

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

(Population figures are as in 1961)

240. Adipur

This village is situated on the bank of the Baitarani, at a distance of about 3 miles from Khiching and 19 miles from Karanjia. According to tradition, it is named after Adi Bhanja who is said to have first come to Adipur from Jaipur in Rajputna. It is said that one brother of Adi Bhanja settled at Jyotipur in Keonjhar, on the bank of the river Baitarani. Here vast relics of temples and sculptures are found like those in Khiching and Benusagar, belonging to Buddhist, Jaina or Hindu culture.

At one time, there were 22 zamindars under the Bhanja-Rajas. Four of them were Bathuris and one Bathuri Mohapatra had his headquarters at Adipur. In early times, the Bathuris were also known by the name of Bathula or Batula. Images of the gods and goddesses worshipped by these people have been disinterred from the ruins of Arjungarh. Relics of a moat also exist here.

Close to this place, 11 Siva lingas have been preserved and they are locally known as 'Ekadasa Rudra' just near these Siva lingas the Khairbhandan river meets the Baitarani and the confluence is known as 'Dumuhani'.

The village lies in Raruan police-station. It has a population of 477 with 242 males and 235 females.

241. Amarda

It is a big village in Baripada subdivision situated at a distance of 37 miles from Baripada to the east. It is connected by bus service throughout the year. There is an ancient tank which is the largest in the district and is said to have been excavated by Balabhadra Bhanja who ruled from 1423 to 1454. There is a Middle English School, a Dispensary, an Agricultural Office and a Grama Panchayat. According to tradition the villagers of Amarda, instead of supplying articles of food, entertained Chaitanya and his followers on their way to Puri with firewood and for this reason the village is called Kathua (wooden) Amarda even to the present day. The Jagannath Trunk Road from Puri to Calcutta was once passing through this village which served as the resting place for all saints, missionaries and travellers for a long time. The place was known as Amardaka Tirtha in early, time when

it was a seat of Matta mayura sect of Saivism. In one mediaeval inscription called Madarda. A large aerodrome was constructed here during the Second World War (1939—1945). The place gained importance as a temporary shelter for displaced persons from East Pakistan when the influx was heavy. The village is in Muruda police-station and has a population of 1,470 with 796 males and 674 females. There is an Inspection Bungalow very close to the village.

242. Badabelakuti

The village is 22 miles from Baripada and 7 miles from Badasahi. The ruins of an old fort and a rampart may be seen in the northern part of this village. On the west of the fort is a Siva linga two and half feet high, called Sitalleswar. It has no Gauri Patta. Several stone images of gods and goddesses are found in a hut situated in front of this Sitalleswar linga. One of them is ten armed Mahisamardini Durga, known among the common people by the name of Budha Chandi (or Buddhist Chandi). On the left is the figure of four armed Vishnu. By the side of the latter is the image of a two-armed goddess known as Kanaka Durga. In the western part of the village, there is an old Siva linga called Lokanath. It has a Gauri Patta. The puja of these deities is performed by the Angirasa Brahmans. There are two more Siva lingas—one high and known as "Hariharara Durga". Another old linga in a hut by the side of this village which was once entertained in an old temple and fragments of stone which once formed part of the temple lie scattered. Several pieces of stones of the shape of Chaitya lie scattered at the outskirts of the village. These are called Bhimakand by the common folk.

The village lies in Khunta police-station and has a population of 489 with 237 males and 252 females.

243. Badadhundu

It is situated on the bank of the river Kharkai on both sides of the road leading to Chainbasa from Bahalda.

There is a mosque, Primary Urdu School and the Grama Panchayat office. The inhabitants are mostly businessmen dealing in ready-made garments and stationery articles. It is an old village inhabited mostly by Mahammedans.

244. Badasahi

Badasahi is 6 miles on the south of Pratappur and 17 miles away from Baripada. The present area was formerly occupied by 4 prosperous villages, viz. Languli, Patapur, Balimundali and Kumarsasan. The area has now become an extensive field and bears vestiges of vast ruins, but the present village is called Badasahi (literally large village). The extensive heaps of ruins, numerous tanks, images of gods and goddesses

pertaining to different religious creeds scattered in various places and the ruins of big temples bear eloquent testimony to the past glory of this village. Old Jain and Buddhist relics, as well as, those belonging to different sects of Hindu religion are found here. It is difficult to ascertain the causes leading to the ruin of this one time prosperous village. An interesting tale developed on the decay of the place and its subsequent rebuilding. The old residents state that there was a Tahsildar's Cutcherey in village Kosali on the east of Badasahi even during the time of Raja Damodar Bhanja. At that time it was a populous village and was under Brahmin influence. Being afraid of Maratha invasion, Raja Damodar fled from his capital to Bamanghaty. The story goes that during the absence of the Raja and the royal family, the State elephant (pata-Hati) became wild and broke his iron chain and found his way from Haripur fort to Badasahi. Shortly before this the Tahsildar managed to bury all the royal treasures underground and fled with his family. Those inhabitants who continued living there got tired of the ravages of the mad State elephant and eventually left the place. Thus Kosali, Balimundali, Kumar-sasan and Patapur became totally deserted. Within a short time of this incident, these prosperous and populous places became dense forests. Maharaja Jadunath Bhanja gave these and several other adjoining villages such as Barapada, etc. to his daughter as her dowry. For this reason, no other member of the royal family made any attempt to settle here. The Officers in the employ of the Raja's daughter did their best to reclaim the jungles and once more the place became habitable. The soil was very fertile and attracted agriculturists who reclaimed all the jungles. Thus gradually the area was converted into a vast agricultural tract. Through the exertions of an old Santal of the place, Brahmins and other respectable Hindus came to live in the northern part of Patapur. Early in the present century at the time of clearing the jungles, the temple of Pasa-Chandi was discovered.

The people of the locality have vague traditions about treasures being hidden in the place. About 500 ft. to the east and 200 ft. to the south of this land are situated two big old tanks called 'Kotibrahmi' and 'Bodhi-Pokhari'. On the outskirts of the village Kosali, north of Kotibrahmi tank, an image of the twenty-third Tirthankara (Parswanath Swami) has been discovered. This stone image seems to be very old. An image of Vishnu has also been found in the village Kosali.

Among the vast ruins of Badasahi, there is a stone temple which stands in the eastern part of the village. The temple, although now in ruins is an object of much interest. It is commonly called the temple of Pasa-Chandi, a grim skeleton figure with eight arms. The original temple was 21ft. 6" high and its base 12 ft. The artistic beauty was

of a high order as evident from the sculptures on the top of the temple. But the plaster having entirely come off, there is now no means of forming an idea of its architectural excellence. The stone temple too indicates the influence of the Dravidian style of architecture. The original image of the goddess Pasa-Chandi was brought to Baripada and in its place a figure (one and half cubics high) of Narasinghi has been installed.

Tradition goes that the temple of the goddess was built by the Bhanja Raja Bikramaditya. The Sasan which was granted here by his youngest son, Prince Balabhadra Bhanja was known among the people as Kumar Balabhadra Sasan. This name was later corrupted to Kumarsasan and later still to Koma-sasan. The ruins of this Kumar sasan still exist in the northern part of Badasahi. Fragments of stone with artistic carvings were found underground. The place holds potentialities for systematic excavation. The place where Kumar Balabhadra Bhanja used to live became famous as Kumar Sali which is now called Kosali and lies a mile to the east of Badasahi. People at one time worshipped Pasa-Chandi of this place as the presiding deity of Badasahi and its neighbouring villages. In the Tantras, she is called Rudra Bhairavi.

On the bank of a large tank in Badasahi is a small figure popularly known as Chandra Sena. The villagers regard Chandra Sena as the Chief deity of the village. In its honour 'Udaparba' or 'Chadaka Puja (hook-swinging festival) is celebrated with great splendour. Every year on the full moon day of 'Baisakha', ten to fifteen thousand people gather at this place. Brahmins are not entitled to perform the Puja. The Dehuris or the priests of the deity who do so are people of the village of a lower class in the old order of caste system.

