CHAPTER II.
CLASSIFICATION OF TOWNS.

Medieval Indian towns can be considered in their various aspects, as centres of administration, military encampment, industry, commerce, maritime trade, and religion and education. It is impossible, however, to classify them rigidly on these lines, for a town might originally be established as an administrative centre, but then, in due course of time, grow into a great commercial or industrial city; and vice versa. In the following sections we have attempted only a broad classification, for the sake of convenience of treatment, by discussing separately each of the basic characteristics of the towns.

SECTION I: ADMINISTRATIVE TOWNS IN THEIR COMMERCIAL ASPECTS.

By administrative towns we mean towns which were the head-quarters of administration of the empire, a province or a smaller. The population in these towns rotines, office clerks and soldiers stationed there for miscellaneous duties including the safeguarding of the town itself. In these towns, there rapidly developed shops, small handicrafts, schools, sarais, mosques and temples, as we have already indicated above a town which started primarily as an administrative centre subsequently might become an important commercial and industrial centre and thus continue to retain its importance even when it ceased to be the seat of administration.

Towns like Agra, Ahmadabad, Bihli and Patna are the best illustrations of such towns. Agra gradually developed into an important commercial and industrial centre and become
which were available in different markets. Precious stones like rubies, diamonds, pearls and gems were also procurable in large quantities.

It was also the chief market for agricultural commodities, produced either locally or imported from the countryside and sent to different regions. These included indigo, sugar, drugs and spices, which were mainly collected by the foreign merchants for export. Agra was a great industrial centre. Manufactories flourished. Manufacture of textiles was the chief industry and large quantities of cotton, silken and woolen cloth of different varieties were produced and exported. Embroidered goods,

1. Monserrate, p. 35. According to him, "All the necessaries and conveniences of human life can be obtained here if desired," and further describes the city as being flooded with vast quantities of every type of commodity. See also Manrique, Vol. II, p. 157 who says: "that grains, food-stuffs, and dainties of all sorts were available in Limeros bazaar". See also Pelsaert, p. 4, who says: "there is the Nakhas, a great market where in the morning horses, camels, oxen, tents, cotton goods and many other things are sold". See also Tavernier, Vol. I, p.109, who speaks of Taj-i-Lukka another large bazar where "enormous quantity of cotton was sold. See also K.T. p. 23.

2. Fitch, p. 103. See also Monserrate, p.35.
8. E.F.R. Vol. I, pp. 73, 161. See also Pelsaert,pp.9,19,36. The wollen stuffs included the manufacture of carpets and pashira.
were gold and silver lace work and dyeing also carried on. Agra was famous for gold and silver embroidery on turban cloth and other kinds of cloth. According to Abul Fazal the masterpieces of workmanship of Agra astonished the experienced travellers.

A large number of craftsmen and skilled masters used to reside there. According to Jahangir, "Inhabitants of Agra exert themselves greatly in the acquirement of crafts and the search after learning..." Similarly according to the author of Khulasat-ut-Tavarikh, "...excellent artisans of every art and workmen of every profession are skillful in their respective trades." In addition to textiles, another important industry was mining and metallurgy. Besides the imperial workshops, articles of various metals particularly silver, gold, copper, iron and brass were manufactured for domestic use. According to Monserrate, "There are great number of artisans, iron workers and goldsmiths...gold and silver are plentiful."

2. Ain, Vol. I, p. 93. See also K.T. p. 23. "Its excellent artisans of every art and workmen of every profession are skillful in their respective trades...gold and silver embroidery on turbans and other kinds of cloth is very nicely done".
5. Letters from servants, Vol. III, p. 66. According to Thomas Corridge an employee of East India Company, there was a mine of quicksilver near Agra. See also Fitch, p. 47. According to him, mines of diamonds were found near Agra.
6. Monserrate, p. 35. See also Thevenot, p. 55. According to him brass rings were manufactured and child labour was also used in this industry. Chemicals were used to dissolve the brass.
Among the handicrafts, inlay work, coral work; inscribing or designing on various articles of metal and stones, flourished. According to Pelusart, "The city contains all sorts of artisans in great numbers, who can imitate nearly whatever they see..." Stone cutting was flourishing since the time of Babur.

