CHAPTER-I

ENVIRONS OF BAYANA TRACT

Present city of Bayana (26° 55'N; 77°17'E) is situated 45 km to the south-west of the Bharatpur and 76 km from Agra, on the left bank of seasonal river Gambhir. It is a tehsil headquarters of district Bharatpur in Eastern Rajasthan. For the present work the geographical limits have been taken to form 'the Bayana Tract'.

From the last decade of 12th century till 1580-81, Bayana and its territory was known as iqta/Sarkar-i-Bayana. Before 1505-06 AD Agra then not more than a village, formed also a part of Sarkar Bayana but in that year nine Pargana of Sarkar Bayana were taken to constitute Agra a separate Sarkar with its headquarters at Agra.² After the annexation of Malwa and parts of Rajputana, Bayana remained no more important and it was reduced to Pargana headquarters attached to Sarkar Agra during Akbar's reign. By the time of Aurangzeb's reign Bayana further lost its strategic importance and was made a Thana headquarters some time in 1669 AD.³

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1. Year of formation of new geographical and political boundaries of pargana, sarkar, and subah headquarters in Akbar's reign. See Ain I, p.82.
Writing about the 'Neolithic and Chalcolithic Cultures outside the Harappan Orbit', Nayanjot Lahiri has mentioned about the internal trade route which indicates that during proto-historic period a trade route from Gujarat to Northern India via Malwa passes through Bayana. The internal trade routes from Gujarat to Northern India—one via Malwa, and other via Ajmer passed through Bayana during Mughal period. Bayana was one of the important market place in pre-sultanate India.

Topographically land of the tehsil Bayana is fertile and also diversified by hill features. Hills and broken ground characterised almost the whole tract. There is a range of big hill of Aravalli hills called Damlama, on which remains of the fort Vijayamandir are standing. It starts from the west of the city of Bayana and extends upto village Bhagor in the north-west of Bayana, village Alapur, Sikandra and More Talab in the south-west of Bayana. The height of the hills at different places varies from 340 m to 370 m above the sea level. There are two hillocks at a distance of about 5 km, to the

1. Lahiri, Nayanjot, The Archaeology of Indian Trade Route upto C. 200 B.C., p. 245.
2. cf. An Atlas of Mughal Empire, Plates 6A & 8A.
north of Bayana, on both sides of the road to Bharatpur. The height of these hillocks is about 240 mt and 2.63 mt.

Presently there is no perennial river in the Bayana tract except the river Gambhir which probably has lost its original source and has become a seasonal flowing only during rains. This river enters the tract from the south-western corner. After receiving water of the Kakund and travelling about 56 km first towards the east and than in the north-easterly direction, where it joins the river Banganga near village Kurka in tehsil Rupbas. The main slope of the tract is running, from the north-west of Bayana to the east or from village Damdama to the river Gambhir. A baoli, and a dam (band) are constructed to conserve the rain water flowing through this main slope for maximum utilisation to irrigate large area. Another slope is towards the south from the hill features near village Alapur (located to the south west of Bayana to the river Gambhir.

1. See the map of Bayana annexed.
3. See the map of Bayana and its environ.
4. See the monument no.8.
5. See Chapter IV, Part VIII, monument no.11.
Barakhamba baoli\(^1\) is also erected in this slope to store the rain water. Hakims of Bayana constructed baoli's\(^2\) in other slopes, to check the flow of rain water at different points.

Soil is basically laid by the Gangetic alluvian washed down from the Shivalik ranges. The colour of soil varies from pale-brown to yellowish brown or brown. The soil is highly fertile, therefore most of the agricultural crops both traditional and cash (jins-i-kamil) can be grown in this tract. According to Baburnama, the land of Sarkar Bayana was fertile and land revenue collected then amounted to 1 crore, 14 lakhs, and 14,930 tankas per annum.\(^3\)

The Ain-i-Akbari and a Rajasthani document 'Arhsatta-Pargana Bayana Ya Sikandarabad v.s. 1750 (1692-93)\(^4\) also give description of crops grown in Bayana tract.\(^5\)

The area found in parts of upper Gangetic plain with jetting out of hill's small plateau, which consists mostly

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1. Ibid, monument no.59.
2. See monument no.21, 22,39 & 68.
4. The Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner, Rajasthan.
5. See Table (B) & (C) in Chapter, III.
red sand stone belonging to archaic period. Thus topography becomes uneven with plains and hills.

Though the contemporary sources concerning the proposed thesis are silent about mineral wealth of the area but it may be pointed out that a large variety of mineral wealth is lying buried in the integral part of the Aravalli hills. The Aravalli hill-deposits contains mineral like lead, zinc, silver, iron, copper, mica, calcite etc. Within the Bayana tract, we have copper and iron ores. Beside these quarrying is also done for used sand stone, lime stone and precious stones such as agat and beryl.

Bayana has a dry climate with a hot summer, average monsoon, and a cold winter.

The annual rainfall in and around the tract is about 211 mm. Table (A) gives the monthly rainfall of the year. As we see in the table (A) the average annual rainy days come to 34. During the months of July and August, the

1. The Archaeology of Indian Trade Route upto C. 200 BC, p. 220.
2. Ibid.
rainfall comes to about 80% annually. However the variation in rainfall from year to year is considerable.

The meteorological data on temperature at Bayana is available for only for few years (1957-68). The temperature increases from March to June. May and June are the hottest months of year with maximum temperature at 42°C and minimum at 26°C. The coming of the South-West monsoon, by about the end of June, brings some relief from heat. Days become a bit hot by mid of September, but the nights mostly remain cool. From November temperature starts falling and continues till January. From December to February cold is quite intense with January being the coldest when mercury dips to 7°C.
### TABLE (A)

#### METEOROLOGICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Rain fall in mm</th>
<th>Temperature in °C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>220.5</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>200.4</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>116.3</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Annual**  
211  
18.7

2. Collected from Tehsil Bayana headquarter.