About 200 yards on the south-east of the temple of Pasa-Chandi there is a very old tank called Bodhi-Pokhari. Half of it has become marshy and is known as Bilgadia. It has now been brought under cultivation. Chandra Sena used formerly to stand on the bank of the tank. The term Bodhi-Pokhari recalls Buddhistic association.

On the left side of Chandra Sena is the image of a goddess with two hands. She is popularly but erroneously called Kalika. She holds a kind of broom-stick peculiar to Mayurbhanj in her right hand and in her left hand a jar. There is the figure of an ass by her side.

There are more than fifty tanks in Badasahi and its neighbourhood. Of these nine are very large. The popular belief here is that these big tanks were excavated five to seven hundred years ago. During the re-excavation of Tala Pokhari, three small swords of the size of daggers

were found. The water of this tank occasionally forms whirlpools in Baishaka or Jaistha after Udarparba. These are clearly perceptible and then fishes die and float on the surface of the water. The popular belief is that this fish mortality is the precursor of the rainy season. Formerly, owing to superstitious belief nobody touched the water of this tank.

Of the presiding deities of the village, Chandra Sena, Kalika and Routani are the chief. Routani is the figure of a goddess with 4 hands seated on a throne. It is a figure of Dharma.

Old manuscripts written on palm leaves are found in many houses. Among them a few Bengali manuscripts were noticed written in Oriya characters. Of these, Satyanarayan of Sankarcharya deserves mention. The manuscript is divided into sixteen palas or chapters. The total number of Slokas is about 5,000.

This village is now inhabited by people of all castes, aboriginal and non-aboriginal.

Rasa Jatra is celebrated on Rasa Purnima day in November with great eclat. During this festival large number of people from different parts of Mayurbhanj assemble here.

It has a Police-station, and a Veterinary dispensary. It is one of the largest weaving centres of the district. It has a population of 1,822 with 935 males and 887 females.

245. Badampahar

It is situated at a distance of 19 miles from Rairangpur, the headquarters of Bamanghaty, and is connected by a good road from Rairangpur and a line of the South-Eastern Railway from Tatanagar. It is 71 miles from Baripada and 56 miles from Tatanagar. It is a mining area opened during the year 1921-22.

The ore of this mine has a distinctive grade. It is light and spongy and sometimes flaky and the iron content averages 56 to 57 per cent. On account of its porous texture, it is easy to smelt.

Here the ore crowns the top and lies in boulders on the flanks of high hills which have core of granite. This mine provides employment for a large number of people. The Tatas have established an M. E. School, a Hospital, a well furnished Club for the labourers and two good Bungalows which serve as Rest Houses for travellers.

It is a big timber depot. All the timber coming from Jashipur is despatched to outside market through this Railway Station. A weekly market sits here on every Sunday which is fed by commodities mainly from Panchpir subdivision. There are six Saw mills, a Forest office, a Post office and a Police-station.

The population of the mining area is 4,332 with 2,283 males and 2,049 females.

246. Bahalda

It is situated at a distance of 62 miles from Baripada and is connected by good roads. It was the old headquarters of Bamanghaty subdivision till 1918 after which the offices have been shifted to Rairangpur. There are a High School, an M. E. School, 3 L. P. Schools and two U. P. Schools managed by the local Grama Panchayat. Besides, there are Forest office, Agriculture office, Civil Supplies office, a Granary, a Veterinary dispensary, a Hospital and a Textile office.

A weekly market sits here on every Sunday in addition to the daily market.

Bahalda is famous for the Inda Festival which is partly financed by Government contribution and partly by the Khichakeswari temple budget. The festival begins on the eighth day of the moon and closes on the day of full moon of Bhadrapada, called Inda Purnima. Thereafter the Inda Mela continues for more than a month. The festival falls in August and September.

Khichakeswari is the presiding deity of the village.

Tassar cloth manufactured in this area is collected here in a centre opened by the Industries Department. Many tassar weavers live in the neighbouring villages. The village has a population of 2,851.

247. Baidipur

A village in Badasahi Police-station of Baripada subdivision. It is important for the find of pre-historic implements, particularly the polished Neo-lithic celts. A big tank close to the village is the spot of various pre-historic finds. It is in this tank that polished stone tools are found along with Neo-lithic pottery.

The population of the village is 303.

248. Balidiha

A village nine miles from Baripada and situated at the foot of the Similipal hills. Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja constructed an Anicut here by bunding up the river Palpala to form a reservoir from which a number of irrigation canals and distributaries have been taken to the neighbouring areas. It has got a Dak Bungalow on the top of hillock with a good view around. The population of the village is 1,241.

249. Bangiriposi

It is situated at a distance of 22 miles from Baripada on the Baripada-Rairangpur Road. It is on the eastern side of the Bidubhandar Ghat which borders the Bamanghaty and Baripada subdivisions. The village itself is the centre for collection of forest produce of the Similipal hill ranges. It is connected with regular bus and train services. There is a Police-station, a Dispensary, an Inspection Bungalow, a High School and a Forest office. The local *hat* sits here every Wednesday.

It has a population of 293 with 149 males and 144 females.

250. Baripada

Baripada lying at Latitude 21° 56' north and Longitude 87°27' east is situated on the bank of the Burhabalanga and is the headquarters of the district of Mayurbhanj. It is connected by light-railway (2'-6" gauge) with Rupsa junction, a station on South-astern Railway. It is also connected with Udala, Rairangpur, Karanjia, Tatanagar and Midnapore by all weather roads. Several fair-weather roads open from here during the dry season.

Before the Bhanja Rulers left Hariharpur and settled here, the place had political importance. It was originally a small village which gradually grew into a town and subsequently became the capital of Mayurbhanj.

The place possesses various objects of antiquarian interest. It has been mentioned by Major Rennell in 1779 A. D. as Burpuddah (see J. Rennell's Bengal Atlas, sheet Nos. VII and IX). It can be gathered from different sources that the place was developed into a town by Maharaja Baidyanath Bhanja Deo. Since then it has passed through successive stages of development and has attained its present position.

According to N. N. Basu the name of the town owes its origin to the fact that the Bauri or Bathuri tribe were the original inhabitants of this place. The name Baripada appears to be a corruption of Bauripada. But no Bauri is traceable now in the town. According to some the name is derived from the peculiar geographical location. Baripada literally means 'the land of water'. The town is surrounded on three sides by the rivers Burhabalanga, Chipat, Jarali and Sarali.

Extensive ruins of a mud fort now known as Bag Samala Gada is traceable to the north-west of the present town. The major portion of this ruined fort is now covered with jungles. Near the fort is to be found the old temple of Ambika Devi which has recently been remodelled. At the time when the temple was built the place was probably in a flourishing condition. A small portion of the jungle has of late

been cleared and houses in ruins are now visible here and there. These relics clearly show that the place was once thickly populated. There is very little doubt that the main fort was built by the Bhanja Rajas who subsequently moved to this place and settled here permanently.

Besides the ruined fort, there is an old temple which is popularly known as the temple of Bada Jagannath. It was built by Raja Baidyanath Bhanja after the style of Kakharua Baidyanath temple of Mantri. It is made of laterite stone with ornamental carvings. Within the enclosure and adjoining the boundary wall of the temple small rooms are to be found all round lying apart from each other. They are dedicated to various gods and goddesses whose images are enshrined therein. In a small room within the temple enclosure is to be found an image of Lokeswara Bodhisattwa (Locally called Anantadeva) with four hands. It is an object of beauty and is made of black chlorite. The existence of this image indicates Buddhistic influence.

Among the other prominent temples in the town are the temples of, Sri Radhamohan, Sri Banthia Jagannath and Sri Chaitanya.

Baripada has been the capital of Mayurbhanj from the beginning of the 19th century. The palace of the Maharaja is the biggest building in the town. The temple of Khichakeswari the presiding deity of the Raj-family is situated inside the palace building. This is believed to be the Goddess of Khiching which was enshrined when the capital was established here. Besides Khichakeswari temple, there is another temple of Lakshmi Narayan Jiu which shows that the royal family was devoted to Vaishnavism as well as to Saktism. In the Durbar hall within the palace all Durbars used to be held during the ex-State administration. The swimming pool which was constructed by the present Maharaja was fitted with all rare fixtures and appliances and is said to be the first of its kind in Orissa. It is no longer used as a swimming pool, but holds the College library. There are three courtyards in the palace. The Durbar hall is on the first floor of the first courtyard. The second courtyard contains the temple of Khichakeswari, the Maharaja's office, the audience hall, and a big pandal on which was performed the famous Chhau Dance. In the third courtyard stands the Lakshmi Narayan temple and the big hall which separates the Ranihanspur (Queen's apartment) covering a very large area & extending up to the bank of the river Burhabalanga. This building now holds the Maharaja Purna Chandra College for which purpose the Government of Orissa purchased the palace from the ex-Ruler.