Thus Agra, though primarily an administrative centre, also became an important commercial and industrial centre. Similarly, other towns like Dibhi, Ahmadabad and Patna, became commercial and industrial centres.

Dibhi was the resort of Indian and foreign merchants, who had establishments there for commercial transactions. According to Khulnaat-ut-Tawarikh, Dibhi was the town,

"...where all precious and rare things of every country..."

2. Pelusart, p. 9. See also Thavenot, p. 55, who speaking in this context says, "They have a way in this town of working in gold upon agate, chrysolite and other brittle matters, which our goldsmiths and lapidaries have not. Then the Indians would beautiful vessels cups or coffee, besides the circles of gold they put about them, they engrave flowers and other figures and also encase upon them...".
4. Amirsin, Vol. II, p. 130. See also Amirsin, Vol. VI, p. 134. See also K.I., pp. 4 & 5. According to it "The men of Roum (Turkey) are much, and Syria, the Isla, the Jutu, the men of Asiam, Ambia, Iraq, Khoresan, Amiria, Rumbistan, Kabul, Zabulistan, Cathay, Khotan, China, Shobin, Kashghar, Almogistan, Abut, and Kashmar and other provinces of Hindustan have chosen their abode in the large city...and they engage themselves in their own business and trades."
port and city and all wonderful articles can be had, are bought and sold at one place the rubies of Badakhshan and sparkling pearls and sapphires, lustrous pearls of Oman, bright pearls, corals, and other lustrous jewels of sea and mine, at another place various kinds of cloth, merchandise, weapons, food stuffs and drink, perfumes, and other articles which men require. At another place, many kinds of dry and fresh fruits of every country.... Elsewhere elephants of renown...horses...camels and other animals in thousands and thousands, yield profit to the buyers and sellers. The author of Khulasat-ut-Tawarikh further mentions "Every day the bustle of the buying and selling of all commodities is great, and the crowd of buyers and sellers is beyond limit or calculations, so much so, that you may here collect in one day all the royal article suitable for the requirements of a kingdom; and the necessary outfit of a thousand soldiers can nm be got together in one hour, without the delay of preparation." Bernier describes its markets being well supplied with all sorts of goods and was there a separate market for every commodity. The textile and dyeing industries were also flourishing, and thus it became the market for textile goods.

2. Ibid, p. 6.
5. E.F.R., Vol. VI, p.134. According to it, the 'Chintz' were well coloured.
6. Bernier, p.248. According to him the textile goods were displayed in the market in great abundance.
Mental industry was also in a flourishing condition. According to Manucci, 'the goldsmiths are almost continuously busy with the making of ornaments.' In addition to goldsmiths, a large number of artisans, handicraftsmen, painters and engravers were busy with their trade.

Ahmedabad was the chief city of Gujrat 'nearer as great as London.' In the 17th century Ahmedabad was unsurpassed as a commercial emporium. 'There is not,' says Mandelslo, 'in a manner any nation, nor any merchandise in all Asia, which may not be had at Ahmedabad.' Similarly according to Careri, from the commercial point of view it was "the greatest city in India, and nothing inferior to Venice for this (textile) trade." Merchants used to assemble here from different regions. There was also a great rush of foreign merchants, like the English, Dutch, Portuguese, Jesu.

7. Hirat, p. 107. According to it the merchants from Sindh and other parts of Hindustan arrived and carried commercial goods to their countries.
The foreign companies, especially the English and Dutch also had established their factories there. According to Mandelsohn, things which were not produced in Gujorat were collected from other ports and by imports. Alamdabad, says, Pelascort, "receives annually from Agar large quantities of goods... besides Bengal canes (Muslin), moa (Calico) and clothing for Hindu women from Bengal and the eastern provinces, Punnins from Kashmir and Lahore, and Bengal kend or white sugar. In other direction are brought hither turbans, girdles, 'orhmis' of women's head coverings, also velvets, satins of various kinds, striped, flowered or plain, coconuts from Calabar, European woolen goods..." Saddles and furniture, indigo, sugar, opium, lac, ginger, salt pother, sal-ammoniac, indigo and musk. The textile industry was very flourishing.

