. The feudal chieftains, who were loyal enough to rally round the banner of their overlord for resisting the invaders, received or seized handsome rewards after the raid. The smaller chieftains, manifested signs of independence in the days of weakness of the overlord. Moreover, the invader sometimes set up new feudal chieftainship in the raided country by endowing some of his trusted lieutenants with fiefs out of the conquered territory. We can account for the existence of Rāṣṭrakūṭa Mahāṇa or Mathana in Aṅga, Karnaṭa Nānyadeva in Mithila and Vijayasena in Rāḍhā in this way. As it was not often possible for the successors of the raiding monarch to exercise any effective control over such distant fiefs, these feuda-
For feudalism assumed semi-independence and in course of time, complete independence.

Frequent change of overlordship was another characteristic feature of the age. In no other period of Indian history did large tracts of country pass so rapidly from one dynasty to another. The one hundred and sixty four years, between 1030 and 1194 A.D., witnessed kaleidoscopic changes in the frontiers of kingdoms. Thus An̄ga was conquered from the Pālas by the Kalachuri King Gāṅgeyadeva in about 1034 A.D. His son, Karna (c. 1041-1070 A. D.) invaded Magadha and appointed Jātavārman to rule over An̄ga as his agent or vassal. In 1124 A. D. we find Govindachandra Gāhaḍavāla (c. 1114-1154 A. D.) ruling over Maner, which is at a distance of only 14 miles from Patna. Dr. D. C. Sircar has proved that the Pāla ruler Madanapāla (c. 1144-1161 A. D.) ruled over the Patna district in the third year of his reign, which falls in 1146 A.D. In the same year, however, Govindachandra is known to have been in possession of Monghyr Madanapāla of the Pāla dynasty must have succeeded in reconquering Monghyr by 1157 A. D. His successor, Govindapāla held sway over the Patna-Gaya region in 1164 A. D. But within a few years, that is, before 1175 A.D., the Gāhaḍavālas again succeeded in driving out the Pālas from West Bihar. A portion of Bhagalpore, however, in East Bihar, passed temporarily into the hands of Vallālasena about 1166 A.D. It was recovered by the Pāla ruler Palapāla, who continued to rule over East Bihar till the end of the twelfth century. The misfortune of being transferred from one dynasty to another in quick succession was not peculiar to the history of Bihar alone. Banaras and the Gaṅgā-Yamuna Doāb were conquered by the Kalachuris from the Chandellas in the second quarter of the eleventh century. But the Kalachuris lost control over these areas sometime before the accession of Yaśāḥ Karna (c. 1073 A. D.). Probably it passed into the hands of the Chandella ruler Sallakṣaṇavarmaṇ from whom it was conquered by Chandradeva.
Gāhaḍavāla in about 1090 A. D., Yaśāḥ Karṇa is known to have reconquered it in 1122-23 A. D., but in 1124 A. D. Govindachandra finally brought it under his rule. Such rapid changes in the mastery over territories must have made the smaller feudal chieftains very important. A new conqueror could not have uprooted all the petty feudal chiefs, in whose hands, the actual administration of the country, especially in the interior, lay. He had, very often, to yield place to another conqueror, before he could consolidate his power and authority in the newly conquered area.

It is worth noticing in this connection that in this period there is hardly any instance of two consecutive generations of brilliant monarchs with record of unbroken success in any dynasty excepting the Chaulukyas of Gujarat. But the latter were troubled with wars of succession, which encouraged the feudatories to strengthen their power. Besides the Gujarati rulers, the most outstanding monarchs of this period in Northern India, were Bhoja Paramāra (c. 1000-55 A. D.), Chandella Vidyādhara (c. 1019-50 A.D.), Kalachuri Gāṅgeyadeva (c. 1019-41 A. D.) and his son Karṇa (c. 1041-70 A. D.), Gāhaḍavāla Govindachandra (c. 1114-54 A. D.) and Chāhamāna Prithvīrāja III (c. 1177-92 A. D.), Bhoja Paramāra had to devote much of his time and energy to repairing the fortunes of his dynasty, which had suffered eclipse at the sudden death of Muṇja, yet, he was able to lead successful expeditions against the Chāhamānas of Nāḍol, the ruler of Chambā13 and Gāṅgeyadeva14 and to occupy temporarily Kanauj, Chitor and Dubkund.14 He was, however, overcome by the combined powers of the Chāluksya king Someśvara I and Kalachuri King Karṇa. Arjuna, a feudatory of Vidyādhara, the Chandella monarch, slew the Gurjara-Pratihāra King Rājyapāla, for the latter's ignominious flights from the invading army of Sultān Mahmūd, but he himself could not build up any lasting confederacy capable of undertaking any offensive war against the Yamini dynasty at Lahore or Multan. On the other hand, he frittered away the re-
sources of the state in fighting against the Kalachuris. His successors were not strong enough to withstand the attacks of Karṇa,\textsuperscript{16} who was able to build up a short-lived empire extending from the sources of Banas and Mahi rivers in the west to the Hoogli river in the east, and from the Doāb to the upper waters of the Mahānādi, Waingangā, Wardhā and Tāptī. The rulers of Guḍa, Chola, Kuṅga, Hūṇa, Gurjara and Kīra territories are said to have waited upon him\textsuperscript{16}. But towards the close of his career, he suffered severe defeat at the hands of Chaulukya Bhīma I\textsuperscript{17}, Chandella Kīrttivarman\textsuperscript{18}, Paramāra Udayāditya and Vigrahapāla of the Pāla dynasty\textsuperscript{19}. His successor, Yaśaṅ Karṇa had to face a life-and-death struggle against the Gāhaḍavālas over the possession of the Uttar Pradesh and lost much of his territories to Chandra-deva and Govindachandra. The misfortune of the Gāhaḍavālas, however, was that they failed to produce any worthy successor of Govindachandra. They failed, therefore, to provide that strong centralised administration which could harness the energies of feudatories to build up a strong resistance to the inroads of the Turko-Afghans.

\textit{Origin of feudalism:}

In order to understand the role and significance of feudalism in this period, it is necessary to review very briefly the background of the evolution of this institution in India. Feudal institutions are apt to be evolved in a state which lacks an efficient system of centralised government, and is also wanting in facilities for transport and communication. The minimum standard of safety to life and property can be ensured in the interior of such a state by entrusting the function of administering civil and criminal justice to such influential persons as would be able to command obedience in the local community. They would raise or maintain their own army, collect taxes or customary dues, pay tributes and rally round the standard of their overlord with their military contingents, when called for. The germ of such a system is
traceable in the ancient Indian custom of placing a scion of the royal family of the conquered country on its throne as a subordinate ruler by the conqueror. Kautilya enjoins upon the conqueror not to covet the land, things, sons and wives of the King slain by him, but to reinstate in their proper places the relatives of the King slain and to install the son of the deceased on the throne of his father. The Śāntiparva of the Mahābhārata lays down that the conqueror should place on the throne of a conquered country, the brother, son or grandson of the defeated King and, in case none of these are available, a daughter of the late King should be crowned, Manu, Viṣṇudharmasūtra and Agni Purāṇa also prescribe that the conqueror should install some kinsman of the slain King on the throne of the defeated country.

Installation of such a person as ruler was sure to cause friction in course of time. He and his successors were constantly on the look out for opportunities for throwing off allegiance. Later writers on Indian polity, therefore, hold that normally the whole or major portion of the conquered area should be directly annexed to the kingdom of the conquered. Thus Medhātithi, commenting on Manu VII. 201 202, writes that the conqueror should, first of all, remit some of the burdensome taxes for one or two years; then, he should proclaim to the people of the city and the villages that what they had done by virtue of their loyalty to their former master had been forgiven. “If even after the bestowing of such favours”, continues Medhātithi, “he finds that the citizens and the people are still so loyal to their former master that they still cherish feelings of attachment towards his dynasty, and that any Government of his own would not be lasting, then he shall do as follows”, that is, install a person of the last ruling family. Sukranītisāra advises the conqueror merely to support the son and queen of the vanquished King or in case they are endowed with good qualities to hand them over one-fourth of the Kingdom and in case they are not so endowed, to give them only 1/32nd part of
it. While Manu speaks simply of a treaty between the conqueror and the scion of the vanquished King, Medhātithi draws up the following stringent terms of the treaty: "You and I shall have equal shares in your income; you shall consult me in all that you do or not do; at the proper time you shall come and help me with your treasury and force." It may be noticed here that the conditions suggested above are much more stringent than those which were imposed under the terms of Wellesley's Subsidiary Alliance. The successor of the vanquished King sank to the position of a vassal and was under four types of obligations to his overlord; (a) to pay a regular tribute amounting to one-half of his annual revenue, (b) to take the overlord's permission in all matters of importance, specially with regard to army and foreign policy, (c) to pay special contribution at the time of war and other necessities of the State and (d) to help the overlord with military force.

It is worth noticing here that the type of feudatory mentioned above is one of the four kinds of mitra or ally mentioned in the Śāntiparva, namely, one who comes for protection or security. There is a good deal of resemblance in the position of such a feudatory with the weak king of Kauṭilya, who being attacked by a powerful king submits to the latter and seeks for peace on condition of offering his army, treasury and his territory which are respectively called Daṇḍopanata, Kośopanata and Desopanata. Those who make peace on condition of supplying army themselves may lead it or through the princes or Commanders-in-Chief or some indefinite person to some place mentioned by the superior king.

Another germ of feudalism may be found in the practice of making payment to officers with assignment of land. Thus the Mahābhārata states—"the lord of 100 villages shall enjoy one village, which is large, prosperous and well-populated. The lord of 1000 villages enjoys a Śākha-nagara, a sub-city." Manu lays down—"the lord of 10 villages shall enjoy one Kula and the lord of 20 villages, twenty Kulas; the lord of
100 villages, one whole village and the lord of 1000 villages, one town.” Kauṭilya prescribes payment in cash to most of the officers. But some of the superintendents, accountants, Gopas and Sthānikas, Veterinary surgeons, physicians etc., were endowed with lands, but they had no right to alienate these by sale or mortgage.

The Maurya system of administration was so centralised, efficient and well organised that feudalism as a political system could hardly raise its head either in the Maurya or even in the Śuṅga period. Feudalism and feudatories came to occupy some prominence for the first time during the Gupta period. Samudra Gupta’s policy of not annexing the territories of deceased kings of distant regions and re-establishing the royal families, which had lost their kingdoms, must have created a number of feudatories, Chandra Gupta II must have found it more convenient to administer his vast empire with the help of feudal vassals. His feudatories were Mahārāja Trikamāla, Svāmidāsa of Central India and Mahārāja Viśvāmitrasvāmi and also Mahārāja Sanakānīka. The invasion of the Puṣyamitrās and the Hūṇas were probably responsible for an increase in the number and importance of feudatories. In the later Gupta period, we find several feudal families ruling for generations. Thus Jayavarman, Siṇhavarman, Naravarman (404 A.D.) and Viśvavarman (423 A.D.) are known to have ruled at Daśapura. Similar was the case with the Maukharis who ruled over South Bihar and Eastern U. P. as feudatories of the Guptas. These feudatories became independent with the decline of the Gupta power and thus caused the disintegration of the Gupta empire. Sometime between 530 and 540 A. D., Yaśodharman, belonging to the feudatory Aulikara family of Western Malwa, defeated the Gupta lords. Similarly, Iśānavarman, who belonged to the feudatory Maukhari clan, defeated the Gauḍas, Andhras and Śūlikas and assumed the imperial title of Mahārājādhirāja. At the time of Budha Gupta (476-495/96 A. D.) we find that the Gupta feudatories, like the
Parivrajkaka Mahārajās of Bundelkhand, Jayanātha of the Uchchhakalpa dynasty, the Paṇḍuvarāṇḍa, ruling over South Kosala and Mahārajā Lakṣmaṇa of Allahabad and Rewah, and Mahārajā Subandhu, ruling in Māhismati (Māndhātā) on the Narmada did not care to make any reference to their Gupta overlords in their copper-plates.

Another factor giving rise to the centrifugal tendency of feudalism in the Gupta period was the practice of making the post of military governor hereditary. Bhaṭārka, a general belonging to the Maitraka clan, was appointed military governor of Surāṣṭra. The post then went to Dharasena I, who was succeeded by his brother, Drōṇasiṃha, who became so very important that he “had to be installed as Mahārajā by his suzerain”. The consequences of such hereditary succession was that “after 467 A.D. there is no evidence that the Imperial Guptas had anything to do with Surāṣṭra or the major part of Western Malwa”.

The bigger feudatory rulers of the Gupta age began the practice of sub-infeudation. Dr. D. C. Sircar brings forward the evidence of the Nirmand inscription showing how Mahāsāmanta Mahārajā Varuṇasena enjoyed the allegiance of smaller feudatories. Mahārajā Vaiṇyagupta (507-508 A.D.) had two vassals under him, namely, Pādādāsa Mahārajā Rudradatta and Mahārajā Mahāsāmanta Vijayasena. The latter, according to the Gunaighar grant, held the office of Mahāpratīthāra Pañchadhikaranoparika.

**Development of feudalism:**

Feudalism gained a strong foothold in Northern India in the period between 600 and 1000 A.D. Almost all the ruling dynasties in the period had a number of feudatories. In Assam, Harjjaravarnan had under him the Senādhyaśyya Suchittha, as his Mahāsāmanta. Śaśānka himself was a Mahāsāmanta of Rohtasgarh before he became an independent ruler. Mahārajā Mahāsāmanta Śrī Mādhavarāja II of Sailodbhava dynasty ruling over Koṅgoḍa was a feudatory of Śaśānka in
619 A.D. There are records showing that the pre-Pāla rulers of Bengal, like Samācbhārādeva, Devakhaḍga and Jayanāga, had sāmantas under them. The early Pāla rulers had numerous sāmantas who used to assemble at the Imperial Darbars of which we get a description in the Khalimpur copper-plate of Dharmapāla. In Orissa, the Bhaumakaras and the Somavānśī kings had also feudatories. Harṣavar-dhana and the Gurjara-Pratihāra emperors managed to rule their extensive empires with the help of feudatories. The Gurjara-Pratihāras had such feudatories as the Chandrātreyas of Jejakabhukti, the Guhilas, the Kalachuris, Guṇambodhideva Kalachuri of Gorakhpur and the Chāhamānas. The Rāṣṭrakūṭas who built up a considerable empire, had under them feudatories like Karkka and his successors ruling over Southern Gujarat, the Raṭtas of Saundatti, Silāhāras of Thāuā and the Paramāras of Malwa. The process of sub-infeudation also went on without any hindrance during this age. Dr. Altekar has shown how the more powerful feudatories of the Rāṣṭrakūṭas, like the Gujarati Rāṣṭrakūṭas and the Silāhāras “could create their own sub-feudatories”. Amongst the feudatories of the Gurjara-Pratihāras, Kokkalla I (c. 875-925 A.D.) of the Kalachuri family made each of his seventeen sons a maṁdalapati of his kingdom.

If in the Gupta period military governorship was conferred on important feudal chiefs, in the age of Harṣa and of Imperial Kanauj, high ranking civil as well as military offices come to be bestowed upon persons holding feudal titles. Thus during the reign of Harṣavardhana, according to the Banskhera plate, Mahāśāmanta Skanda Gupta was the Mahāpramāṭāra and Mahāśāmanta Mahārāja Bhāna was the Mahākṣapaṭalādhiṇāṁḍhikṛita and according to the Madhuban plate Sāmanta Mahārāja Iśvaragupta was the Mahākṣapaṭalādhiṇāṁḍhikṛita. In the empire of the Gurjara-Pratihāras, Mahāśāmantaṭādhipati Undabhaṭa was Mahāpratihāra in the reign of Māhendrapāla I and Mahāśāmanta Viṣṇurāma was governor of Luachchhagiri in the reign of Bhoja. In the Rāṣṭrakūṭa
empire Đalla, a Sāmanta held the office of foreign minister in
the reign of Dhruva. Mahāmaṇḍalesvara Kundamarāja was
the viṣayapati of Kuntalavīṣayā in 1019 A. D. In Orissa,
we find Malladatta and the members of his family, holding
the rank of Rāṇaka, were appointed to the post of sandhivigrahin under the Somavarnāśi kings.

The twin practices of creating Mahāmaṇḍalesvaras, maṇḍalikas etc. and that of allowing their sons to succeed not only
to the title but also to the official position of the father, as
we find in the case of Malladatta’s family or among the
descendants of Baṅkeya in the Rāṣṭrahūta kingdom, were as
certain to promote the tendency to assert independence among
feudal chiefs as in mediaeval Europe. The titles and offices
of Counts and Dukes were originally conferred during the
sovereign’s pleasure in the Merovingian period, but Hallam
points out that “the claim of a son to succeed his father
would often be found too plausible or too formidable to be
rejected, and it is highly probable that even under the
Merovingian kings, these provincial governors had laid the
foundations of that independence which was destined to
change the countenance of Europe”.

Thus the essential features of a feudal polity were mani-
fested even before the advent of the eleventh century. High
offices in the state came to be regarded as a prerogative of the
land-owning aristocracy. The rank of a Rāṇaka or Mahā-
sāmantādhīpati carried with it the command over considerable
areas of land. The principle of hereditary succession to
office contributed to the insecurity of the central authority.

Hey day of feudalism:

The period between 1030 and 1194 A. D. may be regarded
as the hey day of feudal anarchy. In the period intervening
between the invasions of Sultān Mahmūd and that of Shihāb-
ud-dīn Muhammad of Ghūr, the feudatories acquired so
much power and influence that it became necessary for the
King to watch their movement and conduct very carefully.
Explaining the maxim of Manu that the King should ponder
over the conduct of his "Circle", Medhatithi states that the term "Circle" refers to the tendency to peace and war of his provincial governors. Someśvara in his Mānasollāsa advises that at the time of appointing the Minister of Peace and War, the King should consider whether the candidate is an expert in inviting, bidding adieu to and establishing feudatories, and especially those who deserve special honour. This is really remarkable in as much as in normal circumstances, the Minister of Peace and War has to deal with foreign powers and not with internal disturbances created by feudal chiefs. The latter must have assumed so much importance in this period that it was considered advisable to entrust the Minister of Peace and War with the extremely delicate task of keeping them in good humour.

The feudal lords maintained their own army. Sukranītisāra draws a distinction between Gulmihīta army and the Agulmaka army—the former being under the officers of the State, while the latter were under their own chiefs. These chiefs were in all likelihood, the feudal rulers, because the same work states that an expedition in which the King is aided by his feudatories, is known as the Sambhūya expedition. When the King was strong and efficient, the vassals used to respond to his call, but whenever they detected any sign of weakness on his part, they indulged in private wars with their private army. Thus Ḍommanapāla or (Ma)-ḍommanapāla of Khaḍī-māṇḍala (Sunderbans) made war against the neighbouring sāmantas and made them helpless. In Kashmir, the dāmaras Janakachandra and Bhīmadeva, along with their respective adherents, started a furious fight in the reign of Uchchala. Again, Kīrṭtipāla, brother of Kēlhaṇa, of Naḍḍūla and a feudatory of the Chaulukyas, fought against the feudatory Paramāra line of Jālor and deprived them of their territory sometime after 1179 A.D. The Rajim stone inscription records that Jagapāla, a feudatory of Jājalladeva I of the Kalachuri family of Ratanpur, struck terror into the heart of the māṇḍalesvaras of Māyurīka and
Savanta and that the latter fled to the mountains.\textsuperscript{49} The feudatories, of course, had the right to adopt defensive measures and to undertake war in self-defence without reference to their overlord. Thus Barma Dançin-gova of Toragale dispersed a crowd of hostile feudatory rulers\textsuperscript{50} who had appeared against him in about 1187-88 A.D.

Some of the powerful feudatories exercised not only the right to wage wars but also entered into treaties with sovereigns of other States. An actual form of the treaty entered into by the Mahāmaṇḍaleśvara Rāṇaka Lavāṇaprasādā with Mahārājādhirāja Simhahadeva of the Devagiri—Yādava family in 1232 A. D. has been preserved in the Lekhāpadhati.\textsuperscript{51} It shows the High Contracting parties agreed not to invade the country of each other and that, in case of invasion by a powerful enemy, the two parties should jointly oppose the invader. The most significant feature of the treaty is the denial of the right of harbourage to any other noble who might flee into the territory of the other party with any valuable thing. In such a case the parties agreed to restore the valuables in the refugee’s possession.

\textbf{Causes of increasing number of feudatories:}

The period under review witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of feudatories. The kings of mediaeval India were themselves responsible for it. Among the eight objectives of the king, one was the conversion of princes into tributary chiefs of feudatory vassals. As in the earlier works on polity, Sukranītisārā\textsuperscript{72} categorically states that the victorious kings should grant half and a quarter of the revenues of the subjugated kingdom to the vanquished king’s son and wife respectively. Such magnanimity was considered a suitable display of the majesty of the conqueror. Numerous instances can be cited to show that the kings of Northern India translated the above-mentioned precept into practice. The family of Devarakṣita of Piśhī, who was defeated by Rāmapāla’s maternal uncle, Maḥaṇa, was allowed to rule. In the period
between 1075 and 1135 A. D. the Somavamsis were allowed to continue to exercise sway in subordination to the Eastern Ganga kings. If we accept Dr. Sircar's interpretation of Somavamsi chronology, we find that though Viravarakesarini was ousted by Anantavarman Chodagaunga, yet his relatives, Karangesari and Raakesari, were allowed to rule over Orissa as feudatories. The rule of Jayasimha (c. 1055-1059, 60 A. D.), successor of Bhoja Paramara, also shows that in spite of the fact that Chalukya Somevara and Kalachuri Karna decisively defeated Bhoja, yet they allowed the relation of the vanquished king to succeed to the throne of Dhara. The Chaulukyas of Anahillapaataka also followed the same principle with regard to the relatives of defeated kings like Barbaraka and Vikramasimha. Kashmir was no exception. Somavarman ruled Chambu valley as a vassal of the Kashmir King, though his father had been defeated by Ananta. The Gahaadvalas also appear to have adopted the policy of retaining the defeated king's family as feudatories so far as their policy relating to the Kalachuris was concerned.

There were, however, certain circumstances in which it was not feasible for the victor to allow any member of the vanquished family to continue to rule over the territory even in the capacity of a vassal. Thus when a feudal family had taken recourse to treachery and risen in rebellion against its liege-lord it was considered prudent to uproot it. Kumaraapala deposed the rebel Timgyadeva and installed Vaidyadeva as the ruler of Assam. Again, a particular area which appeared to be exceptionally important to the victor for economic or strategic reasons could not be permitted to continue under the rule of the family of the defeated king. Thus the Chaulukya ruler Jayasimha, having killed Navaghana, the Abhira ruler in a battle, directly annexed the valuable Surashtra territory to his kingdom. He appointed Sajana as his Danadhipati "to superintend the affairs of Surashtra."
The increase in the number of feudatories was also due to the allotment of territories to brothers and relatives of the kings. This policy of avoiding enmity of the relatives or dāyādās really gained acceleration from the eighth century onwards. In the period between 1030 and 1194 A.D., we find many instances of creation of fiefs for satisfying the relatives. The Somavamsi king Uddyotakesarī Mahābhāvagupta IV made Abhimanyu a sub-king of the western parts of his dominion.68 Not only in Orissa, but also in other parts of Northern India,61 fiefs were granted to the sons, brothers and nephews of the King. Even in the disturbed kingdom of Kashmir, the kings tried to save themselves from ambitious relatives by granting estates to the latter. Queen Diddā committed the great mistake of allowing her nephew Vigraharaśa to rule over the fortress of Lohara, while nominating the latter’s younger brother Sangrāmarāja as her successor to the throne. Utkara (1089 A.D.) realised the mistake and united the two kingdoms. After the death of Harṣa, Kashmir and Lohara again came to be under separate rule. While Uchchala took Kashmir, his brother Sussala remained in Lohara to make onslaughts on his elder brother, till he himself became King in 1112 A.D. Jayasimha, as King of Kashmir, kept the fortress under his control with great difficulty till he crowned his son Gulhaṣa as the ruler of Lohara.

The necessity of curbing the ambition of feudatories and especially of the relatives was well known to the writers of Hindu polity. While the Agni Purāṇa68 states that the sāmantas are to be treated as enemies, Śukranitisāra69 lays down that the relatives are to be accorded such treatment by the king as not to give rise to any dissatisfaction or difference of opinion. The same writer advises that “the king should arrange for these heirs the same kind of comforts and enjoyments as for himself, and should be strict in command in satisfying them with umbrellas and thrones” (I. 693-694) and further “he (King) should station them
(dāyādas) in various quarters by paying them one-fourth of the royal revenues or make them governors of provinces. He may appoint them, as heads of cows, elephants etc. So the author of the Śukranītisāra opines that the relatives are to be made either officials or governors of state and given the rank of feudatories. Rank in the Court was determined by closeness of relation with the monarch as well as by the magnitude of the fief held.

The third factor which increased the number of feudatories was that the King rewarded his officers with land in consideration of valuable services rendered. In the Chambā valley, probably in the eleventh century A. D., the Lord of Kuluṭa was offered a principality for his services by King Āṣaṭa. In the Dharwar district, Āhavamalla Bhūteyadēva received the rank of Maṇḍalesvara from the Chaulukya ruler Bhima II for killing Paṇchala some time before 1187 A. D..

The practice of allowing a particular office to be held by a particular family on a hereditary basis must have been responsible for strengthening the feudal tendency. The Mahābhārata (Sabhā 5. 43) and Manu (VII. 54) and Yājñavalkya (I. 312) prescribe that the son may be allowed to succeed his father as minister, provided he is capable like the father. Chaṇḍesvara, while explaining Manu (VII. 48), holds that the āmātyas are to be appointed on a hereditary basis. But neither the Arthaśāstra (I. 9. 15) nor the Nītivākyāmṛta, (ch. 14) and Śukranītisāra enumerate heredity as one of the qualifications of āmātyas or members of the council of ministers. Of course, heredity was not the only qualification for a minister either in ancient or early mediaeval India.

Political upheavals like dethronement and change of rulers in quick succession did not adversely affect the selection of ministers on strictly hereditary basis as is shown by the dethronement of Devavarman and the short tenure of power of Yaśovarman.

To the ministers, Mahāpurohita Jāguṣarman and his son
Praharājaśarman, successive Gāhaḍavāla kings like Madana-apāla, Govindachandra, Vijayachandra and Jayachchandra made grants of land on many occasions. The Kamauli grants show that these Brāhmaṇa ministers received grants of villages in Kāti, Bṛhagre (ye ?) varaṭha, Kesāure (?), Ughanapaterahāṭtara, Koṭhatakoṭīvarahottara, Saru (ga ? ) ra, Haladoya, Maḍavala (?). Rāṇa, Navagāma, Temisapachoṭtara, Jiāvai, Bṛihadgrhokamisāra, Mahaso, Unāvisa, Vajaimhāchchhāsaṭṭhī, Kangali and Kachchhoa pattalās.⁸⁸ Similarly, the Chandella King Paramardī granted the village of Nandini to his Brahmaṇa Senāpati Madanaḍālaśarman before V. S. 1228/1171 A. D. . The Kalachuri King Pṛithvīdeva II granted a village to Puruṣottama, the Sarvādhikārīn.⁹⁰

Contemporary inscriptions show that some of the ministers were feudatories. Kirttisimha and Malayasimha, the son and grandson of Padmasimha, were powerful not only as ministers but also as vassals of the Kalachuri King Vijayasimha. Both of these ministers were at the head of a number of Sāmantas.⁹¹ In Gujarat⁹² and South Bihar⁹³ such minister-feudatories were Rāṇaka Śrī Chāchigadeva and Mahāmāṇḍalika Udayarāja respectively.

Other offices, besides membership of the Council of Ministers, were some times held on hereditary basis. Rāuta Rājyadharavarman, son and grandson of Mahāmahattaka Mahāḥakakuras Vidyādhara and Jagaddhara,⁹⁴ was the recipient of a land-grant by the Gāhaḍavāla King Jayachchandra some time before 1177 A. D. . Similar instances of the Chaulukya and Chandella Kings conferring posts like Mahāmātya and feudatory ranks like Mahāmāṇḍalikas, Rāutas and Ṭhakkuras were—Ānanda and his son Prithvīpāla,⁹⁵ Vatsarāja and his son Pratāpasiṃha,⁹⁶ Rāutas Pāpe and his son Sāmanta,⁹⁷ Devashamū, his son Jagadeva and grandson Haripāla,⁹⁸ and Ṭhakkura Maheśvara and his son Bhonapāla.⁹⁹ It appears also that the Chaulukyas allowed the son to succeed to the office of the father even in an administrative area like a maṇḍala.
Causes of increase of power of feudatories:

The natural consequence of the creation of so many feudatories was that they gradually consolidated their position. Frequent change of frontiers, constant wars of succession of weak kings made these feudatories stronger. We find the largest number in Kashmir and Gujarat-Kathiawar regions. The feudatories of the Pālas went on increasing from the times of Nayapāla and Vigrahapāla III. During these reign-periods, Bengal and Bihar suffered from invasions of the mighty Kalachuris and Chālukyas of Kalyāṇa.

The feudatories enhanced their power further by inter-marriages amongst themselves\. They also entered into matrimonial relations with royal families. These alliances indicate the strengthening of the power of fief-holders, and the consequent weakening of the position of kings. Such a political situation bears a close resemblance to that prevailing in England in the later Plantagenet period when many feudal nobles entered into monogamy with the huge progeny of Edward III and considered themselves not inferior to the monarch. Jātavarman’s marriage with Vīraśrī, daughter of the Kalachuri King Karṇa, gave the former viceroyalty of Aṅga. According to Mm. Mirashi\[61\], this alliance led to the installation of the Varmanas in place of the Chandras in East Bengal. The vassal-princes and dāmaras of Kashmir often married their daughters to the kings for strengthening their position and improving their status. Padmaka, the lord of Vallāpura married his daughter to Bhikṣāchara who was contesting the throne against Sussala. When conspiracies were being formed to dethrone Salhaṇa in favour of Sussala, Dāmara Gargachandra gave away his two daughters to the successful pretender Sussala. Sussala himself also married Rājalakṣmī and arranged the marriage of Guṇalekhā, the sister of Rājalakṣmī, to his son Jayasimha\[62\].

The feudatories usually helped such kings as were related to them by marriage. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the credit of resuscitating the Pāla empire goes chiefly to
the Rāṣṭrakūṭa chiefs of Aṅga. Rāmapāla received invaluable assistance from his maternal uncle Mathana or Mahaṇa and the latter’s sons, Kahṇara and Suvarṇadeva, in subjugating Devarakṣita of Piṭḥī and in recovering Varendrī. Commenting on the marriage between Govindachandra and Kumārādevī, grand-daughter of Mahaṇa of Aṅga, Dr. R. C. Majumdar significantly observes: “this marriage alliance was probably engineered by Mahaṇa as a means to cement the alliance between the Pālas and Gāhaḍavālas.” With a similar motive, the Kashmirian pretenders and kings entered into matrimonial alliances with their vassals. The relation of Sussala with the feudatory rulers of Champā and Vallāpura was of considerable help to him in getting back the throne in 1121 A.D. and in securing triumph over Bhikṣāchara in 1122 A. D. Sussala and Jayasimha sought matrimonial alliance with Somapāla of Rājapurī on account of the latter’s influence and strength.

The monarchical power was further weakened by the granting away of extensive tracts of land along with the right to levy taxes to the donees. The surrender of the right to taxation in the area donated was a severe blow to the power of the king and such a practice encouraged some of the powerful donees to throw off their allegiance to the successors of the donors. The Gāhaḍavālas made land grants to Thakkuras, Devapālaśarman (Basahi pl. c. 1116 A.D.), Bālādityaśarman (Raiwan grant c. 1130 A. D.), Devavarman, Bhūpati and Śrīdhara (Gagaha pl. c. 1143 A. D.), Śrīdbara (Lar pl. c. 1146 A.D.), Kulhe and Anantaśarman (Bangavan pl. c.1151 A.D.), and Rāuta Rājyadharavarman. They usually granted the donees the right to collect bhāgabhogakara, pravaṃnikara and turaṣṭkaḍonḍa taxes.

Legal Status:

In Europe, as well as in India, feudal theory laid great emphasis on the sacrosanct character of the king’s person. The king stood at the head of the feudal hierarchy. He is often
described in inscriptions and literature as having his feet worshipped by dependent princes. According to the Prabandhachintāmaṇi the Kalachuri King Karna had as many as 136 subordinate kings who obeyed him. The author of the Mānasollāsa considered feudalism such a well-established institution that one of the functions of the Minister of Peace and War was to keep close contact with the feudatories. The vassals not only attended the royal court but also received dresses from the Emperor at the time of witnessing elephant sports and games. These feudatories are mentioned in the official grants of almost all the dynasties of Northern India.

The institution of feudalism became an integral part of the early mediaeval monarchy in Northern India. Sāmantas participated in the royal coronation. Laksmidhara, quoting Brahma Purāṇa, states that at the time of coronation-bath, the sāmantas and ministers hold the umbrella and wave fly-whisk etc. This ceremony is further elaborated in the Viṣṇudarmottara which has not been referred to by Laksmi-dhara but quoted by Mitramişra in his Viramitrodaya. This probably indicates the formal acceptance of the king by the ministers, priests and feudatories and ultimately, by the people.

Another practice which was observed immediately after the coronation was the participation of feudals in a ceremonial dinner. According to the Brahma Purāṇa, the king shares out the given food to the dependants and then eats himself. This partaking of food by the king was given a feudal touch at least as early as the ninth century A. D. Abu Zeid, visiting India in 867 A. D., gives an elaborate description of the ceremonial feast. Those officials who had had the privilege of dining with the king were bound to sacrifice their life at the funeral pyre of the king. A parallel to it may be found also in Tacitus, who states that when Otto committed suicide, some soldiers slew themselves near his funeral pyre, "not because of any fault or from fear, but
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prompted by a desire to imitate his glorious example and moved by affection for their emperor".113

The description of arrangement of seats in the royal court also shows how feudalism became part and parcel of the system of government in our period. According to the Šukranitisāra,114 the sons, grandsons, brothers and nephews sat at the back and the daughter’s sons on the right of the king. Uncles, superiors of the king, members of the assembly, agnates and cognates sat in front of the king, to his right, sat other elders of the family or his maternal grandfather, ministers, and to the left sat the father-in-law and brothers-in-law and officers (adhipārīnāh). But the Mānasollāsa114 gives a different order of seats. While the princes (Kumāras) and the priest sat in front of the king, the maṇḍalādhīśvaras or governors of maṇḍalas, sāmantāmātyakas or feudatory-princes and their ministers in front of the king on the right and left sides.

Amongst the agnates, close relatives of the kings, the vassals wearing crowns, the sāmantas and the maṇḍalādhīśvaras who were allotted seats in the royal court, were also some of the princes who had been defeated in war and given the status of vassals.

Grades of Vassals:

The grades of feudatories are indicated by titles such as mahāsāṁantādhipati, mahāsāmanta, mahāmaṇḍalesvara, rāja-
nyaka maṇḍalika, nṛpa, sāmanta, rāṇaka, rāuta, and ṭhakkura. All these grades, however, cannot be found in each and every kingdom. Though we come across the title Maṇḍaleśa,115 we do not find a mahāsāmanta, rāṇaka, maṇḍalika or maḥāmaṇḍa-
leśvara in Kashmir. Titles of rāutas are not found in the grants of the Pāla rulers. Similarly, the rank of maḥāsā-
māntādhipati or maṇḍalādhipati is not mentioned in the grants of the Gāhaḍavālas.

The order of precedence of these feudatories cannot be definitely ascertained. The title of Rāṇaka was held by the Bhaṃjas of Khimjalimaṇḍala. (Ma)Ḍommanapāla, who
was practically an independent chief in the Sena Kingdom, retained the titles of Rāṇaka and Mahāsāmanta, though he also styled himself as Mahārāja. Mahāmanḍalesvara Lavaṇaprasāda, Viradhavala, and Mahāmanḍalika Piplārāja, ruler of Kekind held the title of Rāṇaka. It appears from the Toragel inscription (line 8) that Mahāmanḍalesvara Bhūta was above the manḍalikas (manḍalikamukha-darpāṇa I. A. XII. 96). In the same Chaulukya kingdom to which Bhūta and his ancestors belonged, we find that that the Paramāra chief Dharāvarśa of Chandrāvati, who had the same status of a vassal-governor, was given the title of Manḍalika only. Sometimes an ordinary feudal lord like Sāhilla, endowed with the status of Ṭhakkura, attained the right of using the Paṇcha-

mahāśabda. In an earlier period, Sāmantas Bappabhaṭṭi and Manḍalla, who wrote the records respectively in 739 and 775 A.D., used paṇcha-mahāśabda. In Bengal, while under the Pālas, the rāṇakas have no place in the order of precedence, as given in their inscriptions, the Madanpur plate of Śrīchandra gives precedence to the rāṇaka over the rājaputra, mahāsandhivigrahika, mahāsenāpati and mahāsāmanta.

Literature, however, clearly distinguishes between various orders of ‘kings’ and feudatories. The criteria may have been the use of crowns or revenue or judicial power. According to the Mānasāra, there were eight types of feudatories under the Sārvabhauma or Chakravarti ruler. The last four grades of feudatories, namely, manḍaleśa, paṭṭabhaja, prāhāraka and astragrāha, were definitely landed aristocrats. Hemachandra categorically states that the manḍalādhiśa is a second-rate king, who has to depend on others, has authority only over an area designated manḍala and is below the Chakravarti emperor.

But the Šukranitīśāra distinguishes between the various grades of feudatories on the basis of annual income and area of jurisdiction. The Svarāṭ type of king had either an annual income varying from fiftyone lakhs to one crore of karṣas or, who realised the revenue of 10,000 villages. Below the Svarāṭ, the mahārājā had an annual revenue of 21 to 50 lakhs
Karṣas, Nṛipa-māṇḍalika to 10 lakhs Karṣas, Sāṁanta-nṛipa up to 30 lakhs, and sāmantas having an annual income of one lakh Karṣas. The above-mentioned text also informs us that there were several types of sāmantas, viz. Hīna and Anu-sāmantas who received salary from the king-emperor. In Kashmir, some of the dāmaras were appointed on a salary basis by King Jayasimha. Kalhaṇa states that by this policy of appointing dāmaras in salaried service, King Jayasimha "increased (the number) of those who belonged to the inner court (ābhyaṇṭara), while reducing (the number of persons) of the outer court (vāhya)," It is noteworthy that neither the earlier works like the Mahābhārata, Viṣṇusmriti, and Viṣṇudharmottara, nor later works like the Mānasollāsa, Kṛtyakalpataru-Rājadharmakāṇḍa and the Rājanītiratnākara give the status of sāmanta to those persons appointed by the Emperor to look after the administration of 10, 20, 100, or 1000 villages.

The legal status of feudatories is fully discussed in Chaṇḍēsvara's Rājanītiratnākara, which was written in the early part of the fourteenth century A.D. Chaṇḍēsvara was a feudatory himself, holding the title of Mahārāja and serving as the Prime Minister of Harisimha Deva of the Karñṭa Brāhmaṇ dynasty. His father's younger brother Gaṇeśvara is described in his son Rāmadatta's Chāndogya-mantroddhāra as Mahārājādhirāja Mahāsāmantapālitam Mahāmāhyattakeśa, and his another son, Govindadatta, describes him in Govindamānasollāsa as Śrīmaṇeṣa-Mahāmahattaka Mahārājādhirājo-Mahā-sāmantādhipatīr-viṇāsvara Yaśaḥ puṣpasya jaṃnadrumah. He has defined three classes of sovereigns, namely samrāt, rājā and adhīśvara. Quoting the Mahābhārata and Manu, he states that Rājās and adhīśvaras are below the rank of a samrāt, who collects taxes from all kings. It appears from Manu, as quoted by Chaṇḍēsvara that Sa-karas or those paying tributes regularly every month or every year were known as Rājās and the A-karas were those who paid tributes occasionally on the pretext of cour-
tesy-visits to the samrāt, were known as adhāśvaras.\textsuperscript{134} He describes the A-kara Adhīśvaras as belonging to two varieties,\textsuperscript{134} namely, one who rules by his own prowess and awards punishment according to his own will, and the other who is exempted from payment of tribute by favour of the emperor. He also refers to an unnamed Smriti work in support of the second type of a-kara adhīśvara. But the first type paid some tributes on pretext of courtesy call or by sending envoys.

Chaṇḍeśvara opines that sa-kara rājās are also of two kinds.\textsuperscript{135} The first, called the adhikritadāṇḍa, has the right to administer criminal justice and their decision is final. But in civil cases there is an appeal from their judgment to the emperor. But those sa-kara rājās who are called anadhi-kritadāṇḍa have the right to administer civil law but have got no power to award punishment or no jurisdiction over criminal cases. The civil cases decided by them may be referred to the Emperor in appeal. If he rashly usurps more power or goes against the sovereign, he becomes liable, in case of sāhasa to pecuniary punishment; but in cases where sāhasa is not involved, the emperor shows his displeasure by refusing him interview for two or three days and by rebukes.

There were elaborate ceremonies like delivery of a turf, stone, wand, etc., with which a fief used to be conferred on a vassal in mediaeval Europe. In India, we come across only one ceremonial form, which was the conferring of the pañchamahāśabda. This ceremony was not prevalent before the eighth century A.D. We do not read of it in the records of the Maurya—Gupta emperors. It came to be conferred on the feudatories by the Valabhīs, Rāṣṭrakūṭas, Chaulukyas, Gurjara-Pratihāras and the Bhañjas of Orissa. The five instruments, which were associated with pañcha-mahāśabda, were according to the Vivekachintāmaṇī viz., śriṅga or horn, tammatā or baliage, tabor or timbrel, saṅkha or conch, bherī or kettledrum and jayaghaṇṭā or bell, cymbal or gong.\textsuperscript{134} The term, however, was used in Kashmir in a
different sense. It appears from the Rājataraṅgini (IV. 140-143 and 680) that pañchamahāśabda was conferred on Mitraśarman and Utpalaka by Lalitāditya and Chippaṭajayā-piḍa respectively, because they controlled the five offices: viz., mahāpratīhrārapiḍa (high chamberlain), mahāsāndhivigrāhika (minister of foreign affairs), mahāśvaśālā (chief master of horse), mahābhāṇḍāgāra (high keoper of treasury) and mahāsādhanabhāga (chief executive officer). Whatever might have been the meaning of the title, it is certain that pañchamahāśabda was conferred only on very powerful and influential feudatories. During the period under survey, this rank was enjoyed by vassals of the Chaullukyas, Paramāras, Kalachuris of Tripuri and Ratanpur, and Soma-vāṃśī kings.

The above-mentioned feudatories, it will be seen, flourished mostly in the period when the power of their respective suzerains declined. The period in which Mahākumāras, Lakṣmīvarman, Hariśchandra, Udayavarman and Devapāla flourished (c. 1144-1218 A.D.), were the worst days for the Paramāras of Malwa.

The titles of the Telegu-Choḍa King Someśvaradevavaran-
man II (c. 1105-1130 A. D.), as recorded in the Mahada plates, are interesting. He is styled as Pañchamahāśabdasamanvīta Mahāmahīmaṇḍaleśvara Mahābhūpatimalla and chakravarthin in the plates. Dr. D. C. Sircar and M. Venkataramayya rightly observe, that “this combination of subordinate and imperial titles shows that the issuer of the Charter owed only nominal allegiance to the overlords of his predecessors.” Someśvara of South Kośala was possibly a feudatory of Someśvara, the Chhindaka-Nāga King. These two Someśvaras were fighting for the control of Suvarṇapura against the Kalachuri King Jājalladeva I and the Somavaṃśī king Someśvara Bhujaballa.

Obligations of vassals:

On being invested with a fief, the feudatories had to assume certain obligations. According to Dr. A. S. Altekar,
the feudatories were not permitted to issue coins and they had to (a) mention the name of the overlord, (b) attend the imperial Court on ceremonial occasions, (c) pay regular tribute, (d) make presents on festive occasions and when daughters were married and (e) send a certain number of troops.\textsuperscript{141}

The name of the overlord is mentioned in almost all the epigraphs of the feudatories, excepting the cases where they had assumed almost complete sovereignty. The omission of the name of the overlord was a common feature of the periods of succession of weak rulers in all the dynasties during our period. (Ma)jñommanapāla,\textsuperscript{142} a feudatory of Lakṣmaṇasena, Mahāṇipati Indradhavala,\textsuperscript{143} whose ancestors were feudatories of the Gāhaḍavālas, Vyāsa Maryādāsāgara and Soḍhadeva,\textsuperscript{144} feudatory of the Gurjara-Pratihāras, Paramāras of Jalor\textsuperscript{145} after 1055 A.D., Chhittarājadeva,\textsuperscript{146} feudatory of Chaulukya Bhīma I and Someśvara II of the Telegu-Choḍa lineage, feudatory of the Nāgavamśi kings, do not mention the names of their overlords while making grants. Similarly, when the Kalachuris of Ratanpur became strong enough to assert their independence, they ceased to regard themselves as mahāmanḍalesvaras under the Kalachuris of Tripuri. The successors of Pṛthvideva I made land-grants without any reference to their former suzerains at Tripuri.

That the feudatories had to attend the imperial court on ceremonial occasions is evident from contemporary inscriptions and literature.\textsuperscript{147} They were present at the time of the coronation of the King. The commentary to the Rāmcharita IV. 16 states that Maṇḍalādhhipati Chandra of Aṅga “caused jubilation among the people by spreading out the rich collection of materials for the coronation ceremony” of King Madanapāla. Similarly, the vassals of Kashmir attended the coronation of Gulhana at Lohara.\textsuperscript{148}

The obligation of vassals to pay tributes to the king is clear from Chaṇḍēśvara’s Rājanītiratnākara.\textsuperscript{149} Inscriptions
clearly prove that the kings raised tributes from feudatories. The Ratanpur inscription (verses 21-23) dated KS 861/1114 A.D., states that Jājalladeva I received annual tribute or presents from the chiefs of maṇḍalas of (Dakṣiṇa) Kośala, Andhra Khimḍi, Vairāgara, Lañjikā, Bhānāra, Talahāri, Daṇḍakapura, Nandavoli and Kukkuṭa.¹⁵⁸

The obligation of military service of the feudal lords to their overlords bears close resemblance to that in Europe. Though the number of days of military service was not fixed as in Europe and Jerusalem,¹⁵¹ yet it can be said with certainty that the North Indian feudatories had to adhere to the King’s side, while the latter fought against other powers. It has already been shown that the Śukranītisāra (IV.7.9-21, 481 and 514-15), Mānasollāsa (II. 114 -1147) and Rāmācharita (I. 45 and II. 2) categorically state that the feudal soldiers helped the kings in wars. Not only in recovery of Varendri, but also in the victorious expeditions against Pīṭhī, Assam, Orīssa, the feudatory chiefs rallied to the cause of Rāmapāla. If the reading of the Rājibpur inscription by Bhaṭṭasali¹⁵² is accepted, Gopāla III was fortunate in having been served by Aiḍadeva and his eight other associates in his deadly struggle with the Senas in 1140 A.D. The Paramāras of Malwa were helped to a great extent by their collateral feudatories of Vāgaḍa,¹³² in their wars against the Gurjaras. Similarly, other contemporary dynasties¹⁵⁴ received military help from their vassals on many occasions and expeditions. Arjuna, a feudatory of the Chandellas, slew the Gurjara-Pratihāra King Rājayapāla to the jubilation of his master Vidyādhra. Similarly, Kṛttirāja defended the fort of Gwalior against the onslaught of Sultān Mahmūd in 1022 A.D. The Rajim inscription tells us that Thakkura Sāhilla’s son Svāmin and grandsons and great-grandson Jagapāl carried on successful wars for their masters, the Kalachuri kings of Ratanpur (I. A. XVII. 136-138).

The history of Kashmir shows that succession to the fief required the sanction and recognition of the overlord in
normal times. It was also true of the feudatory chiefs of Kakaređikä under the Kalachuris of Tripuri.

Sub-infeudation.

All the big feudatories had their own vassals, like sāmantas, thakkuras, rāutas etc. The commentary of the Rāmacha-rita II. 5 and 6, states that Rāmapāla’s feudatories Lakṣmiśūra of Aparamandār and Soma of Paduvanvā were served by a number of sub-sāmantas. Similarly, Malayasiṁha and Salakhaṇavarman, vassals of the Kalachuri Kings of Tripuri had a number of sāmantas under them, who are mentioned in inscriptions. The system of sub-infeudation can also be found in the kingdom of the Gāhaḍavālas, Chandellas, Paramāras, and Chaulukyas. A number of epigraphs show that almost all big feudal nobles were served by sub-vassals, of the rank of Thakkura. Amongst these, Thakkuras Mahāditya, Silaṇa (Rewa inscr.) Vāchchhuka, Rāsula (Bhopal pl.) in the kingdom of the Kalachuris and Paramāras were recipients of land grants. The Thakkuras in Kashmir were so powerful that even kings like Harṣa engaged them to kill Dhamaṭa (RT. VII 1040, 1045). Some of these sub-vassals like Rāuta Ānanda under Rānaka Vijayakarna in Mirzapur district, Rāṇā Śaṅkarasīha under Mahāmangaleśvara Śrī Vapanadeva of Godhra, and Rāṇaka Amma under Yaśovarman in Malwa, were rich enough to make donations for temples and deities. At the same time, they were inspired by the idea of loyalty to their immediate liege-lord and sometimes took up arms even against the sovereign of the country. In Kashmir, Mallaka did not hesitate to fight valiantly for his masters Kamaliya and Chatuṣka, who rebelled against King Jaya-śimha.

Dis-services of feudalism:

The increase in the number and strength of the feudatories weakened the central authority in almost every state. The hostile sāmantas of Bengal brought about the end of the rule-
-of Mahīpāla II. Gargachandra, a dāmara became the kingmaker and successively installed three kings, namely, Uchchala, Salhaṇa and Sussala, on the throne of Kashmir. Gargachandra and Sussala quarrelled and soon began a vicious circle of intrigues so common in mediaeval Kashmir.

The feudatories of our period were always on the lookout for becoming independent. It was probably for this reason that the Agni Purāṇa (ch. 226. 11) states that the king should first satisfy the discontented subordinate sāmantas and his amātyas. Again the same Purāṇa, elsewhere, and the Matsya Purāṇa, as quoted by Mitramiśra, plainly state that the sāmantas are to be treated as enemies of the state.

The highly unreliable character of the sāmantas, as depicted in the above-mentioned Purāṇas, can be corroborated by inscriptions. If Malayasiṃha, of the inscriptions dated KS 944/1192-93 A.D., KS 962/1211 A.D. and KS 963/1212 A.D., be the same person, he transferred his allegiance some time between 1211-1212 A.D., from the Kalachuri King Vijayaśiṃha to the Chandella King Trailokyavarman. Similarly the son and grandsons of Sallakṣaṇavarman, a chiefra of Kakareḍikā and a feudatory of the Kalachuri ruler Vijayaśiṃha, transferred their allegiance to the Chandella King Trailokyavarman, some time during the years 1239 1241 A.D. The Chaulukyas of Anahillaṭaka also experienced the same misfortune. The Dvīśrayakāvya informs us that when the sāmantas Vijaya and Kṛṣṇa were sent to oppose Vallāla, the usurper of the throne of Malwa, they went over to the side of the latter. King Kumārapāla, to his utter surprise, learnt during the course of a campaign against the Chāhamāna King Arṇorāja that his feudatories had been bribed by the latter. In Bengal, the treacherous nobles who changed sides, were Mahāmāṇḍalaika Īśvaraghoṣha of Dhekkarīya and Śūra chief of Apara-mandāra in Hoogly district. The Senas, Gāhaṭavālas and Mahāsāmantādhipati Nānyadeva, a feudatory to the Karnāṭa
Chālukya King Vikramāditya VI, established independent kingdoms in Bengal, the Uttar Pradesh and Mithila.

The Rājataraṅgiṇī provides us with a vivid picture of the role of feudal barons. These barons of Kashmir, were the most disturbing and at the same time, the most dangerous elements in the state. Like the English barons of the time of Stephen and Matilda, the dāmaras took sides with the aspirants to the throne in all the wars of succession with a view to securing lands and riches. They also utilised the opportunity to aggrandise themselves by plunder. Kalhaṇa states (RT. VIII 1028) that they neither liked strong kings nor valiant persons desirous of establishing law and order in the country.

The meaning of the word and the exact status of dāmaras has not been indicated by Kashmiri historians like Kalhaṇa, Jonarāja and Kṣemendra. They were certainly not ‘rebels,’ a meaning given in the St. Petersburg dictionary. Nor did they belong to a particular tribe known as lavanyas, though at times some dāmaras have been designated as lavanyas, as for example Tīkka, Prithvihara, Koṣṭheśvara and Trīllaka. Had all the dāmaras been identical with lavanyas, the latter would not have been mentioned for the first time in the reign of Harṣa. Nowhere prior to Harṣa’s reign, have the dāmaras been called lavanyas. Stein rightly pointed out that the dāmaras were feudal lords.

It appears that the dāmaras were influential landed aristocrats. A prosperous cultivator acquiring wealth seems to have been able to enter into the rank of the dāmaras. Lalitāditya (c. 699-736 A. D.) on his death-bed warned his successors against allowing persons to accumulate property. “Every care should be taken that there should not be left with the villagers more food supply than required for one year’s consumption, nor more oxen than wanted for (tillage of) their fields”, because, “if they should keep more wealth, they would become in a single year formidable Dāmaras and strong enough to neglect the commands of the King.” The intimate connection between agriculture and these dāmaras
is noticeable in the following remark of Kalhaṇa. Jayyaka rose to the position of a dāmara by "the revenue of his land, and by selling victuals as a trader to far-off regions," and "having the ground dug up for a kroṣa and a half, he filled it constantly with heaps of money (dīnāra) and then had rice plentifully sown over it."

The same writer also records elsewhere that they were "cultivators, though they carry arms." He also carefully mentions the locality of these landed aristocrats.

Several factors were responsible for the rise of dāmaras to power. Frequent wars of succession afforded opportunity to them to aggrandise themselves at the expense of the state by alternately siding with the rival claimants to the throne. In the period between the death of Lalitāpiṇḍa and accession of Jayasimha, there were forty-six kings, out of whom as many as thirty were either puppets or rulers for an extremely short period.

Like the feudatories of other kingdoms in northern India, the dāmaras increased their power by giving their daughters and sisters to the royal princes. It is rather startling to find that there is not a single instance of a dāmara marrying a royal princess. The dāmaras had under their command both infantry and cavalry forces and occupied fortified castles.

The dāmaras were probably not in possession of cavalry force till the accession of Uchchala to the throne in 1101 A.D. As early as 855-856 A.D., in the reign of Avantivarman, Dhanva, a dāmara appeared before Sūra with a regiment of infantry. And even as late as Harṣa's reign (1089-1101 A.D.) "the dāmaras who, being themselves mostly on foot, were afraid of the (king's) cavalry, brought him (i.e. Uchchala) up once more by the difficult mountain route of Lohara." But with the weakening of royal authority, the dāmaras strengthened themselves by recruiting cavalry from the beginning of the twelfth century.

The dāmaras lived in castles. Probably, the term upavēṣana, used by Kalhaṇa for their residence means little
-castles. In the greater portions of the valley of Maḍavarājya, we find the upaveśanas of the dāmaras in Khaḍūvi, Holaḍā, Samāṅgāsā, Utrāsa, Devasarasa, Kalyāṇapura, Naunagara and Degrāma. These areas and other seats of dāmaras in Selyapura, Šāmāla, Lahara and Rājavihara had great strategic importance.

Thus the dāmaras flourished in a period of chronic disorder naturally fished in troubled waters. During our period, they were in the ascendancy in the court as well as in the country. Dāmaras attained predominance in the reign of Saṁgrāmarāja (1003-1028 A. D.), and continued to dominate the scene till the period of our survey.

The history of Kashmir in the Lohāra period is a history of the attempts of the dāmaras to capture and retain political power in their own hands. They were emblems of anarchy and disorder. Their main interest was always to maintain a chaotically weak administration. They did not try to restrain the king from cruel oppressions, nor did they work for a stable government. They set up Salhaṇa on the throne and during his rule, robbers did not hesitate to plunder the people at mid-day, “what need to speak more of the traffic on roads” (RT VIII 418). Almost similar was the condition in the reign of Bhikṣāchara. In the reign of Jayasimha, the dāmaras offered help to Somapāla. They knew that this chieftain of Rājapurī, on account of the defects of his person and character, would allow them to have “the pleasures of the rule entirely for themselves.” (RT. VIII 1490-1492).

There are numerous instances to show that much of the misery of mediaeval Kashmir was due to the rapacious nature of the dāmaras.

The Kashmirian kings were equally unfortunate with regard to their vassal states. Harṣa had to undertake a war against Saṁgrāmapāla of Rājapurī. But when anarchy set in, Saṁgrāmapāla gave shelter openly to the pretender Uchchala. Sussala had to meet a more formidable conspiracy of the vassal hill-states. Queen Āsamatī purchased
their help in favour of the exiled pretender Bhikṣāchāra. Jāṣāṭa of Champa, Vajradhara of Babbāpura, Rājā Sahajapāla of Vartula and the Crown-princes of Trigarta and Vallāpura espoused the cause of the pretender. The rebellion, however, collapsed for lack of funds.149 Again, soon after the disposal of Gargachandra, the dāmarā Somapāla invited Bhikṣāchāra to his estate. Consequently, the king dethroned Somapāla and set up Nāgapāla. But shortly within a year, Nāgapāla had to vacate the throne for Somapāla. The ruler of Rājapuri continued his activities against Sussala. But even after setting up friendly Bhikṣāchāra on the throne, Somapāla could not forget his old enmity with Sussala. He pursued and attacked Sussala, who had taken refuge at Lohara after his abdication.151 The exiled king secured victory over the disaffected chief at Parṇotsa in 1121 A. D. He continued his nefarious activities in the reign of Sussala's successor, Jayasimha.

Estimate:

The evils of feudal anarchy have been depicted in lurid colours by the masterly pen of Kalhaṇa. We have drawn upon him extensively to show how the centrifugal tendencies were accentuated by the feudatories of this period. Unlike the French monarchs, the Kashmirian kings were not able to destroy the castles of barons. Nor could they rally the common people round the royal banner. The townsmen of Toulouse wrote to Louis VII (1137-1180 A.D.): “After God we appeal to you as to our good master, our protector, our liberator.” Never did the people of Kashmir or any other Indian state make any such appeal to their monarch.

Feudalism, in Europe, in the words of Hallam, “by preserving the mutual relations of the whole, kept alive the feeling of a common country and common duties, and settled, after the lapse of ages, into the free constitution of England the firm monarchy of France, and the federal Union of Germany.” But in India, the boundaries of almost every
state were changing so frequently that it was difficult either for the nobility or for the common people to be inspired by a sense of loyalty to the state, as distinguished from its government by a particular dynasty. Hence, feudalism did not usher in that spirit of civil liberty, which characterised the constitutional history of mediaeval England. The chief factor responsible for such a state of affairs was the failure of kings to stop the right of feudal lords to indulge in private warfare. The common people were so incessantly harassed by these wars that it became difficult, if not impossible, for them to develop that spirit of patriotism which promotes solidarity in a state.

The mediaeval monarchs of Northern India failed to put themselves at the head of common people who were continuously harassed by the feudal nobility. Had they been able to assume such leadership, it would not have been difficult to suppress the baronial anarchy. But they preferred to rely on the support of one group of feudatories in their attempt to quell the disturbances created by others. Most of the feudal chiefs were opportunists and time-servers. They did not feel any pang of conscience in deserting the cause of their hereditary overlord and transferring their allegiance to a powerful invader, who promised greater privileges to them. The old ideal of kindness to the ruling family of the conquered region, which actuated the invader not to annex the territory and to install one of its scions to subordinate rulership, became in this age a prime cause for the instability of political condition. Moreover, monarchs like Paramära Bhoja, Kalachuri Karnä, and Someśvara Chälukya, who went out on expedition to very distant areas, had to entrust some of their capable lieutenants with the administration of certain territories as feudal vassals. The personal relation between them might have been strong enough to keep the territories together for a generation or two. But in course of time, the memory of such personal relationship faded out and the feudal rulers tended to assert their independence. The feudal structure of governance of state in mediaeval India stood in the way of
national cohesion, which could not be forged even in the face of Turko-Afghan invasions.

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1 Mānasollāsa (GOS. Vol. 28, p. 132) Vishāti II. 20 1146-1147.
2 Śukranītisāra (Cal. ed.) IV. 7. 243; (ed. Sarkar, IV, 7, 481)
3 RC (VR. ed.) Canto I.45
4 Bārhaspatya Arthāśāstra III. 50.
5 Cf. also JASB. XIX (1953) p. 105-106 for Bihar Hill Image-inscription, Year 3.
6 EI. VII. 98.
7 Jaynagar Inscr. JASB. XVII (1951) p. 29.
9 Struggle for Empire, pp. 61-62.
10 DHNI. Vol. II. p. 701.
11 EI. XI. 68.
12 AIOC. 1919, p. 324.
13 IC. VII. p. 7.
14 Struggle for Empire pp. 66-67.
15 Vikramaṅkadevacharita, Ch. 18. 93 and IC. VII. 14.
16 IA. XVIII. p. 217.
17 DHNI. II. p. 780.
18 Mahoba Inscr. EI. I. 219-220; Ajāigaḍh inscr. in EI.I.325; Prabodhacandravijaya I. 9.
20 Kauṭīlya VII. 16.
21 Mbh. Śānti. 33. 43-46.
22 Manu VII. 202-203.
23 Viṣṇudharmasūtra III. 47-49.
24 Agni Purāṇa (ed. Cal.) Ch. 236. 22.
25 Śukrāntisāra (ed. Cal.) IV. 7. 397-399.
27 Mbh. Śānti. 80. 3.
28 Kauṭīlya VII. 3.
29 Bbh. Śānti. 87. 6-8.
31 Kauṭīlya II. 1.
33 Classical Age pp. 39, 40 ff.
34 Ibid p. 67-68.
37 Ibid p. 531.
38. IHQ. XXIV (1948) p. 72-74.
39 HB I. p. 52.
40 Bh. List. No. 1376.
41 Ibid No. 1741.
42 Ibid No. 1339.
43 HB I. p. 274.
44 Ibid p. 114 and 275.
45 Bh. List Nos. 1413, 1416 and 1556; 1561, 1567-1568 respectively.
46 Ibid No. 1385 and 1386.
47 DHNI II pp. 590, 668, 670 and 672.
50 Ibid II. p. 745.
52 AR p. 263.
53 DHNI II p. 849.
54 AR p. 265.
55 DHNI II p. 755.
56 Bh List Nos. 1385-86.
57 Ibid Nos. 44 and 1085.
58 AR p. 161.
59 Ibid p. 177.
60 Bh. List Nos. 1556, 1560, 1565, 1567-68.
63 Mānasollāsa (Vol. I. p. 40) Vīhin. II. 2. 128
64 Śukranītisāra IV. 7, 9, and 12 (ed. Cal.).
66 The above statement is based on the interpretation of Dr. D. C. Sircar in IC. I. p. 680; but Dr. B. C. Sen in IHQ. X. p. 326 f.n. 11, has taken the passage to mean that he reduced his own Sāmantas to helplessness.
67 RT VIII. 21-32.
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68 DHNI II. 919 and 925.
69 IA. XVII. p. 135 ff.
70 IA. XII (1883) p. 97.
71 BG I. i. p. 200; DHNI II. 1024-1025 and Majumdar, A. K.: Chaulukyas of Gujarat, p. 461, where the passage has been quoted and translated.
72 Sukranitisāra IV. 7. 801-809 (ed. Sarkar).
73 JOHRS, I. p. 297.
74 DHNI II. 872-73.
75 DV. XII. 65-76, XIII. 2.
76 BG. I. i. p. 185 and DHNI II. 914 and 990.
77 RT. VII. 218.
78 DHNI. II. p. 751.
79 Prabandhachintāmani Tr. Tawney, pp. 95-6.
80 Bh. List No. 1744 and JOHRS. I. 279.
81 Kokkalla I. made each of his seventeen sons a māṇḍālapati (DHNI II. 756-57); Alhaṇ and Kelhana gave feiefs to their brothers and nephews (Bh. List Nos. 310, 373, 377, 385; DHNI II. 1125 and 1183); Chaulukya Karṇa to nephew Devaprasāda (DHNI II. 963) and Kumārapāla to his cousin Arṇorāja (BG I. ii. p. 197-98).
84 IA. XVII. p. 11.
86 Sukranitisāra II 333-336. cf. also II. 110-112 (ed. Sarkar)
87 DHNI II p. 712.
89 Ibid II. p. 715.
90 Koni inscr. verse 35; El. XXVII. p. 283.
91 Rewa inscr. verses 14-15, dated 1192 A. D.
92 IA. XI. p. 338.
93 El. XXIII p. 227-28 (Sone East Bank Cp. dated vs. 1254-1197 A.D.)
94 IA. XVIII (1889) pp. 136 and 139.
95 Pali Jaina inscr. dated V.S. 1201/1145 A.D. in Bh. List No. 264.
96 Nadol pl. dated V.S. 1213/1156 A.D. in Ibid No. 296.
97 Garra grant dated V.S. 1261/1295 A.D., DHNI II 723.
98 El. XX. p. 133.
99 Ichchawar pl. dated V.S. 1228/1171 A.D. DHNI II 715.
100 Examples of inter-marriages amongst feudatories are: Devarakshita of Pithī marrying daughter of Mahāṇa of Aṅga (El IX. 325): Vijayasena marrying Viḍāsaṇi, Sūra princes (HB I. p.
210, DHNI. I. p. 358), Rāmārāja I marrying daughter of Vajuvarman, prince of Komo-maṇḍala (DHNI II 804), Koṭṭhaka m. dtr. of Dāmara (R Vasanta T. VIII 2334-2337).

101 El. XXIV p. 105.
102 RT. VIII 460, 1607.
103 HB I. p. 166.
104 RT. VIII 287, 1443-1444, 1464-1465, 1648, 1649, 3394.
105 Prabandhachintāmaṇi (Tr. Tawney) p. 72.
106 Mānasollāsa (Vol. I. p. 40), II. 2. 177.
109 Vīrāmitrodaya, Rājanītisprakāśa, p. 56.
110 Brahma Purāṇa quoted in Rāj. p. 13 and also in Vīrāmitrodaya, Rājanītisprakāśa p. 46. In the latter text the word ‘visriya’ of Rāj. has been written as ‘vibhajya.’

111 Ancient Account of India and Cluny (ed. Renaudot) p. 79; “They dress a great quantity of rice and pour it out upon leaves of the Monsa in sight of the king. Then three or four hundred persons come of their own accord without the least constraint on the part of the king, and present themselves before him. After he has eaten some of this rice, he gives a little of it to each of them, as fast as they come up to him, one after another, and they eat in his presence. By the eating of this rice they all engage to burn themselves on the day the king dies, or is slain, and they punctually fulfill their promise, throwing themselves into the fire till the very last, so that no one soul of them is left behind”, vide also HIED Vol. I. p. 9.

112 Tacitus : History II. 49.
113 Śukranītisāra I. 354-357.
114 Mānasollāsa (Vol. II. p. 104) II. 3.4-6.
115 RT. VIII. 1117.
116 Kankhal inscr. dated VS. 1265/1209 A.D. Bh. List No. 454.
117 Rajim inscr. (1145 A.D.) DHNI II. 809.
118 El. XII. p. 255.
119 El. XXVIII. p. 57.
120 Abh. p. 277-278.
121 Śukranītisāra I. 186 and 192 (ed. Cal).
123 RT. VIII. 1542.
124 Stein’s translation in his edition of RT. Vol. II. p. 121.
125 Mbh. 12. 87. 6-8.
126 Viṣṇu 3. 7. 10.
127 Viṣṇudharmottara quoted in Vīra-Rājanītī p. 249.
128 Mānasollāsa (Vol. 28. p. 43), Viṅghati II. 159-161.
129 Rāj. pp. 79-81.
130 Rājanītiiratnākara (1936 ed. Jayaswal) p. 60. The quotation from Manu by Chandeśvara, is different from Lakṣmīdhara.
131 Majumdar, Bimanbēhari and Mitra, K. N.: Vidyāpati, Intro. p. VII.
134 Ibid p. 4.
135 Ibid p. 4-5.
136 IA. XII. (1883) p. 96; El. XII. p. 255.
137 RT. ed. Stein; Vol. I. p. 133.
138 Mahāmaṇḍalaśvaras Chittarājadeva (El. XII. 250-268) Tejahpāla (Glories of Marwar, p. 216) Āhavāmalla Būtēyadeva (IA. XII. 96) under Chaulukyas of Anahilapāṭaka; Mahākūmārās Lakṣmīvarrnadeva, Hariśchandra Udayavarnadeva and Devapāla (IA. XVI p. 257, JASB. VII p. 737, DHNI II. p. 900) under Paramāras of Malwa; Mahārāṇa Salakhanavarmadeva (IA. XVII. p. 229 and Bh. List. No. 432), Mahāmaṇḍalaśvara Prithvīdeva (DHNI II. 805 and 1000) under Kalachuris of Tripuri; Thakkura Sāhīla (IA. XVII p. 136) under Kalachuris of Ratanpur; Rājā Mahā Kūpīa (JOHRS I. p. 292) under Somavariśīs and also Mahāmahī-maṇḍalasvāra Somēśvara of Kośala (El. XXVIII p. 284).
139 El. XXVIII p. 284.
140 El. I. 32 ff., JOHRS I. pp. 298-300, El. XXVIII p. 288.
141 State and Government in Ancient India p. 225.
142 El. XXVII. pp. 119-122 (Rakshaskhari island pl. dated 1190 A. D.)
143 El. XXIII. pp. 223-230 (Sone East Bank cp. dated 1197 A. D.)
144 El. VII. pp. 85-93 (Kahla pl. 1031 A. D.)
145 DHNI. II. 925.
146 El. XII. pp. 250-268 (Bhandup pl. dated 1026 A. D.)
147 Rāj. p. 10 and Viramitrodaya, Rājanīti. p. 56.
148 RT. VIII. 3303.
149 Rājanītiiratnākara I. pp. 4-5.
151 Hallam: The Middle Ages I. p. 171. In most of the countries, including England forty days and in Jerusalem 60 days.
152 IHQ. XVII. pp. 210-217.
153 DHNI. II. 922; History of the Paramāras, p. 338.
154 Under (i) the Chandellas, feudatory Arjuna of Dubkund slew Rājyaśala (El. II. p. 237); Kīrttirāja defended Gwalior against
Sultan Mahmud and checked aggression of Bhoja (Hist. of the Paramaras p. 106 and IA. XV. p. 36, 42-43). (ii) the Kalachuris of Tripuri and Ratanpur, feudatories Kamalaraja defeated the King of Utkala (EI. XIX. p. 79), Malayasihtha subjugated the rebellion of another feudatory of Karkaredkia (MASI. p. 135), Sihilla’s son and grandsons conquered Bhaṭjavila and Vihara, Danḍora and Komomanḍala (IA. XVII. pp. 136-38), Vallabharaja and Brahmadeva defeated a Gauda king and Īṭṭēvara Kāmārṇava, son of Anantavarman Chōḍagaṇṭa respectively (EI. XXVII. p. 279 and XXVI. pp. 257-260). (iii) the Chaulukyas of Gujarat, feudatories fought against Graharipu of Saurāshṭra (Dvāśraya, V) Malava and Saurāshṭra (EI. IX. 70, 72 and 76) Koṅkaṇa (EI. VIII. p. 211-212) Chāhamāna King Aṇa (Dvāśraya IX) and Guhila King Sāmantasihtha (EI. VIII. 211).

155 RT. VIII 2505, 2741.
156 IA. 1888, p. 229.
157 MASI, 1931, p. 134; IA XVII. p. 229.
158 Ṭhakkuras Śrī Sujāna under Mahānprati Indradhavala of Japila (Sone East Bank cp. EI. XXIII. pp. 223-230). Udayasimha under Mahārāṇaka Harirājadeva in Chandella Km. (Rewa inscr. IA. XVII p. 236), Mahādeviya and Silhana under Kṛttivarman of Karkaredkī in Kalachuri Km. (Rewa inscr. IA. XVII p. 226), Vēchchhuka and Rāsala under Mahākumāra Hariśchandra (Bhopal pl. EI. XXIV. p. 227) in Malwa, Rājadeva under Rāyapāla of Naḍḍūla (Nadlai SI. DHNI. II. 1203), Pethaḍa under Rāyapāla of Naddula (Nadol inscr. EI. XI. 41), Khelāditya under Alhaṇadeva of Nadol (Kiradu SI. DHNI. II. 979-80), the two Kalaśarajjas under Lohara and Rājapuri chieftains in Kashmir (RT. VII. 1040, 1045 and 1267-1294)
159 Belkhara SI. (DHNI. I. 545), Dohad inscr. (IA. X. 159), Kalvan pl. (EI. XIX. 72).
160 RT. VIII. 2319-2330.
161 Agni Purāṇa (Cal. ed) ch. 233. V. 14; Cf. also verse 24 and Viṃmitrodaya, Rājaṇātīprakāśa p. 277.
162 Rewa inscr. dated KS. 963. (EI. XXV. p. 4).
163 IA. XVII. pp. 230-236.
164 DV. 19, 98. (Kṛṭtayau bibhedha sāmantau nāmnā viṣayakṛṣṇakau)
166 I have pointed out in my article in PIHC, 1946, p. 192-193 that I do not agree to the meaning of Ṭhāmarā as “riotous, rebel” given in the St. Petersburg Dictionary Vol. III p. 125. Some of the Ṭhāmaras like Bimba (RT. 7. 1630) supported the King. Thus they could not have been in a state of perpetual rebellion against all
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rulers. Further, the Dāmaras were always seeking opportunities of establishing themselves in power.


168 RT. VII. 1236-37, VIII 90, 591, 627 and 1127, VIII 2009 and 2012, VIII 1682, 1707, 2730, 2740 and 3284.


170 Ibid. VIII. 495-96.

171 Ibid. VIII. 706-710.

172 Ibid. VII. 159; VIII. 38; VII. 266; VII. 1022; VII. 1172-73; VIII. 995; VIII. 1306-1307; VIII. 522; VII. 1630-31; VIII. 424; VIII. 202; VII. 223, 1240 and VIII 40; VII. 1240; VIII. 41, 723; VII. 1254; VII. 1228 and VIII. 733; VIII. 651; VII. 1022, VIII. 591, 1517, 2749; VIII, 425.

173 Ibid. V. 57.

174 Ibid. VII. 1360.

175 Ibid VII 1254, VIII 648, 929, 1070, 1124, 1153, 2505.

176 Stein in RT. Vol. II. pp. 458-60, 467-68 and 470.

178 Majumdar, B. p: Role of Dāmaras in PIHC. 1946 (Patna Session), pp. 196 ff.

177 RT. VII. 119.

179 Ibid. VII. 967-91.

180 Ibid. VIII 537-52.

181 Ibid. VIII. 885-87, 914.

182 Hallam: View of the State of Europe during the Middle Ages, Vol. I p. 269.
CHAPTER II

The Military System and its effects.

Hereditary army and feudalism

Feudal principles permeated the social organisation of Northern India in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The social status of a person was not often determined by the quantity of land held by him as also by the number of persons, who were dependent on him. This is illustrated by the position of the maula (hereditary) army, which was the main prop of the King both in offensive and defensive wars. Various writers on state-craft, from Kautilya to Chanḍesvara, speak of the hereditary army, but none of them clearly explain the sense in which the army is regarded as hereditary. Did the son of a soldier invariably succeed to the office of his father, irrespective of his mental and physical aptitude? If a soldier had a dozen sons, did the king recruit each and every one of them? Was there no limit to the size of the maula force? We do not get any direct answer to any of these questions from the ancient and mediaeval authorities, but we can draw certain conclusions from a few stray hints given by some of these writers. Kautilya records his preference of hereditary army over the five other types of armies on the grounds that they depend on the king for maintenance, are being constantly drilled and receive constant favour from the King. Dr. Kane surmises that "they most probably consisted of persons, who and whose ancestors got tax-free lands in lieu of military service." The relation between the King and individual soldiers appears to have been a direct one in the days of Kautilya. But in the twelfth century A.D. it tended to become an indirect one as is evidenced by Mānasollāsa, which states that the King should make sumptuous provision for the maintenance of the chiefs of the hereditary army by bestowing upon them a village or two or, at times, more villages. The King granted
villages to a number of army chiefs, who in their turn must have bestowed land upon the families of individual soldiers. These soldiers cultivated the land either personally or through others on the basis of crop-sharing. There was nothing incongruous in the joining of the profession of arms with that of cultivation as even in the time of Kautilya there were Corporations of Kshatriyas and others in Kambhoja and Surashtra, who were vartiṣastropajivinah or followers of the profession of husbandry and trade as well as of arms.

Brāhmaṇas and other castes joining military profession

According to the orthodox theory of the four varṇas the profession of arms is the close preserve of the Kṣatriyas. This theory has led scholars like Prof. Habib to think that the Brāhmaṇas did not join the military profession. As a matter of fact, the military profession was adopted by many of the Brāhmaṇas from the days of the epics, if not earlier. The most notable instances are Droṇa and Kripa of the Mahābhārata. The teachers or predecessors of Kautilya gave preference to the Brāhmaṇa army over the Kṣatriya, Vaiśya and Śūdra armies. But Kautilya holds that a Brāhmaṇa may be won over by the enemy by making an obeisance before him. He goes further and states that, if an army of Vaiśyas and Śūdras be fairly sizable or, if there is an army of well-trained Kṣatriyas, it is better than a Brāhmaṇa army. This shows that the profession of arms was not closed to the castes other than Kṣatriyas. This is also corroborated by the evidence of the Sukranītisāra, which states that the caste does not determine the quality of soldiers. They may be Śūdras, Kṣatriyas, Vaiśyas, Mlechchhas or of mixed castes, but they must be brave, self-disciplined, well-built, devoted to their master and their Dharma and actuated by a feeling of hatred towards the enemy. Kāmandaka, however, holds that the hereditary army should consist mainly, though not exclusively, of Kṣatriyas.

The Commander-in-Chief, according to the Agni-Purāṇa and Matsya Purāṇa, must either be a Brāhmaṇa or a
Kṣatriya. The Sukranītisāra categorically states that a valiant Kṣatriya should be preferred as a Commander-in-Chief; but if such a person be not available, a Brāhmaṇa may be so selected. He is definitely against the selection of a Śūdra as a Commander-in-Chief. Epigraphic and literary evidences of our period conclusively prove the adoption of military career by castes other than the Kṣatriyas. Illustrious examples of Brāhmaṇa warriors are Guravamiśra and Vaidyadeva, ministers of the Pāla Kings Nārāyaṇapāla and Kumara-pāla respectively, Māṇḍalika Vanapati, Gopāla, Aiyaka, Kalyāṇarāja, Ojānanda and Yaśorāja. Hemachandra tells us that the army of Aṇa, Rājā of Sapādalakṣa, was led by the Brāhmaṇa general Rāka. According to Kalhana, the Kāyasthas of Kashmir took up the profession of soldiers. The Rāmacarīta shows that the Kaivartas were valiant warriors. These evidences go to show that whatever might have been the theory of the varṇāśrama-dharma, the military profession was not the exclusive monopoly of a single caste. But it was not the bounden duty of every citizen to take up arms in defence of one's country. No state in mediaeval India ever tried to enforce conscription.

Types of troops

Besides the maula (hereditary) army, the King had to depend largely upon the Bhṛita or hired soldiers. The maula army depended for their subsistence on the land-grants of the King. They had to be collected from all parts of the state. The hired soldiers, according to Kautilya, "were stationed near at hand, and always ready to march." Such troops rallied round the banner of a Vījīśu or conquering king, with the hope of getting a large share of the booty. They had not, however, any hereditary attachment to the king. When they found the balance of war tipped against their employer, they did not hesitate to desert his cause. This is why the hereditary army was preferred to the hired army. Somadeva, in his Nītivākyāmṛita, definitely states that the
maula army does not rebel and cannot be won over by enemies.

The third type of army, which a king enlisted, was called the śrenī or guild levies. Some of these guilds must have been Corporations of soldiers. Others were economic guilds, which maintained armies for the protection of their life and property. These were drawn upon by the king at the time of his need. Kautilya states that these are better than the allied troops, because they “belong to the same country as the King and have the same expectations of loss and gain.” The Agni Purāṇa19, Kāmandaka Nītisāra29 and Nītivākyāmrīta21 follow Kautilya in showing preference to maula, bhṛita, śrenī and mitra troops in the order in which they are mentioned here. But the Mānasollāsa22 speaks of maula, bhṛita and mitra army as the three best in order of preference and condemns the guild levy as untrustworthy. The fourteenth-century Mithila scholar-statesman Chaṇḍeśvara explains the cause of not preferring the śrenībala, which according to him, receive payment for their services but flee from the battlefield whenever they find their life in danger.

The fourth source from which a king used to draw his army was the mitra forces. In the Maliya copper-plate of Dharasena II, dated 571-72 A.D. there is reference to the establishment of the Valabhī dynasty by Bhatārka with the assistance of the maula, bhṛita, mitra and śrenī troops28. The exact significance of the term mitra cannot be definitely ascertained. According to the Maṇḍala theory, he who is separated from the conquering king by the intervention of the kingdom of ari (in the immediate neighbourhood) is a mitra. A fully sovereign king will not normally place his army under the command of another king. He may, however, combine with a friendly power to bring about defeat or humiliation of a common enemy. The unreliability of the mitra-bala is illustrated by many instances in our period. Harivārman, the ally of the Kaivarta King Bhīma, went over to the side of Rāmapāla, on being paid a large
sum of money by the latter's son\textsuperscript{24}. The allied powers at Dhārā separated themselves soon after the death of Bhoja, the Paramāra King. Hemachandra and Merutūṅga refer to the quarrels between the Chaulukya King Bhīma I and the Kalachuri King Karṇa. In course of narrating the events after the fall of Dhārā, Merutūṅga tells us that the feeling between the allies ran so high that Dāmarā, the ambassador of Bhīma "entered the royal pavilion with thirty-two foot-soldiers and took Karṇa prisoner, when he was asleep in the middle of the day."

Besides these four, the writers on state-craft refer to two other kinds of armies, namely \textit{a-mitrabala} and \textit{aṭavī-bala}. The former, according to Mānasollāsa\textsuperscript{26} consists of soldiers, who once belonged to an enemy king but being defeated were taken captive and made slaves. Instances of slaves enrolled as soldiers in times of emergency are not unknown in history. But such troops are a constant source of danger and annoyance. Kauṭilya says that the common characteristic of these two types is that both are "anxious for plunder". This does not indicate that in his time, the \textit{amitra-bala} consisted of slaves. The Rājanītiratnākara\textsuperscript{27} defines \textit{aribala} as "troops that come to a king after leaving the king's enemy." Chaṇḍēśvara\textsuperscript{28} rightly observes that a king accepts such troops only with a view to securing the enfeeblement of the power of the enemy and as such no confidence should be placed in them. The \textit{aṭavī-bala}, consisting of persons living in the mountainous country as well as of Niaśās and \textit{mlechchhas}, was the worst type of troops, according to Mānasollāsa.

The six types of troops, described above, demonstrate the heterogenous character of the army of Indian Kings. With such an army it was difficult to undertake a long and arduous expedition but more hazardous still to offer resistance to an invading army. The size of the standing army was usually small as the king depended largely on the feudal contingents, which constituted the bulk of the hereditary or \textit{maula} army. Reliance had to be placed on the hired army.
because the strength of the hereditary army alone was not sufficient for a successful expedition. According to the Mānasollāsa\textsuperscript{29} the hired soldiers were reviewed by the King every day and were paid wages daily, monthly, quarterly, every four or six months according to terms of contract.

The hired soldiers were recruited from various regions. The Pāla and Sena inscriptions refer to troops recruited from Mālava, Khaśa, Hūpa, Kulika, Karṇāṭa and Lāṭa countries\textsuperscript{30}. Kalhaṇa speaks of Khaśas in Kashmir and of the recruitment of mercenaries from Rajputaṇa, Saindhava regions and Rajagriha in Magadha\textsuperscript{31}. The Kashmirian kings did not hesitate to recruit even Yavana soldiers\textsuperscript{32}. King Harṣa of Kashmir (1089-1101 A. D.) employed Turuṣka troop leaders and showed great favours to them\textsuperscript{33}. Chaṇḍeśvara echoes the opinion of Manu\textsuperscript{34} who says that the soldiers from Kurukṣetra, Matsya, Pāṇchāla and Surasena being noted for their bravery, should be placed in the vanguard of the army\textsuperscript{35}.