Next in importance among the building is the Belgaria Palace which was meant during the Durbar administration to accommodate royal guests. It is a big picturesque building situated on a small hillock with a commanding view of the country.

The various educational institutions located in this town include a College, three High Schools (one for girls and two for boys), one Sanskrit tol, one Guru-Training School and a few Primary Schools.

About a hundred yards away from the Maharaja Krushna Chandra High School, are the headquarters of the district administration housing almost all the Government offices and courts. In the main Collectorate building there is a beautiful hall styled as Assembly Hall which housed the Legislative Assembly of the ex-State.

To the extreme south of the town is the Ranibag situated on the bank of the river Burhabalanga. It is a nice garden with fruit and flower trees. It also shelters the monument of the late Queen Maharani Lakshmi Kumari, wife of Maharaja Srirama Chandra Bhanja Deo. In the garden there were toy Railway lines over an area of about three acres where petrol driven engines hauled the toy train. It also once sheltered birds and animals of interest.

Very near the town flows the spring called Baruni at the source of which is the temple of Lord Siva. The famous festival of Sivaratri is observed here with due pomp every year when about 12,000 people congregate.

In front of the Railway Station is the Circuit House called Vishram Bhawan. It is a double storied building with 12 suites of rooms. Adjacent to it stands the Inspection Bungalow of the Public Work Department.

The market is centrally located. To the east of the market is the General Hospital.

The Jail is located to the north-eastern end of the town at a distance of about half a mile from the Government Offices. It has an attached Hospital.

The town has got three Cinema houses. Two of the Cinema houses are located by the side of the market and the other is at the extreme north-eastern end of the town.

The town has all the modern amenities like electricity and protected water-supply.

The library known as Sriram Chandra Pathagar is located in the heart of the town. It contains a good number of rare books. A part of the building houses a museum of archaeological finds.

Car festival, Dasahara, Udarparba are the prominent festivals observed in the town.

The town has a Municipality established since 1905. It is divided into 15 wards and has a population of 20,301 with 11,407 males and 8,897 females.

251. Barhaipani

A beautiful spot in the Similipal hills where the water is falling from a height of 1,308 ft. There is a small village called Barhaipani in the deep Sal jungles. It is at the source of Burhabalanga. The volume of water during the rains is considerable but during summer the stream becomes very thin. There is a Bungalow near the fall.

252. Betnoti

It is an important trade centre of Baripada subdivision and is situated at a distance of 16 miles from Baripada. It is on the Mayurbhanj light Railway line connecting Rupsa and Talbandh. It has a Police Station, a High School, an Inspection Bungalow, a Tahsil Office and a number of rice mills. A large weekly market sits here on Fridays. It is a centre for collection of the surplus rice of the areas coming under Betnoti and Badasahi Police Stations. The place is assuming importance industrially.

The revenue mouza has a population of 404 persons with 212 males and 192 females.

253. Bhimkund

Bhimkund is a large and deep pool of the river Baitarani. It is situated in the vicinity of Booring village in Thakurmunda Police Station. It is 24 miles from Karanjia. A new road from Kendujiani on the 15th mile of Karanjia-Thakurmunda Road has been laid out by Government to Booring. The legend goes that Bhima, the second Pandab, used to take his bath here in this pool when the Pandabas lived in disguise in Biratnagar, the present Kaptipada. Here the Baitarani flows through a gorge in steps forming a series of picturesque rapids until it settles down in the pool called Bhimkund. At one place the gorge is hardly four feet wide in winter. Here the Baitarani disappeared underground to reappear at the Bhimkund pool. In the flood of 1927 the top rock of the tunnel was blown off and the present gorge appeared. Bhimkund is encircled by precipitous stone walls. During Makar festival in mid-January about a thousand persons gather here from various parts of the district and from Keonjhar to take bath on the auspicious day.

254. Bisai

An important village in Bamanghaty subdivision situated at a distance of 32 miles to the north of Baripada. From here the roads

lead to Karanjia on the west of the hills and to Keonjhar. It has an Inspection Bungalow and a Police Station which is situated in Kendulia a mile off the place. There are a dispensary, an M. E. School and a Forest Office. A weekly market sits here on every Saturday.

It has a population of 1,156 with 638 males and 518 females.

255. Booring

The river Baitarani has touched the western border of the Panchpir subdivision near the village Booring. At this place the river-bed is full of rocks. A big *Mela* is held here during Makar Sankranti in January when thousands of people congregate and perform Puja. (See *Bhimkund*).

The village has a population of 342 with 162 males and 180 females.

256. Devagrama

The village lies 12 miles west of Mantri and 30 miles from Bari-pada. It is otherwise called Deogan. The river Sone flows close to this village. Ruins of old temples are seen in the village on the banks of the river.

The place was a centre of Brahmanical influence and abounded with temples and images of different deities. A change in the course of the river might have been the cause of ruin of these temples. The images of Ganesa and Parvati with a Siva Linga in front of them lie neglected near a tree. The image of Chamunda with eight arms on a heap of stones is also found. The sculptural beauty of the goddess and the pedestal around reveal excellent workmanship. Fragments of stone supposed to be part of the ruins of Chamunda temple are still lying in the river-bed.

Tradition attributes the erection of this temple in Devagrama to the king who erected the Kakharua Baidyanath temple but it is more likely that this is earlier than the Kakharua Baidyanath.

The village has a population of 898 with 492 males and 406 females.

257. Dhudhua or Durdha

It is a hillock to the north of Badakhunta in Kaptipada subdivision, 18 miles from Baripada. There is a waterfall here whose sound is heard from a long distance. The name derives its origin from this sound (from 'dhu' 'dhu' sound). The area of the hillock is about 5 acres. To the south of it lies a pool the water of which runs into another pool which overflows into the river Gangahara.

The pool from which the water fall issues a second time is a Gauripatta, which contains a Swayambhu Linga. Its accounts find mention

in a work called *Ganga Bauni Mahatmya*. At the foot of the Pitha, there is a pool called 'Rohini Kunda' or Domani Kunda by the local Santals. Formerly a big *Mela* used to be held here on Baruni day in Chaitra.

258. Dubigada

Three miles to the north-east of Podadiha, in Kaptipada subdivision lies the Dubigada hills. Situated on a high plateau, it once occupied an advantageous position over the surrounding country and commanded an uninterrupted view of the country around. There is no fort now on this hill but there are sufficient traces left to show that at one time a fort existed. There is a lake on the hill containing clear water.

259. Ghatsila and Haladighat

To the east of Dhudhua rises a hill called Ghatsila. Here, in a cave, may be seen the image of a four armed goddess called Lakhai Chandi. She is represented with a goat and a lion under her left and right feet respectively.

Three hundred cubits away from this place lies an oval stone which the people call 'Khuda Putuli'. It is popularly believed that Bhima pressed his knees on this stone, the impressions being still visible on it. Ruins of three brick built temples may be found at three different places at Ghatsila.

Quarter of a mile to the south-east of Ghatsila stands a hillock named Haladighat. According to local tradition Sita stopped here for some time during her exile and prepared turmeric for cooking food for Rama. Hence, it is named Haladighat.

260. Gorumahisani

It is a mining centre situated at a distance of 62 miles from Baripada and 10 miles from Rairangpur, connected with the latter by a motorable road. The South-Eastern Railway serves this mine by a broad gauge line and connects it with Tatanagar which is 40 miles from this place.

The ore crowns the top and lies in boulders on the flanks of high hills which have a core of granite. Very little of the original solid ore has been worked out. Only the boulders and the broken rubbles derived from the solid ore have been mined out on the hill slopes. On top of the hill there is the P. N. Bose memorial consisting of a huge boulder of iron-ore resting on a concrete stand.

