

Ganjam Agency and westwards into the tract formerly known as the Chatisgarh States of C.P.<sup>380</sup> This very region has been mentioned by the same name in the Ganj and Nachna inscriptions.<sup>381</sup>

### 3. *Vindhyaṭavī* (No. 28, L. 25) :

The name appears in one of the verses quoted from ancient Smṛtis or the Mahābhārata asking people to honour land grants. In the present case it is said that a man who violates the grant is born in the Vindhya forest as a serpent and resides in the dry hollow of a tree.<sup>382</sup> Vindhya forest is the belt of forest at the foot of the Vindhya mountain.

### *Place-names ending in Grāma*

#### *Grāma :*

It means an inhabited place, village, hamlet.<sup>383</sup> It seems that firstly the word grāma denoted the collective inhabitants of a place, community or race. Later on this sense was transferred to an inhabitation and was used in the sense of a village. The earlier usage of this word, which occurs frequently from the Ṛgveda<sup>384</sup> onwards, appears to have been in the sense of a village. The early Āryans must have dwelt in villages which were scattered over the country, some close together, some far apart, and were connected by roads.<sup>385</sup> In the early Vedic literature village is regularly contrasted with the forest (āraṇya) in the evening the cattle regularly returned thither from the forest.<sup>386</sup> The villages were probably open, though perhaps a fort(pur) might on occasion be built inside.<sup>387</sup> Presumably they consisted of detached houses with enclosures, but no details are to be found in Vedic literature. Large villages (mahā-grāmāḥ) were known.<sup>388</sup> The grāma may, however, perhaps be regarded more correctly as an aggregate of several families, not necessarily forming a clan, but only part of a clan (viś), as is often the case at the present day.<sup>389</sup> The head of the village was called Grāmaṇi or 'the leader of the village'. The king's share in a village is referred to as early as the Atharvaveda.<sup>390</sup>

Villages played an important role as a unit of Rāṣṭra or city.<sup>391</sup> Kheṭa was the half of a city and the village was the