Kalhaṇa records the employment of a large number of Rājaputras in the Kashmirian army. They had such distinctive features that they could be easily told as foreigners from the Kashmirians\textsuperscript{36}. They were employed by the Kashmirian Kings like Saṁgrāmarāja, Uchchala, Sussala and Jayasimha.\textsuperscript{37} In 1111 A. D., like the Swiss guards during the French Revolution, a Rājaputra from Champa* bravely faced death in overpowering the assailants of King Uchchala. Other Rājaputra soldiers saved Sussala’s capital from the attacks of Prithvihara, the rebel Dāmara in 1122 A. D. They are also known to have accompanied the Kings in marching against Lahara and Paśchikāgraṇa in 1130 and 1144 A. D. We come across only one instance of their cowardice when they fled while Utpala was murdering King Sussala\textsuperscript{38}.

* This Champā (is neither the Champā of Bhagalpur district, nor the island in the Indian archipelago) has been indentified by Stein with the region in the valleys of the sources of the Rāvī between Kangra, the ancient Trigarta and Kāśṭhavāṣa (RT. Vol. II. p. 431-432).
We get some idea of the dress of the soldiers of mediaeval India from the Abhidhānachintāmaṇi of Hemachandra. Soldiers were heavily clad with helmet and iron nets protecting separately the belly, thighs, arms and other parts of the body. Somadeva, in his Yaśastilakachampū, has given a pen-picture of the dress, weapons, habits and deportment of the cavalry of Northern India, archers from Gurjaradeśa and soldiers of Trihuta and of Gauḍa. The North Indian regiment is described as “of truthful speech, and eloquent in praise of the speed of horses. The men have bodies, comely as heated gold, and held fast in their hands knives, darts, daggers, spears, blades and bows. The surface of the earth shakes under the hooves of their horses, galloping at top speed, so peculiar was their mode of riding. They wore puggrees made up with multi-coloured scarves arranged in layers; and with the crown of their heads adorned with clusters of flowers of endless varieties, they look like the sylvan abode of the goddess of victory.” Dressed in this fashion the North Indian horse-soldiers certainly looked picturesque; but it may be questioned whether such a dress, and especially the decorative flowers were conducive to their efficiency as fighters. If they had in their hands simultaneously the “knives, darts, daggers, spears, blades and bows”, they could hardly move any of these to strike the enemy. Probably different soldiers or platoons had different weapons.

Somadeva speaks very highly of the valour and military exercises gone through by the Tirhut regiment. They are said to be devoted to “manoeuvres incidental to naval combats.” The mighty rivers, Ganges, Gaṇḍaka, Sarayū and Nāgamatī must have afforded them ample opportunity for practising naval warfare. They had also very big contingents of elephants with them. But it must be noted that one cannot fight simultaneously with boats and elephants. As a matter of fact the two are absolutely incongruous.

The Gauḍa soldiers are described in none too favourable words by Somadeva. These soldiers had on their head
“extremely long tufts of hair. The extremities of their teeth are worn out by constant munching of flattened rice and their mouths are tinged red with betel; they are by nature exceedingly irascible, and hurl abuses at the bystanders, when put to shame for stumbling on account of their cloak reaching down to the feet. The large shields of the regiment made from multicoloured cords have tinged the entire expanse of the sky with diverse hues.” If the Gauḍa soldiers really donned such long robes, they could not have shown the agility of movement which is essential in battle-fields. Their habit of chewing betel leaves also affected their efficiency as adversely as did the wearing of flowers on the turbans by the North Indian cavalry regiment. The Gujarat regiments were more practical in their dress, as it reached only down to their knees. They were armed with bows, and their loins were girt with daggers with buffalo-horn hilts. The poet is certainly using a hyperbole when he states that “the existence of, certain portions of their bodies, the navel, eyes and the ears, can only be inferred from their actions, owing to their beards expanding thickly downwards and sidewise”. They are described as swift in aiming, vigorous in shooting and accurate at hitting, distant targets.41 But it was not difficult for a desperate enemy to pull them and the Gauḍa soldiers, by the overflowing beards or hairs! There is certainly poetic exaggeration in the description of soldiers given by Somadeva, but the point that emerges clearly from it is that the Indian soldiers of this age were more keen on making their appearance picturesque and colourful than on securing efficiency as warriors. There was hardly any uniformity in dress or weapons amongst the soldiers coming from different parts of the country.

The rigidity of the caste system did not allow the soldiers of a single army to have their food together. They could not be readily refreshed with food and drink in the battle-front. If the battle continued to rage till late in the afternoon, the Hindu soldiers were often found to be famishing for food.
Constituents of the army

Conventionally the four-fold constituents of the Indian army were the infantry, cavalry, elephants and chariots. Following the precepts of older writers, the Agni Purāṇa and the Śukranitisāra state that the King should have in the army a preponderance of foot-soldiers, a medium quantity of horse, a small quantity of elephant force, equal number of bulls and camels, but never elephants in excess. Bhoja explicitly writes that the foot soldiers are the main source of strength on all occasions.

In earlier times, the proportion of infantry to cavalry was 3:5, as is borne out by the evidence of the Mahābhārata. Ādiparva and the lexicon Vaijayantī in definition of patī. But in later times as it became increasingly difficult to secure good horses from the Sindhu and Afghan regions, which fell into the hands of the Arabs, the proportion was raised to 1:1000. The N ṭiprakāśikā states that each horseman was supported by a thousand foot-soldiers. The Indian writers on statecraft, however, were keenly alive to the importance of the cavalry. Somadeva, in his Nītivākyāmrīta writes: “with a King, having a strong cavalry force, war becomes almost a sport. Fortune smiles on him and the enemies stationed even at a long distance come within his grasp.” Someśvara Chālukya also gives similar importance to cavalry in his Mānasollāsa, which states that the cavalry is the key to fame: a King in possession of a strong cavalry need entertain no apprehension regarding his territory.

In ancient times India used to import the best horses from Arabia and Persia and also to purchase them from the countries, which are now called Afghanistan and Western Pakistan. The Mahābhārata refers to the horses from Kamboja, Gāndhāra and Bālīhika countries. The Jaina Uttarādhyāyana Sūtra, Sūmaṅgalavilāsini and Hāršacharita also refer to the commendable qualities of the Kamboja horses. The latter work also speaks of horses from Vanāyu. Āraṭṭa,
Bhāradvāja, Sindh and Persia. The Yuktikalpataru refers to the horses from Tājikistān and Tuṣāra countries as the best and the Sindhu horses as inferior ones. The Mānasollāsa, however, says that the Sindhu horses trained by the Yavanas are the best. The Śārāgadharapaddhati classifies the horses born in Kīra (N. Punjab), Turuṣka, Aṛaṭṭa. Takka, Sindhus as of medium quality. The rise of the Arabs to great military power in Persia and Western Asia, their occupation of Sind and the extinction of the power of the Shāhīyas in Afghanisthan and the Punjab made it extremely difficult for the Indian princes to secure good horses. The only breed, which was tolerably good and was available to them was Surastra horses. The Indian horses could not stand comparison with the Turkoman horses on which the Turko-Afghans came to invade India.

Elephants

Elephants played a prominent part in warfare from very early times. Megasthenes states that elephants were trained for war in India and often turned the scale of victory. The elephants accompanied the vanguards of the army, cleared the road by removing trees and shrubs and battered the walls and gates of fortresses. Two verses quoted in the anthology, Śārāgadharapadhati, show that it was believed that elephants increased the grandeur of the power of a king and that their use assured victory. Kauṭilya asserts that the destruction of

*The Turkoman horse “according to the Cambridge Mediaeval History (Vol. I. p. 331) “is the noblest in the whole of Central Asia, and surpasses all other breeds in speed, endurance, intelligence, faithfulness and a marvellous sense of locality. The Turkoman horse is tall, with a long narrow body, long thin legs and neck... On their predatory expeditions, the Turkomans cover 650 miles in the waterless desert in five days. They owe their powers to the training of thousands of years in the endless steppes and deserts, and to the continual plundering raids, which demanded the utmost endurance and privation of which horse and rider were capable.”
the enemy’s army depends on elephants. But the defeat of Indian kings in many crucial battles at the hands of foreigners was primarily due to the uncontrollable movement of war-elephants. These historical examples led Somadeva to sound a note of caution about the use of these unwieldy mounts in war. He observes that if the elephants are not properly trained and guided to action, they bring disasters, and even death to the king who uses them. The wisdom of this observation is proved by several recorded instances in our period. In the battle of Kṣiptikā, the supporters of the pretender Uchchhalā, shot arrows at the elephants of King Harṣa and these in their agony trampled down their own force. The rebel Kaivarta chief Bhīma, was also defeated by Rāmapāla because the elephant carrying him was “disgracefully panic-striken” and was easily captured. Śukra advises the restriction of the number of elephants even for transport purposes to the barest minimum. According to him, a King should have bulls 1/5th, camels 1/8th and elephants 1/32nd of the total strength of the cavalry. In actual practice, however, we find considerable numbers of elephants being engaged by the Hindu kings in their fights against the Turko-Afghans. Ānandapāla could have probably achieved victory in 1008 A.D., had he not used elephants. His enemies discharged arrows and naptha balls against the elephants. The elephant carrying Ānandapāla, having been struck, became unruly and fled away. The Hindu army, thinking that the king was retreating from the battlefield became panicky and dispersed. Again sometime after 1194 A. D., the King of Banaras was also defeated by Qutbuddin almost under similar circumstances.

Dr. B. P. Sinha contends that had the elephant been considered the cause of the defeat of the army using it, the Turko-Afghans would not have cared to demand a tribute of elephants from the Hindu Kings. The real reason, however, for such a demand was that the elephant was a grand animal and its possession was considered a matter of prestige with them. Though they received elephants and tributes, yet we do not
come across a single instance of any Turko-Afghan invader ever using any elephant force in war.

Scholars like Dr. Altekar, Dikshitbar and Chakravarti hold that chariots ceased to be used in warfare from the eighth century A.D.\textsuperscript{70} The Mānasollāsa does not mention it as a constituent of war, nor does any Muslim writer or Indian inscription refer to it. But the Yuktikalpataru, Krityakalpataru, Rājanītiraññākara and Sukranītisāra refer to chariots.\textsuperscript{71} We find at least one instance of the use of chariots in war in this period. The Varman King conciliated Rāmapāla by offering his own chariots in the war against Bhima\textsuperscript{12}.

We do not find any positive evidence of the use of air-force in war during our period. But a contemporary writer, Bhojadeva devotes about one hundred slokas in his Samarānganagāpasūtradhāra to aeroplanes.\textsuperscript{72} These aeroplanes, according to him, could move on all sides, namely, in oblique direction, upwards, downwards, frontwise, sideways, etc.\textsuperscript{74} They could move in the heaven and also on the earth\textsuperscript{75}. These aerial cars were shaped like elephants, birds, monkeys, horses and chariots. Their body was made of light wood, and iron, lead, copper and other metals were used for construction of various parts of the aeroplane.\textsuperscript{76} It is distinctly stated that the body of the plane was filled with mercury and fire at the bottom.\textsuperscript{77} It had two wings, which were propelled by air. It is also stated to have carried passengers.\textsuperscript{78}

Prof. Dikshitbar holds that the aeroplane was actually used in warfare, and observes: “such elaborate descriptions ought to meet the criticism that the vinānas and similar vehicles mentioned in ancient Indian literature should be relegated to the region of myth.”\textsuperscript{79} Inspite of this assertion we have grave doubts about their actual use. Bhojadeva states that the secret of the construction of the machine should not be made public and that is why details of the mechanism of the aeroplanes were not being given.\textsuperscript{80}

The Navy did not constitute a regular feature of the military organisation of all the North Indian princes of the ele-
venth and twelfth centuries, though it played an important role in some of the countries. Boats are known to have been in use in India from the age of the Ṛgveda. The Yuktikalpataru broadly classifies boats into two types namely, dirghā (long) and unnavā (high). The dirghā type consisted of the following varieties viz., dirghikā, toranī lolā, gatvari, gāmiṇī, tarī, jangḥālā, plāvini, dhāriṇī, and veginī. Of these lolā, gāmiṇī and plāvini caused much misery. The unnavā type had the following varieties: ʿurdhvā, anʿurdhvā, svanāmukhī, garbhīnī and mantharā. These vessels had their cabins towards the prows. They were made of wood, iron and brass.

These boats were used for civil as well as military purposes. The Yuktikalpataru plainly declares that the King, who has boats, wins war, and the King, who, through ignorance, does not keep boats, loses his prestige, vigour and treasury. Mediaeval writers also refer to the use of boats in warfare. In the naval engagement with Sultān Mahmūd in 417 A. H./1026 A. D., the Jats who had molested the invader's army on his way back from the expedition to Somanatha, employed a large number of boats. Nizāmuḍḍīn Ahmad tells us that the Jats "launched, according to some, four, and according to others, eight thousand boats, manned and armed, ready to engage the Muhammedans." The Jats, however, were defeated in the encounter. Alberuni also refers to pirates of Kacch and Somanath, who used ships called vīrā. We have already quoted a passage from the Yaśastilakachampū, showing how the Tirhut regiment had regular practises in naval manoeuvres.

Contemporary inscriptions too refer to naval battles. In Bengal there was an officer called naubalavāpritaka. During the Sena period the Bengal fleet proceeded on a conquering expedition up the whole course of the Ganges. The Kamauli plate of Vaidyadeva also records his naval victory in the Anuttara Vaiga. The use of boats for military purposes in Kashmir is also testified to by Kalhana.
Strength of the Indian army

It is difficult to ascertain the exact strength of the army of any of the North Indian states during the period. The Šukranitīsāra informs us that even an ordinary King, with an income of one lakh Karṣas, kept the following number of soldiers and equipments, viz. 100 in reserved force, 300 infantry with laghunālika firearms, 80 horses, one chariot, two brihannālika firearms, 10 camels, two elephants, two carts and 16 bulls⁹⁰. Foreign writers either exaggerate or make conflicting statements regarding the total strength of the army of any state. With regard to the number of elephants in the Pāla army, Sulaiman states it as 50,000 and Ibn Khurdācoonah⁹¹ as only 5,000. Similarly, while Nizāmuddīn records that the army of Gaṇḍa Chandella consisted of 36,000 horses, 1,45,000 foot soldiers and 390 elephants, Firishta informs us that it consisted of 45,000 foot soldiers, 36,000 horses and 640 elephants. It is interesting to record that the Kharataragachchhapāṭāvalī tells us that Priṅhvīrāja III had a cavalry force of 70,000 soldiers⁹⁵. But Firishta states that the above-mentioned Chāhamāna King rallied such a huge number as 2,00,000 and 3,00,000 horses against Muizz-ud-din Muhammad Ghūrī in 1191 and 1192 A. D. respectively.

The patti was the lowest unit in the military organisation. So far as the higher units of the army were concerned it appears that they consisted of much larger number in the days of the composition of the Nitiprakāśikā, as compared to that of the Mahābhārata. The Mahābhārata gives different tables for the various divisions of the army. By way of illustration, we may refer to the table, mentioned in the Ādiparva (2. 19. 22), according to which a senāmukha consisted of three chariots, three elephants, nine horses and 15 foot soldiers and an aṅgauhinī (the biggest division) of 21,870 chariots, and same number of elephants, 65,610 horses and 109,350 infantry. But the Nitiprakāśikā⁹⁵ prescribes the following larger number in senāmukha, composed of three
chariots, 30 elephants, 3,000 horses, and 3,00,000 foot soldiers and in the biggest division, namely, akṣauhini of 21,870 chariots, 2,18,700 elephants, 21,87,000 horses and 21,87,000,000 infantry. Thus, though the number of chariots did not increase at all, yet elephants increased ten times, cavalry 333 times and infantry 20,000 times probably in the eleventh century A.D. The vastness of the Indian army can also be realised from the Śukranitisaśra*. The Puratanaprabhaśaḍasangraha states that Prithivirāja III engaged three lakhs of infantry, in the second battle of Tarain in 1192 A.D.

Larger expenditure on army

The increase in the size of the army naturally caused a larger expenditure of state revenues for military purposes. Śukra states that a feudatory spent 24 per cent of his income for these, but a Nṛipa having an income of one lakh Karsas devoted as much as 53 per cent. It is highly unlikely that any state at this time was actually guided by these precepts. But this much is certain that the major portion of the in-

*Calculation made on the basis of soldiers maintained by a ruler with income of one lakh Karsas as given in the Śukranitisaśra IV. 7. 22-24 (ed. Cal.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status of king</th>
<th>Reserves</th>
<th>Infantry</th>
<th>Horses</th>
<th>Char-Can-Elephants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nṛipati with Karsa income 1 lakh.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Māṇḍalika with Karsa income 3 to 10 lakhs.</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rājā, with Karsa income 10 to 50 lakhs.</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Svarāṭ, with Karsa income 50 to 1 crore.</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>15000</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samrāṭ, with Karsa income 1 to 10 crores.</td>
<td>10000</td>
<td>30000</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virāṭ, with Karsa income 10 to 50 crores.</td>
<td>100000</td>
<td>300000</td>
<td>80000</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
come of each state was spent on military organisation, which, however, was not defensive in character. An expedition to a neighbouring state was a normal feature of the life of the time.

Feudatories, allies, adventurers, desperadoes rallied round the banner of a king going out on a conquering raid mainly in the hope of getting a rich booty. The soldiers were allowed a portion of the spoils of war from the time of Manusmriti, if not earlier. Manu\(^95\) allows soldiers to take chariots, elephants, umbrellas, grains, animals and women as spoils of war. Commenting on this, Medhātithi observes: The King being the master of all, he might take away all the spoils of war: hence the text mentions a few exceptions. Gold, silver, lands, buildings etc. accrue to the King, hence the necessity of enumerating those that do not go to him. Arms and conveyances also accrue to the king.... It is in view of all this that there is the popular saying—"Half belongs to the king". The soldiers shall of their own accord, present to the king their best object and they shall not take all the booty themselves\(^97\)." This shows that there was considerable relaxation of the rule regarding the booty at the time of Medhātithi. There was now a moral appeal to the soldiers not to take all they could seize and to give something, according to their own choice, to the king. Lakṣmīdhara, the minister of the Gāhaḍāvāla King Govindachandra, quotes with approval the above-mentioned passage of Manu and also the views of Gautama\(^98\), which however, were not unanimous. Gautama did not allow soldiers to retain chariots and beasts of burden, which had to be given to the king. Manu definitely states that gold and silver looted during the battle belong to the king. Śukra categorically negatives the opinion of Manu and holds that "silver, gold or other booty belongs to him who wins it"\(^99\). He further exhorts the ruler "to satisfy the troops by giving them those things with pleasure, according to the labour undergone." This is a counsel of perfection, because-
the question of giving to the soldier does not arise unless he has made over to the king the booty seized. Medhātithi, therefore, appears to be more practical than Śukra in this matter.

**Offensive Weapons**

Coming to the question of the weapons of war, we find that there was no new invention in arms during the last thousand years. The soldiers were using those very weapons, which were utilised in the period of the epics, early Smritis and the Gupta emperors. Some of these were, bows made of wood and horn, arrows and specially iron-made arrows called nārāchās, swords, kunja, tomara, präśa, bhindipāla, gada or mace, paraśu or battle-axe, pāśa or noose, chakra or disc, śāla parigha etc. Yantras, which were installed in fortresses and used for throwing stones, were in use as early as the days of the epics. They were also used in mediaeval India. Such was the efficiency of these catapults, that Bhoja remarks humorously that they can do everything that is possible to imagine and can even make a person dance or take part in a drama.

The mediaeval writers have thoroughly discussed the relative quality of swords manufactured in Northern India. The Agni Purāṇa observes that “swords manufactured in Khaṭi or Khaṭṭara country are noted for their good appearance, those produced in Rishika for their quickness in cutting things, those in Sūrpāraka for strength, in Aṅga for sharpness and Vaṅga for keenness and durability.” An altogether different list of location of this industry is mentioned in the Sārīgadharapaddhati, according to which, light and sharp swords were made in Madhyamagrāma and Sahagrāma, and smooth sharp and faultless steel in the Chedi country. A third list is furnished by Bhoja, who mentions the relative quality of the swords manufactured in Banaras, Magadhā, Nepal, Aṅga Kaliṅga and Surāṣṭra. The first and the last mentioned
countries manufactured the best sword. Those produced in Maghadha, Aṅga and Kaliṅga were the worst.

Some weapons, used in ancient India, went out of use in the period under survey. Dikshitar points out that the following missiles, which were used in ancient times, are not mentioned in the Nitiprakasika, e.g., *Brahmasirsa*, *sikhari*, *śuṅka*, *ādra*, *sikharāstra*, *vidyāstra*, *śoṣanam*, *prasvāpana*, *nāmanā*, *tāmasa*, *samvarta*, *saura*, *māyastra*, *tvāṣṭra*, *somāstra*, *saṁhāra*, *mānas*, *nāgāstra*, *garuḍāstra* and *śaiveśika*. Similarly, *hāṭaka* (rod with three or four edges), *varāhakaraṇa* (rod with bear’s earshape), *kanāya*, (metallic rod with triangular ends), *kārpana* (a kind of arrow), which are mentioned in the *Arthaśāstra*, are not referred to in the literature of medieval Northern India.

**Fire-arms**

It is extremely doubtful whether fire-arms were ever used by the Hindus in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. While Prof. Dikshitar holds that *ayaḥ*, *kaṇapa*, *tulā-guda*, *aurva*, *nālīka*, *nāraḥs*, *agnivāna*, and *śatagṛhiṇi* were all fire-arms, Prof. Jogesh Chandra Ray and Dr. P. C. Chakravarti contend that these were not real fire-arms. Medhātithi commenting on *Manu* VII. 90 observes: “while fighting his enemies in battle, he shall not strike with concealed weapons, nor with arrows that are poisoned or barbed on with flaming shafts.” This shows that the use of flaming shafts was known to the Hindus but it was denounced on moral grounds.

The real fire-arms, similar to guns and cannon, were *nālikas* and *śataghṇas*. The working of big and small *nālikas* is described in the *Sukranītisāra*. The author prescribes that one of the duties of the *sachiva* is to have an exact information of total stock of gunpowder in the arsenal. Prof. Ray holds that Chānd Baradāyī used the word ‘*tupak*’ in the sense of small guns. With regard to *śataghṇas*, Prof. Ray and Dr. Chakravarti, both quoting *Vaiśeṣha-Dhanurveda*, take them to be cannon and distinguish them
from *satagṛha*.\textsuperscript{128} Vasiṣṭha-Dhanurveda tells us that "the wise should place *satagṛha* in forts for the security of the throne, and a large quantity of *raṇjaka* (gun-powder) and *vati* (bullets).

We cannot ascertain the exact date of composition of this work nor of the chapter on *nālikāstra* in the Śukranītisāra. Moreover, contemporary inscriptions of the North Indian Kings as well as the writings of Muslim historians are absolutely silent regarding the use of firearms by the Hindus in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. In view of this silence it is not safe to assert that they were actually used by Indians in the period under survey.

*Time for undertaking an expedition*

The nature of the military expeditions can be guessed from the time during which these are undertaken. Most of the writers on Dharmāṣṭra and politics state that offensive military expeditions should be undertaken in Mārgaśīrṣa (November-December) or Phālguna and Chaitra\textsuperscript{129} (March-May). Explaining the reasons for such timing, Medhātithī writes: "In Mārgaśīrṣa the autumn harvest would have been garnered, and the invader will be cheered by the prospect of having also his spring harvest. The time is good for siege operations. The rivers will then be running low, the ground hard, and there will be no overgrowth of jungle through which the army will have to march......At any other season food grains, though sufficient, will not be diversified in kind and quality.........If, however, the invader is only anxious to inflict some injury on the enemy, the expedition is expected to be of short duration and if the invading forces are quite strong, the invasion may take place in Phālguna or Chaitra especially if the country which is to be attacked is rich in spring harvests. The invader can be sure then of adequate fodder supplies and will also be able to destroy the spring crops in the invaded country."\textsuperscript{130} This shows that
economic causes, specially those relating to the supply of food and fodder determined largely the time for the military expeditions. The invading army hoped to be supported by the grains, which had recently been harvested in the enemy country. The soldiers must have taken away everything which fell on their way, thus inflicting famine on the people on whom their visitation occurred. The peasants had to look on helplessly while the looting away and destruction of all the crops they had grown with infinite pains went on under their nose. Had such expeditions been rare and infrequent they could somehow been tolerated. But as these constituted almost normal features of mediaeval life, the peasants must have lived in a state of chronic poverty.

Lakṣmīdhara quotes in his Rājadharmakāṇḍa, the views of Matsya Purāṇa regarding the suitability of different seasons for various categories of army. If it had a preponderance of infantry and elephants the rainy season is the best; an army which has got many chariots and horsemen, hemanta and Sisir (November to February) is the best. Summer is best suited for an expedition, which has got a preponderance of mules and cannons. An army which has got all the four constituents, spring and autumn are the best.Śukranītisāra regards the months between September and December as the best, the spring as middling and summer as the worst season for an expedition.

As soon as the king decided to lead an expedition, he called the astrologers to find out the most auspicious day. Someśvara, the author of Mānasollāsa, Bhoja, the author of YuktiKalpataru and Lakṣmīdhara, the Gaḥḍavāla minister, all hold that after consultation with astrologers and watching the prognostics, the king should start on his expedition. Someśvara further states that kings should not start on the fourth, eighth, ninth, twelfth or on the fourteenth day of bright or dark fortnight, nor on Monday and Saturday for marching towards east, nor on Friday and Sunday for journey to the west, nor on Thursday for going in the southern direction. Thus out of
28 days of the lunar month as many as 10 were declared inauspicious. Besides these, five days in the week were considered bad for undertaking an expedition in one direction or the other. The favourable time for an expedition also depended on the interpretation of *sakunajñāna* or prognostics. The Matsya Purāṇa (241.2.12-14), which is quoted also by Lakṣmīdhara and Mānasollāsa,124 acquaints us with a catalogue of good and bad omens for undertaking an expedition. Someśvara holds that one should not start on seeing persons riding camels or buffaloes, ascetics, mendicants, untouchables, persons without ears, or nose or hair, lean and thin persons, menstruous women, pregnant and mad women, the crippled, the blind and the deaf.

The influence of astrology on the timing of military expeditions can be gleaned from other literary works. Kalhaṇa tells us that when Uchchala was about to march against King Harṣa, he saw a man carrying a dead hare. Uchchala at once became confident of victory on seeing that good omen.125 Further, from Rājapurū he marched towards the capital and was cheered up by prognostics. “Though he had only on the full-moon day of Chaitra been exposed to dangers, yet he started without fear on his expedition on the fifth day of the bright half of Vaiśākha,” and as he was marching to Varāhamūla, “upon his head fell a garland from the head of (the image of) Mahāvarāha, just as if the earth, which rested on the shoulders of that (god) had bestowed it upon (him as the man of) her choice.” Ultimately Uchchala did indeed achieve success.

Not only the stars and omens, but also dreams dreamt by kings decided the time for undertaking an expedition. Lakṣmīdhara quotes the opinion of the Matsya Purāṇa on bad and good dreams.126 Hemachandra tells us that Mūlarāja on being asked in a dream by Somanātha Mahādeva fought against Grāharipu.127 Firishta preserved the traditional story that being told by the deity of Nagarkot in a dream, the Rājā of Delhi besieged Nagarkot.128
The importance of the astrologer in the royal court may be gauged from the repeated references to him in the Pāla, Sena and Gāhāḍavāla inscriptions. If the timing for beginning an expedition was dictated by dreams, omens and astrological forecasts, and not by diplomatic and strategic considerations, it afforded a golden opportunity to the Turko-Afghan invaders to gain easy victory. The King would not go out to check the onrush of an invading army if it fell on one of the ten forbidden days of the lunar month or one of the five inauspicious days in the week. Even when a battle was timed on a lucky day, the soldiers might be depressed by seeing something which was considered an evil omen. A nation cannot put forth effective resistance to determined invaders in such an atmosphere of superstition and fatalism. Belief in astrology was also not uncommon amongst the Mussalmans. But they never made a fetish of it.\textsuperscript{141}

The Yāṭrā or march of the Indian army was at once colourful and spectacular. The King, as described in the Mānasollāsa, Yuktikalpataru and the Agni Purāṇ\textsuperscript{142}, performed the Nirājana festival in the month of Aśvin (September-October) for victory in battle. And on the day of battle, according to the Agni Purāṇa, the King worshipped God Trivikrama, worshipped the weapons and beasts of burden with the Nirājana Mantra and heard the recital of hymns conveying the idea of all-round success. He would then walk thirty-two paces to the east, ride on elephant, chariot, horses and other animals respectively. Then the King should ride away without looking back and after going a distance of a krośa, take rest and worship gods and Brāhmaṇas. We have almost the same details in the Mānasollāsa. The King looked at his face on ghee and mirror in the early morning of the day of marching. Then bathing in the water of holy places, he was to worship Jagannātha, the family deity and the Brāhmaṇas. On seeing these auspicious things and amidst shouts of victory and good wishes, the King marched forth for the battle ground. If the Kings were so meticulous in the observance of the ceremonial-
rules, he could not have taken prompt measures to forestall invaders\textsuperscript{143}.

The Indian generals were accustomed to marshalling their soldiers in phalanxes, the formation of which became increasingly complex. In the age of Uṣānas there were three divisions viz., wings (pakṣau), vanguard (urasyama) and rear-guard (pratigraha). In the age of Agni Purāṇa,\textsuperscript{144} there were seven divisions. Mānasollasa\textsuperscript{145} mentions nine divisions, viz., mukham, urasa, praurasyam, pratigraha, kakṣau, pra-kakṣau, pakṣau, prapakṣau and prsthām. And the still later work Nitiprapakṣāsikā (VI. 10) refers to thousands of vyūhas.

According to the exigencies of the situation, the Commander-in-chief arranged those divisions in different shapes\textsuperscript{146}. Mānasollāsa\textsuperscript{147} gives a vivid description of the arraying of soldiers in the battle-field. In the rear-centre and flanks should be stationed men with swords, in prapakṣa those armed with kōdanḍa, in pakṣa (wings) those armed with kheṭaka weapons, in prapakṣa armoured men and cavalry, in vanguard (purataḥ) cavalry, infantry and in front elephants. But Chaṇḍeśvara quotes earlier authorities to show that on the flanks, the horses should be kept, then by the side of horses should be stationed chariots, then elephants and then the infantry\textsuperscript{148}.

The Rājataraṅgini also mentions divisions in the battle-field. Uchchala proceeded towards Viśayakṣetra “moving along an army in its eighteenfold division.”\textsuperscript{149} Eighteen divisions are also mentioned elsewhere.\textsuperscript{150} But Bhikṣūchara favoured only three arrays\textsuperscript{151} of soldiers.

Stratagem is an essential feature of warfare. But the Indian writers on state-craft advised only the weak kings to take recourse to it. Even Kauṭilya would not allow a strong king to take recourse to stratagem.\textsuperscript{142} Kāmāndaka, Agni Purāṇa and Śukranītīsāra\textsuperscript{153} devote some space to the description of kūṭayuddha, but Lakṣmīdhara, the Minister of War and Peace of the Gāhaḍavāla King Govindachandra, refuses even to mention it, as he would have nothing to do except Dharma
**Yuddha.** Chaṇḍesvara quotes with approval Manu’s views that a king should not resort to concealed weapons in killing enemies in war, and also that the king should ask his soldiers not to shoot arrows that are poisoned or barbed, with flaming shafts, nor to strike “one who is standing on the ground, nor one who is a eunuch, nor the supplicant who has joined palms, nor one with loosened hair, nor one who is seated, nor one who says, ‘I am yours’, nor one who has fallen in difficulties regarding weapons; nor one in distress, nor one who is frightened, nor one who has turned his back.” When the Turko-Afghans had absolutely no scruples about employing stratagem, it was foolhardy on the part of the Hindus to abjure it altogether in fighting against them. A typical illustration of their lack of worldly wisdom is to be found in the conduct of Paithvīrāja III on the eve of the second battle of Tarain. Firishtā relates that when Shihābuddīn of Ghūr reached Bhatinda, he was requested by Prithvīrāja III to go back without a war so that there might not be unnecessary bloodshed. He also promised to allow a safe passage to the Turki army. Now, Shihābuddīn got a grand opportunity to take recourse to stratagem in taking the Hindu army unawares. The Chieftain of Ghūr replied: “it is very generous and friendly of you to make this offer of peace. I am sending a messenger to my brother, who is the reigning Sultān, urging him to agree to make peace with you on the condition of Bhatinda, the Punjab and Multan remaining with the House of Ghor and the rest of Hindusthan under the Rajas. Pending the arrival of his reply, I beg you to suspend hostilities.” The Rajput army, in the words of Dr. Jadunath Sarkar “swallowed the bait, and believing the invader’s pacific tone to be due to his fear of their valour and a sense of his own weakness in numbers, they made no preparation for action and even neglected the common alertness necessary in the face of an enemy. Shihāb-ud-dīn, on his part, lost no time.” Early next morning before day-break the Turko-Afghan army “covered the intervening miles (from Bhatinda to Tarain)
unmolested, and secured a lodgment in front of the Hindu camp before they could take alarm."

The slowness of the movement of the Rajput army was a sad contrast to such lightning speed of the Turko-Afghan invasions. When the Ghaznavid ruler Maudūd was facing the rebellion of his brother Majdūd and put to great trouble by the incursions of the Saljuq Turks, the Rājā of Delhi recaptured Hansi, Thaneswar and Nagarkot in 435 A.H./1043 A.D. But the Hindu confederates failed to capture Lahore even after besieging it for seven months.156 Had Lahore been captured, the history of India would have been written otherwise. Similarly, the army of Prithvīrāja III wasted their valuable time in capturing Bhatinda immediately after the first battle of Tarain. In the words of Firishta, ‘after the retreat of Mahomed Ghoory, the allied Rajas continued their march to Bhatinda, which they besieged for one year and one month, and at last were obliged to grant favourable terms to the garrison.” Had Prithvīrāja quickly pursued the fast-moving Turko-Afghan cavaliers and been more vigorous in his siege of Bhatinda, he would have earned the fruits of victory of Tarain.

In this connection we may recount the other causes of the defeat of Prithvīrāja III as mentioned in the traditional stories current in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. According to the Viruddhavidhi-viddhaṅsa of Lakṣmīdharā, Prithvīrāja III was too much dependent upon two brothers, namely, Skanda, the Commander-in-Chief and Vāmana, the Sandhivigrhaṅka.158 While Prithvīrāja was fighting at Tarain, Skanda was engaged in war elsewhere. Lakṣmīdharā, commenting on the absence of co-operation from Skanda, observes that “Prithvīrāja, who though alive, was as good as dead and steeped in the vice of nīdrāvyasana, was slaughtered in the battle by the Turuskas.” But according to the Prabandhachintāmaṇi, Prithvīrāja III was fast asleep due to the fast undertaken on the occasion of the Ekādaśī159. Further, due to the earlier differences with his minister (Pradhāna) Someśvara, the latter went over to the camp of Shihāb-ud-dīn and conducted the Ghūr Chieftain to
the Rajput camp. The Purātanaprabandhasamgraha states that Prithvirāja was asleep for ten days on the eve of the war. When most of his feudatories and soldiers were killed, he was roused from slumber by his sister. Prithvirāja III was charged with arrows and imprisoned by 'Sāhavadīna' (Shihāb-ud-dīn). The book also tells how Kānūvāsa, the discharged minister, went over to the Turks and called in the sakas, i.e., the army of Shihāb-ud-dīn. Further the same story of treachery is told differently in the Hammūra-Mahākāvyā by Nayachandra Sūri. The Jaina writer says that on the night before the day of the battle, Shihāb-ud-dīn was able to win over Prithvīrāja's master of the horse and royal musicians, and a conspiracy was hatched. Next day, early in the morning, the Muhammadans attacked the Rajput camp. And then, "while he king's followers were thus preparing to meet their assailants, the disloyal master of the king's horse, as advised by his seducers, saddled and brought as the king's charger that day, a horse styled Nāiyārambahā and the musicians, who were waiting for the opportunity, when the king had mounted, began to play upon their instruments tunes that were the king's favourites. At this the royal steed began to dance profoundly. The king was diverted by this performance for a time, and forgot all the important business of the moment. The Muhammadans took advantage of the King's indolence and made a vigorous attack. The Rajputs, under the circumstances, could do little. Thus, according to the traditions current in later medieval period, the defeat of Prithvirāja III was due to the King's indolence and treachery in his own camp.

According to Dr. Jadunath Sarkar, the effect of the sudden attack of the Ghūrī chieftain early in the morning was disastrous to the Hindus. "He (Shihābudīn) seized the tactical initiative and forced the Hindus to fight on the ground and in the manner of the Turk's own choosing, instead of the defenders delivering any attack, planned and prepared from before." The Hindus fought the invaders, but with an empty stomach. Explaining the reason for the empty stomach, Dr-
Sarkar writes: "It was the Hindu practice to prepare for a pitched battle by waking at 3 o’clock in the morning, performing the morning wash and worship, eating the cooked food (pakwān) kept ready beforehand, putting on arms, and marching out to their appointed places in the line of battle at sunrise (See Mahadji Sindhia’s preparations before setting out for the battle of Tunga or Lalsot, 1787). But in the second battle of Naraina, the Rajputs could take no breakfast; they had to snatch up their arms and form their lines as best as they could in a hurry." The Rajput soldiers in vain, tried to pursue the Turko-Afghan army from 9 o’clock in the morning to 3 o’clock in the afternoon,” at the end of which the Hindus were utterly dissipated by the futility of their exertions and exhausted from hunger and thirst. Their rigid caste rules prevented them from being readily refreshed with food and drink in the battle-front. At this crucial hour, Shihāb-ud-dīn asked his select corps of 12000 steel-clad warriors to strike the final blow on the Hindus. Soon Govindarāja, the leader of the van and ten thousand soldiers fell fighting on the ground and Prithvirāja III was imprisoned on the bank of the Sarasvatī by the Turkish soldiers.

War was a passion with almost every medieval prince of India. It was undertaken not merely for setting right a real or imaginary wrong, but also for vindicating one’s prowess. Frequent warfare dissipated the energy of the people, exhausted the treasury, inflicted incalculable hardship and sufferings on the peasants and artisans and contributed to a continuous process of disintegration within each kingdom. The princes of medieval India did not make any serious effort to give up fighting one another even in the face of dangers from the North-west.

They failed to build up any standing organisation for protecting their common country against the Turko-Afghan invasions. They failed to realise the true character of these onslaughts. They could hardly distinguish these from the usual predatory raids of a Hindu conqueror, bent upon making
as large a number of princes acknowledge his suzerainty as possible and satisfied with a mere promise of tribute in future. Many of them could not discern that the intention of these invaders was to uproot the ruling families completely and to settle down in Northern India as a conquering people.

In course of a comparatively long period of more than two hundred and sixteen years, from 978 to 1194 A.D. we come across only five instances of temporary military alliances between the princes of neighbouring states in Northern India. Firishta records the military assistance rendered by the Rajūs of Delhi, Ajmer, Kalinjar and the Muslim heretic ruler of Multan to the Sāhi princes Jayapāla and Ānandapāla in 978, 1005 and 1008 A.D.\textsuperscript{165} The Kashmirian king Sañgrāmarāja also rendered military help to the Shāhiya king Trilochana-pāla.\textsuperscript{166} Prithvīraja III was joined by Chandrārāja, son of Govindarāja, the governor of Delhi and the feudatories of the Chāhamāna kings in the first battle of Tarain in 1190-91 A.D.\textsuperscript{167} Excepting these five cases the majority of battles against the invaders were singly fought by the rulers of Northern India.

When the armies of Sultān Mahmūd were knocking at the gates of Kanauj, Mahīpāla, the neighbouring rulers of Bengal and Bihar, did not evince any interest in checking the progress of the mighty invader or in coming to the rescue of the Gurjara-Pratihāra ruler, whose adversity was usually a matter of jubilation for the Pāla kings.

The Maṇḍala system of inter-state politics, preached in all the books of statecraft from Kautilya to Somadeva Sūri, taught a ruler to regard his immediate neighbours as natural enemies, in whose defeat and humiliation lay his own prosperity. A spirit of intense jealousy manifested itself amongst the Rajput princes even in the days of national calamity. They could not forget their petty quarrels and make a common cause to save Northern India from the terrible onslaughts of the Turko-Afghan invaders. The Rajput princes were actuated by petty clannish spirit.
NOTES TO CHAPTER II (THE MILITARY SYSTEM AND ITS EFFECT)

1. Kauṭilya IX. 2.
2. HDS VOL. III. p. 200.
5. Habib's Introduction to HIED Vol. II. p. 44.
10. Matsya Purāṇa Ch. 215. 10.
11. Śukranītisāra II. 429-30 (ed. Cal.)
14. EI. II. 220.
15. RT. VIII. 472, 1071, 1071, 1073 and 1345.
16. DV. XVI.
17. RT. VII. 1319; VIII 473, 664.
24. RC. II. 41-43.
28. Ibid. p. 35.
30. Bhagalpur pl. of Nārāyanapūla, Bangadh pl, and Manahāli ep. vide Gauḍalekhamālā p. 61 (line 36), p. 96 (line 40) and p. 153 (line 37) respectively.
31. RT. VII. 979, 1302 and VIII 2007 for Khaṇḍas; VII 1149, 1501 and 1868.
32. Ibid. VIII 2264.
33. Ibid. VII 1149.
34. Manu VII. 193.
35. Rājanītiratnākara p. 36.
36. RT. VIII 1328.
40 Yaśastilaka and Indian Culture by K. K. Handiqui p. 60.
42 Agni Purāṇa Ch. 228. 7.
43 Śukranītisāra (ed. Cal.) IV. 7. 21.
44 Yuktikalpataru (ed. Cal.) p. 7.
45 Mbh. Ādiparva II. 19; ed. Sukthanker 1.2.15.
46 VaijAyantī Bhūmikāṇḍa, Ch. on Kṣatriya, verses 57-58.
47 Nīlprakīśikā VII 3-10.
49 Mānasollāsa Vīṁśati II 574.
50 Mbh. Sabhī 53. 5; Saupūthika 13.2; Udhyoga 86.6.
51 Uttarādhyāyānana sūtra (SBE. II. 47).
52 Sumangalavillāsini I. 124.
53 Harśacharita II. 70.
55 Mānasollāsa Vīṁśati, II Ch. VI. 573.
56 *ŚP.* p. 258 Verses 1676-77.
59 Megasthenes, Fragment I, p. 30.
61 *ŚP.* Verse 1560.
63 Yaśastilaka III p. 491.
64 RT. VII 1553-55.
65 RC. II. 20, pp. 53-54.
66 Śukranītisāra IV. 7. 19 and 20 (ed. Cal.)
67 Briggs. 1.47.
68 HIED II 223.
69 PIHC. 1955, p. 57.
71 Yuktikalpataru p. 7 verse 45, Rāj, p. 95: Rājanītiratnākara Text p. 40, Śukranītisāra IV. 7. 20 and 23 (ed. Cal.)
72 RC. III 44.
73 SS. (Samarāṅgaṇaśīladrīhīra Ch. 31).
75 Ibid. 31. 59.
76 Ibid. 31. 95-99.
77 Ibid. 31. 95.
78 Ibid. 31. 96.
80 SS. 31. 79-80.
81 RV. I. 116. 5. X. 101. 2; VS XXI. 27, SB IV. 2. 5.10,
Mbh. Sānti 59. 41 Manu VII 192, Kāmandaka XVI. 50, Rapson: 
Catalogue of India coins, Intro. p. 31-2; Deobaranark inscr. (CH 
III 217), Aphsad inscr. (IA. XIX. p. 198). Khalimpur Cp. (EI. I, 
299 ff, XIV. 326 ff), Sachau I. 208 etc.)
82 Yuktikalpataru (ed. Cal.) p. 224, verse 84; p. 225 verses 
83 Ibid. p. 229, verses 30-31.
84 HIED II p. 478 (Aligarh ed. p. 484).
86 Vide op. cit. f.n. no. 41.
87 EI. XII. 40.
88 IB. III. 48.
89 RT. VIII 1497-1502.
91. HIED I.5 and 14.
93 Nītiprakāśikā VII 6-11, 27-30.
94 Purātanaprabandhasanāgraha, ed. Singhi Jain Series, p. 87.
96 Manu VII 96-7.
97 Jha, G. N.; Manu Smriti with the Bhāṣya of Medhātithi 
98 Gautama I 20-23.
100 RV. II. 24. 8, VIII. 7. 4; IX. 99; X. 18.9; 125.6; Av. 
IV. 6. 4, Samyukta Nikāya pts. II 267-68, EI I. 87, 132, 302, 312 
etc.; Agni Purāṇa Ch. 245. 4, Chakravarti: Art of War pp. 
151-56.
101 Mbh., Karna, 24, 21, Drona 125, 29; Kauṭilya II. 18, 
Raghuvamśā III. 56, SP. verse nos. 1777-78 and 1787 quoting 
178, Ch. 31. 103; Cf. also Kauṭilya XIII. 4, Manu VII 90, 
Mānasollāsa II. 1065 and 1213, RT. VII 982-83.
102 Kauṭilya II. 18, RC. II. 50, RT VII 792, 1505, Yuktikal- 
pataru, pp. 141-42 verses 47-50.
103 Kautṣīlya *ibid*.; SS. 31. 107, Śukranītisāra IV. 7. 215; Nītiprakāśikā V. 22 ff.

104 Mbh. Karna 27. 4; Kautṣīlya *ibid*.; Agni Purāṇa 152.10
106 Mbh. Udyoga 19.3, 154.6; Bhīṣma 96.58, 106.23, Drona 24.59 etc.; Matsya Purāṇa 160.10; Kautṣīlya *ibid*.; Vaij p. 117 line 331; Agni Purāṇa 252.15, Art of War p. 167, War in Ancient India p. 106.

107 Mbh. Bhīṣma 51.28; Udyoga 51.8, Drona 15.4, 15.13, Śalya 57. 18; Kautṣīlya *ibid*.; Agni Purāṇa 252. 11-12; Śukranītisāra IV. 7. 212.

108 Kautṣīlya *ibid*.; Agni Purāṇa 252.13, Yuktikalpataru p. 140; Nītiprakāśikā V. 9.10.

109 Agni Purāṇa 251.2, 252. 6-8, Śukranītisāra IV. 7. 216; Nītiprakāśikā IV. 45-46.

110 Kautṣīlya, *ibid*.; Yuktikalpataru p. 140; Śukranītisāra *ibid*.
111 Kautṣīlya, *ibid*.; Agni Purāṇa 252.9; Yuktikalpataru p. 140 verse 29, Śukranītisāra IV. 7. 215.

112 Kautṣīlya, *ibid*.; Yuktikalpataru, *ibid*.
113 Mbh. Sabhā 5.36, Śaṅti 69.45; Rāmāyaṇa, Sundara 62.64, Laṅkā 3. 12ff; Kautṣīlya, *ibid*.

114 Agni Purāṇa 241. 28; 249.4; 252.18; RT. VIII 1677, SS. Ch. 31.
116 Agni Purāṇa 245. 21-22.
117 SP verses 4677-78.
119 Dikshitar: War in Ancient India pp. 119-120.
120 Kautṣīlya II. 18.
121 Dikshitar; *op.cit*. pp. 102-105.
126 Śukranītisāra (ed. Cal.) II. 93.

129 Mbh. Śaṅti 100. 10; Manu VII 182-83, Viṣṇu 3. 40; Viramitrodaya-Rājanīti p. 331 quoting Viṣṇudharmottara; Rāy. p.
115, 123-4; Mānasollāsa (GOS. No. XXVIII p. 96) Viśṇu II. 345, Śukranītisāra (ed. Cal.) IV. 7. 224, RT. VII 47 and VIII 2886.


131 Rāy Ch. on Yātrā.

132 Śukranītisāra (ed. Cal.) IV. 7. 224-25


134 Rāj. p. 116, Mānasollāsa Viśṇu II. 811-919. Cf. Agni Purāṇa Ch. 230, 8-12 for good omens like a cow, horse, jar full of water, fire, weapon, conch etc.

135 RT. VII 1291.

136 Ibíd. VII 1297.

137 Ibíd. VII 1310.

138 Ray. p. 118-22. Good dreams were: sprouting of grass and trees in navel, shooting up of fruit-bearing trees on body, wearing of garlands of dry flowers, embracing or raising enemy's flag, swallowing earth and sea, killing enemies, eating uncooked flesh or fish, bathing in blood, drinking liquor, blood, wine or boiled milk, sight of clear sky, cows being milked, coronation etc. Bad dreams were: sprouting of trees and grass on parts of body other than navel, smearing brass-powder on head, nakedness, shaved crown of head, wearing shabby clothes, fall from a height, riding on boar, bear, ass, camels etc., eating birds, fish, oil; dance, laughter, songs and marriage; bath in muddy water or in cowdung, ascending on funeral pyre, descent of conch, flag, sun and moon, embracing unmarried girls, practising homosexuality, loss of one's limbs, march to the south, playing with demons, monkeys and bear etc. Cf. identical passages in Agni Purāṇa Ch. 229. 2-16. The arrangements of verses are dissimilar in many places, e.g. Mat. P. Ch. 242 verse 10=Ag. P. verse 7 and 10; M.P. verse 11=Ag. P. 10+11; M.P. 14=Ag. P. 13 and 14, M.P. 23=Ag. P. 21-22, M.P. 32-33=Ag. P. 30-31.

139 JA. IV. pp. 72-74.

140 Briggs I. p. 118.

141 Timur's reference to astrologers: "And with the assistance of astrologers, I ascertained the benign or malignant aspects of the stars; their motions and the revolutions of the heavens." (Institutes of Timour ed. Davy and White, p. 213). But the astrologers never got the upperhand. When Timur decided upon the siege of Delhi on 30th December, 1398 A.D. soothsayers and astrologers secretly held disputation concerning the disposition of stars and


143 Kauṭilya X. 6.

144 Agni Purāṇa, Ch. 241, 41-42.


146 Mbh. Udyoga 19. 34-35, Bhīṣma 50. 40, 51. 1ff, 69. 7-12, 81. 12, 81. 23, 87. 5, 99. 1, 99. 14, Droṇa 85. 23, Kṛṣṇa 46. 1ff, 46. 28, 11. 24, 11. 28, Śalya 8. 24 etc.; Kauṭilya X. 6 mentions 17 types of daṇḍavyūḥa, but Agni Purāṇa, while mentioning 17 types of daṇḍavyūḥa, uses, the names like sīhūpakarṇa in stead of Kauṭilya's sīhulakarna, sarpāṣa instead of jhaṭhṛṣya, and does not enumerate Kauṭilya's dūrjayā; Kauṭilya X. 6 on bhogavyūḥa but in Agni Purāṇa 242. 60 only five varieties and in 242. 56-57 as many as 7 varieties. In the last, however, new names like ahīṣaṁchāri, pariplabangaka, daṇḍapakṣa and vugorasya are not found in Kauṭilya for two varieties of mandalavyūḥa see Kauṭilya 6 and Agni Purāṇa 242. 57-58 ; for asamnattavyuḥa see Kauṭilya, ibid and Agni Purāṇa 242. 58-59 with slightly varied names.

147 Mānasollāsa Viṁśati II. 1184-89.

148 Rājaṉīrātanākara, Text p. 40. Commenting on the battle-order (vyuhas), Dr. P. C. Chakravarti writes "Whereas the Hindu love of vyūhas committed the armies of India to a cult of positions and defensive tactics, they regarded it as fundamental proposition of warfare that offence was better than defence, that the sword was better than the shield". (Art of War in Anc. India, p. 195) But discussing the need of formation of vyūhas Mānasollāsa observes that the good phalanx should be so arranged that it may break through the enemy's phalanx (Mānasollāsa II. 1178 and 1190)

149 RT. VII. 1371. Stein observes that the number was a traditional one.

150 Ibid. VII 1513.

151 Ibid. VIII 1197.

152 Kauṭilya X. 3.

154 Rājanītiratnakara, Text p. 40. quoting Manu VII 89-93.
155 Hindusthan Standard, March 14, 1954, page 1 of Magazine Section.
156 Briggs I. 118-20.
157 Ibid. I p. 173.
158 IC, VIII (1941-1942) p. 328 Cf. Struggle for Empire p. 112.
159 IC. X. 69. The Cat. of Mss. in the Library of India Office, No. 1577 reads "Gatenyasamgare skande nidrāvyasanannadhiḥ vyāpāditas Turuṣkaissa Jīvanmrto Yuddhi."
160 Prabandhachintāmani, ed. Singhi Jain Series, p. 144.
161 Pūrātana prabandhāsāntakraha, ed. Singhi Jain Series p. 87.
162 IA. VIII (1879) p. 61.
163 Hindusthan Standard, 14th March, 1954.
164 Struggle for Empire, p. 112.
165 'Utbī in HIND II p. 31. Struggle for Empire pp. 3, 4, 8 and 9.
166 RT. VII 47-69.
167 Struggle for Empire pp. 109-110.
CHAPTER III

CASTES AND PROFESSIONS

The traditional theory relating to the professions to be followed by the four varṇas was not scrupulously adhered to in the period under review. The tendency to deviate from the customary profession was noticeable even in an earlier age. The Brāhmaṇas, for example, did not invariably confine their activity to studying, teaching, worshipping and the performance of other priestly functions. Atri (verses 373-383) speaks of Kṣattra Brāhmaṇa, who lives by fighting, the Vaiśya Brāhmaṇa, who lives by engaging himself in agriculture, cattle-rearing and trade, the Śūdra-Brāhmaṇa, who sells lac, salt, milk, ghee, honey, meat and some particular dyes, and Niṣada-Brāhmaṇa, who adopts the profession of thief and robber. Pressure of economic circumstances compelled many Brāhmaṇa families to encroach upon the preserves of the three other varṇas. Those who accepted service under princes and feudatory chiefs either in civil or in military departments, did not lose their social status and privileges. But the humbler members of the Brāhmaṇa community, even when they followed priestly avocation, were regarded as degraded ones. For example, Vijñānesvara and Aparārka state that if one touches a Brāhmaṇa, who lives on the things offered to the image of a deity continuously for three years or by officiating as the priest for the whole village, has to purify himself by taking a bath with his clothes on. Thus the circle of the Brāhmaṇa community following strictly the rules of conduct as laid down in the Dharmaśāstras gradually narrowed down. The digests of our period enunciated the principles of social etiquette from the standpoint of the microscopic minority of the Hindu community, as they were mainly the repository of the learning, in Śruti and Smṛti. They meticulously observed the rules of ceremonial purity.
The "ancient Hindus", observes Kane, "had a horror of uncleanness and they desired to segregate those who followed unclean professions like those of sweepers, workers in hide, tanners, guardians of cemeteries etc. This segregation cannot be said to have been quite unjustifiable". The difficulty, however, in segregating persons following the professions, which were regarded as unclean, was, that, in course of time, a very large number of workers, engaged in performing the most essential services for the society, came to be viewed as unclean. Aparārka quotes the Brahma Purāṇa to show that the food which comes from the hands or which is owned by the members of the following professions is forbidden: a singer, an actor, a physician, a surgeon, a goldsmith, a blacksmith, a vendor of weapons, a tailor, a washerman, a distiller or seller of liquors, an oil-presser, a bard, a carpenter, one who makes his living by astrology, one whose duty is to ring bells, a village officer, worker in hides, a potter, a wrestler, a worker in bamboo, an indigenous banker, and one who serves as a priest to the whole village. It is not possible for a modern man to find out any rational cause for treating a bard or singer as an unclean person. It is still more difficult to explain how a nation could effectively defend itself against foreign invasions when it tried to segregate all those, who were engaged in manufacturing and selling arms, armours or chariots. Medhātithi in explaining Manu VIII. 65 betrays a feeling of contempt for all craftsmen who are labelled as persons of "mean nature", who are prone to straying from the path of honesty. The idea of branding the physicians and surgeons as social outcasts appears to be equally fantastic. Vijñāneśvara, in explaining Yājñavalkya I.120, quotes Devala to show that it is the duty of a Śūdra to engage himself in agriculture, rearing of cattle, selling of commodities and also in drawing, painting, dancing, singing, and playing on musical instruments like the flute, lute, drums and tabors. Thus the sacerdotal class in the period under review came to regard not only the fine arts but also the professions:
which had been held peculiar to the Vaiśyas in olden times.
as fit for persons of the lowest strata.

Alberuni mentions the four traditional castes. Outside
these were the antyajas and some people called Hāḍi, Ṛma,
Chaṇḍāla and Badhatau, who could be distinguished from
one another by their occupation. Alberuni must have been
stating here merely what he had read in ancient scriptures
and not what actually obtained in Hindu society in his time.

At the beginning of the eleventh century A.D. numerous
castes existed and even before the beginning of the Christian
era, there was a large number of castes and sub-castes.
Kalhaṇa and later on Kullūkabhaṭṭa mention as many as
sixty four castes. Numerous were the mixed castes. The
Bṛihaddharma Purāṇa mentions 41 mixed castes, having the
status of Südras. The Brahmavaivarta Purāṇa states that it
is useless and impossible to count the number of those who
belong to the mixed castes. The names as well as the number
of these castes have varied according to time and localities.
Yet the authors of dharmasūtras and smṛitis attempted to fit
in these numerous castes within the framework of the tradi-
tional four varṇas. The process began with Manu-Yājñavalkya
and it continued ceaselessly till the days of Raghunandana
and Mitra Miśra in the seventeenth century A. D.

**Brāhmaṇas:**

The Brāhmaṇas stood at the top of the social hierarchy.
They had regained their power and were responsible for
reinterpretating the regulatory canons of life as laid down by
the earlier texts. The digests of the eleventh and twelfth
centuries A.D. contributed to the conservation of the social
pattern. These digests and law-books give us the impression
that the Brāhmaṇas were the really qualified leaders of society
and thought. Lakṣmīdhara in his Dānakāṇḍa states that
the ideal Brāhmaṇa donee should be devoted to the Vedic
studies, chaste, truthful, serene, afraid of sin, practise ahimsā,
keep burning the sacred Fires, scrupulously observe the:
religious vows, love the cows and, be free from greed. Elsewhere in the Grihasthakāṇḍa, the abovementioned writer gives an ideal picture of the duties of the Śālīna and Yāyāvāra Brāhmaṇas. Such noble and large-hearted Brāhmaṇas could be found in the early medieval period. The qualification of the donees of the time of King Mahāśiva gupta of the Somavārī dynasty was that they should be acquainted with the six supplements of the Vedas, tend the fire, should not accept service under anybody, and shun gambling and prostitutes.

Contemporary literature and inscriptions show that the Brāhmaṇas had numerous sub-sections. During our period, the Brāhmaṇas were divided in sub-sections according to their localities. In Bengal the nomenclature of the Brāhmaṇas according to the gānis, began in the period between the fifth and seventh centuries A.D. It became an accepted convention by the twelfth century. Leaving aside the Kulajīs, whose authenticity is doubtful, contemporary literature acquaints us with the names of gāinis. Bhaṭṭa Bhava-deva’s mother was the daughter of a Vandyaghaṭīya Brāhmaṇa. Another Vandyaghaṭīya Brāhmaṇa was Sarvānanḍa. Bhava-deva and Śāntyāgarika Rāmadevaśarman belonged to Siddhala village. Aniruddha, the guru of VallāLASena, was a Champāhaṭīya Mahāmahopādhyāya, and Vaṭesvara, the recipient of the Manahali grant of Madanapāla also belonged to Champahiti. The names of other gāinis are referred to in Daśaratha-deva’s Adavadi plate and also to be found in the Saduktikarnāṃrtis.

Halāyudha refers to the division of the Rādhīya and Vārendra Brāhmaṇas, in his Brāhmaṇasarvasva. Besides them, there were Vaidika Brāhmaṇas. The Kulajīs, possibly preserving the tradition, observe that a section of them were descendants of the five Brāhmaṇas brought from Kanauj by

the Varman King Sāmalavarman is Śaka 1001 A.D. and another section came from the banks of the Sarasvatī river and settled in Koṭālipāḍā under the patronage of King Harivarman. Amongst the Vaidika Brāhmaṇas, who came from Upper India, were known as Pāśchātyas and those from Drāviḍa and Utkala as Dākṣinātyas. Other classes of Brāhmaṇas, who are known to Kulaṅgis alone, were Vyāsa, Parāśara, Kauṭīḍa and Saptāṣaṭi. In Bihar, we find mention of three classes of Brāhmaṇas. The Maithila Brāhmaṇas formed a category by themselves. Some of them migrated to Assam. In the Gaya region settled the Maga or Śākadvīpī Brāhmaṇas and the Gayawals. The Govindapura inscription dated 1137 A.D. tells us that the Maga Brāhmaṇas were brought from Sākadvipa by Sāmba. A branch of these Maga Brāhmaṇas settled in Magadhā. Manoratha and Daśaratha served King Varṇamāna of Magadhā. They served the King in the capacity of Pratihāra and superintendent of mahallaka, which word has been translated by Kielhorn as eunuchs (verse 11). This inscription also suggests that there was a branch of these Śākadvīpī Brāhmaṇas in Gauḍa. Gaṅgādhara married Pāsaladevi, a daughter of Jayapāṇi, a Gauḍa official (verse 29). The existence of the Gayāwāl Brāhmaṇas is proved not only by tradition but also by the Saktipura copper-plate of Lakṣmanasena, dated 1183 A.D., which records that the donor’s father Vallālasena had granted a plot of land to Haridāsa, a Gayāwāl Brāhmaṇa. In the Uttar Pradesh too, we notice different sections of Brāhmaṇas, during the period under survey. We have already referred to the Kanauj Brāhmaṇas, who are also mentioned in Bengal Kulaṅgis. Moreover, the Pali grant dated VS 1189/1133 A.D. acquaints us with the Sarayūpāri Brāhmaṇas. Thakkura Jayapālasaśarman was the donee of ten tālukas of land from Rāghanadevi, the mother of King Govindachandrapāṇi. Kalhanna himself refers to the non-Kashmiri Brāhmaṇas in the reign of King Jayasimhā in Kashmir. A number of Brāhmaṇas from the Ṛṣiṇḍa region
and numerous Drávidas took up their residence in the Sīhīhapur matha built by the abovementioned King. Contemporary inscriptions acquaint us with two classes of Brāhmaṇas in Rajputana. A Maga or Śakadvipa Brāhmaṇa is mentioned as composer of the Ghatiyala inscription of Kakkuka, as early as the ninth century A.D. in Jodhpur. The Āboṭis, who are mentioned only in inscriptions of Rajputana, were usually temple servants. These inscriptions relate that they originally belonged to Dvaravati. In Gujarat we find several classes of Brāhmaṇas, namely, Modha, Udichya, Sihora, Rāyakvāl, Nāgara, Prāgvāt, Gugli, Uesval, Tapodhana, Prasanna-Purasthāna and Kapilāvarta. Prof. K. B. Vyas and Sankalia hold that these Brāhmaṇas derived their caste names from territories, like Ānandapuranagara, Kheṭaka Mottaka, Modheraka etc. They are also of opinion that some of these Brāhmaṇas, called Śrīmāli, Mevād. Udichyas, migrated from Northern India, especially from Rajputana and Malwa, sometime between 1000 and 1300 A.D. Some sections like Udichyas went by royal invitation to officiate as priests and teachers, while others took their shelter in Gujarat to save themselves from the Turko-Afghan invasions. The Bombay Gazetteer records traditions about Śrīmāla or Bhimmal Brāhmaṇas. According to one of these traditions, the Śrīmāla Brāhmaṇas, were those Gurjara Brāhmaṇas, who received the city of Śrīmāla from King Jagatsen, as a donation. According to another account, they were of Kashmiri origin and belonged to the Jamāwāla caste. They were brought to South Marwar by King Jag Som and they agreed to migrate for fear of the Arab invader Bughra in VS 759/703 A.D. The same work incorporates interesting legend about Oswals. They are strange highnosed hatchet-faced men with long lank hair and long beards and whiskers. They were originally Magha Brāhmaṇas and still are Vaishnavas, worshipping the Sun. They know that their story is told in the Namagranth of the Surya Purāṇa.

It is necessary to refer here to the origin of the Guhilots:
and the Brahma-Kṣatriyas. Dr. D. R. Bhandarkar holds that the Guhilots were originally Nāgara Brāhmaṇas. But G. H. Ojha, C. V. Vaidya and M. L. Mathur have convincingly adduced proofs to show that they were Kṣatriyas. With regard to the term Brahma-Kṣatra, Dr. Bhandarkar was inclined to believe that it was a caste in the process of evolution. We find that the Guhilot King Bhaṭṭribhaṭṭa, Sāmantasena of Bengal and the Paramāra King Muṇja, were called Brāhmaṇa Kṣatras. The nomenclature was given to "those who were Brāhmaṇas first and became Kṣatriyas afterwards" i.e. "those who exchanged their priestly for martial pursuits." In the context of the fact that numerous mediaeval Indian inscriptions refer to the Brāhmaṇas following the profession of a soldier, it is not unlikely that the Senas, Paramāras and the Guhilots were originally Brāhmaṇas and later on avowed the profession of a Kṣatriya.

The earlier dharmaśāstras and the nibandhas of our period, however, classify the Brāhmaṇas according to their avocations. We have already referred to the classification by Atri. Devala classifies the Brāhmaṇas according to the standard of knowledge of the Vedas, viz., mātra (who has not studied any of the Vedas nor performs the functions of a Brāhmaṇa but is simply born in a Brāhmaṇa family), brāhmaṇa (who has studied a portion of the Veda), śrottriya (studied only one recension of the Veda along with its six aṅgas and performed six duties of Brāhmaṇas), anuchāna (knowing the meaning of the Vedas and Vedāṅgas, pure of heart and tending sacred fires), bhrūṇa (having qualities of anuchāna brāhmaṇa ond performing yajñas), ṛṣikalpa (one who has worldly and Vedic knowledge), ṛṣī (a celibate, leading an austere life, truthful and is able to curse or reward) and muni (who is given to staying in a forest, subsists on roots, fruits, vegetables). This passage of Devala regarding the eight grades of Brāhmaṇas have been quoted by Lakṣmīdharā, Vallālasena and Chaṇḍēśvara.
Contemporary literature and inscriptions show that some of the Brāhmaṇas of the period under survey led simple lives and followed the ideal of plain living and high thinking. It was because of the maintenance of the high standard of conduct that Laksāmidhara eulogised the Brāhmaṇa by quoting Yama that “to be born a Brāhmaṇa is deemed a piece of rare fortune, the result of good deeds in a past life.” But society is composed not only of such persons, but also of some despicable and vile men. Three such instances of bad Brāhmaṇas can be given from the Rājataraṅgini. King Saṁgrāmarāja appointed Pārtha as the City Prefect (Nagarādhisthākrita). He had illicit relations with his brother’s wife. Moreover, unlike a Brāhmaṇa, and “entirely devoid of merit” he committed slaughter and other sins on the holy platform of the Śaiva temple of Pravareśa. Amongst the companions of the licentious King Kalaśa (1063-89 A. D.) were two Brāhmaṇa, named Pramadakaṇṭha and Loṣṭaka. The former lived in incest with his own daughter. Despite this evil conduct he was not at all afraid of the society. It was natural for such a man to induce the King to ignore the distinction between those with whom sexual relation is permissible and those with whom it was not allowable. Loṣṭaka became dear to the King as “Guru, procurer and astrologer.” The Kathāsaritsāgara tells us of Brāhmaṇa, who made use of a candle prepared from human fat, worked as robbers and unhesitatingly killed cows.

**Profession:**

The Brāhmaṇas maintained their livelihood by following varied types of profession. Some of these professions were allowed by the dharmasastras. It has already been shown that the normal business of the Brāhmaṇas was to teach the Vedas and allied subjects and to act as the purohita of the King. Laksāmidhara devotes a chapter on the specific ceremonies to be performed by the purohita in order to avoid calamities in a kingdom. Besides the daily worship of the
household divinities, the royal priests offered sacrificed animals to the goblins and piśāchas. It was the duty of the King to arrange for the performance of two lacs homas a year, one crore homa during a reign, expiatory ceremonies at eclipses, a mahāśānti on the occasion of an earthquake and the worship of Kārtikeya and Devī in order to ward off fear and overcome enemies. Inscriptions also refer to numerous grants to the purohitas. The Gāhaḍavāla kings gave donations to such purohitas like Jāguśarman and Devavara. The Barrackpur copper-plate records the grant of four pāṭakas of land to Udayakaradevaśarman as fee for conducting the homa in the Tulāpuruṣadāna, by Vilāsadevi, the queen of Vijayasena. Similar donations are referred to in the Naihati, Tarpadighi and Madhainagar copper-plates. The Gujarati purohitas were also recipients of donations.

The ancient law-givers like Gautama (VII. 6 and 25) Manu (VIII. 348-349) allowed the Brāhmaṇas to take up arms in times of distress and also to protect themselves, for saving cows and Brāhmaṇas or preventing admixture of Varnas. A note of dissent is expressed in Āpastamba. The general practice is also referred to in the Sukranātisāra. As in the past, so during the period under review, the Brāhmaṇas engaged themselves as soldiers. In Bengal, Govardhana, the father of Bhaṭṭa Bhavadeva, was not only a distinguished scholar but also a warrior... "having increased (both his) land and learning in battlefields and assemblies of heretics, (respectively) by the feat of his arms and (display) of oratorical skill he justified his name (Govardhana) in a two-fold sense." The Rājatarāṅgīṇī also records the skill of Brāhmaṇas as soldiers in the battlefield. Inscriptions of the Chandella, Kalachuri and Chañulkhya dynasties also refer to Brāhmaṇas as military officers. The brilliant services of the Brāhmaṇa Sāmanta Gopāla were responsible for the recovery of the fortunes of the Chandellas, which had been temporarily eclipsed by the victories of the Kalachuri King Karṇa. The minister of Kīrttivarman
repeated the exploits of Paraśurāma, and “his merciless battle-axe spared neither women, child, nor old age, it cleft the broad shoulders of the enemy and its stroke was followed by a dreadful sound.” The Viruddhavidadhamśa refers to the family of Skanda, a Nāgara Brāhmaṇa, which was responsible for the expansion of the Chāhamāna dynasty. Skanda and his grandsons, Skanda and Vāmana, served Someśvara and Prīthvīrāj III as ministers and valiant warriors.

The earlier dharmasūtras were not unanimous on the propriety of becoming agriculturists in the case of Brāhmaṇas. Mm. Dr. Kane has discussed the conflicting views of these works. He has not taken into consideration the views of Lakṣmīdharā and the author of the Śukranītisāra. Lakṣmīdharā quotes the liberal reformist Devala to show that the agricultural profession was permissible to the Brāhmaṇas, on fulfilment of certain conditions. If a Brāhmaṇa showed kindness to the oxen by neither putting unreasonably heavy load on them nor castrating them, gave them food and water at the proper time he might use them in ploughing and harvesting. Further, no sin was incurred by tilling the soil, if the Brāhmaṇa agriculturist paid one-sixth of the produce of the land as tax to the King, one-twentieth to the Gods and one-thirtieth to the Brāhmaṇas. The practice of tilling the lands by Brāhmaṇas is also recognised in the Śukranītisāra. What Lakṣmīdharā and Śukra state was not merely a theory; it can be corroborated by inscriptional evidence. A grant issued in VS. 1202 during the reign of Chaulukya Kumārapāla tells us that Rājadeva, Śūradeva and possibly Nagada were Brāhmaṇa agriculturists.

A Brāhmaṇa was allowed to maintain himself by trade in times of distress. But the ancient law-givers like Manu (X. 86-116), Gautama (VII. 8-14), Vaśiṣṭha (II. 31), Nārada (Ṛpadāna 61-63) and Yājñavalkya give a long list of articles which the Brāhmaṇas were forbidden to sell. There was no change in these views even at the time of Lakṣmīdharā, 65
Alberuni also saw a similar state of affairs. He states that the Brāhmaṇas preferred to appoint Vaiśyas, who transacted business in their name. Yet some Brāhmaṇas tried their fortune in the trade of clothes and betelnut. The Pehou inscription of the ninth century records that Vāmuku, the son of Bhaṭṭa Viruka, was one of the horse-dealers, who assembled in the town of Prithūḍaka. It is interesting to note here that the sale of horses by Brāhmaṇas is forbidden in Manu (X.89) and this restriction was observed even in the days of Alberuni.

The two other occupations which a Brāhmaṇa followed for a living in times of distress were moneylending and service under the King. There are plenty of evidences to show that they were appointed not only as ministers, city-prefects, daṇḍānayaka but also as sculptors and composers of inscriptions. Kalhaṇa notes that Śivaratha, a Brāhmaṇa, was appointed as a Kāyastha official.

**Privileges:**

The contemporary digests also show the continuation of the privileges of the Brāhmaṇas, as for example, of claiming reverence from all varṇas by the mere fact of birth, expounding the duty of all classes, freedom from death-sentence, exemption from taxes, precedence on the road, lesser punishment for certain offences in comparison with other castes, a shorter period of mourning etc. There are certain exceptions to these rules. The rules of salutation did not apply to a person who ate and sold everything without discrimination and did not restrain his inclinations to break the rules.

Amongst these privileges, the immunity of the Brāhmaṇas from taxation is also referred to by Alberuni and the author of the Mānasollāsa. But it is extremely unlikely that ordinary Brāhmaṇas enjoyed this privilege. Dr. Ghosal and Dr. Altekar have rightly pointed out that neither the Mahābhārata and Nāradasmriti in earlier times nor the
South Indian inscriptions recorded in the thirteenth century A. D., show that all classes of Brāhmaṇas, irrespective of their professions, were exempted from taxation. However, it may be pointed out here that, some later inscriptions, e.g. one found in Gujarat, dated 1230 A. D. and two others in Orissa, dated 1436 and 1470 A. D., refer to such exemptions of Brāhmaṇas. We should not take into consideration here the lands known as brahmadeya granted to individual Brāhmaṇas, who were undoubtedly given the privilege of non-payment of taxes.

The exemption of the Brāhmaṇas from capital punishment is not only mentioned by Laksūmīdhara, but also by Alberuni and several other writers, like the authors of the Bārhaspata Arthaśāstra and Laghvarhannitiśāstra. All these writers state that the most severe punishment for a Brāhmaṇa was banishment. Alberuni informs us that if a Brāhmaṇa killed a man, the former had only to fast, pray and give alms. And if a Brāhmaṇa stole a valuable object, the King had the right to make him blind and cut off his left hand and right foot or right hand and left foot. On the other hand, the murderer of a Brāhmaṇa was the greatest sinner and performed the worst crime. This belief was so deep-rooted amongst the North Indian people, that Alberuni echoes it in the following lines: "nothing can wipe off any of the mortal crimes from a Brāhmaṇa, of which the greatest are: the murder of a Brāhmaṇa, called vajra-brahmahatyā". It is interesting to record here that the Kubjikāmata is perhaps the only book which recommends that the sin of killing a Brāhmaṇa could be atoned by repeating a certain mantra 20,00,000 times. But with regard to the question of immunity of a Brāhmaṇa desperado (ātatāyī) the digest-makers were divided in their opinions. While Sumantu quoted by Vijñāneśvara permitted an ātatāyī Brāhmaṇa to be killed, Devannabhaṭṭa, the author of the Smritichandrikā, held a contrary opinion. We have reasons to doubt how far the Brāhmaṇs enjoyed the privileges of not being killed. The
Rājatarāṅgiṇī records several instances when Brāhmaṇas were executed by naughty tyrants, and rebels.

Position in society:

It appears that the Brāhmaṇas were the most respected caste in society. They were the intellectual class. But mere possession of knowledge and scholarship was not the sole cause of the ascendancy of the Brāhmaṇas. Traditional devotion undoubtedly helped them to maintain their position. The Rājadharmakāṇḍa of Laksṇādhara and the Rājatarāṅgiṇī state that the Brāhmaṇas were still taking part in the coronation ceremony of the King. The Kashmiri Brāhmaṇas still possessed the right to select a King and reject the nominations of kings. They nominated the Brāhmaṇa ruler Yaśaskara (939-948 A. D.) in preference to Kamalavardhana. It was during the reigning period of Harśa that the Brāhmaṇas of Hiranyakapura consecrated Uchchala as King. The extent of their influence over kings can be easily measured. Even during the fourteenth century A. D., the digēstmakers advised consultation with the Brāhmaṇas before taking a decision. Čaṇḍesvara holds that though the final decision rested with the King, yet he was advised to consult first with the ministers and then with the Brāhmaṇas. The influence of the Brāhmaṇas on the kings of Bengal and Bihar continued to increase from the times of Pāla kings, who were mostly Buddhists. The family of Darbhapāṇi served four generations of Pāla rulers, beginning from Dharmapāla to Nārāyaṇapāla. There could be no greater testimony to the great authority of the Brāhmaṇa minister Darbhapāṇi than the fact recorded in the Badal pillar-inscription that he kept the Emperor Devapāla waiting at his door. The Sarnath image-inscription tells us that Mahipāla I worshipped the lotus feet of his guru Vāmarāśi. Vāmarāśi seems to have been a Śaiva ascetic. The ascendancy of the Brāhmaṇas increased still further in the time of the Varma and Sena Kings. Bhavedeva Bhaṭṭa, Halāyudha and
Aniruddha Bhaṭṭa had enormous influence on the kings of the above-mentioned dynasties. The system of appointing Brāhmaṇa ministers on a hereditary basis was not followed in Bengal alone. The Chāhaṃana Kings, Someśvara and Prithviraja III, appointed Skanda, his son Sōḍha and grandsons Skanda and Vāmana as ministers.98 Similarly, the Chaulukya Kings Mūlarāja I, Chāmuṇḍarāja and Bhīma II,99 Kalachuri Kings Prithvīdeva I and Rānadeva II of Ratanpur100, and almost all the Chandella kings101 excepting Deva-varman and Yaśovarman II favoured the appointment of Brāhmaṇa ministers on a hereditary basis.

**Hunger-strike:**

The threat of hunger-strike was another great moral check on the despotism of tyrants and at the same time, a source of the influence of the Brāhmaṇical community. Sometimes, they fasted for a noble cause like the reconciliation of Ananta and Kalaśa102, or against imposition of forced labour in carrying loads by Hārsha even on the Brāhmaṇas103 or increase of imposts.104 At times the members of the Purohitas' Corporation declared hunger-strike to win political struggles. The Brāhmaṇas enjoying endowments were induced twice to enter upon a solemn fast by the Pretender to the throne, named Vigraharaṇa, sometime immediately after the accession of Queen Diddā on the throne. But these fasts ended as soon as the Queen offered presents of gold.105 Fasting was sometimes resorted to with a view to coercing the Government to do something which is not morally justifiable. The Brāhmaṇas of Rājānavāṭikā also threatened King Sussala by holding a fast in order that the King might punish ministers.106 But when these Brāhmaṇas found the King supplicating them, they gave conflicting advice to that unfortunate King. The results were disastrous for the country. On the one hand, plundering became rampant and on the other, the violent purohitas behaved like a hostile army. "Worse than the Lavanya rebellion", writes Kalhaṇa, "was this rebellion for
the King, just as a disease of the throat pains more than one of the foot." At last, the King was forced to offer bribe of gold to the chief intrigueurs and thus the fast ended. Another mass fasting began in the reign of Bhikṣāchara when Tilaka's people plundered the Agraḥāra of Akṣosuva.

Immediately the Brāhmaṇas holding agrahāras began solemn fasts against the King at Vijayesvara, Rājānarāṭikā and Gokula. They wanted the restoration of Sussala to the throne, and were even prepared to fight against the royal troops. Bhikṣāchara could not succeed in putting an end to their fasting. The power of the Brāhmaṇas remained unimpaired during the reign of Jayasimha. They opposed the appointment of Sujji as the Commander-in-Chief and began a solemn fast in Maḍavarāiya. They won another round of success when the King had to dismiss his minister Āśatikāra. Further, it was only when the King promised to suppress the rebellion of Trillaka, that the Brāhmaṇas gave up their fasts at Vijayesvara.

The effectiveness of these solemn fasts is also recorded in the Nadol stone-inscription of Rāyapāla, dated VS. 1198/1141 A. D. The Brāhmaṇas of the town of Dhalopa formed an organisation to detect cases of theft and made a solemn declaration to the effect that if any one amongst them refused to obey the order of the Rāṇaka to find out the lost property or resorted to self-immolation in protest against the search in his house, he would have to die like a cur, donkey or a chaṇḍāla.

We find Brāhmaṇas as feudatory lords from the seventh century onwards. Sūmanta Lokanātha, a feudatory of the Khadga dynasty ruled the Tippera region. Other feudatory lords were the father of Bhujaṅga in Kashmir, Thakuras Devapālaśarman, Bālādityaśarman, Bhūpati, Śrīdhara, Anantaśarman, Jayapālaśarman and Ďałhū under the Gāhaḍavālas and Rāutas Jāte Sarman and Dādsarman in the Uttar Pradesh.
The mediaeval digest like the Dānakāṇḍa of Laksīmdhara and the Dānsagara of Vallālasena held the ideal of the Mahābhārata that the possession of vast wealth was a source of calamity to a Brāhmaṇa. Hence a proper Brāhmaṇa donee, according to Laksīmdhara and Vallālasena should be one who was not only an erudite scholar and who led an austere life but also one who was suffering from poverty and hunger.113 They also prescribe that the following articles should not be given away as Dāna e.g. gold, silver and copper to ascetics, cows, house, woman and a bed to a Brāhmaṇa donee.114 But we find numerous Brāhmaṇas who had plenty of wealth and yet received donations. The Āvallika-paṇḍita Halāyudhasārman of Bengal, received grants from the Queen-mother, Kumāra Puruṣottamasena and King Viśvarūpāsena. He was also rich enough to purchase for himself as much as 194½ (165 + 10 + 7 + 12½ Udānas) Udānas* of land yielding an income of 240 Purānas.115 Not only in Bengal but also in other parts of Northern India, there were Brāhmaṇas who held important posts in the Government and yet were recipients of donations. More than 20 villages were granted to Jāguśārman and his son Praharājaśārman, who were royal priests and received royal favours from four generations of Gāhaḍavāla kings, beginning from Madanapāla. Further the Brāhmaṇa Senāpati Madanapāla had no hesitation in receiving the village of Nandini from the Chandella King Paramardī sometime before VS 1228/1171 A. D.116

Some Brāhmaṇa officials and ministers were wealthy enough to gift away valuables and villages for building big temples. Bhaṭṭa Bhavadeva, the Minister of Peace and War, of

* The unit of measurement of land, namely Udāmaṇa, Unmāna or Udāna has been interpreted by Dr. P. C. Chakravarti, as equivalent to 32 cubits, each cubit consisting of 12 angulas or digits (HB I. 653 f.n.1). But Dr. D. C. Sircar also suggests that one unit of udāmna or udāna was equivalent to 32 cubits, but each cubit consisting of 36 angulas or 27 inches. So according to Dr. Sircar, an unmāna or udāna is equivalent to 704 sq. cubits or 1/9th of a bighā of land (IHQ. XXVI, p. 311-12).
the Varman King Harivarman of Bengal, built the huge temple of Anantavāsudeva and adorned it with a tank and an excellent garden. Another Bengal Brāhmaṇa, probably a teacher, was rich enough to build a temple and provide for an alms house and 7 dronas of land for meeting the expenses of the worship of the deities. Lakṣmīdharā, himself mentions in the beginning of Gṛihasthakānda, that he created numerous endowments in which the wives of śrotṛiyas lived happily with their families. Keśava, a Brāhmaṇa Nāyaka and Vāsudeva, a Dāṇḍanāyaka, also built temples in the times of Jayasiṅha Chedi and Vikramāditya Chālukya respectively. The Kashmiri Brāhmaṇas were no exception. The Samayamātrikā relates the story of a Benares Brāhmaṇa who used to feed one thousand Brāhmaṇas every day. The same book tells us that among the rich patrons of a prostitute was the son of a famous guru. Again, when Prithvīrāja III had been killed and Harirāja was when placed on the throne of Sākambharī, Vāmana, the minister of Prithvīrāja retired to Anahillapāṭaka, according to verse 25 of the Viruddhavidhividhvaṁsa, with a huge sum of twenty lacs and two thousand drammas.