This mine provides employment to a large number of labourers of the district and from places outside the district.

The climate is healthy and its surroundings are pleasant. There is a workshop here belonging to the Tata Iron and Steel Company which manufactures simple tools required for work at the site.

There are a Police-Station, Hospital, one L.P. School for Girls, two M.B. Schools, three big Bungalows and a well furnished club. Very near to the mine area, there is an air strip belonging to the TISCO.

Besides the institutions of the TISCO there are many Government offices and a Grama Panchayat office.

The area belonging to the Company is electrified and there is water-supply arrangement in the colonies and in the Company's buildings.

The population of the village (Mine area) is 3,474 with 1,726 males and 1,748 females.

261. Gudugudia

It lies in Panchpir subdivision 17 miles from Jashipur. Being situated on a high altitude this place is comparatively cool. There is an Inspection Bungalow here. It has a beautiful natural scenery which attracts visitors from outside during summer. There is an experimental garden of the Forest Department. Plantation of oranges, cinchona, tea, etc. are tried in the neighbouring area.

262. Haldia

The village is situated at a distance of 10 miles from Baripada on a diversion from the Baripada-Rairangpur Road. It has a big water reservoir which comes under medium irrigation scheme. It is a place of natural beauty. There is an Inspection Bungalow close to the reservoir.

263. Haripur

A place in Baripada subdivision, situated 10 miles to the south-east of Baripada. Haripur was the capital of Mayurbhanj before the headquarters shifted to the present town of Baripada. The vast ruins afford ample and interesting material for antiquarian research.

Hariharpur is the correct name of present Haripur. Maharaja Harihar Bhanja founded the town in 1322, Saka, corresponding to 1400 A. D. The place was called Hariharpur after his name and the headquarters shifted there from Khiching.

The favourable geographical situation and charming surroundings were probably responsible for selection of this place as capital. But close examination of the ruins that surround the village and its neighbouring hill fort called Kusumia or Banakati Gada, leads to the conclusion that it was an important place even before the time of Harihar Bhanja.

Hariharpur finds prominent mention in the writings of the Vaishnava poets of Gaudiya school as it is associated with Sri Chaitanya who passed through this place on his way to Puri.

Hariharpur as capital of the Bhanja Rajas had to face the onslaught of the Muslim invaders from Bengal from time to time. The hill recesses nearby, provided shelter for the royal family and the paiks of Mayurbhanj could repel the invaders on account of the strategic position and the heavy fortification of the place. Daud Khan, the Sultan of Bengal is known to have taken refuge here when he was attacked by the powerful army sent by Emperor Akbar.

Raja Baidyanath Bhanja, who was a devoted Vaishnava built here a magnificent brick temple in honour of his tutelary god Rasika Raya. This temple now broken in most parts and overgrown with vegetation, is still regarded as a vestige of the glorious deeds of the Bhanjas. Nowhere in Orissa is found a brick built temple of such superior workmanship.

A little to the north of the courtyard of the said temple lies the ruins of the Ranihanspur. It formed the south-western portion of the palace and consisted of the apartments with adjoining bath rooms. No trace now exists of the inner apartments.

To the east of this and on the north of the courtyard of the Rasika Raya temple, once stood the Durbar hall and the retiring chamber studded in front by sculptured stone columns and arches of fine designs. A portion of the floor of the old rooms and the wells have recently been unearthed.

A few specimens of earthen pots were found within the niches of some apartments. But only a small portion of the spacious palace has since been excavated.

To the north-west of the palace and behind the old court stands the temple of Radhamohan. This is a plain rectangular block of building made of bricks and covered with lime plaster.

The Rasika Raya temple stood facing the inner apartments and the beautiful workmanship of its walls offers a contrast to the austere and simple look of the Radhamohan temple. The latter has not only lost its roofs but also a large portion of it is in ruins. As a work of art, it is far inferior to that of the Rasika Raya.

On the south-east of the temple of Rasika Raya and outside the ort enclosure lies the temple of Jagannath. The image of Jagannath which was formerly being worshipped in the temple has now been brought to the neighbouring village Pratappur. The general belief is that this temple was constructed by Raja Harihar Bhanja in imitation of the Gaudiya style of architecture.

There is a stone image of Mahisamardini Durga known by the name Gadachandi, in the bamboo thicket of Barapada, a place situated close to Haripur.

The goddess was formerly enshrined on the south side of Haripur Ghat.

There is a small stone image of goddess Kota Basini at present known as Kotasini, standing by the side of the image of Mahisamardini in the aforesaid bamboo grove of Barapada.

264. Itagada

The thick jungle known as Badakaman lies to the west of Pathuriagaon in Kaptipada subdivision. Ruins of a large brick-built fort called Itagada are to be found in this jungle. The walls of the old castle still exist. This was built entirely of large bricks. The forest region is still dense and is frequented by wild animals.

265. Jamda

Situated at a distance of 10 miles from Bahalda, it is a big village, mainly inhabited by Adibasis. There is an Ashram School for educating Adibasi boys. There is a Math here dedicated to Sri Sri Gopal Jiu.

266. Jashipur

Jashipur is 60 miles from Baripada on the Baripada-Karanjia Road passing via Bisai. There is an M. E. School, a Police-Station, a Forest office, and an old Math. It has a semi-urban atmosphere and is the centre for collection of timber, fuel and other forest produce of the neighbouring Similipal hill areas. The timber and the sleepers collected here are exported to outside markets via Badampahar Railway Station. It may be called the timber town of Mayurbhanj. It is a revenue collection centre. From here pucca roads lead to Karanjia, Baripada, Raruar, Rairangpur and Gudugudia.

Jashipur Math is at present the biggest institution in Panchpir subdivision. No papers are, however, available to throw light on its date of establishment. It is understood that the records (Madalapanji) which were in the Math have been destroyed by fire and floods. According to the late Mahanta Balakram Das, it was founded some time after the Bhanja Rulers shifted their capital from Adipur to Haripur.

As for its origin, there is a legend that when the Bathuri Zamindar Jashu Digar of Jashipur was bathing in the river Bhandan he saw two Chautis (Receptacles made of leaves) floating nearby with two 'Salagrams'. He extended his hands to catch these Chautis and caught one by his right hand. But when he stretched his left hand for the other Chaut

it sank down. It is said that the two Salagramms represented Lakshmi and Narayan. The Zamindar got Narayan but lost Lakshmi. However, he installed the Salagram thus obtained under the name of Sri Sri Raghunath Jiu. The late Mahanta Balakram Das describes his fact in his Itihasa, but he further states that Babaji Lachman Das, the first Mahanta of Jashipur Math brought Sri Sri Raghunath Jiu from Rajnagar Math in Keonjhar. Maharaja Trivikram Bhanja granted and in favour of the Math in 1226 Fasli (1819 A. D.).

A few other Sanads were also granted in favour of the aforesaid Math during the period from 1226 to 1260 Fasli. The then Mahanta having applied to Maharaja Sri Jadunath Bhanja Deo for a consolidated Sanad of all grants, such a Sanad was granted in 1852 A. D. Later Maharaja Srinath Bhanja Deo also granted a Sanad in favour of this Math in the year 1864 A. D. A reference to these Sanads reveal that they were Debottar grants.

Jashipur is an old village. There is an old fort of Bathuri Zamindars. The fort is situated on a small hillock. The descendants of these Bathuri Zamindars are living at present at this place. To the north of this fort flows the river Khair and to the south of it the river Bhandan. These two rivers meet at a distance of half a mile to the west of this fort.

The population of this place is 2,035 with 1,024 males and 1,011 females.

267. Jharadihi

The village Jharadihi is situated at a distance of 7 miles from Bahalda and is connected by a pucca road. There is a railway station here on the line from Badampahar to Tatanagar. There is an M. E. School a Post office and a Forest office. A weekly market sits here on every Thursday. There is an asbestos mine situated about 3 miles from this place.

The population of the village is 346.