By the end of the period under survey we find that all the Brāhmaṇas did not belong to one unit. We have already seen that they came to be described according to their habitat, namely, Gauda, Pāśchātya, Nāgara, Kanauj etc. The divisions and sub-divisions went on increasing. The distinction between high and low classes of Brāhmaṇas was maintained. Aparārka quoted with approval, the view of Yājñavalkya I. 224 that the devalaka (a Brāhmaṇa worshipping a deity for money continuously for three years) was so impure that on touching him it was necessary to have a bath to purify oneself. The Matsya Purāṇa (XVI.16) states that the Brāhmaṇas residing in Triśaṅkū, Barbara, Odra (Orissa), Andhra, Ṭakka, Drāviḍa and Kośkaṇa were not to be invited to a funeral repast. The number of degraded Brāhmaṇas increased, if not in other parts of India, at least in Eastern
India. According to the Brihadharma Purāṇa, such degraded Brāhmaṇas were the astrologer class, worshipping the planets, and those who were born of Śākadvipī-Devala Brāhmaṇas. The Brahmavaivarta Purāṇa refers to another class known as Bhāṣṭā Brāhmaṇas, who were born of a Sūta father and a Vaiśya mother. The results of such ramifications were that the homogeneous character of society was altogether lost. It is difficult to understand the logic of the lawgivers who found no fault with a Brāhmaṇa engaged as a general or a royal officer, but degraded the persons, who lived by teaching or acting as priests of the non-Brāhmaṇical community.

*Kṣatriya*:

Dr. Ghurye is of opinion that the Kṣatriyas had a shadowy existence from about the eleventh century A.D. He gives several reasons. The traditional account of their total extermination by Paraśurāma, their rout caused by the inroads of the Hūnas, their support to Buddhism, and the defeat of the Hindu sovereigns at the hands of the Turko-Afghans helped to convince “the Paṇḍits of the extinction of the Kṣatriyas.” Kamalākara grudgingly accepted their existence as a rare phenomenon in the seventeenth century A.D. But there is a plethora of inscriptive evidence to show that the Kṣatriya was not at all a shadowy figure in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. In the Pāla records, there is mention of only one Kṣatriya, named Mahāśimantadhipati Nārayana-avarman in the Khalimpur copper-plate. But in other parts of Northern India, many Kṣatriyas continued to exist. The Śahiya princes and other Kṣatriyas took shelter in Kashmir, when the Punjab and Afghanistan were occupied by the Turko-Afghans. Contemporary inscriptions refer to Kṣatriyas living in the kingdom of Jayachandra Gāhaḍavāla, in the Chandella kingdom under Madanavarman and at Gwalior under the Paramāras.

The Krityakalpataru and the Grihastharaṅnakara acquaint us with the duties and privileges of the Kṣatriyas. As the
name Kṣatriya was derived from the words "Kṣatīt trāṇam," it was their duty to protect the men of other three varnas. Quoting Manu, Parāśara, Pañthināsi, Hārita, Baudhāyana, Āpastamba and Devala, Lakṣmīdhara prescribes that as kings their special duties are to bear arms and rule the country righteously, settle disputes between litigants and protect the varṇaśramadharma. It was the duty of ordinary Kṣatriyas to fight unto the last and never to run away from the battlefield. In addition to this Devala prescribes that a Kṣatriya should worship gods and serve the cause of the Brāhmaṇas. In this period he had all the privileges of the Brāhmaṇas excepting teaching and sacrificing. He enjoyed the right to learn the Vedas, but not to impart instructions in them. Their curriculum of studies included prominently the study of the art of war (dhanurveda).

The digests allowed the Kṣatriyas to follow the profession of an agriculturist only in times of distress. During the reign of Bhoja, we find a Kṣatriya's son named Memmāka cultivating a field in Gwalior area.

Devala prescribes that a Kṣatriya should never beg. Lakṣmīdhara quotes Devala with approval, but he allows him the privilege of receiving gifts. Vallālasena in his Dānasāgara also relates such a practice. King Jayachandra granted several villages in the Antarvedī region to Rāuta Rājayadharavarman, a Kṣatriya. Inscriptions also refer to such a practice. King Jayachandra granted several villages in the Antarvedī region to Rāuta Rājayadharavarman, a Kṣatriya of the Vatsa gotra in between the years VS 1233/1177 A.D. and 1236/1180 A.D. on important occasions like Uttarāyanaśain-krānti and full moon day of the month of Vaiśākha.

With regard to the question of the relative position of the Kṣatriyas in the social hierarchy all the digest-makers unanimously hold that the Brāhmaṇas are superior. The Śukranīṭistāra recommended the old principle of the Mahā-Bhārata (XII. 79. 15-20) that a Brāhmaṇa incurred no sin if he killed a wicked Kṣatriya in war. But with
regard to punishment, the Kṣatriyas enjoyed some special
privileges, possibly because they constituted the prop of the
defence force of the State. Alberuni informs us that on being
convicted for theft a Brāhmaṇa could be blinded, whereas
a Kṣatriya was merely maimed in the right hand, and left foot.
Further, no capital punishment could be awarded to them
even for the most heinous crime.\(^{149}\)

The ruling (Rajput) families of Northern India, namely,
Guhilas, Gurjara-Pratihāras, Chāpas, Chāhamānas, Chaulukyas,
Rāṣṭrakūṭas, Chandellas, Paramāras, Kachhapaghāṭas, and
Gāhaḍavālas called themselves Rajputs. Inscriptions of these
dynasties claim that they rose from the sacred fire kindled on
Mt. Abu by the sage, Vaśistha. Originally there were four
clan. It has been rightly pointed out by Dr. U. N. Ghosal that
it is not possible to agree with Smith’s view that four of the
principal Rajput clans, namely, the Paramāras, Chaulukyas,
Chāhamānas and Pratihāras were descendants of Hinduised
foreigners like Hūṇas and Gurjaras.\(^{141}\) Kalhaṇa speaks of
thirty-six original Rajput tribes.\(^{142}\) Whatever might have been
the origin of the Rajputs, they occupied an important position
in the social fabric. The Kathāsaritsāgara tells us stories of
valiant Rajput guards.\(^{143}\) The Kinsariya inscription dated
1003 A.D. refers to the Dahiya Rajputs, who were feudatories
of the Chāhamānas and constructed temples and steepwells.\(^{144}\)

*Vaiśyas:

Though the Vaiśyas continued to be counted as a separate
caste in the digests up to the end of the seventeenth century,
a tendency manifested itself very early to degrade them to
the Śūdra community. The approximation of the Vaiśyas to
the Śūdras began as early as Manu\(^{145}\) and Boudhayana-dharma
sutra.\(^{146}\) Dr. Āltekar and Ghurye rightly hold that the Vaiśyas
were levelled down to the position of the Śūdras.\(^{147}\)
Hemādri lumps together the goldsmith caste with that
of the washerman, cobbler, actor\(^{148}\) etc. More than three
hundred years before Hemādri, Devala assigned to the Vaiśya
the professions of carrier, dancer, vocal and instrumen-
tal musician and wrestler. Devala has been quoted with approval by Lakṣmīdhara.\textsuperscript{149} Alberuni also did not find any difference between the Vaiśyas and Śūdras. If men belonging to either of these castes recited the Vedas, their tongues were cut off by the ruler.\textsuperscript{150} He categorically states: “Between the latter two classes there is no very great distance. Much however, as these classes differ from each other, they live together in the same town and villages, mixed together in the same houses and lodgings.”\textsuperscript{151} The truth of this statement, however, is very questionable, as even in the middle of the twentieth century, when laws make untouchability a penal offence and inter-caste marriage a perfectly legal affair, Śūdras and Vaiśyas do not mix together in the same houses and lodgings. There were minor distinguishing features between the Vaiśyas and Śūdras. According to Alberuni, a Vaiśya girded himself with a single yajñopavīta made of two cords, but a Śūdra used the thread made of linen.\textsuperscript{152} Moreover, even in the days of Lakṣmīdhara, the Śūdra had freedom to sell all kinds of goods, the Vaiśyas were forbidden to carry on transactions in some specified articles like salt, wine, meat, curds, swords, arrows, water, idols etc.\textsuperscript{153} Lakṣmīdhara here differs from Manu and Medhātithi,\textsuperscript{154} because they allowed Vaiśyas to trade in most of these articles. In this case a positive evidence of the attempt to relegate some of the castes dealing in the articles stated above is noticeable in the twelfth century. Similarly in Bengal, Vallālasena is said to have avenged an insult to him by degrading the Suvarṇaṇavikās or goldsmith caste to such an inferior status that the drinking of water touched by them was prohibited for the higher castes.

Kāyasthas:

The Kāyasthas were originally officials of a king or a feudatory chieftain. Their earliest mention is in the earlier Śmrītis like Yājñavalkya.\textsuperscript{155} But the epigraphic use of the word is as late as the Gupta period. Their main functions were not only to write documents but also to be officers in
charge of record, accounts and revenue departments, to help
the judges and serve as the dewan or gumastha of the Moghul
times. It is in this sense that earlier mediaeval writers refer to
a Kāyastha. Hariśena, the Jain writer of the Brihatkatha-
thākośa (931-932 A.D.) used the words Lekhaka and Kāyastha
as synonymous.121 Inscriptions of the tenth and thirteenth
centuries reveal that they were writers of legal documents,122
and also officers to whom information of grants was given.123
From the days of Yājñavalkya (I.336) to the times of
Vijñāneśvara, we find frequent references to the rapacity
of these Kāyastha officials. The latter author explains the
cause of their opportunity to oppress the people by their
influence on the king and their fraudulent nature. The
Rājatarāṅgini very frequently refers to unscrupulous oppres-
sion by the Kāyasthas.

As a caste:

But from about the ninth century A.D. the Kāyasthas
came to exist as a caste. Much earlier to the inscriptions,
references to their origin, the two later smritis Uśanas and
Vedavyāsa, refer to the Kāyastha as a caste. The Vedavyāsa
smriti includes the Kāyasthas among the Śūdras along with
barbers, potters and others. The Uśanas says that the word
Kāyastha is "compound of the first three letters of Kāka
(Crow), Yama and Sthapati to convey the three attributes
of greed, cruelty and spoliation (or paring) characteristics of
the three".124 Śrīharṣa traces the origin of Kāyasthas to
Chitrāgupta, the scribe of Yama.125 But inscriptive refer-
ence to this caste occurs for the first time as late as the
eleventh century A.D. In one inscription the genealogy is
traced back to its founder Kuśa and his father Kāśyapa.126 In
another version we are told that those Kṣatriyas who were
created by Brahmā and were fearless even after the extermi-
nation by Parasūrāma, were called Kāyasthas.127 The Rewa
inscription dated KS 800/1048-49 A.D. gives another account
of the origin of Kāyasthas. A sage named Kāchara, while
living in the town of Kulañcha, being pleased with the services of a Śudra granted him the boon of a son who became the ancestor of the caste of Kāyasthas. As the Śudra had innumerable merits in his body (kāya), so his descendants were known as Kāyasthas. Soḍḍhala, the author of the Udayasundarikāthā traces the origin of his family from Kalāditya, who was the brother of King Śilāditya and an incarnation of the gana of Mahēśvara called Kāyastha. It is interesting to note that Kalāditya has been described as an ornament of the Kṣatriyas. Other theories of the origin of the caste have been advanced by Dr. Bhandarkar, the Vaṅgaḍeśiya Kāyasthasabhā and the Kulaṭis of Bengal. The contributors to the History of Bengal and Sankalia have rejected the Kulaṭi story of Kāyasthas, being descendants of the five attendants of the five Brāhmaṇas brought by Ādiśūra. Dr. D. C. Sircar has rightly rejected the theory of their connections with Persian rulers or kings.

The Kāyasthas became a caste during the period under survey. As with the Brāhmaṇas, they came to be known as Gauḍa, Kāyastha-vaṁśa, Mathurāṇyaya-kāyastha, Kāyastha-Kāṭāriyaṇyaya, Śrīvāsta and Naigama-kāyastha according to their original habitat. The Bengal Kāyasthas, known to Mediaeval India as Gauḍa Kāyasthas, were expert scribes. On and from the date of the composition of the Apśaad inscription of Ādityasena, they rendered their expert services to the ruling kings and feudatories in writing eulogies even outside Bengal. The Dewal prasasti in the Pilibhit district of the U. P. was written by the Gauḍa Kāraṇika Takṣāditya (992 A.D.). The Gauḍa Kāyasthas also rendered services to the Chāhamānas of Śakkambhari and Naddūla by writing the Kinsariya (999 A.D.), Delhi-Siwalik (1163) and Nadol inscriptions for Kings Durlabhāra, Visaladeva and Rāyāpāla respectively. Two others, namely Paṇḍit Mahīpāla and Mahāksapāṭalika Mahādeva wrote the Nadol and Nanana grants for the feudatory chief Pratāpasimha and his master, the Chalukya King Kumārapāla in VS 1213 and 1212/1156-
A.D. The Gauḍa Kāyasthas also travelled to the courts of Chandella and Kalachuri kings. The Karaṇika Jaḍḍha wrote the Khajuraho inscription (A.D.954) in pleasing letters for King Dhaṅga. When this document was renewed in VS 1173/1117 A.D., by Jayavarman, it was also re-written by another Gauḍa scribe named Jayapāla. Pratirāja engraved the Pendrabanḍh plates of the Kalachuri King Pratāpamalla (1214 A.D.) of Ratanpur.

These Gauḍa scribes were men of learning. An inscription of Govindachandra Gāhaḍavāla dated 1129-30 A.D. refers to Kāyastha Šūrāditya as proficient in all śāstras. While Jaḍḍha of the tenth century A.D. was proficient in the Sanskrit language, Pratirāja of the early thirteenth century A.D. describes himself as an ocean of learning and light of Karaṇa community. The members of the family of Gadādhara, who served as a minister of the Chandellas, are described as kavičakravartīs. Mahādeva, the composer of the Kinsariya inscription was a poet. Hence it is not surprising that it was at the request of Pāṇḍu-ḍāsa that Śrīdhara wrote Nyāyakandali in 991 A.D. One inscription at least refers to their charitable disposition. Being pleased with the services of the scribe Pethada, the feudatory title of Thakkura was conferred on him by the Chāhamāna feudatory King Rāyapāla of Naḍḍūla. Further, Kāyastha Gadādhara held the position of Minister of Peace and War under the Chandella King Paramardideva.

With regard to the Vāstavya or Śrīvāstava Kāyasthas we do not get definite information about their original habitat. The Ajaigadāḥ stone-inscription refers to the fact that Nāna's ancestors were inhabitants of Kausūmyapura or Kosam in the Allahabad district originally. If we take this region as the original habitat of the Śrīvāstavas, they were responsible for writing inscriptions in their own home province, Uttar Pradesh. Three inscriptions were written by these Vāstavya Kāyasthas for the Gāhaḍavāla kings Govindachandra and Jayachandra and also the Sahet Mahet inscription dated 1276 VS/1219-29 A.D. The existence of other responsible
members of this community is recorded in the Meohar\(^{133}\) and Gadhwa\(^{134}\) inscriptions. Pāmiśīha wrote the Ajaygaḍh inscription, dated VS 1345/1288 A.D., for Nāna, the minister of the Chandella King Bhojavarman.\(^{135}\) A hereditary family of scribes, represented by Kirttidhara, Vatsarāja, Dharmarāja Chitrabhānu, Devagana and Ratnaśīlīha, served four generations of the Kalachuri kings of Ratanpur, beginning from Jājaldeva I in VS 866/1114 A.D.\(^{136}\) Śrī Sujāna wrote in VS 1254/1197 A.D. the Sone East Bank copper-plate for his master Udayarāja, a feudatory of Indradhavala in Sahabad region in Bihar.\(^{137}\)

Members of the Vāstavya community rose to a very high position. They enjoyed the feudatory status of Ṭhakkura under the Gāhaḍavāla Kings Govindachandra\(^{138}\) and Jayachandra\(^{139}\), and the Chandella King Bhojavarman\(^{136}\) and as an official under Indradhavala,\(^{131}\) a feudatory of Jayachandra. Two of them were scribes. It is possible that because of their services, the king raised them to a higher status. Some members of this community were rewarded with bigger and still more responsible posts in the Chandella Kingdom. The Ajaigaḍh rock-inscription of the time of Bhojavarman\(^{132}\) acquaints us with the role of a Vāstavya family, which seems to have migrated from Takkārika. Their genealogy begins with the name of Thakura Jājuka who held a position of trust under Gaṅda some time between 1002 and 1010 A. D. He not only received a grant from the King but also was appointed to the position of sarvāḍhi-\-karaṇa (V. 56). From him was descended Maheśvara who like his father received the endowment of the village of Pipalahikā and was appointed as the viśeṣa of the fortress of Kalanjar (V. 89). Gadādhara, the next member, became the counsellor and chamberlain of King Paramardideva (V. 10). His brothers, Jaunadhara and Mālādhara were valiant warriors (V. 11-12). The fortune of the family probably sank down for a short period. It again rose with Vāse, who was appointed as the viśeṣa of Jayapura (at present
Ajaiṣṭhā) by King Trailokyavarman. He also received the grant of a village named Varbhavari. Thanks to his bravery, the rebellion of Bhojuka was crushed. The inscription also tells us that it was he who saved the kingdom of Trailokyavarman from foreign enemies (V. 19-20). His younger brother, Ānanda as governor of the fort of Jayadurga also played the part of saviour of the Chandella territory by subduing the wild tribes of Bhillas, Śabarās and Pulindas (V. 21-22). Subhaṭa, the grandson of Ānanda was a minister and superintendent of treasury of King Bhojavaran. Another family, which served Bhojavaran and his ancestor was that of Nāna. From the other Ajaiṣṭhṇa stone-inscription, dated in VS 1345/1288, it appears that Nāna and his brothers served the Chandella kings as ministers.192 The history of these two families show that the Vāstavyas could become valiant soldiers. For two generations Vāse and Ānanda held the post of governors of the fortress of Ajaiṣṭhā. When a change of the Governor of the fortress was made, Ṭhakkura Ayō, who was also a Vāstavya Kāyastha, was appointed as the durgādhīpa by King Bhojavaran. They were equally good with pen and intricacies of diplomacy. Nāna was not only a teacher of religious laws but also an adept in all the fine arts. The members of the family of Dharmarāja, the hereditary scribes of the Kalachuri kings of Ratanpur, were good poets.194

Like the Gauḍa Kāyasthas, the Vāstavyas also were rich enough to build temples. Thus the temple of Siddheśvara (Mahādeva) in the village of Mehaṇḍa in the Allahabad district195 or a Śiva temple in the village of Sāmba in Ratanpur196 and two other devālayas including that of Hari in Ajaiṣṭhā are referred to in inscriptions.197

Another sub-caste of the Kāyasthas was the Mathur-āṇvaya-kāyasthas, who probably were original settlers of Mathura.198 So far as inscriptions reference to them as scribes is concerned, the earliest one is the mention of Baijuka, who composed the Bathagārāḥ stone-inscription199 in VS 1385/1328 a.d. As a feudal vassal, with the title of Ṭhakkura, the name of one
Udayasīha is mentioned in the Bhinmal inscription of Mahā-rājaśhīra Udayasīhiha\(^{206}\) of Rajputana. Manoratha rose to the coveted post of secretary to Bhuvanapāla-Mahīpāla, the Kachchhapa ghāṭa ruler of Gwalior.\(^{201}\)

The Kāṭīriya Kāyasthas are referred to the Balvan inscription,\(^{202}\) dated VS 1345/1289 A.D. in Kotah, Rajputana. According to this inscription, the ancestors of Narapati, who belonged to that community, lived originally at Mathura (V. 13). This Narapati was the Chief Minister of the last two Chāhamāna kings, Jaitrasīhiha and Humīrā of Ranṭambhor.

The Naigama Kāyasthas, so far as the insessional information is concerned, are referred to as scribes. They wrote the Nadol plates of Chāhamāna Kīrtipāla and Alhaṇa-deva in VS 1218/c.\(^{205}\) 1160-61 A.D. and Bijholi inscription\(^{206}\) dated VS 1226/1170 A.D.

The other sub-castes of the Kāyasthas were Saksena\(^{205}\) and Vālabhya or Valabha. The latter wrote the charters of the Paramāra Kings Bhoja\(^{206}\) and Vijayapāla,\(^{207}\) Mahāpalika, a feudatory of Paramāra King Jayasīhiha,\(^{208}\) and the Sanjana plate of the Rāṣṭrakūṭa King Amoghavarṣa I\(^{209}\) Guṇadhavala, writer of the above-mentioned Sanjana plate enjoyed the position of a judge and senābhogika.

Another sub-section of the Kāyasthas seem to have been the Karaṇa Kāyasthas. The Karaṇas as an official class played an important role in the history of Northern India. That they were officials is evident from the mention of Karaṇa-Kāyastha Naradatta in the Gupta times.\(^{210}\) Karaṇa as a name of a caste seems to have been as old as Gautama (IV. 7), Yājñavalkya (I. 92) and Manu (X. 22). They were born either of Vrātya Kṛṣṇa parents or of Vaiśya male and Śūdra female. The Brihaddharma Purāṇa includes them in the Śūdra caste. Mediaeval lexicographers identify the Karaṇas with Kāyasthas. Kṛṣṇasvāmin, the commentator of the Amarakaṇḍa and Vaijayantī holds similar view.\(^{211}\) The close identity between these two is also proved by the
inscriptions of the times of Govindachandra Gāhaḍavāla and Bhojavarman Chandella. In the inscriptions of the Chamba valley we find mention of two Kāraṇa Kāyasthas. But it cannot be said definitely that the merger of the Kāyasthas and Kāraṇikas or Kāraṇas became a settled fact in Northern India even by the end of the twelfth century. Men of the other higher or lower castes held the post of Kāraṇikas. The donee of the Nidhanpur copper-plates, who held the post of Nyāyakaraṇika, was a Brāhmaṇa. Another Kāraṇika Brāhmaṇa is referred to in the Dhod (Udaipur, Rajputana) inscription, as having sold his house to the temple of Nityapramoditadeva, sometime before VS 1228/1171 A.D. Our statement is further corroborated by the fact that the author of the medical treatise Śabdaprādāpa describes himself as belonging to a Kāraṇa family. He himself, his father and grandfather were Court-physicians to the Bengal kings, Rāmapāla and Govindachandra. We have already seen that the Brihaddharma Purāṇa regards the Aṃbaṣṭhas as belonging to the Uttamaśaṅkara caste and practising the profession of physician. If the evidence of the Prabandha-chintāmaṇi be taken as correct, Umāpatidhara, the Chief Minister of Lakṣmaṇasena, was a Kāraṇa Kāyastha. Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy thinks that during the Sena times, Śālaḍḍa-nāga, mentioned in Vijayasena's Barrackpur grant, Harighoṣa, the sandhivigrāhika of Vallālasena, Sandhivigrāhika Nāṃśiṇha and Kopivishṇu under Viśvarūpasena were Kāraṇa-kāyasthas. It is very likely that by the end of the twelfth century A.D., the process of identifying the Kāraṇas and the Kāyasthas as belonging to the same caste had begun.

As we have got reference to the Gauḍa Kāyasthas in the Apsad inscription, dated 672 A.D., it is not correct to say that the “earliest known epigraphical reference to Kāyastha caste” occurs in a Rāṣṭrakūṭa charter of 871 A.D. It is interesting to note that none of the sub-sections of the Kāyasthas like Vālabha, Naigama, or Māthura ever wrote any charter of the kings of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam.
In Gujarat, we find mention of only two sub-sections, namely, Gaunda and Valabha, as writers of charters. Inscriptions also show that the sub-sections, known as Mathura, Kajariya, Naigama, and Saksenā Kāyasthas, performed the duties of scribes in the twelfth century. Their activities were confined mainly within the kingdoms of the Chāhamānas and Kṣecchhapaghātas.

It seems that the Kāyasthas did not form themselves into a caste in Kashmir. None of the abovementioned sub-sections is mentioned in any inscription or literature relating to Kashmir. The Kashmiris understood Kāyasthas to be officials, about whose nature and conduct we have plenty of information. Our surmise is substantiated by the fact that Kalhaṇa tells us that the hereditary occupation of Kāyastha (official) Bhadreśvara was that of a "gardener", trading in night soil, selling fuel and acting as a butcher239 and another Kāyastha official named Śivaratha, who was a Brāhmaṇa by caste.231

Vaidyos

We have already seen that the thirteenth and fourteenth chapters of the Brihaddarма Purāṇa and the earlier Uśanas-smṛiti refer to the Vaidyas. But, though both the texts refer to their profession as physicians, yet they state their origins differently. According to both the authorities, their father was a Brāhmaṇa, but while the former describes their mother as a Vaiśya, the latter says that she was a Kṣatriya. The contributors to the History of Bengal (Vol. I) and Dr. D. C. Sircar have shown that in spite of the reference in three South Indian inscriptions of the eighth century A.D. and the Bhatera copper-plate, the Vaidyas and Āmbaṭṭhas, who were physicians, did not exist as a caste up to the end of the twelfth century2922 A.D.

Neither in Bengal nor in other parts of Northern India, the physicians formed themselves into a caste. It is because of their profession that the Bhiṣakas and Vaidyas were informed
of the charters granted by the kings of the Gāhadavāla, Paramāraṣ of Vāgaḍa and Chandella dynasties.

Śūdras:

The position of the Śūdras improved from the days of Medhātithi. An undercurrent of respect for them flows in their digest. Birth alone ceased to be the criteria. Lakṣmīdhara, quoting Hārita, tells us that a pure minded Śūdra was better than a bad and notorious Brāhmaṇa, Kṣatriya or a Vaiśya. The Śūdras became free from certain disabilities. Medhātithi and Viśvarūpa hold that they can neither be enslaved nor be made dependent on a Brāhmaṇa. He can be a teacher in grammar and other sciences, perform rites which are allowed to all classes in the Smṛtiś, utter the names of deities, according to the views of revered teachers and observe the nāmakaraṇ and other sacraments without uttering the mantras. Lakṣmīdhara in his Grihasthakāṇḍa denies all these rights to the Śūdras. Quoting Vyāsa, he says that, a Śūdra can sell meat and need not perform saṁskāras like upanayana and agnihotra rites.

But elsewhere in the Niyatakalakāṇḍa section of the Kṛtyakalpataru, Lakṣmīdhara permits removal of disabilities regarding partaking of food. Directly contrary to the rule of Manu, Lakṣmīdhara emphasises that the Śūdra commits no sin if he gives rice for getting it cooked to a Brāhmaṇa at the latter's house. Further, he approves the rules of Yājñavalkya, Devala and Aṅgira, who prescribe that a Brāhmaṇa can take the meals offered by cowherds, peasants, barbers, and potters, but not by dancers, actors, carpenters, cobblers, musicians, blacksmiths, weavers, washermen, garland-makers, painters, cart-drivers and oilmillers. It is interesting to note here that he approves of the dictum of Parāśara to the effect that a plate of rice, though cooked by a Śūdra, may be purified by the touch of a Brāhmaṇa. It becomes haviḥ (sacrificial offering) and can be taken by men of the highest varṇa. Bhaṭṭa Bhavadeva also quotes the abovementioned passage of
Parāśara, but he prescribes a Krichchhara penance for a Brāhmaṇa for taking food, cooked by a Śūdra.

The social and political status and economic condition of the Śūdras will also show, that they were neither down-trodden nor a community living in poverty. They were forbidden to assume the role of a Kṣatriya, but there are plenty of instances to prove that they fought as soldiers.\(^{223}\)

The Śūdras were the most numerous section in the community. Their number increased from age to age. Some of them have been regarded as mixed castes. These were born of hypergamous unions of upper caste males with lower caste females or of marriages in the inverse order. The Vaijayanti enumerates as many as 64 jātis. It has been shown in the History of Bengal (Vol. I, p. 567 ff) that the Bhīmadharma and Brahnavaiivarta Purāṇas gave a different enumeration of mixed castes. The former Purāṇa\(^{224}\) mentions three grades, the first one comprised as many as twenty uttama-saṅkaras, the second one of twelve madhyama-saṅkaras and the third one of nine adhama-saṅkaras or antyajas. The list is merely illustrative. Both Vijñāneśvara and the author of the Brahnavaiivarta Purāṇa, state that the mixed castes are innumerable.\(^{226}\) A detailed comparison between the different grades of Śūdras, as described in the Brahnavaiivarta and Bhīmadharma Purāṇas, has been made by Dr. R. C. Majumdar, Dr. Hazra and Dr. Niharantar Roy. They have shown that both the Purāṇas hold largely the same view regarding the antyajas whose position was below the asat-Śūdras. They were Vyādha, Bhaḍa, Kola, Koścha, Haḍdi, ṇoma, Jolā, Bāgatīta (Bāgdi ?) Vyālagrahī (Vediā ?), and Chaṇḍālas. The list agrees with Bhavadeva’s who classifies the Chaṇḍālas with Kaibartta, Pukkasa, Kāpālikā, Naṭa, Nartaka, Taṅgaṇa, Charmaṅga, Suvargaṅga, Saṅḍika and Rajaka. Some of these people like washermen, leather-workers, Veṇas, Burulas, fishermen (Kaivartta), Medas, Bhillas have also been considered as antyaajas in the Vaijayanti. That the antyaajas were beyond the four orders or varṇas is also observed by Alberuni.
Alberuni found two classes amongst those who were not reckoned in any caste or guild. In the first group belonged fuller shoe-maker, juggler, basket and shield-maker, sailor, fishermen, hunter of wild animals and of birds and the weaver. The second group consisted of the people called Hādi, Ōma (Ḍomba), Chaṇḍāla and Badhatau.

_Svarṇakāra, Pitalahāra and Rūpakāra:_

According to the Brahmavaivarta and the Brihaddharma Purāṇas, the Gandhavaṇika, Saṅkhika, Kāuśyakāra, Suvarṇa-kāra and Svarṇakāra, were all Śūdras. The latter Purāṇa classifies the first of these castes as _uttama_ (high)-saṅkaras born of the union of a Brāhmaṇa father and Vaiśya mother and the last two, that is, goldsmith and trader, in bullion as _madhyamasaṅkara_ and being born of Ambaśṭha father and Vaiśya mother. The Kāuśyakāra and the Saṅkhikas or workers in brass and shells, were not always poor. The former is mentioned in the Bhatera copper-plate of Govinda-keśava and the latter in the Somnath temple-inscription, as donors of houses. With regard to the goldsmiths an attempt was made in the seventeenth century Bengal to raise their status higher in the hierarchy of castes. The Vallālacharita of Ānandabhaṭṭa tells us that Vallālasena had particular animosity against the Suvarṇavaṇiks or traders in bullion for several reasons. Vallabhāṇanda, the rich merchant of Saṅkakota agreed to lend a crore and a half of gold coins to Vallālasena on condition of receiving the revenues of Harikel. They further enraged the King by refusing to sit along with the Sat-Śūdras in a dinner. They had also alliance with the Pāla kings. So the Sena King ordered that these bullion-traders should be deprived of their holy thread. Almost all the historians have believed this story as particularly true. But the attitude of the smṛitis to the Suvarṇakāras and Svarṇakāra do not reveal that they were above the Śūdras. Manu (IV. 215), Yājñavalkya (I. 163), Saṅkha and Sumantu quoted by Apatārka (Pp. 1175-76), and Bhavadeva and Hemādri place them
on a level with Karmakāru, Nīṣāda, washermen, actors Kaivartas, tailors, Medas and Bhillas. The main reason for assigning them to the lowest class was theft of gold. We have a brilliant satire on the goldsmiths written by Kṣemendra in Canto VIII of Kalāvilāsa. He knew the sixty-four arts including twelve of movements, six of hissing, eleven of new ways of deception and five of reducing weight. The Suvarṇakāras made donations of images. It is interesting to note that in Orissa as many as three inscriptions were incised by the goldsmiths and bullion traders. This fact shows that the goldsmiths had already formed themselves into a caste in Orissa.

The Pitalahāra or coppersmiths also rendered services to the kings. Three Chandella inscriptions tell us of the services of Pālhaṇa, who incised grants.

Like the Pitalahāra, the Rūpakāra also engraved inscriptions of Kalachuri kings of Ratanpur and Paramāra kings of Malwa. They also carved out images of Nilakaṇṭha and Jina in the kingdom of the Chandellas.

**Grades of Untouchables:**

There were other grades of untouchables. In the days of the composition of the early smṛitis untouchables were called antyajas. The enumerations of the sub-divisions of these antyajas differ, once from another. Atri mentions seven. The Vedavyāsa-smṛiti counts twelve names and also includes all those who eat cow’s flesh as antyajas. Alberuni tells us that the following eight groups of people, who were members of crafts and professions, but did not belong to the fourfold caste system, were: fuller or washermen, shoemaker, juggler, basket and shield-maker, sailor, fishermen, hunter of wild animals and birds, and weavers. These correspond to Rajaka, Charmakāra, Naṭa or Sailushika, Buruḍa, Nāvikā, Kaivarta, Bhillas and Kuvindaka, who have been regarded as Chaṇḍālas and antyajas in all early smṛiti texts. But Manu (VIII. 279) regards them as Śūdras and
thus they belonged to the lowest caste. Some of the antyajas like weavers are included as uttamaśaṅkaras and boatmen and leather-workers as adhamaśaṅkara grades of Śūdras in the Brihaddharma Purāṇa.

It would seem that the position of the antyajas has always been pitiable and they have been regarded as untouchables in the community. But a closer study of the smṛitis show that their status had improved in course of time. Dr. P. V. Kane interpreting the information given in Manu (X. 36, 51) Hārita and Āngirasa, has rightly observed that the seven well-known antyajas “were not so untouchable in the times of Medhātithi and Kullūkabhṛṭa.248 “By improvement he means that their touch was not so polluting as to require an actual bath.

Inscriptions of the period under survey inform us that the above-mentioned crafts were at the mercy of kings. The oilmillers and florists were asked by their kings to make donations to the temples.249 Sometimes a King like Govinda-keśava gave away houses belonging to washermen, ivory-workers and boatmen to a Śaiva temple.250 Their helpless existence further worsened when the kings assigned the whole-time services of washermen or gardeners to the requirements of a temple institution. It seems that Raṭṭārāja, the Śilāhāra chieftain, assigned one family each of washermen, potters, gardeners and oilmen to the services of the Karkaruni branch of the Mattamayūra Śaiva āchāryas.251

Kṣemendra in his Samayamātrikā states that a barber is the usual friend of passionate people and teacher of prostitutes.252 The florists and betel-sellers agreed to supply, free or charge, flowers and betels required for the worship of deities in Gwalior and the Uttar Pradesh.253 Several rathakāras living at Samderaka gave a piece of land measuring one haela of yugaḥdhati for the Kalyāṇika festival in Rajputana.254 The oil-millers did not lag behind others in contributing towards the maintenance of temples.255 Some of them, like Jāna, the Paṭṭakila was rich enough to erect a temple of Śambhu in Rajputana.256
Kaivartas:

The position of the Kaivartas. Mālākāras (florists), Kum-bhakāra (potters) seems to have been improved during the Sena regime in Bengal. The Vallālacharita refers to them as being raised to the status of Sat-Śūdras, and Vallālasena conferred the feudatory title of Mahāmāṇḍalika to Maheṣa, the headman of the Kaivartas. Dr. R. C. Majumdar and Dr. Nihar Ranjan Ray have pointed out that the raising of the status of the Kaivartas was due to their hostilities to the Pāla monarch. The correctness of these views can be corroborated by the fact of their revolt during the time of Mahāpāla II. The Rāmchārīta plainly records that Divyoka was a feudatory chief and after killing Mahāpāla II assumed the sovereignty of Vaceṇḍri. Ultimately, Bhīma was defeated by Rāmapāla. Further, in Bengal at least the Kaivartas were men of learning. The Saduktikarṇāmṛita contains a poem composed by Kevaṭṭa Papiṭa on the sanctity of the river Ganges.257

The position of weavers seems to have been improved in the Sena times. According to the findings of Dr. Sukumar Sen and Dr. Nihar Ranjan Ray258, Dhoi, who belonged to the community of weavers, rose to the position of a court-poet of King Laksmanasena. But Mm. Haraprasad Sastri held that Dhoi was a Rāḍhiya Brāhmaṇa of Pāladhi gāni. A Vaidya genealogical work claims Dhoi as a Vaidya. Sri Chintaharan Chakravarti observes that “the question concerning the caste of Dhoi must remain open until some new and definite information about it is brought to light.259”

Hāḍi, Ḍomba, Chaṇḍāla and Badhatau:

The Hāḍi, Ḍomba (Ḍoma), Chaṇḍāla* and Badhatau occupied the lowest rank in the social hierarchy. According

* According to the dharmasāstras, Chaṇḍālas were either offspring of a Śūdra male and a Brāhmaṇa female, or offsprings of an unmarried woman. They lived in houses outside the village, kept a cymbal under their armpit and their avocations were to execute offenders and remove dirt of the villages (Kané: HDS, Vol. II, pt. i, p. 81)
to Alberuni, they were occupied with dirty work, like the cleansing of the villages and other services and were "not reckoned amongst any caste or guild." He saw the Doma, who played on lute and sang, following the occupation of inflicting corporal punishment on criminals or practised killing as a trade. The Badhatau or executioners were the worst of the untouchables, who devoured flesh of dead animals including dogs. A similar description of the Chaṇḍālas is given by Gardizi, the author of Kitāb Zainu'l Akhbār. But Gardizi makes a distinction between the Chaṇḍālas and Dānians, who lived like the former. These two communities however did not intermarry (amongst themselves). A perusal of the Purāṇas and digestes show that there was not much of distinction amongst these low castes. Agni Purāṇa prescribes execution of criminals by Chaṇḍālas. Medhātithi assigns a similar business to Svapākas. Beginning from the days of Yaśñavalkya (I.197) till the end of the thirteenth century A.D. there was no change in the strict rules regarding the untouchability of the Chaṇḍālas. Some of the writers of digestes went to the length of recommending penances for the higher castes for seeing or conversing and even crossing the shadows of untouchables. Kalhaṇa records that Suyya, the great engineer of the times of Avantivarman (855-883 A.D.), was found in a heap of dust on the road by a Chaṇḍāla woman Suyya by name, but she "without defiling the child by her touch," arranged for keeping the boy in the house of a Śūdra nurse. In Kashmir Chaṇḍālas worked as watchmen and guards of houses, as drummers and as executioners. Ṇombas worked as singers and huntsmen. Even the Jaina writer Hemachandra requires that the Chaṇḍālas and Ṇombas should make sounds of sticks, so that the men of the higher castes may be aware of their presence and avoid the pollution. Gardizi also refers to such practices.

Glimpses of the life of the Bengal Ṇombas can be found in the Charyāpadas. They lived in the outskirts of the city and were untouchables for the Brāhmaṇas. They often rowed
across the rivers and sold baskets and other articles prepared from bamboos in different parts of the country. They were also experts in dancing as many of the Charyāpadas refer to the skilful Dombi dancers.

Aboriginal tribes and heretical sects:

Along with these Chaṇḍālas there were other untouchables, who belonged to the aboriginal tribes like Bhillas, Śabarās, Andhras, Khasas, Kulikas etc. The Charyāpadas and the Kathāsaritsāgara acquaint us with the manner of life led by aboriginal tribes like Śabarās and Bhillas. Śabarā men wore tiger-skins and adorned their bodies with peacock-feathers. Women were also dressed in peacock feathers and wore necklaces of strings of the guṇjā fruit. Two songs composed by Śabarapāda draw a vivid picture of them. One song tells us that far off from human habitation dwelt the Śabarās, clad in feathers of peacocks and decked with guṇjā fruits and ear-rings. Drinking of wine made the male Śabarā forget his female partner and hence the Śabarī had to bring her husband back home. Betel leaves and camphor added to their conjugal love. The Śabarā lived on hunting and went to far off places in search of quarry. The Śabarī had to take great pains in order to find out her husband. Other songs depict their domestic life. With the ripening of the Chinā (Kāgani) paddy begin the festivals of the Śabarā community. Vultures and jackals moved frequently and as they destroyed the ripe corn, the Śabarās saved the corn by raising fencing of bamboos. The Bodhisattvādānakalpalatā further tells us of their sacrifice of human beings, and sometimes even their own children before their goddess, Chaṇḍikā or Durgā.

Almost a similar and picturesque and nomadic life was led by the snake-charmers. Sarvānanda (1160 A.D.) found the Bediās showing the snake-plays. Umāpatidhara gives a beautiful description of such performance in these lines: “Brother of the forest, these snakes are small in size; they are bending their heads on hearing the spells uttered by you.
This hooded snake is perhaps old, because it does not bend: its head even when a qualified person like you crawls on the earth."^{273}

During the period under survey the society did not rigidly observe the rules laid down by the lawgivers. The Brāhmaṇas gave up the ancient ideal of plain and simple life. Some of them in Bengal, the Uttar Pradesh and the Nāgara Brāhmaṇas accumulated plenty of wealth. In the U. P. and Kashmir they attained the position of feudatory chiefs with the status of Thakkura. At times we find them doing the work of a sculptor which the dharmaśāstras assigned to the Śūdras.^{274} Some of the Kṣatriyas, took to agriculture. The Kāyasthas, as a caste, were not mere scribes. They became governors of fortresses, ministers and attained the status of Thakkura chiefs. Further as in the period between 600 and 1000 A.D.^{275} the foreign races excepting the Muslims, were thoroughly absorbed in the Hindu social system. Inscriptions show that the men of the higher castes did not protest against the accession of Yaśaḥ Karṇa, who was begotten by his father Karṇa on Queen Avaladevi of the Hūṇa stock (Hūṇavāya).^{276} The Hūṇas were sometimes employed as scribes. Bhāskara, the grandson of the learned Govinda, born in the family of Hūṇa princes, wrote the Ajmer stone-inscription, which contains portions of the Harakelināṭaka in VS 1210/1153 A. D. Govinda was also a favourite of King Bhoja.^{277} The people of the kingdom of the Chaulukyas of Anahillapāṭaka also took the Prāgvāṭa, Osavala, Śrīmāla, Dharkkata who, were possibly Śakas or Gurjjaras,^{278} into their social fold.

Ramifications in the caste system continued. In Bengal the distinction between the Sat and Asat-Śūdras became more pronounced. The period also indicated formation of 'regional' sub-castes not only among the Brāhmaṇas and Kāyasthas but also amongst the Jains. Of course, the Jaina jīnātīs in the Chaulukya kingdom were not "endogamous groups, as marriages between Prāgvāṭas, Moḍhas, Oisavālas are recorded."^{279} Inscriptions and literature reveal some new
castes, hitherto unknown, namely, Odds, who excavated the Sahasrālinīga tank in the reign of the Chaulukya king Jayasīhna, and Gallaka, who by profession was a merchant.

Prof. Habib holds that on the eve of the Turko-Afghan invasions, “in India the doors of knowledge were closed to all persons not belonging to the twice-born castes.” But we have already seen how the Gauḍa, Śrivāstavaś, and Vallabha Kāyasthas, physicians and Kaivartas were well-versed in the Sanskrit language and familiar with many other branches of learning. Caste system did not invariably prove a hindrance to the personal achievements of the individual.

References to Chapter III (Castes and Professions)

1 Mitākṣarā on Yāj. III. 30 and Aparārka p. 922
2 Kane: HDS II, Ch. IV p. 170
3 Aparārka pp. 1177-79
4 Sachau I. p. 100
5 RT VIII 2407 and Kullūka on Manu X. 31
6 Brihaddharma Purāṇa II. 13-14,
7 Brahmavaivarta Purāṇa (ed. Jivananda Vidyasagar) I. 10. 122
8 Krityakalpiara Dānakāṇḍam (GOS) p. 26-30 quoting Yama.
9 Yājñiavalkya, Vaiśeṣha, Mahābhārata and Śatātapa.
10 Grihashta pp. 171-179
11 IB. III. 181 and Sadukti, I. 34.5 ; 54.1 ; 148.1 ; II. 68.5 ;
151.4 and IV. 21.5 ; 3.5
12 HB. I. 580-583
13 EI. XIX. 117-124
14 EI. II. 330
15 Ibid. XXII. 219, line 44-45
16 Ibid. V. 114
17 RT. VIII. 2444
18 EI. IX. 279
19 Nadol inscr. dated VS 1198/1141 A.D. (EI. XI. 38) and
Bhinmal inscr. dated VS. 1306 (EI. X. 57)
20 Pälānpur pl. of Bhima I dated 1064 A.D. (EI. XXII. 173)
21 Cp. of Bhima I dated 1022 A.D. (HIG II. 140)
22 DV. VI. 9
23 Cp. of Bhima II dated VS. 1256
24 Cp. of Bhima II dated VS. 1266 (HIG. II. 162)
25 Abugiri Jaina inscr. No. 2 dated VS. 1287 (HIG. II. No. 168)
26 Cp. of Visaladeva, dated VS. 1317 (HIG. III. No. 216, line 18)
28 BG. I. pt. II. p. 463-64
29 Ibid. p. 464
30 JASB 1909, p. 167
32 Verse 5 of Deopara inscr. (IB III. pp. 46 50-51); V. 5 of Chatsu inscr. (EI, XII. 10ff) and Pingalasūtravṛitti ed. Pt. Kedar Nath p. 49.
33 Bhandarkar’s definition in IA. 1911. p. 35 accepted in IB, III. p. 44 and f.n.3. Cf. HB. I, 207 and Bāngālīr Itihāsa Pp. 261, 265, 290
34 Kane: HDS II. pt. I. p. 131-132
35 Dānakāṇḍam p. 30-31
36 Dānasūgara (ed. Bl) p. 18-19
37 Dānaratnākara, quoted in Dānakāṇḍam Intro. p. 90
38 Grihastha p. 415
39 RT. VII. 108-109
40 Ibid. VII. 277-278
41 Ibid. VII. 295-297
42 Kathāsaritsāgara (Tr. Tawney) Vol. I. p. 306
43 Ibid. Vol. II. p. 202
44 Ibid. Vol. I. p. 241
45 Rājadharma p. 176
46 DHNI. I. Pp. 516-18, 521, 524-25 and 536
47 Ibid. I. p. 512
48 IB. III. 63 and 67
49 RLARB. p. 329
50 Cf. Kauṭylāya IX. 2
51 Āpastamba I, 10, 29. 7
52 Ṣukranītisāra (ed. Sarkar) IV. 7.599.
53 IB. III. p. 33, verse 12
54 Ibid. p. 37
55 RT. VII. 1480 and VIII. 1013. 1071
56 Senaḍpati Kilhana and his son Senaḍpati Ajayapāla in Semra pl. (EI. IV. 158) and Senaḍpati Madanapālaśarman in Ichhawar pl. (IA. XXV. 205 ff) under Chandella Paramardi; Nāgagāmaiyya in Valīpattana pl. (IHQ. 1928, p. 35, lines 44-45) under Raṭṭaraja of the Śilāhāra dynasty; Rāka led the army of King Āna of Sapādalaṅkā (DV. XVI)
57 Prabodhachandrāyodaya (ed. N. S. Press) I. 3 and I. 6-7
58 Kane: HDS Vol. II, Ch. III. pp. 124-126
59 Grihastha. p. 194
61 Śukranītisāra (ed. Cal.) IV. 3. 19.
Forbidden goods for trade were—fragrant things, fluids, cooked food, sesame, hemp, kṣauma, deerskin, dyed and cleanly washed clothes, milk and its products, roots, flowers, fruits, herbs, honey, meat, grass, water, animals for being killed, slaves, barren cows, heifers and cows liable to abortion, land, rice, yava, goats, sheep, etc. (Gautama VII. 8-15, Vas. Dh. S. II. 27); weapons, sticky things like lac, young stalks (tokma), fermented liquids, sesame and rice (Apastamba Dh. S. I. 7. 20. 11-13, Baudh, Dh. S. II. 1. 77-78, and Laghu Śātātapya verse 87); stones, salt, silk, iron, tin, lead, animals (Vas. Dh. S. II. 24-29 and Yāj. III. 40).

Grihastha pp. 199-212
Sachau II. 132.
El. I. p. 184, 472
Grihastha Pp. 214-21, 222-23
RT. VIII. 108. IB. III. 32ff.; IHQ. XVI. p. 571, Lakṣmīdhara etc.
RT. VII. 108
Sītabalid S.I. dated 1087 A.D. in EL. II. 306.
Bakulasvāmi (Girnar inscr. RLARB. 332)
Manoratha in Kamauli pl. (EI. II. 354), Someśvara in Gujarat (EI. I, 31), Mādhava under Chaulukya Bhima II (EI. XX. 57)
RT. VIII. 2383
Brahmachāri p. 190
Sachau II. 149
Ghoshal: Hindu Revenue System p. 138 and Altekar: State and Government in Ancient India p. 195
Inscr. of Dhīrārvarga dated VS 1220/1163 A.D. in IA LVI (1927) p. 51
Sachau II. 162
Bārhaspatya Aṛthaśāstra (ed. Thomas) Ch. I. Verse 17
Laghuvarhanitīśāstra I. 1. 37
Sachau II. 162
A. Cat. of Palm leaf and Selected Paper Ms. belonging to the Durbar Library, p. XVII. B.
Vijāśānēśvara on Yaj. II. 21: Sm. C. I. 30
RT. VII. 1229 and VIII. 1013, 2060
Rāj. p. 9-18
RT. V. 461-477
Ibid. VII. 1385
Rājanītiratnākara Ch. II. p. 10
93 IHQ. XVI. 670-72; IC. VIII. 327
94 EI. II. 440-42 (Devapatan prañastī)
95 Ibid. XXVII. Pp. 278, 283 (Koni inscr).
96 Man and Baghari inscriptions (DHNI II. 702, 717)
97 RT. VII. 400-401
98 Ibid. 1008
99 Ibid. VIII. 2224
100 Ibid. VI. 336-344
101 Ibid. VIII. 768-777
102 Ibid. VIII. 898
103 Ibid. VIII. 908
104 Ibid. VIII. 2076
105 Ibid. 2737
106 Ibid. 2733, 2739
107 El. XI. 40, lines 22-24
108 Ibid. XV. 301-315; HB. I. 88
109 RT. VII. 91
110 Vide Basahi, Raıwan, Gagaha, Bangavan, Pali and Kamauli plates.
111 Kamauli pl. DHNI I. 523
112 RAS. grant, DHNI I. 534
113 Dānakāṇḍa p. 28. Dānasāgara Vol. I. p. 18
114 Dānakāṇḍa p. 20-21; Dānasāgara p. 43, 45
115 IB. III. p. 146-147, lines 44-61 (Sāhitya Pariṣat CP.)
116 DHNI II. 715 (Icchawar pl)
117 IB. III. p. 32 ff
118 El. XIII. p. 283 ff (Silimpur slab inscr.)
119 Grihastra. p. 1
120 El. II. p. 17-19 (Tewar inscr).
121 El. II. 306 (Sitabaldi inscr. dated 5aka 1008)
122 Samayamātrikā (ed. N. S. Press) IV. 109-110 and V. 64
123 IHQ. XVI. (1940) p. 571
124 Brihaddharma Purāṇa (Vangabasi) Uttarāṇḍa, Ch. 13, 51-52
and Ch. 14. 66-67
125 Brahmavaivarta Purāṇa, Brahmakhaṇḍa ch. 10
126 Ghurye, G. S.: Caste and Class in India
127 Sūdrakamalākāra p. 299
128 RT. VIII. 3230 and 3346-47
129 IA. XVIII (1889) 136-143
130 ASR. XXI. 49. During Madanavarman's reign Rāuta Veda,
a Kṣatriya by caste, built something in Jayapurdurgā for use of
people (Ajaigarb S. I. 1151 A.D.)
131 El. I. 154 ff. Field of Memmika, son of Kṣatriya Devavarman
given to Naba-Durçā.
132 Grihastra, p. 252 commenting on Saṅkhaliḥkha's use of the
word Kṣatatrāṇa, Laksāṃdhara states Kṣatāt śrānam 'Kṣatatrāṇam'
133 Grihastha p. 253 ; Sachau II. 136
134 Grihastha p. 191. quoting Manu X. 83.
135 EI. I. 154ff.
136 Dānakāvya p. 37
137 Dānasāgara (Fasc. I) p. 20-21 quoting also Viṣṇudharmottara
4(3).300. 3-4)
138 IA. XVIII. pp. 136-143
139 Sukranītisāra (ed. Cal.) IV. 7. 332-334,
140 Sachau II. 162
141 Struggle for Empire p. 477
142 RT. VII. 1617-1618
143 Kathāsaritsāgara (Tr. Tawney) Vol. I. p. 72, 140, 151, etc.
144 EI. XII. 57-59 dated VS. 1059/c. 1003 A. D.
145 Manu III. 112
146 Baudhāyana Dh. S. I. 11, 4
148 CC. Prāyaścittakaḥpaṇḍa.
149 Grihastha p. 255
150 Sachau II. 136.
151 Ibid. I. 101
152 Ibid. II. 136
153 Grihastha. p. 258.
154 Medhātithi On Manu X. 95.
155 Kane: HDS. II. 1. 75-76.
156 JUPHS XIX. (1946) p. 81-82
157 Writers of legal documents in different parts of Northern India
were: In Orissa, Koighoṣa under Mahābhavagupta I (EI. XI. 95),
Janaṃjaya (EI. III. 344), Mangaladatta under Mahābhavagupta II
(Ibid III. 357) and Mahuka under Rāṇaka Malladatta (Ibid III. 347f).
In the U. P. Śrādhiya under Govindaśandra Gāhaṇḍavāla (Ibid. XI.
25-26), Purandara under Jayachandra (IHQ. 1929, p. 40); In the Chamba
State, Sekha under Lalitavarman (EI. XX. 198); in the kingdom of the
Chandelas Prīthvindhara under Paramardideva (IA. XXV. 207); In the
Chaulukya kingdom, Jejja under Mūlāraja I (IA. VI. 192-93) Kāṇchana
(Ia. VI. 194, XVIII. 110) Vaṭeśvara under Bhīma I (EI. XXI. 171).
Keka under Karṇa (JBBRAS. 26. 250), Kekkaka (EI. I. 318), Somarśinha
(Ia. VI. 200, 202, 204, 209), Vosarina (IA. VI. 195) and Vājaḍa under
Bhīma II (RLARBP. 328); in the Paramāra kingdom, Guḍhara in
949 A.D. (DHNI. II. 849) Sohika in 1047 A.D. (DHNI II. 865),
Asarāja in c. 1080 A.D. (Ibid. II. 920).
158 IA. XV. 208 ; EI. XX. 130, 136.
159 HDS. II. i. p. 76,
160 Naiṣadhaparīkṣita XIV. 66 (ed. Handiquil).
161 EI. XXVIII. 100ff.
162 Ibid XXV. 276f.
163 Ibid. XXIV. 108.
164 Udayasundarikathā (GOS) p. 11 (Kāyastha-nāmno Mahēśvara-
ghaṇasya āvatāraḥ Kṣatriya-vibhūṣaṇam Kālāditya) Cf. HB. I. p. 587
identifying Sīlāditya with a king of the Maitraka dynasty.

165 Bhāratīya Vidyā, Vol. X. p. 284. Dr. Sircar has given a
correct explanation of the word when he states, “An official, who
usually sat beside his master in discharging his duties and was often the
chief intermediary between his master and the latter’s clients or sub-
jects, may have been naturally called Kāyastha in the sense of
Kāyastha=iva ‘as if staying in the person of his master,’ by reason
of his influence or intimacy on the master.”

166 EI. I. 81.
167 Ibid. XII. 61.
168 IA. XIX. 218.
169 EI. XI. 41.
170 IA. XLI. 203.
171. ABORI. 1941-42 P. 318.
172 EI. I. 122.
173 Ibid. I. 147.
174 Ibid. XXIII, 6, 8.
175 Ibid. XIX. Pp. 209, 213.
176 EI. XXIII. 6. (Pendrabandh pl).
177 DHNI. Vol. II. 718.
178 Bh. List in EI. XX. 64 (Nana inscr. dated VS. 1257).
179 EI. XI. 41.
180 Ibid. I. 211.
181 EI. XXVIII. 100.
182 Benares grant, dated VS. 1171 and Kamauli grant, dated VS.
1172 by Jalhana (EI. VIII: 153, IV. 104), Kamauli grant dated
VS. 1182 by Kithana (EI. IV. 101). Sahet Mahet inscr. (IA. XVII. 62)
183 JRAS. 1927. P. 696.
184 ASIR. III, 58.
185 EI. XXVIII. 104, verse 39.
186 EI. I. 39. (Ratanpur inscr.), XXII. 163 (Sarkho pl), IHQ.
1925. p. 411 and EI. XIX. 214 (Ashoda pl), EI. I. 45 (Malhar SI).
187 EI. XXIII. 230.
188 Ibid. IV. 103-104.
189 JRAS. 1927. p. 696. (Meohar SI).
190 EI I. 333 (Jājuka in Ajaigaḍh RI. dated VS. 1345).
191 EI. XXIII. 230 (Sujana in Sone East Bank CP).
192 Ibid. I. 333-336.
193 Ibid. XXVIII. 103.
194 Ibid. XXIII. 163.
196 Ibid. I. 45-52.
197 Ibid I. 330ff. and XXVIII. 104.
CASTES AND PROFESSIONS

198 IA. XV. 202 (Gwalior inscr, dated VS. 1161) ASIR. 1903-04 pt. II, p. 286 (Gwalior Museum inscr. dated VS. 1350), PRAS. WC, 1905-06, p. 58 (Bijolia inscr), EI, XII. 46 (Battihagadh inscr).

199 EI. XII. 46.
200 Ibid. XI. 57.
201 IA. XV. 202.
202 EI. XIX. 45-52.
203 Ibid. IX. 68; Ibid. IX 63-66; XX. 47.
204 Ibid. XXVI. 99, V. 89.
205 ASIR III 58 (Gadhwa PI, dated VS 1199).
206 EI. XXI. 158 (Tilakwada pl. dated VS. 1103/1046 A. D.),
207 IA. VI. 56.
208 EI. XXI. 50.
209 Ibid. XVIII. 243.

210 From about the eighth century A. D. the kings informed them about royal grants (EI. IV. 250, EI. XXII. 155, XXVIII. 282 II. 309 etc). They composed and wrote the royal charters in the kingdoms of the Guhitas of Chatsu in Rajputana (DHNI, II, 1200), Chandellas (DHNI II. 685, EI. I. 125, DHNI. II. 726), Kalachuris of Tripuri and Ratanpur (EI. XI. 146, line 49, Ibid XXVIII, 6, verse 29), and the Gahaqavillas (DHNI. I. 516, 523, 526, EI. IV. 104, 106, 107, 111, ibid, XVIII. 224, 225, XIII. 220, VIII. 100). Some of them even rose to the position of ministers. As early as the Gunaighar grant, we find reference to a Karan-Kayaastha as the Minister of Peace and War (IHQ. VI. p. 55, 58). The father of Sandhyakaranandi also held a similar post (RC. Naviprastast, verse 5). During the period under survey the Karaqikas of the status of Thakkura chiefs can be found in the kingdoms of the Chandellas. (Rewa grant in DHNI. II, 726) and the Gahaqavillas (Kamauli pl. dated 1116 A.D. (EI IV. 104), dated 1118-19 A.D. (EI. IV. 107), Don Buzurg dated 119-20 A.D. (EI. XVIII 223), Chhatarpur dated 1120 A.D. (EI. XVIII 220), Gagaha dated 1143 A.D. (EI. XIII. 220), Lar pl. dated 1146 A.D. (EI. VII. 100) Banaras, dated 1146 (DHNI I. 526). Contemporary inscriptions reveal two other facts about the Karanjas. Some of them trained their sons in composing verses or writing the copper-plates. The writing of legal documents became a hereditary profession. The Harsa and Bilhari stone-inscriptions of the tenth-eleventh centuries were composed and written by Dhirunaga and Nai who were the sons of Karanjkas Thiruka and Dhira respectively (EI. II. 124, verse 45 and EI. I. 270). They were not simply following the set pattern in writing out the documents. Jaqda, the writer of the Khajuraho inscription of the year 953-54 A.D. was a Sanskritabhushayidayas (DHNI. II. 685). Pratiraja, the writer of the Pendrabanah plate of the Kalachuri king Pratapamalla, dated KS. 965/1214 A.D. was an ocean of leursing (Vidyambudi in EI. XXIII. 6).

211 Bharaitya Vidyai. Vol. X. p. 281
212 Jalhana is described in one inscription as a Kāyastha (EI. IV. 104) and in another as Karāṇikodgata (EI. VIII. 153).
213 E I. 330.
215 E I. XII. 75.
216 DHNI. II. 1082. Dr. Bhandarkar in his List p. 52 wrongly states that he made a donation.
217 HB. I. 585.
218 Vāṅgālīr Itihāsa. p. 319.
219 Age of Imperial Kanauj p. 394 f.n. No. 94.
220 RT. VII. 39.
221 Ibid. VIII. 2383.
222 HB. I. 589-591 Vāṅgālīr Itihāsa Pp. 280-81, 307-308, Dr. D. C. Sircar (JUPHS. XVIII. 148-160) disproves the identity of Vaidyās and Ambasthas and does not believe in the introduction of Kulinism amongst the Vaidyās earlier than the seventeenth century A. D.
223 E I. XVIII. 221 (Don Buzurg pl.) ibid. XXVI. 73 (Kamaul, pl.), ibid. XI. 24 (Sahet Mahet pl.) ibid XXVI. 272 (Rajghat pl. dated 1140 A. D.), ibid. XXIV. 294 (Lucknow Mus. pl.).
224 E I. XXI. 52 (Arthuna inscr, dated 1109 A.D.).
225 Ibid. IV. 157 (Semra pl.)
226 It is difficult to agree with the view of Dr. Ghoshal that "the description of the Śūdras' occupation and status in the commentaries and digests of this period (1000 to 1300 A.D.) follows the old Śrīvīti lines. (Struggle for Empire, p. 475).
227 Grihastha p. 427.
228 Medhātithi on Manu III. 67. 121, 156; X. 127; Viśvarūpa on Yāj. I. 13.
231 Niyatakālakāṇḍa p. 262-63.
232 E I. III. 16f., VI. 269, XI. 319f., XXII. 143f. etc.
233 Vaij. 81. 108-111.
234 Brihaddharmā Purāya, Uttarakāṇḍa, Ch. XIII. 33-48, XIV. 63-65.
235 Brahmavaivarta Purāṇa, I. X. 122; Vijñānesvara on Yāj. I. 95.
236 Vaij. 82. 121.
237 Brihaddharmā Purāṇa, Uttarakh. Ch. XIII. 33-34, 40.
238 E I. XIX. 277ff.; XXIII. 141.
239 HB. I. p. 240-241; IHQ. XVI. 702-705.
240 HDS II. pt. I. p. 98.
241 JBORS XXVI. 245 on gift of Keśava in the 31st. Yr. of Mahipāla.
242 Singhera grant of Ranabhaṅja dated 9 incised by Vaṃk-Suvaṃṇakāra Padmanābha (DHNI. I. 437), Upalada grant of Rāṇaka Rāmadeva (EI. XXIII. 141), Narasinghapur charter of Uddyotakesari Mahābhavagupta IV. by Suvaṃṇavīthivijñāni Baheuru and Maṅgaka (JBORS XVII. 24).
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281 EL. III. 304 (Verawal image inscr. line 2, dated 1246 A.D.)
CHAPTER IV

The Turkish settlers and effects of social contact with them.

The age-long tradition of Indian society was to allow foreigners to settle down in this country and to permit them to follow their respective avocations without any hindrance. There was a special department in the Maurya capital to take care of foreigners. The foreign elements in the Indian population responded to the kindness and hospitality of the people of the country and in course of time they became assimilated to the Indian social structure. The Governments and the people of different states of Northern India did not deviate from their traditional habit of tolerating the foreigners even after the ruthless invasion of Sultān Mahmūd. Alberuni, of course, records that “Mahmūd utterly ruined the prosperity of the country, and performed wonderful exploits, by which the Hindus became like atoms of dust scattered in all directions, and like a tale of old in the mouth of the people. Their scattered remains cherish, of course, the most inveterate aversion to all Muslims”. This aversion manifested itself in matters of social contact with the Muslims indeed, but, it was not strong enough to impel them to prohibit the settlement of isolated groups of Turko-Afghans in different parts of the country.

Ibn Asir records that a large number of Muslims settled in the areas round Banaras since the time of Sultān Sabuktīgīn. The historian makes the definite statement that “there were Mussalmans in that country since the days of Mahmūd bin Sabuktīgīn, who continued faithful to the law of Islam and constant in prayer and good works.” This is partially corroborated by the tradition which the sixteenth century Lama historian Tāranātha records. He refers to the settlements of Turks in the Antarvedi or the Ganges-Jamuna doāb. He
further states that during the time of Lava Sena and his successors, the Turks increased in number in Magadh, prior to the invasion of Odantapurī and Vikramaśīla. We get another corroborative evidence from the traditional history of Maner, in the district of Patna, according to which there were Turkish settlers at Maner. An inscription found at Maner and dated VS 1183/1124 A.D. records the gift of the village Padali in the pattalā of Maniari, which is modern Maner, to a Brāhmaṇa by King Govindachandra Gāhaḍavāla who orders his officers: “obedient to my command, you shall give all dues as given now including the revenue, the trade duties and the Turuṣkadaṇḍa”. The term turuṣkadaṇḍa has been interpreted variously as a counterpart of Danegold offered to the Turks to induce them not to invade the country or as a tax collected for the purpose of collecting the funds for bearing the expenses of defending the country against the Turks. But in view of the fact that the Turks were allowed to settle down in some part of the Gāhaḍavāla kingdom, it was quite natural on the part of the Government to levy a special punitive tax from such settlers.*

*Dr. D. C. Ganguly, however, prefers to interpret turuṣkadaṇḍa as “Some suggest that it was an impost on the subjects of the Gāhaḍavālas to meet the expenses of resisting the invasion of the Muslims. Others think that the Gāhaḍavāla kings realised this tax from the people in order to make annual payment of tribute to the Sultan of Ghazni....... It was probably to enforce the regular payment of this tribute that the Muslims led expeditions against Northern India from time to time.” (Struggle for Empire, p. 51) He identifies Chānd Rāi who helped Mahmūd with Chandra Deva, the second known king of the Gāhaḍavāla dynasty. This Mahmūd is the son of Sultan Ibrahim of Ghazni and Governor of the Punjab and he plundered Kanauj and Kanjir and invaded Ujjain. There is, however, no positive evidence to show that the Gāhaḍavālas ever acknowledged the suzerainty of the Ghaznavide Sultāns. As a matter of fact, we find that Govindachandra and his son Vijayachandra repulsed the attacks of the Musalmans. Of course, the Muslim chroniclers claim that Ala-ud-daulah Masūd III defeated Mehi, king of Kanauj and released him on payment of a large sum of money. If Mehi is identified with Madanachandra, whose son Govindachandra,
It was common sense prudence on the part of the Gāḥaḍavāla Government to maintain some kind of register for Turkī settlers and to impose a special tax upon them, because their compatriots were in the habit of attacking Northern India from time to time. Thus we find that between 1086 and 1114 A.D., there were the invasions of Mahmūd, his son Sultan Ibrāhim of Ghaznī and of Ala-ud-daulah Masūd III. Again between 1133 and 1169 A.D. there were three other invasions. The earliest of these was repulsed by Arṇorāja, the second by his son Vigrahārāja IV alias Vīsalādeva, who claims to have “once more made Aryavarta what its name signifies by repeatedly exterminating the Mlechchhas (who had rendered the name meaningless by their occupation of the country)”. The third invasion was probably led by Khusrav Malik, who was defeated by Vijayachandra, son of Govindachandra Gāḥaḍavāla. None but the Hindu princes would have allowed some members of the invading community to reside as freely in some parts of their domains. It cannot be said that they were forced to permit them the right of residence in their states because, concession of such a right is not recorded even by the Muslim chroniclers of old. It speaks highly also of the spirit of tolerance of the masses of Northern India that they did not make the life of Turkish settlers miserable.

On the other hand, the history of the Chaulukyas of Gujarat furnishes several glorious examples of the active support which the princes and the people of Gujarat extended to the Muslim population. Dr. A. K. Majumdar has rightly pointed out that within three decades of the devastating invasion of Somnatha, the people of Gujarat allowed the as a prince, claims to have fought and defeated the Turks, there is no reason why we should reject the Indian claim in favour of the claim of the Turks. Moreover, even the Turkī claim does not go so far as payment of tribute regularly at stated intervals by the Gāḥaḍavālas. Had a tax been levied specifically to pay the tribute to the Turks, why should there be fresh attacks again and again?
Muslims to build up a mosque at Ahmedabad in 1053 A.D. He further draws upon Muhammad 'Ufi to show how Siddharāja, on hearing of the burning of a mosque and the killing of eighty Muslims at Cambay, himself hurried to the place of occurrence in disguise, punished the offenders and gave the Muslims one lac of Balotras to rebuild their mosque. The merchants of Gujarat too made handsome contributions for the purpose of constructing a mosque for the use of the Muslims.

This sort of broadminded tolerance for the religion of the foreign settlers was not to be found in the history of mediæval Europe. Alberuni mistook the insistence of the Brāhmaṇas on their habit of maintaining ceremonial purity as their narrowness and fanaticism, and wrote: "All their fanaticism is directed against those who do not belong to them, against all foreigners. They call them mielchchha i.e. impure and forbid having any connection with them, be it by inter-marriage, or any other kind of relationship, or by sitting, eating and drinking with them, because thereby, they think they would be polluted. They consider as impure anything which touches the fire, and the water of a foreigner." The Kashmirian King Kalasha (1063-1089 A.D.) employed Turkish architect to erect a golden parasol over the temple of Kaluśeśvara. Another King of the same state, Harsha employed the Turks in his army.

The Sūfī saints who came to India during the period under review tried to bring the two communities closer to each other. Prof. Askari has shown that a number of Sūfī saints like Sālār Masūd, Syed Hussain Khingsawar, Syed Ahmed, Syed Mohammad Momin Arif, Israil, Abdul Aziz and Ismail settled in Bharach, Ajmer, Jarua (modern Hajipur) and other parts of North and South Bihar. The celebrated Sūfī saints Khwaja Muinuddīn Chisti arrived in India in in 1190 A.D. and made Ajmer the chief centre of his activity. There were other Sūfī and Ismaili saints like Abdullā (1065 A.D.) Nuruddīn and Muhammad Ali (died 1137 A.D.) in Gujarat and
Sayyad Shahi Surkh Khal Datian at Netrokona in the district of Mymensingh (now in East Pakistan).

The Sufi saints did not like to have any connection with the Muslim kings, governors and generals. One of the early Sufi saints of the Chisti order, Khwaja Fariduddin Masjid Ganjshakar (died 1265 A.D.) addressed his disciple Sayyidi Maula thus: "Do not make friends with kings and nobles. Consider their visits to your home as fatal (for your spirit)."\(^{17}\) The Sufi saints tried to pick up the language of the people and some of them are known to have conversed with them in Khariboli. They evinced their partiality for Indian music, used betel leaves, used the Indian palanquin for conveyance and manifested a liberal outlook in their dealings with Indians.\(^{18}\)

The Sufi saints adopted also some of the religious practices and beliefs of the Hindus and Buddhists. Prof. Askari thinks that in the practices of the Sufi saints in Bihar like carrying a begging bowl, use of rosary, control of breath or pranayama, one can discern the influence of Hindu and Buddhist ideas. Moreover, the Sufis came to believe in the seven worlds (Awalim-i-Sabaa) and Yoga and also in samadhi, which they called Muraqaba. "Sufistic Islam", observes Prof. Askari, "does not emphasize the transcendental ideals of orthodox Islam, and the absolute separation of the creation from the created but inclines towards the Hindu belief aiming at union with the created by merging the individuality with the Divine Essence or the tenets of Buddhism about the gradual perfection of the individuals or their growth by stages until they attain the state of beatitude."\(^{19}\) All these could not but draw certain sections of the Hindu community towards them.

It is, however, extremely difficult to ascertain the exact amount of influence which the Muslims exerted in the period prior to 1194 A.D. Some writers have gone to the length of saying that some of the lower castes, who were denied some of the ordinary rights of citizenship welcomed the message of equality preached by Islam and readily became
converted. But history or tradition records very few cases of such conversion. According to one tradition, one Rāmdeō, who was said to have been the chief priest of Ajmer, was asked by Prāthvīrāja III to expel the Sūfī saint, refused to do so and subsequently became a disciple of Khwaja Muinuddīn Chisti. \(^{20}\)

Another instance of conversion on a considerable scale is to be found in the eleventh century A.D., when some members of the depressed castes, like Kanbis, Kharwars and Koris were converted to Islam by Nuruddīn Nur Satagar of the Ismaili sect. \(^{21}\)

Beef-eating was not unknown even amongst the Brāhmanas in ancient India. \(^{22}\) In the fourteenth century, Chaṇḍesvāra quotes Devala to show that flesh of cows is forbidden. \(^{23}\) But in the twelfth century Aparārka quotes Śaṅkha in support of the views that the flesh of buffaloes was allowable. \(^{24}\) Śukranitīsāra refers to the custom of beef-eating among artisans of mid-India. \(^{25}\) Yaṇastilakachampū speaks of the Rahamānas as eaters of beef. \(^{26}\) From this Handiqui infers that they were Mussalmans. But Abul Faraj (A.D. 988), an Arab traveller, regards them as a sect of the Hindus, though he calls them Rahaṁān(n)iyā. \(^{27}\) It is, therefore, not possible to consider the Rahamānas as a section of Hindus, converted to Islam. Their name, according to Nainar, was a corrupt form of the word Rajaṁunaraṇīya, which means those who follow their king to death.

The one important effect which can be ascribed to the contact with the Arabs and Turks is probably an incentive to write history and historical poems. Before the ninth century A.D., we get only one instance of semi-historical literature, namely the Harṣacharita by Bāṇabhaṭṭa. But the eleventh and twelfth centuries are exceptionally rich in this field. We find eminent scholars like Śaṅkuka, Kalhaṇa, Sandhyākaranandi, Hemachandra and Jayānaka, taking up the task of writing the history of their respective regions or periods.

Some scholars \(^{28}\) think that words like ‘Sāhi’ and Hammīra
were adopted by the Hindus as a result of their contact with the Mussalmans. The earliest use of the title Sāhi by kings is as late as V.S. 1346/1289 A.D. by Hammīravarman, the Chandella king. But the use of the word Hammīra or Hammīra, in inscriptions and Sanskrit literature meant the Muslims till the end of the twelfth century.

The Hindus influenced the Muslim kings and people in a number of ways. Dr. S. K. Chakraborty has shown how the kings like Sultān Mahmūd, Muhammad bin Sam of Ghūr and Ilutmish, were constrained to use the Hindu weight system, types and legends, and even the honorific (word), Śree, on their coins. The common Muslims of the times of Amir Khusraw (1255-1325) began not only appreciating the Indian music but also using pān or betel leaves. Dr. Yusuf Husain also finds a good deal of influence of Sivarātri and Ratha-yātrā or char festival and the celebration of Kṛṣṇalīla in the Muslim festivals like Shabebarat and the takings out of Ta'ziyas on the occasion of Mohurrām in India.

Suddhi

Turkish invaders often carried a large number of Hindus as slaves to their country. Many of these slaves were also kept in that portion of the Punjab, which fell to the hands of the Turks. Some of them must have succeeded in their attempt to escape to India. Were these people taken back into the fold of Hindu society? Devala-smṛti classifies such people broadly into two categories—those who had been forced to kill cows, eat the leavings of the food of the Mlechchhas and cohabit with their women, and those who had not done any of the forbidden things. The former could be re-converted upto the period of less than four years and the latter “who had stayed with Mlechchhas from five to twenty years is purified by undergoing two Chāndrāyaṇas”. It has been usually held that the Hindu society became more conservative in the eleventh and twelfth centuries and refused to re-admit anybody who had been contaminated by his con-
tact with the Mlecchhas. But we have positive evidence to show that even in the fourteenth century such re-admission was possible. Vidyāraṇya, who was a contemporary of Vedāntadesīka (1269-1370), in his Pañchadāsī uses the following simile: “Just as a Brāhmaṇa seized by Mlecchhas and afterwards undergoing the appropriate praśāchītra does not become confounded with the Mlecchhas (but returns to his original status of being a Brāhmaṇa), so the Intelligent Soul is not really to be confounded with the body and other material adjuncts.”

As regards abducted women, Devaḷa writes (Devala-smṛti 88-89) that if a Brāhmaṇa woman happens to feed a Mlecchha, or to eat proscribed articles of food, she would attain purity if she observes a parāka penance. A quarter less is prescribed for the female members of the remaining varṇas in descending order of the social grade. If there were no physical relation, nor any proscribed food eaten, or even if she had taken food belonging to a Mlecchha, she would obtain purity at the lapse of three nights (of the menstrual period). Devaḷa was liberal enough to say that, “the womenfolk of the four orders as well as those of other castes, who happen to become pregnant as a direct consequence of coming in contact with Mlecchhas, or who happen to eat the proscribed dishes willingly or unwillingly, would become pure, by observing a Kṛchchra sāntāpana penance and by cleansing the private parts with clarified butter. The child born of such unions should be given away to others and must be retained. The caste fellows too should reject such children for fear of causing a mixture of castes.”

We do not know whether such liberal views were prevalent even in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. But Lakṣmīdhara, at least, was broadminded enough to exonerate the unfortunate women who were forcibly abducted. He quotes with approval the view of Yama to the effect that a woman does not become impure if she is taken by force and if she is enjoyed by the abductor. The Brahmavaivarta
Purāṇa, which was possibly written in Bengal during the period under survey, shows equally liberal views. It states that an unwilling woman who has been ravished by a robust fellow cannot be blamed.\textsuperscript{37} The Purāṇa further observes: “An unwilling woman must not be blamed, she would attain purity if she observes penances. But if she be a willing party, she should be disowned.”\textsuperscript{38}

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(The Turkish Settlers and Effects of Social Contact with them)

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7. Struggle for Empire p. 82.
8. IA XIX. 219.
9. EI. IV. 119; Struggle for Empire p. 54.
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14. RT VII 528-29, 1149.
15. Historical Miscellany p. 53ff.
17. Barani’s Tarikh-i-Firoz Shāhi quoted in Y. Husain’s Mediaeval Indian Culture p. 39.
18. S. H. Askari’s article on Islamic Mysticism in Historical Miscellany pp. 61-59; Mediaeval Indian Culture p. 46.
20. Siyaru’l Auliā quoted in Mediaeval Indian Culture p. 37.
27. Nainar, SMH: Arab Geographers’ Knowledge of Southern India p. 128.
30. Hansi inscr. IA 1912, p. 18; Mahoba inscr. FI. I. 221, verse 17; Rṛ. VII. 53, 64; Hammīramada-mardana of Jayasirīha Suri; Hammīra-mahākāvya of Nayachandra; Cf. Ģṛiḍhara’s Devapattan Praśasti dated 1216 A. D. EI. II. 445, verse 43.
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38. Ibid. IV. 47. 40.
CHAPTER V

Position of Women in Society

Women as dependents:

The Śrautāṇiṣṭāna and digests of the period under survey give us the impression that women had no independent legal status. The theory of perpetual tutelage affected their personal status. They were to remain chaste not only in their conduct but also in their thought. Women, the Śukranīśāra, lays down, are to assist in the function of the males and also in agriculture and store-keeping. It was because of their dependent position that the law-givers and digest-writers ordained that the superseded and adulterous wives were to be maintained by their husbands. Both Lakṣmīdhara and Viśnunātha recommend that a superseded wife should receive from her husband a sum equal to the expenses of her marriage or as much as the new wife receives as a wedding gift. A woman could not dispose of her husband's property. She was never to be called to Court for giving evidence except in matters relating to women.

Respect for Women:

Women continued to be respected as in ancient India. An ancient Indian sage declared “strike not with a blossom a woman guilty of a hundred faults”. Śukra states that women should be addressed as sister and subhagā. The highest respect was shown for the mother. Kṣemendra tells us that the mother's position was superior to that of gurus. She was not to be disobeyed even on a single occasion. It is interesting to note here that quoting Baudhāyana and Gautama, Lakṣmīdhara recommends that a son should abandon the father who kills the King, who teaches the Śūdra, who accepts money from Śūdras, for performing his own sacrifices or sacrifices on behalf of Śūdras, who is guilty of killing embryos, who
lives with the lowest classes or who cohabits with a female of the low caste, but never the mother even when she is excommunicated.\textsuperscript{16} Chanḍeśvara\textsuperscript{11}, however, omits the dicta of Gautama and Baudhāyana, and holds the view that both the parents are to be obeyed and served, even if they become outcastes.

The position of women improved considerably during the tenth and twelfth centuries A.D. Dr. Ghoshal and Dr. R. C. Majumdar after discussing the views of the Śnīrtichandrika, Vijñānesevara, Dhāresvara and Viśvarūpa, arrives at the conclusion that “a distinct improvement of their status is observable in respect of their rights of property”.\textsuperscript{12} We find corroboration of this view from the writings of Jīmūtavāhana, who lays down that a widow has the right to inherit her husband’s entire property in the absence of any male issue.\textsuperscript{13} Dr. Asoke Majumdar has shown that the two documents in the Lekhāpaddhati called Vibhāgapatravidhi dated V.S. 1288: declare the right of a widow to a share, which is equal to that enjoyed by the son and that the successors are liable to contribute equally for the marriage expenses of the unmarried sister.\textsuperscript{14} In this connection it is necessary to note the observations of Alberuni. He states: “the chief rule of their law of inheritance is this, that the women do not inherit, except the daughter. She gets the fourth part of the share of a son, according to a passage in the book, Manu.”\textsuperscript{15} Alberuni must have been wrongly informed in the matter of succession of widows to property. But his statement is partially true with regard to the unmarried daughter, who, according to Manu, is entitled to get one-fourth of the share of the deceased father’s property. Both Jīmūtavāhana and Vijñānesevara\textsuperscript{16} preferred an unmarried daughter as heir to a married daughter. Alberuni could not possibly know the views of Gautama (28.22) and Yājñavalkya (II. 135) which has been quoted in the Mitāksharā prescribing that among the “married daughters the indigent (or unprovided for) one is to be preferred to one who is well-placed.” Jīmūtavāhana\textsuperscript{17} was also in favour
of the succession of a married daughter having a son in preference to a widowed or barren daughter. But the Šukranitiṣāra recommends that the unmarried daughter ought to get half of the son’s share and the married daughter’s son half of that. The daughter herself was to get one-eighth, while the widow was to receive one-fourth of the property of her deceased husband.

Epigraphic records and contemporary literature reveal that women sometimes held important positions in the Šate. Inscriptions refer to estates independently held by the Chāhamāna and Gāhadavāla queens. Kalhaṇa refers to one Dāmara lady from Ṇilāśva who remained faithful to King Jayasīlaha at the time of Bhoja’s revolt. Thus some women owned by their right important estates even during the lifetime of their husbands. There are also plenty of instances which show the enormous political influence of women in Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. Soon after the death of the Šāhiya prince Rudrapāla, King Ananta came under the influence of his able queen Sūryamaṭī. Thanks to her assumption of control over administration, the King became free from the heavy financial strains which had led earlier to the pawning of the royal diadem and the throne to a foreign trader. As a result of the appointment by Sūryamaṭī of able ministers like Kṣema, Keśava and also a servant of humble origin to the post of prime minister, peace and prosperity returned to Kashmir and the King was able to assert authority over the neighbouring hill-tracts. But the happy days came to an end soon. It was due to the misfortune that the Queen, in spite of the advice of wise counsellors, successfully persuaded the King to abdicate the throne in 1063 A. D. in favour of their son Kalaśa who was a licentious person. Soon after the coronation of Kalaśa, the royal couple regretted the decision. The resumption of regal functions by Ananta caused a rupture between the father and the son. As Ananta was weak enough to be induced by his wife, he committed the blunder of not imprisoning his son and lived a retired life in the sacred town of Vijayesvara. Events
moved rapidly. Kalaśa set fire to the town, where his father was residing and deprived his parents of all the treasures. When Kalaśa insisted on sending Ananta to exile, the old King, after being insulted by his wife, committed suicide in 1081 A.D.

As autocracy was the normal form of government, there was bound to be much intrigue for succession to the throne, especially when the rival queens vied with one another for securing the nomination of their own son. The ladies in the harem became adept in palace intrigues. The Agni Purāṇa warns the king against trusting a wife who has got a son. The queens played an important part in the drama of succession to the throne. The conspiracy which succeeded in enthroning Loṭhana, brother of Sussala and uncle of Jayasiṅhha to the throne of Lohara in 1130 A.D. against King Jayasiṅhha, drew support from some important ladies in the royal family. Kalhaṇikā, the queen of Jayasiṅhha, contributed most to the prosperity of Kashmir in about the middle of the twelfth century. She mediated in the quarrel between Bhoja and Jayasiṅhha. Another queen of Jayasiṅhha, named Raḍḍādevī had also enormous influence. By marrying their daughters Menilā and Rājyaśri, King Bhūpāla and Ghaṭotkacha respectively rose to an honourable position and the height of fortune. Kalhaṇa also records about her that “owing to the constant attachment of the King, the punishment or reward even of princes depends immediately and without fail upon her will”. Merutuṅga tells us that Sūhava was angry with Jayachchandra for refusing to declare her son as crown prince, invited the Turko-Afghans and ultimately caused the defeat and drowning of Jayachchandra Gāhaḍavāla in the river. A similar story has been related by Ferishta with regard to the wife of the Rājā of Uch. The part played by Mayanailladevī, the mother of the Chaulukya King Jayasiṅhha, is in refreshing contrast to the wives of the Rājās of Uch and Kanauj. She managed the affairs of the kingdom during the minority of her son. Another noble Chaulukya lady was Nāikidevī, the mother of Mūlarāja II (1176-78 A.D.), who fought and defeated the
army of Turko-Aフギarchs, probably of Muizuddin bin Sām, at Gaḍaraghaṭṭa possibly near Mt. Abu.²⁹

Their Political Activity:
Not only members of the royal family, but also wives of feudatories and even ordinary women are known to have taken part in political affairs. There are instances from Kashmir during the reign of Jayasimha. The mother of Mallārjuna went on a political mission to bring about reconciliation between the two brothers, namely, King Jayasimha and her son.³⁰

Some women of the eleventh and twelfth centuries were bold enough to take part in war too. Dr. D. C. Sircar³¹ has referred to such Kashmir ladies as Chuḍā and Sillā who fought at the head of their troops. The Chaulukya queen Nāiki fought for the defence of Gujarat, “taking her son (Mūlarāja II) in her lap”, records Merutunga. She is said to have “fought at Gaḍaraghaṭṭa and conquered the King of Mlechchas by the aid of a mass of rain clouds that came out of season attracted by her virtue”. Urged by the same patriotic instinct the Rajput queen Karmadevī also fought against Qutubuddin Aibak.³²

There is, however, no specific reference to women acting as governors in the kingdoms of Northern India during our period. Dr. Altekar³³ has pointed out this fact. The Bhor State Museum plates dated Šaka 1001/1079 A.D. refer to ministers of Śridevī and Mahaladevī, queens of a feudatory of the Chaulukya kings.³⁴ But it must be pointed out that the history of Kashmir shows at least one specific instance of a Dāmari or female feudatory ruling in Nīlāsva during the reign of Jayasimha.³⁵

Their education:
As early marriage came to be advocated by the Smṛtis long before the Gupta period and accepted by the com-
mentators, there was very little opportunity for women to have higher education. In spite of this handicap, many women rose to fame as poetesses. /Saduktikarmota\cite{36} quotes a poem by one Bhāvadevi, who may be presumed to have flourished during the period under survey. Bhojaprabandha\cite{37} and Prabandhachintaman\cite{38} relate that poetess Sitā studied not only the writings of Chāṇakya on morals and the principles of government, Raghuvanśa and the Kāmasūtra of Vātsyāyana but also the three Vedas. Literacy was probably acquired by the women of genteel society. Some of the sculptures of Bhuvanesvara and Khajuraho depict women as writing love-letters. Dhojī in his Pavanadīta\cite{39} also refers to such a practice. In the Viśvanātha temple at Khajuraho we find a sculpture depicting a woman reading from a book in front of a person, who is probably her teacher.

There are some other indications to show the improvement in the position of women. Manu did not concede to women the right to receive gifts (pratigraha). But Vallālasena in his Dānasāgara\cite{40} draws support from Viṣṇudharmottara in extending the right to the father’s sister, sister, aunt and the grandmother. Lakṣmīdhara\cite{41} quotes Vyāsa to show that one acquires special merit by making gifts to wife, daughter, and mother on any occasion. Following the lead of Vallālasena and Lakṣmīdhara, the author of the Madanaratnapadipa in the 15th century prescribed unqualified dāna to married women. He quotes the Viṣṇudharmottara which lays down that “a dāna to a woman should be given into the husband’s palm and in no other way”.\cite{42} Dr. U. N. Ghoshal has referred to another instance of improvement of women’s position during the Sena times in Bengal. The Senas are described as having brought about “a significant change in the formula of the royal landgrants so as to include the queen in the list of the king’s informants”. But we may point out that the queen in this respect was also recognised by the Gāhādvāla and Kalachuri kings.
Purdah:

The use of veil was customary with the ladies of northern India. The Edilpur copper-plate of Keśavasena tells us that as Keśavasena passed through the city, the ladies saw him and behaved in a coquettish way casting amorous glances. They, of course, gazed at him from the top of the skyscraping houses.\(^{43}\) Slightly earlier than our period, we find the ladies of the harem of Mahābhavagupta I Janamejaya\(^{44}\) (c. 950-975 A. D.) observing purdah in Orissa. The Kathāsaritsāgara also tells us that when Udayana entered Kausāmbī with Vāsavadattā and Padmāvatī, some ladies peeped out at them from the windows, some "with their long-lashed eyes closely applied to the lattice of the windows".\(^{45}\) The practice of covering one's face with a veil, however, was not universal amongst the women of all countries or of all classes. It appears from Dhoiyī's descriptions that the system was not much in vogue at least among the women of Vijayapura, the capital of Lakṣmaṇapāsena. We have already seen how the Kashmir ladies of the royal family appeared before the public without any veil. Queen Raḍḍādevī, who had gone to crown her son at Lohara, openly accepted the homage of the vassals.\(^{46}\)

The common womenfolk did not observe purdah at all under any circumstance. They had to earn their living by working in the open fields. Married women, as in Kauṭilya's or in Medhatithi's time were engaged in spinning and weaving and often engaged themselves in mechanical arts in order to supplement the income of their husbands.\(^{47}\) A story in the Kathāsaritsāgara sums up the attitude towards the use of veils. Ratnaprabhā says "the strict seclusion of women is a mere social custom or rather folly produced by jealousy".\(^{48}\)

In the inscriptions of the period under survey we find the ideal of the conjugal love amongst divine couples was held up before the people. The Rampala copper-plate states that Queen Śrīkāñchenā was to King Trailokyachandra what Śachī was to Indra, Gaurī to Hara and Śrī to Harī.\(^{49}\) Similarly,
the Naihati copper-plate of Vallaśasena compares Vīlasadevī, queen of Vījayasena, with Lakṣmī and Gaurī. The highest aspiration for a woman was to become a faithful wife. Bilhāṇa draws a pen picture of the housewife who feels supreme attachment for her husband but at the same time is respectful to superiors and full of solicitude for the welfare of the younger ones and dependants as well as of other relatives. She behaves in the most friendly manner with her co-wives and is scrupulous in observing the Vratas and rituals. Usually a large number of persons belonging to three or four generations lived together. The Śukranītisāra states: "The chaste wife, step-mother, mother, daughter, father, widow-ed daughter or sister who has no offspring, aunt, brother’s wife, sister, father or mother, grandfather, preceptor who has no son, father-in-law, uncles, grandson who is young and orphan, brother, sister’s son—these must be maintained carefully to the best of one’s ability even under adverse circumstances." It was no easy job for the mistress of the house to maintain peace and order and at the same to minister to the comforts and well-being of such a big family.

REFERENCES TO CHAPTER V

(Position of Women in Society)

2. Sudhikāṇḍam p. 180-181
4. Jīmūtavāhana’s views discussed in HB I. 610.
5. Cf. Manu III. 55
6. Śukranītisāra (ed. Cal.) III. 18.
11. Grihastharaṇākara p. 590-591
12. Struggle for Empire p. 483, 496
15. Sachau II. 164
17. Dāyabhāga XI. 2. 1-3
18. Śukrañītisāra (ed. Cal.) IV. 5. 299-301
20. RT. VIII. 3115
21. Agni Purāṇa Ch. 224. 42.
22. RT. VIII. 1820-1823.
23. Ibid. VIII. 3063-71, 3096-3106, 3118.
24. Ibid. VIII. 3394, 3398-99.
25. Ibid. VIII. 3393.
27. Briggs I. 169-170, tells us that she succumbed to the secret promise of the Ghūrī chief that he would entrust the government to her and marry her daughter. Relying on this promise, the Queen murdered her husband. The kingdom, however, was captured by Muī-zu-dīn Muhammad Ghūrī and the Queen was sent to Ghazni. This statement of Fīrīshṭā has been objected by Dr. Habibullah (The Foundation of Muslim Rule in India p. 37), accepted with reservation by Dr. Ishwari Prasad (Hist. of Mediaeval India p. 114) and without reservations by Sir W. Haig (CHL. III. 38).
30. RT. VIII. 1968-1970
31. Great Women of India p. 290
33. Altekar, A. S.: State and Government in Ancient India (ed. 1949) p. 57; Cf. his article in Great Women p. 43.
34. Eli. XXII. 188.
35. RT. VIII. 3115
36. Sadukti II. 47.1
38. Prabandhachintāmaṇi. (Tr. Tawney) p. 63; Singhi Jain p. 53f.
39. Pavanadūtam verse 40
41. Dānakāṇḍa p. 40
42. Madanaratnadānapradipa p. 80
43. IB. III. p. 129 verse 23.
44. IHQ. XX. (1944) p. 242. (Kalibhana grant, line 15)
45. Kathasaritsagara (Tr. Tawney) Vol. II. p. 50.
46. RT. VIII. 3303
47. Cf. Dayabhaga (ed. Colebrooke) p. 85
49. IB. III p. 7 verse 6.
50. Ibid. III. p. 77
51. SP. p. 564, No. 3756
52. Sukranitisara (ed. Sarkar) Ch. III. 243-248
CHAPTER VI

The Educational System

The system of education as outlined in the dharmasāstras and nibandhas fails to convey an adequate idea of the institutions and methods for imparting instructions to students of different categories in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. If one depends upon them exclusively, he would get no idea about the great universities of Nalanda and Vikramasila. The Brāhmaṇa digest-writers like Lakṣmīdhara and commentators like Aparārka and Vijñāneśvara confine their attention almost exclusively to the education of the Brāhmaṇas who would dedicate their life to the study and teaching of the Vedic lore. To them the object of education continued to be the attainment of that knowledge which enables a person to realise the complete identity of the self with the supreme absolute. All other subjects were looked down upon as Aparā Vidyā, inferior or delusive knowledge as contrasted to the Parā Vidyā. A long and arduous course of training, lasting for many years, or in some cases even throughout the life, was envisaged for the Brāhmaṇa who was expected to minister to the spiritual needs of the people. It is evident that these writers were not concerned with such training of pupils as would enable them to earn their livelihood by supplying goods and services required by the society.

A modern historian of socio-economic institutions, however, cannot ignore the fact that the highly-skilled architects of huge temples, the sculptors of beautiful images, the jewellers of excellent diadems and ornaments, the learned physicians, the wonderful chemists, who excited the admiration of Alberuni* and thousand other persons, displaying technological

* When Alberuni failed to learn the science of alchemy and preparation of a compound with gold, he observed, “The adepts in
skill in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, must have had some sort of education. People engaged in agriculture, industries, trade and banking as well as the learned professions like medicine and engineering had an overwhelmingly numerical superiority over the Brāhmaṇas. But the Brāhmaṇa writers did not, as a rule, condescend to take any notice of their method of education. We have shown already that they regarded all those, who earned their livelihood by professing any of the fine arts, as socially inferior, though we find in the Chhāndogya Upaniṣada (VII. 1. 2) no less a personage than Nārada as an expert in Devajana-vidyā which included arts like dancing and singing. The Smṛtichandrikā (II p. 195) quotes Brāhaspati to indicate that the śīlpas or crafts like dancing or preparing ornaments of gold are to be learnt by persons in the house of masters, under whom a period of apprenticeship has got to be served. Vijñāneśvara in course of explaining Yājñavalkya (II. 184) lends support to the view that the apprentice had to stipulate definitely the period during which he would stay with the master who would be entitled to appropriate the proceeds from his work, on providing him with board and lodging only. The learned author of the Mitākṣara regards Ayurveda as a śīlpa which is to be learnt under the same apprentice system. It may be recalled in this connection that Ayurveda (medicine), Dhanurveda (military science), Gāndharvaveda (music and dancing) and Arthaśāstra (the science of public administration) had in ancient India the status of Upa-Vedas, which were affiliated to Rgveda, Sāmaveda, Yajur and Atharvavedas respectively. Even Aparārka, who flourished in the first half of the twelfth century, quotes a verse of the Vishnu-Purāṇa showing that this art try to keep it concealed, and shrink back from intercourse with those who do not belong to them. Therefore I have not been able to learn from the Hindus which methods they follow in this science and what element they principally use." (Ed. Sachau, Vol. I, p. 187).
these, along with the traditional fourteen, namely, the four Vedas, six Vedāṅgas and Logic, Mimāṃsā, Purāṇa, Itiḥāsa and the Dharmāśāstras, constitute the eighteen Vidyās or subjects of learning.

The Śukranitīṣāra treats Arthāsāstra as an independent Vidyā and not as an Upa-Veda like Ayurveda, Dhanurveda and Gandharvaveda. This work says that ten Kalās are derived from Ayurveda, namely, preparation of alcohol, surgical operations, cooking, gardening, metallurgy, confectionery, pharmacy, analysis and synthesis of metals, alloys and salts. Though there is an apparent incongruity in jumbling up subjects like cooking and confectionery with surgery, metallurgy and chemistry, yet it gives us an indication of the technological courses which were taught in mediaeval India. Much research work was done in Ayurveda in this period. The Chikitsāsaṅgraha, popularly known as ‘Chakradatta’ and the Lohapaddhati of Suresvara deal with metallic preparations and their use in medicine. One of the monasteries excavated at Nalanda contains big ovens indicating that chemical experiments used to be shown to the students there. The science of metallurgy is described in almost contemporary works like Rasaratnasamuchchaya, Rasārṇava Rasendrachūḍāmaṇi, Rasā-prakāśa-sudhākara. Seven Kalās, namely dancing, playing on musical instruments, decorations, antics, laying out beds, juggling, and erotic were affiliated to the Gāndharvavidyā. The Dhanurveda had five branches1, namely, taking up of stands for the employment of arms, duelling, marking, battle arrays and employment of horses, chariots etc. Besides these Śukranitīṣāra enumerates some technological subjects like the construction of palaces and buildings, excavation of tanks and canals, manufacture of clocks, watches and musical instruments, dyeing, testing of metals, preparation of artificial gems and metals, enamelling, extraction and preparation of oils from fats and seeds, glasswork, work in iron foundries, testing of gems, rope-making, thread-spinning, weaving, polishing of earthen, wooden,
Brāhmaṇas recite the Vedas but very few of them knew their meaning, and "still less is the number of those who master the contents of the Veda and their interpretation to such a degree as to be able to hold a theological disputation." The correctness of the observation of Alberuni can be shown from the Brāhmaṇa-Sarvasva.\textsuperscript{11} Halāyudha, (the author of Brāhmaṇa-Sarvasva) writes that the Utkalas and Pāśchātyas simply memorize the Veda. On the other hand the Rāḍhīyas and Vārendras of Bengal pay more attention to the sacrificial application of the Mantras and study the meaning of only a portion of the Vedic texts in the light of the Mimāṁsā School, without memorising them.\textsuperscript{12} The defective nature of the Vedic studies may be seen in Kashmir too. Adityadarśana’s statement shows that the decadence of Vedic scholarship existed for a long time. Living in the middle of the Muslim period of Kashmir, he laments, ‘Priests, claiming Vedic knowledge read the Vedas, as a rule, very superficially and cannot understand the meaning of even a word from them. They are satisfied with mere recitation of texts.”\textsuperscript{13} Hence in order to bring about an immediate improvement in the studies, Halāyudha wrote his Brāhmaṇasarvasva. For those who could not read the entire Vedic literature, he collected something like 400 mantras. He himself admitted that the book was meant only for the followers of the Kāṇva recension of the Vājasaneyī Yajurveda, and particularly for the Rāḍhīya and Vārendra Brāhmaṇas.\textsuperscript{14} It is certain that only some parts of the Vedas were memorised by the students. Oral teaching of the Vedas was favoured in Northern India in the twelfth century\textsuperscript{15} A.D. Both Lakṣmīdhara and Alberuni inform us that the Vedas are to be studied in secluded areas and open fields.\textsuperscript{16} Lakṣmīdhara also tells us that the instruction in the Vedas are neither to be given in the towns, roads, nor before the Śūdras and barbers.\textsuperscript{17} But contemporary epigraphic and literary records show that the Vedas were recited in important āṛthaś and towns like Banaras,\textsuperscript{18} Gaya\textsuperscript{19} and Nāgaratīrtha.\textsuperscript{20} The Dharmaśāstras and Purāṇas were widely read by
students. Grammar and astrology gained ascendancy during the period under survey. Not only were there numerous recasts of Pāṇini’s Aśṭādhyāyī, but also new schools of grammar by Jainendra, Kātantra and Hemachandra.21 On astrology, there were innumerable compositions like Bhoja’s Rājanārtāṇḍa, Bhīmeparākrama and Bhujabalanibandha.22 Someśvara’s Mānasollāsa, Bhavadeva’s works etc. Some works on astronomy like Rājamanḍaka of Bhoja and Bhāsvati of Śatānanda were written in the 11th century. The Dvīśāraya informs us that the Chalukya King Jayasiṃha established a school for studying Jyotiṣa.23 A chieftain of Khandesh also established a college for the study of astronomer Bhāskarāchārya’s works.24

Logic continued to be a favourite subject of study. Prof. Dinesh Chandra Bhattacharyya has written a long article on the study of Bhatṭa and Prabhākara schools in Bengal from the days of Śridhara, author of Nyāyakandali to Chāṇḍīdāsa of the 13th century A.D. His contention is proved by references in Chakradaśaṅgraha, Prabodhachandrodaya (II. 3 and 7), Chaturvargachintāmani of Hemādri, Dvaitanirṇaya of Vāchaspati Miśra, Kāvyaprakāśadipikā (Ch. V) of Chāṇḍīdāsa, Latākamelaka of Saṅkhādihara (Act II. 16).25 Murāri, the composer of the Gaya inscription of Yakṣapāla was a prominent student of Nyāya.26 A college of Nyāya was also established by the Chaulukya King Jayasiṃha.27 Curiously enough, we find that for the first time in Indian curriculum the Kauṭilya Arthaśāstra was introduced in the twelfth century. Gaṅgādhara, a minister of the Kālachuri King Ratnadeva III of Ratanpur, was well versed in the science of Chāṇakya.28 Malladeva, a Brāhmaṇa poet of Anahillapātaka, was also well-versed in the Arthaśāstra of Kauṭilya.29

Specialisation in some branches of the Vedas and Vedāṅgas was the order of the day. But some scholars acquired knowledge in a large variety of subjects. Thus Bhatṭa Bhavadeva of Bengal was proficient not only in Advaitabrahmaṇa, but also in Mīmāṃsā, Tantras, astrology and Buddhist philosophy.
Hemachandra and Kṣemendra were polymaths of the age. Instances of such scholars can be multiplied.

**Education of a Prince:**

Princes received a specialised type of education. They were trained in such a manner that they could become scholars as well as administrators. Such scholar-kings of our period are Bhoja of Paramāra dynasty, Someśvara III of the Chālukya dynasty of Kalyāṇa and Vāllālasena of the Sena dynasty. A perusal of the chapter on the ‘Protection of the Prince’ in the Rājadharmākāṇḍa shows that the princes of the period under survey received an education which did not differ much from that imparted in ancient India. He learnt the sūtras relating to Dharma, Artha, Kāma, crafts, as well as archery and physical exercises. A similar type of education is also recommended in Mānasollāsa. That the princes received education in Kāmaśāstra is evident from the recommendations in Agni Purāṇa and the Bāhraspatya Arthaśāstra.

**Relation between Teacher and Pupil:**

Dr. U. N. Ghoshal has discussed the relation between the Vedic teacher and his pupil in matters of fees, punishment to students and the three higher castes who were admitted to schools. The Brahmachārikāṇḍa of Lākshmīdhara also gives similar details on this matter. Here we shall again refer to some striking features mentioned by him. Lākshmīdhara quoting a passage of the Āpastamba (I. 8. 24-28) tells us that the teacher should love his pupil like a son and he should be attentive to all his needs. No teacher has the right of withholding his knowledge from a student. Vidyā is not the property of a teacher, but it is to be regarded as a deposit with him. It is interesting to note that Lākshmīdhara does not like that students should associate with teachers who are enemies of the state. Similarly, a student should not take lessons from an immoral teacher. The same writer also refers to the relation between the student and the members
of the teacher’s family in a short chapter entitled Guru-
.putrabhāryānuvṛttiḥ in Brahmachārikāṇḍa. The son of the
teacher is entitled to veneration similar to that shown to the
teacher but the pupil is not to eat the remnants of food, nor to
shampoo the body, nor wash the feet of the guru’s son. Quot-
ing Manu (II. 210-215), he further states that the wife of the
teacher is entitled to the same honour as shown to the
teacher. But no student should touch their body nor help them
in their toilet. The feet of the low-born wives of the Guru
are not to be touched.40

Monastic establishments:

During the period under survey, the following were the
notable monasteries imparting education. In Bihar flourished
the Nalanda, Vikramasila, Odantapuri, and Phullahari
monasteries near Monghyr. Inscriptions and literature show
that some of the famous vihāras or Buddhist monasteries were
also located in North and Eastern Bengal, as for example,
Jagaddala, Somapura and Devikota in North Bengal, Vikrama-
puri in Dacca, Pattikeraka in Comilla and Panditavihāra in
Chittagong. Similar centres in the Uttar Pradesh were situated
in Sarnath41 and Jetavana.42 In Kashmir the following were
the notable vihāras: Diddā, Indrādevībhavana, Chaṅkuṇa,
Ratnadevī, Bhālerakaprapā, Sulla, Bijja and another on the
banks of the river Vitastā.43 Sussalā, the wife of the minister
Rilhaṇa built some halls for students.44 The Nalanda inscrip-
tion of Vipulaśrimitra tells us that Vipulaśrimitra in the fourth
year of Mahendrapāla (c. 900 A.D.) carried out repairs at the
monastery of Pitāmaha at Choyaṇḍaka.45 A minor vihāra
was in existence at Gaya which was established by Brāhmaṇa
in the fifty-first year of Laksmaṇasena46. The Kathāsaritsāgara
(XXXII. 42-43) speaks of a monastery at Valabhī. A perusal
of the Charkhari plate of Paramardideva dated 1178 A. D.
suggests that a monastery possibly existed in Bundelkhand.47
We have no means to find out whether the monasteries
noticed by Hiuen Tsang in the places mentioned below
continued to flourish in the eleventh-twelfth centuries A.D.: Nagarkot, Udyana, Jalandhara, Mathura, Sthanesvara, Srughna, Matipura, Brahmapura, Govisana, Ahichchatra, Samkasya, Kanauj, Navadevakula, Ayodhya, Hayamukha, Prayaga, Visoka, Kapilavastu, Banaras, Ramagrama, Ghazipur, Tilosisaka, Gunamati, Silabhadra near Gaya, Kajangala, Pundravardhana, Kamarupa, Samatata, Tamralipti, Orissa, Berar, Malwa, Valabhi, Anandapura, Surat, Ujjayini and Chitor. Amongst these places Nepal and Orissa became famous centres of Tantric Buddhism in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D.

Most of the Buddhist educational institutions were maintained and aided by royal patronage. The Pala kings established and gave large donations to Nalanda, Vikramasila, Odantapurita and the Jagaddalavihāra in Varendri. The kings, queens and ministers of Kashmir erected, repaired and endowed several monasteries. Queen Kumārādevī and her husband Govindachandra Gāhaḍavāla resuscitated and endowed monasteries at Sarnath and Jetavana. A feudatory of the Gāhaḍavālas, named Vidyādhara, though a Śaiva established a monastery at Jávrisa. Sometimes an ascetic like Vipulasrīmitra repaired and established convents at Nalanda and Choyaṇḍaka. One Brāhmaṇ named Dāmodara erected a vihāra at Gaya in the fifty-first year of Laksmaṇasena.

These monasteries imparted education to students from all parts of India and abroad. Many scholars have given details of the native and foreign scholars at the Nalanda monasteries since the fifth century A.D. Even in the early thirteenth century A.D. the Tibetan scholar Dharmasvāmin Śrī Chaglo- TSA-ba came to study at Nalanda. The University of Vikramasila gathered reputed teachers like Śākyāśri from Kashmir, Ratnakirti, Vairochana, Kanakasrī and Buddhāśrī from Nepal. The Jetavana convent at Sravasti attracted teachers and scholars from distant areas of India in the days of Govindachandra Gāhaḍavāla. Here lived the teacher Śākyarakṣita, hailing from Utkala or Orissa and his student
Vāgīśvararakṣita from Chola country. The Kathāsaritsāgara relates how a Brāhmaṇa named Vasudatta, belonging to the Antarvedī region in the Ganges-Yamuna Valley, sent his sixteen-year-old son Viṣṇudatta to the University of Valabbi for education. The famous monasteries afforded a common platform for the free association of scholars belonging to different parts of India and her neighbouring countries.

Writing of Books in Vihāra:

Many original books and commentaries were written in the monasteries and especially at Nalanda, Vikramasila, Phulahari in Bihar, Pañḍita Vihāra, Sannagara and Jagaddala by famous scholars like Aṭṭā Dīpankara, Abhayākaragupta, Vanaratna, Vibhutichandra, Dānasīla, Mokshākaragupta, and Subhākaragupta. Kumārachandra and Dharmākara composed works on Tantra and Samvaravyākhya in the universities of Vikramapuri (Dacca) and Jagaddala (Rajshahi) respectively. At Sarnatha, a devout Mahāyāna Buddhist lady named Māmakā caused the compilation of a copy of the Aṣṭasāhasrīkā in a monastery known as the Saddharma-chakra-pravartana-vihāra in KS 810/1058 A.D. Kṣemendra tells us that he wrote Bodhisattvāvadānakalpalatā in a cave convent. In the quiet atmosphere of the Ratnagupta and Ratnaraśmi vihāras of Kashmir, many Mahāyāna works were translated into Tibetan language in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

The heads of these vihāras tried to maintain a rigid control over students and teachers. Aṭṭā during his stay at the Vikramasila monastery, did not hesitate to expel, Tantric teachers like Naṭekana and Vajrapāṇi, and a priest named Divākarachandra, who led a married life. It appears, however, that the vast wealth of the monasteries exercised a corrupting influence in the twelfth century. Merutuṅga quotes an adage to the effect that for one who holds office in the state for three months or functions as abbot of a monastery for three days, hell is certain. An interesting sidelight of the result of allowing women to enter monastic institu-
tion is reflected in the *Samayamātrika* of Kṣemendra.41 A prostitute took shelter in the Kṛtyāśramavihāra, and changing her name to Vajraghaṇṭā, became a nun and pretended to worship. A large number of bangles made of conchshell have been found during the excavations at Nalanda; but we do not know whether at any period nuns were allowed to live there.

The Jainas also imparted instructions in monasteries. We have only two inscriptions relating to the Jaina vihāra during our period. The Kuvara (Kumāra) vihāra was erected in VS 1221/1165 A.D. on the fort of Kāchchanagiri near modern Jalor (Rajputana) by the Chalukya King Kumārapāla. It was later on rebuilt by the Bhāṇḍārī Yaśovīra under the orders of the Chāhamāna King Samarasiṇha in V. S. 1242/1185 A. D.42

*Maṭhas*:

The *maṭhas* in some respects were the counterparts of monasteries of mediaeval Europe. These were usually managed by the followers of religions other than Buddhism. The Kashmiri kings like Ananta, Uccala and Jayasimha built *maṭhas*.43 The latter established permanent endowments for all the *maṭhas*. But a still larger number of such educational institutions were founded and endowed by queens, princesses, ministers and other Kāyasthas in Kashmir,44 especially during the reign of king Jayasimha (1128-1155 A.D.) A king named Vaidyanātha of Orissa built a *maṭha*.45 Similar patronage to learning by the establishment of *maṭhas* was shown by the Kalachuri 46 and Chalukya Kings of Gujarat. It is interesting to note here that sometimes officials built such educational institutions abroad. Kandarpa, even after retirement, beautified the eastern region of Bānaras with *maṭhas*.47

The very fact that the *agrahāras* were attached to the *maṭhas* shows that there were residential arrangements for students and teachers. Kṣemendra refers to students from Gauḍa staying in Kashmir.48 The *maṭhas* founded by Jayasimha's minister, Alanḍkāra49 and the Commander-in-Chief
Udaya⁷⁶ had numerous 'brahma puris'. The word brahma puri means either a residence of Brāhmaṇas or a city inhabited by Brāhmaṇas.⁷¹

Temples were attached usually to maṭhas, as we find in case of vihāras. The maṭhas built by the minister Maṅkha had a large number of Śiva images and liṅgas.⁷² Verse 85 of the Bijnoli Rock inscription of the Chāhamāna King Someśvara dated V. S. 1226/1170 A. D. informs us that a maṭha was attached to the Jaina temple of Pārśvanāth, which was situated on the bank of the river Revā.⁷³

Another notable feature of the Kashmiri maṭhas was that all persons who arrived there, were provided with food. King Jayasīhāha erected a maṭha in honour of Chandalā and provided it with ample means, and from its door no guest was turned away⁷⁴.

The Śaiva teachers of the Mattamayūra clan studied various orthodox and heterodox religious books and philosophy.⁷⁵ They had a series of maṭhas. Purandara first established a maṭha at Mattamayūra and then at Ranipadra⁷⁶ in the first half of the ninth century A.D. His fourth successor Vyomaśiva enlarged and repaired the latter maṭha. A perusal of the Bilhari and Chandrehe inscriptions would suggest that the third spiritual successor of Purandara, also called Pulandara, had established himself at Madhumati (identified by Mirashi with the village Mahua, in Terahi). Hridayaśiva, the grand-disciple of Purandara alias Madhumateya, received charge of the royal maṭhas of Vaidyanātha and Nauhāleśvara in the latter half of the 10th century A.D. Hridayaśiva handed over the management of the latter maṭha to his disciple Aghoraśiva. Another branch of the Mattamayūra clan lived at the Golaki maṭha at Bheraghat which is about 10 miles from Tripurī, the capital of the Kalachuri Kings. Vimalaśiva, the Rājaguru of the Kalachuri King Jayasīhāha, was a pupil of Kīrttiśiva of the Golaki-maṭha, Vimalaśiva erected a number of maṭhas.⁷⁷ Viśvesvaraśambhu, another pupil of the Golaki-maṭha did the greatest service by establishing many educa-
tional institutions at different spots, viz., Viśveśvara Golakī. Cudappa, Kurnool, Guntur and North Arcot in modern Andhra and Madras states, in the first half of the 13th century.⁷⁸

Like the Buddhist monastic establishments, the maṭhas also attracted scholars from distant places. We have already seen that Kashmiri maṭhas attracted students from Gauḍa. The foundation of Sinhapura had a large number of brāhmaṇas who hailed from the Indus region and also from Drāviḍa region.⁷⁹ The Golakīmaṭha at Bheraghat had pupilslike Vimalaśiva who hailed from Kerala and his disciple's disciple Viśveśvaraśambhu, a resident of Pūrvagrāma in Southern Rāḍha in Gauḍa⁸⁰.

The renowned maṭhas did not suffer from want of money. The Ranod inscription of the end of the tenth or eleventh century A. D. refers to the prosperity of a renovated maṭha at Raniṇāḍra in these lines: “There had been abundance of corn plants outside and plenty of jewels inside it; and also tall horses which were neighing and the haughty rutting elephants were crying.”⁸¹ The Malkapuram inscription gives an insight into the elaborate arrangements for education provided in the Viśveśvara Golakīmaṭha which, however, was situated in the Andhra country. Sixty Brāhmaṇa families were imported from the Tamil country. “In addition to these there were Brahmans well versed in the three Vedas, in grammar, in logic and in general literature and five others skilled in philosophy... The village had also a physician and an accountant (kāyasṭhā), six Brāhmin servants were provided for the choulry and the maṭha, two for cooking and four for performing other miscellaneous duties. Ten persons bearing the appellation Virabhadras were appointed as guardian of the village... The village was also provided with a set of ten artisans, consisting of a goldsmith, a coppersmith, a blacksmith, a carpenter (Kāru), a stone-mason, a maker of stone-images stūpā, a basket-maker (vaṁśakāraḥ), a potter and a barber headed by a master artisan Sthapati... The temple-
establishment consisted of ten dancing girls, eight persons to play on musical instruments of various sorts, fourteen singers, six persons for beating drums etc., and a Kashmiririan whose duties are not stated. A number (not specified) of Brāhmaṇas from Viśveśvaraśiva's native village were employed to keep accounts of the income and expenditure of the village and temple. All the above-mentioned persons were assigned lands for their emoluments and they were allowed to enjoy these lands from generation to generation with rights of ownership... To supervise the administration of the charity a superintendent āchārya was appointed with an allowance āchārya bhogam of one hundred nishkas (a year presumably)." The association of dancing girls with a centre where education was to be imparted must have had a disastrous consequence on the moral character of the teachers and students.

Mathas, by receiving endowments, had contacts with contemporary kings. The Śaiva āchāryas of the Mattamayūra clan became spiritual preceptors of several kings of the Chedi Dynasty for over three centuries. The kings who invited the teachers of the Mattamayūra mathas, were Yuvarājadeva I, Laksmanarāja, Yasaḥkarna, Gayākarna, Narasimha, Jayasimha and Vijayasiṃha. The social status of the authorities of these educational institutions was sufficiently high.

Alberuni refers to Varanasi and the Kuṭṭanīmatam and the Kathāsaritśāgara to Pataliputra as great centres of learning. Somadeva relates how Devadatta of the Gangetic valley and Kālanemi and Vigatābhyaya of Malwa went to Pataliputra for studies. Mithila began to rise in prominence as a centre of learning towards the end of the 12th century. Another centre of Sanskrit learning was, at Mt. Abu. Here, according to Dvīḍirāṣṭa of Hemachandra, many foreign students came to receive education. Learned scholars of this age exchanged their ideas in convocations and learned assemblies convened for the purpose. We hear of a convocation of scholars and learned men convened by Añkhakāra, minister of the court of Jayasiṃha of Kashmir. Mākha tells:
us that King Govinda Chandra of Kanauj sent Suhala as a delegate to that assembly. The Pañḍītaś of all the states of Northern India took part in learned discussions. In Bengal we hear of Bhavadeva, who is described in Bhuvanesvar inscription, as stoutly opposing the Buddhist and heretic dialecticians. We learn from the Kharataragachchhapattāvalī that the Chāhamāna King Pṛthvirāja III and his Sarvādri-kārin Kaimāsa presided over a discussion between Nārāyaṇa and Jinapati Śūri. The meeting was also attended by the court pañḍitaś like Vāgiśvara, Janārdana Gauḍa and Vidyā-pati. Another pattāvalī of the Jaina sect, informs us that Jineśvara defeated the Chaityavāsins or Buddhists before the royal court of the Chalukya King Durlabharāja in V. S. 1080/1023 A. D. But more significant was the debate between the Śvetāmbara teacher Devachandra Śūri, preceptor of Hemachandra and the Digambara scholar named Kumudachandra, hailing from Karṇāṭa in the presence of King Jayasimha Siddharāja on the full moon day of Vaisākha in V. S. 1181/c. 1124 A. D. The incident is related in the contemporary drama Mudrita-Kumudachandra and also in the Prabandhachintāmani and the Prabhāvakacharita. The subject of the dispute was the salvation of women. The Digambara ēçhārya was defeated after several days of discussion. The defeat was so decisive that Śvetāmbara doctrine became the legal Jaina doctrine in Gujarāt. The Dubkund inscription of V. S. 1145/1088 A. D. also relates that the Jaina guru Śāntiśeṇa defeated hundreds of disputants before the court of King Bhoja of Malwa.

Economic Condition of Teachers:

The teachers of our period often received rewards from kings and feudatory princes. We hear of some teachers who were royal preceptors, e.g., Mahāmahopādhyāya Aniruddha as teacher of Vallālasena, Jinaratna Śūri and Hemachandra of Kumārapāla. They were undoubtedly recipients of large sums of money. Someśvara in his Mānasollāśa tells us that when the education of the prince was completed,
the teacher was amply rewarded with clothes, gold, land and even villages. King Harṣa in his early years of kingship adorned learned men with jewels and bestowed upon them the privilege of (using) litters, horses, parasols etc. Jayaśīnuḥa made the grants of unimpaired fields and houses to men of learning. Kalhaṇa remarks on the king’s piety in these lines, “Safe is the journey for scholars who follow him as their caravan-leader on the path on which his intuition guides, and which has been found by his knowledge.” A certain king Govindarāja of Saurāṣṭra gave several plots of land for supporting learned Brāhmaṇas and their pupils. Such grants to learned men are recommended by the contemporary digest-maker Lakṣmīdhara and also in Śukranītisāra. In spite of liberal grants of some princes to certain teachers, the teaching class as a whole remained wedded to poverty. Dāmodaragupta tells us that none excepting the teaching section of the community was unhappy at Banaras. Many scholars disdained to accept any gift from royal patrons. Prahāsa, a Bengal scholar, refused to accept 900 gold coins in cash and a landed property yielding 1000 coins from Jayapāladeva, a king of Kāmarūpa, in the eleventh century. Similarly, a Jaina ācārya called Jinavallabha boldly refused to accept three villages or 3,00,000 pārutha drāminas from Naravarman, the Paramāra King of Malwa (c. 1097-1111 A.D.). He requested the king, instead, to grant him only two pārutha drāminas from the customs house of Chitore for defraying the expenses of two temples of the Kharatara Jaines. Kṣemendra opines that real scholars and men of learning should neither impart instructions in lieu of money nor should they go to the royal courts.

Scholars going Abroad:

Many scholars were invited to Tibet and China during this period. Not only Dipāṅkara Srijñāna but also, according to Rahula Sankrityayana, Paṇḍit Somanāth, Lakṣmīṅkara, Dūnaśrī, Chandrāṅgūla, Gayādhara, Pha-dam-pa-sangs-gyars,
Mitrayogī or Jaganmitrānanda, Śākyaśrī and nine other scholars went to Tibet in between 1027 A.D. and 1203 A.D. Of these Somnanātha and Śākyaśrī belonged to Kashmir, Gayādhara to Vaiśāli and Mitrayogī to Raṣṭha.\textsuperscript{110} Pha-dam-pa-sangs-gyars visited China in 1101 A.D.\textsuperscript{111} Earlier in between 973 and 1001 A.D. went the famous Fa-Hien (Dharmadeva) from Nalanda and later on in the later half of the eleventh century went Dharmarakṣa, Maitreyabhadra and Śūryaśās from Magadha to China.\textsuperscript{112} Julien informs us of other North Indian educationists who arrived in China between 1025 and 1034 A.D. with presents of Buddhist manuscripts and relics of the Buddha.\textsuperscript{113}

Similarly, a large number of Chinese and Tibetan pilgrims came to India for studying Buddhist scriptures as well as for pilgrimage. Several Chinese pilgrims’ inscriptions are noticeable at Gaya. They date back to 1022, 1023 and 1033 A.D.\textsuperscript{114} The flow of the Chinese pilgrims in the 12th century ceased but the Tibetans continued to visit the Buddhist centres of learning. In between 958 and 1055 A.D. as many as twenty-one students studied at Kashmir. Pandit Rahul Sankrityayana informs us that the Tibetan scholars, Blo-Idan-sesa-rab (1059-1108 A.D.) studied at Kashmir at the feet of the famous teachers Parahitabhadra and Bhavyarāja, Varilo-cha-va under an āchārya at Bodh Gaya.\textsuperscript{115} Marpa (983-1081 A.D.) came to India thrice, and he had the good fortune of meeting Śribhadra of Nalanda and Dipārkhara at Vikramasila and Akara Siddhi at Phullahari in Monghyr.\textsuperscript{116} The cultural contact between India and Tibet did not come to an end even with the Turko-Afghan invasions. Dharmasvāmin Sri Chag-lo-tsaba studied at Nalanda, Gaya and Vaiśāli in the second and third decades of the thirteenth century.\textsuperscript{117}

\textit{Literacy vs. Education}:

The recitation of the age-old Epics and Purāṇas trained men to take note of the moral values of life. Madanapāla
of the Pāla dynasty and Govindarāja of Saurāstra made land grants to the reciters of the Mahābhārata and sacred texts respectively in the eleventh century. Kṣemendra in his Darpadalana describes beautifully the aims and objectives of education: one who is really educated dedicates his life to the promotion of good to humanity, distinguishes between right and wrong, śauca and āśauca, and does not perform magic and miracles and sell his learning. Even Dīpankara, the living lamp of learning of the East, had to use mystic charms to ward off the brigands who tried to steal a little sandalwood table in Nepal on his way to Tibet. The use of magic by the Tāntric teachers is well-known.

Effects of Turko-Afghan Raids:

But a great change in the educational system and the life of educationists came in with the Turko-Afghan invasions. Alberuni himself writes that he did not see any new scientific research. But even these scanty remains of Hindu sciences "retired far away from those parts of the country conquered by us, and have fled to places which our hands cannot yet reach, to Kashmir, Banaras, and other places." The destructive fury of the conquests of Ikhtiyār-ud-dīn Muhammad Bakhtyār Khaljī destroyed the monastic universities of Odantapuri, Nalanda and Vikramasila. The Tibetan scholar Dharmasvāmin (Chag-lo-tsa-ba) in the early part of the 13th century found no trace of the Vikramasila university. It was levelled down to the ground and the stones of the building were thrown into the river Ganges. He mentions another wave of invasion on Nalanda, Gaya and Vaiśālī sometime round about 1220 A.D. in the reign of Sultan Ilutmish. Scholars like Śākyasrī of the Vikramasila had to flee away. Tāranātha relates the story of the migration of these scholars in the wake of the invasion of Bakhtyār Khaljī. He says that Śākyasrī fled to Jagaddala which was located in Odivisa or Orissa and three years later went to Tibet. Amongst the other teachers of the Vikramasila Uni-
versity, Buddhāsārimitra and Vajrāśri went to South India, Ratnarakṣita to Nepal, Jñānakaragupta and another 100 pāṇḍītas to south-west India, Saṅgamaśrijñāna, Raviśribhadra, Chandrākaragupta. 16 mahāantas and 200 junior pāṇḍītas went further east to Rakhan Munan, Kamboja and other countries. The emigration of the Buddhist scholars to Nepal, Tibet and the countries to the east of Kāmarūpa and Tipperah known as Koki-lands, account for the scholastic activities in these countries in the thirteenth century. Magadha suffered a heavy loss. The Turko-Afghans raised a fortress on the site of the Odantavihāra. Hence Tāranātha laments, “In Magadha the doctrine was as good as extinguished. Though there were many people learned and devoted to siddhis at that time, there was no means to apply them to the welfare of beings......only Nāṭeśvara’s little school remained in the Buddhist doctrine.”

Rebuilding of Nalanda:

But Indians and foreigners again rebuilt the educational institutions. Nalanda’s history did not come to “a sudden and tragic end”, as has been held by Prof. N. N. Das Gupta, with the invasions of the Turko-Afghans. The famous monastic establishment had been damaged by fire at an earlier period. It had been repaired by Bālāditya, a Mahāyāna Buddhist hailing from Kauśambi in the eleventh year of Mahiśāla I. The accounts of Dharmasvāmin clearly state that even after the destruction by soldiers of Bakhtyār Khalji, there were eighty vihāras. When the invaders left, scholars and teachers again gathered in the precincts of the University. Dharmasvāmin visited the Nalanda University after its first destruction by the Turko-Afghans. He studied under Rāhulaśribhadra. During his stay at this university, he himself saw another invasion. It also did not bring an end to the institution. The Tibetan chronicler Pag Sam Jon Zang informs us that a monk named Mudita-bhadra and a Magadhan King Kukkuṭasiddhi built temples
and monasteries in the same area. It is quite likely that it was at the new Nalanda mahāvihāra that the son of a ruler of Magadha named Dhyānabhadra studied for a number of years under Vinayabhadra (Lu-Hsien) in the early part of the fourteenth century. The name and history of this Indian priest Dhyānabhadra, who subsequently preached Buddhism in the Inner Palace of the Mongolian Emperor of China, appears in a memorial inscription raised by his disciple, and now preserved in the Korean temple Kuei-yen-ssu (Juniper Rock temple).

Nowhere in the mediaeval world was it considered the duty of the State to promote education amongst citizens under the direct agency of the government. To this rule India proved no exception. But it must be said to the credit of the princes of the eleventh and twelfth centuries that they continued to make liberal contributions for the support of the Mathas, monasteries and individual Brāhmaṇas whose duty it was to carry aloft the torch of learning. The traditional system of providing food and shelter to the students both in the monastic institutions and in the thatched cottage of the Guru also continued uninterrupted. Of course, the Guru expected his Brāhmaṇa pupil to earn his food by begging. The villagers were liberal enough to support them by giving alms. The richer classes considered it their privilege to invite the teacher and his pupils on all ceremonial occasions, and to give them handsome presents.

Though Kṣemendra in his Desopadesa satirises the Gauḍiya students and charges them with drinking wine and visiting houses of ill fame, it is difficult to believe that they received so much in presents at invitations that they could indulge in luxuries of fashionable dress and at the same time afford to pay the price of intoxicants and fees for public women. There was no postal money order system in those days and certainly the Gauḍiya students did not dare to travel to Kashmir with a lot of money with them. As a matter of fact, the life of the students was a hard one. He had to
commit to memory most of the books he studied. He had to copy out the books and commentaries with his own hand. Aparārka in explaining Yājñavalkya (III. 267-268) condemns the selling of books on the Vedas, Vedaṅgas, Smṛti, Itiḥāsa, Purāṇa, Nitiśāstra and Pañcācharātra.131 They could not, therefore, purchase these books from others. The Brāhmaṇic education, however, was narrow in the sense that it did not emphasise the importance of turning pupils into good citizens by teaching them social or natural sciences.

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CHAPTER VII

Land and its Cultivation

Successive invasion of Sultan Mahmud must have struck a heavy blow on the agriculture of Northern India. The Muslim historians have recorded only the plunder of jewels, gold and silver, but they are almost silent about the forcible seizure of the crops standing in the field or lying in the granary of the peasant. Sultan Mahmud used to undertake his long marches in Northern India in early winter and in the spring season when the autumn and Rabi crops had been harvested. For example, he is known to have crossed Yamuna for proceeding to Mathura on the 2nd December, 1018 A.D. with one lakh of horses and twenty thousand foot soldiers. He did not certainly carry provisions for all these men and animals from Ghazni for the whole of the duration of his stay in India. It was only on the occasion of his march to Somanatha through the desert route that the historians speak of soldiers being provided with food, water and forage for many days. But even on this occasion the Sultan collected fresh provisions at Nahrwal, which has been identified with Anahillapataka, the capital of Gujarat. Famine followed in the wake of the huge army and camp followers, who marched through the countryside under the leadership of Sultan Mahmud.

But the cessation of his invasion did not offer the peasants much opportunity for pursuing their avocations peacefully. War and conquering raids by ambitious monarchs were the normal features of the age. The kings used to start their conquering march on the Vijaya Daasami day or the tenth day of the bright half of the month of Ashina, mainly because the harvesting of the autumn paddy used to take place in the bright half of this month. Laksmidhara gives a poetic description of the Navanna festival in his
Niyatakāla Kāṇḍa. From his account we learn that eight hundred years ago the harvesting of paddy used to take place at least a month earlier than at present in Northern India. We get an explanation of the relation between the customary time for the marching of the army and the harvesting of autumn crop in the commentary of Medhātithi who in course of expounding Manu (VII. 182) observes “when the expedition is expected to take a short time, and his force is sufficiently strong, then he may start also during the months of Phālguna and Chaitra, specially against a country which is rich in spring harvests. At this time of the year also, he can obtain fodder and at the same time inflict an injury upon the other party, by destroying the crops standing in the fields.” Though the old law-givers set up the ideal of not allowing the soldiers to march through cultivated fields, yet this was seldom observed by the enemy forces. Political stability is a prime requisite for the pursuit of economic activities and especially in the cultivation of land, in which crops stand in the open for three to five months. Aparārka in explaining Yaj. II. 163 implies that no legal redress is possible for the harm caused to the crop by the horses and elephants belonging to the king and these are simply to be warded off. Numerous inscriptions refer to the immunity of the village granted from chāta and bhata, which have been explained as freedom from supplying shelter, provisions and forced labour to the regular and irregular army. This shows that normally the villages consisting mostly of cultivators had to bear these heavy burdens during the movement of soldiers.

Without entering into the old controversy as to whether, the ownership of land belonged to the state or to particular individuals, we may note that land was regarded as a social trust. The State did not allow an owner to waste the valuable gift of nature. Manu prescribes the imposition of a fine on a cultivator, who does not cultivate his field in proper time, nor guards the crop from being eaten up by animals. Similar-
ly Kauṭilya ordains the confiscation of land from those who do not care to cultivate them. We do not know whether this dictum was responsible for the action taken by Govindachandra in 1120 A. D. in bestowing on Thakkura Vaśiṣṭha the village of Kāraṇḍa, which had been previously given to Rudraśīva by the Kalachuri King Yaśāḥ Karna. We find a similar case of confiscation in the action taken by Lakṣānaśena against the Brāhmaṇa Haridāsa to whom Vallālasena had given a plot of land. The son of the author of the Dānasagāra was certainly aware of the sin incurred by one who resumed the land which had been gifted away previously. Aparārka quotes Brhaspati to say that the result of the resumption of the gift would be hell for sixty thousand years to the resumer.

Several new features are noticeable during the period under survey. It appears that pressure on land increased, possibly due to the adoption of the profession of a farmer by people who had earned their livelihood previously by trade and industry. The invasion of Sultān Mahmūd and the consequent loss of the major portion of the Punīb to the Turks, their subsequent raids and the interminable internecine wars of the eleventh and twelfth centuries could not but affect the trade of the country most adversely. Disturbed political condition always leads to the shrinkage of the volume of trade. If valuable markets were lost, there must have been less production in those industries, which supplied the principal commodities for trade and commerce. A considerable number of persons, therefore, had to seek their livelihood by falling back on land.

Irrigational projects and tanks:

The severe economic drain, which resulted from the invasions of Sultān Mahmūd and also from the chronic warfare of the period, prevented most of the monarchs from undertaking any big irrigational project in this age. From ancient times it has been considered the duty of the king to excavate canals and tanks and provide other facilities for the supply
of water to cultivable land. But in the eleventh and twelfth centuries we do not find record of such efforts by any excepting three solitary kings, namely, Harṣa of Kashmir, Siddharāja Jayasiṁha Chaulukya of Gujarat and one Karṇa. Harṣa (1089-1101) excavated the big Pampā lake, which has been identified by Stein with the lagoon called now Pamba Sar.9 More spectacular was the achievement of Jayasiṁha, who constructed the Sahasralinga lake at Anahillapura. An old inscription states that the water of the river Sarasvatī was canalised to fill up the lake with water.10 The lake has been referred to by Hemachandra in his Dvīṣṭrayakāvyam.11 It has been mentioned in the Kīrtīkaumudi, Maharāja Parājaya and Hammira-Mada-Mardana.12 Merutunga refers to the excavation of the famous Karṇasāgar lake by King Karṇa.13

The digest of this period speak very highly of the gift of tanks, wells etc. It was considered the most meritorious work to make provision for supplying water to land and its people. Accordingly we find a number of ministers and some private persons undertaking this type of work with their resources. Bhāṭṭa Bhavadeva, the minister of Harivarman caused the excavation of a tank before the temple of Viṣṇu in Rādhā. The Bhuvanesvar inscription claims that 'the waterless boundary lands abutting on a village situated in an arid region, has been made by him a reservoir of water which gladdens the soul and mind of the company of tourists sunk in fatigue, and whose beds of lotuses have become devoid of bees as they are fascinated by the reflections on its surface of the lotus-faces of beautiful damsels engaged in bath.' During the reign of Jayapāla of Kāmarūpa, a Brāhmaṇa named Prahaśa caused the excavation of a tank.15 In Bihar, Gaṅgādhara, a counsellor of King Rudramaṇa caused the excavation of a tank in the Gaya district sometime before 1137 A. D.16

In Rajputana we find that tanks were constructed by Lāhinī, the sister of Purnapāla, a Paramāra ruler of Abu, probably at Vasantgaḍh, in Sirohi state, in 1042 A.D.17 In
1086 A.D. Janna, a Teli Patila in the reign of the Paramāra King Udayāditya excavated a tank at Chirihitila. \(^{18}\) Wells were constructed by the Naḍḍūla Chāhamāna King Kelhaṇa and also by Ajayasihtha, a son of his feudatory chief. \(^{19}\) In the kingdom of the Kalachuris, inscriptions refer to the excavation of several tanks by the Śaivite āchāryas and some feudatories. Praśāntaśiva had caused the excavation of a well, but with the passage of time it dried up. His spiritual disciple, Probodhaśiva not only re-excavated it, but also caused the digging up of another well. He also got excavated the Sindhu tank close to the mountain. \(^{20}\) Rāuṭa-Vallāladevaka, a feudatory of Narasimhadeva constructed a Vaha water channel sometime before 1158 A.D. \(^{21}\) Another feudatory, Malayasiṅhha caused the excavation of a tank, in 1192 A.D., probably in Rewah, at a cost of 1500 tankās. \(^{22}\) Similarly, the Tumhāna Kalachuri feudatory Brahmadeva in 1163-64 A.D. \(^{23}\) and ministers Puruṣottama \(^{24}\) in 1147-48 A.D. and Gaṅgādhara \(^{25}\) in 1181-82 A.D. excavated wells and tanks in the Raipur-Bilaspur area. Gamiyaya, a minister of King Hemādrīdeva of the Berar region also excavated a deep tank and a well. \(^{26}\) There must have been thousands of other tanks and wells excavated by private persons in the vast area of Northern India in course of the 164 years of our period, but no inscription about these has either been discovered or been written at all. But what is remarkable is the dearth of measures taken by the kings of this period to save the cultivators from the vagaries of monsoon.

**Assessment of Land Revenue:**

The actual gross as well as net income from the sale of the produce of any particular plot of land depends on many unpredictable factors like timely rainfall, freedom from the ravages by insects and stray animals, quality of the seed sown, application of manure and the skill of the farmer. On the other hand, the rent which a plot of land had to pay was fixed for a pretty long period. It is the revenue collected from parti-
cular plots of land, which is indicated as the income per year in the Sena inscriptions.

The amount of revenue seems to have been assessed according to the fertility of the soil, location of the land and also the use to which the land was to be put. Residential land had to pay a higher rate of revenue than arable land and the land which was unfit for cultivation paid little or no rent. The Naihati grant of Vallālasena mentions three types of land, namely Vāstu, Ksetra and Khila. Vāstu land meant the land on which residential houses could be constructed. The term Vyābhā found in the Mehar plate of Dāmodaradeva and the Sahitya Parisat plate of Viśvarūpasena, has been explained by Niharmanjan Ray, B. M. Barua and P. C. Chakravarti as "demarcated homestead land or residential site." But D. C. Sircar correctly interprets the word as "Vyāmiśra bhūmi" or mixed land consisting of Vāstu (homestead land), nāla (arable land) and Khila (fallow land). In some Bengal grants Khila land is also called Aprahata land. Amarakośa and Vaijayantī also use the words Khila and Aprahata as synonyms. The inscriptions also refer to other types of land called Sagarosara, and Sojalasthala. Garta signifies hollow lands like pot-holes, which make the land unsuitable for cultivation. Uṣara means uplands which cannot be cultivated. Sajala means lands which are filled with water. Certain abbreviations have been used in the Mehar plate in describing the types of land. Accepting the suggestion of D. C. Sircar we may state that 'gri-tī' indicates land containing houses and gardens, 'chā-tī', a mound containing plantations only, 'mu-tī', a mound or unprofitable plot or land covered with grass or jungle, and, 'chi-khi' stands for chira-khila, a plot of land which has not been brought under cultivation. Analysing the various rates of revenue-income mentioned in this inscription, he comes to the conclusion that a Drona of land consisting of house and garden had to pay 37½ Purāṇa; but if it consisted only of plantation and no residential house the rent was 30½ Purāṇas for a Drona. If the land happened to be covered with grass
or jungle the rent was 4 Purāṇas only per Drona; but if it was arable but not actually cultivated the rent charged was a little higher, namely 4 \( \frac{1}{4} \) Purāṇas per Drona.\textsuperscript{23}

Unless we keep in view the different categories of land, their location as well as fertility, it becomes impossible to explain how the different plots of land mentioned in the same inscription are assessed at different rates of revenue. Thus the Saktipur plate of Lakṣmaṇasena refers to 36 Dronas of land yielding 250 Purāṇas in one case and another plot of 53 Dronas of land assessed at the same 250 Purāṇas.\textsuperscript{24} Two other plots aggregating 89 Dronas yielded a revenue of 500 Purāṇas.\textsuperscript{24} The Naihati grant of Vallālasena indicates that 287 Dronas of land paid 500 Purāṇas. In contrast to these rates the revenue of 168 Purāṇas for 191 Khūri of land mentioned in the Ma.lhainagar plate seems to be absurdly low. One Khūri, according to Bhāskarāchārya, who flourished in the 12th century A.D., was equal to 16 Dronas.\textsuperscript{25} Either the land was exceptionally bad or extraordinary favourable terms must have been enjoyed by it. In contrast to this low rate, we may mention that a little more than 60 Dronas of land at Betaḍḍa situated on the bank of the Ganges paid as high a revenue as 900 Purāṇas as mentioned in the Govindapur plate of Lakṣmaṇasena. The Tarpandighi grant of the same King shows that a piece of land measuring 120 Āḍhavāpas and 15 Unmānas at Velahṣṭhi in Varendri yielded a revenue of 150 Purāṇas only. As 4 Āḍhavāpas or Āḍhakas were equal to 1 Drona, the quantity of land referred to here is a little over 30 Dronas only.

In feudal economy the actual cultivator seldom pays rent directly to the Government. We have got a few definite proofs to show that there were some tillers of the soil, who had no proprietary right on land. The Ashrafpur copper-plate of Devakhaḍa shows that a Pāṭaka of land was owned by Sarvāntara, but it was cultivated by peasants like Mahattara and Śikhara.\textsuperscript{26} Similarly in Gujarat the Mehara King Jagamalla assigned sometime before 1207 A.D. 55 Pāṭhas of land
to three husbandmen though the ownership of the land was vested in temples. The cultivators must have received a proportion of the crop raised in lieu of their labour and management. We do not know what the actual proportion was.

_Cultivators:_

From the time of Kauṭilya, if not from a much earlier period, each village was peopled mostly by Śūdra cultivators. According to the orthodox school of law-givers like Manu, agriculture was one of the pursuits of the Vaiśya community, but in the eleventh and twelfth centuries the bulk of the actual tillers of soil came from the various castes who were considered to have belonged to the Śūdra community. It is highly improbable that the scholarly Brāhmaṇas, to whom land was granted by pious kings, actually (tried their hand at) ploughed the field and reaped the corn.

_Agricultural Products:_

As early as the days of the Vājasaneyī Saṁhitā the principal crops of Northern India were rice, *yava* (barley), wheat and pulses like _mudga_, *masūr* and _māsa_ and oilseeds like _sesamum_. Mādhavakara, the famous author of the _Nidāna_, who was born at Śilāhrada, probably in Eastern India in the ninth century A.D., has given a comprehensive idea of the different agricultural products in his _Paryāyaratnamālā_, which has been edited and published for the first time by Dr. T. P. Chowdhury in the _Patna University Journal_. This work has been quoted many times by Sarvāṇanda Vandyaghaṭiya in his _Amorakoṣa_ commentary which was written in 1159 A.D. In this work we come across the names of various crops like _vṛīhi_ (rice which is harvested in the rainy season), _āśuvṛīhi_ (a quickly ripening variety of paddy known in Bengal as _borodhān_), jombula or _devadānā_, _priyaṅgu_ or _kāṅgānā_ variety of paddy, _godhūma_ or wheat. Amongst pulses are mentioned _mudga_ of the black as well as yellow varieties, _kalāya_ (pea _chanaka_
or chick-pea), and Kulattha or horse-gram. Vegetables like: pājola or parval (trichosanthes dioea), Kārvellaka or karelā (momordica charantia), sovañjana or sajinā (moringa pterygosperma), helamocheka or hīchā śāk (enhydra or hingchā), gandhāli (pæderia fætida), tumbī (lagenaria vulgaris ser), karkatāksha or knākuvāra (cucumis utilissimus), kuśmāṇḍaka (beninkasacerifera), olhā or ola (amorphophallus sampanus-latus); kechuka or kachu (a plant, solocasia antiquorum), rājamāsha or barbatī (dolichos catjang) and simba or sim (bean) of black and white variety are mentioned. Amongst fruits we find mangoes, bananas, palm, and cocoanut. Hemachandra mentions seventeen varieties of grains as follows: Vrīhi, Yava, Masūra, Godhūma, Mudga, Māsha, Tila, Channaka, Anava, Priyaṅgu, Kodrava, Mayushthaka, Sāli, Adhaki, Kulattha, Kalāya, and Śana.⁴⁰ It is, of course, curious to note that the great Jaina scholar has included śana or hemp amongst Dhānya which term he has used as a generic expression for grains.

Another surprising matter in this connection is that Laksāmīdhara as a strict Brāhmaṇa does not favour the taking of pulses like mudga and masūra, though both are now recognised as easily digestible and highly nutritious food. He quotes the authority of the Brahma Purāṇa.⁴¹ Kalhaṇa considered Mudga as a good food for poor people.⁴²

We have got inscriptive evidence to show that wheat was cultivated in the Gwalior area.⁴³ From the numerous references in Laksāmīdhara’s Niyata Kālakāṇḍa to wheat as an offering to the gods and Brāhmaṇas during festivals we may reasonably conclude that the peasants of the Uttara Pradesh used to cultivate wheat in the twelfth century. As a matter of fact, Laksāmīdhara prescribes the cultivation of wheat for offering food to the gods on the ninth day of the bright half of Bhādra.⁴⁴

Barley was widely cultivated in all parts of Northern India from very early times. Inscriptions of Rajputana refer to its cultivation.⁴⁵ A poem quoted in the Saduktikarṇāmṛta states
that the hairs of the barley corn growing in the fields were as delightfully green as the blue lotus growing in the pond at the boundary of the village. In Kashmir, a festival was observed on the day on which barley became ripe.

Similarly, Lakṣmiḍhara mentions another festival which was held on the full moon day of Vaiśākha to commemorate the creation of Tīla or sesamum by God.

The chief crop, however, throughout Northern India was paddy of different varieties. The well-being of the masses depended largely on the success of its cultivation. Kalhaṇa describes the snowfall which led to the destruction of the rice crop in autumn as “the grim laughter of Death bent on the destruction of all beings”. He pathetically observes: “There sank (and perished) the rice crop together with the people’s hope of existence.” With a good harvest the price of a khāri of rice was 200 Dīṁnāras, but in years of scarcity or famine the price rose as high as 500 Dīṁnāras, as it actually did in 1099-1100 A.D. Anulīa grant informs us that the Sāli rice was produced in large quantity in Bengal in the lands donated to the Brāhmaṇas. Sandhyākaranandī writes that on account of the presence of Lakṣmiṇī whose lovely form was beheld in the paddy plants of various kinds, Varendra became the “sparkling crest-jewel of the earth”. Non-Bengali writers, however, are silent over the quality of the rice grown in Varendra. Aparārka cites Magadha as a country rich in rice. Mānasollāsa speaks very highly of the virtues of the rice grown in Kalinga. Hemachandra notes that when the harvest time approached the cultivator’s wives in Gujarat guarded the rice-crops and sang songs during their vigils. Some of the poems quoted in the Saduptikarnāṁśa describe the jubilation of the peasants when there was a good harvest.

Amongst commercial crops sugarcane and cotton were the most important. Cotton plants were grown in Bengal as well as in Central and Western India. The Charyāpadas of Sabarapāda and Śāntipāda refer to Karpāsa. The Charkhari
plate of Paramardī and the Augasi plate of Madanavarman also mention it. The cultivation of sugarcane is referred to in the inscriptions of Central India and Rajputana. Kalhana refers to its cultivation in Kashmir. Paryāyatratnamālā particularly mentions the Pauḍra variety of sugarcane. Reference to its cultivation in Bengal are found in the Kalaviveka, Rāmcharita and Saduktikarnāmyta. It is rather surprising to find that nowhere in the inscriptions of the Gābādavālas is there any reference to sugarcane cultivation, though Uttar Pradesh is now the most important sugar-producing state.

Contemporary inscriptions frequently refer to the betel-leaves and betel nuts. References occur in inscriptions also to the fruits like cocoanut, palm, mango, breadfruit (panasa), pomegranate, date, figs and bassia latifolia (Madhuka).

There are good reasons to believe that the North Indians in the eleventh and twelfth centuries paid greater attention to balanced diet than what is done in the present age. They insisted on having larger pasture land attached to each and every village. Cows and buffaloes could graze there either freely or on payment of a small annual fee. People in their senseless efforts to produce more cereals did not encroach on pasture land, nor did they wantonly destroy forests.

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CHAPTER VIII

Labour

Large-scale industries under private management were conspicuous by their absence in ancient or mediaeval India. There could not, therefore, exist any organised labour force, negotiating terms of employment with the employees on a collective basis. But some of the functions of modern trade unions were discharged by the śrenīs. Vijñāneśvara contrasts puṣa with śrenī by stating that the basis of the former association was residence in the same locality, irrespective of castes and professions followed by the members of the puṣa, while the śrenī was definitely a vocational organisation consisting of a group of people belonging to different castes, but following the occupation of one single caste. He cites as example of śrenī the association of weavers, shoe-makers and betel sellers.¹

The Government had to employ a large number of artisans of various categories for their civil and military departments. Śukranītisāra gives an idea of the types of employees, who are considered highly useful. Such classes included persons who manufactured lighter machines, arrows, swords, other arms and weapons like bows and quivers and various tools and equipments necessary for the army.² Amongst the employees of the civil department were persons who could construct forts, parks, artificial forests and pleasure gardens.³ Artificial forests were probably used for pleasure as well as for fighting Kūta-Yuddha for misleading the enemy. (Carpenters, builders of chariots, blacksmiths, coppersmiths, weavers, tailors and other artisans are specifically mentioned as those whom the king had to appoint to their proper work. The king could not maintain either a big retinue in the court or undertake any military expedition without a large number
of such employees. The invasions of Sultän Mahmud and several subsequent Turkish raids as well as the increase in the tempo of internecine warfare raised the volume of demand for the labour of the artisans.

The normal feature of social life was immobility of labour from one profession to another. A person born to a professional caste habitually stuck to it throughout his life. But there were many exceptional cases in which we find talented people changing their profession. Whatever might have been the magnitude of the volume of such changes, there is no doubt that the increase in the demand for the labour of one type by the Government contributed to the betterment of the condition of service under private persons.

Private employers belonged either to the category of farmers, traders, artisans or owners of big herds of cow. Both Kauṭilya⁴ and Yājñavalkya⁵ provide that the agent or employee of a trader, cowherd and husbandman should receive ten per cent. of the profit of the milk and of crops respectively as his share. This payment was considered rather low in the twelfth century. Devanābhatṭa in his Śnṛti-Chandrika² observes that a ten per cent. share may be given to an agricultural labourer if the crop can be raised easily without much labour. He further states that if the employer provided him with food and clothing the share to which he is entitled is twenty per cent. In case food and clothing are not provided, that is, if the agricultural labourer or the employee of the trader and manufacturer live independently in a separate establishment, one-third (33½ per cent.) of the produce in the case of crops raised and of the profit in other cases should be given to the employee. This indicates a distinct improvement in the status of labour. This is further supported by the most enlightened rules laid down in the Sukranītisāra. No labour leader of modern days can outbid the author of this book in his sympathy for the labourers. As a general principle he lays down that the rate of wages should be so fixed as to enable the worker to maintain those-
who are his compulsory charges. He further observes that “those servants who get low wages are enemies (to the employer) by nature.” The writer prescribes paid holiday for fifteen days in the year. He makes provision for medical leave, pension and workman’s compensation. Leave on medical grounds with full pay is allowed for a week in general cases, but a highly qualified worker should get leave for unspecified period on half pay. If a servant has been ill for a long time he should get not more than three months’ wages. As regards pension it is provided that one would be entitled to half the wages only if he has spent a period of forty years continuously in service. Not only was this pension to be paid during the old age of the worker but also to be remitted to his son so long as he was a minor or to his wife and unmarried daughters, provided they were well-behaved. There is provision for bonus also. “The king should give the servant one-eighth of the salary by way of reward every year, and if his work has been done with exceptional ability one-eighth of the service rendered.” If the worker happened to die in course of performance of his duty, his minor son was to be given the same pay as he used to earn; if the son was capable of earning his livelihood, then employment should be provided for him on a rate of pay suited to his qualification.

The author of the Sukranitisara envisages a sort of Workmen’s Insurance Scheme when he advises the king to “keep with him (as deposit) one-sixth or one-fourth of the servant’s wages, and pay half of that amount or the whole of it in two or three years”. This provision might have also been made as a measure of security against negligence or betrayal by the employee.

Commenting on Manu VII. 126 Medhatithi writes that besides a drona weight of grains every month and clothing every six months, an ordinary servant was to be paid wages at the rate of one pana per month. We have got no definite information regarding the actual rates of money wages
in different parts of Northern India during the eleventh and twelfth centuries.)

The old law-givers like Nārada classified Brāhmaṇa pupils studying the Vedas at the residence of the Preceptor, apprentices or antevāsins receiving instructions from some artisans or artists, hired servants and supervisor of hired servants, all as Karmakāras. The disciple had to perform many services for his teacher relating to the craft which he was learning, according to the orders of his master without any remuneration, but he was entitled to free board and lodging during the whole of the period of his learning, the length of which, however depended on the terms of his contract. None of these Karmakāras could be asked to perform any ignoble or impure service, a list of which has been drawn by Kātyāyana¹¹ and quoted by Chaṇḍesvara¹². The list includes performance of work like sweeping roads and doors of houses, collecting and throwing away the leavings of food etc. Such work was probably considered fit only for slaves.

Slavery:

(The Arthaśāstra of Kauṭilya and the Smṛtis¹³ refer to the institution of slavery in ancient India. The practice of keeping slaves continued down to our period. Aparārka and Devaṇabhaṭṭa¹⁴ quoting Kātyāyana clearly distinguish between a hired servant and slave. Both of them hold that a Brāhmaṇa on no account could be reduced to the status of a slave. Sultān Mahmūd, however, in carrying thousands of persons as slaves to Ghaznī did not certainly make any distinction between a Brāhmaṇa and a Śūdra. The conditions for slavery have been laid down by Jīmūtavāhana.¹⁵ One who was without food and clothes could sell himself as a slave by a written document to the effect that he would serve his master. During famines, which were not infrequent in this period, many persons sold themselves as slaves with a view to saving their life. Nārada prescribes that such a person can purchase his freedom by giving a pair
of cows. It is difficult to find out how a slave, whose master was entitled to all his earnings, could procure a pair of cows. The existence of slavery as known from the nibandhas can be corroborated by literary evidence. The Kathāsaritsāgara tells us of the story of the redemption of four merchants from slavery on payment of fees. Female slaves are also mentioned in the digests and the Kathāsaritsāgara. The views of Kātyāyana that an independent woman on being married to a slave also became a slave and had to serve her husband’s master, has been quoted with approval by Deva-ṇṇabhaṭṭa. The Kathāsaritsāgara tells us of slave-girls married to hired(servants and to Brāhmaṇas. In the same book of stories we read the story of a merchant of Pāṭaliputra, employing slaves. Jīmūtavāhana opines that if a female slave is inherited by a number of persons, she should serve all the shareholders by turns (of several days). It is interesting to note that the Tilotha image inscription records the pilgrimage of as many as five female slaves, named, Ladumā, Nayakāmā, Ālī, Puttrikī and Ekāli, to the Tutrahi falls in Sahabad in the company of their master Nāyaka Pra-tāpadhavala. These slaves must have been treated affectionately by their master, otherwise their names would not have been inscribed at the foot of the image. The Lekhāpaddhati records four documents, dated V.S. 1288 on female slaves in Maharastra and Gujarāt regions. These slaves had to perform many duties, such as cutting (vegetables), pulverizing (spices), washing the floor, sweeping, bringing fuel, water etc., milching the cow, buffalao, and goat, churning the curd, weeding out the grass, threshing grains, and also other domestic duties like cooking, cleaning the gutters etc. Some of these duties are also mentioned in Hemachandra’s Triṣaṭṭīṣalākā-puruṣaḥ-charita. Any dereliction of these duties or non-adherence to the orders of the owner of the slave, was dealt with severely. The punishment, which was to be given for violation of duty, was also proclaimed in public before the agreement of slavery was entered into.
Forced Labour:

An increase in the demand for labour mitigated the hardship of those who were forced to render service to the state without remuneration. The practice of levying labour-tax was prevalent in India from very early times. The practice attracted the notice of Megasthenes. Manu prescribes it as a regular levy of one day's labour per month from mechanics, artisans, and Südras. He does not, however, mention whether the workers are to be given food on the day of work. The Gupta monarchs used to levy it as they are known to have recorded it in their inscriptions. The Agni Purāṇa definitely lays down that the king must provide food to those from whom forced labour was to be taken. Lakṣmīdhara quotes with approval the views of Gautama who has prescribed the supply of food to the workers. This shows that at least in the Gāhādāvāla kingdom the practice of supplying food was followed. Lakṣmīdhara cites the example:  

"The most interesting deed Svayam-āgatā-dāsī-patravidhi is the declaration of Sampuri...a girl of ten years, before becoming the slave of Chahaḍa, which is as follows: "If I, so long as I live, while employed as a slave in your house or in any other house, commit theft, seeing a vacant room appropriate some article, or finding that begging had become easier go elsewhere or mix with cheats, rascals or your enemies, or in my youth being tempted by some men leave you, then on the strength of this deed you will catch me by my hairs, bind me and again set me to work as a slave. I shall always throughout the night and day carry out the orders of your relatives. If ever, out of wickedness, I refuse to perform my duty, when ordered to do so, then you will punish me by kicking and beating with sticks and (may even) torture (me) to death, (for which) you my lord will remain as free from guilt as if you had been absent. I declare to all that should I die under torture (above-mentioned) it will have been brought about by my own fault, and you and your family shall be absolved by bathing in the Ganges. If ever I commit suicide by jumping into a well or pond or by taking poison on account of pregnancy (udarabidhā) you my lord will be guiltless, and will only (have to perform the penance of) bathing in the Ganges." (Translation of the passage in Majumdar: Chaulukya, p. 347) The reference to the capture of truant slaves by catching hold of their hair explains the famous song by the 16th century poet Govindadāsa in which the Gopīs tell Kṛṣṇa that he has brought them to the Rāsa as one brings slaves by catching hold of their hair."
of blacksmiths, porters, boatmen, owners of carriages, actors and dancers as persons who were liable to pay the labour-tax once a month. We can understand the need of compelling boatmen and owners of carts to carry heavy loads from one place to another in the absence of regular transport service. The king very often collected a proportion of the crops raised by cultivators as his share by way of tax. It would have been extremely difficult and costly to send royal share of the crops. Very strict supervision, however, was needed to see that the grains were not pilfered on the way. But the levy of forced labour of artisans like blacksmiths for one day per month was not likely to secure for the Government any complicated piece of work, which required more than one day’s labour to complete it. Efficiency in production could not be expected from those who were compelled to work without payment. Such a system was detrimental to the larger interests of the community. The requisitioning of the services of actors and dancers was meant for arranging free amusement to the local officers of the king. It was certainly not a practical proposition to bring all the actors and dancers in the kingdom to the capital for the benefit of the king.

The technical term for the labour-tax was "Viśṭārī" and Lakṣmīadhara explains it as Vyāśkārena ākṛīṣṭa Karmakāh: labour forcibly recruited. During the movement of the army people were forced to carry loads, make roads, and render many other types of miscellaneous service. Under such circumstances life was not an easy one for the common people. Kalhaṇa observes that during the reign of Jayashrīha the villagers in spite of their wailings were forced to carry loads at the command of the commissariat. Sometimes on the orders of the autocratic authority respectable people like the Brāhmaṇas following priestly profession were compelled to carry loads on their head, as we find in the reign of Harṣa in Kashmir. The priests, however, had recourse to hunger strike on a mass scale as a protest against such orders. The king had to withdraw them.

The rise in the demand for labour was probably responsible
for making the author of Sukranītisāra recommend that “the King should make the artists and artisans work one day in the fortnight” instead of the customary one day in the month.\(^3\) He further prescribes that prisoners as well as those who are accused (of serious crimes) should be set to repair the road. He goes so far as to declare that those who forsake their parents and wife should be put in chains and made to repair the road. The use of convict labour for road-making was prevalent down to the early part of the nineteenth century, but as it was found inefficient, hired labour was substituted.

**REFERENCES TO CHAPTER VIII**

**Labour**

1. Mit. on Yāj. II. 30.
2. Sukranītisāra II. 196 (ed. Cal.).
3. Ibid. II. 194.
5. Yāj. II. 194.
6. Sukranītisāra II. 397-400 (ed. Cal.).
7. Ibid. II. 409-410 (ed. Cal.).
8. Ibid. II. 412.
9. Ibid. II. 413.
10. Ibid. II. 414.
15. Vyavahāra-mātrikā, p. 337.
17. Smṛticchandrikā II 201.
20. El. XX. 249.
23 Kauṭilya II. i; VIII. I.
24 Megasthenes as quoted by Arrian, Indica XII.
25 Manu VII. 1384.
26 Gupta Ins. 38, 39, 58 and Girnar Inscr.
27 Agni Purāṇa, Ch. 223.
28 Rājadharmakīṇḍa, pp. 93-95.
29 RT. VIII. 2513.
31 Ibid. IV. 1. 92.
CHAPTER IX

Industries and their Organisation

Literary and epigraphic records of the eleventh and twelfth centuries reveal a highly advanced stage of industrial life in Northern India. We are fortunate enough to get a more or less detailed account of many of the industries in the Yukti-kalpataru of Bhoja. Metallic industries are described in Rasārṇava, written in the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century. Some of these are referred to by Chakrapāṇidatta who flourished in Bengal in the eleventh century. The Charyāpadas, the poems of Jayadeva and other poets belonging to this age contain some information relating to some of the industries. The temples and sculptures of Bhubanesvara, Puri and Khajurāho bear unmistakable evidence of the advancement of industries requiring a high degree of skill. Some of the inscriptions and accounts of foreign travellers support the testimony of many of the literary works of this period. The lexicons like Vaijayantī and Deśināmamālā and the commentary on Amarakoṭa by Kāśīrasvāmin bear testimony to the existence of many industries in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

We have got no evidence, however, to show that there was any large-scale industry in this period. Numerous instances have been cited in this chapter on the localisation of various industries. Some cities, regions or countries became famous for some industries. The artisans living in that area had knowledge of superior workmanship bequeathed from father to son for generations. Experiments could also be undertaken in such an atmosphere. It is not possible to give an exhaustive account of all the crafts and industries which existed in the period under review. We shall mention only the most important of them.
Textiles:

The history of textile industry in India goes back to centuries before the birth of Christ. The main centres of this industry since the days of Kauṭilya were Bengal, Kamarupa, Madagha, Madura, Aparanta, Kalinga, Kasi, Vatsa and Mahisa. That Bengal continued to hold its eminence is clear from the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea: "Through this (Ganges) place are brought malabathrum and Gangetic spikenard and pearls and muslins of the finest sorts which are called Gangetic."

Arab writers like Sulaiman belonging to the ninth century identify Ruhmi with Bengal where "a stuff made in this country which is not to be found elsewhere; so fine and delicate is this material that a dress made of it may be passed through a signet ring". This also was supported by Khurdādbah of the tenth century A.D., Marco Polo in the 13th century and the Chinese Ma Huan, a traveller of the 15th century. The typical products in linen and cotton remained famous in between the times of the composition of the Arthasastra and the Varṇaratnākara of Jyotirīśvara, a Maithila writer of the 14th century. Referring to the dukula variety of linen cloth, Kauntiya says that the variety produced in Lower Bengal (Vaṅgika) was white and soft; that produced in North Bengal (Pungraka) was black and 'as soft as the surface of a gem' and the one manufactured in Kamarupa (Suvarṇakudya) had the "colour of a rising sun". Jyotirīśvara mentions embroidered red clothes of Bengal like Meghadumvara, Gaṅgāsagara, Gaṅgora, Lakṣmīvilāsa, Dvāra Vāsinī and Sylḥaṭ.

Besides Bengal, Gujarat and Paithan were famous as centres of textile industry for centuries. Marco Polo notes on the quality of the products of Paithan in these words: "These are the most delicate buckrams and of the highest price; in sooth they look like the tissue of spider's web. There can be no king or queen in the world but might be glad to wear them."

These textile commodities were of many varieties, e.g., Kṣauma, Dukula, Patrona, Kārpāsika etc. Kṣauma according
to Māitrāyanī Saṁhitā means a linen garment. Kṣīrasvāmin commenting on Amarakośa explains Kṣauma as made of the fibre of kṣauma, which is explained as Aīsī in Amarakośa and Nānadarā's commentary on Manu. Hemachandra includes Dukula or Dugula in the category of Kṣauma. But such an inclusion is against the evidence of Kauṭiliya and Yājñavalkya. Kauṭiliya differentiates between Dukula and Kṣauma. Yājñavalkya identifies Kṣauma with Aīsīṇapāṭa. Patrona, according to Amarakośa, was "a bleached or white Kauṭeyas." But the commentator Kṣīrasvāmin explains it as a fibre produced from the saliva of a worm on the leaves of trees. Kārpaśika means cotton fabrics. Hemachandra states that cotton clothes were known as Vadara. There were also other materials, from which people prepared dress. Woollen clothes were known as ārṇa in the time of Devala. Both Devala and Viśnāsvarā mention a different variant known as Kutapa. The latter clearly states that it was a blanket made of the hair of mountain-goats. Dress of the rich and the poor:

There was a considerable difference between the dress worn by the rich and that used by the poor people. There is no doubt that Kṣauma cloth, Chināṁśuka or gold-embroidered clothes were used by the richer sections of the community. Dāmodara Gupta tells us that Chintamaṇi, the son of a Government official, used to wear a yellow-coloured gold-embroidered cloth. A prostitute was given a pair of Chināṁśuka by one of her admirers. The Chinese silk (Chināṁśuka) was such a costly fabric that the feudatories are said to have covered the path with it for King Nala to walk on. This type of silken cloth is also mentioned in the Amgachhī grant of Vīghrāhapāla III. Jayadeva's Śrī Kṛṣṇa is described to have worn a dukula.

The poor section of the community used ordinary clothes. They had to satisfy themselves with cotton clothes and sometimes even with cloth made of hemp. In the padas of Śaba-
rapāda and Śāntipāda, there are often references to cotton plants and carding. A song composed by the former tells us that “This my third house is as open as sky. Oh! how, beautiful cotton flowers have blossomed in my garden.” A poem of Śubhāṅka, collected in the Saduktikarnāṅyita, also refers to the houses of poor Śrotiya Brāhmaṇas as strewn with cotton-seeds immediately after a storm. In Kashmir poor people had to wear miserable bhaṅga or hemp-made garments. Prisoners were also given such dress in jails.

Textile manufacturers gave occupation to various classes of people. Some of them prepared not only the dhotis and sāris, but also other items of dress such as veils or Araguntana and Nichola which was something similar to veil, according to the Kārikā of Hemachandra and Jayadeva’s Gita-govinda. References are also found to head-dress or Usṇīsa for males, and to Tuṭa blanket.

North Indians began using mosquito-nets at least as early as the time of the composition of the Chullavagga. It is called Maśaka-kutika in the Buddhist texts. P. K. Gode holds that the word Maśakahari on Chatuḥskī came to be used in Sanskrit lexicons from about 1000 A.D. onwards. It is in the Vaijayanati of Yādavaprakāśa (c. 1050 A.D.) that the earliest mention of the words is to be found. Ajaya, the lexicographer states that it was used by the rich people only (ed. T. G. Shastri, p. 111, Kūḍa II. Verse 731).