268. Jhinkpada

It is situated on the road from Udala to Kaptipada. Here is the story current almost of the same as that of Anasuya, one of the famous 'Pativratas' of Puranas. The Saint who tortured locusts appears to have finally wished that they should be transformed into Siva Linga, the Jhinka to be Linga of diamond and Jhintika the Sakti. This was granted. Since then there exists the Siva Linga called Jhinkteswar (or Jhinkeswar as is now called). Those having no children worship the deity on the first Monday of each month.

Though first Monday of each month is a very auspicious day for the purpose, the first Monday of Magha is considered to be the best and on this day three to four thousand people, mostly females, assemble here. There is a Bamphi (well) nearby where the devotees take their bath.

269. Kanthi Math

A village about 30 miles from the district headquarters on the eastern border near Basta Railway Station. Here is located a big Math with the temple of Sri Chaitanya.

It has a population of 145 persons only.

270. Kaptipada

Situated at a distance of 32 miles from Baripada to the south-west of Udala, it has an M. E. School, a dispensary and a palace of the ex-Sarbarakar. It was the capital of the Raja of Kaptipada which is said to have belonged to the Birata family. Since long the family ceased to have any ruling power and was continuing as a Sarbarakar under the Mayurbhanj Raja. The estate has recently been abolished and has been taken over for management by Government. Durga Puja is celebrated here with great pomp and splendour during Dasahara.

A historical account of the Kaptipada family is given in Chapter II.

It has a population of 1,695 with 845 males and 850 females.

271. Karanjia

It is the headquarters of Panchpir subdivision, and lying at a distance of 75 miles from Baripada it is connected with it by a good road. There are a Dak Bungalow, a Post office, a High School, a Hospital, a Sub-Jail, and various subdivisional offices of the Government.

Karanjia was the seat of the old zamindars of Bathuri community. At present there remains a hamlet named Gadasahi in the vicinity of Karanjia where the old zamindar families are living and enjoying a good area of Lakharaj lands. Karanjia is well known in this district for the Dol festival of the presiding deity Sri Sri Syamaraya Mahaprabhu of Karanjia Math, which is celebrated generally in the month of Falguna with grandeur. It is managed by a Committee of non-official members. A manager appointed by the Committee is entrusted with the arrangement for running the festival and for keeping its accounts. The cost of the festival is met from a fund called Dol Fund, contributed by the tenants at the rate of one and half pies per rupee of the land revenues throughout the Panchpir subdivision. On behalf of this deity nine other deities of this subdivision are invited on this occasion and the festival begins from Trayodasi prior to Dol Purnima. There are permanent pandals (Mandap) in the Dol field one for each deity. Dol Mela continues for a week. More than four thousand people assemble here on this occasion.

It is a big village with a population of 2,852.

[78 B. of R.—60]

272. Kesari

This place is on the bank of the river Baitarani. Here the river passes through a narrow stony gap. There is a pool in the shape of a well with a small hole underneath by the side of this water passage. During Makar Sankranti Mela, people dive into the pool and come up through this hollow with a hope that the previous sins will be washed away. This *mela* sits for a day only. A large number of people gather and take their bath in the pool as well as in the river.

273. Kesna

It is situated near Khiching in Panchpir subdivision and is famous for black and green stone out of which various fancy utensils are made by the local sculptors.

274. Khiching

A village 16 miles north-west of Karanjia with which it is connected by a fair-weather road. It is 91 miles from Baripada and 42 miles from Badampahar railway station. A group of temples and other archaeological remains belonging to medieval period are of great interest. The name Khiching is derived from Khijjina Kotta which was the capital of Khijjina mandala. Khijjina mandala was ruled by the kings of the Bhanja dynasty the founder of which is said to be one Birabhadra who is also called Adi Bhanja. According to tradition he was born of the egg of a pea-hen and was brought up by the sage Basistha. In the line of Adi Bhanja was born Kottabhanja. Kottabhanja's son Digbhanja and the latter's son Ranabhanja constructed magnificent temples and beautified the capital town. The ruins of the ancient city extend far beyond the limits of the modern village from the bank of the Khairbhandan on the north to that of the Kantakhair on the south. These two hill streams meet below the site and their combined stream discharges its waters into the Baitarani 3 miles below. About 5 miles to the north of Khijjina lies Kolhan in Singbhum district of Bihar and to the right of the Baitarani stretches the Keonjhar district of Orissa. From the geographical position it appears that Khijjina was at one time the capital of a principality comprising the present Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts and a part of Singbhum district. A discussion of archaeological ruins of Khiching finds place in Chapter II. The presiding deity of the place is Kichakeswari (Khijjingeswari) the family goddess of the Ruling chiefs of Mayurbhanj.

The site was first visited by Lt. Tickell some time before 1840 and after that by Archaeologist Begler between 1874 and 1876. By that time the main temple which was in ruins was known as Khandia Deul and the area was strewn with images and broken pieces of temples. The

Durbar Government paid attention to the reconstruction of the broken temples in 1924 and it was decided to build a new temple for Kichakeswari on the site of Khandia Deul. The work started in 1925 and was completed in 1934. The present temple is 75 feet in height and entirely reconstructed by local masons with the old materials. Every year a big *mela* is held here during the Sivaratri festival when a large number of pilgrims gather to worship Kichakeswari and Nilakantheswara Siva close to the temple compound. There is a museum where images of various gods and goddesses belonging to the medieval period as well as pre-historic tools have been preserved.

275. Khunta

This is a big village in Baripada subdivision situated on the eastern border of the district. It is one mile away from Basta Railway station. There is a big temple of Raghunath Jiu here with a Math. A *mela* sits here on the day of Pausha Purnima. It is a Block headquarters.

It has a population of 176 persons.

276. Khunta (Kaptipada)

Sixteen miles to the south-east of Baripada this is an important village. To the south-west of the Dak Bungalow here, brick ruins of an ancient fort are found. The fort was formerly called Chhotara or Chhotarao Dada. Tradition says that from this place Chhotrao, a scion of the Bhanja Raj family defended his kingdom against the repeated attacks of the enemies. The place was once deserted, and has only in recent times been reinhabited. It is now a prosperous village with a Police-station, an M. E. School and various Departmental offices of the Government.

277. Koinsari

About 28 miles from Baripada is Koinsari a village in Kaptipada subdivision. This village was known as Biratpur, being the capital of the Birata Kings. The ruins of this ancient capital are still known as Koinsari gada. The river Devanadi flows north and east of Koinsari gada. To the south-east runs the river Sone and on the west extends a moat. The two rivers meet at the entrance of this old fort. Amidst the ruins of the latter, people point out the remains of the ancient Kutchery, the palace and the houses of the Babuans and the temples of Siva and Kanaka Durga. Two Babuan families of the Birata Bhujanga dynasty still live at Koinsari. Now reduced to poverty they take pride in being descendants of Bhujanga Kshatriyas. The village has a population of 743 persons.

278. Koolialam

It is a big village near Samibruksha and is situated on the bank of the Kusabhadra. It has a big Math dedicated to Gopinath Jiu.

It has a population of 476 persons.

279. Krushnachandrapur

It is situated at a distance of 9 miles from Baripada on Baripada-Balasore Road. One mile to the north of it, is a place called Nangalkata, where is located a big Roman Catholic Church.

Its population is 724.

280. Kuamara

It is a big village in Kaptipada subdivision having a Math dedicated to Nrusingha Gopal Jiu. The M. E. School here, an old institution, has since been converted to a High School. There is a tank in this village which is very big and is called Krushna Sagar. According to popular belief there is a water nymph here in this tank who grants boons.

It has a population of 997 persons.

281. Kuldiha

Situated at a distance of 5 miles from Rairangpur the place was noted for its defunct China Clay Factory which produced varieties of crockery. A weekly market sits here on every Monday. There is a railway station near this place.

It has a population of 645.

282. Kulgi

A place in Bamanghaty subdivision, is inhabited mostly by the patras who produce very good tassar products, including saris, dhotis, kantias, drills for shirts and coats.

It has a population of 2,019 persons.