Umbrellas:

The making of umbrellas was also an ancient craft of India. Its use was confined not to males only but it was also popular with women. Mahāsvetā in the Kūḍamvari refers to a woman holding an umbrella. Pāla sculptures also show the use of umbrellas. In the Naiṣadhacharita Nala is described as using a white umbrella. But the most detailed account of it is found in Bhoja’s Yuktikalpataru. Kings, princes, and ordinary people used different types of umbrellas. The Višeṣa and Sāmānya or special and ordinary types were
used by kings and common people respectively. The special type was of two categories.—Nirdaṇḍa which could not be folded and sadāṇḍa which could be folded. The King is advised to use an umbrella whose stick and neck are to be made of pure wood, spokes of pure origin and both the thread and the cloth are to be of scarlet colour. The King also used another variant whose stick and neck were made of sandal wood, thread and cloth were to be pure white and this umbrella was decorated with a golden pitcher at the top. In the Kali age, the prescribed measure of the royal umbrellas was danda or stick of four cubits, kilaka of 3 vitasti, 40 sālaka or spokes and each spoke three cubits long, cloth, double of those of spokes and kilaka of 6 aṅgulis. At the time of marriage or coronation, the stick of the umbrella was to be of pure gold and the cloth was to be whiter. It was known as the Navadanda type. The princes of royal blood were given a different variant of umbrella. Its height was to be one-fourth less than the length of the umbrella of the King. The Pratāpa type used by princes had bluish cloth and stick decorated with a golden pitcher at the top. As for common people, their umbrellas were to be half of the length of that used by princes. The stick of these ordinary umbrellas were made of timber: champa, panasa, sōla, śrīphala, sandal, vakula, neem, and varjarvornā. Iron spokes are conspicuous by their absence in all types of umbrellas.

It is interesting to note here that a copper-plate grant dated śaka 972/c.1050 A.D. of King Trilochananāla of Gujarat refers to the dedication of an umbrella resplendent with gold and jewels to God Somanātha by Vatsarāja, the father of King Trilochananāla.38

Sugar:

We have already seen that the cultivation of sugarcane was popular in Bengal, Central India, Kashmir and Rajputana. Of these, Bengal and South India led in the manufacture of sugar. Bengal produced so much sugar according to the six-
teenth century Portuguese traveller Barbosa that she competed with South India in supplying it to different parts of India, Ceylon, Arabia and Persia.  

*Salt:*

Contemporary inscriptions of Bengal and Rajputana and in the kingdoms of the Chandellas, Gāḥaḍavālas and Kalachuris of Tripuri refer to grant of salt-pits and the right of manufacturing salt to donees. It is difficult to state whether there was a large-scale salt manufacture in Northern India.

*Metal (Iron and Steel)*:

Northern India made a considerable progress in the field of metallurgy. Iron came to be used for variety of purposes during our period, specially in building temples. 'Utbī in his Tārikh-i-Yamānī informs us that on both sides of the City of Mathura, "there were a thousand houses to which ideal temples were attached, all strengthened from top to bottom by rivets of iron." (Beams). Indian engineers also planned the manufacture of beams. About 239 beams ranging upto 17 feet long and upto 6" by 4" or 5" by 6" inches section have been used in the Gundichabāri at Puri. Graves gives a detailed account of these beams. As many as 95 beams were fixed at the lintels of doors and 114 below the temple. Iron beams are also seen in the Bhuvaneshvar and also in the Konaraka temples. In the Konaraka temple Stirling counted 9 beams in 1824 and Graves 29 beams. Dr. R. L. Mitra noted the length of beams as 21 feet with average cross-section of 8 inches by 10 inches. But Graves found the largest beam 35 feet long and 7" to 7½" inches square weighing 6000 lbs. Percy Brown observes that beams were forged and "the larger ones were evidently produced by welding together a number of 'blooms' of wrought iron by means of a hammer. However, this process of forging of beams seems to have been known only to Orissa."
Crucibles:

Crucibles, swords and water-vessels were manufactured from iron. The making of the Jāranāya yantram has been mentioned in the Rasāryava, written in the twelfth or thirteenth century and the Rasaratnasamuchchaya. Iron crucibles were twelve digits long. Regarding the ingredients for crucibles, Vāgbhaṭa recommends that the "earth which is heavy and of a pale colour, sugar or earth from an ant-hill or earth which has been mixed with burnt husks of paddy, fibres of hemp plant, charcoal and horse-dung pounded in an iron mortar and also rust of iron, are to be recommended for crucible-making." The Edilpur plate of Kesavasena mentions water-vessels of iron.

Arms, spears etc:

Weapons of war such as arrow-heads and swords have been mentioned by a host of mediaeval Muslim historians. Alberuni also refers to the makers of arrows, spear points, swords and knives in Northern India. The author of the Sukranitisara regards those who could make light machines, arrows, cannon-balls, swords, bogs and quivers as useful servants of the King.

Swords:

The manufacture of swords was an ancient Indian industry. 'Utbi says that soldiers of Brāhmanapāla, son of Anandapāla, used white swords, blue spears and yellow-coats of mail. White swords evidently mean the best steel sword, which when swung appeared to be only a flash of light, a radiant whiteness. Nizāmi in his Tāj-ul-Maāsir also gives a vivid picture of Indian swords used by the soldiers of Gwalior. "That sword was coloured of Caerulean blue, which from its blazing lustre resembled a hundred thousand Venuses and Pleiades, and it was a well-tempered horse-shoe of fire, which with its wound exhibited the peculiarity of lighting and thunder; and in the perfect weapon the extreme
of sharpness lay hid, like (poison in) the fangs of a serpent; and (the water of the blade) looked like ants creeping on the surface of a diamond." The elaborate description of the process of manufacturing arms and weapons found in Sanskrit technical literature proves the truth of the statement made by Nizamī. The indigenous literature also mentions the characteristics of the swords manufactured in various parts of North India. The Yuktikalpataru of Bhoja states that Benares, Magadha, Nepal, Saurashtra and Kalinga had a reputation for producing swords. But Sārāgadharā, who flourished in the thirteenth-fourteenth century, mentions that Khaṭi-Khaṭṭara, Rishika, Vaṅga, Sūrpāraka, Videha, Madhyamagrāma, Chedideśa, Sahagrāma and Kālīnjar were famous centres. Of these places, the swords manufactured at Benares, Saurashtra, Rishika, Aṅga and Kālīnjar could stand the test of time. Chau-Ju-Kua states that the double-edged swords of Bengal were very sharp. A comparative study of the works of different periods show that some localities developed their skill in course of time, while others fell into decay. Thus according to the Agni Purāṇa swords made in Khaṭṭara are beautiful, Sūrpāraka swords strong, Aṅga and Vaṅga swords sharp. In the eleventh century Bhoja, however, describes the Aṅga swords as dirty and blunt. Sārāgadharā's anthology of the thirteenth century speaks of Aṅga swords as famous for their sharpness, strength and excellent handles. As the age of this particular poem is not known, its evidence cannot be accepted against the positive opinion of an expert like Bhoja. The decadence of South Bihar in the medieval age is well-known. A reference by Bhoja to the bad type of swords produced in Aṅga illustrates the decay of an once-famous industrial area. The criterion of distinction between good and bad swords, according to Bhoja's Yuktikalpataru and Nītikalpataru ascribed to Kṣemendra, was the sound produced by them. The Agni Purāṇa, however, regards that the sword, 50 aṅgulas in length, producing the sound of an ornament was the best, and the best
types were those known as Padmanalāga, Maṇḍalāga, Karaviradalāga, Ghritagandhā and Akāśaprābha. The worst type was known as Kākolūkavarna. Śārṅgadhara devotes nine slokas each on good and bad swords. The sword, which on being struck produced beautiful sound, was worshipped by kings and the one which was curbed was to be thrown away.

Contemporary literature also discusses the relative qualities of iron. The Rasendrasārasamgraha quotes a passage from the Yuktikalpaḷau on this. Bhoja puts the relative quality of the following grades of iron thus: Krouṅcha iron two times better than Sāmānya iron, Kāliṅga as eight times better than Krouṅcha, Bhadrā as hundred times better than Kaliṅga, Vajra as hundred times better than Bhadrā, Paṇḍi as hundred times better than Vajra, Niraṅga as ten times better than Paṇḍi and lastly, the Kāṇṭha iron as million times better than Niraṅga iron. These gradations of iron obviously refer to the pig, cast and wrought iron. But the author of the Rasaratnasaṁuchchaya was more precise in describing the characteristics of each quality of iron. Munda or cast iron has been classified thus: Mridu or easily malleable but unbreakable and glossy, Kāṇṭha which expanded very little after hammering and Kadara which was breakable. Tikṣṇa or steel had the following six varieties: Khara, Sara, Hriṅgāla, Tarabhaṭṭa, Vajra and Kālāluha. Kānta had also different varieties: Bhrānakara or iron which moved all other iron, Chumvaka and Karṣaka, i.e., magnetic iron, Drāvaka, i.e., iron which easily melted, Romakāntā, i.e., iron which when burnt shot hair-like filaments. These characteristics or iron and steel clearly prove that the manufacture of iron reached a high stage of development in Northern India in the period under survey. The process of purifying iron has been discussed at length by Sir P. C. Ray in his History of Hindu Chemistry. The Kashmir manuscript of Vrinda (c. 900 A.D.) prescribes that iron is to be lighted first and then "macerated in the juice of the emblic myrobalan and trewia nudiflora and ex-
posed to the sun, and again to be macerated in the juice of certain other plants and then to be rubbed in a mortar’. Chakrapāṇi of the eleventh century A.D. prescribes a better method of purification of iron. After the bar of iron is rubbed with impalpable powder, as described by Vṛinda, the iron is to be heated to fusion point and plunged into the decoction of the myrobalans and roasted repeatedly in a crucible. The Rasaratnasamuchchaya informs us that if a piece of iron is rubbed with cinnabar weighing 1/20th of the weight of that iron, and lemon juice and sour gruel and roasted in a covered crucible forty times, kāntam, tikṣṇam and mundam are killed. Tikṣṇa iron can be powdered if it is repeatedly heated.

Copper:

North Indians had presumably no knowledge of the copper mines of Chotanagpur and the Deccan. It was an article of export from Broach in the days of Periplus (c. 75 A.D.) but in Marco Polo’s time (c. 1293) Thānā port used to import copper. The author of the Rasaratnasamuchchaya was aware only of the superior quality of copper brought from Nepal, and of the copper dug from mines in Mlechchha countries. Locations of copper are mentioned in the Dhātumaṇḍarī, a part of the Rudrayāmalatantra, probably a work composed not earlier than the fourteenth century, as Nepal, Kamarupa, Bengal, Madanesvara, Gangādvāra, that is foot of the Himalayas, the country of the Mlechchas, Rūma, the country of the Phirangas and mountaineous regions.

Sulphide and sulphate are two compounds of copper. Vṛinda (c. 900 A.D.) says that sulphide of copper could be prepared artificially. “Sulphur, copper and the pyrites are to be pounded together with mercury and subjected to roasting in a closed crucible and the product thus obtained to be administered with honey.” Chakrapāṇi also gives us the method of preparing powder of copper-compound.
Copper could be extracted from other materials like blue vitriol and borax\textsuperscript{49}, as is known from Rasaratnasamuchchchaya (II. 133-136) which states: "Take blue vitriol and one-fourth its weight of borax and soak the mixture in the oil expressed from the seeds of pongamia glabra for one day only and then place it in a covered crucible and heat in the charcoal fire," mākshika which has been identified by P. C. Ray with pyrites and vimāla.\textsuperscript{70} The process described in these books is similar to that of the earlier Rasaratnākara (II. 35-36) ascribed to Nāgārjuna. However, it is interesting to state here that according to the Rasaratnasamuchchchaya II. 8 D, the golden pyrite was available in Kanauj.\textsuperscript{71}

\textit{Use of other metals:}

Like the purification of iron, other matters like sulphur, alum or tuvāri and minerals like silver, tin, lead could also be purified.\textsuperscript{72} Besides these metals, mica was pressed into service. A close study of the Rasaratnasamuchchchaya\textsuperscript{73} reveals that there were three varieties, viz. piṇākam, nāga maṇḍukam and vajram. The speciality of mica as known to them was that mica did not combine with mercury.

Hindu alchemists could extract zinc from calamine.\textsuperscript{74} The Rasaratnasamuchchchaya, V. 205 and 212-216 prescribes the method of preparing alloys like Kāṁsyā (bell-metal) and Vartaloham.\textsuperscript{75} "Kāṁsyā, is made by melting together eight parts of copper and two parts of tin." "Vartaloham is produced from Kāṁsyā, copper, pittala (brass), iron and lead." The Bhatera copper-plate of Govinda-keśava also mentions the name of one Govinda, who used to make bell-metal.

The purification of gold and other minerals or that of mercury was known to Indians for a long time. These were used for medical purposes. The earliest account of the chloride of mercury is to be found in the Rasārṇava\textsuperscript{76} (c. 1000-1212 A.D.). Sir P. C. Ray writes in his Hindu Chemistry that "the chlorides of mercury are found to be medicinally used from the twelfth century downwards".\textsuperscript{77} The Tantras
and the Nātha yogins knew and popularised the use of mercury. That mercury gave long life was not the tall claim of the Tantras alone. Foreign observers like Marco Polo believed in its efficiency: "There is another class of people called chugi (yogi)", writes Marco Polo, "who were indeed properly abraiman, but they form a religious order devoted to the idols. They are extremely long-lived, every one of them living to 150 or 200 years.... These people make use of a strange beverage, for they make a potion of sulphur and quicksilver mixed together, and this they drink twice every month."

The famous physician Chakrapāni (c. 1060 A.D.) gave due recognition to the preparation of black sulphide of mercury for cure of diseases.

Glass Industry:

The use of Kācha or glass in India is at least as old as the age of Suśruta, who prescribed that liquids and wine should be served in glass vessels. More references to glass occur in mediæval works* of the 12th and 13th centuries. Rasārṇava mentions Kācha Kupī, a glass bottle. The use of different types of glass-vessels are mentioned in the thirteenth century works on alchemy like Rasaratnākara of Nityanātha Siddha and Rasaprakāśasudhākara of Yasodhara. The Rasaratnasamuchchaya (IX. 34-36) also mentions an apparatus of glass known as Vālukāyantram which is described as follows: "A glass-flask with a long neck containing mercurials is wrapped with several folds of cloth smeared with clay and then dried in the sun."

Mirrors:

But Indians did not know the method of making looking-glasses. Brass served the purpose of mirrors. Mirrors were manufactured from eight minerals. It appears from the

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Yuktikalpataru that mercury was also one of the ingredients. The above-mentioned book also refers to three varieties of mirrors, viz. bhavya which was one-vitasti in length, vijaya which was four aṅgulas long and broad and pauruṣa on which fell the full length of a person. Even in the 17th century, when Vīranitirodaya was composed, mirrors were made of bell-metal. India began to import foreign European glasses from 1550 A.D. onwards. So we may safely assume that the mirrors which figure in the Pāla, Khajuraho, and Bhuvanesvar sculptures were made of brass or gem.

Tanning Industry:

How old the use of footwear in India cannot be definitely ascertained. The Taittirīya Saṁhitā, Gobhila Grihyasūtra and Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva refer to it. Sculptural representations from Bengal, Bihar and other places show the use of boots by Sūrya and Revanta. Tanning industry must have been popular as Lakṣmīdhara speaks of the association of leather workers. The Sūkranitisāra also refers to persons working with leather as deserving of the attention of the king. Leather was also exported in large quantities from Thānā. Marco Polo says that dressed hide was exported to Arabia and the Persian Gulf. Cambay was one of the centres for manufacture of sandals. Besides shoes, other articles made were bags for carrying water and bottles for keeping oils.

Boat-making industry:

Boat-making was one of the main industries in countries like Bengal and Kashmir, which have got a net-work of rivers. The Charyāpadas often explain their philosophy by using the simile of boats. A pada of Kaṅhapāda states that the body which is the net or Māya should be plied in the mid-stream, and the Paṅcha Tathāgata should be made an oarsman. Some of the Charyāpadas also introduce us to the method of plying boats. Incidentally the life of boatmen is presented
to us in these picturesque descriptions of the Sahajia Buddhists. Sarahapāda states: “Body is boat, pure mind is its oar, the Guru’s words are helm. Fix up your mind and hold the boat, in no other way can you cross the river. The boatman carries the boat by rope; mingle yourself with Sahaja and do not go in any other different direction.” Kamvālamvarā also describes the starting of a boat. The peg of the boat has been taken out and the rope has been spread. Oh labourer, after asking the Sadguru, ply the boat. He looks around; but who can ply the boat without helm? Another song composed by Bhūsukupāda, narrates that Bhūsuku after crossing the Padmā canal reached East Bengal. But Vaṅga (i.e., East Bengal) is merciless—whatever material was on the boat, everything was taken away by the dacoits.

The Yukzikalpataru of Bhoja acquaints us with all the necessary materials and characteristic qualities of types of boats. Boats are classified by him on the basis of woods used in them. They are four categories, viz. (a) light, soft and pieceable wood belonging to the Brāhmānical class, (b) light and yet strong and not easily pieceable to the Kṣatriya class, (c) soft and heavy as Vaiśya and (d) strong and heavy as Śūdra. Bhoja recommends that the Kṣatriya wood was the most suitable for construction of boats. Another basis of his classification is the measurement and area of boats. The ordinary types were ten in number: kṣudrā, madhyamā, bhimā, chapalā, pātalā, bhayā, dirghā, patrapuṭā, garbhā and mantharā. Of these ordinary vessels journey in bhimā, bhayā and garbhā are regarded as inauspicious. Excepting mantharā all the above-mentioned boats could cross the ocean. Bhoja also advises that the woods of ocean-going vessels are not to be joined together with iron, because magnetic iron in the sea could lead to the capsize of boats.

Contemporary inscriptions and literature also corroborate the statements of Bhoja. The Bhatera copper-plate refers to boats. In Bengal, during the days of Devapāla there were officers in charge of ferries called Tarika and Tarapati.
Bengal merchants often went abroad. It is also well-known that the South-Indians had intimate commercial and political contacts with South-East Asia, which could not have been possible without ships. Śrīharṣa used the term pota for sea-going vessels.\textsuperscript{97} Chāryā song no. 15 composed by Sāntipāda also refers to vessels entering the seas.

Other types of boats are also mentioned in the Yuktikalparu. The special (viṣeṣa) boats are classified in two categories, viz. dirghā and unnottā. The former was again classified into ten sub-classes, viz. dirghikā, taranī, lōlā, gatvarā, gāminī, tārī, janghalā, plāvinī, dhārīnī and veginī. Of these the use of lōlā, gāminī and plāvinī has been regarded as troublesome. He also describes boats with cabins and without cabins. The boats with cabins are known as sarvamandirā, madhyamandirā and agramandirā on the basis of the position of the cabin in front, the rear or the whole of it. The first type sarvamandirā was used by kings and queens, the second one by the sovereign during rainy season and the third one for military expeditions.

Contemporary literature and inscriptions show the value of boats in wars. The Kamauli grant of Vaidyadeva, the commentary of the Rāmācharita refer to naval engagements and to the crossings of rivers by the Pāla army.\textsuperscript{98} Boats were used in a military expedition of Vijayāsena.\textsuperscript{99} The Madanpur plate of Śrīchandra also refers to ardhanauvāṭaka and nauvāṭaka, which mean a fleet of boats and half a division of fleet.\textsuperscript{100} It seems that only by the use of 1400 war-boats Sultān Mahmūd could defeat the Jats in 1026 A.D.\textsuperscript{101} In Kashmir, Sujji could win the battle of Gambhīrā by erecting a boat-bridge.\textsuperscript{102} Boats are essential for crossing the rivers in Kashmir. The making of boat-bridges over-Vitastā is as old as the time of Pravarasena II.\textsuperscript{103} The importance of boats as the ordinary means of travel in the Kashmirian valley is evident from frequent references to river journeys in the Rājataraṅgini.\textsuperscript{104}

It is interesting to note here that something like modern oceanic vessels with several floors and facilities like lounge-
playgrounds etc. are mentioned in Kālidāsa’s *Raghuvaṁśa* and *Śrīmad Bhāgavata*. These are called *Nauvimāna*. Neither inscriptions nor technical literature acquaint us with such pleasure-boats. They may be poetic fancies. Dr. Radhakumud Mookerjee is the first Indian historian to draw the attention of the scholarly world to the shipping industry in ancient India.

**Wooden furniture:**

Household commodities made of wood were, as in olden times, chairs, couch and bedsteads. The *Yuktikalpataru* mentions chairs made of metal, stone, and wood. The varieties of woods used were: *gāmbhāri, panasa, chandana, bakula* trees etc. The *pīhas* called *śubhastaṅgaka, jaya, sukha, jaraka*, were used during royal coronation. Bhoja also gives detailed information about the types of planks of wood used for manufacturing the bedstead. There were eight types of bedsteads, viz. *maṅgalā, vijaya, puṣṭi, kṣarā, tuṣṭi, sukhāsana, pracaṅḍā* and *sarvatobhadrā*, each of which differed from the other in size. The *Rājatarāṅginī* mentions cotton-padded couch.

**Soap and soap-nuts:**

A scholarly account of the use of soap and soap-nuts in ancient and mediaeval India has been given by Gode. As early as the *Manuśmṛti* and *Yājñavalkya* various types of woollen or silken goods were washed with *ariṣṭa* or soap-berry tree, *bel* fruit or *uṣah* and *kṣāramṛttikā* or saline earth. According to Dalhana of Kashmir (c. 1100 A.D.) saline earth could be found in plenty at Baḷataraḍeṣa near Benares. *Phenaka*, a soap-like substance began to be used by men of fashion in the days of Vatsyāyana. By the time of Aparāka, the following things were used for cleaning clothes: hot water, ashes, powder of wheat, *kalāya, māṣa, maṣura* and *mudga* pulses, cowdung, salt, earth, *gosakriḍabhasma*, sand, alkaline water, *asmapragharṣaṇa* and *gomūtrakaṇāra*. Silvery water was
to be used for woollen and silken garments and gold-water for *kṣauma* goods. Exposure to air, fire, moon's and sun's rays was recommended in case of costly woollen garments and also the use of soap-nuts, *iṅguda*, rice (*taṇḍula*), and mustard.\textsuperscript{111}

**Ornaments:**

Arab travellers like Sulajman and Abu Zeid of the ninth century found men and women using gold bracelets adorned with precious stones. Precious ear-rings and collars were worn by kings and the grandees of courts.\textsuperscript{112} Describing the ornaments used by kings, Abu Zeid writes: "They (i.e., the kings of the Indies) wear also collars of great price, adorned with precious stones of diverse colours, but especially green and red; yet pearls are what they most esteem; and their value surpasses that of all other jewels.... The grandees of their court, the great officers and captains wear the like jewels in their colours."\textsuperscript{113} Many ornaments are referred to in the Deopara inscription of Vijayasena and the Naihati plate of Vallālasena. The former mentions jewels, necklaces, ear-rings, anklets and gold bracelets.\textsuperscript{114} *Rāmacharita\textsuperscript{115}, Triṣaṭṭisalākāpurusācharita\textsuperscript{116}, Rājatarāṅginī\textsuperscript{117}, Samayamātrikā\textsuperscript{118} and Naṣadhācharita\textsuperscript{119} describe various types of ornaments. The terracotta figures discovered at Raighat, Baranasi show how the hairs of ladies were tied with pearl festoons.\textsuperscript{120} *Ratnakunḍala* was a popular ornament in Bengal.\textsuperscript{121} The Khajuraho sculptures show that *keyura, nūpura* and *graivyeka* necklace were extensively used. O. C. Gangoly has shown that these sculptures demonstrate the wearing of various kinds of ornaments by females on their forehead, arms, wrists and ears.\textsuperscript{122} In the *Deśināmamālā* of Hemachandra we have the names of the following ornaments: ear ornaments, rings, necklace and head ornament called *chalvāso.*\textsuperscript{123} Besides these, ornaments like ullahayam made of cowries and *Tagnam*, a bracelet made of strings as used by poorer people are also mentioned by Hemachandra.\textsuperscript{124}
The high degree of skill attained by jewellers is amply testified by the intricate designs manifested in the necklaces and ear-rings in Khajuraho sculptures. Pārvatī and Lākṣmī wear a necklace arranged in rectangular slabs. An Apsarā with a mirror in the Kandariya Mahādeo temple wears a tyre-shaped necklace and the Flying Deva in the Dulādeo temple is seen with a necklace whose rectangular blocks are long. As regards ear ornaments, the Apsarā of the Pārśvanath temple, wears a heavy ornament, where a bud appears below the ear and below the bud a sun-flower-like ear-ring hangs. The Apsarā with a mirror in the Kālī temple has an earring, which is a round pressed square-block. Another Apsarā with a scorpion in the Kandariya Mahādeo temple has an ear-ring whose flowers are entwined.

Contemporary inscriptions and literature refer to the following industries also: machinery for drawing water, for extraction of oil, for pressing barley, equipments for catching fishes, conchshell, construction of chariots, stone-cutting, enamelling of metals, pottery, polishing earthen, wooden, stone and metallic vessels, making of watches and musical instruments, ropes and saddles, flaying of hides, canework, dyeing of clothes, ivory-works, silver products etc. The casting of metallic images was another important industry in India. Its centres, however, are not known to us. But it is certain from the findspot of images of Nalanda and Kurkihar that bronze industry was in a flourishing condition in South Bihar. Soon after the Turko-Afghan invasion, the bronze industry seems to have disappeared from the region in the thirteenth century.

Organisation of Guilds:

The artisans and craftsmen engaged in different industries generally carried on their work in their own cottages. Some of them, however, had a number of apprentices under them. These apprentices learnt the craft under the master's care and supervision. He had to provide them with food and
lodging, but no remuneration had to be paid for the output turned out by the apprentices. As all classes of people were habituated to live in joint families and as five to ten adult male members very often lived in one family, the industrial units in the eleventh and twelfth centuries need not be considered as run by one or two personally. People belonging to the same vocational caste used to reside together in a village or in a quarter of the town.

From time immemorial the artisans and craftsmen carried on their work under the control of their śrenīs or corporations. Each craft or industry had its own corporations, but these bodies were local in character. There is no evidence to show that the vocational corporations or śrenīs of villages were united in district councils or that the latter sent representatives to the regional or state councils. The local associations, however, in big cities or capital towns wielded considerable power.

Medhātiṣṭha commenting on Manu VIII. 41 states that śrenīs are formed by artisans, tradesmen, money-lenders, coach-drivers and so forth. Vijñānesvara in explaining Yājñavalkya II. 30 specifically mentions the śrenī of weavers, shoemakers, betel-sellers etc. Devaṃśabhaṭṭa also defines śrenīs as guilds of craftsmen like weavers. Alberuni states that eight classes of people, namely, the fullers, shoe-makers, jugglers, basket and shield-makers, sailors, fishermen, hunters of wild animals and birds and weavers formed guilds. The Tailika śrenī or guild of oil-pressers and gardeners are referred to in contemporary inscriptions.

Lakṣmīdhara, Aparārka and Devaṃśabhaṭṭa all quote a passage of Bṛhaspati which states that the śrenīs, as well as ganas and village associations, may make certain agreements which must be binding on all the members. The old law-givers like Yājñavalkya and Nārada lay down that it is the duty of the king to prevent the breach of conventions of śrenī, pūga, naigama etc. These clearly show that the guilds had some power to make laws relating to the
conduct of their business. They had also some judicial powers. Aparārka quotes Bṛhāspati to show that the heads of guilds may reprimand and condemn wrong-doers and may also excommunicate them.\textsuperscript{143} It is, however, stipulated in the \textit{Sukranūtisāra} that cases of theft and robbery are to be decided by the king alone and not by the guilds.\textsuperscript{144}

The \textit{Śmrīchandrīkā} declares that when \textit{sarrāhas} like \textit{sreṇis} fail to decide cases unanimously, they should appoint an executive committee consisting of two, three or five \textit{kāya-chintakas} and \textit{hitavādins}.\textsuperscript{145} The heads of important guilds commanded great authority and respect. The Deopara inscription states that Śūlapāṇi who was the head of the artisans of Varendra (North Bengal), received from the king the title of \textit{Rāṣṭaka}.\textsuperscript{146}

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25 Medinikôsa.
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CHAPTER X

Currency, Banking and Usury

The plunder of accumulated gold and silver on an extensive scale in cities like Kanauj, Mathura and Somanatha by Sultān Mahmūd could not but produce an adverse effect on the currency system in Northern India. Gold had gone out of currency as a result of the large-scale devastation of the country by the Hūṇas. Excepting Kashmir, it took nearly five hundred years to make arrangement for issuing gold coins after the fall of the Gupta empire. The credit of resurrecting gold currency goes to Gāṅgeyadeva, who ascended the throne of Tripurī some time before 1019 A.D. He must have issued these in his kingdom when other parts of India were being devastated by Sultān Mahmūd. Varanasi, which had recently been incorporated by him in his own kingdom, was denuded of its riches by Ahmad Niyāltigīn, Governor of the Punjab under the ruler of Ghaznī. The general impoverishment of the country prevented Gāṅgeya-deva’s successors from continuing the issue of gold currency.* King Harṣa (1089-1101 A.D.) was the only king of Kashmir during our period to issue gold and silver coins.

In the second-half of the eleventh century A.D. Kīrttivarman issued Half-drammās weighing 31 grains only.⁵ Amongst his successors Madanavarman issued Quarter-drammās and Paramardī full dramma, weighing 61.64 grains. Pṛthvīdeva, Jājalladeva and Rātnadeva II belonging to the Kalachuri dynasty of Ratanpur issued gold coins weighing 13 to 60 grains.⁴ The only Paramāra ruler to issue gold coin was Udayāditya, who ruled over parts of Central and Northern India between 1060 and 1087⁵ A.D. A large number of gold coins of Govindachandra

* Prof. Mirashi suggests that probably Karṇa struck the eight gold coins which bear the name of Gāṅgeyadeva and have been discovered in the village of Isurpur, Tahsil Rehli, Sauġor district, on the ground that they differ considerably from other coins of Gāṅgeyadeva.⁹
Gāhaḍavāla has been discovered. These usually weigh 59 to 68 grains. The only ruler belonging to the Chaulukya dynasty of Gujarata whose gold coins have been discovered is Jayasimha Siddharāja, two of whose gold coins have been found in the Jhansi district of the U. P.⁴ Speaking of the gold coins issued by the Chāndellas, Kalachuris of Tripuri and Ratanpur, Tomaras, and Rāthors, Dr. S. N. Chakravarti observes: “The metal is generally very much debased”.⁵ Dr. Altekar draws attention to the depreciation of the gold coins in weight from 120 grains to 60 grains in the gold coins of Northern India in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.⁶ He also shows that silver coinage of the period was about ten grains lighter. Pṛthvirāja III (c. 1177-1192 A.D.) issued silver and billon coins, whose weight varied from 47 to 53 grains. Dr. S. N. Chakravarty observes that on account of the scarcity of silver, “the Rajput states were forced to use billon as a substitute of silver”.⁷ According to Cunningham, “the Billon coins of mixed silver and copper which were adopted by all the later kings or Tomaras and Chauhāns, are called Diliwals or Dilians by the early Muham-‘madan writers”.⁸ The weight of copper coins of Govinda-chandra preserved in the Indian Museum weigh 37 to 49 grains, while those issued by the Tomaras and Chāhamānas are in the neighbourhood of 50 grains, in place of the ancient Indian standard Kārṣāpaṇa of 146 grains.

The standard money in many parts of Northern India appears to have been Dramma. The Gwalior inscription of Bhojadeva of Kananj, dated 875 A.D., the Pehoa, Asni and Siyadoni inscriptions of the tenth century,¹¹ the stone-inscription of Aśvāka dated 1143 A.D.,¹² the Kiradu stone-inscription of Alhanaideva, dated VS 1209/1152 A.D.,¹³ the Nadol plates of Prince Kirtipāla dated 1160 A.D.¹⁴ and the Besani¹⁵ and Jaunpur¹⁶ inscriptions of 1207 and 1216 A.D. refer to Dramnas. The most interesting of these from the standpoint of history of currency is the Siyadoni inscription, which mentions four varieties of Drammas and four other varieties of
coins, namely, Pañchiyaka-dramma, Vigrahapāla-dramma, Vigrahapāla-sataka-dramma, Śrimadādivarāha-dramma, Varāha-kāyaviniśopaka, Kākinī, Varāṭaka and Kapardaka. "The Pañchiyaka dramma", according to P. N. Bhattacharyya, "appears to have been a piece of 5 Boddikas. As a Boddika weighs 11.2 grains, a Pañchiyaka could weigh only 56 grains."

Hemachandra mentions Boddīa as a coin, and this may be the same as Boddikas. Dr. V. S. Agrawala equates a Boddika with the old Bengali term of accounting called Buddhisti, which consists of 5 Gaudas or 20 Cowries or quarter-Pana. Cunningham takes Boddika as a corrupt form of Pādika which means one-fourth. He, of course, treats a Boddika as a quarter of silver Purāna. A copper Boddika could be equal to twenty Cowries, but not a silver Boddika. Dr. Altekar in explaining the Shergadh (Kotah) inscription of V.S. 1075 also points out that the term Vodri means one-fourth of the copper Pana and was equivalent to twenty Cowries. The Pañchiyakadramma, therefore, was equal to one hundred Cowries. The Vigrahapāla-dramma weighed 67.2 grains which is of the same weight as the Sañboddika-dramma mentioned in the Jaunpur inscription. It was equal to 6 Boddikas or 120 Cowries. The weight of a gold Śrimadādivarāha-dramma was about 63 grains. It was, therefore, of a little higher value than a Pañchiyaka and a little lower than the Vigrahapāla-dramma.

A Kapardaka is the same as Kapadi as mentioned in the Bilhari inscription. It has been translated as one Cowrie shell by R. D. Banerji. It has got, therefore, the same meaning as the Varāṭaka. According to the Gaṇitaśāra, 20 Varāṭakas or Cowrie shells make one Kāgeni or Kākinī. Lakṣmīdhāra states that it is well-known that 4 Kākinīs make one Pana and 16 Panas are equivalent to one Purāṇa. The term Purāṇa is frequently found in the Sena inscriptions. It means therefore, 20 Varāṭakas × 4 Kākinīs × 16 Panas = 1280 Cowries. This is also the finding of Dr. N. K. Bhattasali, who equates Kāhana and Kārṣṭaṇa with Kapardaka.
Purāṇa. He seems to have followed the lead of Thomas, who states that 16 Paṇas were equal to 1 Kāhāwan or Kāṟṟāpaṇa of silver. Stein has reconstituted the following table for calculating the currency of Kashmir, after taking into consideration all the literary references in Kashmirian literature and also the account of Abul Fazl.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Equivalent values on Abul Fazl's estimate.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Dinnāras</td>
<td>1 Dvādana (Bāhgan) 1/8th Dām or 1/320 rupee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Dvādana</td>
<td>25 Dinnāras (Paṇcha-vīṣṭatīka) 1/4th Dām or 1/360 rupee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Paṇcha-vīṣṭatīka</td>
<td>100 Dinnāras (1 Śata, Hāth) 1 Dām or 1/40th rupee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Śata</td>
<td>100,000 Dinnāras (1 Śahasra, Sāsuṇ) 25 rupees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Śahasra</td>
<td>10,000 Dinnāras (1 Lakṣa, lākha) 2500 rupees.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Speaking of the traditional systems of counting current up to 1892 A.D. he states:

- 1 Bāhgan or 12 Dinnāras = 8 Cowries.
- 1 Pāntshu or 25 Dinnāras = 16 Cowries.

He further observes: "As 4 Pāntshus go to the Hāth, which is represented now by the pice or 1/64 of a rupee. it follows that 16 × 4 × 64 = 4096 Cowries are, or were, until quite recently reckoned in the rupee". It may be noted here that the Kashmirian Dinnāra was lower in value than the Cowrie as 8 Cowries were equal to 12 Dinnāras. It was difficult to import and transport Cowries to Kashmir and this is why its price was higher there.

Some inscriptions refer to a coin called Gūḍhaiyā or Gadyānas. These are identified by Cunningham with Saṭḥod-dikka-drammas of Jaunpur inscription.

In spite of gold, silver, buillion and copper currency, the masses kept their account and transacted business in Cowries. We have already noted the use of Cowrie in the Siyadoni inscription and in the Bilhari inscription, which records the receipt of one Kapardi from each shop by the Śaiva ascetics.
Kṣemendra in his *Samayamātrikā* refers to a miserly merchant who sends his contribution to a dinner party one *Tolā* of oil, two *Tolās* of salt and two *Śvetakas* or *Cowries* for vegetables. In his *Kalāvilāsa* he relates the story of another merchant who sent three *Cowries* every evening to his house for daily expenses. Kalhaṇa speaks of a favourite of King Sanigrāmadeva who started his life with a *Varāṭaka* or *Cowrie* and finally amassed a crore. From all these Stein concludes “that the *Cowree* was from early times used as a monetary token in Kashmir as elsewhere in India”. He further observes that “gold and silver cannot have formed in Hindu times an important part of the actual coined currency in Kashmir”.

A similar statement may be made with regard to the currency in Bengal. The *Charyāpadas* refer to the use of *Kāvaḍi* and *Vodi*. Minhāj states that when the Muhammadans for the first time came to Bengal they noticed no silver currency in the country but found the people using *Cowrie* shells in economic transactions. The land-grants of the Sena period speak of *Purāṇa* and *Kapardaka-Purāṇas* indeed, but Dr. S. K. Chakravarti suggests that these were a mere abstract unit of account and that “payments were made in *Cowries* and a certain number of them came to be equated to the silver coin, the *Purāṇa*”. Chandesvara quotes Hārīta in his *Grihastharattākara* (Page 447) to show that at the rate of 8 *Paṇas* monthly interest on 25 *Purāṇas*, the principal would be doubled in 4 years and 2 months.

There was a severe paucity of coined money in Orissa. Some of the land grants of the Somavarnī rulers and the Talcher copper-plates of Gayādatuṅga refer to rent in certain quantities of silver measured in *Palas, Māsas* and *Gujās*. The daily transactions were certainly carried on there in *Cowries*.

A close study of inscriptions, however, reveals that bigger transactions used to be carried on in many parts of Northern India in gold and silver. Even a remote corner of Eastern India like Assam used gold coins, as is testified to by the grant of 900 gold coins to a *Brāhmaṇa* of Varendrī by King
Jayapāla of Kamarupa, who flourished in the eleventh century A.D. An inscription of the reign of Bhīma II of Gujarāt, dated V.S. 1264/1207-08 A.D. shows that the Pratīhāra (door-keeper) Sakhaḍa gave to one Rauta Uchchādeva together with his sons and grandsons, one Dramma yearly and one Rūpaka daily to some other persons. This shows that the Dramma referred to above was gold Dramma and that Rūpaka was apparently made of silver.

The relative value of gold, silver and copper must have differed from one state to another, on account of the availability or otherwise of one metal in terms of others. Theoretically, 1 part of gold was equal to 16 parts of silver according to the twelfth-century mathematician Bhāskarāchārya, who states that 16 silver Drammas were equal to a golden Niḍa. The same ratio is also prescribed in the Śukranītisāra, which states that gold is 16 times dearer than silver. The same work states that silver is 80 times dearer than copper. Dr. Altekar has shown, however, that according to Bhāskarāchārya and the Medinikosa one silver Dramma was equal to 16 copper Paṇas. He further observes: “The silver unit in the currency at the time of Bhāskarāchārya was of about 50 grs.; and allowing for an alloy of 20%, the data in Lilāvati would show that 40 grains of silver were equal in value to 16×140 grs. of copper. The ratio in the prices of the two metals would thus be 1:56.” This is a much higher ratio than the one mentioned by Śukra. We, however, do not know what the unit of the copper currency was actually in vogue in the time of Lilāvati. If we assume that it was a Paṇa of 20 and not 16 Mūshas, then the ratio between the prices of the two metals would be about 1:70.

Banking:

Merchants and manufacturers used to keep deposits of customers with them. We have not been able to find out any epigraphic evidence of the existence in Northern India of any guild accepting the deposits on promise to pay interest during
the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. The Siyadoni inscription records that in Samvat 969/912 A.D., the merchant Nāgāka gave to a deity the capital of 1350 Śrīmadādivarāha-drammas which had been invested with the distillers of spirituous liquor. The Turkish raids, almost interminable warfare between the North Indian states and the frequent wars of succession which characterised the period under review, must have adversely affected the position of indigenous bankers. The old law-givers state that if the deposit be lost through act of God or the King or is stolen by thieves, the person who has accepted the deposit is not to be made liable to return them. We may presume that in troublous period between 1030 and 1194 A.D. many such deposits were either plundered by invaders or taken away by the King for reasons of state. There are definite indications to show that the supply of capital was inadequate to meet the demand and, therefore, concessions had to be made in favour of the owners of capital to induce them to invest it in trade and industry, and also lend it for consumption purposes.

According to Manu the property which is mortgaged on the condition that in lieu of interest the fruits or profits of it are to be enjoyed by the creditor cannot be sold or gifted away by the latter even after a long time. Medhātithi in explaining this verse says that the creditor cannot sub-mortgage such a property. But after a lapse of some three or four hundred years from the time of Medhātithi, Kullākabhaṭṭa notes that it is a common practice in all countries for a mortgagee to execute a sub-mortgage of land. Capital could not be locked up indefinitely for a long time and so provision had to be made for making it available to the creditor by allowing him to sub-mortgage the property.

Kane has pointed out that Vijñānesvara in explaining Yājñavalkya II.64 states that if the income from a mortgaged property is not sufficient to meet the interest wholly then the debtor may have to pay the principal and the unpaid part of the debt before redeeming his property. This again shows that on account of scarcity of loanable funds, which are now
technically called liquid assets, a rate of interest was fixed even in such cases of loan in which the creditor was given, the right cases of loan in which the creditor was given, the right to enjoy the produce of the mortgaged property and that if he found its value less than that of stipulated rate of interest, he could charge the balance on the debtor. This was highly prejudicial to the debtor, because the creditor might not have applied sufficient doses of labour and capital to the land mortgaged or given inadequate food to the milch-cow pledged.

Manu and Gautama have distinctly laid down that “the amount of principal and interest recoverable at one time in a lump sum cannot be more than double of the money lent”. But Vijnâneśvara in explaining Yajñavalkya II. 39 stipulates certain conditions under which it is possible for the creditor to realise more than double of the amount lent. Of these the most important is that if the interest is received every day, month or year and is not claimed in a lump sum at one time then the total interest received by a creditor may be even several times more than the principal lent. Interest was certainly collected by the creditor periodically in most cases and in all these cases the law of damdupat could be evaded intentionally.

Merchants sometimes proved dishonest in their dealings with depositors. Kalhana relates a story of such a merchant, who had taken a deposit of one lakh of Dînâras from a customer. The deposit lay with him for a period of twenty or thirty years, during which the customer used to take out small amounts for his expenditure. When he asked for the return of the balance, the merchant made an absurd and fraudulent statement from his account book as follows: “...600 (Dînâras) have been taken by you for tolls in crossing the bridge. A hundred was given to the leather worker for the repair of a torn shoe and of a whip. For 50 (your) servant-girl took ghee against a blister on the foot. From pity you gave 300 to a potter-woman who was crying over her broken load of pots. Look again and again, here they are put down on the birch-bark. For a 100 you have
brought from the market mice and fish-juice to feed tenderly the kittens of the cat. For seven hundreds were bought butter as an ointment for the feet as well as rice-flower, ghee and honey on the occasion of the baths of the Srāddha fortnight. Your little boy took honey and ginger when suffering from an attack of cough,...... In order to get rid of an obstinate beggar who tore his testicles and was expert in assaults, you gave him 300. For the incense, the roots of the Sauda plant and the onions (presented) to the Gurus, at an average (estimate) of the whole cost one hundred or two must be counted." He ultimately claimed that interest must be paid on these advances as the total of these sums, according to his reckoning exceeded the amount of the original deposit. The merchant speaks of the deposit as a closed one bearing no interest. King Uchchala, however, decided that as the deposited amount was used by the merchant it must bear interest. We have made this lengthy quotation because here Kalhana draws a realistic picture of the Kashmirian society in the twelfth century. He makes a sweeping remark regarding the character of indigenous bankers as follows: "A merchant in a law-suit relating to the embezzlement of a deposit is more to be dreaded than a tiger; because he shows a face smooth as oil, uses his voice but very little and shows a gentle appearance".47

Yājñavalkya48 has laid down that if the depositee makes use of the article deposited without the permission of the depositor, he should be fined and made to return the deposit with interest. But Chañdeśvara states that if the deposit is not sealed and if the depositee uses it for sometime and then replaces it, no blame or liability attaches to him.49

A highly interesting document relating to the use of Hundis in the eleventh century A.D. has been quoted from Kṣemendra’s Lokapratīṣṭha by Stein. It relates to a transaction for a sum of 10,000 Dīnārās,* which is payable at

* The Hundika form runs as follows:

deyam śrī prāpte suti viśaye Jayananda dhām āra amukanā-
Jayavanna, modern Zevan, within a period of one year. The Lokaparaküsa, which was originally written by Kšemendra and later on supplemented by various other persons belonging to the Hindu period, of Kashmir, uses the terms, dinnurojjāmacirikā or acknowledgment of a debt in Dinnāra or cash, dhānyojjāmacirikā or acknowledgment of a debt in rice and bhāndojjāmacirikā or acknowledgment of a debt on pawn. In his Samayamūtrakā too we come across the term Ujjāmappātrikā, meaning a document acknowledging the receipt of a loan. It was usual, therefore, to have documents relating to a loan transaction: Yājñavalkya and Nārada prescribe that the creditor must either write on the reverse of the document or issue separate receipts for the part payment made to him by the debtor. The Jaunpur brick-inscription dated 1217 A.D. shows that one Gaṅgadeva borrowed 2250 Dranānas on the security of cultivated lands and attested his own signature on the inscribed bricks. Unscrupulous money-lenders used to take advantage of the illiteracy of debtors. Dāmodaragupta relates that Hara used to write ten times the amount lent.

The merchants used to borrow capital from indigenous bankers just as they do at present. The rate of interest charged was much heavier in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. Both Lakṣmīdhara and Chaṇḍesvara quote with approval the time honoured rate of 1/80th of the principal lent as interest per month on secured debts. This means that the principal was doubled in 6 years and 8 months, or that it yielded an interest of 15 per cent. The Mahājanas of Śivapura paid 25% interest on the deposit of 6 Gadyānas. This is nearly the same rate as the rate of 2% per month prescribed by Lakṣmīdhara and Chaṇḍesvara on loans with-

mukaputrena kurh va nekāne sati dharmatah dinnāra-sahasraśake aṅke di 10,000 etc. amūryadyūrbhya saṁvatsaraññi tāvat/prōptaḥbhād/di (mnāra) sahasrokaṁ nyāyaprayaparipāhāre sati ruddhā niḥbandhāṁ nyāyatunṣṭataññi (?) yasya hastesaññi kuṇḍikā tasyaṁvāṁ.
out pledge or mortgage *bandhaka-ruhita.* Alberuni writes, "The usury or taking percentages is forbidden... only to the Śūdra. It is allowed to take percentages, as long as his profit is not more than one-fiftieth of the capital" (i.e., not more than 2%). This was the ordinary rate for perfectly secure debts. But Vijñānaśvara upholds the charging of a rate of 10% per month or 120% per year from merchants who had to traverse dense forests for carrying on trade; seafaring traders being charged double this rate. He adduces the argument that these exorbitant rates are allowed because of the great danger of the loss of even the principal as the debtors may perish by shipreck or from the attacks of robbers and wild beasts. This apprehension of losing the principal shows that there were persons and institutions to advance money to traders engaged in risky trades on personal security, because had there been sufficient security, the question of losing the principal would not have arisen at all.

It was customary to lend not only money but also various articles of consumption like grains, fruits, ghee, milk, woollen, silken and cotton clothes, salt, oils, wines, *gur,* yarn and leather. Chaṇḍeśvara in his *Vivādasaratnākara* has given an elaborate list of such articles, compiled from *sūtrī* works. He also mentions the maximum that can be recovered by the creditor from the debtor. He quotes Kātyāyana to show that the maximum recoverable in the case of oils, liquors, ghee, raw-sugar and salt was eight-fold; in the case of metals other than gold and silver five times; and in the case of fruits, silk, wool, pearls, corals, gold and silver double of what is lent out. He also quotes from Bṛhaspati a text approving the recovery of a loan of seeds by the payments of five times the quantity lent. This was, of course, the maximum. The actual rate must have depended on the relative intensity of the desire to take the loan and that of lending out. In any case, the lot of the debtor was a hard one. This is why the law-givers condemn the profession of the money-lender. Bṛhaspati has defined *Kuśīda* or interest as
that which is taken fourfold or even eight-fold without any qualm of conscience from a wretched man who is sinking or distressed. Lakṣmidhara, condemns the practices of charging heavy interest and compound interest. He further observes that the greatest sinner is the usurer who outweighs all other sinners. But at the same time he recognises that the business of money-lending is free from dangers of draughts, rats, etc.

REFERENCES TO CHAPTER X
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6 Ibid., p. 96.
8 Altekar, A. S. in JNSI. II, p. 2.
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14 EI. IX. 69.
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26 Bilhari incr., verse 80.
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29 RT. VII. 112.
31 Ibid., p. 317.
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33 HBL. 669 quoting Tabakāt-i-Nāṣirī (translation), p. 556.
34 IHQ. VIII-597.
37 IA. XI. 338.
38 Līlāvati I. 2. quoted by Altekar in JNSI II. p. 9.
39 Sukranītisāra (ed. Cal.) IV. 2. 92-93.
40 Ibid., IV. 2. 92.
41 JNSI. II, p. 13.
42 EI. I. 162-179.
43 Manu, VIII. 189; Yāj., II. 66, Nūrada, V. 9 and 12; Kātyāyana,
593.
44 Manu, VII. 143.
45 HDS. III, p. 430.
46 Manu, VIII. 151; Gautama, XII. 28.
47 RT. VIII. 123-160.
48 Yāj. II. 66.
50 Stein in RT. II. (Note H., Appendices), p. 314.
51 Ibid. II, 147 f.n.
52 Sunyamātrikā, VIII. 96.
53 Yāj. II. 93; Nūrada IV. 114.
54 JUPHS XVIII, p. 196.
55 Kuśṭāntimatam (ed. T. N. Ray), verse 746.
57 Yewur Inscr. (EI. XII. 275).
59 Sachau. II, p. 150.
60 Mitākṣara on Yāj. II. 38.
61 Vivādaratnākara, pp. 17-19.
62 Bṛhaspati (SBE. XXXIII) p. 320, verse 2.
63 Grihashta, pp. 215-216.
64 Ibid., p. 219.
CHAPTER XI

Public Finance

Lakṣmīdharā sets up before the rulers the high ideals preached by Kātyāyana regarding the financial administration of the state. Citing two verses from Kātyayana, which, however, cannot be traced in Kane’s edition of the work, Lakṣmīdharā declares that the king is the supporter of all those whom there is none else to look after, he is the son to the sonless and father to the orphans and the asylum to the homeless. He specifically mentions the duty of the king to maintain carefully the learned Brāhmaṇas, widows and the helpless persons. In describing the plan of settling the durga or fortified town, he follows the lead of the Matsya Purāṇa which prescribes that it should have a majority of Vaiśyas and Śūdras, many artisans and a few Brāhmaṇas, all of whom should be devoted to the king and all should be free from the burden of heavy taxation. Being an orthodox Brāhmaṇa himself, he takes care to quote from Brhaspati the adage that the king should not impose any tax on the Brāhmaṇas learned in the Vedas; and that it is the duty of the king to endow them with land and houses so that they may not have any difficulty in earning their livelihood. The numerous grants which the Gāhaḍāvāla kings made to the Brāhmaṇas show that Lakṣmīdharā’s recommendation in this respect was followed scrupulously by them. We have to examine whether in the matter of taxation they were equally solicitous of earning the good opinion of all classes of subjects.

Lakṣmīdharā does not lay down the rate at which land revenue, the principal source of income in an agricultural country, should be levied. He quotes the views of Manu, Brhaspati, Viṣṇu and Gautama in this respect without stating whether it should be levied at 1/6th, 1/8th or 1/12th as Manu holds, or at 1/6th, 1/8th or 1/10th as recommended
by Gautama and Bṛhaspati, or it should be at a flat rate of 1/6th as prescribed by Viṣṇu. It is interesting to note that Someśvara, the author of the Mānasollāsa, also does not lay down any specific rate. He simply directs that one-sixth, one-eighth or one-twelfth of the share of the corn produced should be collected as bhāga or land revenue paid in kind according to the fertility of the soil. As a matter of fact, it is not advisable to prescribe one uniform rate of taxation with regard to land which has got access to water from river or canal and to the land which has to depend on monsoon for irrigation. Moreover, there are numerous other considerations like location of the land near market, composition of its soil etc., which make it necessary to levy land revenue at rates fluctuating between one-sixth (16\(\frac{2}{3}\)%) and one-eighth (12\(\frac{1}{2}\)%). It is not likely that in some of the states in Northern India during this period the rate was as high as 25% or 33%, because Manu as well as Kauṭilya' allow the King to levy one-third or one-fourth of the crop in times of distress. With frequent invasions and interminable wars the kings had some justification to treat the time as an abnormal one. This may be the reason which led Chaṇḍeśvara to explain away the term Śaṭbhāga as a mere figurative term and to recommend the levying of such amount as would be found necessary to meet the requirements of Government and at the same time not felt as oppressive by the subjects. The author of the Sukranītisūra was more alive to the needs of the state in recommending a much higher share of crops as land revenue. He says that the king should take the traditional one-sixth share from barren and rocky soils. This is nothing but a naive suggestion for showing outward compliance with the Smṛti texts, because barren soil by its very name is precluded from producing anything. For other types of land, the revenue charged is to vary from 25% to 50% according to the means of irrigational facilities available. It is to be \(\frac{1}{2}\) for land enjoying normally good rainfall and also drained by
river; \( \frac{1}{2} \) for land irrigated by tanks and \( \frac{1}{4} \) for those drawing supply of water from canals and wells.\(^9\) Dr. M. H. Gopal suggests that one-sixth was the pure land-tax, while the rates \( \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \) or \( \frac{1}{4} \)th include irrigation cess also. It is extremely doubtful however, whether the Ricardian theory of pure rent was known to the old law-givers of India. Dr. Ghoshal uses considerable ingenuity in suggesting that “while the older authorities apparently make the gross produce the basis of assessment, the Sukraniti seems to show that \( \frac{5}{3} \)rd of net produce was taken to be the proper rate of land-revenue”\(^10\).

He has probably arrived at this conclusion from the statement in the Sukranitisara to the effect that the taxation on ordinary dry lands should be such that the net produce should be twice the cost of production, including the government dues.\(^11\) This, of course, does not yield the conclusion that the book recommends \( 33\frac{1}{3} \% \) net produce as the share of the state. For example, if labour costs 300, seed, manure, interest and management costs 50 each and government dues 250, totalling 750 and the value of net produce be 1500; the land revenue in this case will be \( 1/6 \)th of the latter. It would be safer to treat Sukranitisara's prescription of higher rate as simply due to the exigencies of time.

Contemporary inscriptions make references to the following taxes: bhaga,\(^12\) bhoga\(^13\) or periodical supply of fruits, firewoods, flowers etc., which the subjects had to make either to the King or to his local agents, and hiranya\(^14\) which has been interpreted as a tax in cash levied upon special crops as distinguished from tax in kind called bhaga levied ordinary crops.

**Sulka:**

Next to Bhaga, the most important source of revenue was Sulka, so far as the volume of yield was concerned. Kshirasvamin, who flourished in the latter half of the eleventh century,\(^15\) commenting on the term Ghattaadideya used in Amarakosa as the synonym of sulka states that adj refers to
Jerry duties, the tolls paid at the military stations of police outposts and also the transit duties paid by the merchants. *šulka*, therefore, was much more comprehensive than customs and tolls in the eleventh century A.D. Yājñavalkya states that the king is entitled to 1/20th part as *šulka* because he fixes the price of articles. Vijñāneśvara interprets it as the right of the king to take 5% of the price as fixed by himself. Medhātithi, Govindaśa and Kullukabhaṭṭa commenting on *Manu* state, however, that the king is entitled to 5% of the profit derived from the merchandise. There is a world of difference between 5% of the price of an article and 5% of its profits. *Agni Purāṇa* goes a step further in prescribing a higher rate of *šulka* on foreign merchandise as its recommendation is that so much *šulka* should be levied as would leave the merchant a profit of 5% only. In approving 240% rate of interest on capital lent to merchants engaged in overseas trade, Vijñāneśvara has drawn attention to the grave risks of foreign trade. Not to speak of the merchants of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, very few will agree to carry on transaction on foreign merchandise at present on 5% profit. The recommendation of Govindaśa and Kullukabhaṭṭa regarding the levy of 5% of the profit of the merchandise as *šulka* does not seem to be practicable. If it is difficult to apprise the value of an article correctly it is hundred times more difficult for an officer stationed at a gate, police outpost or military station to ascertain the profit which will accrue out of a transaction.

Trade was very much hampered on account of the imposition of *šulka* in all the states through which a commodity had to pass. Roads were infested with robbers, means of transport was slow, rate of interest exorbitant and taxation rather heavy. It is rather surprising that in spite of all these difficulties the channel of foreign trade was not choked up.

The types of *šulka* levied in Rajputana and other states of Northern India may be illustrated by the following levies. Sometimes one *hāraka* of barley corn and two *palikal* of
oil from every oil-machine\textsuperscript{20} were levied and granted in favour of deities. The Chāhamāna ruler Alhanađadeva assigned 5 Drammas every month from the Šulkamaṇḍapikā of Naḍḍūla in favour of a Jaina temple, and 2 Drammas every year from each of the 12 villages in Naḍḍūla to the temple of Jina Mahāvīra.\textsuperscript{21} Another Nadol grant states that Mahāmaṇḍalika Pratāpasiṃha, a feudatory of the Chaulukya King Kumāra-pāla, granted one rūpaka per day out of the collection at the customs-house.\textsuperscript{22} We do not get, however, an exact idea as to the rate at which Šulka was imposed by these feudatory rulers. But this much is certain that the collection was much greater in the cities than in villages. In the reign of Alhaṇa-deva we find that whereas from twelve villages only two Drammas per annum were granted to a temple, sixty Drammas were granted per year from the customs-house of Naḍḍūla. In the kingdom of the Chaulukyas of Anahilli-paṭaka, the Somanatha temple inscription dated V.S. 1074/1017 A.D. refers to the daily gift of a karṣa or about 3/4th of a tolā of ghee out of the maṇḍapikā-tax by three merchants,\textsuperscript{23} Raṭṭaraja, a feudatory chieftain assigned to a temple and to the ascetics therein the following taxes: one gadyāna of gold from every foreign vessel and one dhāraṇa of gold from every ship arriving from Kandamuliya.\textsuperscript{24} In the kingdom of the Paramāras, the Arthuna inscription dated V.S. 1136/1080 A.D.,\textsuperscript{25} refers to dues collected in the market. The place was in Banswara in Rajputana. The deity was granted (a) one cocoanut for every bhāraka of cocoanut; (b) a māraka for each mātaka of salt; (c) one nut for every 1000 areca-nuts; (d) one palikā on every ghūṭaka of butter and sesame oil; (e) 1½ rūpakas on each köṭika of clothing fabrics; (f) 2 pulakas of a jala (i.e., bunch of buds) (g) 2 santas on each lagaḍa; (i.e., bar of gold or silver); (h) a panaka on each karṣa of oil; (i) a Vṛṣa-vimśopaka on each load of cattle feeder; (j) one Dramma on every pile of sugar etc., (k) a hūraka of barley on every machine-wheel; (l) one bhūraka on every 20 packs of loaded grain; (m) one chhaṇga on every bhūraka of loaded grain etc. Šulka was also levied
by the Chandella kings and Vikramasinhaha, the feudatory chief of Gwalior. An example of customs duty is given in the Mānasollāsa. It is prescribed that when the native sailors return to the harbour along with goods, the king should charge 10% of the price of the merchandise purchased as duty.

Excise duty:

All mediaeval texts enumerate taxes on the following items, which may be classed under excise duty: frankincense, medicine, bamboo, leather, earthen and stone products, honey and ghee, minerals like gold, silver, copper, zinc, iron, gems, lead, glasses, etc. Lakṣmīdhara endorses the levy of 2% on gold as mentioned in Manu and Viṣṇu. The inscriptions of the Gāhādvāla kings also refer to taxes on wood and grass, and mines. Kūṭaka and Viṣatiathuprāsthaka, mentioned in the Gāhādvāla grants, may have been a tax on each kūṭaka and prāsthaka weight of a commodity. The prāthiḥaraprāsthakara mentioned in Basahi grant may have been likewise a tax collected on some commodities by the Pratiḥāra. The Chaulukya ruler Bhīma II ordered that the merchants of Salakhanapura were to pay the following dues for the maintenance of temples, viz., madder (maṅjīṣṭhā), hingulla, coral (pravālā), camphor (karpūra), cloth, cocoanut, medicinal plants, sugar, dates, śrīkhaṇḍa, kastūrī, kunkum, aguru, jāiphala, jaitri, and hing. An inscription relates to the levying of four rūpakas from each vumvaka of distillers in the Paramāra kingdom.

Octroi duties:

As in Mauryan times, octroi duties continued to be levied in the period under survey. The Nadlai stone-inscription, dated V.S. 1195 states that the feudatory ruler granted 1/20th path of the income (abhavya) “derived from the loads on bullocks” passing through Nadlai. In another Nadol inscription, dated V.S. 1202, the charges are stated in greater details. Two rūpakas were charged on each bullock carrying twenty pālītas of load and one rūpaka for each cart carrying commodities.
Road Cess and tolls:

The Śukranātisāra informs us that the kings were authorised to ask for payment of tolls for using the highways.\textsuperscript{46} The practice of collecting tolls from caravans and road cess was current in Gujarat during the period under survey.\textsuperscript{43} Inscriptions too refer to the levying of tolls on roads by the Gāhaḍāvālas\textsuperscript{42} and the Chāhamāna ruler Sāmantasimha.\textsuperscript{45} The latter chieftain issued an order that when a caravan consisted of more than ten camels and 20 bullocks, a cess had to be paid. Every such caravan had to pay one pālā\textsuperscript{*} of goods. If the owner of the caravan failed to pay, he had to pay probably a fine of ten Bhūmapriyā-viṁśopaka coins. Similarly the Paramāra King Jayasimha assessed one viṁśopaka coin on every bull that passed through the road.\textsuperscript{44}

Sales Tax:

Sometimes sales tax had to be paid by dealers in different types of commodities. The Anavada inscription records that during the reign of Sāraṅgadeva, ruling at Anahillapāṭaka in V.S. 1348/c. 1291 A.D. the sellers agreed to pay at the following rates: \( \frac{1}{2} \) Dramma for selling one dhādi of madder, 1 Dramma for one dhāda of solonum melongana (hingudū), one pālī from every jar of ghee and dealers in grains one portion from each cart filled with grain.\textsuperscript{48}

Trade Tax:

The Śukranātisāra allows the king to levy taxes on shops.\textsuperscript{46} A chieftain ruling in Rajputāna assigned to a temple, one Dramma on each shop during the Chaitra and sacred thread festivals and one Dramma on all shops of braziers every month.\textsuperscript{47}

Escheat:

An important source of revenue of the Chaulukya kingdom

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\* According to Dr. H. C. Ray pālā is a kind of weight; “4 pālā=1 pāyalī; 5 pāyalīs=1 māṇī; 4 māṇīs=1 sei; 2 sei=1 mar” (DHNI II. 1113).
was escheat and confiscation of goods of persons dying without male heirs. Though some of the old texts prohibit this practice, yet Aparārka approves of it so far as non-Brāhmaṇa communities were concerned. King Kumārapāla allowed the widows to keep the property of their husbands. The Managoli inscription, dated 1178 A.D. confirms the statement made here. The inscription runs thus: “if any one should die at Manigavalli without sons, his wife, female children... and any kinsmen and relatives of the same gotra, who may survive, should take possession of all his property, that is bipeds, quadrupeds, coins, grains, house and field; if none should survive, the authorities of the village should take over the property as dharmadeya property.”

Other taxes:

Taxes like Kara, which probably means a general property tax, dasāparādha, pratyādāya, nidhinikṣepa, valādi, jalakara, lavanačakra, viṣayadāna, which we find in the Gāhaḍavāla inscriptions are also mentioned in Kauṭilya’s Arthaśāstra and other earlier Śrīmi texts and inscriptions. Valādi may have been a tax for recruitment of army. It may be compared to senābhakta of Kauṭilya’s Arthaśāstra and similar tax mentioned in the Śukranītiśāra. Śukra provides that when the king is preparing an army to destroy the enemy he should receive from the people special grants of fines and śulka. Jalakara was undoubtedly an irrigational cess. We find references to dasābandha in inscriptions of the Gāhaḍavāla king dated 1161 and 1162 of the Vikrama era and a Chāhamāna King of Nadol. The Nadol inscription of VS 1200/1143 A.D. records that Bhamana, a Karpāṭa Rāṇaka exempted the pramadākula or dancing girls of the temple of Usapattana from paying dasābandha, which according to Dr. Bhandarkar was “possibly a kind of tax equal to one-tenth of their income”. Another old tax which continued to be levied during the period under survey was a tax on gambling.
The Arthuna inscription informs us that two rūpakas were levied on every gambling house in the Banswara state.

New taxes:

From the days of the composition of the Mahābhārata upto the end of the twelfth century A.D., the law-givers have repeatedly stated that the first principle of public finance is that taxes should not increase. This maxim is suitable for a static society. A tax which trenches on the capital has always been condemned. Lakṣmīdhara quotes the opinions of Manu VII. 139 and Yājñavalkya I. 340-341 and Kātyāyana (Kane’s edition, verse 75) to this effect that taxes should be only on what accrues. The author of the Sukranitisāra also states categorically that new taxes and duties are vexatious to the people. How far the people actually became disaffected on account of heavy taxation is clear from the reverses of the fortune of the Kaivarta leader Bhīma in Bengal.

Against the injunctions of the Sukranitisāra, which lays down that the king in normal times should not levy taxes on places of pilgrimage and properties consecrated to divine purposes, the Chaulukya kings as well as kings of Bengal levied taxes on tirthas. The Prabhandhachintārāṇī and verse 36 of the Sukritisavākārtana of Arisindha state that at the request of her mother King Jayasindha remitted a tax imposed on pilgrims visiting Somanathapatta by the officials at Bahuloda. Merutunga also informs us that the pilgrim-tax yielded 72 lakhs of coins. A parallel case was the levy of tax on the Kashmiris performing śrāddha at Gaya as mentioned in the Rājatarangini. The kings of the Varman dynasty of Bengal also collected dues from sacred places. The Belava copper-plate states that Bhojavarman had an officer called Pithikāvitta. Dr. B. C. Sen thinks that he was probably an officer “engaged in collecting some kind of state-dues from visitors to sacred places or from incomes accruing to religious institutions.”
The inscriptions of the Gāhāḍavāla kings refer to the levy of new taxes like kumaragadiāṇaka, yamalikamvali, of Yavalikamvali, varavajha, gokara, pravaṇikara and turuṣ-kadaṇḍa. The exact nature of these unusual taxes are not known to us. These were also not levied in any other part of Northern India in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, A.D. We can make some plausible conjectures only. Kumaragadiāṇaka may have been a tax in gold coins known as kumāra-gadyāṇa. The epigraphical records from Karnāṭaka and Tamil states mention Gadyāṇaka coins which was equal to two Kalaṇḍu coins. Gokara was probably a tax on the milk of cows. It may be pointed out here that the Sukranitisāra clearly forbids the king from collecting taxes on the milk of cows and rice for family consumption and the king should purchase rice and cloth for his use. Turuṣkadaṇḍa was levied for the first time in the reign of the first real founder of the Gāhāḍavāla state, Chandradeva, and it is mentioned in all of his grants excepting B.A.S. grant dated V.S. 1154/1097 A.D. It continued to be levied by his successors Madanapūla or Madanachandra (c. 1104-1114 A.D.), Govindachandra and Vijayachandra (c.1155-1170 A.D.), Neither the grants of Jayachandra nor of his son Hariśchandra mention the imposition of this tax. We have already discussed the nature of this tax in Chapter IV.

In the kingdom of the Kalachuri ruler Jayasimha we have references to certain new taxes, like those levied at resting place or camping ground and village-headman’s dues (pattakilādaya).

Another tax called Talarabhavya is mentioned in the Sanderav inscription of Kalhaṇa, dated V.S. 1221. The term Talarabhavya is also mentioned in a Mangrol inscription. The editor of the inscription interprets the word Talarabhavya as “revenue of a talara” area.

The Rājatarāṅgīṃī gives details of many new taxes on the people of Kashmir during the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. The passing away of Lalitādiya Muktāpīḍa coincides with the beginning of the misery of the Kashmirians. From the
close of the ninth century A.D. Saṅkaravarman and Queen
Diddā began levying forced labour and new imposts. At
the beginning of the eleventh century A.D. soon after the murder
of Tuṅga, the greedy King Saṅgrāmarāja appointed Mataṅga,
“an expert in the science of fleecing the subjects” who filled the
treasury of the king. The king was aware of his shortcomings.
Kalhaṇa sarcastically observes that he showed true judgment
by not establishing even a drinking-place (prapā) and “that
the wealth he owned was unlawfully acquired”. King Ananta
also filled his treasury by levying dvādaśabhāga or impost of
one-twelfth on the people at the suggestion of Kṣenika. Later on
Haladhara, the Prime Minister, seems to have abolished the addi-
tional impost. Ananta’s successor Kalaśa also did not give
people respite from fresh taxation. The next king Harṣa imposed
a labour-tax namely, the carrying of loads, against which, the
members of the Corporation of the Purohitas of the temple of
Bhīmakeśava went on a fast. He also imposed fresh imposts
and is reported to have appointed even a “prefect of night soil” to raise revenue. Famine conditions did not melt his
heart. When a great famine occurred in 1099-1100 A.D. the
king went on exacting heavy fines. The burden of these taxes
fell so heavily on the people that it seemed “just as if a boulder
(were thrown) on an old bullock which has become worn out
by (dragging) the plough”. They revolted and on one occasion
their cause was supported by the Pāmaras. The king imme-
diately gave an order of suppression. The people of Kashmir
got some relief during the reign of Uchchala. But fiscal
oppressions again began during the period of Sussala’s rule
(1112-1130 A.D.). He collected “greater treasures” as the
chronicler puts it. Gauraka also increased the amount in the
treasury and the result was that the strength of the country was
sapped. Even during his reign of the wise King Jayasimha
there were exactions. Mahattama Ānanda levied taxes on
various auspicious occasions (maṅgalyadanda). Chitraratha,
the Lord of the Gate, harassed the people by ever-increasing
imposts. His servants confiscated even the grazing-land and
Consequently, the Brāhmaṇas of Avantipura went on a fast. The King paid no heed to the lamentation of his subjects "Look, how the subjects are ruined in their helplessness by a rogue of a minister, while the King imperturbable in his kindness (to him), pays no regard to them." All these instances reveal that the rulers of Northern India adopted all sorts of ingenious devices to raise funds, which were increasingly needed to meet their military expenditure. Somadeva in his Nītīvākyāṃpta recommends that in case the treasury is depleted it should be filled up by taking away the surplus wealth of merchants, temples and Brāhmaṇas, after leaving them the amounts which are necessary for performing religious service, sacrifices and meeting the expenditure for maintaining the kinsmen respectively. The king should also appropriate the wealth of rich widows, courtesans, village officers, guilds and heretics. The richer persons living in cities and villages should be also made to pay a share of their wealth. The king should request his ministers, priests, allies and feudatories to cooperate in the work of filling up the depleted treasury. Sukranūtisāra recommends that the king should draw upon the wealth of rich men in times of danger but return it along with interest when he is free from danger. Some of the epigraphic references to taxes actually levied show that the rulers were not slow in acting up to the advice of Nītīvākyāṃpta. We have no means to find out whether any king did actually return the money taken by him in emergencies.

No state in the middle ages, whether in the east or in the west took upon itself the functions of ministering to the welfare of subjects. Protection from internal dangers and external invasions was all that was attempted by any Government in that age. The North Indian rulers also did not attempt more than this. The skeleton budget of a subordinate ruler having an income of one lakh Karṣa, which the Sukranūtisāra gives shows an expenditure of 2400 Karṣa or less than 2½% expenditure on learning and education. Even such a provision
cannot be found in the budgets of European states in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D.

REFERENCES TO CHAPTER XI
(Public Finance).

1 Rāj (GOS), p. 84.
2 Matsya Purāṇa Ch. 217, verses 2-3 quoted in Viramitradaya Rājanītisprakāśa, p. 198.
3 Rāj, Ch. V.
5 Mānasolāṣa (GOS, Vol. 84) Viṃśatī II. 3. 163-164.
6 Manu X. 118.
7 Kauṭilya V. 2.
8 Rājanītratāpākara Ch. XII. p. 55. Also quoted in AR; p. 217.
9 Śukranātisāra (ed. Sarkar), IV. 2. 120ff.
10 Ghoshal: Agrarian System in Ancient India, p. 23.
11 Śukranātisāra (ed. Cal), IV. 2. 114.
12 IA. VI. 56; XVI. 203, 206, 208; XVIII. 17. 131; XXV. 207. EI. II. 360; III. 48; IV. 97-133; V. 49; X. 99; XI. 182; XVIII. 224, 299 and 323.
13 IA. VI. 56; XVI. 203, 206, 208, 255; XVIII. 17. 131; XXV. 207, EI. II. 360, 363; III. 48; IV. 97-133; V. 49; X. 99; XI. 182; XVIII. 224, 299 and 323.
14 IA. VI. 56; XVI. 203, 206 and 255; XVIII. 17; XXV. 207, EI. III. 48; XI. 182; XVIII. 299, 323 and IA. XIV. 103.
15 The following forms of bhūga, bhoga and hiranya are written in the Gāndhāravāla grants:

bhūgahogakara in Chandravati plates dated VS 1150 (EI. XIV. 195) and VS. 1156 (Ibid. 199); Kamauli pl. dated VS. 1178 (EI. IV. 110); Benares dated V.S. 1203 (EI. VIII. 158); Badera dated V.S. 1164 (JUPHS XIV. 72).

bhūgahogakara hiranyav in BAS grant dated V.S. 1154 (IA. XVIII. 12); Kamauli pl. dated V.S. 1198 (IE. IV. 113).

bhūgahogakara hiranyav in Kamauli pls. dated V.S. 1162 (EI. II. 360) and V.S. 1191 (EI. IV. 132); Rahan grant V.S. 1166 (IA. XVIII. 17).

bhūgahogapravasikara in Chandravati grant (EI. IX. 305); Kamauli V.S. 1171 (EI. IV. 103); 1174 (Ibid. 106), 1175 (Ibid. 107), 1176 (Ibid, 109); Don Buzurg (EI. XVIII. 222); Maner 1188 (JBORS II. 446); Kamauli V.S. 1184 (EI. IV. 11); Itaunja V.S. 1186 (Ibid. XIII. 297); Set Mahet, 1186 (Ibid. XI. 24); Pali. 1189 (Ibid. V. 114); Kamauli 1190 (Ibid. IV. 112); Benares, 1190 (Ibid. VIII. 156), 1196 (Ibid. II. 363); Kamauli 1196 (Ibid. IV. 114), Gagaha 1199 (Ibid. XII. 196).
219); Machhlishahr, 1201 (Ibid. V. 116); Lar, 1202 (Ibid. VII. 100); Benares, 1207 (Ibid. VIII. 159); Bangavan 1208 (Ibid. V. 118) Kamauli 1221 (Ibid. IV. 120); Kamauli p.s. 1226 (Ibid. IV. 1. 21) 1231 (IV. 126), 1232 (Ibid. IV. 128); Benares, 1232 (IA. 18. 131); BAS, 1233 (Ibid. XVIII. 136-137). 1234 and 1236 (IA. XVIII. 139, 142-143); Kamauli 1233 (El. IV. 129), Bhadavana, 1184 (Ibid. XIX. 294); Lucknow Museum, 1237 (Ibid. 24. 295); Rajghat 1197 (Ibid. XXVI. 273); Machhlishahr 1253 (El. X. 99).

Bhūgabhogakarapravanikarakātaka in Kamauli V.S. 1172 (El. IV. 104); Chhatarpur, 1177; Kamauli, 1182 and 1184 (El. IV. 101, XXVI. 73).

Bhūgabhogahiranyapravanikara in Benares V.S. 1187 (El. VIII. 154); Kamauli 1200 (Ibid. IV. 115), 1211 (Ibid. IV. 117), 1228 (Ibid. IV. 123), 1230 (Ibid. IV. 124).

15 Struggle for Empire, p. 319.
16 Yāj. II. 266.
17 Manu VIII, 398.
18 Agni Purāṇa Ch. 223. 23-24.
19 Sevādī S. V.S. 1167/1110 A.D. (El. XI. 30), Lalrai, V.S. 1238 (Ibid XI. 49-50).
20 Nadrai Si V.S. 1189 (El. XI. 34-36) and 1200 (Ibid XI. 41).
21 Nadol p.s. of Alhabandevā and Kirtipāla (El. IX. 66 and 69).
22 IA. XLI. (1912), p. 202 Cf. Nanana grant dated 1156 A.D.
(ABORI 1941-42, p. 317)
23 El. XXIII. 137.
24 Ibid. III. pp. 295-296.
25 Ibid. XIV. 295ff.
26 Ichchhawar pl. dated V.S. 1228/1171 A.D. (IA. XXV. 207);
27 El. II. 236.
29 Agni Purāṇa Ch. 223, 24ff; Mānasollāsa Vināśati, II. 165-166; Sukranītisāra, IV. 2. 118-119 (ed Cal.); Rāj; pp. 88-89.
30 Rāj; pp. 88-89 quoting Manu VII. 130 and Viṃśa III. 408.
31 IA. VI. 56.
32 IA. XVIII. 17.
33 IA. XIV. 103. Also mentioned in Īśādavāla grants along with bhūgabhoga, hiranya and pravayikara.
34 IA. XIV. 103 (Bashi pl. V.S. 1161).
35 Ibid.
36 IA. VI. 262.
37 El. XIV. 300 (Arthuna inscr. verse 74).
38 El. XI. 36.
39 Ibid. XI. 42-43.
40 Sukranītisāra (ed. Cal.), IV. 2. 129.
42. El. XIV. 184; IA. VI. 204.
43. El. XI. 59.
44. Ibid. XXI. 48-49 (Panahera inscr.).
45. IA. XLII. 20 (Anavada stone inscr. of V.S. 1348).
46. Sukranitisūra (ed. Cal.), IV. 2. 129.
47. El. XIV. 300. (Arthuna inscr. verses 73 and 74).
48. IA. IV. 269.
49. IA. XXXI. 483, Sukritasahākirtana, verses 39-43; Prabandhacintāmaṇi (ed. and Trs. Tawney), p. 133.
50. Satapath Brāhmaṇa, IV. 4. 3. 13; Maitr. Sam., IV. 6. 4.
51. Baudhāyana, XI. 2. 53; Vaśiṣṭha, XVII. 62.
52. Aparārka, p. 745.
53. Yaśahpāla: Moharājaparājasa, Act III. Verse 50; Kumāra-pālakratibodha, pp. 48; Prabandhachintāmaṇi (Tr. Tawney), p. 133.
54. El. VI. 28.
55. IA. XVIII. 131. and XXV. 207.
56. Dāśāparāḍa in IA. XIV. 103. and XVIII. 16.
57. Pratyādāya in El. XIV. 195. Cf. Kauṭilya IX. 4, which according to Dr. U. N. Ghoshal signifies "a loan which is to be returned and which was levied in emergencies".
58. El. IV. 124 (Kamauli pl. dated V.S. 1230).
59. IA. XVIII. 17 (Rahan grant).
60. El. XII. 219; VIII. 158; IV. 120 and X. 99.
61. El. X. 99.
64. IA. XIV. 103 (Basahi, V.S. 1161) and El. II. 360 (Kamauli V.S. 1162).
65. DHNI. VOL. II, 1113.
66. El. XIV. 300 (Arthuna inscr., verse 75).
69. RC. II. 40.
70. Prabandhachintāmaṇi (Tr. Tawney), p. 84.
71. IA. XXXI. 483.
72. RT. VII. 1008.
73. IB. III, p. 21, line 30.
74. Sen B. C.; Historical Aspects of the Inscriptions of Bengal, p. 552; IC. VII. 311.
75. El. IX. 305; IA. XVIII. 17 (Rahan, V.S. 1160); El. IV. 106 and 109 (Kamauli V.S. 1174 and 1176); El. VIII. 156. (Benares 1190); El. IV. 114, 117, 120 and 124 (Kamauli V.S. 1197, 1211, 1221 and 1230).
76. IA. XVIII. 137, 139, 140 and 143 (BAS, V.S. 1233, 1234 andi
I236); EI. IV. 129 (Kamauli, V.S. 1233); EI. XXIV. 295 (Lucknow Museum, V.S. 1237).

76 IA. XVIII. 142 and 143 (BAS. V.S. 1236).

77 IA. XIV. 103 (Basahi V.S. 1161).

78 Gokara—EI. XIII. 219 (Gagaha, V.S. 1199); VIII. 158 (Benares, V.S. 1703) and IV. 120 (Kamauli, V.S. 1221).

Pravanjikara—IA. XVIII. 131; EI. II. 263; IV. 97ff; V. 49; VII. 98-100, IX. 305, XVIII. 224 and XIX. 293.

Cf. Pratisiddhayya—IA. XIX, 164 mentioned in a Chaulukya inscr. dated 1040 A.D.

79 Chandravati grant V.S. 1148 (EI. IX. 305); ibid. V.S. 1150, and 1156 (EI. XIV. 195 and 199); Basahi V.S. 1161 (IA. XIV. 103); Kamauli. V.S. 1162 (EI. II. 360); Badera V.S. 1164 (JUPHS. XIV 72); Rahan, V.S. 1166 (IA. XVIII. 17); Kamauli, V.S. 1174 (EI. IV. 106); V.S. 1176 (EI. IV. 109); Benares V.S. 1181 (JASB. LXI. Pt. I. 113-18); BAS. V.S. 1182 (JASB. XXVII. 241ff); Maner V.S. 1183 (JBORS. II. 446) Itaunja, V.S. 1186 (EI. XIII. 297); Set Mahet V.S. 1186 (EI. XI. 24); Benares. V.S. 1187 (EI. VIII. 154); Kamauli V.S. 1190 (EI. IV. 112); Benares V.S. 1190 (EI. VIII. 156) and V.S. 1196 (EI. II. 363) Kamauli V.S. 1197 (EI. IV. 114); Rajghat pl. V.S. 1197 (EI. XXVI. 273); Benares V.S. 1190 (EI. VIII. 156) and V.S. 1196 (EI. II. 363); Kamauli V.S. 1198 (EI. IV. 113); Gagaha V.S. 1199 (EI. XIII. 219); Machhilisahra, V.S. 1201 (EI. V. 116); Lar. V.S. 1202 (EI. VII.100); Benares V.S. 1203 (EI. VIII. 158); 1207 (ibid. 159); Kamauli V.S. 1211 (EI. IV. 117) and 1221 (EI. IV. 120); BAS. V.S. 1221 (EI. IV. 120); BAS. V.S. 1225 (IA. XV. 7-13).

80 AR. pp. 365-367.

81 'Śukranītīsāra (ed. Cal.), IV. 2. 127.

82 IA. XVIII. 12 (BAS. grant dated V.S. 1154/1097 A.D. lines 16-17).

83 EI. XXI. 93 and 96 (Jubbulpur inscr. dated K.S. 918/1167 A.D.).

84 EI. XI. 47.

85 Bhavnagar Prakrit and Sanskrit Inscriptions, p. 158.

86 RT. VIII. 1953.

87 Ibid. VII. 110.

88 Ibid. VII. 122.

89 Ibid. VII. 203.

90 Ibid. VII. 214.

91 Ibid. VII. 1088.

92 Ibid. 1102.

93 Ibid. 1107.

94 Ibid. VII. 1225.

95 Ibid. VII. 1227.

96 Ibid. VIII. 492.
97 Ibid. VIII. 565-568.
98 Ibid. VIII. 1428.
99 Ibid. VIII. 2224.
100 Ibid. VIII. 2226.
101 Ibid. VIII. 2229.
102 Nityākṣayāmṛitam (p. 82) Ch. XXI.
103 Śukranītisūra (ed. Cal.), IV. 2. 11.
CHAPTER XII

Daily life of the People

Insecurity characterised the daily life of the people of Northern India in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. The sacking of cities like Mathura, Kanauj, Somanatha and Banaras by the Turko-Afghan invaders left a trail of misery behind for a pretty long time. The insane craze for glory which actuated the princes to undertake frequent expeditions added to the misery of the people. Sacking of cities was very common. We cite here only a few examples. Paramāra Bhoja’s general Kulachandra sacked Anahilapāṭaka.¹ Someśvara I of Kātyāna avenged the invasion of the Chaulukya kingdom by plundering Dhara, Ujjain and Mandu in the middle of the eleventh century A.D. Anantavarman Choḍaṅgaṅga devastated and burnt the fortified town of Āramya.² Yaśaḥ Karṇa sacked Champaran³ in North Bihar. In Kashmir several times rebels burnt and pillaged cities and villages.⁴ The result of one of these outbreaks of fire is vividly described by Kalhaṇa. “In the city (of Srinagara) which was reduced to a heap of earth”, writes Kalhaṇa, “there remained visible and aloft only the single great Buddha (statue) which, blackened by smoke and without its abode, resembled a burned tree.” The people crossed at that time the bridges over the streams holding their noses, on account of the stench produced by the decomposing corpses which had swollen in the water. The ground which was white everywhere owing to its being covered with the fragments of skulls from fleshless human skeletons, seemed to observe, as it were, “the custom of skull-carrying ascetics”⁵. Fire consumed the granaries. Famine appeared in its wake. “The famishing people, who could scarcely walk, and whose tall bodies were emaciated and darkened by the sun-heat, appeared like scorched (wooden) posts.”⁶

The soldiers marching through villages of their own kingdom were legally entitled to free service of villagers and also
supplies of food and fodder unless of course the village has been specially granted exemption from chaṭa-bhaṭa. An invading army seldom respected the private ownership of the crops standing in the fields of the country through which the general led an expedition. Life and property lay at the mercy of conquerors, exacting officers of one’s kingdom and also of the unsocial elements in the community.

Cities:

Capital towns, according to the Samarāṅgaṇasūraṇidhāra must have access to water and possess forts, temples and houses of merchants. The Agni Purāṇa and the Sukranītisūra prescribe that towns should be situated where there is plenty of water. This is why we find that in Kashmir, Gujarat, Bengal, Bihar and in the Uttar Pradesh, the well-known towns, like Srinagara, Barahamula, Sankarapura, Anhilwara, Broach, Cambay, Dholka, Kotivarsā, Tamralipta, Pundravardhana, Pātāna, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Kanauj, Mathura, and Banaras were all situated on the sea or river.

The cities were not only centres of administration but also of trade and commerce. They were military bases as well. Some of them lost their importance for political reasons. Manyakheta, which received much praise as a city from the Arab chroniclers like Al Mas‘ūdī (943 A.D.) and Ibn Haukal (968-976 A.D.), was sacked by Taila II in 972 A. D. Sultan Mahmūd destroyed beautiful cities like Bairat in Kashmir, Thaneswar in Uttar Pradesh and Narain near modern Jaipur. In Bengal, Somapura, which was once a famous seat of learning, was burnt down by the Vaṅgāla army. These cities never again rose to prominence.

A number of new towns arose during the period under review. In Kashmir, Varāhamūla, Bhuṭṭapura and Ratnapura were founded respectively by a king, a minister and a queen. The other new cities in Northern India were Champāpura and Chāndpur in the Chamba valley and Garhwal districts, Ajayamuru in Rajputana, Asawal or Ahmedabad, Karṇāvati
or Karanbel, Kakkaredkā\textsuperscript{16} or modern Kakreli in Rewah, Prahādanapura\textsuperscript{17} or Palanpur (54 miles south of Mt. Abu in Gujarat). Tuṁmāna in Madhya Pradesh, Rāmāvatī, Skandnagāra and Lakhanauti,\textsuperscript{18} in Bengal. Amongst these, Varāhamūla\textsuperscript{19}. Ratnapura, Rāmāvatī and Lakṣmanāvatī all stood on the banks of famous rivers like the Vitāstā, and the Gangā. Feudal chiefs selected places like Tuṁmāna, Kakkaredkā as their capital. Varāhamūla and Asawal were important centres of trade.

These towns were administered by Government officials who are mentioned in early smṛti works like Manu\textsuperscript{20} and later works like Sukraṇītisūra\textsuperscript{21}. The highest official was called the city-prefect.\textsuperscript{22} The town prefects were helped by a committee, as in ancient India.\textsuperscript{23} It appears from inscriptions that the members of the Pañchakula or the committee of five in Siyadoni, Srimāl and Satyapura\textsuperscript{24} in Rajputana and Jhansi areas in the tenth and twelfth centuries A.D. All these non-officials were appointed by the kings or respective feudatory chiefs.\textsuperscript{25} The Vaillabhattasvamin temple-inscription of Gwalior informs us that amongst the administrators of the city of Gopagiri (i.e., Gwalior) were merchants like Vavvīyaka and Ichchhu-vāka.\textsuperscript{26}

The Naḍol inscription dated V.S. 1198/c. 1141 A.D. informs us that the town of Dhalopa\textsuperscript{27} had a very good and efficient police system. The town was divided into eight wards and each ward used to send two Brāhmaṇa representatives. These sixteen aldermen were provided with arms by the feudatory chief Rāyapāla. They promised solemnly that they would try to find out by means of Chaukadika (pañchāyat) system whatever was lost on the way. Brāhmaṇas too were required to help the representatives of the wards in finding out the lost property.

It seems that the main function of the city prefects and the committees of towns in Rajputana, Kashmir and Ajaigadh in the kingdom of the Chandellas, was mainly to detect thieves, recover stolen goods and perform such other types of police
duties. Hariśena in his Bhāratathākōsa, compiled in the tenth century A.D. describes the police functions of Talara or the city prefect. The term Talara has been explained by Hemachandra as the city-superintendent of police in the Desināma-mālā.\footnote{39} One of the stories of Hariśena relates how the Mayor of the town himself concealed a thief. In Rajputana and Gujrat, the permission of the Pañchakula was necessary for purchase of lands. They helped in the financing of temples.\footnote{40}

Popularly elected municipal bodies looking after the sanitation, transport, water-supply etc. were absent in our period. It was the duty of the government to look after these functions. We find, however, that the authorities of Srinagara did not make any arrangement to remove the decomposed corpses lying in the river during a famine, which followed the great conflagration\footnote{41} in 1123 A.D.

Every town was provided with temples, tanks wells, markets and other amenities of life.\footnote{42} And almost all the towns were surrounded with walls or ditches. Muslim writers have testified to the massive ramparts and adequate protective arrangements for all important towns in Northern India like Bhatia, Bhimnagar, Mathura, Kanauj, Anhilwara etc.\footnote{43} A massive wall was erected by King Kumārapāla of Gujrat around Anandapura\footnote{44} (moderna Vadnagar) before 1451 A.D. “Deep foundations”, the Vadnagar inscription describes, “great extent, ornamental projections, looking like monkeys’ heads in the copings of bricks, circular in shape, the stone-head is white with stucco.”

Within these enclosed cities lived all classes of people, the men of the three upper castes, physicians, merchants, artisans, tailors, musicians, fishermen, washermen, and other manual labourers. In view of the direct evidences of Lakṣmīdhara\footnote{45}, the Gāhaḍavāla Prime Minister, and the authors of Sūkranīśūra and Samarāṅgaṇasūtradhāra\footnote{46} we cannot agree with Profs. Habib and Yusuf Hussain that the Indian workers lived outside the cities in the period before the advent of the Turko-Afghans.\footnote{47} Dancers and musicians, who were
looked down upon by legists, had a place in the city. Both Laksāmidhara and Bhoja tell us that they had a particular share in the festival of the raising of the flagstaff of Indra, which was carried according to the dictates of the king. In almost all important cities, even in the famous city of Paṭaliputra, a seat of learning, lived prostitutes. Chānd Baradāyī tells us that when one entered Kanauj, one could see the gambling house, dance of prostitutes and rich markets full of dealers in gold, jewelleries and clothes. This is however a conventional description and it can be fairly compared with the observations of Yuan Chwang on the same city. Rāmāvatī in North Bengal and Ānandapura in Northeën Gujarat though separated by more than a thousand miles, resembled each other in the twelfth century A.D. Compare for example, the description of Ānandapura as given in the Vāḍnagar Praśasti with that of Rāmāvatī as depicted in Rāmcharita. The former Praśasti states: "loud noise of the Vedas (récited) by crowds of untired Brāhmaṇs defends him, because the smoke of the fires, (blazing up) with uninterrupted oblations—Kali does not roam here because, the blows from the tips of the flags (raised) on numerous temples of the gods, lame him. The city’s streets resplendent with the rays of jewels in the various ornaments of Brāhmaṇs’ wives taking their walks and made noisy by auspicious sounds of uninterrupted songs." Sandhyākaranandi describes Rāmāvatī as a city "which rivalled Amarāvatī, which was resonant with the music of tabor of many varieties that was (specially) practised in Varendri, which was peopled by learned men devoted to truth and which was without any obstacles.... which was the home of pious souls, having no talk about any unfair transaction or litigation, which city, through its great figures known in history, assured security to all, and which had a series of lofty temples of gods.... a city of rows of palaces with plenty of gold therein, and therefore, made it appear like the peak of the Meru." A similar description is given of Pravarapura in the Vikramāṅkadevacharita. A
vivid description of the town of Ajmer has been given in the Prthvirajavijaya. The residents of cities used camphor and musk. They lived in houses which had more than two storeys. Sometimes clock-towers were erected.

Unlike the modern cities of India, mediaeval Indian cities had adequate pasture lands and a considerable proportion of agricultural population. A side light on city-life is thrown by Medhatithi while explaining Manu VII. 13. In citing examples of orders issued by the King he states: "Today the city should observe a holiday—there is a marriage in the minister’s house—all men should be present there." This shows how the subjects had to regulate their business in accordance with the whims and caprices of the King. The city which Medhatithi has in view must have rather a small population. The minister would have found it impossible to move about if fifty thousand or so of the townsmen had turned up at his house.

Village life:

Villages were more or less self-contained. Daily necessaries of life could be procured in big villages. The Nagari plates of Anaṅgabhīma III of Orissa, dated 1230 A.D. reveal that in the villages Purnagrāma and Jayanagaragrāma in the saha-viṣaya lived a number of merchants such as a perfumer, a worker or dealer in conchshells, a splitter of wood, a goldsmith and a worker in bell-metal. There were three sellers of betel leaves, one florist, one manufacturer of raw sugar, at least one milkman, two weavers, one oilman, two potters, one washerman, a few craftsmen and three fishermen. As the persons mentioned in this inscription may be taken to be above thirty years of age, their names will show what types of name were given to simple village-folks in Orissa towards the end of the twelfth century. These were Vapuli, Nārāyaṇa, Dāmodara, Mādhava, Chitra, Soma, Valhū, Keśava, Mahādeva. Narasimha, Śiva, Mahānanda, Irāndu, Mantu, Dhīru, Gobhi. Nāgu, Jagai, Gānu, Šūnya, Arjuna,
Visu, Rāju, Vāsu, and Padma. The preponderance of names synonymous with Visu is worth noticing.

The male folk of the villages were simple. Poets like Yogeśvara and Subhānāka tell us that the male liberties of the village, without the sophisticated manners of the city-dwellers, on seeing a woman, ascend the tree-tops, jump across the well, show valour by overturning the bullock-cart and try to attract the lady by singing in a low voice. Sometimes in the month of Chaitra, they would try to kiss the women while they were asleep in the open. The prayer of a rich farmer was that the local officer may be without any greed, cattle in plenty may purify the house, that cultivation may be fruitful and the housewife may be untiring in their entertainment of guests. A lively picture of the happy peasant-proprietor has been drawn by Sarana, the Court Poet of King Laksmanasena, in these words: “Here the ladies are walking fast; their eyes are as red as the setting sun; as they are moving rapidly the scarf is falling down again and again and they are picking it up every time. They are traversing the path as quickly as possible because those peasants who have gone out to the fields in the morning will return to their homes shortly. And yet in such a condition they are busy in counting on fingers the money on the sale proceeds and also the amount spent in making purchases in the market.” This poem leaves no doubt in the mind of readers about the total absence of purdah but not of veils amongst the women belonging to the agricultural classes.

Amusements and Drama:

Dramatic performances were extremely popular during the period under survey. Dramas were staged before the kings, aristocrats as well as the common people. The themes were mostly drawn from epics and Purāṇas, as for example, Rāma, Nala or the fight between Indra and Kṛṣṇa for the Pārijāta, the celestial flower. Some of them were drawn from court life, as for example, the marriages of Karṇa, the King of Guja-
rat, Arjunavarman, the Paramāra King, and Vīsaladeva, the Chāhamāna King, in the Karnasundari, Paṭījatamāñjari and Lalitavigraharājanātaka respectively. Others depict undesirable characters like rogues in Lāṭakamelaka of Kavirāja Śākhadhara and robbers like Rauhineya in Prabuddharaunheya. Besides these, there were also allegorical plays like the Prabhodhachandrodaya and the Moharājaparājaya. The dramatists hailed from different parts of Northern India for example, Kṣemendra and Bilhaṇa from Kashmir, Vīsaladeva and Somadeva from Rajputana, Rāmaḥandra and Yaśaḥpāla, the authors of Nalavilāsa, Nirbhayabhūma and Moharājaparājaya from Gujarat area; Vatsarāja, Madana Bālaṣarasvatī, Kṛṣṇamītra from Mid-India and Umāpatidhara author of Paṭījataraṇa from Bengal and Kavirāja Śākhadhara from the Uttar Pradesh. Some amongst these authors were kings like Vīsaladeva, the Chāhamāna King of Śakambhari and feudatories like Vastupāla of Rajputana.

The venue of dramatic performances was either the palaces of kings or temples. We do not find any special principle for building an auditorium either in ancient or in medieval India. But it is likely that like other stages, the theatre was rectangular, “the stage being at the end of a short side”. Inscriptions show that dramas were staged in some Hindu and Jaina temples. The Jalor inscription states that in V.S. 1268/ c. 1210 A.D. in a central hall of a Jaina temple dramatic performances were held under the direction of Rāmamachandrāchārya. The Anavada inscription, on the other hand, records that when the gifts made by various persons, merchants, and ship-owners were found insufficient for the expenses of the worship and theatricals in honour of Kṛṣṇa, the citizens of Prahlādanapura voluntarily agreed to pay taxes on the necessaries of life.

Sometimes dramatic performances were arranged in the open air. Kalhaṇa hints at such an arrangement. “Thereupon when the king (Harṣa) was about to move (in that direction) his force dispersed in all directions, just like people
caught by a downpour while watching a theatrical performance."

In these performances there were both male and female participants. In contrast to pre-Restoration England where boys were trained to represent women,⁴¹ the parts of women were played by women actresses in India from the time of the composition of Bharata’s Nātyaśāstra.⁴² It is also interesting to record that in ancient and early mediæval India, sometimes women played the rôle of male actors.⁴³ Of course, usually some of these actresses were wives of the actors.

Though the actors and actresses, as a community, were looked down upon in ancient India and the period under survey, they were honoured by kings.⁴⁴ Lakṣmīdharā, quoting Brahma Purāṇa, tells us that on the occasion of festivals in honour of deities, the king was to witness dramatic performances on every third day. To the ordinary actors, the king was required to give money according to their ability. The director of the play was to be honoured with betelnuts and flowers.⁴⁵

The theatre was thus patronised by the kings and common people. A story of the king attending the shows along with commoners is recorded by Merutunga. Siddharāja, the Chaulukya King of Gujarat, while witnessing a drama in the Karnāmeru palace*, found to his great surprise that an ordinary merchant, dealing in check-peas, placed his hands on the royal shoulder and offered betels to the King.

However, the common people shared the joys in such theatrical performances. In the Trīṣaṅśīśālākāpurusācharita, Hemachandra writes of the town and village folk laughing on seeing “fat men, men with projecting teeth, lame men, hunchbacks, flat-nosed men, men with dishevelled hair, bald men, one-eyed men, and other deformed men; by ash-coloured men; by men with buttock bells, by musicians of the arm-pit

* Prabhandhachintāmaṇi (Translation of Tawney, p. 106, and Singhi Jain Series, p. 84). Tawney refers to Karnāmeru as a temple and Hazari Prasad Dwivedi as a palace.
and the nose, by dancers of the ear and brow, by imitators of other people". Thus, unlike the English drama of the Restoration period, the Indian drama was neither localized in the capital nor did it cater to the taste only of the Court and the fashionable people of towns.

**Dancing and Musical Instruments:**

In course of dramatic performances a spectator could see plenty of dancing and hear songs accompanied by musical instruments. Dancers thronged also in the temple courtyard and the palace of the king. Kings were patrons of music. Someśvara, the Chālukya King, was himself an eminent authority on music, and such was his fondness for it that he recommended that the subject of debate between two logicians should be vocal or instrumental music or dancing. Kalaśa developed a taste for choral songs (upāṅga-gīta) for the first time in Kashmir. The instruments, which we find mentioned during our period, were also known in much earlier periods, e.g., lute, drums, flutes, trumpets, gongs, cymbals, kettle-drums, tabors etc.

**Games:**

Most of the indoor and outdoor games have a long history. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D., adults and children took part in games, which can be traced in the Kāma-sūtra of Vātsyāyana and Daśakumāracarita of Daṇḍin.

Duels, wrestling, fighting with a sham stick, polo and something like hockey were played by sturdy young boys. Both in Kashmir and in Mid-India duels were encouraged by the kings. But while in Kashmir, the combatants' duel was encouraged by the King Uchchala specially on monthly reception days and other festivals like Indra-festivals, King Someśvara Chālukya allowed it only on Saturdays and when the contestants refused to settle the quarrel without any fight. In both the places the kings are known to have given rewards to the victors. The victorious wrestlers were also-
rewarded with dress, ornaments, vehicles, or horses. Wrestling is as old as Pāṇini (Aṣṭādhyāyī, 3.3.36) and early Buddhist literature. The game of polo, which was previously unknown, was popular in the Chaulukya kingdom. The editor of Mānasollāsa informs us that the Polo game differed from the Afghan and Mughal Polo in “having two sets of goals” and “the ball is made of Pāribhadra tree”. Hockey seems to have cropped up in Gujarat slightly earlier to our period. If we are to believe in the information given by Abhayatilaka Gaṇi, the commentator of Hemachandra’s Dvya śravya, the game was familiar in the Mathura region. He tells us that Śrīkṣṇa played this game in his early life.

Another popular outdoor game for grown-up boys and girls was playing with a ball. The participants of charchari dance were exclusively ladies. On this occasion the richly attired ladies sprinkled one another with water. It was of course distinct from water-sport, which was known in India from a very early period. The swings or dolāvilāsa, specially during the spring season, afforded good opportunity to the young men and women to express their sentiment of love. Hemachandra gives a graphic description of the lovers. Songs enlivened this amusement. Some of the young beautiful ladies, swung up and down, and their anklets rang in unison.

Among indoor games, the most ancient and yet extremely popular in the period under survey, were dice and chess. Dr. U. N. Ghoshal, on the basis of Moharājaparājaya, refers to five varieties of gambling for different sections of the community, like kings, millionaires, merchants and even small boys. Though the smṛtis prohibited gambling as early as Manu yet people played it. The law-givers themselves permitted the play with dice on the occasion of the worship of Lakṣmī on the first day of the bright-half of the month of Kārttika. However, it is necessary to mention here that of all contemporary kings, Kumārāpāla made earnest, efforts to stop gambling with dice.

Besides dice, boys and girls played ancient games like hide
and seek, odd and even, which are also played in modern India.

Amusements exclusively for women were playing with dolls and sometimes with strings attached to them. Karkaraka, which meant throwing of pebbles in the air and Navālava, a sort of religious spring festival, during which women not giving out their husbands’ names were beaten by other married ladies with creepers of Palāśa.

A detailed account of other expensive and royal amusements and pastimes occurs in the Mānasollāsa. Sri G. K. Shrigondekar, the editor of the Mānasollāsa, has given a lucid and long description of the sport with elephants, birudānka or riding a buffalo with a burning torch even during the day, cock-fight (tāmrachūdadavinoda), amusements of quails (lāvakavinoda), ram-fight (meṣayuddha), buffalo-fight (mahīṣavinoda), pigeon-flight (pārāvatavinoda), amusements with dogs (sārameyavinoda), hawking (ṣyenavinoda), angling (matsyavinoda), hunting (mṛgaye) and hunting leopards (vyāghrājā). As many as twenty-one kinds of hunting are described in the Mānasollāsa. All the above-mentioned sports are also mentioned in other literary compositions. The fights of birds, elephants, cocks, rams, buffaloes, quails, pigeon-flights, hunting, hawking and angling are referred to in other earlier works like the Aṣṭādhyāyī, Mṛcchakaṭṭha or Frīṣaṭṭhakāpurusācharita and Hammiramahākāvya.

Thus most of the games of early mediaeval India were practised as early as the time of Pāṇini and Vātsyāyana. Some of the ancient institutions like Samājas, Sannyesa, chariot race, which became obsolete by the time of Aśoka or early centuries of the Christian era were not revived. Moreover, some of the amusements like Viṣakhadikā, Aśokattāṃśikā, Puṣpavācayika, Damanaḥṣṭijā or Damanaḥṣṭijā etc. which by the fourth century A.D. had begun to be counted as festivals, continued to please the people even during the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. Only Polo and hockey may be said to be the legacy of the eleventh century to modern India.
Food and Drink:

Wheat is known to have been cultivated in India as early as the age of Vājasaneyī-Sañhitā (XVIII. 12). But it was not and even today is not used in many parts of India. In 851 A.D. Sulaiman noted that "rice is the most common food of the Indians who eat no wheat". Dr. Ghoshal has quoted the authority of the Vaijayantī to show that wheat was treated as food fit for Mlechchhas. But it may be pointed out that Yādavapraṅkaśa, the author of Vaijayantī, was born near Kanchipuram and that the South is still reluctant to take wheat. So far as North India is concerned Lakṣmīdhara's frequent references to the consumption of godhūma on festive occasions leave no doubt about the popularity of wheat in the Uttar Pradesh in the twelfth century. He recommends the use of wheat preparations on the Janmā-ṣṭamī, on the ninth day of the bright-half of the month of Bhādra and many other occasions. Wheat was offered to the Jaina deity in Rajputana. Hemachandra refers to the use of wheat flower in the preparation of sweets. The use of Karoṭī which is explained by the commentator as powdered wheat baked in fire occurs in the Rāmcharita. The word Roṭī seems to have been derived from Karoṭī. The Bhāva-prakāśa uses the word Roṭika itself.

All over Northern India, we find that the most popular articles of diet were rice, fruits, vegetables and milk. Ibn Masah of the tenth century records that the people of Gujarāt believed that the use of rice and cow's milk as the only items of food which prolong longevity, prevents the onset of old age and gives good complexion. Rice was also the principal food of the people of Kashmir and the Uttar Pradesh. Śrīharsa refers to the serving of rice "unbroken, entire and crisp, with vapour playing over it," on the occasion of feeding the guests in the marriage ceremony of Nala and Damayanti. The Prākṛta Paināgala tells us that a fortunate housewife serves hot rice on green plantain leaf with cow's ghee, fish and Nālīṭā vegetable to her husband daily. In Gujarāt the varied types
of dishes were prepared from rice mixed with sesame, milk, curds, and spices. Hemachandra also notes that Pārvallo or rice parched and flattened was a favourite dish. Milk rice was one of the favourite meals of the people of the U. P. and Bengal. In Orissa, rice cooked with curd and ghee was offered to the gods.

It is rather strange that though milk and its various preparations were popular in India, Bhavadeva prohibited its use in expiatory ceremonies.

Amongst the different kinds of pulse used by North Indians, particularly Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat were kulattha, chana, masūra, mudga or phaseolus mungo.

Forbidden Vegetarian Food:

Lakṣmīdhara and Chaṇḍesvara, quoting earlier authorities, have given a long list of forbidden food. Among these the most important are onions and garlic, rice with meat (palāṇḍu), vārtāku, bottle gourd (alābu), a fungus which looks like an umbrella-shaped flower (kavaka), vajrapalii reed plant (nāla or kalambikā) cocoanut (nālikera), śvetayrīnīka or śvetavārītāku, a species of kadamba, kumbhāṇḍa or kumbhālu, kuchunda or kuvarinda, parārika or a kind of palāṇḍu, nālikāśāka, rice boiled with tila or sesameum (krṣara), powdered wheat boiled with ghee and boiled milk (sañyāva), mungo pulses cooked in sesameum oil (sāuskult), powdered wheat or barley (saktī) mixed with curd. The juice of sugarcane was also forbidden. The taking of masūra pulses was allowed only in times of distress. These restrictions apply mostly to a microscopic minority in the community, namely, the orthodox Brāhmaṇas. We find that barley was used in Kashmir and Rajputana. In spite of the śāstric injunctions, the people of Kashmir used onions, which was even offered to the gurus or preceptors. Bengalees felt no hesitation in using cocoanuts.

Fish:

With regard to fish, we find that it was eaten practically all over Northern India. In Bengal, Bhaṭṭa Bhavadeva, Jīmū-
tavāhana, Śrīnāthāchārya and others allowed the eating of fish on some festive (parvan) days. But they prohibit the use of those fishes which have ugly forms or have heads like snakes, which live in holes and are without any spine. Sarvānanda informs us that the people of Vaṅgāla like dried fish. Almost a similar attitude to the taking of fish is found in Lakṣmīdhara's Niyatakālakāṇḍa. He quotes Manu V. 16 and Yājñavalkya 1. 177-178 and states that even a Brāhmaṇa may offer pāṭhīna and rohita, and all other fishes which had spines and rājīva and sīṃhatuṇḍa. Kavirāja Śāṅkhadhara, who composed the Laṭakamelaka under Govinda-dendra Gāhaḍāvāla, tells us that Madanamaṇjarī, daughter of Dāṇṭhūra, swallowed a fish bone. It was only by conversations and actions of the quack-doctor Jantuketu that the bone could be dislodged. Thus the statements of Lakṣmīdhara and the author of Laṭakamelaka show that the people of the Uttar Pradesh were not vegetarians. In Kashmir as well as in the kingdom of Someśvara, the author of Mānasollāsa, fish was served to the people. The Kashmiris considered fish-broth as a tonic. Only in contemporary Gujarati literature we do not find any mention of fish as an article of food, because the Jaina element was exceptionally strong there.

Meat:

Lakṣmīdhara and Chaṇḍeśvara allow the Brāhmaṇas as well as other members of the community to take meat, provided they are offered beforehand to the gods and manes. It was also permissible for a sick person to take meat. The tenor of the writing of Lakṣmīdhara shows that meat was normally taken on all the days excepting some special occasions like the full moon day of Āśvina, when it is distinctly stated that the food should be without any meat. In Bengal, the flesh of deer, goat, hare, godha, porcupine and tortoise could be eaten, but not snails, crabs, fowls, cranes, ducks, datyūha birds, camels, boars, cows etc. In Kashmir
not only fowl, ram and goats, but also domesticated pigs were taken by the people.\textsuperscript{139} In Mid-India it seems from M\u0161\u0161asol\u00e1s\u00a3a that the meat of boar, deer, hare, sheep, goat, birds, fish, tortoises, crabs and even rats were taken by kings.\textsuperscript{130} An inscription of Bhoja records that Br\u00e1hma\u0161as took meat.\textsuperscript{131} Different preparations of meat and rice and other grains, are mentioned by Kalha\u0161a and Lak\u00f8\u00f1\u0161dhara.\textsuperscript{132} Hemachandra refers to roasted meat or something like shik-kab\u0161b taken by his countrymen.\textsuperscript{133} The preparations of meat are also referred to in the Nai\u0107adhacharita and inscriptions.\textsuperscript{134}

In this connection it would be interesting to record that there is a good deal of agreement between Lak\u00f8\u0161dhara and Alberuni regarding the list of animals, whose flesh was not permitted to be taken, as for example, cows, horses, mules, asses, camels, elephants, tame poultry, crows, parrots and nightingales.\textsuperscript{135}

It is curious to note that while M\u0161asol\u00e1s\u00a3a states that the king may take flesh of rats, such a thing is distinctly forbidden by Lak\u00f8\u0161dhara.\textsuperscript{136} In Kashmir too mice were taken by common people.\textsuperscript{137}

As compared to ancient times we find that during the eleventh century A.D., the digest-makers like Lak\u00f8\u0161dhara did not like that big bulls should be sacrificed for a distinguished guest. Referring to Va\u0161i\u0107tha’s rule that a big bull (mahok\u0161a) was to be killed in order to entertain an honourable guest, Lak\u00f8\u0161dhara explains that such a custom was prevalent in olden days.\textsuperscript{138}

Tradition records that beef was taken by the artisans of Madhyades\u0161a\textsuperscript{139} or Mid-India. This might have been the custom in some previous age, but not in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D.

\textit{Wine}:

The knowledge of preparation of drinks like pai\u0161\u017f from cereals, gau"\u0107 from gu\u00e2 or dried-up juice of sugarcane, madh\u017fi from madhu or honey, medaka from rice, "sava from
treacle, *madhu* from grapes etc. was passed on from olden days to the people of the twelfth century A.D. Amongst these intoxicant drinks possibly the most popular were those prepared from molasses and rice.

With regard to the attitude of the law-givers to the drinking of wine, it must be said that at no period of Indian history it was favoured. During our period Bhaṭṭa Bhavadeva of Bengal disapproved of its use by all classes of people. Probably knowing this attitude, the Muslim travellers like Sūlaimān have praised the abstention of Indians from wine. But in Chapter XV we shall show that wine was rather extensively used by some classes of men and women.

An account of the articles of food in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. reveal some startling changes which have taken place in course of time. The most important of these is the almost total abstention from meat and fish by the Brāhmaṇaś of Upper India. We notice that contemporary literature of Bengal does not mention either the cultivation or taking of pulses. It will not be safe to draw any conclusion from this negative evidence. *Māsūra* and *māṣa* pulses were not favoured by the Brāhmaṇaś of the Uttar Pradesh in normal times. While the drinks prepared from the juice of sugarcane was disallowed in the Uttar Pradesh, it was in use in Bengal in the period under survey.

The poorer section of the community had to remain contented with barley, rice and vegetables. In Kashmir, barley was looked upon as a cereal for poorer people. Kālhaṇa tells us that in his worst days, Hārṣa was given barley. Elsewhere the above-mentioned chronicler informs us that when the priests of the shrine of Bhūṭesvara (Śiva) wished to demonstrate their poverty before the King Avantivarman, they offered to the deity only “a wild-growing vegetable of bitter taste called *uṭpalāśāka*”. That rice, vegetable plants or *śāka* and *āmalaka* and *priyāla* fruits formed the simplest diet in Mid-India is also evident from the food taken by the Śaiva ascetic Prabodhaśiva in the tenth century A.D. The
Yastaśilakachampā tells us of the following course of food taken by the miser Kiliṇjaka: stale boiled rice which was full of husk and gravel, rotten beans, drops of rancid atasī oil, overburnt brinjals, gruel mixed with plenty of mustard, and a beverage having some alkaline fluid with a taste like that of salted water. This poor fare may be contrasted with the menu for the richer people which consisted of rice, white and clear like the glances of beautiful women, curries charming as the graceful movements of dancing girls, curds well-shaped and hard like the breasts of a savoury woman; milk sweet as the glances of one's beloved; sugared preparations of milk-rice, and water perfumed with camphor, delicious sweets as well as rice boiled along with milk and sugar.

Alms-houses:

The wide-spread poverty of the people probably inspired richer classes to endow a large number of alms-houses. Most of these alms-houses were attached to temples and were meant to cater to the needs of pilgrims and wandering bands of scholars. These sattras or anna-sattras were started not only by kings like Yaksapāla at Gaya, Vallabhadēva of Assam in Hāpyacha-maṇḍala, Chāhamāna Prithvīrāja I, Chaulukya Jayasimhā near Sahasralinga tank at Pātan, Vatsarāja of Lāṭa, Govindarāja of Valabhī in Saurāṣṭra and Jayasimhā of Kashmir, feudatories like Thakkura Lūnapāsaka at Salakhanapura in Gujarat, Mahāmaṇḍalesvara Vaijalladeva, a feudatory under the Chaulukya kings Ajayapāla and Bhīma II, in Khandohaka, Māṇḍalika Brahmadeva under the Kalachuri King Prithvideva II of Ratanpur, at Kumarakota, minister Gaṅgādhara who served King Ratnadēva II at Nārāyaṇapura, which is thirty miles north-east of Khārod Bilāspur, a Kāyasthā named Kanaka in Kashmir in the reign of Sussalā and the Brāhmaṇa Prahāsa at Siyamba in Bengal. Most of these alms-houses were endowed with villages and free meals were given to the poor people, the blind, the old, the infirm and travellers. Some
times the donors like the Chaulukya kings Siddharāja and Bhima II, Mahāmāndalika Vaijalladeva and Govindarāja of Saurāśīra specifically stated that they were meant for the feeding of the Brāhmaṇās only. Vaijalladeva sometime before 1173 A.D. laid down the condition that fifty Brāhmaṇās would be fed, but they must not have been fed previously and so possibly alms were received by only those Brāhmaṇās who had just arrived to settle themselves in the villages. The inscription of Govindarāja categorically states that the alms-houses were not only meant for beggars, travellers and Brāhmaṇās but also for scholars and students who could stay in the hall of charity, which was endowed with four plots of land.

Inns:

A perusal of the writings of Abu Zeid of Sirāj reveals that inns were built on the highways for the accommodation of travellers. In order that these travellers might buy necessary articles themselves, shops were opened close to the inns. That foreign writer also notes that in order that the travellers might satisfy their sexual urge, the persons who set up inns also settled public-women in them.

While the foundation of alms-houses was an act of charity, the dharmaśāstras laid down that hospitality was a duty. Yōjñavalκya 1. 121 and Parāśara 1. 38 directed that it was the duty of the householder to maintain dependants, show hospitality, observe śrāddha and worship the five daily sacrifices. These authorities have also been quoted with approval by Lakṣmīdhara and Chaṇḍeśvara.

North Indians of the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D were more large-hearted than people of previous ages. Sātātapa denied hospitality and even "verbal courtesy" to those heretics who followed non-Vedic religion, who neglected duties of the stages of life or āśrama, who paraded the glories of their own religion without practising it, vicious men, who paraded their dialectical powers by arguing against
the *Vedas*, and who practised false humility like cranes. But *Lakṣmīdhara* while commenting upon these verses of Śātātapa, says that the above-mentioned classes of persons may be denied all the rites of hospitality, but not food (*annadānamātram tu na niśiddhayate*).

**Poverty:**

In a feudal society peasants and artisans are usually condemned to lead a life of poverty. Material wealth is normally monopolised by the aristocracy, which consists of three-tiered landed, official, and mercantile. There are some indications to show that the masses of North India during the period under survey were not in very affluent circumstances. Their needs were very few; they did not aspire for luxuries; they earned enough only for two square meals a day, one or two pieces of cloth to hide their nakedness and some kind of shelter over their head. Contemporary literature shows that even these were not available to many. A poem of Dhendhānapāda purports to say that his house stood on a solitary hillock, in which there was no rice in the earthen pot and every one was hungry. Like the family of frogs the number of his children increased ever and anon. A poem of Vāra describes how a poor housewife with her emaciated body and torn clothes feels perplexed at the clamour of her children for food and she prays that one *māna* measure of rice may be sufficient for them for one hundred days. The lack of house room and additions to the family are referred to in another poem thus: "Within the house is the kitchen, there the mortor, there too the crockery, there the children, there his own study. He has put up with all that, but what can we say of the condition of the wretched householder when his wife, who today or tomorrow will present him with a new addition to his family, must spend there her time of labour." Still another poem quoted by Śrīdharadāsa (in 1206 A.D.) depicts the pitiable dearth of clothes. It runs:

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*1 *Māna* is equivalent to 320 *tolas* or 131 ounces.
as follows: "Even when I saw my children suffering from hunger, their body emaciated like dead body, or when I saw the old and worn out water-jar leaking, I did not feel so much sorrow as when I saw my wife smiling pitiably and making a request to a female neighbour for the loan of a needle to mend her torn cloth and the latter turned angry."

Poets must have used hyperboles in describing the poverty of the people in these poems, but there was certainly a substratum of truth behind the poetic exaggeration.

Fatalism and Astrology:

It is no wonder that the poor living under such wretched conditions and the rich perpetually haunted by the fear of bureaucratic oppression or invasion, sack of cities and looting of property would turn pathetically to astrology.

Lakṣmīdhara quotes several passages from the Rāmāyaṇa, Vyāsa, Matsya Purāṇa and Manusmṛti to prove that fatalism is the creed of cowards and sluggards. The author of the Sukranitisāra also praises men who depend on their own endeavours rather than rely on fate. Such a belief in human effort was preached earlier by Medhātithi in the ninth century A.D. In explaining Manu VII. 205 he writes:

"Thus destiny being 'incomprehensible' it is not necessary to devote much attention to it. It is human activity which we can think over and then do what has to be done."

But these exhortations fell mostly on deaf ears in the troubled years of the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. Even Lakṣmīdhara and the author of the Sukranitisāra had to admit the influence of fate (daiva). Both of them believed that success or failure in one's life was the result of one's actions in the previous births. Once this is recognised, fatalism cannot but steal in. Even a learned historian like Kalhaṇa ascribes many events in Kashmir to fate or destiny.

All sections of the community believed in good and bad omens and in lucky and unlucky stars. Kshemendra in the
ninth canto of his Kalāvīlāsa draws attention of the scholarly world to the various forms of roguery practised by the astrologers. But the response from the literary public must have been poor. The Samudratilaka, a book on omens, was begun by Durlabharāja in 1160 A.D. and finished by his son Jagaddeva. Jagaddeva also composed a work on dreams entitled the Svapnachintāmaṇi. Probably the nadir of intelligence and commonsense was reached when the twelfth century writer Narapati claimed in his book, Narapatija- yacharyā Svarodaya that with the help of diagrams the results of wars and adventures could be forecast.\textsuperscript{178}

Astrologers enjoyed an enviable position in courts. Dr. D. C. Sircar has referred to the recommendation of smṛitiś and nitiśāstras on appointment of astrologers by kings.\textsuperscript{179} As in Arab and western countries,\textsuperscript{180} so the Gāhaḍavālas\textsuperscript{181} maintained astrologers in their courts. King Govindachandra on the occasion of his ceremonial bath on the akṣaya-tīrṭīya day at Māonghyr, granted a village to a Brāhmaṇa astrologer named Śrīdhara\textsuperscript{182} in V.S. 1202/1146 A.D. Other astrologers were also donees of lands granted by kings of Somavāṃśi, Bhaṇja\textsuperscript{183} and Kalachuri\textsuperscript{184} dynasties. Sometimes these astrologers acted as witnesses to Chāhāmāna grants\textsuperscript{185} and helped the Chaulukya King\textsuperscript{186} in expeditions.

Belief in astrology exerted a baneful influence on all cases of people. Kings and generals did not go out on an expedition when it was politically expedient to do so, but only at the time declared as auspicious by the astrologer. Their repeated defeats did not teach them that astrological forecasts were incorrect and as such untrustworthy for future guidance. The masses reconciled themselves to the condition under which they were living on the ground that their sufferings were ordained by the stars or were the results of the actions of their previous births. This fatalistic belief made many of them complacent and deprived them of initiative and energetic perseverance.
REFERENCES TO CHAPTER XII

(Daily life of the People)

1 DHNI, VOL. II, p. 950.
2 JAHRS. VIII, p. 40ff.
3 El. II, p. 11. verse 14.
4 RT. VII. 1325, VIII. 734. 1127, 1169-1185.
5 Ibid., VIII. 1184, 1210-1211.
6 Ibid., VIII. 1212.
7 SS. Ch. XVIII. 1-6.
8 Agni Purāṇa, Ch. 239. 24-28 and Sukranītisāra (ed. Cal.) I. 213-214.
9 Centres of administration—Anhilwara (BG. I. p. 511-512), Vanthali (IA. XVIII. 110), Lattalur (IA., XIX. 164), Tekkali (El. XXI. 132), Mt. Abu, Varanasi-Katak as capital of the Somavamśa kings, Khajuraho, Chadobha (DHNI. II. 832) Dhavalapurī and Partabgarh as seats of Chāhamāna kings (DHNI. II. 1058-59) Naddūla or Nādol (DHNI. II. 1104ff), Javalipur or Jalore (DHNI. II. 1124ff), Vagada or Dungarpur (DHNI. II. 1206ff).

Trade and commerce—Broach, Cambay, Cheul, Somanatha Supara (BG. I. p. 513ff), Sripatha or modern Biana (El. III. 48), Ambadapura in Berar (El. XXI. 127), Chadobha or modern Dubkund (DHNI II. 832), Asavalor or Ahmedabad (HIED. I. 87-88), Tribeni in Bengal.

Military bases—Kachh (BG. I. p. 517ff), Kalanjar (DHNI. II. 665), Gopagiri or Gopādri or modern Gwalior (DHNI. II. 678, 823), Kol in Gujarat (HIED II. 222), Charanādri or Chunar, Monghyr and Patna during Pāla regime.

10 El. XXI. 58, verse 2; HB. I. p. 199.
11 RT. VIII. 2431 and 2440.
12 Ancient Geography, pp. 162. 408.
13 Prathvīrājaśayaya, canto V.
14 BG. I. p. 513.
15 El. XXI. 96.
16 DHNI II, p. 795 (Rewah grant).
17 Introduction p. V. of Pārthaparākramavyādayoga (GOS).
18 De, N. L. Geographical Dictionary of Ancient and Mediaeval India, p. 113.
19 Stein in RT. II. p. 483 (Appendices).
20 Manu VII. 121.
22 AR. pp. 181-182.
23 El. VIII. 82 (Nasik inscription), El. XV. 150 (Damodarpur pl).
24 El. I. 169-170 (Siyadoni inscr.); El. XI. 56 (Bhinmal inscr), Ibid XI. 58 (Sanchor inscr). Cf. earlier references to Pañchakula in Hund (El. XXII. 97), and Chapa (IA. XII. 113-114) inscriptions.
25 On nature and functions of Pañchakula vide Majumdar A. K. History of the Chaulukyas of Gujarat, pp. 236-242. His conclusions are that these were associated with and appointed by the provincial government, sometimes were placed in charge of cities and were appointed to supervise construction of a temple or seize property of the deceased.

26 EI. I. 154ff, lines 2-5.
27 EI. XI, pp. 37-41 Dhalopa is four miles to the south-west of Nādol (DHNIL II. 1112).
29 JUHPH IX. (1946), pp. 79-80.
30 Veraval inscr. of Arjunavarmam (IA. XI. 241), Anavada inscr. (PO. III. 25 and IA. 1912, pp. 20-21), inscr. of Bhima II (IA. XVIII; 110); forbbantar inscr. of Visaladeva (Po. II. 225).
31 RT. VIII. 1210.
33 HIED. II. pp. 34, 40, 44 and 46.
34 Efr. I. 295 (Vaṅnagar-Praśasti-Verses 23-26).
35 Rāj. 42. (dvijavaidyacam-śīlpi-kāraśākastathā).
36 Sukranitśāra (ed. Cal.) II. 198-205; (ed. Sarkan, II, 397-411);
37 SS. ch. X. 89-102.
38 Introduction p. 54 to HIED II (ed. Aligarh); Husain, Y.: Mediaeval Indian Culture pp. 133ff.
39 SS. (Vol. I. p. 84) ch. XVII. verses 185, 191; Rāj. pp. 189-188.
40 Kathāsaritsāgara (Tr. Tawney) Vol. I, p. 79.
43 RC. III. verses 29-30 and 32 (ed. Majumdar, Basak and Banerji).
44 Vikramāṅkadevacarita, canto XVIII.
45 Prthvīrājavījaya, canto V. (JRAS. 1913, p. 273).
46 Prthvīrājavījaya (JRAS. 1913, p. 273); RC. III. 33-36.
47 Prabandhachintāmaṇi (Tr. Tawney) p. 29; ch. X. 14-16.
48 Raj. p. 42; SS. ch. XIX. 58; Sukranitśāra (ed. Cal.) I. 212.
49 Efr. XXVIII. 174.
50 Saduki. II. 84. 2 (ed. Punjab Oriental Series No. XV. p. 123).
51 Ibid., II. 84. 4 (ed. Punjab Oriental Series No. XV. p. 124).
52 Ibid., V. 38. 2 (p. 303).
53 Saduki. V. 1. 5 (p. 278).
54 Struggle for Empire, pp. 309-312.
55 SS. ch. 15 verse 23 (Vol. I, p. 63).
57 El. XI. 54-55 (Jalor inscr); Ia. XLI. (1912), pp. 20-21 (Anavāda inscr).
58 El. XI. 54f.
59 Ia. XLI. 20f.
60 RT. VII. 1606.
62 RT. VII. 858.
63 Bharata's Nāḍyaśāstra 26. 5. 11-12, 166-167; Priyadarśikā canto III. 7; Kuṭṭanīmatam (ed. T. N. Ray) verse 802.
64 Cf. Kuṭṭanīmatam (ed. T. N. Ray) Verse 931
67 RT. VII. 606. 928-931, 944, RC. III. 35-37, IB. III. 35 and 41; Plates of Viṣvarūpāsena and Keśavāsena.
68 Savitāratnākara, Introductory chapter I; verse 18.
69 Mānasollāsa (GOS. Vol. 84. p. 187) Viṅkāti IV. 2. 74.
70 RT. VII. 606.
71 Vaij. 114-141. 145-147; Abhidhānachintāmaṇi 117. 6f; RT. VIII. 901-02, 1538 for drums, gongs and cymbals; Raj. pp. 16, 183; El. II. 185 (Nagpur inscr. dated 1104-05 A. D. verse 30 for paṭhāha ḣarhara and kettledrum).
72 RT. VIII. 169-174; Mānasollāsa (GOS. Vol. 84, p. 225) Viṅkāti IV. 5. 828-878 mentions as many as eight varieties.
74 PIHC. 1939 (Calcutta Session) p. 256, Arch. Survey Memoir, N. 55, pl. XXVI. No. 31.
75 Mānasollāsa (GOS. Vol. 84, pp. 211-225) viṅkāti IV. 4. 661-827.
76 Introduction, p. 35 of Mānasollāsa (GOS. Vol. 84).
78 Commentary on DV. VII. 44.
79 Abhidhānachintāmaṇi 277. 352-353; Vaij. 171. 161-162. Cf. earlier references to the play with ball (kandaluka) in Dakakumāra-charīta, Ucchvāsa 6 where the participants are ladies; Svapnavāsavadattam, ch. II.
80 Kuṭṭanīmatam, verse 886; Vikramorvāśī, IV. 292-293.
81 Pavanadātām (ed. Chakravarti) verses 33 and 38; Kumārapāla-charīta, IV. 41-58; Cf. Handiqui; Yaśastilakachāmpū and Indian Culture, p. 169 for watersports of youngmen in Sipra.
83 RV. I. 41. 91. X. 34. 8 and 12; Satapatha Brāhmaṇa, V. 4.

84 Moharalaparajaya Act. IV. pp. 86-87.
85 Struggle for Empire, pp. 489-490.
86 Manu IX. 220.
87 Niyata p. 422.
88 Moharalaparajaya, p. 83.
89 Desinamaamala I. 53, III. 30; Prabandhachintamani (Tr. Tawney), p. 139 (td. Singhi Jain Series, p. 89); muniyidutmam referred to in Desinamaamala I. 7 (ambatti).
90 Abhidhunachintamani 404-480; Vaij. 137. 11-14; Cf. Kumarrasambhavam I. 19 and Kuftanamata, verse 728.
94 Manasollasa IV. 11. verses 1277-1297; Mahaviracharita, Verse 74.
95 Manasollasa, IV. 13, verses 1330-1725 referring to twenty-one kinds of hunting; Astadhyayi V. 4. 126, IV. 4. 35. IV. 3. 5; Hammirmamahakavya, IV. 38f.
96 Astadhyayi III. 3. 99; IV. 4. 43, Komasutra I. 4. 31; Mbh. Adi. I. 82.
97 Astadhyayi. II. 2. 19.
98 Ancient Accounts of India and China, p. 34.
99 Struggle for Empire, p. 485.
100 Niyata p. 395; Kriyaratnakara, p. 257.
102 El. XI. 57.
103 Desinamaamala, VIII. 8.
104 RC. IV. 36 (ed. Majumdar, Basak, Banerji, p. 143).
106A Prakrita Paliqgala, p. 403, lines 1-3 (ed. B. I.)
106 Naishadhacharita, Canto XIV. 68.
107 Desinamaamala, I. 88 for Sesamum (unhia), II. 14 (kamkasaaro).
107 Desinamaamala, VI. 44.
109 Naishadhacharita, Canto XVI. 70; Niyata, pp. 435, 444 etc.; KV. p. 410.
111 Prayatuchitraparakara (VRS. ed.), p. 67.
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112 El. I. 271. ff (Cintra Praṣasti verses 52 and 57 mention mudga); Kuṭṭanīmatam verse 228 mentions kulattha, chana and masūra; Niyata, p. 427 mentions masūra; Нармамалі I, 124 mentions mudga; Mānasollāsa Viññātī III. 13. 1358-59 mention chanaka, māsa, masūra and mudga.

113 Niyata, pp. 275-284; Grihastharatnākara, pp. 352-367.
114 Niyata, pp. 279-283.
115 Ibid. p. 292.
116 RT. VII. 1621 and VII. 2586.
117 El. X. 50; IA. IV. 268.
118 RT. VIII. 143; Samayamātrikā, canto II. 26.
119 RC. III. 19.
120 HB. I. pp. 611-612.
121 Śhityā Parīṣat Patrikā, 1326 BS. pp. 86 f.n., 103.
122 Niyata, pp. 310-311; Gāhaḍavāla inscr. in El. VIII. 154; XI. 24; and XXVI. 73.
123 Laṣakamalaka, Canto I. pp. 9-12 (KM)
125 RT. VII. 522.
126 Niyata, pp. 311-17; Grihastharatnākara, pp. 380-384; SP. verses 633.
127 Niyata, p. 412.
128 HB. I. p. 612 referring to Prāyaḍchittaparakaṇa; Vāṅgālīr Itihāsa, pp. 539-540.
129 RT. V. 119, VII. 1149.
130 Mānasollāsa Viññātī III. 13. 1420-1547 (Deer in verse 1516, tortoise, verse 1537, crabs verse 1540, mice living in fields near rivers, verse 1543, birds verse 1522, boar verse 1523, fish verses 1525-1536, boar verse 1523).
131 IHQ. VIII. 311.
132 Niyata, pp. 398, 441, 446 etc.
133 Deśināmāmālī, VII. 44, and VIII. 39 referring to Vaualiam and Susanthia.
134 Naśadhacharita XVI. 81-82. Cf. inscripational references in IA. VI. 53, XII. 201 (Banavasa grant), El. XVIII. 320ff (Betma pl).
135 Sachāu, II. 151; Niyata, pp. 304-308.
136 Niyata, p. 303.
137 RT. VIII. 139.
138 Niyata, p. 328 commenting on Vaśiṣṭha 4, 8.
139 Śukraṣṭiṣaṭa (ed. Cal.) IV. 5. 49.
141 Prâyakchittaprakaraṇa, p. 40ff.
142 Ancient Accounts of India and China, p. 33.
143 RT. VII. 1621.
144 RT. V. 49.
145 MASJ. 1932 on Hailayas of Tripuri and their Monuments p. 119, verse 11.
147 Ibid., Book III, pp. 401-402.
148 IA. VI. 201, 203; EI. XXI. 99 and XXVI. 263.
149 IA. XVI. 65.
150 EI. V. 181-188 (Assam pl. dated 1185 A.D. verses 13-14).
151 DHNI. II. 1070.
152 IA. IV. 267.
153 EI. II. 202.
154 EI. II. 226 (Vaghli inscr. verse 31 lines 4-5).
155 RT. VIII. 3320.
156 IA. VI. 201-03.
157 IA. XVIII. 83, lines 18-21.
158 EI. XXVI. 263 (Ratanpur inscr. dated KS. 915/1163-64 A.D., verse 38).
159 Ibid. XXI. 164 (Kharod inscr. dated KS. 933/1181 A.D).
160 RT. VIII. 570-571.
161 EI. XIII. 292, verse 26.
162 The alms-houses started by Lūnapāsaka and Vaijalladeva in the kingdom of the Chaulukyas, Māṇḍalika Brahmadeva under Turmāna Kalachurīs, Kings Vallabhadeva and Govindarāja of Valabhī.
163 EI. II. 226.
164 IA. XVIII. 83, lines 18-19.
165 EI. II. 227.
166 Ancient Accounts of India and China (ed. Renaudot), p. 87.
167 Niyata, p. 218; Grihastharatmākara, p. 309.
168 Niyata, p. 193 and Grihastharatmākara, p. 295. The verses attributed to Sātātapa by Lakṣmīdharā are not found in printed text.
170 Baudhā Gāṇa O'Dohā and Charyāgiti Padāvalī, Pāda No. 33.
171 Sadukti (p. 310) V. 49. 4.
173 Sadukti (p. 309) V. 48-3.
174 Rājadharmakānda in Krītyakalpataru, p. 140.
177 RT. VII. 37, 67, 803, 1140-1141 and VIII. 220, 1276-1278, 1401, 2279-2280.
178 Speaking of omens, Marco Polo (c. 1293 A.D. observed t:
Lar. (Gujarat) "To every day of the week they assign an augury of this sort. Suppose that there is some purchase in hand, he who proposes to buy, when he gets up in the morning takes note of his own shadow in the sun, which he says ought to be on that day of such and such a length for the day he completes his purchase; if not, he will on no account do so, but waits till his shadow corresponds with that prescribed... Moreover, if in going out, he hears any one sneeze, if it seems to him a good omen he will go on, but if the reverse he will sit down on the spot where he is, so long as he thinks that he ought to tarry before going on again."

(Quoted in Sastri: Foreign Notices, pp. 176-177).

178 Struggle for Empire, pp. 330 and 786.
179 IHQ. XXVIII. pp. 346-347.
180 Nizāmī wrote in 1155 A.D. that it was necessary for the court of Arab kings to maintain an astrologer because enterprises of kings will not succeed unless undertaken at seasons adjudged propitious by sagacious astrologers" (Haskins: The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century, p. 54; Hitti: History of the Arabs, p. 318).

181 EI. II. 362, XI. 24. XIV. 194, XXIV. 294, XXVI. 73, 271 etc.
182 EI. VII 100 (Lar pl. dated 1146 A.D., line 25).
183 EI. XVIII. 299, XIX. 44 and IHQ. XX. (1944) p. 247.
184 EI. XIX. 212 and XXII. 159ff and 156.
185 IA. XIX. 218.; EI. XI. 37.
186 EI. II. 438 and 440.
CHAPTER XIII

Festivals.

A perusal of the description of festivals in contemporary digests, shows that North India in the eleventh and twelfth centuries was pervaded with festivals. The nibandhakāras of this period prescribed dancing, singing in accompaniment of musical instruments sumptuous feeding of the Brāhmaṇas, friends and relatives and going out in procession, as obligatory performances in many of these festivals. This is in striking contrast to the tendency of later digest-makers to enjoin fasting on all occasions.

Lakṣmīdhara, the Prime Minister of King Govindachandra Gāhadañjāla, has left for us a graphic account of a number of such festivals in his monumental work, the Krītyakalpa-tarā. The cycle of festivals began with the advent of the month of Chaitra, which was regarded then as the beginning of the year. According to him, the world was created on the first day of the bright half of Chaitra and so a festival was there to commemorate it. On this occasion, Brahmā, the creator, Mahēśa and other gods, demigods, serpents, Yakṣas, the seven seas, the varṣas and also the land of Bhārata-varṣa were worshipped. The pūjā was marked by homa, sacrifices, gifts and the wearing of new clothes and ornaments. Invitations were extended to the Brāhmaṇas, friends and relatives. The worship of Bhārata-varṣa furnishes us with another instance of the fundamental unity of India. On the 6th day of the bright fortnight of Chaitra, Skanda was worshipped because he was made the commander of the forces of Devas on that day. Skanda was worshipped with lamps, ornaments, clothes and a live cock. Lakṣmīdhara and Chanḍeśvara clearly state that the live cock was to be given to the god for play and not for sacrifice. The performance of
This rite was meant for securing the immunity of children from diseases. The 6th and 7th days of the bright fortnight of Chaitra were holy to the Sun. Alberuni observes that the 6th day is a day of fasting and the correctness of his observation can be corroborated from the Krityaratnakara. On the 7th day the Brāhmaṇas were given curds and pāyasa. The eating of rice was forbidden on this day which was also known as Anodanasaptami. It is interesting to observe here that in the printed edition of Hemādri’s Chaturvargachintamani, the date for the Anodanasaptami is given as 7th Vaiśākha Śukla. Such a festival in Vaiśākha has not been mentioned either by Jīmutavāhana or by Lakṣmīdhara. On the 8th day in eastern India, people used to take eight buds of the Aśoka flower as it was believed to have the virtue of freeing one from sorrows. The Aśokāyātami festival has not been referred to by Lakṣmīdhara although it has been mentioned by Hemādri. Another festival which took place on the 11th Chaitra Śukla was observed in honour of Rukmīni. Alberuni and his pupil Gardi speak of a different festival on the 11th Chaitra though neither of them mentions whether it was observed on the dark or bright fortnight. However, on the occasion of the festival called Hindoli-Chaitra, Vāsudeva was swung in temples. The more interesting part of the festival was that the devotees of Vāsudeva also used to swing in their houses. Gardi further informs us that on this day, women used to decorate themselves and asked for gifts from their husbands. The twelfth and thirteenth days of the bright fortnight of the month were marked by merriment on the occasion of the worship of kāma or God of Love. The celebration began on the twelfth day with fasts in honour of Viṣṇu. In the afternoon Kāmadeva was worshipped with big leaves of trees. As the Madanadvida fell on the same day, the devotees placed a jar and covered it with rice, fruits, sugarcane plants, white clothes and gold according to one’s means. At night Kāmadeva was worshipped with cold water. Lakṣmīdhara and Čaṇḍes-
vara prescribe that wife of the devotee should bathe herself with this water before sun-rise on the 13th day. The worship also continued on the 14th day and the festival was known as Madana or Kāma-mahotsava. This was a famous festival and it was observed with dancing, songs, and merrymaking all over India from the time of Vātsyāyana at least.

Prof. Jogesh Chandra Ray has shown different dates for observance of the Dol festival in different periods commemorating the celebration of the New Year, in Bhādra, Srāvaṇa and also Mārgaśīrṣa. In ancient times the Dol was celebrated in honour of the Sun, then in honour of Viṣṇu and finally, it has been ascribed to Kṛṣṇa. Prof. Ray concluded that “Dol Yātrā was confounded with spring festival and red coloured powder and water added to complete the picture.”

There are considerable differences between mediaeval and modern India on the date and manner of the observance of the Holi festival. In modern India Holi is observed on the full moon day of Phālguna, and is marked by various forms of amusements. But during the period under review neither the form of celebration nor the date was the same. Something like, but certainly not identical with the Holi, a festival called Kāmamahotsava was observed between the twelfth day of the bright half and the full moon day in the month of Chaitra. Lākṣmīdharā, Jīmūtavāhana and Chaṇḍeśvara inform us that the twelfth and thirteenth days of Chaitra Śukla were sacred to Hārī. In these digests we do not find any mention of bon-fire or spraying of colour, each of which is quite an event in modern Holi. Of course, the Bengal school began associating Holākā with the spring festival from the time of Jīmūtavāhana. But he does not state categorically the date and whether it was observed by people of Northern and Western India. Without giving any details, Hemachandra refers to Phagga in his Deśināmāmālā and Alberuni to Bahand. Thus it is evident that till the time of Chaṇḍeśvara there was no association of Holi with the spraying of coloured water and dust which we find in modern days.
It may be suggested here that the modern form of *Holi* was taking shape sometime before the sixteenth century. Gopaśabhaṭṭa tells us that in continuation of the swing festival of Kṛṣṇa amidst songs and dances, fragrants should be thrown at Kṛṣṇa first and then at the Vaiṣṇavas on the twelfth day of the bright half of Chaitra. It is interesting to observe that the above-mentioned writer speaks of a *Vasantotsava* on the full moon day of Phālguna, a date which is identical with that of modern *Holi*.

Alberuni states that on the full moon day of the month of Chaitra a festival is held called the *Bahand* (*Vasanta*?). This festival used to be celebrated by women when they “put on ornaments and demand presents from their husbands.” Lakṣmidhara on the basis of the *Brahma Purāṇa*, states that an image of demon may be made either of earth or grass. On that occasion, one should decorate oneself with clothes and beautiful ornaments, eat meat and barley, drink and use varied weapons, and umbrellas and have clean *shaves*. Further, it appears from a perusal of the digests of Northern India that the festival was associated with Viṣṇu, because the day began with worship of Viṣṇu. But in the Gujarāt area, it was a Śaiva festival. Abhayatilaka Gani in his commentary on *Dvīṇāśraya* states that the *Dolā* or *Dola* festival (14th day of bright half of Chaitra) was observed by all the four classes and on that occasion Śambhu and Gaurī were placed on a swing. There used to be a big gathering at the Somanātha temple. A perusal of the prologue of *Dutāṅgada* shows that King Kumārapāla was present on the occasion of the festival at the famous temple of Somanātha. Similar festivals took place in other Śaiva temples. A record of V. S. 1264/c. 1207 A.D. states that the feudatory King Jagamalla assigned a sum for the festival at two Śaiva temples in the town of Talajha. Dramas used to be staged also on that day. We learn from the Dhar-prasasti of Arjunavarman that the drama *Pūrijatamañjarī* of Madana was staged during the Chaitra-parva, also called *Vasantotsava*. 
On the same day of 14th Chaitra Sukla another festival known as Damanakechaturdasi was held. This festival appears to have been observed in Bengal, Mid-India and Rajputana. Jñānātāvāhana directed that Ananga is to be worshipped with flowers. But Hemia displays that the leaves of the Daman tree are to be offered to Śiva, Viṣṇu and Madana. Inscriptions of the reigns of Paramāra Udayāditya and of Queen Udalladevi dated V. S. 1294/c. 1237 A.D. refer to the observance of the festival on that day. The day was sacred, and we find that the above-mentioned second inscription relates to the erection of temple of Vindhyēśvara on the occasion. Though the donor of the temple, Queen Udalladevi was born in Kanauj, it is noteworthy that Laksñādhara does not mention this festival.

The dark half of the month of Chaitra was also full of festivities. Both Laksñādhara and Chaudeśvara refer to a festival of the Jhālamanálas, or aboriginal tribes held between the first and fourth days of the dark half of Chaitra. This festivity has not been cited by any other nibandhakāra, not even by Hemia. From the second and the fourth day, however, the followers of the Brāhmanical religion performed a Mahotsava with songs. On this occasion a serpent made of grass, was to be tied to a wood. This imaginary serpent was made to dance in villages and towns. On the third or fourth day it was torn to pieces. Those pieces were kept in every house, and worshipped secretly throughout the year. On the fifth of the dark-half of the month Indians believed that the Earth had menses like a woman. At present the Bengalees observe a similar festival known as Ambubāchi in the month of Āśāḍha. Digging or ploughing of earth is strictly forbidden on these three days. Both the festivals seem to be a prelude to the sowing ceremony. According to Laksñādhara women made stone images of Earth and anointed them for three days in the dark-half of Chaitra. They avoided flowers, ornaments and frankincense on these days. And then on the 8th Chaitra, the Brāhmaṇas bathed the images and
worshipped them. Musical instruments were played. The devotees having bathed and decorated themselves tilled the land with ploughs and sowed seeds from a golden dish. When the seeds sprouted, the devotee ate them along with friends amidst songs and dances. It appears then that on that same date the Brāhmaṇas controlled speech and abstained from reading the Vedas. The image of the Earth goddess was thrown out of the windows by women-worshippers in the afternoon.

Two other strange festivals were held in the month of Chaitra. On the 14th of the dark fortnight of Chaitra, Sāṅkārā was propitiated. People kept themselves awake throughout the night with the object of protecting the children from goblins and saw the dance of harlots. Fish, meat and plenty of rice and liquor were to be offered at the roots and holes of trees, grazing grounds, deserted houses, junctions of roads, terraces, rivers, temples and cremation grounds. On the day of Amāvāsyā, every one was asked to give plenty of food to dogs, after propitiating the Manes with Srāddha.

Alberuni and Gardizi mention that on the 2nd and 22nd days of the month of Chaitra, Agus (?) and Chaitra-Chashat (?) holidays were observed. The former was in commemoration of a victory of the Kashmiri King Mattai over the Turks. This festival was observed by the Kashmiris alone. No such festival has been mentioned in any other book.

Vaisākha (April-May):

There were fewer festivals in the months of Vaisākha and Jaiṣṭha in comparison with Chaitra. The month began with the worship of the fairy Irā. Clothes and food were distributed to the wife, children, friends and servants. The water with which the fairy had been worshipped was drunk along with the food. On this occasion too, they had songs and dramatic performances. The third day of the bright fortnight of Vaisākha was holy to Vāsudeva. According to the
Brahma Purāṇa quoted by Lakṣmīdhara and Chaṇḍeśvara, Viṣṇu was to be offered barley, and Śaṅkara, Gaṅgā and the Himalayas were to be worshipped. Jīmūtavāhana and Chaṇḍeśvara quote the authority of Viṣṇu, Bhaviṣya, Devi Purāṇas, Yama and Viṣṇudharmottara in describing this festival. A fast in honour of Vāsudeva was undertaken on the 2nd of the fortnight, water and sweets were offered to the deities. As the manes were offered water and tila, the day was also known as Akṣayatīrīṭyā. Even the Jaina writer Hemachandra refers to the practice of offering oblations on this date in his Trīṣaṭṭiśalākāpuruṣacharita. Lūnapāsaka, a feudatory ruler of the modern Bhilā region, under the Chau-lukya King Ajayapāla, granted a village to Śiva at Udayapurā in Gwalior on the Akṣayatīrīṭyā day. We find that on the same day grants of villages were made to the Brāhmaṇas by the Gāhaḍāvāla Kings Chandradeva and Govinda- chandra.

Alberuni and Gardizi refer to the celebration of Gaur-t-r (Gauri-trīṭyā ?) on the third Vaiśākha. It was observed by the ladies. On the occasion of the worship of Gauri they fasted, washed and dressed themselves gaily. They also lighted lamps before the image of Gauri and swayed on the swings. The information supplied by these foreign writers is correct to a large extent. The details of the worship, including fasting can also be found in Hemādri’s Chaturvargachin- tāmāni. But Hemādri puts the date Gaurivrata on the third day of the bright half of Chaitra. He also does not mention the swing as a part of the festival. As the Gaurivrata is not mentioned by the digest-makers of our period, it is quite likely that it was not in vogue in Northern India during the period under survey. Alberuni might have confused the date with the fourth day of the bright half of the month of Jyaiśṭha.

The 7th Vaiśākha Śukla was notable for the worship of the river Ganges, Sarkarāsaptami and the birth of the Buddha. The Sarkarāsaptami was celebrated in honour of
the Sun. On the same day an image of the Buddha was to be made and the temples were to be decorated. The monks were to be given books, meals and dress and the poor people were given flowers, clothes and rice. The worship was to continue for three days amidst dances and dramas. It is noteworthy that the Hindus accepted the Buddha in their pantheon but they celebrated his birthday on a wrong date on the 7th day of the bright half instead of the full moon day of Vaiśākha. *Tila* was offered on the Vaiśākha Pūrṇimā day to Vāsudeva, Dharmarāja and the manes. Lamps were burnt with *Tila* oil. Jīmūtavāhana quoting *Viṣṇudharmottara* recommends that cooked rice, water, sweets and vegetables are to be offered to the people on that particular day.

Alberuni and Gardizi describe a strange ceremony which took place on the 10th Vaiśākha Śukla. The King invited the Brāhmānas. They went to the open spaces and lit up fires for sacrifices in “sixteen different spots and in four different groups.” The fire raged till the day of the full moon. This festival is not referred to in any digest.

**Jyaiṣṭha (May-June):**

The first day of the bright fortnight of the month of Jyaiṣṭha began, according to Alberuni and Gardizi, with “throwing the first fruits of all seeds into the water in order to gain thereby a favourable prognostic.” This custom is also unknown to the Indian digest-makers. The fourth of the bright fortnight was a holiday on account of the date of birth of Umā. Umā was worshipped by women for the sake of increase of fortune. It was celebrated amidst songs and dances and rewards were given. The eighth day was notable for the birth of Šuklā Devi, who killed the King of demons. According to Bhoja and Jīmūtavāhana, the 10th day was known as *Dasaharā*. On this occasion the Ganges descended to the earth. Those who took their bath and gave away gifts became free from sins. But Lakṣmīdhara and Chaṇḍeśvara put the date of the
descent of the Ganges as the 7th Vaiśākha Śukla. It seems that the Bengal and Malwa schools observed the festival on the 10th Jyaiṣṭha Śukla and the rest of Northern India on the 7th Vaiśākha Śukla in mediaeval times. This is also hinted at by Chaṇḍesvara. At present, however, the whole of India celebrates the descent of Gaṅgā on the 10th day of the bright half of Jyaiṣṭha.

The twelfth day was known as Matsyadvādaśī or Rāgha-advādaśī. Jyaiṣṭha Pūrṇimā, according to Alberuni and Gardizi, was observed by women. These foreign writers do not give particulars of the festival known as Rūpa-panch (?) or Rūpa-maṇḍ (?). It seems that the day was the Śāvitri-vrata day. According to Bhoja, the author of Rājamārtanda and Chaṇḍesvara, the performance of this vow saved women from widowhood. Chaṇḍesvara gives further details of the worship. A jar filled with rice, fruits, sugarcane, plant was to be provided. A copper-plate was to be placed on the jar and on the plate was erected the images of Brahmā and Śāvitri. Food and clothes were to be given to honest Brahmāna couples. In modern times the Śāvitri-vrata is also observed on the same day.

In Orissa, however, Pūrṇottama’s image was taken round the streets on the same day. The festival was known as Mahājaiṣṭhi festival, which has been described in Brahma, Skanda and Agni Purāṇas. It is also mentioned in Nalaka-dhacharaṇam of Śrīharṣa. This festival has not been mentioned in contemporary nībandhas. Bhoja in his Rājamārtanda also tells us that the Mahājaiṣṭhi festival was restricted to the area of Pūrṇottama or Puri.

Āṣāḍha (June-July): The eighth day of the bright half of the month of Āṣāḍha was auspicious for the worship of Gaṅsa or Vināyaka. Moṣa pulses or barley used to be taken as food on this day. The festival was celebrated with vocal and instrumental
music. Modern calendars do not show any such ceremony. No other festival was held in the dark half of Āṣaṇḍha excepting, as according to Kālaviveka, the worship of Śiva on the Chaturdāśi.53

In the bright half of Āṣaṇḍha there were many festivities. On the 7th day, when Bhāskara (Sun) was worshipped, people took food and drink ceremoniously.54 On the 9th day there was fasting and the golden image of Durgā Indrāṇī was worshipped. The devotees were asked to give meals to the unmarried girls, women and Brāhmaṇas according to one’s capacity. This ceremony was also held on the 9th of the Mārgaśīra.55 On the occasion of Viṣṇu going to sleep, the devotees fasted and kept themselves awake during the night of the 11th day, worshipped him on the 12th and arranged for music and dance on the 13th. Lakoṣmīdhara and Chaṇḍeśvara prescribe that the actors (raṅgaṇivinonatādayaiḥ) are to be given money according to one’s capacity.56 There was again another fasting on the full moon day. Alberuni mentions this fasting day as holy to Vāsu-deva.57

Another festival took place in the month of Āṣaṇḍha. On the occasion of the Daksināyana, the clouds were to be worshipped. The Brāhmaṇas were to be offered milk, barley powder, camphor, sugar, fruits and vegetables.58 Alberuni tells us that throughout the month of Āṣaṇḍha alms were given. Householders began using new vessels on this day.59 Chaṇḍeśvara, on the authority of Bhaviṣya Purāṇa, prescribes restraint on food in all the nights of this month.60 A festival known as Bhāumāh, in honour of Gauri in this month, is mentioned only by Hemachandra in his Deśinamamālā.61 Hemādri does not mention such a festival. But this festival continued in Gujarat till the time of Forbes.62 It is quite possible that the festival mentioned by Hemachandra is identical with the Udbhayanavarnā mentioned by Chaṇḍeśvara63 and Hemādri 64 which we have already discussed.
Srāvana (July-August):

Lakṣmīdhara mentions only one important festival in the month of Srāvana. The day on which the asterism, Rohinī and Sravaṇa, occurred, Viṣṇu was to be worshipped. There was to be play and partaking of meals along with relatives. If girls desired good husbands, they were to participate in the tournaments in water.\(^{33}\) The twelfth of the bright half of the month of Srāvana was known as Buddhadvādaśī.\(^{34}\) This day is not mentioned either by Jīmūtavahana or Lakṣmīdhara. However, a golden image of the Buddha was to be worshipped and then offered to a Brāhmaṇa.\(^{35}\) It was a day of fasting. Modern Bengali calendar puts the date of Buddhadvādaśī on the full moon day of Jyāistha.

Alberuni describes the full moon day of Srāvana as holy to Somanatha. Banquets were given to Brāhmaṇas on this day.\(^{36}\) Hemachandra states that on the fourteenth day of the bright half of Srāvana the Vorali festival is held.\(^{37}\) How or in whose honour it was held, is not known to us. The Nadol plate dated V.S. 1218/1161 A.D. states that on the above-mentioned day the Chāhamāna feudatory chieftain Alhaṇadeva made gifts to the Brāhmaṇas and Gurus.\(^{38}\) The King worshipped Sun and Iśāna (Śiva) on the occasion. It is difficult to agree with Dr. Asoke Majumdar that it was purely a Saïva festival.

Bhādra (August-September):

Both the halves of the month of Bhādra were important for varied and colourful festivals. On the first day of the dark-half began the Karāra (?) festival which continued for seven days.\(^{39}\) According to Alberuni and Gardizi people used to adorn and feed children and to play with various animals. On the eighth day falls the anniversary of the birth of Kṛṣṇa.\(^{40}\) Alberuni and Gardizi as well as Chandaśvara and

\*Sri Aiyangar in his Intro. p. 47 to Vol. III of Krītyakalpataru wrongly puts the month of Srāvana.
Jimūtavāhana describe the exact position of the planets on this day. The moon stands in her fourth station, Rohinī. Two Muslim scholars designate the festival as Guna-
lahid (?). Alberuni, however, observes that besides the con-
stellation of stars, the day must be the 8th of the dark-half. 
He further comments "such a day does not occur in every 
year, but only in certain ones of a large number of years". But while these foreign writers state that it is a day of fasting, 
Lakṣmīdhara observes that it is permissible to take fruits and 
milk. Both Bhoja and Jimūtavāhana call the day of the 
birth of Kṛṣṇa as Jayantī. Fasting is to be undertaken only 
when the Rohinī star appears on the aṣṭamī day. The for-
mer clearly states that fasts are never to be observed in the 
Rohinī nakṣatra. Lakṣmīdhara gives some details of the 
festival. Devotees used to keep awake throughout the night 
and witness singing and dancing. Next day, on the ninth, 
the womenfolk dressed in red robes and decked with flowers 
and ornaments were to bring the images of Kṛṣṇa, Devakī and 
Yoṣodā to the bank of a river. After they had taken their 
banh, women used to enter their residence and take barley, 
sugarcane etc.

On the ninth day of the dark-half of Bhādra the procession 
of the car of Durgā started. The festival as described by 
Chaṅḍeśvara appears to have been observed solely by the 
King. The car was to be decorated with clothes, flag bear-
ing lion's emblem, white umbrellas, feathers of peacocks, bells 
and other things. The Brāhmaṇas were fed on the previous day. 
On the ninth day Durgā was placed on the car. Animals were 
sacrificed and brave persons were to throw their swords 
towards the east. They also danced before the deity with 
other weapons. Then began the worship of the deity by the 
Vedic Brāhmaṇas in the palace of the King amidst sound of 
conches. The citizens gathered at the eastern gate. Then the 
car was taken out and the king worshipped Durgā for one 
day each in the south, west and northern directions. The 
Sūdras were allowed to worship the goddess but they were
forbidden to get on the car. The maid-servants of the royal household, however, surrounded the deity on the car. The festival continued till the fourteenth day and during these six days special arrangements were made for songs and dances. The car returned to its original place on the thirteenth.

The days of the dark-half of the month of Bhādra were and are known as pitripakṣa. These days were sacred to the Manes and were to be celebrated with a real Śrāddha especially on the amāvasyā. Alberuni and Gardizī refer to the Pitripakṣa. Hemachandra calls the same period as Mahālavakṣha. Abhayatilaka Gaṇi in his commentary on Dvāśraya states that during the period a man has to live like a Brahmachārin and abstain from betels, tooth-brush, oils for anointing body or cooking, women, medicine and food offered by others. The Kashmiris on this day deposited the bones of the dead, who had died during the year, in the sacred Gāṅgā lake. The days sacred to the Manes were observed in Rajputana even in the time of Tōd. It is interesting to note here that the day was regarded as an auspicious one as on this very day in V. S. 1232/1175 A.D. the Jātakarman ceremony of prince Hariśchandra, son of King Jayachchandra Gāhāḍavāla, took place.

In the bright-half of Bhādra occurred a number of festivals. The ladies fasted and worshipped Śiva or his wife on the fourth day. They also offered gur, salt and pūpa to their father-in-law and mother-in-law. This day is known as Haritālikā, sacred to Pārvatī, according to Bhoja’s Rājamārtanda. The worship of serpents on the 5th Śrāvaṇa śukla and the 5th Bhādra śukla freed one from fear of snakes. The ceremony was observed amidst songs and dances. The day was also known as Rāipaṇchamī. On the sixth and seventh days, when Kṛṣṇa won fame, the devotees were to distribute alms to servants, friends, and wives. Chaṇḍesvāra further directed that one should not use oil on the sixth day. The same writer informs us that on the 6th day, the Sun has to be worshipped and Pāyasa and gur are to be taken.

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Alberuni and Gardizi also regarded the day as sacred to the Sun. People observed a fast on the previous day, that is, the fifth. Details of the ceremony have been given by these foreign writers. “They anoint the solar rays, and in particular the rays which enter through the windows, with various kinds of balsamic ointment and place upon them odoriferous plants and flowers.”

It is interesting to observe here that Jmūtavāhana and Lakṣmīdhara do not mention this date as sacred to the Sun. It may be suggested that the Sun worship was prevalent in Mithilā only and not in Eastern U.P. and Bengal on this date. The eighth day of the bright-half of the month was notable for several festivities. According to Čapadesvara, if men, and specially womenfolk observe fasting and worship Saṅkarṣaṇa and Ganeśa with grass, date palms, coconut and other fruits on that date, known as Durvāśṭamī the worshippers would be rewarded with learning, progeny and wealth. This Durvāśṭamī festival is probably identical with that of Dhurvagriha (?) or Daruphar (?) of Alberuni and Gardizi which was also observed on the eighth day “when the moonlight has reached half of its development.” On the occasion, the devotees “wash themselves and eat well-growing grain fruit so that their children may be healthy. The women celebrate this festival when they are pregnant and desire to have children”.

Gardizi however, tells us that the devotees ate grapes but did not give these to their sons. It was on this day that the Gahaḍavāla King Jayachchandra performed the Nāmakaraṇa ceremony of his son Hariśchandra at Banaras and granted two villages to Mahāpāṇḍita Hariśi-kaśārman.

From ancient times up to the seventeenth century, one of the political festivals was the Indradhvajocchhrāya or raising of the staff of Indra. We learn from the Ādiparva of the Mahābhārata that Indra presented a banner (dvajā) to King Uparichara of the Chedi country. The King displayed the pole in a public festival. Indra was pleased and pledged that the King who celebrated such a festival would
be free from all calamities and be assured of victories. The belief persisted in the days of the Gāhādvāla King Govinda-
chandra. Lakṣmīdhara, quoting the Devī Purāṇa, says that the performance of the ceremony with proper rituals, destroys all threats to kingdom and ensure constant victory. The country also never suffers from paucity of rain.118 The time prescribed for raising the staff, according to Varāhamihira’s Bṛihatsaṁhitā117 was the eighth of the light-half of Bhādra. Lakṣmīdhara, quoting the Devī Purāṇa, gives the above-mentioned date as well as the day in which the constellation-
Śrāvaṇa occurs in the bright-half of Āśvina.118 Jīmūtavā
hana119 discusses the date in detail and fixes it with reference to the constellation. The staff was to be raised when the moon was in Śrāvaṇa nakṣatra and the visarjana was to take place at the end of Bharani nakṣatra.120 Bhoja also recommends the same dates. It was the duty and privilege of the king to raise the flag-staff with due pomp. A graphic description has been given by Bhoja in Rājamārtanda.121 The King himself with his priests had to guard the flag-staff throughout the night on the day it was raised. Greatest care was taken while cutting down the wood meant for the pole and transporting it. It was not to become a roosting place for inauspicious birds like crows and pigeons. It was believed that various misfortunes like the death of the king and queen and famine fall on the people, if any part of the staff suffered breakage or even scratches appeared on it. Young men brought the pole to the king’s palace, trumpets were blown and the flag was raised amidst the chanting of Vedic hymns by Brāhmaṇas, the blowing of conches by the association of prostitutes,122 (veśyāsaṁgha), presence of soldiers, courtiers and prominent citizens of the country. Songs and dances heightened the festivity. The streets were adorned with flags and auspicious plantain and sugarcane plants. Literature shows that the raising of the Flag Staff was the signal for commencement of popular festivities. This ceremony, however, is not included by Nilakaṇṭha, the celebrated commenta-
tor of the Mahābhārata, apparently because India had lost her independence in his time. It was, hence, meaningless for a subject nation to celebrate a political festival.

From the digests we learn that in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the festival was observed in all parts of Northern India. Hemachandra in his Dvyāśraya mentions the Indrapūjā. He and his commentator Abhayatilaka Gaṇi state that the festival lasted from the eighth day of the bright-half to the full moon-day of the month of Āśvin. It is interesting to observe here that the purpose of the festival as stated by these writers is different from the views of the above-mentioned nibandhakāras. In Gujarat area it was held in order to get a good harvest of paddy. In Kashmir the day was named as Indradvādaśī. The Nilamata Purāṇa mentions the Mahādvādaśī festival which falls on the twelfth day of the bright-fortnight of the month of Bhādra. Probably Mahādvādaśī and Indradvādaśī were identical. The Rājatarangini gives an interesting account of festivities on the occasion. Kashmiri kings used to distribute presents on that day to the victors in the tournaments, which were held in the royal palace. Many lost their lives and limbs on this occasion. “Soldiers of noble race” observes Kalhaṇa, “who had left their homes, as if in exultation, were carried away mutilated from the palace court by their relatives.... The women, when their husbands returned (alive) after going to the royal palace, thought that they had gained a day but otherwise never felt safe.”

The rest of the bright-half of Bhādra marked the observation of the following festivals. On the ninth day, Janārdana, Durgā, Gaṇeśa (Dhanada), Varuṇa and the trees (Vanaspati) were worshipped with wheat. On the tenth day the Brāhmaṇas were offered fruits and vegetables. Women were to be decorated with ornaments and dress. One acquired great merit by bathing at the confluence of the Vitastā and the Sindhu (Indus) rivers on this day. The occasion was also utilised in the honouring of dancers and actors. The twelfth
day or Vijayadīvādaśī was. sacred to Janaśādana. If one made a gift of rice, gur, kṣīra, ghee, clothes, water, gold and silver, elephants, horses, chariots, conveyances, umbrellas or shoes on that day, the gods were pleased. One could also hear the recital of the Purāṇas and Vedas. Drinking, dancing and recital of music went on throughout the day. In Gujrat the 10th day was the occasion for Neddāria festival. On the previous day, that is, the eleventh, there was a fasting in honour of Kṛṣṇa and a bath, at Prayāga or other confluences of rivers, on the twelfth was considered to be meritorious.