283. Kuliana

A village in Baripada subdivision situated at a distance of 11 miles from Baripada. It has one M. E. School, a Police station, a Forest Office and Agricultural Office. A big weekly market sits here on every Sunday. In Kuliana proper and in the neighbouring villages of Kalabadia, Kcilisuta, Nuabari, Pratappur, Kendudiha, Sandim, Brahmanagaon, Dudhamara, Patihinga, Pariakuli and Mundhabani, Palaeolithic artifices have been found. Various stone implements have been discovered in these villages in course of investigation. A separate brochure has been published by the Calcutta University on excavations in Kuliana.

284. Kuradiha Gad

Kuradiha is situated at a distance of 29 miles from Baripada and about 5 miles to the east of Mantri. Here there are extensive ruins of an old fort called Kuradiha gada. The date of its construction has not yet been ascertained. In form it was octagonal with eight rooms, one at each corner. The size of the bricks used in this fort is $9'' \times 6'' \times 2''$. Besides the brick-built rooms, there are to be found on its northern side the ruins of one built of stone. In the centre there is a beautiful Bamphi (big well) with stone pavements. This Bamphi is $15' \times 15'$ in size and has a flight of 26 steps, each being 2 cubits broad. On the left side of the steps, there is a stone platform on the northern edge of the well. It is said that here the Rajas and the gentry of the locality assembled in the evening and played chess and used the spacious platform as recreation ground. There was only one entrance in front of the platform. If this were closed the place became perfectly safe from the attacks of the enemies. It is said that formerly there was a stone canopy over this platform which no longer exists. On the eastern side was the main gate. A stone temple of Gada-Chandi once stood here. Though it has now disappeared, a Kalasa belonging to the broken temple has been placed to mark the site of old Gada-Chandi. When the fort of Mantri fell into the hands of the Marathas, Raja Damodar Bhanja hastened to Kuradiha gada with his troops; but owing both to the treachery of his own General, as well as, to the unscrupulous conduct and the military strategy of the Marathas, he was compelled to leave the fort. He had stored up there a large quantity of rice so that he might be able to hold out for a long time. Before leaving the fort, however, he is said to have set fire to the stock.

After the flight of Damodar Bhanja the Marathas demolished the fort of Kuradiha. Heaps of bricks and stone are to be found on all sides. These are the relics of the fort. The place has now become covered with jungle. The water of the Bamphi is still very clear and is used by the people of the neighbouring villages for drinking purposes. On the south-eastern side of the fort, there is another tank which is overgrown with dense woods. It has a flight of stone steps. But its water is not fit for use. There is a big village adjoining the fort inhabited by both tribal and non-tribal people.

285. Kuting or Kutling

Kuting or Kutling, a very ancient place, is situated at a distance of 32 miles from Baripada and is surrounded on all sides by hills. The ruins of many ancient temples and several Siva Lingas are found in this spot. It is said that the name of Kutling (of which Kuting a contraction) originated from the circumstances of a countless number

of Siva lingas having been found here. On three sides of the village flows the river Devanadi while on the fourth is the fort near which the river Sone and Devanadi meet.

It has a population of 780.

286. Kanpur

A village on the eastern border of Mayurbhanj about 30 miles from Baripada. Famous for the Math of Syamananda, it is situated on the old pilgrim route.

Its old name Narasingpur finds mention in Khan-i- Dauran's accounts and in the 'Rasikamangal'.

287. Lakshmiposi

It is situated at a distance of 7 miles from Jamda in Bamanghaty subdivision. The place is important for the brass ware made by the local Thattaris (Bell-metal smiths).

288. Lulung

A place in Baripada subdivision situated to the south-west of Baripada. It is noted for its natural beauty being surrounded on three sides by hills of the Similipal ranges. There is a Rest Shed at the foot of a hill. Fine stone utensils are available here.

290. Machhla Math

Situated in Pir Taldandi, some images of Siva and many other gods and goddesses were excavated here. There is a Bamphi (big well) named Arjundiha near the Math. A *mela* sits here during Sivaratri.

291. Mahuldiha

A small village about 2 miles from Kaptipada. It is notable for its association with activities of the great terrorist leader Jatin Mukherjee, popularly known as Bagha Jatin, who had his secret headquarters here in 1915. Bagha Jatin was for sometime working in the Bengal Secretariat. As he was not on good terms with the authority he resigned Government service and joined the revolutionary party in 1913. He organised the terrorist society in Bengal to fight against the British Government. The outbreak of the first World War offered opportunities to the terrorists for getting foreign help in their fight against the British. Bagha Jatin who was organising armed revolution in India, found the Province of Bengal unsuitable for working out his mission and selected the forest clad village of Mahuldiha in the interior of Mayurbhanj for his terrorist activities. Manindranath Chakravarti, a Bengali resident of Kaptipada, gave him a piece of homestead land measuring about 2 Mans 13 Gunths, in that

village where he built his hut* This remote village was visited from time to time by many terrorist leaders notable among whom were Debiprasad Ray and Rashbehari Bose. Bagha Jatin was directing his revolutionary activities from this village by keeping contact with the terrorist society in Calcutta and other parts of Bengal through Saileswar Basu who had opened a small shop in Balasore town under the name Balasore Emporium where he was apparently dealing in bicycle parts and was doing cycle and watch repairing. The Balasore Emporium was suspected by the Criminal Investigation Department to have some connection with an armed robbery at Howrah station in 1915. The Emporium was raided early in the morning of 4th September, 1915 by an official party consisting of Charles Tegart, Commissioner of Calcutta Police, Bird, the Assistant of the Commissioner, N. Denham of Criminal Investigation Department, Kilby, the District Magistrate, Balasore, the Superintendent of Police and one Reader Sub-Inspector of Police. But nothing of importance could be found inside the shop. The party found a piece of paper on the floor on which was written the word 'Kaptipada', and after cross examination they could come to conclusion that the shop-keeper had association with some people residing at Kaptipada. The official party then proceeded towards Kaptipada without delay and reached the Kaptipada Rest Shed by 8 P. M. Jatin Mukherjee could know of their arrival at Kaptipada and immediately decided to leave the place with his associates. Manindranath Chakravarti persuaded them not to leave Kaptipada, but to hide somewhere in the neighbouring jungle for the time being. But they considered the place insecure and left for Calcutta before it was too late.

The next morning large number of people gathered round the Rest Shed as the sudden visit of European Officers with a number of elephants had created a commotion in the locality. The official party could know from the people that one Bengali Sadhu whom they regarded as Guru was residing in the village Mahuldiha with some of his trusted disciples. They further learnt that the Sadhu had a Pujagar where he with his disciples used to perform Puja. He was very often going deep into the neighbouring jungle for Shikar when the people were requested not to come to the jungle lest they would meet any accident. The official party soon came to conclusion that the Bengali Sadhu of Mahuldiha could be no other than Jatin Mukherjee. The party immediately proceeded towards the village on elephants, but found the rendezvous completely deserted. There were signs of hurried escape. Some clothes were left disorderly in one room and in another some books, manuscripts and topographical maps were left scattered on the floor. In the courtyard there was a

* Vide Cadastral Survey Map (1936-37), Plot No. 412/1.

pit filled with sand where the party were doing physical exercises. Not being able to get further information about Jatin and his associates, the official party returned to Balasore in the afternoon that day.

Bagha Jatin and his friends were attempting for an escape towards Calcutta. They mistook the route to Baripada as the trunk road to Calcutta and while proceeding hurriedly with suspicious look they drew attention of the village people who naturally were curious about them. Some villagers teased them, and even followed them on the road. They threatened the pursuers with their pistols and at one time while so threatening to scare them away an accidental shot was fired as a result of which one Raju Mohanty fell down dead. The police got information of this accident and chased the culprits with the help of the villagers. Bagha Jatin and his party being very much tired concealed themselves behind a big ant hill on the bank of a tank. There was exchange of fire between the police and Jatin's party. Chittapriya received bullet wound at the jaw and died on the spot. Jatin and Jyotish got seriously wounded. Manoranjan and Niren were captured. Bagha Jatin died in the Balasore Hospital the next day. Subsequently the three surviving accused Jyotish, Manoranjan and Niren were tried. Jyotish was sentenced to transportation for life and the other two were sentenced to death by hanging. Manindranath Chakravarti of Kaptipada who gave land to Jatin to reside with his associates at Mahuldiha was confined to jail at Baripada for nine years. He was released in 1923, but was kept under Police surveillance for five years more.