Another festival called Gañhat (or K̄abhat ?) took place on the 6th of Bhūdra, when people gave food to prisoners. This festival has been mentioned by Alberuni and Gardāzī.

Āsvin or Aśvāyuja (September-October):

The month of Āsvin was probably the busiest month so far as Hindu rituals and ceremonies were concerned. On the third, fourth and fifth of the dark-half took place the worship of Varuṇa and Vasudhā or Earth. The sixth day was observed by some as the birth-day of Skanda. Lakṣmīdhāra advised that the sons should be dressed and given ornaments on this day. During the worship of Vaiṣṇavī on the eighth day one was advised particularly to bathe and decorate oneself with good clothes and ornaments. Instrumental music and dances were arranged and water sports continued for such a long time that the vermilion marks were almost obliterated. Wheat and gur were to be taken on the occasion. Alberuni also mentions an almost similar festivity called Aśoka or Ahoi on the 23rd Aśvāyuja when "the moon stands in the seventh station, Punarvasu. It is a day of merriment and of wrangling". Chaṇḍesvara quoting the Bhāvīya Purāṇa recommends the holding of the car festival of Durgā on the 9th day. The image of Durgā was to be made of gold. The devotees remained awake throughout the night and on the tenth day a feast took place.
The celebrations during the bright-half of the month began with the worship of Sati on the fourth day. It was a festival for women, who, being dressed in clothes and adorned in Kumkura, paid respects to sister, mother and husband. Horses and elephants were adored from the fourth to the ninth day. The eighth day was holy to Bhadrakali who destroyed the sacrifices of Daksha. On this occasion one was to wear white clothes and ornaments, eat fruits and rice and drink wine. The Brähmanas were to be given meat and other things. Keeping awake in the night, one was to worship different kinds of offensive and defensive weapons and musical instruments in the temple of Durgā. A strange ceremony was the cutting off of an imitation cock and goat made of wood. The worship of Durgā continued till the tenth day. While Jimūtavāhana and Lakṣmīdhara prescribe a two-day festival, only on the ninth and tenth, Bhoja and Chaṇḍēśvara recommended the worship from the seventh to the tenth day of the bright half of Sukla. The days on which Durgā’s worship in the month of Aśvin were held were known in Hemachandra’s Dvyāśraya as Navāha which his commentator Abhyatilaka Gaṇi calls Navarātra. These names of the festive days are probably identical with Mahānavami of Alberuni and Gardīzī. On the occasion animals were sacrificed. Alberuni makes the additional observation that in case of failure to get kids to sacrifice, the devotees “will sometimes pounce upon whomsoever he meets and kill him”. On the tenth day was celebrated in Eastern India a Saturnalian festival called Sāvoratsava which has been described by Jimūtavāhana and Chaṇḍēśvara.

The four succeeding days, eleventh to the fourteenth, were sacred to Viṣṇu. The eleventh day was a day of fasting. On the twelfth day, also called Padmanābhadvāsadīvratā day according to Chaṇḍēśvara, the golden image of Padmanābha was worshipped. The full moon day, however, was important for a number of festivities. On that day, according to Lakṣmīdhara, people dressed themselves in festive attires,
cleaned up and decorated the roads as also the areas surrounding their houses. People were asked not to take their meals during the day. Women, old men, children and ignorant people were to be fed on the occasion. Brāhmaṇas were to be given vegetarian dishes. The full moon night was more colourful. Songs and dances were arranged. Different types of sports were held before the fire. Bhoja and Jīmūta-vāhana recommend the observance of Kojāgarapūrṇimā on the full moon night in Āśvin. People, keeping awake throughout the night, used to worship Lakṣmā and Indra.

Two other festivals were held on the first and second days following the full moon in Āśvin. The first one is known as the gift of Kāntāradīpa celebrated on the night following the full moon in the month of Āśvin. It has been described by Lakṣmīdhara and Chaṇḍesvara. Kāntāra means a jungle or desolate area, the ritual was meant for “relief of disembodied spirits (preta) and the manes (pitarāḥ) and earning thereby benedictions and divine blessings.” The celebrations began with the lighting of a lamp with a prayer addressed to Dharma as Viṣṇu and Śiva. The lamp was to be lighted throughout the month of Kārttika. A rough wooden image of the sun of the height of a man was installed at a distance from the house of a celebrant. A lamp made of four with big wicks and filled with clarified butter was to be placed on the head of the image. Before the image, geometrical figures (Maṇḍala) were drawn. Eight vessels full of water were to be placed one for each quarter and angle of the Maṇḍala and a homa was to be performed. Cows, lands, gold, silver, clothes, fruits, barley, rice, house, chariots, beds were pres-

* Cf. Account of the festival in Śrīnāthāchārya Chūḍāmaṇi’s Kṛityatattvānapaṇa fols. 71B-72B when dice was played and friends and relatives had to be gratified with pressed rice (chhipāka) and preparations of coconuts (HB I 607). These descriptions do not occur in Kālaviveka. It is interesting to observe here that the ceremonies tally with the observance of modern Lakṣmipāta on the Kojāgarapūrṇimā night in Bengal, but not in Bihar.
cribed as gifts to the Brāhmaṇas on the occasion. The Brāhmaṇas were also offered lamps. But these lamps were not taken away by them. They were to be placed in the hollows of trees, desolate houses, Buddhist temples, cremation grounds, caves, banks of rivers and in the houses of poor people. The more interesting part of the ritual was that the celebrant was first to please the women folk with gifts of ornaments and then to light the lamps. On the second day following Āsvin Pūrṇimā or on Uttara Pratipada was celebrated in the Uttar Pradesh and Mithila a Saturnalia known as Uda kasevā Mahotsava. A description of this festival is discussed in Chapter XV.

Lakṣmidhara mentions a harvest festival in the month of Āsvin, but the date is not definitely fixed. On the occasion of the reaping of the new harvest, one was to go to the fields amidst the play of musical instruments and dances. A fire was to be lit up, a homa performed and a feast arranged with the newly harvested rice.

Another festival of political significance was the Nīrājana or waving of lights before horses and elephants. It finds prominence in Bṛihatsaṁhitā. The Yuktikalpataru states that a big ornamental arch of some holy tree was to be erected in the north-east of the capital. Round the necks of horses threads smeared with saffron paste were to be tied. The Yuktikalpataru does not prescribe any particular date for the festival but the Rājamārtanda gives the date as the eighth day of Āsvin Śukla. Kauṭilya, however, prescribes that on the ninth day of Āsvin or at the beginning and close of invasions or when diseases break out, the Nīrājana festival was to be held. Chaṇḍeśvara prescribes the festival on the second day of the bright half of Āsvin and recommends its continuance for seven days. No horse was to be struck with a whip or addressed harshly during the period. The people were enjoined to blow conches, beat drums and sing songs before the elephants and horses. Alberuni notes that on the 15th Āsvin, when the moon stands in Revatī, a festival known as
Puhai (?) takes place, when the people "wrangle with each other and play with animals".\textsuperscript{159} The date tallies with one of the dates given by Bhoja in his \textit{Yuktikalpataru}.\textsuperscript{160} But Alberuni's information that the day was holy to Vāsudeva, because "his uncle Kamsa had ordered him into his presence for the purpose of wrangling" cannot be corroborated by any contemporary native evidence.

Possibly in Gujarat area alone, a festival called \textit{Poalao} was held in this month when the husband ate a cake from the hands of his wife.\textsuperscript{161}

\textbf{Kārtika} (October-November):

During the dark night or \textit{amāvasyā} in the month of Kārtika was observed the \textit{Divālī} festival. Lakṣmīdāra and Chaṅḍēśvara quoting the \textit{Brahma Purāṇa}, inform us that on that day was observed the \textit{Sukhasupikā}.\textsuperscript{142} Bhoja in his \textit{Rājamārtanda}\textsuperscript{143} calls it as Sukharātri. People did not take their meals in the morning. Lakṣmī was worshipped in the dusk and lamps were lit up on the trees, in temples, roads, cremation-grounds, river banks, tops of hills and also in the houses. Gifts and food were offered to the Brāhmaṇas and to the hungry people. People on that occasion, wore new clothes and ornaments and feted womenfolk, learned men and friends. Lakṣmī is said to be getting up from sleep on this night and therefore, Jīmūtavāhana, like Bhoja, calls it \textit{Sukharātri}.\textsuperscript{144} The occasion was celebrated by lighting lamps in houses and relatives were shown respect with offerings of flowers. Chaṅḍēśvara further informs us that the people of Gauḍa or Eastern India worshipped Kuvera in the dusk of the \textit{Sukharātri} day. A perusal of the \textit{Dvyāsraya}\textsuperscript{145} also shows that the \textit{amāvasyā} of the month of Kārtika was known as \textit{Dipotsava}. And Hemachandra further tells us that the fortnight which followed the Āśvin Pūrṇimā was known as \textit{Dipotsava-pakṣa} or the fortnight of the illumination festival. Abhayatilaka, the commentator, explains \textit{Dipotsava} as \textit{Dīpālikā}. Hemachandra in his \textit{Deśināmālā}\textsuperscript{146} has shown that the words \textit{Divālī} and \textit{Dīpā-}
Līkā are equivalents of the Deśi word jākkharattī. Sukharātri, Sukhasuptikā, dipotsava, Dipālikā and jākkharattī were synonymous terms. The Dīvāli is an old festival, which is mentioned in the Purāṇas like Nilamata, Skanda, Varāha and Bhaviṣya and quoted by Hemādri, Nāgānanda and Kāmasūtra of Vātsyāyana. Description of the festival is found in non-Brāhmaṇical literature too. Somadeva in his Yaśastilaka-champū composed in 959 A.D. describes how the houses were whitewashed and adorned with white flags and rows of lights. He also speaks of “the women excited by gambling, the gaiety of courtesans and the sweet notes of music.”

Alberuni states that, “the first Kārtika or new moon’s day when the sun marches in Libra, is called Dīvāli. Then people bathe, dress festively, make presents to each other of betel leaves and areca-nuts; they ride to the temples to give alms and play merrily with each other till noon. In the night they light a number of lamps in every place so that the air is perfectly clear. The cause of this festival is that Lākṣmī, the wife of Vāsudeva, once a year liberates Bali, the son of Vīrochana, therefore the festival is called Balirājiya, i.e. the principality of Bali.”

Gardizi also makes a similar statement. The Bali Pūjā, however, did not occur in the Dīvāli night. It was held on the day following the dark night or amāvasyā of the month of Kārtika. Jimūtavāhana, Lākṣmīdhara and Chandesvara unanimously state that the festival celebrated on Pratipada after Kārtika amāvasyā was Balirājyapravartini.

In the morning of this day people took part in gambling. The win or loss in the gamble portended good or bad fortune for the year. The festival is called Dyūta-Pratipada in Kṛtya-tattvānava. Songs, both vocal and instrumental, are prescribed. People dressed themselves gaily and fed their friends. The night was spent with equal mirth and gaiety. Friends, relatives and Brāhmaṇas were honoured with gifts of new clothes. Further, the husband and wife put on festive clothes, ornaments and garlands and spent the night in a room, lit up with lamps and scented with sandal-wood and other perfumes. The bed was
decorated and strewn with flowers. This festival was current also on the same day in Gujarat area. Hemachandra in his *Dvyāśraya* calls it as *Bali-mahā*, which has been explained by his commentator Abhayatilaka Gaṇi as *Balirājyaśaṇa*.

On the second day of the bright half of the month of Kartika, the sisters fed their brothers, who in their turn, gave ornaments, clothes etc., to their sisters. This ceremony is called *Bhrātridvitiya* by Bhoja and *Jīmūtavāhana* and *Yamadvitiya* by Chaṇḍesvara. As Lakṣmīdīrā does not mention this, it is very likely that it was not observed in Eastern U.P. in the eleventh century. This festival, however, was current in Mahārāṣṭra and South India, because Hemādri mentions it.

The other days of the bright-half of Kartika like the fourth, eighth, ninth or eleventh were also festive days. The eighth day was a Śākta festival in Bengal in honour of the universal mother, now called *Jagaddhātri-pūjā*. Alberuni points out that on the eleventh of the bright-half, people observe the *Deotthini* in commemoration of the waking up of Vāsudeva. It was a day of fasting and people "soil themselves with dung of cows, and break fasting (on the twelfth) by feeding upon a mixture of Cow's milk, urine and dung." The correctness of his description is corroborated by the account of the above-mentioned festival in *Rājamārtanda* of Bhoja, *Niyatakaṇakāṇḍa* and the *Kṛityaratnākara*. It was a great festival. People fasted and in the night the Vedas and Purāṇas were recited. Songs and dances came as a welcome relief. The Vaiṣṇavas spoke on the life and activities of Vāsudeva. People offered vegetables and a variety of fruits to the deity. On the twelfth day, at day-break Vāsudeva was bathed with ghee, oil, and honey. Other rituals then followed. An inscription of a Chaulukya feudatory ruler named Vaijalladeva dated 1173 A.D shows that this chief fasted on the occasion. That this fasting was observed in Gujarat can be testified to by the statement of Hemachandra. The fourteenth day or the full moon day was an important one for a number of reasons. First, after a bath, the women-folk worshipped the fruit-bearing
trees. It was a peculiar custom that the offerings were given to the mother of one child first and then to the bird. The ceremony came to a close with the feeding of friends, relatives and servants. Chandesvara calls the festival, the worship of Ekāṇga. Secondly, Vāsudeva and other deities were worshipped on this day. Lamps were lit on the occasion and people offered varieties of food to the Brāhmaṇas and deities. They themselves, however, had nothing but milk. Lakṣmīdhara recommends that during the five days commencing from the ekādaśi or the eleventh day, one should neither kill nor cause injury to animals.

The fourteenth day of the bright-half of the month of Kārtika was notable for the Kaumudimahotsava, which was held in honour of Śiva. In modern Bihar the Sonepur fair commences on this day. However, Lakṣmīdhara, quoting the Skanda Purāṇa, tells us that the King took the lead in organising the festival. Songs and dances went on. Dramas were staged. Every house had to be whitewashed or cleaned and banners flaunted at prominent places. The streets were strewn with flowers. At night the streets and houses were illuminated with lamps, fed with adequate quantity of ghee or oil. It is necessary to state here that the festival must have been fairly popular even in North-western India. Alberuni states that when the full moon is perfect they give banquets. That the festival was popular in the Narmadā region during the period under survey, can be proved by an inscription of the feudatory ruler Vaijalladeva dated VS 1231/1173 A.D. Here, of course, the ruler worshipped both Śiva and Viṣṇu on the occasion.

Mārgaśīrṣa (Agrahāyana) (November-December):

According to Lakṣmīdhara, the new year began on the Pratipada day of the month of Mārgaśīrṣa in the Kṛita era. On this day Kāśmira is said to have been built. The occasion was commemorated by songs and gifts of new clothes and ornaments. Alberuni however puts the date of the beginning of Kṛita era on the third Vaiṣākha.
All other festive days of this month were in the bright-half. Alberuni and Gardizi inform us that on the third day of the month, women observed a festival called Guvāna-bātrīj (?) sacred to Gaurī. They assembled in the houses of rich men to worship the silver-image of Gaurī and played with one another. This festival is however not mentioned in any contemporary digest. It is however referred to by the fourteenth century nibandhakāra Chāndēśvarī and the South Indian Hemādri. From their accounts it is evident that the day on which Gaurī was worshipped must have been in the bright-half—a fact not mentioned by Alberuni. On the seventh day of the bright-half Mitrasaptami was celebrated in honour of the Sun called Mitra. The devotees fasted on the sixth day, taking only fruits and spent the night amidst songs. The festival continued on the seventh and eighth days. During these two days they took a preparation of powdered rice and honey. The eleventh and twelfth days were sacred to Vāsudeva. The eleventh was a day of fast and the actual worship came on the twelfth. This festival is mentioned by the Bengali and Maithila writers but not by Lakṣmīdhara. On the fourteenth day or on the full moon-day, the Himapūjā was celebrated. Alberuni and Gardizi rightly observe that it was a festival of women. Lakṣmīdhara also says the same thing. He further tells us that animals were sacrificed. Cows were to be given salt during the whole of the day. The husband, father's sister and daughters were shown respect. Along with the worship of Hima or dews, the Stānanāga was worshipped with flowers, perfumes and fruits. When prayers were offered to Śyāmā-devī, the event was signalised by sharing delicacies with friends, relatives and servants and one had to hear songs. As on the occasion of the Udarasevā:ahotsava so also on this day, they drank wine. Witnessing the dance of harlots is also prescribed. The Bengal school recommends the observance of the Pūjāna-Chaturdāsti and eating of cakes on the full-moon night.
Pauṣa (December-January):

Lakṣmidhara mentions two festivals falling in the dark-half of the month of Pauṣa. On the eighth day people took vegetables (śāka).261 Alberuni mentions this festival as Sakartam when they took turnips.262 The eleventh and the twelfth days were holy to Nārāyaṇa.263 Chaṇḍēśvara calls it Kūrmadvādaśi which was observed in the Śuklapakṣa or the bright half.

Several festivals were held also in the bright half of Pauṣa. On the sixth day a fast according to Alberuni was observed in honour of the Sun.265 The same writer informs us that a festival called Ashtaka was held on the eighth day when Brāhmaṇas were offered “dishes prepared from the plant Atriplex hortensis”.266 Chaṇḍēśvara,267 quoting Bhaviṣya Purāṇa also says that the day was holy to Mahādeva. Brāhmaṇas were specially fed on the occasion. It was a Śaiva festival. After the Brāhmaṇas, Śaivas and Pāṣupatas had been fed, Mahādeva was placed on a car. The Pāṣupatas danced along the road through which the car was taken. On the full moon day as many as five deities viz. Viṣṇu, Puraśāndara, Soma, Puṣa and Brhaspati were worshipped.298 On this occasion, too, people put on gala dress, used new clothes and ate delicious and wholesome dishes prepared with ghee, as well as pāyasā.

Māgha (January-February):

The eighth, twelfth and the fourteenth days of the dark-half of Māgha were days of festival. It is interesting to observe here that meat was offered to the Manes on the eighth day.269 The twelfth day was held sacred because Yama dedicated the tila seed and it shot forth from the body of Viṣṇu. So the temples were lit up with the tila oil and the people offered and took tila on that day.210 Kalhaṇa tells us of its observance in Kāśmīr.211 The fourteenth day was also important for a Śākta festival, called Raṇṭichaturdaśi, sacred to Kālī.212
Coming to the bright half, the third day was holy to Gaurī. Alberuni and Gardīzī give a vivid description of the festival. It was known as Gaur-t-r or Mahātri (Māghā-trieyā ?). On this occasion women only and not men, observed a fast. The women-folk used to worship Gaurī in the house of the most important personality in the area and offered costly dresses, pleasant perfumes and nice dishes. Then the women put 108 jugs full of water at each meeting-place and “after the water has become cool, they wash with it four times at the four quarters of that night”. Next day, that is on the fourth, they gave banquets, received guests, and made presents “to the nearest relatives of their husbands.” A perusal of the Kṛtyaratnākara confirms the statements of the foreign writers Alberuni and Gardīzī. Chaṇḍēśvara calls the festival as Rasakalyāṇīvratam. But unlike Alberuni he does not state that the women took their bath in the four quarters of the night in the water of 108 jugs. Lakṣmīdhara too mentions the festival as being observed by women specially. But he puts the date of the festival only on the fourth day of the bright fortnight of the month of Māgha. According to Chaṇḍēśvara the fourth and fifth days called Varachaturthi and Śṛipaṅchamī were holy to Vināyaka. Jīmūtavāhana also recommends the worship of Gaṇeśa (Vināyaka) on the fourth day only. He also states that it was a day of fast, and the women worshipped the Guru and King on the occasion. These days were also sacred to Śrī according to Bhoja. Jīmūtavāhana and Chaṇḍēśvara. The seventh day according to all the contemporary digest-makers were sacred to the Sun named Puṣā. Though it was a day of fast yet people had songs and dances. Jīmūtavāhana quoting Māsya Purāṇa tells us that as the sun is associated with car the day is called Rathasaptami. The Rathasaptami is mentioned in inscriptions of the Rāṣṭrakūtas and Kalachuris of Ratanpur. The eleventh and twelfth days were sacred to the Vaiṣṇavas. The former was a day of fast and on the latter day the golden
image of Varāha was worshipped. The digests of mediaeval North India do not mention any festival on the full moon-
day. It was a day for offering tila to the manes. But Alberuni states that this day called Chamaha(?), Indians lighted lamps "on all high places". This festival is not men
tioned by Gardīzī.

Alberuni and Gardīzī mention two other festivals in the month of Māgha. In a festival called Mansartaku observed on the twenty-third, people treated guests to meat and large black peas. On the twentyninth "when there is only a remainder of 3 day-minutes, i.e. 1½ hour, all the Hindus enter the water and duck under in it seven times".

Phālguna (February-March):

Beginning from the eighth all the days of the dark-half of the month of Phālguna witnessed some kind of celebration. On the anniversary of the birth of Sūka on the eighth of the dark-half of the month of Phālguna, the Brāhmaṇas, friends and relatives were offered cakes. Songs were arranged during the ninth, tenth and eleventh days of the above mentioned fortnight. People fasted on the thirteenth day and on the fourteenth worshipped Śaṅkara. They kept awake the whole night and witnessed songs and dances and heard stories relating to Śiva. As Śaṅkara preached ahiṁsā so the Purāṇas advised that the animals were to be decorated. This day has been rightly called Śivarātri by Alberuni and Gardīzī. The Śivarātri was a popular festival. In Kāśmīr it was an important festival. Kāśmīr kings made presents on the occasion. Inscriptions of Rajputana and Madhya Pradesh also refer to it, but the month is stated to be in Māgha.

In the bright-half, on the eighth day in commemoration of the creation of the earth by Keśava, the houses were illuminated with countless lamps. And the next day was spent in the midst of songs and dances and a grand feast. In Kāśmīr, according to the Nilamata Purāṇa and the Rāja-
the festival on the eighth day was called Maṅ-
māna, when lamps were lit up on the snow in honour of the
gods and Pitris and next day, a feast was given in which
wine was also served. The eleventh and twelfth days were
sacred to Viṣṇu and called Nrisinghadvādaśi by Chaṇḍe-
vara, Govindadvādaśi by Jīmūtavāhana, and Āmalakae-
kaṇdaśi by Hemachandra. Bhoja in his Rājamārtanda tells us that the day is sacred to Hari. Hemachandra men-
tions another summer festival, called Dola in the Dvāṣraya on the full moon-day of Phālguna. On this occasion, accord-
ing to the commentator Abhayatilaka Gaṇi, children were kept securely in a room and were provided with sugar-candy and rice. But Bhoja informs us that on this date the car-
festival of Skanda took place and coloured perfumes were thrown on the occasion. Alberuni and Gardīzī call the festi-
val on this day as Odad and Dholā (i.e. Dola) when "they make fire on places lower than those on which they make it on the festival Camaha, and they throw the fire out of the village". But Gardīzī informs us that this festival was observed by women only.

Besides these, Lakṣmīdhara recommends that people should worship teachers, Agni, Brāhmaṇas and the Creator on their own birth-day. Presents were to be given to the Brāhmaṇas. of course.

Conclusion:

A perusal of the innumerable festivals mentioned by foreign writers like Alberuni and Gardīzī, the digest-makers like Jīmū-
tavāhana, Lakṣmīdhara, Bhoja, Śrīnāthāchārya and Chaṇḍe-
vara and litterateurs like Kalhaṇa and Hemachandra and also the contemporary inscriptions, show that the busy months were Chaitra, Bhādra, Āsvin, Kārttika, Māgha and Phālguna. Most of the festivals synchronised with the harvesting of the autumn, winter and summer crops. Lesser number of holi-
days fell in the months of Jyaiṣṭha, Śrāvaṇa, Mārgasīrṣa and Pauṣa. When there was a riot of Aśoka and Damanaka-
flowers the God of Love was worshipped, and the swing festivals of Vāsudeva, Śiva and Gaurī, were held (vide Aṣokāśṭamī, Damanaṣṭakā and Swing festivals). The Dhar Praṣasti calls the festival on the full moon-day of Chaitra as Vasantotsava. When the fields lay full of the ripe corn it was a signal for holding the famous Durgāpūjā, Kośāgara Pārṇīṃa, the Divālī, Kāntāradipadāna and the Kaumudimahotsava. The intimate connection of the rice-plants with the religious life of the Indian is described in the Brahma Purāṇa which has been quoted by Lakṣmīdhara and Chaṇḍesvara. 

The observance of these festivities served many purposes. On the occasion of the full moon days of Āśvin and Kārtika, the houses were whitewashed and there was a regular clean-up. And on the occasion of the Kāntāradipadāna, Sukhasūtikā, Kaumudimahotsava and the commemoration of the creation of the earth on the eighth phālguna Śukla, lamps were lit up in all places. At present illumination is made only once a year on the Divālī night. Another purpose of festivals was to bring together all classes of people and make them join the celebrations. The car festivals served it excellently. Durgā’s ratha was taken out on the ninth day of the dark fortnights of Bhādra and Āśvin. There were also processions of the cars of Mahādeva on the eighth of the bright half of Pauṣa, of the Sun on the seventh of the bright-half of Māgha and of Puruṣottama at Puri on the full moon day of Jyaiṣṭha. If the car-festivals were optional, the attendance of all the citizens were obligatory on the days of the celebration of the Kaumudimahotsava, on the full moon day in the month of Kartika and the raising of Staff of Indra either in Bhādra or Āśvin.

Most of the festivals were celebrated by the young and old, men and women of all classes and creeds. Alberuni’s comment that “most of the Hindu festivals are celebrated by women and children,” has to be accepted with reservation.

There was no dead uniformity in the observance of festivals in different parts of Northern India. For example, the full moon
day of Āśvin has been described as the *Kojāgarapūrṇīma* by Jīmūtavāhana.\(^{247}\) Lakṣmī and Indra were worshipped in Bengal on that day. Chaṇḍesvara clearly informs us that the practice of keeping awake at night was a Gauḍa custom.\(^{248}\) But, according to Lakṣmīdhara, the fire god, Rudra (Śiva) Surabhi, Varuṇa, Vināyaka and Revanta were worshipped in the full moon day of Āśvin. People abstained from food in the morning and spent the day in cleaning the streets and houses, and in songs and dances.\(^{249}\) What was known as *Kaumudīmahotsāva*, sacred to Rudra, was held, according to Lakṣmīdhara, on the full moon night of Kārttika.\(^{250}\) Further, the *Daśaharā* festival was current only in Bengal and Malwa on the tenth day of the bright fortnight of Jyaiṣṭha.\(^{251}\) Lakṣmīdhara also does not mention the custom of lighting lamps up in the skies (*ākāśapradipadāna*) and especially on sixth, seventh or the *amāvasyā* in the month of Kārttika, which is prescribed by Bhoja and Jīmūtavāhana.\(^{252}\) The *Bhātrīdyītiyā* was observed in Eastern India and Malwa. It is mentioned by Bhoja in his *Rājamārtanda* and Jīmūtavāhana in *Kālavivēka* and not by Lakṣmīdhara. The *Varachaturthi* and *Śrīpañchamī* are mentioned by Bhoja, Jīmūtavāhana and Chaṇḍesvara but omitted by Lakṣmīdhara. Further Hemachandra in his *Deśīnāmamāḷā* refers to certain peculiar festivals which were not in vogue anywhere in North India except Gujrata-Mahārāṣṭra area in the twelfth century A.D. They are *Chorali*, *Cchapti*,\(^{253}\) *Navālaya*, *Paunam*,\(^{254}\) *Poalao*,\(^{255}\) *Bhāuam*,\(^{256}\) *Layam*\(^{257}\) and *Vahumas*.\(^{258}\) Kamalabai Deshpande\(^{259}\) has discussed the peculiarity of these festivals. The celebration of *Chorali* was observed by men, possibly by bachelors, who by worshipping Hara or Śiva got the type of bride they desired. “With the sprouts of *vilva* (aegle marmelos) you have worshipped Hara in sacred festival of Chorali in such a way that she will come to you, as if compelled by the arrows of cupid”.\(^{260}\) On the occasion of *Navalaya*, the married woman, while swinging did not give out the name of her husband. “That young bride is (said to be) observing the vow of Navalaya, who if at the
time of the game of a swing, is being asked the name of her husband, does not give it out and consequently is being bea-
ten by her friends with palāsa twigs”. In the month of Āśvin, the husband ate a cake from the hands of his wife on the occasion of Poālao. Unlike other law-givers and digest-makers, Hemachandra refers to the festival of Gaurī in the month of Āśāḍha known as Bhāuam. The festivity of newly married couple, each calling the other by name was called Layam. Deshpande informs us that this custom is followed in modern Maharāṣṭra and Karnāṭaka. In other parts of India, however, it is forbidden to utter the name of one’s husband.

A comparison of the festivals held during the period under review and modern India shows that the dates of some festivals have changed and new festivals have been introduced. The modern Indroṭhāpana festival is observed in Northern India and Mithila on the 12th Bhādra Śukla (Rudrādhara: Varṣakrityam, ed. R. C. Jha, Vol I. p. 71). But we have already seen that the flag of Indra was raised at different times in mediaeval Northern India. Again the car festival of Jagannāṭha starts in modern Eastern India on the second day of the bright-half of Āśāḍha (Bengal calendar and Varṣakrityam Vol. I. p. 71). But in the twelfth century A.D. it was observed on the full moon day of the month of Jyaiśṭha. With regard to the swing festival of Kṛṣṇa, Alberuni and Gardīzī observe that it was held on the eleventh day of the bright fortnight of Chaitra. This festival is not mentioned by any contemporary digest-maker of India. There cannot be any doubt that it was performed in mediaeval India. The Hari-
 bhaktivilāsa, composed in the sixteenth century A.D., quoting Garuḍa Purāṇa, states that in the midst of songs and dances, Kṛṣṇa or Hari should be placed on a swing, with his face towards the south on the 11th Chaitra Śukla (Haribhakti-
vilāsa, ch. 13, verse 99). Gopālabhaṭṭa further tells us that in Puri, the Dola festival is observed on the Pratipada or the full moon day of the month of Phālguna or on the asterism
utarta Phalguni entering the second stage (Haribhaktivilasa, ch. 14, verse 103).

With regard to the Vaiśnava festivals, it may be pointed out here that, though the Gopi legend had been fully established by the end of our period, some of the festivities connected with the cult did not attain much popularity by the twelfth century A.D. Neither the digest-makers of our period nor the foreign Muslim writers refer to such festivals as the Rāsa-pārṇimā, and the dola or Holi in the months of Kārttika and Phālguna respectively. It seems that these ceremonies became more popular from the thirteenth century A.D., because Śūlapāṇi flourishing in the latter-half of the fourteenth century, wrote books like Dolayātrāviveka and Rāsayaṭrāviveka. The procession of the car of Kṛṣṇa and Puruṣottama did not exist even towards the end of the twelfth century. The Haribhaktivilasa tells of a car festival of Kṛṣṇa on the bright fortnight of Kārttika, the day of Prabodhinī Ekādaśī. Such a procession is not depicted by the contemporary writers of the twelfth century A.D. The Snānayātrā of Jagannātha is also not mentioned in any book of the period under survey. Further, a fast and a festival connected with the Rāmanavanī was unknown at least till the first-half of the twelfth century A.D. In modern times it is observed on the ninth day of the bright fortnight of the month of Chaitra. It must have been developed sometime in the latter-half of the twelfth century A.D., This festival is mentioned in the Chaturvargachintāmaṇi and the Haribhaktivilasa.

The following festive days of modern India were also not observed in the period under review. What we call now as Vasanta-paṁchami day or the Sarasvatipālā, which is celebrated on the fifth day of the bright-half of Māgha, is conspicuous by its absence in mediaeval digests. The above-mentioned date, according to Bhoja and Jimūtavāhana was sacred to Śrī or Lakṣmī and not to Sarasvatī. Again, in Eastern India Śyāmā or Kālī is worshipped on the Sukha-
rātri day.269 But this goddess was not worshipped on the above-mentioned date in the eleventh-twelfth centuries A.D. It was Laksāmī and neither Śyāmā nor Kālī who was propitiated in his days of Jīmūtavāhana, Laśmādhara and Chaṇḍeśvara. The Chhaṭ, holy to the Sun, observed now-a-days in Bihar and also called Pratihārīṣaṭṭhī on the sixth day of the bright half of Kārttiika 270 was not known to the North Indians up to the twelfth century. Even Chaṇḍeśvara of the fourteenth century A.D. Mithila does not speak of this particular date. During the period under review, the Sun was specially worshipped on the sixth and seventh day of the bright fortnight of the month of Chaitra,271 fifth of Bhādra,272 sixth of Pauṣa273 and seventh day of Māgha-Sukla.274 Similarly the worship of learning by the Kāyasahas of Bihar and the Uttar Pradesh observed on the Bhrātṛidvīṭṭā day275 was unknown to mediaeval India.

On the other hand, some festivals of the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. are not now observed in Northern India. Gaṇeśa is no longer worshipped on the eighth day of the dark-half of the month of Āṣāṅha.276 Now-a-days, the Gaṇeśa-chaturthī is observed on the fourth day of the bright-half of Bhādra.277 But this date, however, was held sacred to Śiva and Vighneśa or Gaṇeśa, by Jīmūtavāhana and Chaṇḍeśvara.278 Jīmūtavāhana's recommendation that the day was sacred to Śiva or Pārvatī is identical with the observa-tion of Bhoja. But Bhoja in his Rājanxārtana calls the day Haritālīkā, sacred to Pārvatī alone.279 All the ceremonies connected with Kāntāradīpadāna and the raising of the Flag Staff of Indra have fallen into disuse. The saturnalian festivals like the Udakasevāmahaotsava and the Śāvarotsava have also fortunately become obsolete.

The most remarkable feature of the life of the Hindus in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. is that at least 128 days out of 365 days in the year were spent in celebrating one festival or another in which gifts had to be made to the Brāhmaṇas and feasts had to be arranged for friends and
relatives. The larger the number of feasts, the greater was the income of the priestly class whose privilege it was to prescribe newer and newer festivals. Most of these festivals were celebrated with singing, dancing and merry-making. Living in the midst of perpetual fear and insecurity the people could find considerable relief in these celebrations from their nervous tension no doubt, but too many of them tended to generate a sense of frivolity in younger persons. When a festival distracted the attention of the people every third day, it was extremely difficult to ensure sustained interest in the more serious pursuits.

REFERENCES TO CHAPTER XIII

(Festivals)

1 Niyata, pp. 377-382; Krityaratnākara, pp. 103-108.
2 Niyata., pp. 382-383; Krityaratnākara p. 119. But according to modern Bengal calendar, the Kārttīkeyavrata is held on the last day of Kārttika.
3 Sachau II. 176; Krityaratnākara pp. 121-123.
5 Rājamārttīnga (ABORI Vol. 36 p. 333); KV p. 422; Krityaratnākara pp. 126-127.
7 Niyata, pp. 383-384; Krityaratnākara p. 128.
8 Sachau II. 178.
9 Gardīzā MS p. 216 A
11 Niyata, p. 384; Krityaratnākara p. 128.
15 Niyata. p. 384; KV P. 470; Krityaratnākara pp. 137-139.
16 Dāyabhāga (ed. Chandicharan Smritibhusana) p. 61, verse 32.
17 Desīnāmamālā VI. 82.
18 Sachau II. 178.
19 Gapālabhaṭṭa: Haribhaktīvilāsa Ch. 14, verse 100
21 Sachau II. 178-179.
22 Niyata, pp. 384-385; Krityaratnākara pp. 138-139.
24 Commentary to DV V. 141.
25 IA. XI. 338.
26 EI. VIII. 96.
27 KV p. 469.
29 EI. XXIII. 134.
30 Ibid XXIII. 188.
31 Niyata, p. 443; Krityaratnākara p. 532.
32 Niyata, p. 385; Krityaratnākara p. 139.
33 Niyata, pp. 443-446; Krityaratnākara p. 532-535.
34 Niyata, p. 444.
35 Niyata, p. 444; Krityaratnākara pp. 533-534.
36 Niyata, p. 446.
37 Niyata, p. 446; Krityaratnākara pp. 535-536.
38 Sachau II. 178-179, Gardīzī Ms. p. 216 A. While Alberuni states 'Chaitra-Chashati; Gardīzī writes Chir-Jast.'
39 Niyata, pp. 386-87: Krityaratnākara pp. 150-151.
40 Niyata, p. 387; Krityaratnākara p. 154.
42 Trīṣaṭṭṭhaśakūpurusacharīta (Tr.), Vol I. p. 181.
43 DHNI II. 999 (Udaipur S. I. dated v. s. 1229/1173).
44 EI. XIV. 198 (Chandravati grant, dated v. s. 1156/1100 A.D.)
45 DHNI I. 516, 523 and 526.
46 Sachau II. 179; Gardīzī Ms. p. 216.
48 Niyata, p. 387, Krityaratnākara p. 159.
49 Krityaratnākara pp. 157-159.
50 Niyata, p. 388; Krityaratnākara pp. 159-160.
51 Niyata, p. 388-389; KV p. 409; Krityaratnākara pp. 163-164.
52 Sachau II. 179; Gardīzī Ms. p. 216.
53 Ibid.
54 Niyata, pp. 389-390; Krityaratnākara p. 186
55 Niyata, p. 390; Krityaratnākara p. 190.
56 KV pp. 400-403, Rājamārtanda (ABORI Vol. 36. 335-336); Krityaratnākara pp. 187-88.
57 Niyata p. 387; Krityaratnākara p. 159.
60 Krityaratnakara pp. 190-191.
61 Sachau II writes as Rūpa-pañcha and Gardizi Ms. p. 216 as Rūpa-maṅch.
63 Krityaratnakara p. 195.
64 Gupte: Hindu Holidays and Ceremonials p. 238.
65 Brahma Purāṇa Ch. 65. 58; Skanda Purāṇa, Utkalakhaṇḍa 32. 9; Agni Purāṇa Ch. 121. 63.
66 Nabpadhacharita, Canto XV. 89.
69 KV p. 471.
70 Niyata, pp. 390-391, Krityaratnakara p. 199.
71 Krityaratnakara pp. 203-204.
72 Ibid pp. 445-446.
73 Niyata, pp. 391, KV pp. 175-185; Krityaratnakara pp. 204-205; Rājamārtanda (ABORI Vol. 36 p. 314; Sachau II. 176.
74 Niyata, pp. 391-393; Krityaratnakara pp. 204-305. Chaṇḍesvara quotes Brahma and Varōha Purāṇas in pp. 204-205 and Vāmana Purāṇa in pp. 206-207.
75 Sachau II. 176.
76 Niyata, pp. 393-94; Krityaratnakara p. 218.
77 Sachau II 179; Gardizi Ms. p. 217 A.
78 Krityaratnakara p. 203.
79 Deśināmamālā VI. 103.
80 Forbes: Rūṣ Mālā II. 319.
81 Krityaratnakara pp. 203-204.
85 Krityaratnakara p. 247.
86 Sachau II. pp. 176 and 179.
87 Deśināmamālā VII, 81.
88 EI. IX. 65-66.
89 Majumdar, A. K.; Chaulukyas of Gujrat, p. 308.
90 Sachau II. 181; Gardizi Ms. p. 218A.
91 Ibid.
92 Sachau II. 177 and Cf. p. 176.
94 KV. 297.
95 Rājamārtanda (ABORI Vol XXXVI pp. 320 and 322) verses 113-114 and 139. Some of thet passages quoted by Bhoja are identical to Kālaviveka of Jīmūtavāhana, pp. 493-494.
96 *Krityaratnākara* pp. 259-264.
98 *Ibid* p. 262.
99 *Niyata*, p. 396; *Krityaratnākara* p. 257.
100 Sachau II. 180, Gardīzī Ms. p. 217B.
101 Deśināmamālā VI. 127.
103 RT VIII 1007-1008. Stein identifies the lake as below the glaciers of Mt. Haramukuṭa.
105 Kamauli pl. (DHNI I. 537).
106 KV p. 411.
107 ABORI Vol. XXXVI 323.
108 *Niyata*, pp. 396-97, KV pp. 413-14; *Krityaratnākara* p. 272.
109 *Niyata*, p. 397; *Krityaratnākara* p. 273.
110 *Krityaratnākara* pp. 278-279.
111 Sachau II. p. 177.
113 Sachau II. pp. 180-181.
114 Gardīzī Ms. p. 217B.
115 Benares College grant dated v.s. 1232/1175 A.D. (DHNI I. 537).
118 *Niyata*, p. 188; *Krityaratnākara* p. 285.
120 *Ibid* p. 294.
121 Rājamāṛtaṇḍa (ABORI Vol. XXXVI pp. 323-327).
122 Rāj. pp. 186.
123 DV. III. 8, Cf. also Tṛiṣṇaśīśalūkāpuruṣacharita (Eng. Tr.) I. 343.
124 *Nilamata Purāṇa* (ed. De Vreese) verses 738, 774-75 vide also De Vreese’s comment in page 63 on verse 738.
125 RT. VIII. 170, 182 and 495
127 *Niyata* p. 397; *Krityaratnākara* p. 285.
128 *Niyata*, pp. 401-402; *Krityaratnākara* p. 286.
1287-291.
130 *Niyata*, p. 399.
131 Deśināmamālā IV. 45.
132 *Niyata*, p. 398.
133 Sachau II. 180; Gardīzī Ms. p. 217B.
134 *Niyata*, p. 404; *Krityaratnākara* p. 309.
136 Sachau II. 180. But Gardīzī Ms. p. 217A puts the date as
sixteenth and calls it as Aśoka or Aboi festival.
137 Kṛityaratnākara pp. 314-315. Chaṇḍeśvara also calls it as
Navamirathavratam.
141 DV III. 6.
142 Sachau II. 179-190: “On the 8th Aśvāyujya when the moon
stands in the nineteenth station, Mūlā, begins the sucking of the
sugarcane. It is a festival holy to Mahānavami, tth sister of Mahā-
deva.”; Gardižī MS. p. 217A.
143 KV. p. 514.
144 Kṛityaratnākara p. 362.
145 Niyata p. 410; Kṛityaratnākara pp. 373-375.
146 Kṛityaratnākara pp. 373-375.
148 Niyata, p. 411.
149 Rājamūrtiṣa (ABORI Vol. XXXVI. 328); KV p. 403-
Observed also in Mithila (Vide Rudradhara’s Varṣakṛityam I. p. 99).
150 Niyata, pp. 452-456; Kṛityaratnākara pp. 379, 382-386.
151 Kṛityaratnākara p. 386.
152 Niyata. p. 456.
155 Brīhatsaṁhitā Ch. 34.
156 Yuktikalapataru (Cal. ed.) pp. 178-179.
157 Rājamūrtiṣa (ABORI. Vol. XXXVI p. 328) verse 188.
158 Kṛityaratnākara pp. 333-334.
159 Sachau II. 180.
160 Yuktikalapataru p. 177.
161 Deśināmamudā VI. 81.
163 ABORI XXXVI p. 329.
164 KV. pp. 403-404.
165 DV. II. verse 106.
166 Deśināmamaudā III. 43.
167 Nilamata Purāṇa (Lahore ed.) p. 42 verses 405-415, (ed. De
Vreeze; verses 398-406) Skanda Purāṇa, Vaiṣṇavahanda Ch. 9ff;
Padma Purāṇa, Uttarakhañda Ch. 122; CC. Kālanirnayakhañda pp.
914-915; Nāggānanda Act IV; Vātsyāyana 1.4.43.
168 Yasastilakachampū (NS. Press pp. 597-99) Book III. verses
462-466.
169 Sachau II. 182.
170 Gardižī Ms. p. 219A.
173 DV III. 32.
175 KV pp. 405-406.
176 Krityaratnakara p. 413.
178 Srinathacharya in Krityaratvareva and Brihaspati Ramanukta in Smritiratnakara quoted in IHQ. XXVII p. 257.
179 Sachau II. 177.
181 Krityaratnakara p. 427.
183 IA. XVIII p. 83.
184 DV III verse 35.
187 RaJ. pp. 182-183.
188 Sachau II. 182.
189 IA. XVIII. p. 83.
190 Niyata p. 431, Krityaratnakara p. 452.
191 Sachau II. 186.
192 Sachau II. 182, Gardizi Ms. p. 219A.
193 Krityaratnakara pp. 452-453.
196 KV p. 466 as Vijayadvada, Krityaratnakara pp. 461-466 as Ubbhayadvada and Matzyadvada.
198 Sachau II. 183, Gardizi Ms. p. 219A.
199 Niyata p. 434.
200 KV. p. 470.
201 Niyata p. 434, Krityaratnakara pp. 478-479.
202 Sachau II. 183.
203 Niyata p. 434
204 Krityaratnakara pp. 482-484.
205 Sachau II. 177.
206 Ibid II. 183; Gardizi Ms. p. 219B.
207 Krityaratnakara pp. 480-482.
211 RT. V. 395.
212 IHQ. XXVII. 256.
213 Sachau II. 177 and 183; Gardizi Ms. p. 219B.
214 Sachau II. 183.
216 Niyata pp. 437-438; also in Kṛityaratnākara p. 503.
217 Kṛityaratnākara p. 504.
218 KV. p. 411.
219 ABORI XXXVI p. 331.
220 Niyata p. 438; Bhoja in Rājamārtanda (ABORI. XXXVI. p. 332) names it as Mūghasaptami; Chauḍeśvara in Kṛityaratnākara p. 509 as Jayantīsaptami; Jumūtavāhana in Kūlaviveka pp. 415-419 as Jayantī and Rathasaptami.
221 KV. p. 418.
222 IA. XI. 112, Inscr. dated S. 675/753 A.D.
223 IA. XVII p. 140, inscr. dated KS 896/1145 A.D.
224 KV. p. 433; Kṛityaratnākara pp. 510-512.
226 Sachau II. 183.
227 Sachau II. 183. But Gardīzī Ms. p. 220A puts the date as 27th and calls the festival as Mansutak and Homātīn.
228 Sachau II. 183.
229 Niyata p. 439; Kṛityaratnākara p. 518.
231 Sachau II. 184; Gardīzī Ms. p. 220A. Both Alberuni and Gardīzī wrongly put the day as the day following the full-moon day in the month of Phālguna.
232 RT, I. 166, VIII 70 and 111
233 Sevači Sl. dated VS 1172/1115 A.D. (El. XI. 31-32); Kiradu Sl dated Vs. 1209/1153 A.D. (El. XI. 45) and Chandrehe inscr. dated KS 724/c. 972 A.D. (EI. XXI. 150).
234 Niyata pp. 441-442, Kṛityaratnākara pp. 526-528.
235 Nilamata Purāṇa verses 515-517 (ed. de Vreese)
236 RT VIII 2072.
237 Kṛityaratnākara pp. 528-529.
238 KV p. 468.
239 DV XX. 5.
242 ABORI XXXVI p. 332, verses 227-228.
243 Sachau II pp. 183-184; Gardīzī Ms. p. 220A.
244 Niyata p. 447; Kṛityaratnākara p. 540.
245 Niyata pp. 405-406, Kṛityaratnākara pp. 303-304.
246 Sachau II. 178.
247 KV p. 403.
248 Kṛityaratnākara p. 379.
249 Niyata pp. 411-412.
251 KV. pp. 400-403; Rājamārtanda (ABORI, XXXVI p. 335).
252 KV. p. 325. In his Rājamārtanda, Bhoja (ABORI XXXVI
p. 330) recommends the giving of lamps to skies throughout the month of Kārttika.
253 Deśināmamālā III. 25.
254 Ibid III. 25.
255 Ibid VII. 16.
256 Ibid VI. 103.
257 Ibid VII. 16.
258 Ibid VII 46.
259 ABORI XXXVI (1945) pp. 340-351.
260 Deśināmamālā III. 19.
261 Ibid IV. 21.
262 Hazra, R. C.: Puranic Records on Hindu Rites and Customs pp. 322, 325 and 326.
263 Haribhaktivilāsa Ch. 16, verses 176-198.
266 Haribhaktivilāsa Ch. 14 verses 60ff.
268 KV 412, ABORI Vol. XXXVI p. 331.
270 Ibid I. p. 115.
271 Sachau II 176, Krityaratnākara p. 121
272 Sachau II. 177.
273 Ibid. II. 177.
275 Varṣakrītyam I. p. 112.
276 Niyata, p. 390, Krityaratnākara p. 196.
277 Gupte: Hindu Holidays and Ceremonials pp. 54, 55 and 67.
279 ABORI Vol. XXXVI p. 323, verses 141-144.
CHAPTER XIV.

Tirthas or Places of Pilgrimage.

Tirthas played an important role in the cultural and economic life of mediaeval India. These were situated usually in the most beautiful places like hilltops, mountains, forests, confluence of rivers, or in the vicinity of the sea, waterfalls and hot water springs. Such places were conducive to meditation and as such attracted those who had a yearning for spiritual life. While ascetics and anchorites practised religious austerities in the Tirthas, pious householders considered it incumbent upon them to pay a visit to some of these important holy places at least once in their life.

Congregation of men and women speaking different languages and dialects, wearing separate sectarian marks, donning various types of dresses and observing different manners and customs in these Tirthas widened the outlook of the pilgrims, ironed out differences, served as a solvent for all exclusiveness and narrow parochialism and helped every one to feel the essential unity in Indian culture. The Bārhaspatya Arthaśāstra in stating the length and breadth of India in terms of Tirthas says that from Badarikā to Rāmeśvara is a distance of 1000 Yojanas and from Dvārakā as far as Puruṣottama and the Śāligrāma is a matter of 700 Yojanas. Exchange of ideas and learned discussions among the scholarly people, coming from different parts of the country, helped to diffuse news about the latest writings by poets, scholars and philosophers. The urge for the construction of magnificent temples and for the installation of beautiful images in these holy places educated public taste and promoted artistic activities. Many of the important places of pilgrimage, seats of learning that they were, became notable centres of trade and industry too. While the masses were eager to bring back to their homes some memento of their visit to a tirtha, artists and artisans
combined to produce different types of art objects at different places. Some industries thus became localised in many of the tirthas. New tirthas came into existence with the rise of new sects and cults, while it was not unusual for an old tirtha to fall into oblivion on account of political or economic reasons.

One of the oldest accounts of tirthas is to be found in the Vanaprava of the Mahabharata. The Puranas recount the names and glories of many of the tirthas, but it is difficult to date definitely different portions of even the same Purana. We are fortunate, however, in having not only reference to tirthas in contemporary inscriptions, but also more or less elaborate accounts in works which are known to have been written in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. From a critical study of these sources we may learn which of the tirthas were prominent in this period and also which had fallen into comparative obscurity or which had not yet attained celebrity.

The Charkhari plate of Devavarmadeva dated V.S. 1108/1051 A.D. states that the Chandella King Devavarmadeva, grandson of Vidyadhara deva bathed at Koṭitirtha on a full moon day, worshipped Śūlapāṇi (Śiva) and granted a village on the bank of the river Yamunā to a Brāhmaṇa. Kane shows that there are as many as ten Koṭi-tirthas, but there is only one on the bank of the Ymaunā near Mathurā, referred to in the Varaha Purana. In 1055 A.D. we find Jayasiṃha of Dhara granting a village for the support of the Brāhmaṇas of the holy Amareśvara. There are three tirthas, bearing the name Amareśvara, but as the Mandhata plate of Jayasiṃha, which contains the above information has been found near the river Narmadā, this particular Amareśvara must be on the opposite side of Omkārnātha on the southern bank of Narmadā. Laksāndhara writing in the early years of the twelfth century has failed to notice either Amareśvara or Ekāmra, now known as Bhuvanesvara. The Brāhmaṇeśvara temple inscription of the 18th regnal year of King Uddyotake-
sari (c. 1055-1080 A.D.) refers to the erection of the “cloud-touching temple with four Carusālā temples” at Siddhatīrtha in Ekāmra. This is a positive evidence of the claim of Bhuvanēsvara for recognition as a holy place in the middle of the eleventh century. An inscription of the Chālukya King Vikramāditya VI of the year 1082 A.D. makes a specific reference to the holy places of Vārāṇasī, Kurukṣetra, Arghyatīrtha, Prayāga and Gayā. Though Arghyatīrtha has been mentioned also in the Goharwa plate of the Kalachuri King Karṇa, dated 1047 A.D., as a place on the bank of the Ganges, yet it cannot be properly identified. The four other tīrthas are well-known for their sanctity. The Chandrāvatī plate shows the importance of Ayodhyā as a tīrtha in 1093 A.D. The Gāhādavāla King Chandradeva states in this inscription that he bathed at the Svarga-dvāratīrtha at the sin-effacing confluence of Sarayū and Ghargharā rivers at Ayodhya, also called Uttara-Kośala on the occasion of the solar eclipse in the month of Āsvina, 23rd October, 1093 A.D. Madanapāla in an inscription dated 1107 A.D. and Jayachandra in his Benares copper plate grant of 1175 A.D. claim that Chandradeva protected the holy places of Kāśī, Kuśika, Uttarakośala and Indrāsthāna. Kuśika may be identified with Kuṣapura or Kuśabhavanapura (modern Sultanpur on the Gomati in Oudh) the capital of Kuśa, son of Rāmachandra. Indrāsthāna can not be the same as Indraprastha or Delhi and it has not yet been possible to identify it correctly. This shows how some of the tīrthas have fallen into oblivion in course of time. Protection of holy places became a special necessity in this age on account of occasional raids by Turks and also by gangs of robbers who infested the roads. Someśvara in his Kirtikaumudi describing the pilgrimage of Vastupāla states that bands of marauders were more numerous than peaceful travellers.

Another important tīrtha mentioned in an inscription dated Śaka 1059/1137-38 A.D. is Purusottama. The Bihar poet Gaṅgādhara, hailing from Govindapura, in the Nawadah subdivision of the Gaya district, states that his father Manoratha
visited Puri. This information is highly important in view of the fact that the Vanaparva of the Mahabharata, Danasagara of Vallalasena and the Tirtha-vivechanakanda of Laksmidhara do not mention Puri, Purusottama or Jagannatha at all. We can now state with confidence that though Puri had not attained an all-India celebrity in the 5th Century A.D., yet in the beginning of the twelfth century, it had begun to attract pilgrims from distant Bihār. This evidence is corroborated by the Kalaviveka of Jimutavahana, where it is stated that the full moon day in the month of Jyaiśhyya at Purusottama is especially meritorious.

The Jabalpur stone-inscription dated 1174 A.D. informs us that Vimalaśiva, a Śaiva teacher enjoying the patronage of the Kalachuri Kings, performed religious rites at Prabhāsa, Gokarna, Gayā and other tirthas. The Cintra Praśasti of the reign of Sāraṅgadeva dated 1287 A.D. gives an account of the pilgrimage of a Śaiva ascetic, Tripurāntaka, who worshiped Śiva at Kedāra, and at the confluence of Gaṅgā and Yamunā at Prayāga, circumambulated Śrīparvata and saw God Mallinātha, bathed in the waters of rivers Revā and Godāvari, visited Tryambaka, reached Rāmeśvara, and then visiting Prabhaṣa returned by way of Devapattana.

It is interesting to note in this connection that the Śiva Purāṇa gives a list of the twelve Jyotirliṅgas as follows:—(1) Somanātha (2) Mallikārjuna on Śrīśaila hill (3) Mahākāla at Ujjaini (4) Omkāra at Amareśvara (5) Kedāra (6) Bhīmasamkara in Ďākinī (northwest of Poona) (7) Viśveśvara at Kāśi (8) Tryambaka at Gautamītāta near Nasik (9) Vaidyanātha at Chitābhūmi which is probably identical with Deoghar-Baidyanathadharm in the Santhal Parganas (10) Nāgeśa at Dārīkavana which may be near Dvārakā or Ayodhyā in the former Hyderabad State (11) Rāmeśvara and (12) Ghrīṅesā at Śiva-laya in the village Elura near Daulatābād. Taking Prabhāsa to be identical with Somanātha, only the first, second, fifth, eighth, and the eleventh Jyotirliṅgas in the above list were visited by the ascetic Tripurāntaka. It is surprising to
find that Viśvēśvara at Kāśi was omitted from his itinerary. Lakṣmīdhara mentions Viśvēśvara as one of the 220 Liṅgas of Vārānasī and also included Ujjainī and Kedāra. He is absolutely silent about Somanātha, Śrīsaila, Bhāmaśārīkara, Tryambaka, Vaidyanātha, Rāmeśvara and Ghrīṇēśa. Vallālasaṇa in his Dūnasāgara mentions Śrīparvata, Avantikā which may be identical with Ujjain, Oūkāra, Kedāra, Vārānasī and Rāmeśvara but is silent about other seven Jyotirliṅgas. The Bṛhaspaṭya Arthaśāstra mentions eight famous Śivakṣetras, but none of the twelve Jyotirliṅgas except the name of Avimukta occurs in the list. In the Kedārakhaṇḍa of the Skanda Purāṇa we find the following:—(1) Oūkāra and (2) Mahākāla on the bank of Narmadā, (3) Viśvēśara at Kāśi, (4) Lalitēśvara at Prayāga, (5) Tryambaka at Brahmāchala, (6) Bhadreśvara at Kāli, (7) Drākṣārāmeśvara at Gaṅgā Sāgarā-Saṅgama, (7) Somesvara in Saurāṣṭra, (9) Sarvēśvara at Vindhyāchala, (10) Śikharesvara at Śrīsaila, (11) Allalanātha at Kantipur and (12) Śītāhanātha in Sīthāla. In view of all these we may conclude that there is no positive proof of recognition of the twelve Jyotirliṅgas before the thirteenth century.


The most important work on the tīrthas, however, is the eighth volume of the Kṛtyakalpataru entitled the Tīrthavivechana-nakāṇḍam by Bhaṭṭa Lakṣmīdhara, the Chief Minister for Peace and War of the Gāhāḍavāla King Govindachandra. The writer was the son of Bhaṭṭa Hṛdayadhara, who also held the office of Mahā-sandhi-vigrahika. Lakṣmīdhara began the compilation of this work in the early part of the reign of Govindachandra, probably in 1110 A.D. according to K. V. Rangaswāmi Aiyangar. Kane assigns the work to the period bet-
ween 1110 and 1130 A.D.50... \( ^{\_} \) Lakṣmīdhara describes here at great length the sanctity of Vārāṇasī. Out of 260 pages, 135 are devoted to the description of nearly 340 shrines of Vārāṇasī alone. The holiness of Prayāga is described in 17 pages, of Gayā in 12 pages, of Mathurā in 9 pages, of Kuruksetra in 5 pages, of Puṣkara and Śrīkara in 4 pages each, of Ujjaini, Hardwar, Śālagramā, Stutasvāmi, Dvārakā and Kedāra in 3 pages each, of Kokāmukha, Prithūdaka, Mandāra and Lohār-gala in two pages each. Naimiṣa gets one page. The rest of the 24 pages describe 57 other \( ^{\_} \) tīrthas. The book ends with a 7-page account of the Mahāpathayāṭrā or "the great road" to death.

It is worthy of note that Lakṣmīdhara omits some of the most important \( ^{\_} \) tīrthas like Puruṣottama, Ekāmra or Bhuvanesvara, Koṇāraka, Kāṇchi, Chidambaram, Śrīraṅgam, Rāmesvara, Kanyākumārī and Jalandhara.

We get some idea of the important \( ^{\_} \) tīrthas from the Kālaviveka of Jīmūtavāhana, who flourished in Bengal in the first half of the twelfth century A.D.. In the introduction to the Bibliotheca Indica edition of Kālaviveka, it is stated that as Jīmūtavāhana mentions certain astronomical observations of 1013 and 1015 of the Śaka era without referring to any authority and simply saying "Driṣṭam" or seen, he may be presumed to have seen these himself. In that case he must have written this work in c. 1091-1093 A.D. He writes that a dip at Puṣkara in the month of Māgha, on the eighth day of the dark half of the month of Māgha at Gayā, in the month of Pauṣa on the same tithi in Narmadā, on the fourteenth day of Chaitra at Śālagramā, at Puṇḍarika on the tenth day of the bright half of the month, at Prabhāsa and Taijasa on the succeeding amāvasyā or new moon day, in the Yamunā on the Kṛṣṇa Chaturdaśi in the month of Māgha, in Beas on the thirteenth day of the bright half of the month of Pauṣa, on the same tithi in the months of Māgha and Pauṣa in the Chandrabhāgā, frees a person from all sins.31 Writing about the full moon day, he states that it is highly meritorious to observe it
at Prayāga in the month of Māgha, at Naimiśāranya in Phalguna, at Śulagrāma in Chāitra, at Gaṅgādvāra in Vaiśākhī, at Puruṣottama in Jaiśṭha, at Kanakhala in Āṣāḍha, at Kedāra in Śrāvaṇa, at Badarī in Bhādra, at Kubjāgra (north of Hriṣīkeśa) in Āsvin, at Puṣkara in Kārttika, at Kubja in Agraḥāyaṇa and at Ayodhyā in Pauṣa. Kubjaka is referred to in the Bhannaradiya Purāṇa and Garuda Purāṇa as the seat of the sanctuary of Śrīdha Hari. But it cannot be identified with certainty. Nundolal De mentions Kubja as a tributary of Narmadā. One peculiar feature of this list is that no southern holy place has been mentioned here. Another remarkable thing is that of the 12 places as many as five namely, Gaṅgādvāra or Hardwara, Kanakhala, Kedāra, Badarī and Kubjāgra are situated in the Himalayan region. These holy places draw a large number of pilgrims even on the occasions mentioned by Jīmūtavāhana.

The Dānasāgara, composed in 1169 A.D. and ascribed to Vallālaseṇa but probably written by his preceptor Aniruddha, devotes a section to Puṣyadesaḥ or holy places where gifts are specially efficacious. The sanctity of 27 rivers is mentioned in prose without quoting any authority. Of these 15 are mentioned also by Lakṣmīdhara. These are Narmadā, Yamunā, Gaṅgā, Gaṅgāsāgarasaṅgama, Mahā Gaṅgā, Saraswati, Kaśī, Sarayū, Godāvari, Vipāśa, Satadru, Chandrabhāgā, Vītastā, Kāverī and Varuṇā. Other rivers namely Śoṇa-Jyotirāساṅgama, Irāvati, Śāt kapı, and Veṇvā have been omitted by Lakṣmīdhara, though their sanctity has been mentioned in the Agni Purāṇa, other Paurāṇic works and Dānasāgara. As many as ninety-five places are mentioned as specially suitable for making gifts and performing Śrāddha. Of these 27 have also been mentioned by Lakṣmīdhara. These are: (1) Aśvatīrtha (probably at the confluence of Ganges and Kālīnadī near Kanauj, though there are two other places of the same name, one on the Godāvari and the other on the Narmadā), (2) Aṅgāravāhika (not identified), (3) Avantikā, (4) Amarakāṇṭakā (a mountain in the Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh), (5) Aghastāśrāma
(six places of this name are mentioned by Kane and eight places by De), (6) Uttaraāmānasā (in Kasmira), (7) Oōukāra (32 miles north-west of Khandwa), (8) Kanakhāl (near Hardwar), (9) Kālikāśrama, (10) Kālodaka (in Kasmira or on Mt. Haramukuṭa at 1300 feet above sea level), (11) Kurukṣetra (Thaneswar), (12) Kedāra (on the Himalayas), (13) Gayā, (14) Govardhana (near Mathura), (15) Nila (mountain near Hardwar), (16) Naimīśāraṇya (45 miles from Lucknow), (17) Piṇḍāraka (in Kambhalia Mahal of Kathiawar), (18) Prayāga, (19) Prabhāsa (Verwal; Somanatha), (20) Prithūdaka (modern Pehoa in the Karnal district on the southern bank of Sarasvati), (21) Phalgutūrtha (Gayā), (22) Vārāṇasi, (23) Viśvupāda (Gayā), (24) Badari (Badrinārāyaṇa), (25) Bhṛiguṭūṅga (there are five tīrthas bearing this name), (26) Raivaṭaka (Junagāḍh), (27) Harisīchandra (under Vārāṇasi).

The remaining 68 tīrthas not mentioned by Lākṣmīdihara deserve special mention as indicating places, which were considered sufficiently important by Vallaḷasena, who relied mostly on the authority of the Mātṛya Purāṇa. As many as 35 of these, however, have now fallen into such obscurity that learned scholars like Kane or Nundo Lal De have not been able to identify them. These are (1) Aṭṭahāsa (it is highly improbable that this place is the same as the śākta Pīṭha near Lābhput in the Bīrhnum district of West Bengal, because Vallaḷasena was hostile to the Tāntrik cult. The tīrtha of the same name which has been described in the Mātṛya Purāṇa is sacred to the Pīṭhas cannot be identified) (2) Aṅgabhūta, (3) Kapilotaka, (4) Kadalihrwa, (5) Kārā, (6) Kuchajāgra, (7) Ghanṭeśvara, (8) Delāpura, (9) Pitritūrtha, (10) Pampātūrtha, (11) Pāṭāla, (12) Priyamalaka, (13) Vaśiṣṭhatūrtha, (14) Visuka, (15) Vaināyaka, (16) Vilvaka, (17) Bhadrakāleśvara, (18) Mahānada, (19) Mahālaya, (20) Mahāśāla, (21) Mahārudra, (22) Mahāliṅga, (23) Mātyanadi, (24) Śatarudra, (25) Śatāhva, (26) Śivadharā, (27) Śaṅkhodharā, (28) Śripaṇa, (29) Sripati, (30) Sugandhā, (31) Svargamārgapradēsa, (32) Sahasrākṣa, (33) Hutāśana (34) Hiraṇyākṣa, and (35) Harītā.
Amongst some of the well-known *tirthas* omitted by Lakṣmīdhara but included by Vallālasena are Rāmeśvara, Kāyāvarohana, where Nakuli or Lakuli, the founder of the Pāśupata sect flourished in the second century A.D. and identified with Karvan, 15 miles south of Baroda, rivers Gharghara and Daśārṇa, Varāhāparvata in Kashmir, Indrakīla beyond Gandhamādana in the Himalayas and Śākambhari or Sambhar Lake, which is also referred to in an inscription of Vigrāharāja dated 973-974 A.D. One of the *tirthas*, sacred to the Pitṛs mentioned in the Dānasūgava is Mahābodhi. As it is the same as the famous Bodhi tree at Bodh Gayā, it is an evidence of rapprochement between the Hindus and the Buddhists.

Another contemporary source of information regarding the *tirthas* is the Mānoṣollāsa, written by Someśvara Chālukya of Kalyāṇa. It mentions Jāhnavī, Yamunā, Narmadā, Tāpti, Gautamī or Godāvari, Sarasvatī, Baṃjarā, Bhimarathī or Bhīmā, Krṣṇā, Vṛihannadī (Mahānadi), Malāpahārinī (Mala-prabha) as the sacred rivers. The other *tirthas* mentioned in it are Puṣkara, Śukla-tirtha, situated at a distance of ten miles north-east of Broach, Prabhāsa, Kedāra, Prayāga and Vāruṇaśī.37

Hemachandra, the famous Jaina scholar of the twelfth-century mentions the following *tirthas* in his Dvīvāśrayakāvyya: Somanātha and Śaṅkhodhara in Sorath.38 Śukla-tirtha on the Narmadā near Broach.34 Ujjainī on the bank of Śīrṇa “where there are Devasthānas and places of pilgrimage called after the Rṣīs” and Mount Abu, which contained the hermitage of the sage Vaiṣṇava, river Mandākinī, the temples of Achalaśvara Mahādeva, Riṣabhadeva, Sindhuka and other Devis.41

The Bārhaspatya Arthaśāstra, edited by Thomas, gives the names of eight *tirthas* each of the Vaiṣṇava, Śaiva and Śākta sects (III. 119-126). It also mentions Kumāra sacred to Kārttikeya, Sahya to Gaṇeśa, Raivataka to Teacher and Pāriyātra, western part of Vindhya, sacred to Kṣetrapāla. As this work mentions the Yādavas of Devagiri, it cannot be earlier than the twelfth century. Thomas, however, thinks
that the tirtha section\textsuperscript{42} may be an interpolation. The division of the Hindus into these sects was well-marked in the twelfth century and separate Purāṇas had been compiled for different sects by that time. There is, therefore, no valid reason to suspect that the tirtha portion was added later. The Vaiśnava tirthas are Badarikā, Śāлагrāma, Puruṣottama, Dvārakā, Vilvāchala, Ananta, Śiṅha and Śrīraṅgam. Of these Lakṣmīdhara mentions Badarikā, Śālagrāma and Dvārakā only. We have already referred to the inscriptive evidence of the sanctity of Puruṣottama in 1137 A.D.. Vilvāchala cannot be identified. Ananta may be Anantatirtha under Mathurū, referred to in the \textit{Varāha Purāṇa}\textsuperscript{43} or Anantaśayana Padmanābha in Trivandrum described in the \textit{Padma Purāṇa}.\textsuperscript{44} Śiṅha may be identified with Simhāchalam, 6 miles to the north-west of Visakhapatnam. Śrīraṅga is the well-known tirtha on the Kāveri, 2 miles to the north of Trichinopoly. The \textit{Bhāgavata Purāṇa},\textsuperscript{45} \textit{Matsya Purāṇa}\textsuperscript{46} and \textit{Padma Purāṇa}\textsuperscript{47} mention it as a holy place. Of the eight Śaiva tirthas, Avimukta and Gaṅgādvāra only are well-known. The other six tirthas, namely Śivakṣetra, Rāmayamunā, Śiva-sarasvati, Mavya, Śārdula, and Gajakṣetra cannot be identified. The very fact that the Jyotirlingas of the Śiva Purāṇa are not mentioned here supports the view that this section is not an interpolation. The Śākta tirthas are Oghghīnajāla, Pūrṇā, Kāma, Kolla, Śrīśaila, Kāṅčhi and Mahendra. Of these, the first cannot be identified. Pūrṇa is the same as Pūrṇapīṭha or Pūrṇaśaila of the Kālikā Purāṇa (64.43) and Pūrṇagiri of Sādhanamālā (p. 453). Dr. D. C. Sircar suggests that it may be the same as the shrine of Bhavāni at Tuljapur to the south of Osmanabad in the Bijapur region.\textsuperscript{48} Kānyā is Kāmākhya. Kolla is Kolhapur where there is the famous temple of Mahālakṣmi.\textsuperscript{49} Śrīśaila is Śriparvata in the Karnal District, 50 miles from the Kṛṣṇā station, which has got Mollīkārjuna as the Mahādeva and Mādhavī as the Devī. Kāṅčhi is Conjeeveram in the Chingleput District of Madras. Mahendra is the famous hill of the Ganjam district. \textit{Burhuspatya Arthaśāstra} mentions
probably as the eighth *tirtha*, the Vindhyā, as the eternal abode of Durgā Bhadrakāli.

A manuscript entitled *Pramāṇapālava* by Narasimha and found in Mithila gives an account of several *tirthas*. This work was compiled later than Lakṣmīdhara, as it quotes from his *Krītyakalpataru*, but it is quoted by Chanḍesvara who flourished between 1300 and 1379 A.D. *Pramāṇapālava*, therefore, could not have been composed later than the thirteenth and earlier than the twelfth century A.D. The *tirthas* discussed in this work are: Prayāga, Gaṅgā, Kāśi, Gayā, Puruṣottama, Koṅākara, Narmadā, Mathurā, Yamunā, Dvādaśavana, Puṣkara, Tāpī, Dhāresvara, Ayodhyā, Dvārakā, and Godāvari. Dvādaśavana is in the Mathurā region. Dhāresvara may be identified with the Dhāratīrtha referred to in *Matsya Purāṇa* on the north bank of the Narmadā. The other places are well-known.

Besides these we get some stray references to some *tirthas* in some inscriptions and poetical or historical works of this period. Thus the image-inscription of Nāyaka Pratāpadhavala, found at Tilothu in the Shahabad district of Bihar, records the Mahānāyaka's pilgrimage to the Tutrahi falls in the company of his sons, Śatrughna, Viṣadhavala and Sāhasadhavala; his brother's wife Sulhi and of other members of his family like Tribhuvanadhavala Sonali, Laksmaditya and Padmaditya. Five female slaves also accompanied this party. These must have been great favourites; otherwise their names (Ladumā, Nayakāmā, Alhi, Puttrikī and Ekalī) would not have been inscribed on the stone image. Other inscriptions of Pratāpadhavala bearing dates corresponding to 1158 and 1169 A.D. have been found in Shahabad district. Tutrahi or Tilothu has fallen into oblivion as a place of pilgrimage now. An inscription of 1164 A.D. records the visit of a Kāyastha pilgrim to Viśālapura in the former Jaipur state in Rajputāna. Another inscription of 1167 A.D. bears testimony to the visit of certain pilgrims to Rāmgāḍh in Kotah, Rajputāna. The Sihawa stone-inscription of Karṇarāja dated:
1192 A.D. shows that Karṇarājā, ruler of a portion of Rai-
pur district in Madhya Pradesh, erected five magnificent build-
ings in the tīrtha Devahrada for the installation of images of five deities. This Devahrada cannot be either Gaṅjakī as described in the Varāha Purāṇa65 or under Kṛṣṇa-Veṣṇa referred to in the Vanaparva.66 The Paldi inscription of Guhila Arisimha dated 1116 A.D.67 refers to Bṛiguḥkachacha or Broach as a place of pilgrimage, especially for the Nakuliša Pāśupata sect.

An interesting reference to a place of pilgrimage in Varendri, now in East Pakistan, occurs in the Rāmācharita of Sandhyākaranandi.68 Speaking of Varendri, it states: “which, with the glorious streams of Gaṅgā and Karatoū flowing on either side, was the holiest place and which was pure and spotless on account of its having the great place of pilgrimage (or landing ghāta) called Apunarbhava in its very heart”.69 It is not possible now to identify this place. Another Bengal tīrtha, now completely forgotten, has been referred to by Kṛṣṇamiśra in his Prabodhachandraodaya, written in the reign of the Chandella King Kirtivarman, towards the end of the eleventh century. This is Chakrātīrtha on the bank of Bhāgirathī in Rādha, where Viveka is described as practising austerities (Act IV). In Act II of this allegorical drama, we find Śraddhā, one of the associates of Viṣṇubhakti with her daughter Śāntī as working at Purusottama. Naśadha-
charita of Śrīharṣa, son of Śrī Hira, who probably flourished under Vijayachandra and Jayachandra of Kanauj in the latter half of the twelfth century,70 refers to Vṛindāvana dense with fragrant flower and to Govardhana, where from “all ser-
pents are banished by the strutting of flocks of peacocks”.71 Kāśi has been described as “Śiva’s boat of piety for travers-
ing the span of worldly existence”.72 Another verse refers to the Śraddha ceremony at Gayā.

Kalhana in his Rājatarangini refers to three tīrthas of all-
India fame outside Kashmir. These are Vārāṇasī,73 Pra-
yāga74 and Gayā.75 He records with evident pride that
Kashmir “which Keśava and Isāna adorn as Chakrabhrit and Vijayēśa as well as in other (forms), there is not a space as large as a grain of sesamum without a fīrtha”. This seems to be an echo of the Vanaparva which states that the whole country of Kashmir is holy. Lākṣmīdhara recognised this claim by quoting the Anuśāsanaparva in his Tīrthavivechana-kāṇḍa. It is stated here that a man taking his bath in Satadru, Chandrabhāgā, Vitāstā and Ormīmālinī becomes a sage-like person and when a man of character bathes or worships the river Sindhu and the great rivers into which fall the smaller rivers of the Kashmir region, he goes to heaven. Alberuni heard of Hindus visiting Kashmir.

Lākṣmīdhara and Vallālasena refer to Kālodaka and Uttaramānasa in Kashmir as places of great sanctity. Vallālasena considers these places as eminently suited for śrāddha and making gifts. Kālodaka is referred to in the Anuśāsanaparva, Vīṣṇudharmasūtra, the Kashmirian Purāṇa, Nīlamatā, written probably in the sixth century A.D. and Rājaśarangī. It is now known as Mudkol and is situated at an altitude of about 13,000 ft. Thousands of pilgrims visit it even today in the month of Bhādra on their way to Uttaramānasa or Gaṅgā lake, which lies at a short distance above it. The high alpine valley at the foot of the east glaciers of the 17,000 feet high Haramukuṭa containing Kālodaka is called Nandīkṣetra in the Nīlamatā. It is related here that Nandī performed in the Kālodaka a great penance, whereupon Śiva granted him the boon of taking his permanent abode here by his side. Stein remarks: “The inner portion of the lake, showing a deep blue colour, is supposed to mark the residence of Kāla or Śiva; the outer portion of a light green colour that of Nandīn. Śiva is worshipped here under the name of Nandīśa.” Kalhaṇa refers to Nandīkṣetra where the Śiva liṅgas were known as Vijayēśvara and Jyeśṭheśa. The latter is also referred to as Jyeśṭhārudra which was a svayambhūḥ or natural stone. Close to this temple lies the fīrtha of Bhūteśvara which was very famous in Kalhaṇa’s
time.\(^7\) The Nandiksetra may be identified with the Nandi-
kūṭa which is mentioned along with Kālodaka and Uttara-
mānasa in the Anuśāsanaparva and quoted by Lakṣmīdhara.\(^8\) Kalhaṇa refers to Uttaramānasa,\(^9\) which is identified by
Stein with the sacred Gaṅgā lake situated below the eastern
glaciers of Mount Haramokh, and is now popularly known
as Gangabal. This is to be distinguished from the more
famous Mānasa-sarovar, which is embedded in the Himalayas
at a height of 14,950 ft. and is situated between Kailāsa on
the north and Gurla Māndhātā on the south. Uttaramānasa
is regarded as a sacred tīrtha by Lakṣmīdhara\(^10\) and Vallāla-
sena.\(^11\)

Another popular tīrtha in Kashmir in the twelfth century
was Gaṅgodhbeda, which is referred to by Kalhaṇa in the
following words: “There the goddess Sarasvatī herself is
seen in the form of a swan in a lake (situated) on the summit
of the Bhedagiri which is sanctified by the Gaṅgodhbeda.”\(^12\)
This tīrtha is referred in the Sārūgaḍharapadāhāti,\(^13\) compiled
in the fourteenth century and also in Vanaparva,\(^14\) Matsya
Purāṇa,\(^15\) Padma Purāṇa\(^16\) and Agni Purāṇa.\(^17\) It is situated
at a height of 7,800 ft. It was also famous towards the end
of the sixteenth century, when Abūl Fazl recorded that in spite
of such an altitude snow did not fall there. This was probably
due to the fact that there is a large hot-water spring, the water
from which forms a tank of warm water, which prevents it
from freezing. Though the place was so famous in ancient
and mediaeval India, yet it has now fallen into “complete
oblivion,” according to M. A. Stein. Ascribing two causes for
this oblivion, he writes, “possibly the early season prescribed
for the pilgrimage, the end of Chaitra, and the subsequent
hardship of the journey may have caused the worshippers to
fall off to transfer their attention to substitute tīrthas more
conveniently accessible, such as the Bhedā Devi of Hal-
Moghulpur”.\(^18\)

Kalhaṇa mentions the river Vitastā with great reverence.\(^19\)
This river was regarded as a holy one by Lakṣmīdhara\(^20\) and
Vallālasena. The Vanarpava, Kurma Purāṇa and Vāmana Purāṇa described the holiness of Vitastā. Kalhaṇa also speaks of the sanctity of the confluence of Vitastā with Sindhu, where many temples existed. The Nilamata Purāṇa testifies to the sanctity of this place and identifies the Sindhu with Gaṅgā and the Vitastā with the Yamunā.

The most famous place of pilgrimage in Kashmir in the eleventh century was Śāradātīrtha, which is mentioned along with the famous tīrthas like Śripati, Raivataka and Bhadra-kāleśvara in the Matsya Purāṇa. Alberuni certainly did not visit Kashmir but he heard of the fame of Śāradā, and wrote: “In Inner Kashmir, about two or three days’ journey from the capital in the direction towards the mountains of Bolor, there is a weapon idol called Śāradā, which is much venerated and frequented by pilgrims.” Kalhaṇa refers to it as a well-known place of pilgrimage. Abul Fazl in his Āin-i-Akbar records that the temple of Śāradā, dedicated to Durgā begins to shake on the eighth day of the bright-half of every month and produces the most extraordinary effect. Such a famous place, however, fell into such obscurity that in 1895 Stein had to discover it with some difficulty. He writes: “The politically disturbed condition of the upper Kisan-Gaṅgā valley during the later Mughal and Pathan rule has had much to do with the neglect into which the shrine of Śāradā had fallen...... According to the traditions of the Gotiheti Purohitas it was only since the establishment of the Dogra rule and the suppression of the Bomba troubles, that the route to Sardi became once more open for regular pilgrim-visits.” The vicissitudes of fortune of Śāradā show how political troubles affect the places of pilgrimage.

The most famous tīrtha of Kashmir in modern time is Amareśvara or Amarnātha situated in a cave, formed by a huge fissure on the south side of a snowy peak, 17,300 ft. high. But Kalhaṇa refers to it only once and the Nilamata Purāṇa devotes only one śloka to Amareśa. It is not described in any of the Purāṇas. Amareśvara, which Lakṣmīdharā
has described from the *Vāmana Purāṇa* is another Amaraśvara on mount Nīṣadha. In the sixteenth century, the Kashmirian Amaraśvara became famous. Abūl Fazl relates that the image of Amaraśvara increases in size for 15 days from New Moon and decreases with the waning moon.

Another famous *ṭīrtha* referred to by Kalhaṇa is Pāpasādana where Śiva is worshipped under the name of Kapaṭesvara. The story of the construction of a tank at Kapaṭesvara by King Bhoja of Malwa is related in *Rājatarahuṇī*. The fame of this place had reached Alberuni, who states, that the people of Kashmir say that pieces of wood sent by Mahādeva appear annually in "a pond called Kudaishahr to the left of the source of Vitastā, in the middle of the month of Vaiśākha." Stein ascertained that Kudaishahr is a clerical error for Kapaṭesvara. The place continued to enjoy celebrity towards the end of the sixteenth century when Abūl Fazl related that there was a deep spring in the village Katihar in which "when its water decreases, an image of Mahādeva in sandal-wood appears."

The other Kashmirian *ṭīrthas* mentioned by Kalhaṇa, but not referred to by any Purāṇa excepting the Kashmiri *Nilamata*, nor described by any Non-Kashmiri Hindu writer are Chakradhara, Nandikesvara and Tripuresvara, Mahāpadma, Suresvara, Mahādeva, the Sodara spring at Bhūteśa *ṭīrtha*, the Takṣaka spring at Jayavana, Vijayeśvara and Mayagrāma. The famous Mārtanda temple built by Lalitāditya continues to attract pilgrims from all parts of India, but it was not probably recognised as a holy place of all-India fame in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The *Nilamata* is the only Purāṇa to mention it.

Kṣemagupta (950-958 A.D.), the husband of the notorious Queen Diddā, is described by Kalhaṇa as proceeding to Varahakṣetra for breathing his last. According to the *Nilamata* and *Haracharitachintāmaṇi* of Jayadratha, Varahakṣetra enjoyed great sanctity from early times.
Varāha Purāṇa, however, records that the places sacred to the incarnation of the Great Boar are Kokāmukha, Badarī and Lohārgala.

Kokāmukha is referred to in an inscription as holy place in the “Himabachhikhāra” in the time of Budha Gupta (477-495 A.D.). The Varāha Purāṇa refers to twenty sacred objects of visit at Kokāmukha. Lakṣmīdhara quotes Varāha Purāṇa to show that there is no holy place in the earth equal to Kokāmukha. He also cites a verse from the Vanaparva (82.158) which states that if a person observing the vow of celibacy touches the image of Kokāmukha, he remembers the events of his previous births. Nundolal De and Kane identify Kokāmukha with the Varāhakṣetra at Nathpur below the Trivenī formed by the junction of the three rivers Tāṃbar, Aruṇa and Suna Kuṣi in the western portion of the Purnea district. Dr. D. C. Sircar, however, states: “The only Kauśikī that can be associated with a Kṣetra of Varāha as well as a river called Kokā is the Kauśikī, modern Kuṣi. The ancient Kokāmukha fīrīha or Varāhakṣetra is situated on the bank of the Sun-Kośī in Nepal and is popularly Barahchhatra.”

Badarī or Badarikāśrama is referred to as a holy place by Jimūtavāhana, Somadeva, Lakṣmīdhara and the author of Bārhaspataya Arthaśāstra. Lakṣmīdhara in his Tīrthavivechana-kāṇḍa quotes verses from the Varāha Purāṇa to show the sanctity of the Brahmakūṇḍa only in Badarikāśrama. As he does not refer to Agnisatyapāda, Indraloka, Pañchaśikhā, Chatuḥsrotāḥ, Vedadhārī, Dvādaśādityakūṇḍa, Lokapāla, Sthalakūṇḍa, Meruvara, Mānasadbheda, Pañchasaraḥ, Somābhiṣekha, Somagiri, Urvasīkūṇḍa and other sites mentioned in the extant Varāha Purāṇa, it may legitimately be doubted whether these places had become famous in the first quarter of the twelfth century A.D.

The third place sacred to Varāha is Lohārgala. Nundolal De conjectures that it may be the same as Lohāghūṭ in Kumaun, three miles to the north of Champawat, on the river Lohā. The Varāha Purāṇa, however, definitely states that the
Mlechchha Kings support or resort to it. Dr. D. C. Sircar quotes Ch. 151 of the Varaha Purana to show that the holy spots belonging to Lohargala-urtha are in the land of the Mlechchhas in the Himalayas. The Kumaun valley or any part of the Himalayan region did not fall into the hands of the Turks before the early part of the twelfth century when Laksmidhara quoted 12 verses from Ch. 151 of this work. There are very important variations in readings between him and the printed editions of the Purana. While the printed editions state that Lohargala is thirty Yojanas from Siddhavata, Laksmidhara reads the word as “Sindhostate”. The verse quoted by Laksmidhara may be thus translated:—“Having walked along the Sindhu through the Mlechchha land for 30 Yojanas, I stopped in the Himalayas and there has been made my residence called Lohargala. That supremely secret place extends over five yojanas. It is very difficult to reach it and it is invincible. It is surrounded by Dhavanas (streams?). There I live occupying the northern side. Nobody knows of the image of mine placed there (Kechinna jnate tatra svamurtim mama sahmsthitam:). For 24 Dwadasis (that is, one year at every twelfth day of the new-moon and waning-moon) offering, not without meat, has to be made for the purification of all desires. There is placed a horse decorated with all jewels, white like the petals of lily and endowed with Saunkha and Chakra. There is the bow called Saruga, also rosary and Kamanjalu. There in that secret place of mine called Lohargala, good and holy seat, ornament and food should be offered.” These verses reveal that when this portion of Varaha Purana was written Lohargala had fallen into the hands of the Mlechchhas and out of fear for them the image had to be kept very secretly at a rather inaccessible place. A yojana usually means 9 miles, but sometimes it is used for a distance of 2½ miles and occasionally, 8 Krosas or 18 miles. Lohargala was probably situated at a distance of 30 yojanas or 270 to 540 miles either from the river Sindhu or from the sea in the Himavanta. Stein has shown how
many *śrīthas* in the insecure or inaccessible places were shifted in course of time to safer and easily accessible areas. In the case of Lohārāgala too, it is probable that the original site, thirty *yatana* from the bank of Sindhu was shifted to a place situated at a distance of thirty *yatana* from the Siddhavatā, which, however, cannot be identified now. In any case, it is clear that Lakṣmīdhara did not omit even a *śrītha*, which had fallen into the hands of the Mlechchhas. This is remarkable especially in view of the fact that many of the later treatises on *śrītha* omit sacred places which had come under the control of the Mlechchhas.

The invasion of Sultan Mahmūd dealt a severe blow to some of the holy places of pilgrimage like Multan, Nagarkot, Mathura, Kanauj, Thanesvara and Somanāthā. The *Padma*\(^{135}\) *Brahma*\(^{136}\) and *Bhaviśya*\(^{137}\) *Purāṇas* describe the sanctity of Multan or Mūlasthānapura, where Sāmba, son of Kṛṣṇa was cured of his leprosy by bathing in the Sūryakuṇḍa. In 641 A.D. Hiuen Tsang saw in the temple of Multan the golden image of the Sun. An Arab geographer in his "*Hudūd ul Ālam*", written in 982-983 A.D. states that "Multan is a big city and inside it is a big image and people go to this place for pilgrimage".\(^{138}\) Alberuni states that the Hindus bathe in the pond "if they are not prevented"\(^{139}\) and that "they used to visit Multan before its idol-temple was destroyed."\(^{140}\) In another place he quotes the Kashmirian commentator, Utpala to show that Multan was originally called Kāśyapapura, then Harṣapura, then Bagapura, then Sāmbapura and then Mūlasthāna.\(^{141}\) None of these names, however, occur in the list of holy places except Mathurā given by Lakṣmīdhara the author of *Bārhaspatya Arthaśāstra*, Jimūtavāhana, Somadeva or in *Mānasollāsa*, *Devībhāgavata* or any other book written or compiled within two centuries of Sultan Mahmūd’s invasion. The seizure of the places by the Turks, the obstacles hinted at by Alberuni were responsible for such omission.
Nagarkot was a celebrated place of pilgrimage in the seventh century A.D., when Huien Tsang found men from every part of India coming to the shrine of Bhima Devi "to pay their vows and seek prosperity thereby." Al 'Utbi states that the chiefs of the country and rich devotees used to present to the image rich treasures, which, being accumulated for ages, "had attained such an amount that the backs of camels would not carry it nor vessels contain it, nor writers' hands record it nor the imagination of an accountant conceive it". All these were carried away. Lakshmidhara, Jimitavahana or Brijaspati do not mention either Nagarkot or its neighbouring town of Jvalamukhi as a holy place. The omission may be due to the disturbed political condition of the area in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Towards the close of the sixteenth century, however, Abul Fazl regarded it as one of the four holy Sakti Pithas, where stood the shrine of Mahamaya, which attracted pilgrims from distant parts. With the stabilization of political condition, the Hindus might have revived the practice of going there on pilgrimage.

The Vaishava tirtha of Mathura was devastated by Sultán Mahmúd. Huien Tsang found only five Deva temples in Mathurá, but in the beginning of the eleventh century, there were more than two thousand temples. Mathurá, according to Al 'Utbi, was surrounded by stone walls with two gates opening upon the river Yamuna flowing under the city. The beauty and grandeur of the city may be realised from the description of this historian who was a contemporary of Sultán Mahmúd. He writes: "On both sides of the city, there were a thousand houses, to which idol temples were attached, all strengthened from top to bottom by rivets of iron, and all made of masonry work; and opposite to them were other buildings supported on broad wooden pillars to give them strength. In the middle of the city there was a temple larger and firmer than the rest which can neither be described nor painted". There were five golden images, each five yards high, and two hundred silver images. "The Sultán gave-
orders that all the temples should be burnt with naphtha and fire and levelled with the ground”\(^{145}\). The city continued to be pillaged for twenty days. Even such a terrible carnage did not deter pious people from visiting or residing in and around Mathurā. Alberuni, writing a few years after the invasion, found it “crowded with Brāhmaṇas”\(^{146}\).

The sanctity of Mathurā is described in the *Padma*\(^{147}\) and *Varāha*\(^{148}\) *Purāṇas*. Kālidāsa compares the beauty of Vṛindāvana with that of Chaitraratha, garden of Kubera.\(^{149}\) But the *Bṛhaspatya Arthaśāstra* does not include Mathurā amongst the Mahā-kṣetras, sacred to the Vaiśṇavas, nor does Jīmūtavāhana in his *Kālaviveka* cite it as an eminent place of pilgrimage. Vallālasena in his *Dānasūgara* does not refer to Mathurā, but he regards Govardhana, situated at a distance of 13 miles from Mathurā, as a place suitable for making ceremonial gifts. Śrīharṣa in his *Naiṣadhacharita*, written in the latter half of the twelfth century, refers to Mathurā, Kāliyahrada, Vṛindāvana and Govardhana.\(^{150}\)

Lakṣmīdhara, compiling the *Tīrthavivechanakāṇḍa* of *Kṛityakalpataru* at the beginning of the twelfth century, gives a detailed account of Mathurā and its environment, mainly from the *Varāha Purāṇa* (ch. 152). Dr. Farquhar was totally ignorant of the existence of Lakṣmīdhara’s work and, therefore, wrongly stated that the Mathurā-māhātmya section of *Varāha Purāṇa* was interpolated by Sanātana Gosvāmī, a follower of Śrī Chaitanya.\(^{151}\) Dr. R. C. Hazra had not also the advantage of consulting the *Tīrthavivechanakāṇḍa* of Lakṣmīdhara and, therefore, pronounced this section of the *Varāha Purāṇa* as having been written later than the fifteenth century.\(^{152}\) Apart from the other references to the holy sites in the Mathurā region, Lakṣmīdhara’s quotations of eight pages from the *Varāha Purāṇa* (pp. 186-193), leave no doubt about the recognition of these *tirthas* at the beginning of the twelfth century A.D.

Lakṣmīdhara quotes verses on the twenty-seven holy places in the Mathurā region from the *Varāha Purāṇa*. Of these,
only six, namely, Yamunā, Vṛindāvana, Bhāṇḍīraka, Rādhā-
kuṇḍa, Govardhana and Kāliyahrada continue to be recog-
nised and venerated by devotees up to the present day. The
verse containing a description of Rādhākuṇḍa\textsuperscript{153} is found in all
the old manuscripts from which the book has been edited,
but in the comparatively recent manuscript copied in 1638 A.D.
and preserved in the Junior Bhonsle Mahārāja's library at
Nagpur, the first line along with the proceeding three lines
have been crossed out in red ink. This might have been done
by some modern scholar, who was probably under the im-
pression that Rādhākuṇḍa could not have been so old as this.
The twenty-one other places mentioned by Lakṣmīdhara are
Asikunḍa, Nandavanā, Yamalārjunakuṇḍa, Arkasthala,
Vīrasthala, Kanaka, Prakīrtana, Somakuṇḍa, Piṇḍāraka,
Jamvīra, Champaka, Karmāvarohana, Vītānaka, Ballabhaka,
Uṣābhāñjanaka, Vinduprabhā, Aṣṭāmana, Tāmraprabha,
Vatsaprakīrṇaka, Saptasamudraka and Nandīgūhā. Not a
single one of these places is mentioned in the modern Guide
Books on Mathurā like the Vrajadarpāṇa and Mathurā-o-
Vṛindāvanadarpāṇa by Brajamohan Das Babaji. These have
fallen into oblivion and new places and shrines have come into
prominence. In the first half of the sixteenth century Rūpa
Gosvāmī compiled a book called Mathurāmāhātmyam, in
which the sanctity of 68 places in the Mathurā region is
described. But amongst these only two other places, besides
the well-known six mentioned by Lakṣmīdhara are common to
both these writers. These are Asikunḍa and Vatsakṛīrṇaka
which may be the same as Lakṣmīdhara’s Vatsa Prakṛīrṇa.
Lakṣmīdhara does not mention the twelve Vanas or forests of
Mathurā, though the current Varāha Purāṇa described these
forests.\textsuperscript{154} Śrī Rūpa quotes verses from the Ādīvarāha to
describe the holiness of Madhuvana, Tālavana, Kumudavana,
Kāmyavana, Vahulavana, Bhadravana, Khadiravana, Mahā-
vana, Lohajanghavana, Vīlvavana, Bhāṇḍīravana and Vṛindā-
vana. He also cites the authority of the Mathurākhaṇḍa of
the Skanda Purāṇa regarding Tālavana, Kāmyavana, Vahula-
vana and Vṛindāvana. The twelve Vanas, however, must be older than the 13th century because Narasīhāha in his *Pramāṇapallava* refers to them. *Bhaktiratnākara*, a work of the Bengal school of Vaiṣṇavism of the eighteenth century, quotes verses from the *Padma Purāṇa* regarding the location of the twelve Vanas—seven on the western and five on the eastern bank of the Yamunā and also from the *Skanda Purāṇa* corroborating the statement. In speaking of Vṛindāvana, Lakṣmīdhara quotes a verse from the *Varāha Purāṇa* stating that “I (Varāha) will in future play there with cows and cowherds.” Another notable omission by Lakṣmīdhara is Vīrāmaghāta, which is at present the holiest place in Mathurā. The presiding deity of Vṛindāvana according to the *Narasīhā Purāṇa* was Gopāla and that of Mathurā Svyambhūva, but at present it is Govinda and Dvārakādhīśa respectively.

Another place which was very severely affected by Sultān Mahmūd was Kanauj, whose importance was not only political but also religious. According to the *Mahābhārata*, Rāma established the image of Vāmana at Kānyakubja on the bank of Kālinadī, which falls into the Ganges. The *Matsya Purāṇa* described it as a place sacred to the Devī who is called here Gaurī. Al'Utbī says that there were at the time of Sultān Mahmūd's invasion nearly ten thousand temples and these were believed to have been founded two or three thousand years ago. All these were broken to pieces. Kanauj does not seem to have recovered its importance as a place of pilgrimage again.

Thāneśvara, which was also sacked by Sultān Mahmūd, is the same as the holy Kurukṣetra, which is called Dharmakṣetra at the very beginning of the *Gītā*. The principal image was carried to Ghaznī for defilement; and all others were destroyed. But this did not deter pilgrims from visiting the place. Vikramāditya VI in an inscription of 1082 A.D. refers to the holy places of Banaras, Kurukṣetra (Arghyatīrtha), Prayāga and Gayā. Lakṣmīdhara quotes several verses from the *Vanaparva* (81.1-6, 190-204) in support of the holiness of the place. He also-
cites the authority of the *Vāmana Purāṇa*. Vallālasena quotes the authority of *Matsya Purāṇa* to show that Kurukṣetra is specially suitable for making gifts.

The notorious sacking of Somanātha also could not produce any adverse effect on the streams of pilgrims visiting Prabhāsa and its contiguous Somanātha. Ibn Asir (born 1160 A.D.) states that on the occasion of lunar eclipse a hundred thousand persons used to congregate here. The number of pilgrims was so large on ordinary days also that three hundred persons were employed in shaving the heads and beards of the pilgrims. One thousand Brāhmaṇas used to attend to the worship of the Image. The *Dvyāśraya Kāvyā* of Hemachandra refers to the pilgrimage to Somanātha. An inscription shows that two temples were built at Somanātha in 1216 A.D. Lakṣmīdhara, however, does not refer to Somanātha as a place of pilgrimage. Jīmūtavāhana and Vallālasena refer to Prabhāsa but not to Somanātha.

Sultān Mahmūd himself did not come to Banaras, but his general, Ahmad Nīyāltigīn attacked it in 1033 A.D. The impact of the attack must have been extremely negligible, because Baibaki writes: “The army could only remain there from morning to mid-day prayer, because of the peril. The markets of the drapers, perfumers, and jewellers were plundered but it was impossible to do more”. Alberuni states that the Hindu Sciences “retired far away from those parts of the country conquered by us and have fled to places which our hands have not yet reached, to Kashmir, Benaras and other places”. He further informs us that Benaras attracted anchorites in thousands from all parts of India. Lakṣmīdhara assigns the first and the most prominent place amongst *tīrthas* to Vārānasi, to the description of which 122 pages are devoted out of 264 pages of *Tīrthavivechanakāṇḍa*. He quotes verses extensively from the *Liṅga Purāṇa* and some verses from the *Matsya, Brahma* and *Skanda Purāṇas*. He has given an exhaustive account of the shrines, ponds, wells and places which were regarded as holy at the beginning of the eleventh century. He mentions the
temple of Keśava situated at the confluence of the Varaṇā and the Gaṅgā, where successive Gāhaḍavāla kings like Chandradeva, Madanapāla, Govindachandra and Jayachchandra are known from inscriptions to have made numerous gifts. The Narasiṇa Purāṇa quoted by Lakṣmīdhara also states that the chief Viṣṇu image of Vāraṇāsi is Keśava. There must have been several temples of Keśava in the eleventh century, because the Chandravatī grant of 1100 A.D. refers to the image of the God Ādi-Keśava before whom Chandradeva made a gift of a thousand cows, gold and other valuables equal to his weight. Jayachchandra records in his Kamāuli grant dated 1173 A.D. the gift of several villages after bathing in the Ganges at Vāraṇāsi in the presence of the God Ādi-Keśava Other inscriptions refer to the Śiva Liṅgas like Vedeśvara, Aghoreśvara, Krittivāseśvara, Indreśvara, Oṅkāreśvara, Pañchaukara, Lauḍeśvara, Trilochaneśvara and S naprawdę are also mentioned by Lakṣmīdhara. Dr. Altekar in his History of Benaras points out that “scores of land-grants made by the Gāhaḍavāla princes in the presence of different gods of Banaras have been discovered so far, but curiously enough, only one is seen being made in the presence, and after the worship, of Viśvanāth”. K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar in his Introduction to the Tīrthaviyechanakāṇḍam states that Viśveśvara is mentioned twice by Lakṣmīdhara, but the reference in page 27 is merely to Śiva or Avimukteśvara respectively, as “Lord of the Universe” and the second reference in page 93 is to “an ordinary Liṅga, like hundreds of others; whose darśana confers a lower benefit than mukti”. The Liṅga Purāṇa, which is quoted by Lakṣmīdhara, gives the pre-eminence to the Savyambhubhi-liṅga of Avimukteśvara which had revealed itself by piercing its way through the ground. Vāchaspatimiṣṭra in the fifteenth century identified this Avimukteśvara with Viśvanātha (Tīrthachintāmani p. 360) but Nārāyaṇa Bhaṭṭa in 1560 and Mitramiṣṭra (c. 1620 A.D.) did not accept the view because the Padma Purāṇa, Kāśikhaṇḍa and the BrahmaVaivarta Purāṇa distinguish bet-
ween the two. In the twelfth century Viśvanatha or Viśvesvara, however, must have been a prominent Liṅga, and not just as one of the ordinary ones as Aiyangar tries to make out, because it is mentioned in a contemporary Gāhadavāla inscription and also in the Kūrma Purāṇa (I. 30. 2) as one of the six prominent deities of Banaras. According to the Kūrma Purāṇa, the most important deity of Banaras is the Pañchāyatana Liṅga, and next to it are Kṛttīvāseśvara, Madhyameśvara, Viśvesvara, Oṅkāra and Kaparddāsvara.

Dr. Altekar further points out that "among the numerous grants made at Banaras by the Gāhadavālas, none so far has been made after a bath at the Daśāsvamedha or the Pañchagaṅgā ghāṭ or in the presence of Bindumādhava or Kālabhairava or Durgā". Lakṣmīdhara, however, refers to the sanctity of the Daśāsvamedha ghāṭ of the Gaṅgā on the authority of Vāmana Purāṇa. He also mentions the shrine of Durgā near the Bhairaveśvara Liṅga (p. 85). The chief consort of Śiva, however, at Vāraṇasī, according to Lakṣmīdhara, was Viśālakṣī and not Annapūrṇā. There is a reference to Indramādhava in an inscription of 1114-15 A.D.

The Bangavan plate of Govindachandra and his queen Gosaladevi of the year 1150-51 A.D. states that the queen having bathed in the Ganges near the temple of the Sun-god Lolārka in the presence of that deity gave a village to a Brāhmaṇa, who had come from Pātaliputra. Lolārka is also mentioned as a prominent deity by Lakṣmīdhara. The contemporary inscriptions refer also to the Kapālamochanaghaṭṭa in 1122, 1127 and 1141 A.D. and to Vedeśvaraghaṭṭa in 1130, 1144 and 1154 A.D. The sanctity of Vāraṇasī is also described in glowing terms in the Naṣadhacharita. In 1194 A.D. Qutb-ud-dīn Aībak attacked Banaras and destroyed about one thousand temples.

Lakṣmīdhara assigns the second important place amongst the holy tīrthas to Prayāga. He quotes verses from Chapters 104 to 109 of the Matsya Purāṇa to illustrate the sanctity of the place and its sub-tīrthas. He concludes the section
with the quotation of a verse from the *Mahābhārata*. The sub-tirthas mentioned by Lakṣmīdhara are: (1) Kaṃbala-Aṣvatara, (2) Pratiśṭhāna, (3) Haṃsapratāpana, (4) Urvaśī-pulina, (5) Koṭītīrtha, (6) Bhogavati, (7) Daśāśvamedhaka, (8) Mānasa, (9) Riṇamochna, (10) Agniṭīrtha, (11) Dharmacājakāṭīrtha, (12) Bānarakā or Bāsaraka which according to Kane is a misreading for Anarakā, (13) Nirujaka, (14) Karūṭīrtha, (15) Agnikunḍa and (16) Siddhi-Ksetra. The most notable omission in this list is the famous Aksaya-vaṭa, where according to the Agni and Kurma Purāṇas, suicide is the surest way to the highest heaven. The Aksaya-vaṭa is referred to in the Jabalpur inscription of Yaśaḥ Karna dated 1122 A.D. in the following words, “Gāngeyadeva, fond of residing at the foot of the holy big tree of Prayāga found salvation (i.e. committed suicide) there together with his 100 wives”.

The next important tīrtha described by Lakṣmīdhara is Gayā. The twenty holy sites in this place, according to him, are (1) Aksayavatā, (2) Udyānta Parvata, (3) Kanakhala, (4) Kauśikī, (5) Kauśikī-hrada, (6) Gayāśira, (7) Gridhravatā, (8) Champakavana, (9) Dharmapriśṭha, (10) Dhenuka, (11) Paṇḍuviśalya tīrtha, (12) Phalgutīrtha, (13) Brahmaṭīrtha, (14) Brahmasara, (15) Brahmarāṇya, (16) Bharatāśrama, (17) Mānasasara, (18) Mārtandaḥpādamūla, (19) Menḍapriśṭha and (20) Yonidvāra. The sacred hills of Rāmaśilā and Pṛetaśilā described in the Gayamahātmya section of the Vāyu Purāṇa (ch. III) are not mentioned by Lakṣmīdhara. The Anuśasanaparva of the Mahābhārata, however, mentions Aṃmapriśṭha, which is identified by Kane as the Pṛetaśilā. Nārāyaṇa Bhaṭṭa in his Tristhātisetu (1560 A.D.) lays the greatest emphasis on the performance of śrāddha at Rāmaśilā and Pṛetaśilā; but the silence of Lakṣmīdhara probably indicates that these places had not risen to such importance in his time. K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar observes that when Lakṣmīdhara “omits to mention rules now in vogue it is not unsafe to presume that either they came into effect after his time or that he rejected
their validity and declined to notice them in a work of authority. The same, however, cannot be said of the omission of names of some sites in a particular place, as we have seen from inscriptive evidence that the Akṣayavāra of Prayāga was definitely an important place, though it has been omitted by Lakṣmīdhara. A similar omission is noticeable in the case of Gayā. He notices Gayāśīra, which extends from Krauṇḍachaṇḍa up to the Phalgutūrtha and includes Viṣṇupāda but he does specifically mention Viṣṇupāda. Aiyangar indeed expresses surprise over the silence of Lakṣmīdhara regarding the name of Gadādhara, who is now regarded as the presiding deity of Gayā. He points out that from his quotation from Vāmana Purāṇa ‘Gopati’ and from the Narasimha Purāṇa ‘Janārdana’ appear to be the principal deities of Gayā. But in page 253 Lakṣmīdhara has quoted the Narasimha Purāṇa again to show that Gadādhara is the presiding deity. The Vaiṣṇu Purāṇa mentions Bodhidruma Aśvattha as a sacred tree at which Srāddha has to be performed. This indicates the rapprochement between Hinduism and Buddhism in an age later than that of Lakṣmīdhara, who is silent over the Bodhi tree. An inscription of the reign of Nayapāla engraved about 1040 A.D. states that prince Yakṣapāla dug up the famous Uttaramānasaka lake. Dr. Barua concludes from this that Uttaramānasa did not exist before 1040 A.D. But had there been no lake of that name before 1040 A.D., it could not have been referred to as “famous” in the inscription of the time of Nayapāla.

Vāraṇasī, Prayāga and Gayā were considered the three most important places of pilgrimage and these were referred to as “Tristhali” by Nārāyaṇa Bhaṭṭa. Vāchaspatimisra attached equal importance to Puruṣottama. In his Tirthachin-ṭāmaṇī, he quotes as many as 122 pages from the Brahma Purāṇa to describe the sanctity of Puri or Puruṣottama. On the authority of this Purāṇa he states that during one week commencing from the tenth day of the bright-half of the month of Jyaiṣṭha as many as 52 tirthas and 32 holy rivers
assemble at Puruṣottama. The present temple of Puruṣottama was erected, according to the Mādalā-Pañjī, by Anangabhīma III, the grandson of Choḍagaṅga in 1198 A.D. But we have already pointed out that Puruṣottama, according to the inscription of Gaṅgādhara, attracted pilgrims from the interior of the district of Gayā early in the twelfth century.

Most of the ārthas were sacred to particular sects, while a few like Vāraṇasī, Gayā and Prayāga were venerated by all. The only ārtha sacred to Brahmā in the twelfth century was Puṣkara. We have already shown that the concept of the twelfth Jyotirlingas probably had not been known in the eleventh or twelfth century A.D. Lakṣmīdēvara gives a long list of the following 67 Vaiṣṇava ārthas with the names of their presiding deities from the Narasiṁha Purāṇa:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Identification of the Place</th>
<th>Presiding Deity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Kokāmukha</td>
<td>either in the Purnea district or in Nepal.</td>
<td>Varāha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mandāra</td>
<td>Banka subdivision, 30 miles to the south of Bhagalpur in Bihar.</td>
<td>Madhusūdana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Kapiladvīpa</td>
<td>not identified near Somanātha</td>
<td>Ananta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Prabhāsa</td>
<td>may be Palni hills in Madura</td>
<td>Rāvinandana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Rṣabha</td>
<td>near Okhā in Kathiwār</td>
<td>Mahāviṣṇu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Dvārakā</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Bhūpati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Pāṇḍīsaḥya</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Devesa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Vasutūṅga</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Jagatpati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Matsyodapāṇa</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Vaiṅṭha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Mahendra</td>
<td>Ganjam district</td>
<td>Nṛpiṇantakam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Bhallivana</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Mahāyogin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Chitrakūṭa</td>
<td>65 miles south-west of Prayāga</td>
<td>Narādhīpam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Naimiṣa</td>
<td>45 miles north-west of Lucknow</td>
<td>Ṛtavāsa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Niṣkramana</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Hari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Śālagrāma</td>
<td>near the source of the Gaṅḍaka on the border of Nepal &amp; Tibet</td>
<td>Tapovāsa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Gandhamādana</td>
<td>the mountain on which Badri-nāth is situated</td>
<td>Achintya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Kubjāmraka</td>
<td>at or near Hardwar</td>
<td>Hṛṣīkeśa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Gaṅgādvāra</td>
<td>Hardwar</td>
<td>Payodhara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Toṣālaka</td>
<td>Dhauli in the Puri district</td>
<td>Garuḍadhvaja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Identification of the Place</td>
<td>Presiding Deity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Nāgasāhvaya</td>
<td>Hastināpur, 22 miles north-east of Meerut</td>
<td>Govinda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Vṛindāvana</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Gopāla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Mathurā</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Svayambhūva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Kedāra</td>
<td>Tehri Garhwal</td>
<td>Mādhava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Vārāṇasī</td>
<td>Banaras</td>
<td>Keśava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Puṣkara</td>
<td>near Ajmer</td>
<td>Puṣkarākhyā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Dhrisadvatī</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Dhrisadvajā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Trinavinduvana</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Vīram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Sindhusāgara</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Anoka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Kuśavatta</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Mahāvāhu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Taijaśavana</td>
<td>west of Kurukṣetra</td>
<td>Amrita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Viśākhayūpa</td>
<td>near Kurukṣetra</td>
<td>Viṣvesa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Mahāvana</td>
<td>near Mathurā</td>
<td>Narasīnha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 Lohārgala</td>
<td>30 Yojanas from Sindhu</td>
<td>Ripuhara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 Devaśālā</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Trivikrama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 Kuśavāna</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Puruṣottama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 Kubjāka</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Vāmana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 Vitastā</td>
<td>Kasmira</td>
<td>Vidyādhara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 Varāha</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Dharaṇādhara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 Devadāruvana</td>
<td>near Badrinātha</td>
<td>Guhya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Kāverī</td>
<td>may be Śrīraṅgaṇī</td>
<td>Nāgasāyin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 Prayāga</td>
<td>Allahabad</td>
<td>Yogamūrti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 Payoṣṇīyā</td>
<td>Purna river in Berar</td>
<td>Sundara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 Kumāratīrtha</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Kaumāra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44 Lauhitya</td>
<td>Bramhaputra</td>
<td>Hayaśirṣa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 Ujjainī</td>
<td>Modern Ujjain</td>
<td>Vikrama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 Vidyallīṅga-</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Chaturbhuja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sphoṭa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47 Tūṅgabhadhrā</td>
<td></td>
<td>Harihara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 Kurukṣetra</td>
<td></td>
<td>Viṣvarūpa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 Maṇḍikūṇḍa</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Halāyudha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Ayodhyā</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lokanātha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 Kuṇḍīna</td>
<td>Vidarbha</td>
<td>Rukmiyīpata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52 Bhāṇḍīra</td>
<td>near Mathurā</td>
<td>Vāsudeva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53 Chakrātīrtha</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Sudarsana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8 places)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54 Viśṇupāda</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Ādyā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 Sūkara</td>
<td>Soron between Bareli and Mathurā</td>
<td>Sūkara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 Mānasatīrtha</td>
<td>in the Himalayas</td>
<td>Brahmaśa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Identification of the Place</td>
<td>Presiding Deity</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>57 Daṇḍaka</td>
<td>near Nasik</td>
<td>Śyāmala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58 Trikūṭa</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Nāgamokṣa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 Merukūṭa</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Bhāskara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 Puṣpabhadra</td>
<td>northern slope of the Himalayas</td>
<td>Viraja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 Chamikahara</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Vāla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62 Vipāśā</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yaśaśkara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 Māhiṃṣmati</td>
<td>in Nemad district of Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Hūtāśana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64 Kṣīrābdha</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Padmanābha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 Vimala</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Sanātana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 Śivanadī</td>
<td>not identified</td>
<td>Śivakara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 Gayā</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gadādhara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This list is important for more than one reason. First, it shows that the Vaiṣṇava shrines were spread throughout the length and breadth of India in the twelfth century. Secondly, the list omits the name of Puruṣottama. Though the Narasimha Purāṇa says that it is giving a list of 68 places, yet in Lakṣmīdhara's quotation we actually find 67 places. Was the 68th place Puruṣottama, which has been purposely dropped by Lakṣmīdhara? Thirdly, names like Kṛṣṇa, Mādhava, Devakīṇandana, Nandanandana, Yaśodā-nandana, Gopānātha, Madanamohana etc. do not occur amongst the names of deities. The worship of Viṣṇu under these names had not become popular at the time of the composition of the 15th chapter of the Narasimha Purāṇa. Lastly, 22 out of 67 places mentioned in the list have fallen into such obscurity that they cannot be identified.

Lakṣmīdhara cites281 the authority of the Matsya Purāṇa to show that only four places are sacred to Gaurī, namely Viśālākṣī at Vārāṇasi, Lalitā at Prayāga, Maṅgalā at Gayā, and Simhikā at Kṛitaśauca (not identified). He mentions Kāmarūpa indeed but is silent over the name of any Devī in this country. The 13th chapter of the Matsya Purāṇa which is current at present, gives, however, a long list of places holy to the Devī. It is not improbable that this list
has been added to the *Matsya Purāṇa* long after Lakṣmīdhara. Dr. D. C. Sircar has shown that the text of the thirteenth chapter of the *Matsya Purāṇa* "has been quoted in the description of the various manifestations of Bhadrakarṇikā in the Revākhaṇḍa sub-section of the Avantyakhaṇḍa in the *Skanda Purāṇa* (which in its present form is not earlier than the twelfth century) as well as in the enumeration of the different names of the goddess Sāvitrī, the wife of Brahman, in the Sṛṣṭkhaṇḍa section (ch. 17) of the *Padma Purāṇa*. The same text is also quoted in the *Devīḥāgavata* (VII. ch. 30) which, unlike the *Matsya, Skanda* and *Padma Purāṇas*, refer to the holy places associated in this work with the different manifestations of the mother-goddess and of her consort".

The seventh *Paṭala* of the *Hevajra Tantra*, which is ascribed to the seventh or eighth century A.D., mentions only four *Pīthas*, namely Jālandhara, Oddiyāna in the Swat Valley, Pūrṇagiri and Kāmarūpa. The *Rudrayāmala*, which is considered to have been composed earlier than 1052 A.D. mentions ten *Pīthas* as follows:—Kāmarūpa, Jālandhara, Pūrṇagiri, Oddiyāna, Vāraṇasī, Jvalantī, Māyāvati, or Hardwar, Madhupurī or Mathurā, Ayodhyā and Kāśchī. An Upa-Purāṇa named *Mahābhāgavata*, which is not to be confused with the *Śrīmad Bhāgavata*, praises (chapters 11-12, 76-78) Kāmarūpa which is called the best of the 51 *Mahāpīṭhas* created by the fall of Sati's limbs. This Upa-Purāṇa, according to Dr. R. C. Hazra cannot be dated later than the twelfth century. Dr. D. C. Sircar's work on the Sākta *Pīṭhas* was published in December, 1948 and as such could not contain any reference to the *Mahābhāgavata*. Having carefully compared the Paurāṇic list of *Pīṭhas* with that contained in the later Tantras mentioned by Dr. Sircar, we notice the omission of the following in the list given in the *Devi Bhāgavata*: (1) Hiṅgula, (2) Suganghā (in Barisal), (3) Kashmir, (4) Jvalāmukhī, (5) Jālandara (6) Virajākṣetra at Jajpur in Orissa, (7) Gaṇḍakī, (8) Bahula, (9) Ujjainī, (10) Chaṭṭala, (11) Tri-


Two inferences can be drawn from such omissions. First, many of the Śākta Pīṭhas had not come into existence in the early part of the twelfth century when Lakṣmīdhara wrote
Krityakalpataru. Secondly, even the few Pithas which existed in his time were purposely ignored by him probably because he did not like to encourage the Tantric cult. In this connection it may be noted that many of the Sakta Pithas are located in Assam, Bengal and Bihar, which became the centres of Tantricism in the later middle ages.

Assam and Bengal had very few ancient orthodox type of holy sites up to the twelfth century. In Bengal the only famous tirtha was Ganga Sagar or Kapilashrama.

It is difficult to imagine now the hardship which the pilgrims had to undergo in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. Lakshmidhara does not consider it obligatory for a pilgrim to walk on foot. Very few people could afford to engage conveyances. Some of the places of pilgrimage had no road and the pilgrims, always moving in large bands, had to improvise some kind of path by cutting down the jungle or remove the various obstacles. Bandits often lay in ambush to relieve the pilgrims of all their belongings. A special tax was levied on pilgrims by some of the princes. Many bold and enterprising people sought an outlet for their energy in going out on pilgrimage, rather than engage themselves in constructive work for ameliorating the social and economic condition of their fellow beings.

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CHAPTER XV

Standard of Morality

The standard of morality varies from age to age. It is, therefore, considered unscientific to judge or condemn the manners and customs of one age on the basis of the standard prevalent in an earlier or subsequent age. The digest-writers of the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. would have condemned as immoral the present-day practices of late marriages for women, their employment in services, trades and professions, the tendency to limit the family circle to husband, wife and children only to the exclusion of others, who were considered worthy of maintenance even under adverse circumstances, and above all, the family-planning devices. We, on our part, consider their system of giving the girls of the age of eight or ten in marriage to young men thrice the age of their spouse, or the permissibility of marrying a second or third wife while the first wife was alive as nothing but immoral. Some would go so far as to suggest that the very large number of Brāhmaṇas and ascetics, who devoted the whole of their time to religious practices and meditation, were mere drones who did not engage themselves in any productive labour. But apart from such changes in the angle of vision or in social and ethical perspective there are certain principles of ethical conduct which do not change much from country to country or from age to age. These may be called the immutable laws of morality. No one, for example, would suggest that theft, cheating, acceptance of bribe, oppression of the common people can be held up as moral conduct, nor would any one support the unbridled gratification of sexual passion. Keeping these points of view before our eyes, we may make an effort to evaluate the standard of morality as it prevailed in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. in Northern India.

So far as the ideals of moral conduct were concerned,
the commentators, nibandhakāras and the poets of the age held up before the people the highest code. They all taught the householder to lead a self-restrained and self-sacrificing life for the good of not only their family or country but the whole world, including the inanimate creation. Though such ideals inspired thousands of that age, yet the conduct of a whole people cannot be judged simply by such lofty teachings. We have to examine critically the conduct of kings, courtiers, officers, merchants and other classes of people and also the literary and artistic expressions of the age with a view to arriving at a correct appreciation of the moral standard, actually prevalent on the eve of the conquest of Northern India by the Turko-Afghans.

The Arthaśāstra of Kauṭilya prescribes an extremely arduous life for the King. Out of eight parts of the day, as many as six were to be devoted to the affairs of the state, while three out of eight parts of the night were also to be spent on the same.1 But the Śukranītisāra2 asks the King to devote only eleven out of thirty muhūrtas for similar purposes. The Bṛhaspatya Arthaśāstra ordains that the King should transact the business of the state for 15 nādikās or 7½ muhūrtas only. The rest of his time was to be spent on bath, repast, amusements, playing with beloved ones, twilight worship, dancing, co-habitation and sleep.3 The Mānasollāsa gives us an insight into the actual mode of spending the life by the King. The only time when the King remained engaged in administrative work was while he was holding the Darbar. The elaborate description which Someśvara Chālukya has given about the seating arrangements in his Court shows that it had a more ceremonial than businesslike atmosphere. The ladies of the royal household took their seats by his side and were expected to cast their glance at him from time to time. Not only were all his relatives there, but also the superintendents of wrestling, dancing, bed-making, painting etc.4 He devotes as many as twenty sections to the various kinds of enjoyment which include elaborate descriptions of food, drinks,
beds, betels, garlands, ornaments, dress, women, etc. Fifteen other sections are devoted to the amusements such as witnessing the fights between wrestlers, cocks, rams, buffaloes, pigeons, dogs, hawks etc. Discussions on poetry, logic and the Śāstras are included amongst amusements. A perusal of this work cannot but leave the impression that the kings in the twelfth century A. D. were steeped in luxury and devoted too much of their time to amusements. In an autocracy the king is the repository of all the powers of the state; and if he does not follow the Aśokan ideal of being ready to hear the complaints of his people at all hours and at all places, power will slip away from his hand to his officers.

Immoral Life of the kings:

To a modern man the kings as well as their court-poets, who composed the laudatory verses for copper-plates and inscriptions, appear to be shameless. They take pride not only in capturing the womenfolk of defeated countries but also in openly proclaiming before the world their dalliance with them. Thus the Bilhari inscription states that the Kalachuri King Yuvarājadeva “fulfilled the ardent wishes of the minds of the women of Gauḍa, who was a deer to sport on those pleasure-hills the breasts of the damsels of Karṇāṭa, (and) ornamented the foreheads of the women of Lāṭa; who engaged in amorous dalliance with the women of Kashmir, (and) who was fond of the charming songs of the women of Kaliṅga”. The inscription was written in the time of Yuvarāja II. This sort of brazenfaced proclamation of amorous frivolities is all the more surprising because it was being recorded during the reign of the grandson of Yuvarājadeva I. No other grandson has ever taken such a pride in such escapades of his grand-father. Rājaśekhara states that Yuvarāja married the princesses of Magadha, Malwa, Pāṇḍhāla, Avantī, Jālandhara and Kerala. But even in this extensive network of matrimonial relationships the women of Gauḍa, Karṇāṭa, Kashmir and Gujarat have no place. Somadeva in his Yaśastilakachampū records
with evident relish that King Maradatta of Rājapura in the Yaudheya country and Yasodhara, a King of Ujjainī enjoyed the company of women from Andhra, Chola, Valabhi, Kerala, Sīhala, Karṇāṭa, Surāṣṭra, Kamboja, Pallava and Ayodhyā.7

The Prabandhachintāmaṇi relates a story about Paramardin of Kuntala witnessing a dance by a naked woman—"when the door-keeper announced his (Jagaddeva's) arrival to Paramardin," writes Merutūṇga, "it happened that a low woman was dancing in his court, unclothed save for a flowered petticoat, and at that moment she was seized with shame and snatching up her upper garment, sat down where she was".8 Dancing by public women not only in royal court but also in the houses of wealthy persons was so much in vogue that Medhātithi in giving examples of royal orders, states: "for so many days dancing girls shall be entertained by all wealthy men".9

Stories about the immoral life led by kings of Eastern India in the latter half of the twelfth century are recorded in books written at the beginning of the fourteenth century. Thus Merutūṇga states that Lakṣmanasena, having been blinded by passion, "contracted the disgraceful stain of association with a Mutāṇgi", which means a Chaṇḍāla woman. Umāpatidhara is said to have written to the King the following verse: "Alas! clinging to the hard-neck of a low-born woman and thereby broken, you have lost, unfortunately, all your state of merit".10 The same work also states that Jayachchandra of Vārāṇasī, took away the wife of a citizen, a lady named Sūhava and made her the chief queen.11 We find another instance of a married lady going to live with another person though her husband was alive. This was Lavaṇaprasāda's wife Madanarājñī, who went to pay a visit to her brother-in-law's house after the death of her sister, began to live with him as husband and wife. Viradhavala, her son by Lavaṇaprasāda, had also gone there with her, and she bore her ne husband two other sons.12

Kalhana relates a number of stories regarding the licentious conduct of Kashmirian kings of this period. Thus he writes of the licentiousness of King Kalaśa, who in his youth
had employed a number of low persons to procure for him the wives of others and in his advanced years violated “some of his son’s wives, just as (if they were those) of an enemy”. The simile used here by the historian shows that it was customary for a victor to enjoy the wives of the vanquished. King Kalaṣa finally lost his life “by over-indulgence in sensual pleasures.” His son Harṣa (1089-1101) was even more sensual. “His father’s wives,” writes Kalhaṇa, “who had brought him up on their arms, he took in his arms, kissed them, and continually deported himself with them.” He is charged with the violation of the chastity of his sisters too. Utkarṣa and Bhikṣāchara were equally licentious.

Some of the kings of Gujrat also suffered from the same defect. Abhyatilaka Gaṇi who completed his commentary of Hemachandra’s Dvyāsraya in VS. 1312 says that Chāmuṇḍarāja (996-1010 A.D.) had loose morals. The custom of keeping dancing girls in the royal court had such a strong hold on the mind of the people of this age that even a great scholar and religious preceptor like Hemachandra writes that his royal disciple Kumārapāla used to be surrounded by a few good dancing girls in his Court. The Kathāsaritsāgara relates many stories of the depravities of the kings of this period. The Hammura-mahākāvyya describes how Harirāja, the Chāhamāna king of Ajmer, squandered all his revenues on women and dancing girls. When the generals of Muhammed of Ghūr attacked his kingdom, he had no other option excepting sacrificing his life on the funeral pyre.

Drinking of wine:

In 851 A.D. Sulaiman found that the Indian princes did not drink wine. He observes “they drink no wine, nor admit vinegar, because it is made of wine and yet they abstain not therefrom a religious duty, but for another reason. They say that if a King is given to wine, he ought not to be deemed a King, for add they, as there are frequent wars with the neighbouring states, how should a drunkard manage the affairs
of his Kingdom"? We notice however a change in the code of morality in this respect in the twelfth century A.D.. The author of the Sukraśūtra allows moderate drinking on the ground that it develops talent, sharpens intelligence, increases patience, and makes the mind steady. Lakṣmiṇīdhara prohibits the Brāhmaṇas from drinking spirituous liquors from gur or fermented rice or from honey but permits the kings and Vaiśyas to drink these for vigour or during festivities. The Maithila scholar-statesman Chaṇḍesvara makes a similar statement. Mānasollāsa does not recommend wine-drinking by the King himself, but on the occasion of marriage ceremonies he is to entertain the ladies of the harem with wine. Some of the queens used to take wine habitually; for example, Hemachandra says that Queen Mayānalladevi had to give up her drinking habit while Siddharāja was in her womb.

It was customary to offer drinks on occasions like marriage festivities. We find in the Naiśadhucharita that drinks were offered to the persons who accompanied the bride-groom to the bride's house. Some stories in the Kathāsaritsāgara suggest that merchants were in the habit of drinking wine. Kalhaṇa informs us that the richer sections of the community used to drink delightful wine flavoured with flowers. The Kashmirian Nilamata Purāṇa permits the drinking of wine on festive occasions. Kṣemendra mentions particularly the festival known as the Takṣakayātra, during which intoxicant liquors were on sale for three days, during all the twenty-four hours. Bilhaṇa in his Chaurapañcchāśikā depicts the heroine as madhupāna-raktam i.e. her face "glowing (ruddy) by drink" during sexual sport (verse 9). Kumārapāla is known to have made a heroic effort to prohibit not only drinking but also the manufacture of wine jars in Gujarat. It seems that the common people of Gujarat were habituated to drink and that the Jaina King thought it necessary to stop it for moral as well as economic reasons. This inference is supported by the writing of the Arab traveller Al-Mas'ūdī who visited Cambay in the middle of the tenth century A.D.
and observed that “Indians sometimes make girls drink in order to show their mirth so that the beholders may be inspired with gaiety by their merriment”.32

Had not drinking been widely prevalent, anthologies like Saduktikarṇāṇīrīta33, Suktimuktāvalī34 Sārīgadharapaddhati35 would not have included so many verses on the drinking clubs. Men as well as women are described as having taken part in drinking bouts. Kṣemendra compares a lady with wine in her mouth to Rāhu devouring the moon.36 A poet describes how a lady having drunk too much of wine faltered on words like “priyā” or ‘dear’ and ‘mukha’ or ‘mouth’, requested her companion to pour down wine into her mouth and when she was found constantly laughing and stumbling she was caught hold of by her friends. Another poem in Suktimuktāvalī says, “An intoxicated girl under the influence of wine is unable to bear the flower, unable to entice her husband by her breath, and the (love-lorn) newly married wife on seeing even the picture of her husband neither drinks, nor sets aside the wine glass.” No poet of the present day India would dare to write such a poem as it is simply absurd to imagine newly-married girls taking wine. Śrīharṣa draws a pen-picture of another drinking bout: as a result of drunkenness, the fillet is disturbed, the arranged hair is dishevelled, the anklets are producing much greater sound, and due to her frequent movements the necklace seems to be striking her breasts.38

Suicide:

Another characteristic feature of the eleventh and twelfth centuries appears to be the prevalence of the practice of committing suicide, specially amongst the ruling classes. Manu and other Dharmashastras condemn suicide in severest terms.39 But the Mahābhārata permits one to end his life at a sacred place like Prithūdaka, the holy Himalayas and Prayāga.40 The Matsya and the Kūrma Purāṇas extolled the merits of sacrificing one’s life in holy places. Lakṣmīdhara quotes exten-
sively from the Mātya Purāṇa and bestows praise upon those who commit suicide by burning themselves at Vārāṇasī or by drawing themselves in the confluence at Prayāga or by leaping from the hills at Amarkaṇṭaka into the Narmadā river to drown themselves. Alberuni also refers to the banyan tree of Prayāga from which Brāhmaṇaṣ and Kṣatriyās threw themselves into the Ganges. He further informs us that persons intending to commit suicide sometimes “hire somebody to drown them in the Ganges keeping them under water till they are dead”.

No inscription prior to the eleventh century refers to the suicide of any monarch. But in the period under survey we find several epigraphic and literary records showing princes courting death wilfully. The earliest known case is that of Chaulukya Mūlarāja I, who according to Dvīṣtrayakāvya, mounted the funeral pyre at Siddhapur on the banks of the river Sarasvati in 996 A.D. The next case is that of the Chandella King Dhanga, who having lived a most useful life for more than one hundred years, courted death at Prayāga while contemplating on Rudra sometime after 1002 A.D. About the same year the Shāhiya King Jayapala sacrificed his life on the funeral pyre after his repeated defeats at the hands of Sultāns of Ghazni. The Kalachuri King Gāṅgeya-deva along with his one hundred wives committed suicide at Prayāga sometime between 1034 and 1041 A.D. In 1068 A.D. the Chaulukya King Somesvara I Āhamalla sacrificed his life in the Tuṅgabhadrā after performing yogic rites. When the Pāla ruler Ramapala heard of the death of his maternal uncle Mathana, who had helped him materially in recovering his kingdom from the Kaivarta rebels, he committed suicide in the Ganges near Monghyr about the year 1120 A.D. Merutunga tells us that when Jayachandra found that his capital was besieged by the Turko-Afghans, he along with his son by Sūhavadevi, for installing whom on the throne she had invited the invaders, drowned himself in the Ganges in 1194 A.D. According to one school of
interpretation of a verse in Adbhūtasaṅgara, Vallālasena also committed suicide by drowning in the Ganges along with his queen. When suicide at a holy place had come into vogue so much, it is not surprising to find some Kashmir kings dying voluntarily in their own palace. Thus Ananta was stung to the quick by the insults hurled at him by his wife and committed suicide by thrusting a dagger into his anus.50 Again in 1089 A.D. U'karaśa being dethroned by Harśa stabbed himself to death with a pair of scissors.51

In previous centuries a few religious fanatics sometimes courted death at some holy places. But even this was not sanctioned by the law-givers, who prescribed retirement to forest hermitage for men above the age of fifty. Handing over the burden of their family to their sons, such persons were advised to lead a quiet life devoted to meditation. Their objective was to subdue the passions and irradiicate all desires so that they might be free from the bondage of Karma and attain liberation. The Purāṇas and the epics describe hundreds of cases in which an old king having bestowed the crown upon the son retired to the forest. It was, however, the characteristic feature of the eleventh and twelfth centuries for the kings to resort to death of their own accord.

Many of the kings like Jayapāla and Jayachandra, Ananta and Utkaraśa found life unbearable; others like Mūlarāja I, Dhaṅga and Gāṅgeyadeva perhaps thought that as they had got all that could be desired in this world, it was better to sacrifice their lives in a holy place so that their happiness might be assured in the after-world. While the former were guilty of escapism, the latter must be held responsible for holding-up a questionable ideal before their subjects.

How pernicious was the social effect of their example can be judged from a few instances of suicide on a mass scale. The Brāhmaṇas of Kashmīr suffered from a sense of frustration at the frequent rebellions which took place during the reign of Sussala and resorted to solemn fasts, which culmi-
nated in their throwing themselves on fire in every town.\textsuperscript{52} Merutun\textsuperscript{ā}ga relates that when Viradhavala died, as many as one hundred and twenty of his followers elected to burn themselves of their own accord.\textsuperscript{53} The prevalence of the Sati as well as these instances go to show that life signified little in this age. These instances of suicide are supported by the wealth of information supplied by Mahmūd Gardizī in his Kitāb Zain-ul-Akhbār, composed in A.H. 440/1049 A.D. In this portion of the book, which remains even today unpublished, Gardizī observes that “a group of people burn themselves in the following manner. They dig a well near a stream or river. A fire is lit up inside this hollow space and the person, desirous of committing suicide arrives there. This person smearing himself with frankincense, prostrates before the assembly of individuals, and throws himself into the fire. Fire is heaped on him again. After sometime he comes out of it and then rushes to the stream of water, where he remains for such a considerable period that he may die. If he does not die, he again goes inside the fire and coming out of it rushes to the water. He repeats this process till he breathes his last. People believe that if such an individual dies in the fire, lit up in the hollow space below the ground-level, or in the stream or river he would go to paradise.... And some people hit their abdomen with stones till their stomachs burst out and as a result of the opening of intestines, they die.... And some people light fires in four different spots. When a person, seeking death comes there, he stretches his leg towards the head and keeps standing on the other leg in fire till it consumes him... Some of them, throw away the flesh of the thighs and other joints cut off from their bodies, into the fire. While doing these, they recite something from their religious text and the assembled crowd encourage, speak highly of and bless them. They also pray that God, the Honourable and Exalted, may bestow upon those sacrificing personalities the same rank as gods... Some of them place their legs in the fire of cowdung cakes. They
remain in that position till the fires consume them... Some of them make an oven and the man (who is desirous of committing suicide) sits inside it. Fire is set and the man is burnt therein. People gathering round ask him whether the heaven has descended to him. He replies that it would come to him when he is consumed in the fire and dies... Some of them kill themselves by fasting. They do not even drink water. They are called *Anishiyān* (or *Atishiyān*?). These people die on the twentieth day. Some continue to live till the thirtieth day... To the followers of the *Tarshuliyān* there is a sacred place where the water of the Ganges flows. Here is a big tree, which covers a large area. Underneath the tree, they fix a *tarsul*, which is made of iron. It is fixed in a perpendicular position... Its upper part has three spires. And these spires are long, thick and sharp... A man (desirous of committing suicide) reads a book under the tree and addresses the river Gaṅgā by saying that either you become bigger (large-hearted?) or go back and seek the path of heaven, because you come from the midst of paradise and lead the people there... Then the man fixes the perpendicular trident to his body. People remain standing. One amongst the assembled goes up the tree. And then he falls down on him (the person reclining on the spear). Soon the person is shattered to pieces and his body falls in the river. People, who remain standing at the spot, pray for the dead person. They say “he is gone to heaven”... There is another group of people whose custom is that every day they come to a place where the Gaṅgā meets another river Chūn (or Hūn?). Everyone of this group carries a sharp weapon like sword, dagger etc. If one of these devotees wants to purify himself and seeks nearness to God, the Exalted, he proclaims his desires. The members of his community place garments, ornaments, golden necklaces and bangles and such precious things, on him. They hack that person to pieces with their weapons, they throw half of the body into the river Gaṅgā and the other half into the Chūn. They
say that these two rivers would take him to heaven ... A devotee of another community is followed by a huge crowd, which pray for the former. This person then bids adieu to the assemblage of people and sits in a deserted area. All such birds like vulture, eagle, falcon, hawk, phoenix etc., which prey upon other birds, hover round him. He sits silently. These birds strike him with their beaks and tear off his turban. He heaves no sigh while these birds tear off all his flesh. And he dies in that way. After the birds have eaten all the flesh the members of the community of the deceased personage gather there and every one of them take a piece of the dry bone as a benediction. They burn the bone and keep the ash in their houses. They use these ashes at the time of treating sick persons. These are the introductions of the Hindus which I (the author Gardizi) could discover." (Ms. Ouseley 240, Page Nos. 260B-262B). Some may construe it as heroic self-sacrifice, but the ennobling ideal of sacrificing one's life for promoting social welfare was hardly visible in any case of suicide in this age.

Bribery and Corruption:

Bribery and corruption are symptoms of bad government. In mediaeval India ministers and other officials were regarded as traditionally open to corruption. Even the Bhāgavata Purāṇa exhorts the King to protect the subjects from the amātyas and thieves. Kṣemendra in his Daśāvatārarācharita advises the King to remove from office such ministers, generals and priests as are guilty of acceptance of bribes. Otherwise there may be seething resentment amongst the subjects. Lakshmīdhara emphasises the need of keeping a strict watch on the ministers, as they might prove dangerous to the King as well as to the subjects. Kalhana records several cases of collection of large fortunes by ministers. For example, Bija became richer than the King by taking recourse to unfair means. Ānanda rose to high office by offering bribes to the King's councillors. The Śukranitisāra suggests that.
ministers should be selected not on account of their caste and family but because of their merit, character and efficiency in work. He further suggests that they should be transferred from one department to another. Such transfers would minimise risk of bribery and corruption.

If some of the ministers were corrupt, the lower officials like the tax-collectors and writers habitually oppressed the subjects for illegal gratifications. Lakṣmīdhara, with his practical experience of administration, exhorts the king to protect the subjects from the army, thieves, wicked persons and especially the Kāyasthas. He also quotes the views of Manu and Yājñavalkya to that effect. The Mānasollāsa and the Rājajīvatnākara also express similar views. Kalhaṇa observes that the royal officers, called Kāyasthas are plagues for the people and they are worse than the crabs and white ants. Kṣemendra satirically writes that Rājaśrī, having been abducted by the Kāyasthas, sheds tears in the form of ink dropped from their pen. In his Narmamālā he recounts their unscrupulousness, hypocritical attitude and their habit of taking bribe and for all these he calls them the “incarnation of the accountant of the daityas.” From Kalhaṇa we get plenty of evidence supporting these charges. Thus he relates how Chandramukha began his life with a single cowrie but having become the king's favourite, he accumulated crores of coins. Bhadreśvara, an official during the reign of Saṅgrāmarāja, felt no scruples in plundering the treasures of temples. Merutuṅga also records the difficulty which was felt by the monarch in realising the revenue collected by the officials. Sajjana, was appointed as the Governor of Surāśṭra by Siddharāja Jayasimha, but he misappropriated the revenues collected successively for three years. The tyranny of petty officials must have made the life of the people miserable.

Quacks in medical profession:

Another source of trouble and affliction in this period was the large number of quacks who played with the life of the
people. Great physicians like Chakrapāṇidatta, Suresvara, Vaṅgasena, and Niśchalakara lived in Bengal during the period. Works like Rasārṇava and Rasādhyaṇya were also written in other parts of India in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Merutuṅga relates how medical experiments were carried on by Vāgbhaṭa, the physician in the Court of Bhoja of Dhārā. He "made use of all the unwholesome things mentioned in the medical treatises, and so produced diseases and then employed to check them the remedies and diets famous in Suśruta and so cured them." In spite of the existence of a galaxy of famous physicians, the country as a whole suffered from a lack of properly qualified medical men. This is why we find that many quacks took up the medical profession. A Kashmir merchant in the reign of Kalaśa acted as a physician to dyers and craftsmen. Kṣemendra in his Samayamātrikā presents a brilliant satire on a quack, who is given the epithet of "representative of Yama, the God of Death," and saluted as the destroyer of life of all. He was popular amongst those who were associated with prostitutes. The same writer hints at the fleecing of ministers lying ill for a long time by physicians, as he includes the latter as veritable gold mines for prostitutes. Hemachandra also holds up to ridicule the mercenary character of a physician, who is addressed by a friend as follows: "Your friend may be asking for your help in his sickness, but like a courtesan, if you are not paid, you do not even cast a glance at him." Other contemporary literary works like Kalāvilāsa, and Narmamālā of Kṣemendra and Laṭakamelaka of Śaṅkhadhara also refer to quacks and to the low professional etiquette prevailing amongst the physicians of this period. The existence of too many quacks probably led the author of the Sukranītisāra to lay down that none should be allowed to practice the medical profession without securing the special permission (license) of the King. This must have been a counsel of perfection, because in an age when the means of communication was ill-developed and the system of government was imperfectly organised it was impossible for the King
to keep an eye on all those who were practising as medical men throughout the country.

**Merchants:**

In this age the mercantile community in general, failed to live up to the high ideal set up by their predecessors. The merchants of India have received very high praise for their honest and straightforward dealings from foreign travellers. "Their good faith", writes Al Idrīsī, "honesty and fidelity to their engagement are well-known and they are so famous for these qualities that people flock to their country from every side."

But the literary records of the eleventh and twelfth centuries depict the merchants as deceitful hypocrites. Kalhaṇa’s description of dishonest merchants, who having embezzled deposits "show themselves ever eager to listen to the (recital of sacred) texts," cannot but recall to one’s mind their modern counterparts, who spend large amounts on getting the holy name of Hari recited by women at Nabadvīp and Vṛindāvana. The sober historian opines that "courtezans, the official, the clerk and the merchant are deceitful by nature." He further observes, "the merchant, who puts drops of sandal-ointment on the forehead, eye-holes, ears and heart, takes one’s life in a moment, just as a dangerous scorpion would, which is marked in six places." The merchants were also the bankers to the people. But declares Kalhaṇa "the water which has been carried down to the ocean by the streams is received (back) from the clouds, but a thing deposited in a merchant’s hands is never again recovered." Kṛṣṇendrā corroborates the evidence of Kalhaṇa when he writes that merchants become dumb when a person buys only a little quantity of goods and they turn deaf when one comes to recover the mortgaged property from them. Hemachandra, who was familiar with the mercantile community of Gujarat also states that a body free from a disease is as rare as a merchant free from deceitfulness." The *Kathāsaritsāgara* also tells stories about the dishonesty of
merchants. The fall in the standard of morality of merchants reflects an all-round deterioration in the character of the people of the twelfth century A.D.

**Prostitutes:**

People of North India during the eleventh and twelfth centuries considered prostitution as a normal feature of social organisation. Vātsyāyana regards prostitution as old as human civilization. Every town in medieval India had a number of prostitutes. Sandhyākaranandi describes the gay city of Rāmāvatā as “full of joy” also on account of “the youthful heavenly courtesans who had great passion of love and who were dancing passionately while they were wearing their apparels.” Vijayapura, the capital of Lakṣmaṇasena, according to Dhoyi, had a large number of beautiful courtesans. Kṣemendra refers to the prostitutes of Mathurā and Śrāvasti in his *Bodhisattvavadānakalpalatā*. The same writer gives a highly interesting list of persons whose visit was welcome to the prostitutes as they were like the veritable kalpa tree (fulfilling all the desires). These were persons like the only son of a rich man, a young man whose father is dead, an amātya or minister of a king, son of a merchant, physician who looks after ailing minister for a long time, son of a famous guru, passionate ascetic, irresponsible prince, village official, notable and rich musician, a merchant who is visiting a city for the first time, an erudite scholar and a hard drunkard. The list shows that the clients of courtesans were drawn from all strata of society, not excluding an ascetic or an erudite scholar. Dāmodaragupta’s *Kuṭṭaninatā* gives a pen picture of many of these types visiting the public women.

Prof. Gode has shown that the courtesans were experts in the art of painting. Dāmodaragupta depicts them as proficient not only in painting but also in the *Nātyaśāstra* of Bharata, *Kalāśāstra* of Viśvakīlā, Book of Music by Dantila, botany, tailoring, magic, instrumental music and the art of cooking. He refers also to rather severe courses of training under teachers of dancing and lyre. Prof. Gode has also
referred to the Puruṣottamapurī plates of King Rāmachandra of Devagiri dated Saka 1232/1310 A.D. and has come to the conclusion that the status and importance of courtesans declined after the tenth century A.D. This is generally true. But Merutunga refers to a hetaera-poetess of Gujarat who pleased the Paramāra King Bhoja. He also tells us the story of Chauladevi or Chākuladevi of Pattana, a courtesan who remained faithful to her lover during his long absence. Kumārapāla’s great-grandfather was born of this Chauladevi. It may be mentioned in this connection that in spite of his zeal for abolishing adultery, gambling, and slaughter of animals, Kumārapāla did not seek to abolish prostitution. Mānasollāsa shows that courtesans continued to be invited to the assembly of poets and scholars convened by the King. From the Rājadharmakāṇḍa of Lakṣmīdhara, we learn that the old custom of requiring the corporation of courtesans to be present at the time of raising the flagstaff of Indra continued in the twelfth century.

Devadāsis:

Besides the regular prostitutes, there was another class of women called devadāsis, who were attached to the temples from very old times. They too, were highly proficient in music and dancing. Abu Zeid al Hasan, an Arab traveller who came to India in 867 A.D. writes about them: “In the Indies they have public women called Women of the idol, the origin of whose institution is such: when a woman has laid herself under a vow, that she may have children, if it happens that she brings forth a handsome daughter, she carries the child to the Bod, so they call the Idol they worship, and there leave her. When the girl has attained a proper age, she takes an apartment in this public place, and spreads a curtain before her door, and awaits the arrival of strangers as well Indians as men of other sects, to whom this debauchery is made lawful. She prostitutes herself at a certain rate, and delivers her gains into the hands of the Idol’s priest, to be
by him disposed of for the use and support of the temple”. Alberuni however, records that the income from prostitution in temples used to be taken by the kings for meeting the expenditure of the army. The author of the Hudūd-ul-ālam, composed in 928-983 A.D., notes that a temple at Rāmiyān had 30 dancing girls, whose function was to dance round the image. The number of devadāsīs seems to have increased much in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. On the authority of Chau-ju-Kua, Dr. Ghoshal states that the four thousand temples of Gujarat alone contained more than twenty thousand dancing girls.

Contemporary inscriptions show that devadāsīs were associated with the temples of Pradyumnaśvara, founded by Vijayasena, of Brahmaśvara, founded by the dowager-queen Kolāvati, the mother of the Somavartī king Uddyotakesāri, of Anantavāsudeva at Bhubanesvara, of Sobhānesvara Śiva temple founded by King Vaidyanātha at a place 30 miles south of Cuttack. Not only in the temples founded by monarchs but also in those attached by ascetics, devadāsīs were provided. Thus an ascetic named Iśānaśiva arranged for devadāsīs in the temple of Śiva erected in the Badaun area in the U. P. Kalhaṇa refers to the devadāsīs in the temples of Kashmir and Merutunga in the Kumāravihāra in Somnāthapattana. The royal donors of temples and the poets who composed the inscriptions took delight in recounting the physical charms of these devadāsīs. Thus Puruṣottama Šaṭṭa, the composer of the Brahmaśvara temple inscription dated the 18th year of Uddyotakesāri, describes them as girls “whose limbs were adorned with ornaments set in gems and thus appearing as the everlasting but playful lightnings, and who were restless with the weight of loins and breasts and whose eyes were fickle and extended up to the ears and who looked lovely like the pupils of the eyes of men.

Alberuni refers to the opposition of the Brāhmaṇas to the institution of devadāsīs. But two inscriptions of Jojalladeva, belonging to the Chāhamāna dynasty of Marwar, dated VS
1147/1090 A.D. show how the kings took steps to overcome all opposition to this system. The two inscriptions record the royal orders to the effect that during the festivals of God Lakṣmanasvāmin and others the courtesans attached not only to that particular temple but also of other temples, “must also put on their ornaments and best garments and attend with their śūlapālas to celebrate” the festival of dancing, singing, and instrumental music. Jojālladeva solemnly asks his descendants, and other princes to keep the festival of all the gods going on in this manner. He further warns them that if any person, be he an ascetic, an old man or a learned scholar, attempt in future to abolish this practice, the reigning monarch must take steps to prevent him from doing so. According to Dr. D. R. Bhandarkar, the temples were located at Nāḍol. The practice of maintaining devadāsīs in temples is at least as old as Kauṭilya; but there was no attempt before the eleventh century A.D. to pool together all the dancing girls attached to all the temples in a particular region with a view to adding to the attraction of each and every religious festival. The adoption of such a procedure, bore the risk of transforming religious festivals into mere gay merrymakings, if not something worse.

That such a danger was not imaginary would be apparent from an account of four festivals, during which the people of all classes, young or old, male or female, were asked to give free expression to their pent-up sexual feelings. The first of these festivals is called Udakasevā-Mahotsava or Udasevikā Utsava by Lakṣmīdhara who gives an elaborate description of it in his Krityakalpataru-Niyatakālakānda. The festival is celebrated on the second day after the full moon day of Āśvina. Getting up from the bed early in the morning the people besmeared themselves with mud and moved from house to house like goblins and Rudra. They also brought together their friends and sprinkled mud on them. Men, women and children indiscriminately indulged in indecent pranks, casting to the four winds all sense of shame.* Drinking wine was
a veritable part of the ceremony. The chief figure of the festival was a person who dressed himself as a Bhairava, besmeared his body with mud and other filthy things and roamed round the village on an ass. Dansels bedecked themselves with fine dress and ornaments and moved about in the streets dancing and singing obscene songs. Merrymakers took the guise of sweepers, cowherds, kings, barbers etc. and the young deported themselves as old people. Poems were recited by the more refined persons. Lakṣmīdhara quotes the Skanda Purāṇa as one of the authorities prescribing this festival. In this Purāṇa Śiva is made to justify such saturnalian festival before Pārvatī.† Lakṣmīdhara further quotes the Brahma Purāṇa which states that if anybody refuses to participate in this festival out of pride, he will incur the wrath of ghosts and goblins.

The above-mentioned festival bears some similarity to the Sāvarotsava described by Jīmūtavāhana in his Kālaviveka. In it too the people used to cover their bodies with leaves and besmear it with mud and other things in the fashion of the Savara men. It falls, however, on the Vijayā-daśamī day, that is about a week earlier than the date of Uḍakasevā-mahotsava festival. Dr. R. C. Majumdar and Dr. D. C. Sircar have drawn the attention of scholars to the fact that the two verses quoted by Jīmūtavāhana regarding the manner of its celebration also occur in the Kūlikā-Purāṇa (61.21-22). Dr. R. C. Majumdar in the History of Bengal, Volume I. observes: “It is difficult to believe that the action hinted by the line ‘bhaga-liṅga-kṛiṇābhiś-cha kṛḍayeyur-ālam janāhy’ was actually practised by the people on this occasion.” But Dr. D. C.

* Niyatakālakāṇḍam (GOS ed. p. 412); Kāmāgni janaṅkaivākyaiḥ stri puṇhlingārtha deśibhiḥ/vāchā pāiḥḥamācharam kṛttayadbhiḥ itastatāḥ

† Niyatakālakāṇḍam (GOS ed. p. 417): liṅgeṣu hridayam strīnām bhāgeṣu hridayayam nṛṣīnāṁ/bhaga liṅgāṅkhitam sarva, tadidamjaga-daṅgane
Sircar says that the two verses "prove that the programme of this festivity included topics on any songs about the sex organs and possibly also about sexual intercourse with requisite movements of the body and that its violation incurred Bhagavati's anger and curse." Chandesvara quotes the Devi Purana to show that if one does not talk or behave indecently he incurs the wrath of Bhagavati. The fear of incurring the displeasure of the goddesses must have acted as a sort of compulsion on the people to take part in it. But the festival appears to have been a little more restrained than Udakasevā-mahotsava festival, because the Brihaddharma Purana which must have been written in medieval Bengal states that terms expressive of male and female organs of generation should not be uttered before others except, during the worship of the goddess in the month of Āśvin and that "even then they should never pronounce them before their mothers and daughters and before female disciples who have not yet been initiated to Śakti worship." But Lakṣmīdhara quotes with approval the dictum of the Skanda Purana, which says that the Udasevikā festival makes those shameless who are habituated to have been ashamed and that the daughter or son does not feel ashamed in the presence of mother, nor a grandson in the presence of the grandfather nor even one's wife of his maternal uncle and vice-versa.

People used to be exceptionally gay also on the occasion of the Kaumudi-mahotsava, which was not so much a religious as political festival. It has been described in the Kṛityakalpataru-Rājadharmanakāṇḍa, and not in the Niyatakālakāṇḍa by Lakṣmīdhara. On this occasion the houses and shops used to be decorated with flowers and flags and men and women also bedecked themselves with garlands and festive clothes. At night the streets and houses were illuminated with lights. Young men with women were expected to move about in all directions, singing, dancing, laughing and enjoying themselves. Divine
damsels were to dance to the tune of musical instruments.* The festival was to be concluded with a grand feast for which a number of animals were to be killed so that the Brāhmaṇas might be fed to their hearts' content. If the Udasevika festival and the Sāvarotsava made use of religious compulsion, this festival had at its back all the forces at the command of the State. It is stated that if a person fails to celebrate the festival according to the rites described above, the King must award him physical punishment. †

The fourth festival in which also there was a free outlet of the sex urges of the people was the Madanotsava, which used to be celebrated on the fourteenth day of the bright-half of the month of Chaitra. The festival has been referred to in the Kāmasūtra of Vātsyāyana, Mālatimādhava of Bhavabhūti, Kuṭṭanimita of Dāmodaragupta and Yāsastilakachampī of Somadeva. The last writer, however, gives the thirteenth day of the full moon of Chaitra as the date for its celebration. Dāmodaragupta tells us that the festival was eagerly looked forward to by young people as it afforded them a golden opportunity for mixing freely with their beloved ones.²⁰⁹ Lakṣmīdharā does not refer to any lewd associations of this festival.¹¹⁶ But Jimūtavahana expressly states that with songs and dances people should use indecent words.¹¹¹ Chaṇḍeśvara also quotes the same verse.¹¹² From this it may be concluded that in Eastern India alone the festival had some sexual significance. But two verses from the Rājamārtanda attributed to Bhoja, show that in other parts of India also the festival was accompanied with sensual amusements.¹¹³

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* The two verses in (Rājadharmakāsa) Krītyakalpataru Vol. XI. p. 182 (GOS ed.) asking the young men and women and the Divyayōtitaḥ to move about dancing do not occur in the Udaipur Ms., but are found in the A.S.B., I.O. and other Manuscripts.

† Rājadharmakāsa (ed. GOS) p. 183—yo na kuryādāraḥ sarvam puravāśi narah kvachit pātayettasya tāriram daṇḍam rājā mahā-yaśāḥ
The prominence given to such voluptuous practices in the festivals of this period was not an isolated phenomenon. It was a symptom of the decadent society in which religious practices were vitiated by a frank and unabashed addiction to sex. The Tāntrika form of worship, which had its origin in hoary antiquity, became very much popular both amongst the Hindus and the Buddhists in this period. Some of the Hindu Tantras prescribe sexual connection as a part of the religious ceremony. Decency would not allow any quotations from the Gāndharva-tantra, Kāmākṣyātantra, Mahāchīnāchārakrama, Nirvānatantra or Tantrasāra on the grossly sensual rites and revolting practices which have been prescribed as essential features of the Śakti worship. A recent work in Bengali, entitled Bāṅglār Bāul O' Bāul Gāna by Prof. Upendranath Bhattacharyya has brought together many such passages from mediæval Tantras. Dr. Benoytosh Bhattacharyya took rather an extremist view in denouncing the later Buddhist cults like Vajrayāna and Kālachakrayāna. But some of the charges levelled by him against these Buddhists appear to contain a substantial substratum of truth. Thus in course of explaining the contents of Prajñāpāyaviniśchayasiddhi of Anaṅgavajra, he writes, "in the fifth chapter the author says that without Prajñāpāramitā emancipation is impossible and Prajñāpāramitā resides in every woman and by enjoying any woman, whether of low origin or high, or whether mother, sister or other relatives, emancipation can be obtained. In such matters, according to this author, there is absolutely no restriction and without any fear, women may be enjoyed, provided he has been properly initiated by the Guru, for

Sambhogārthamūdam Sarvam traidhātu kāmaśeṣataḥ
Nirmitam Vajranāthena sādhakānāṁ hitāya cha...

It is no wonder that by practising this kind of religion the whole of Eastern India lost all vigour and the whole population became corrupted." on the eve of the Turko-Afghan conquest.
Adultery:

Another symptom of moral laxity of this age is the lenient treatment accorded to women guilty of adultery. The punishment which the King according to Manu (VII. 371) was to award to a woman who had intercourse with a man of low caste was to get her devoured by dogs. The ninth century Arab traveller Sulaiman writes: "If any man in the Indies runs away with a woman, and abuses her body, they kill both him and the woman, unless it be proved that she was forced, then the man only is punished with death: but if the woman consented to the evil deed, they are punished with death, both the one and the other". But Vijñānesvara, while interpreting Yājñavalkya's dictum (I. 72) that if a woman conceives in adulterous intercourse she should be abandoned, observes that, abandonment does not mean driving her out of the house but only not allowing her to participate in religious acts and inhibiting sexual intercourse with her. He is liberal enough to prescribe that such a guilty wife should be kept apart, guarded in a room and be given food and raiment of inferior quality. Whatever might have been the social effect of such a humane treatment, a modern man cannot but appreciate the generous interpretation of Vijñānesvara.

Moral Standard of the Poets:

The literature of this period also reflects the low moral standard of the people. Poets like Kālidāsa and Amaru describe freely the charms of amorous life indeed, but they seldom indulge in portrayal of the minutest details of cohabitation. Bhilāna and Jayadeva, two great poets of this age, however, take special delight in such description. The theme of Chaurapaṇḍāśīkā of Bhilāna is the lament of a lover who contracted a secret union with a King's daughter and having been captured and led to the execution ground, recalls the joys of his amours and according to Keith "the warmth of feelings undoubtedly degenerates into license." In the face of impending death the lover is made to say "I still remember her as
holding the reins in the Tāṇḍava dance of sexual sports, her face beautiful like the full moon, her limbs affected by intoxicated love, she of a slender build, bending on account of the burden of her large breasts and hips, and her (loose) band of hair waving sideways.” It may be questioned whether the erotic sentiment does not give way to the fear of death; but the hero of Bilhaṇa preferring death to the pang of separation from his beloved exclaims: “Even now I cannot, for a moment, live by any other way without the sex-enjoyment of that excellent girl. So brothers, death is the only remedy for silencing this craving. I request you, therefore, to speedily cut off (my head)”.¹¹⁴ Some people consider this work as allegorical and treat it as a religious poem.

Jayadeva’s Gitagovinda is almost universally accepted now as of great mystic and spiritual significance, though its erotic tone is even more pronounced than that of the poem of Bilhaṇa. The remarkable feature of Jayadeva’s work is that the poet describes details of sexual love throughout the book and especially in the twelfth canto without the least hesitation, “in a series of extremely brilliant and musical word-pictures.” In a pre-Chaitanya commentary of the work, entitled Sarvāṅgasundarī and written by Nārāyaṇadāsa, which has been quoted in Manoramā composed in 1536 A.D., we find that the verses of Jayadeva are interpreted in the most secular way by quotations from erotic works like Nāgarasarasvavā, written in about the eleventh century A.D. by the Buddhist writer Padmāstījñāna and Smaradipikā. Some of the specially secular poems of Jayadeva on subjects like rata-rambha and viparitaratam have been quoted in Sadukti-karṇāmrita. Whatever might have been the feeling of a select coterie of mystics called Rasika regarding the Gitagovinda, it evoked erotic sentiment in the large body of the uninitiates among its admirers which the book had all over India.

Lakṣmaṇasena, the patron of Jayadeva and a host of other brilliant poets like Umāpatidhara, Śaraṇa, Govardhanāchārya and
Dhoyi, is not ashamed of recalling his amorous sports with the women of Kaliṅga in his Madhainagar copper-plate. He was himself a poet of no mean order. Eleven of his poems have been quoted in the Saduktikārṇāyaṇa and most of them are erotic in character. Govardhanāchārya’s Āryā Saptāśati too is full of erotic verses.

_Sculpture:_

But we find evidence of the most unashamed expression of grossly sensual feelings in the sculptures of Khajuraho and in the Jagannātha temple of Puri. They are definitely vulgar and indecent. O. C. Gangoly in his brilliant paper on the ‘Mithuna in Indian art’ points out the dictum of the Agnipurāṇa which requires that the doorway of shrines should be decorated with mithunas. Dr. Tarapada Bhattacharya in his Vāstavidyā has shown that the injunction can be traced to the Brihatsamhitā of Varāhamihira. But the term mithuna means a pair of lovers only, though Gangoly has translated it as “productive couples” in his edition of the Art of the Chandelas. It does not necessarily signify maithuna or sexual act. O. C. Gangoly has reproduced as many as 33 examples of mithuna depicted in sculptures and paintings from the 2nd century B.C. to the 13th century A.D. Most of these portray a loving couple sitting or standing together. A few represent the lovers in embrace, or a lady sitting on the lap of the lover. Of all the representations of the couples, plate No. 17 of his citation, depicting a couple on the facade of the Durgā temple of Aihole of the sixth century A.D. borders on indecency. Gangoly is forced to concede that “the builder of the Aihole temple, however, did not go to the length of the Orissan artists in picturing his mithunas..... We may trace here the germs of the idea which are developed in excessive ‘vulgarities’ in Orissa and Khajuraho”. It may be pointed out in this connection that erotic sculptures are found in the Durgā temple and they may possibly be due to the Tāntric influence. Dr. Niharraṇjan Ray points out that Sāñchi and Amarāvati knew of mithuna-
subjects, Mathurā was more than conscious of it, and in the “Ellora scene of Śiva and Pārvatī in rapturous yet self-forgetful kissing embrace, the mithuna idea of this sādhanā finds a most creative expression”. But he also notices that whereas in all these examples there was only sensuous suggestiveness, the sculptures of Puri and Konārak depict “sexual acts in the widest possible varieties of poses and attitudes known to the Kāmasūtras.”

Chronologically speaking the Aihole temple couples are followed by the indecent sculptures in the Rājārāṇī temple of Bhuvaneśvara. This temple has been ascribed to the tenth century A.D. The Khajuraho sculptures come next in point of time. The Kandariya temple, the Chitragupta temple and a few other temples at Khajuraho present a large number of couples engaged in actual sexual act. They seem to have been carved with a view to illustrating the sexual postures described in books of erotics like Kāmasūtra and Nāgara-sarvasva. O. C. Gangoly in his recent description in The Art of the Chandelas observes “some of the panels on the Khajuraho temple appear to illustrate these physical postures not strictly called forth by the direction to depict mithunas as sacred symbols. This may be a piece of misapprehension and unconscious piece of exaggeration or a wrong or misguided interpretation of the ślpa-śāstra.”

But he has ignored the working of the forces of Tāntricism which were making themselves perceptible in the tenth and eleventh centuries A.D. Under some such influence Bhoja at the beginning of the eleventh century expanded the simple canon for depicting mithunas into an elaborate rule for presenting figures engaged in reproductive activity. In his Samarāṇa-gaṇasūtradhāra he writes:

Ratikridāparā nāryyo nāyakastu yādritchchhayā
Kinhcit pratanubhir guṭralī kāryāḥ suratalālāsaḥ.

It means that the woman should be depicted as fully engaged in sexual intercourse and the lover, on the other hand, if so
desired, may be shown as desirous of sex play with slightly slim bodies. Some such new canon must have inspired the sculptors of the Rājārāṇī temple of Bhuvanesvara in the tenth century as well as the Kandariya temple at Khajuraho in the eleventh and the Jagannātha temple at Puri in the twelfth century A.D. Some other pieces of sculptures belonging to the same period were engraved under similar influence in Bihar. The door-frame discovered at Belwa, district Saran (c. 1000 A.D.) and kept in the Patna Museum, has got two representations of mithunas in embrace. There is another set of two representations of “man-woman” in embrace in a relief on a door frame lying among the ruins of the temples of Śiva and Lakṣmīnārāyana at Bhagawanpur in the district of Darbhanga. According to an inscription inscribed on the pedestal of Lakṣmīnārāyana, the image belonged to Malladeva, son of Nānyadeva and younger brother of Saṅgadeva who ruled from 1134 A.D. to 1148 A.D.¹²⁴

O. C. Gangoly suggests that as the canons of Śilpaśāstras advise the selection of such sites for temples as have been sanctified by the love of couples, human or animal, and as such sites were not available, “the artists sought to remedy the defect by picturing on the shrines the effigies of loving couples.”¹²⁵ Dr. Tarapada Bhattacharya also quotes a passage from the Samarāṅgasūtradhāra (VIII, 43) stating that the site selected should be “mithunāñäm ratipradah”.¹²⁶ But it must be conceded that none of these texts make it imperative to go to the length which the artists of Khajuraho and Puri did go. The Pāṇḍās of the Puri temple say that the obscene sculptures have been placed with a view to protecting the temple-building from thunder. Such an explanation must have been improvised in the Tāntrik-ridden Orissa of the twelfth century A.D. The beautiful and much more ancient pagodas of Mahābalipuram have absolutely no mithuna figure and yet they have not been struck by thunder. Rothenstein rightly observes: “An element of wantonness does undoubtedly assert itself in art, and we must envisage certain aspects of
mediaeval carving as a part of Tāntric attitude which was characteristic of Indian religious philosophy between the tenth and twelfth centuries." The indecent sculptures of Khajuraho and Puri are all the more objectionable because they have been engraved on the holy temples. These temples were visited not only by the old people in their senile decay but also by thousands of young men and women whose passions could be easily stirred by such scenes. The disastrous consequences of a total absence of control over sexual exuberance as depicted in these temples have been seen again and again in human history.

Marco Polo (C. 1293 A.D.) describes the naked ascetics of Gujarat who ate nothing but a little rice and milk and lived upto an age of 150 or 200 years. He says that those who were inured to the temptations of the flesh were allowed to enter their order and that when a novice sought admission, they had him properly put to the test by getting the temple-girls to try their blandishments on him. But all the same there were many sensual men who wriggled into the fold for the tune of an easy life. Some of these ascetics must have been caricatured in the erotic scenes depicted on the Bhuvanesvara, Puri and Konarak temples in which "the male figure is that of an ascetic with a head shaved all over and a ring of beads in one hand".127

We are not oblivious of the fact that there were hundreds and thousands of people in Northern India in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, who were inspired by the ideals of compassion, liberality, truth, purity, gentleness, peace, bliss, saintliness and self-control as preached in the Dharmashastra. But they worked for their individual salvation without making any earnest effort to improve the moral tone of their contemporary society. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D., we do not find any dynamic personality like Śaṅkara or Rāmānuja, who lived at Kanchipuram and settled at Srirangam, in Southern India.
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Ministry of Education

Government of India,
New Delhi.