292. Mantri

Mantri is situated seven miles to the south-east of Badasahi and 24 miles from Baripada. The place is well known throughout Orissa for the temple of its presiding deity, Kakharua Baidyanath. The people here were required to offer three *manas* of paddy to the deity, a practice not yet altogether given up. The name Manatraya or Manatri (literally three *mana*) is said to have originated in this way.

Thousands of people come here from distant parts to present offerings to the deity. During Sivaratri, jattras are held in honour of this god. Nearly 10 to 15 thousand pilgrims assemble in this festival and give offerings to the temple.

Tradition says that a Raja of the Soma Vamsa was attacked with leucoderma; his whole body being depigmented with white patches, he was called 'Kakharua'. From the fact that the Raja's disease which gave him the look of a Kakharu (water melon) was cured by Baidyanath, the god came to be called Kakharua Baidyanath.

By the side of the above temple there is an old reservoir. It is called the Kundi or Kunda. Water is to be found in this Kunda throughout the year and the place is connected with the river Gangahara. Gangahara and the Kundi surround the Baidyanath Kshetra on three sides. The Kundi is very deep. The architectural design and workmanship of the temple are that of the 15th or 16th century A. D. We also find that in the Madala Panji of Jagannath temple mention is made of a Raja named Kakharua. W. W. Hunter has probably misread it as Katharua. According to the Panji the Raja who reigned from 1454 to 1456 was assassinated by his Minister, Govinda Bidyadhar, who having murdered Raja Kakharua, and the whole royal family secured the throne for himself. At Managobindapur, which is only a mile to the east of Mantri extensive ruins of a castle are still to be seen. People believe that this castle was built by Govinda Bidyadhar who probably called himself Managovinda on coming to the throne. The descendants of Managovinda are now living in a village called Tentulimunda, 4 miles to the south of Mantri. It is said that they have in their possession the copper plate grants of Govinda Bidyadhar.

The Baidyanath temple is divided into three parts: Natamandira Jagamohana and Mula Mandira.

There were some inscriptions in the Kakharua Baidyanath temple attached to the temple wall. According to the Pandas of the place, Pruthinath Bhanja, the youngest brother of Jadunath Bhanja, while building the Natamandira had the stone inscriptions plastered over so as to completely obliterate them. He is also said to have seized the copper plate grants and had them removed from the place.

Many Sanskrit and Oriya manuscripts are to be found in the houses of these Pandas.

This temple is picturesque in appearance. It attracts travellers from long distances. There are some erotic scenes on three sides of the Mula-mandira. On the spire of the temple there is a Trisula (trident) of Siva and on the Mohana there are beautiful images of various gods and goddesses. A mile to the east of the temple is the river Gangahara. Devotees after bathing in the river come to worship in the temple.

There are remains of an ancient fort about half a mile to the west of the temple. Tradition has it that Ramchandra Bhanja Raja of Mayurbhanj constructed it and lived in it for sometime. It is further stated that adjoining it there was once a big town, and that at one time both the fortresses and the town were thickly populated.

A number of pucca roads lead from this village joining Badasahi in the north-west, Betnoti in the north-east, Kuamara in the west and Baisinga in the east. There is a police out-post and one Government granary at this place.

The village has a population of 1,220.

293. Meghasani

One of the chief mountain peaks in Mayurbhanj district situated in 20° 28' north and 86° 7' east; its height is 3,824 ft. There was a Dak Bungalow close to the summit. Only the walls are standing. It is a place with excellent natural beauty.

294. Mulapal (Ratanpur)

It is situated in Panchpir subdivision on the banks of Salandi and at the foot of a hill. Ruins of the ancient fort belonging to Zamindar of Ratanpur Pargana are traced here. At present there remains a mound surrounded by jungles, probably on the ruins of the old fort. A furious battle is said to have been fought here between the ruler of Ratanpur and Gangeswar Dev, King of Puri as described by poet Radhanath Rai, in his epic 'Parvati'. But there is no evidence of such a battle having been fought. On the other hand, Chodaganga Dev, the founder of the Ganga rule in Utkala fought the Kalcharuis of Ratnapur in Madhya Pradesh and was defeated by them. The water of Salandi is said to contain health-giving properties.

The deity Sri Dadhibaman Jiu at present in Digdhar village was previously presiding there at Ratanpur. The ruler of Ratanpur was of Bhuyan community. At present his families are enjoying Lakharaj lands.

It has a population of 308.

295. Muruda

A big village situated on the bank of the river Jambhira. There are a police-station, an M. E. School, a dispensary, a Grama Panchayat, a Forest Office, and an Inspection Bungalow. Population 1,243.

296. Pathuriagada

Situated two miles to the west of Kutling in Kaptipada subdivision, it is surrounded on the west by the river Devanadi, on the east by a channel called Raktianal, on the south by another channel and on the north by a vast moat. The place is covered on all sides by stone walls, which probably accounts for its being named Pathuriagada. A large and spacious flight of stone steps may still be seen on the bank of

Devanadi. Extensive ruins of brick-built walls are still visible on all sides. Mounds of old brick debris are found in many places round this fort. In course of excavations, a crucible for melting gold was discovered here.

297. Pedagadi

This is situated at a distance of six miles from Podadiha and four miles from Udala. The place is famous for the temples of Nrusingha and Jhadeswar Siva. The village is best known for having skilled blacksmiths who can manufacture light arms including swords and Bhujalis of excellent quality. Population 1,122.

The village was a centre of Sanskrit learning. More than a hundred years ago, two distinguished scholars, Basudeva Tripathy and Dasarath Misra, lived in this village.

298. Pratappur

Pratappur is 11 miles to the south-east of Baripada and is only 6 miles from Krushnachandrapur station. This place is bounded on the south and west by the river Burhabalanga.

Pratappur was formerly called Ramchandrapur after the name of Ramachandra Bhanja Deo who founded it. The place, which is only a village now, was once a flourishing town and its date of foundation was much earlier to that of Hariharpur. A dilapidated temple of Dadhibaman and an indigo factory both founded by Maharaja Jadunath Bhanja Deo are amongst the old relics of the place. At one time it yielded a good crop of indigo. There is a small hut in which the images of Jagannath, Dadhibaman and Mahaprabhu Chaitanya are worshipped.

An interesting tradition about the advent of these deities in Pratappur are current among the local Pandas. Raja Prataprudra, the far famed monarch of Orissa was a devoted follower of Chaitanya, and when the latter was to leave Orissa with a view to visit Brundaban, the Raja had an image of Chaitanyadev made of neem wood. He wanted to keep this image with him, and derive some solace during the absence of his spiritual master. When, however, Chaitanya at last left Orissa, the Raja took the images of Dadhibaman and Chaitanya with him and started for Brundaban. On reaching Pratappur known at that time as Ramchandrapur, the king fell seriously ill and feeling that his end was drawing near, he appointed 54 Pandas for the worship of the two images. He also made an endowment of a property yielding an income of Rs. 2,000 a year for the purpose. After the death of Raja Prataprudra Dev, the name of the village was changed to Pratappur in honour of the death of the illustrious Raja and it has since been known by that name. The construction of the temple with these images was commenced by the then Bhanja Raja, but when completed, local tradition says that the temple

was destroyed by Kalapahada. The images were removed secretly to the fort of Hariharpur in order to be saved from the ruthless hands of the iconoclast. When Hariharpur had again to be deserted on account of Maratha raids during the reign of Damodar Bhanja Deo, the images were brought back to Pratappur and Raja Jadunath Bhanj Deo subsequently had a temple erected there for Dadhibaman. The other two images were afterwards placed in it. Of the 54 Pandas appointed for their worship, the descendants of one only have survived.

Hundreds of pilgrims assemble here to celebrate the birth anniversary of Chaitanya on the Dol Purnima. On this occasion, they sing the name of Hari day and night without stop. On the Makar Sankranti day a festival is held in honour of Dadhibaman which is attended by hundreds of devotees. Population of the village is 960.

299. Rairangpur

Rairangpur, the headquarters of Bamanghaty subdivision is situated at a distance of 53 miles from Baripada on the Baripada-Tatanagar Road. It consists of 8 villages namely, Baidaposi, Mahuldiha, Kuchaibudi, Ichinda, Takuranibeda, Amladuba, Pichhītaghati and Rairangpur. It has a High School, Middle School for girls, a Subdivisional hospital, a Veterinary dispensary, and many other Subdivisional office buildings. It has become the seat of Subdivisional office since 1917, soon after the suppression of the Santal Meli.

On account of its growing importance, there is a Post & Telegraph office, a Police Wireless station and a Pigeon Service station. It is connected by a broad gauge railway line with Tatanagar and Badampahar. There is a Railway station here.

The industrial importance of this place is gradually growing. It is mainly inhabited by businessmen coming from within and outside the district.

For convenience of the outsiders, there are two Dharmasalas in the town. Besides, there is an Inspection Bungalow and a Rest house maintained by the Government.

A branch of the Mayurbhanj State Bank was functioning here since 1938. It is a flourishing business centre being in close proximity to the three iron mines, viz., Gorumahisani, Sulaipat and Badampahar, the main feeders of the TISCO.

A vanadium factory was established here as large titaniferous vanadium ore deposits were found in the Bamanghaty subdivision.

There is a well furnished club which was constructed through Public effort. Besides, there is a Cinema hall.

Durga Puja festival is observed here with great pomp for a period of seven days. Dramas, operas and Chhau dances are performed by the people on that occasion.

There is an old temple of Siva which now stands in a dilapidated condition. A new temple has very recently been constructed by its side. Uda Jatra or Chaitra Parba and Sivaratri or Jagar Jatra are the main festivals of this temple.

There is a Math here dedicated to Sri Raghunath Jiu. It was established by a Sadhu and is now being managed by the Government. It is maintained by the income from the lands allotted for the purpose as well as the voluntary contribution of the public known as 'Pahikia'. The temple is kept neat and clean having a good garden, a well and a granary.

The town has a population of 8,119. It is next to Baripada in population and is the second town in the district.

300. Rajabasa

Situated at a distance of 6 miles from Baripada to the east. There is landing strip constructed during the *Durbar* regime.

301. Ranibandh

Three miles to the west of Badasahi lies the village of Ranibandh

There was a stone fortress at this place and some twelve tanks are situated on all its sides and one in the middle. On the northern border of the latter, ruins of a very old Siva temple are to be found. Lying scattered on all sides of the tank are carved stones some of which are fine specimens of old architectural designs and workmanship. On all sides of the tank runs a stone pavement. On the outskirts of this village, two Buddhist images are noticed.

The local people believe that many images of gods and goddesses are lying buried here which may be brought to light by excavation.

302. Raruan

A big village situated on the banks of Bhandan river at a distance of 16 miles from Karanjia to its north-west. There are a Forest office, an M. E. School and a Police-station.

Maharaja Basuli Bhanja Deo accepted his first wife from Ganga dynasty and the second wife from Kadamba dynasty. He got two sons from his two wives on the same day, the son of the second wife being older by some minutes. Hence the question arose as to how the two sons would be named. At last the son of the second wife was known as Bada Kuanr. Bada Kuanr's families subsequently shifted to Raruan and lived there. Basuli Bhanja died at Puri and

Tikait Jagannath Bhanja Deo after marriage with the daughter of Gajapati Prataprudra settled at Haripur. The present Kshatriyas who now live at Raruan claim to be descendants of Bada Kuanr. The population of the village is 2,177.

303. Samibruksha

Two miles to the south of Podadiha is seen the peak of a hill known among the people as Samibruksha. The hill is about 500 ft. high. On the western side of the hill there are five caves which from a distance look like small rooms. Tradition says that the five Pandavas hid their arms in these five caves before proceeding to the court of the king of Birata. On the 'Trayodashi Tithi' that is the Baruni day in the month of Chaitra, water running down the eastern side of the hill is believed to be sacred. Attracted by the sanctity of the water, people gather here from distant places at the time of the *Mela*. On the Makar Sankranti day another *mela* is also held, when 2 to 3 thousand pilgrims assemble and the common folk of the place sing and dance at a place on the northern part of the hill.

At the foot of the hill, there is a monastery of a *Babaji* where the *Bhagavat Purana* and other religious books are worshipped.

304. Sathilo

One mile from Betnoti Railway station and seven miles from Badasahi is the ancient village Sathilo. This village shows heaps of ruins over an area of about 100×50 cubits. These ruins are of an old fort that had on the eastern and western sides two big tanks. In front of the ruins of the fort stone slabs on which artistic figures appear in base-relief with other fine carving have been preserved in a hut. These slabs indicate the existence at one time of some temples. Images of Durga-basini, Nursingha, Krushna and other deities are found. They bear marks of ravage made by time and other agencies. Population 839.

305. Samakhunta

A place at a distance of 3 miles from Baripada, situated on Baripada-Balidiha Road. There is a Government Agricultural farm where scientific cultivation is undertaken.

306. Siddhaguha

Siddhaguha stands on a hill named Sindhuramundi, eight miles from the Inspection Bungalow of Udala, the subdivisional headquarters of Kaptipada. It is 4 miles away from the village Khalari.

307. Simla

A place on left bank of the river Burhabalanga. There is a temple for Simleswar Siva. A big *mela* sits here during Sivaratri

which continues for a week. About 5,000 people assemble here some of whom even come from outside the district and offer Pujas to Siva. The place presents a picturesque natural beauty. It is situated on the 16th mile on Baripada-Rairangpur Road.

308. Similipal

It is a place on the Similipal hill ranges with a Forest office and a Police out-post. In front of it is the hill called Burhabalanga from which originates the river Burhabalanga. It is a place of natural interest and abounds in wild elephants and tigers. This is a centre for various forest produce like timber, honey, etc.

309. Sirsa

It is a big village on the bank of Subarnarekha river. It is famous for tassar industries. There are a High School, Rest shed, Post office and a Forest office. There is a beautiful spot in this village locally known as Merughaty where is located a temple of Mahima religion. A *mela* sits here during Makar Sankranti which continues for a week. Population 1,059.

310. Sulaipat

Situated at a distance of 11 miles from Rairangpur and 63 miles from Baripada, the district headquarters of Mayurbhanj, it is famous for the adjacent hills containing iron ore.

It is not directly served by the Railway line leading from Tatanagar and is four miles away from Kuldiha, the nearest Railway station. The TISCO has built a 24" gauge tram line from the mine to a loading siding situated 3/4 miles south of Kuldiha. There is one U. P. School, one Hospital, two Rest houses and one Police out-post.

311. Takatpur

Situated to the west of Baripada at a distance of two miles, it is named after Takhat Kumari, Dowager Maharani who took great interest in starting an Agricultural farm in this village. The work commenced on the 10th March 1933. The farm covers an area of about 600 acres. Its activities are not confined to agriculture only and attempt has been made to develop horticulture, poultry, dairy, farming, weaving and cottage industries. There is an L. P. School. A bundh about 1,500 feet in length and 24 ft. in height has been erected for purposes of irrigation.

There is a temple here known as Banabihari Mandir.

312. Tentaposi

This village is situated in the Bamanghaty subdivision about 13 miles from the Subdivisional headquarters. It is on the left bank of the river Kanhu.

It is an old village and tradition has it that it was an important place during the regime of the Dharua rulers where they fought against the then Bhanja rulers and were defeated and driven out. There are ruins of an old fort and a moat here.

The population of the village is 1,029.

313. Thakurmunda

Thakurmunda is an old village in Thakurmunda pargana. It was the seat of the old zamindar of Saunti community of this pargana. It is 24 miles away from Karanjia and 99 miles from Baripada. On the occasion of Chaitra Sankranti, a *mela* locally called 'Uda Jatra' is performed here which continues for a week. More than 2,000 people assemble here on this occasion and the devotees swing on a post in honour of the god Siva.

There are various Government institutions like dispensary, Forest office and a Police-station. Population 1,254.

314. Udala

It is the headquarters of Kaptipada subdivision. It has a College, a High School, a Hospital, a Sub-jail, a Sub-treasury and the court buildings along with various Government offices of Subdivisional level.

The village is of recent origin. Its population is 1,261.