1. Nicholas Downton, p. 152. See also Wirat, p. 107.
3. Mandelsohn, p. 27.
7. E.F.R. Vol. III, p. 36. See also Mandelsohn, p. 27.
9. Mandelsohn, p. 27. See also Pelascort, p. 19.
According to Mirat, "in course of time artisans and craftsmen settled there." Mandelslo, speaking in this context, says here, "particular there are made abundance of silks and cotton stuffs... They also make the great quantities of gold and silver brocades." The cotton cloth like, 'chintz', quilts, callicos and cotton yarns were manufactured. Silken stuffs were also manufactured here. A large variety of crafts and handicrafts were also flourishing. The author of Mirat says about Ahmadabad, "The art of weaving golden, and silken threads into brocades, velvet, gauze needle work and embroidery, varying in texture and dye is unequalled in India." Iron and silver mines also existed, near Ahmadabad. Vessels, ornaments and knife handles of crystal were manufactured. Paper was also manufactured in Ahmadabad.

1. Mirat, p. 7
4. Mirat, p. 7. According to it, the royal demands were supplied here. See also E.F.R. Vol. II, pp. 22 and 28. According to it silken goods of Ahmadabad were sent to foreign countries in abundance.
5. Mirat, p. 7
6. Mirat, p. 211.
8. Mirat, p. 211.
Patna is described by Lanrique as one of the "biggest towns in the whole Mogul empire, very wealthy and offering every commodity..."\(^1\). Similarly Tavernier calls it, "the largest town in Bengal and the most famous for trade;\(^2\) and according to Finch it was a great city in the east.\(^3\) Patna was a great commercial centre, and as such it became the chief market for different commodities, from different regions. According to English Factors it was "the choicest market town of all Bengal;\(^4\) Peter Lundy too calls it to be "the greatest mart of all this country.\(^5\) According to Lanrique the city was full of such people who collected from every part of Asia, at its never ending marts....The trade was so great that ....it contained over six hundred brokers and middle men engaged in commerce all of whom derived such great profits from their laboure that most of them are wealthy men.\(^6\) Merchants from different countries like Persia, Georgia, Tartary, and Carmania also visited it.\(^7\) The English and the Dutch established their factories, and the Portuguese and merchants from Bhutan came here in large numbers. It was the chief market of agricultural products.

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2. Tavernier, Vol. II, p. 259, and Vol. I, p. 121. Tavernier says "Patna is one of the largest towns in India..."
7. Lundy, p. 221.
which included corn, rice, sugar, indigo, cotton and various other spices and other commodities. It was also the chief market of drugs, opium and salt petre. The chief industry of Patna was the manufacture of textiles, which included chiefly, cotton and silken cloth of various types. According to Manucci, "In this city (Patna), besides cloth of cotton much fine silk cloth is woven...". Mining and metallurgy also flourished. Iron shields were manufactured and sent to Agra for sale. Articles of gift and glass too were manufactured. Due to the existence of gold mines near Patna, the industry for purifying gold was also developed.

1. Thevenot, p. 96. See also Bowrey, p. 227 & Fitch, pp. 113 & 180 and also see Peter Mundy Vol. II, pp. 134, 138, 150, 153 & 156.


6. Pelsaert, pp. 78. See also A.N. Vol. III, p. 321 for the metal industry. According to it Patna had a mint.


8. Fitch, p. 112. See also De Laet, p. 77.
In addition to the above mentioned industries, large number of crafts were carried on. Tavernier speaking in the context of crafts of Patna and Benares says that "more than 2,000 persons occupied themselves" in trading in beads of crystal and agate, and the bracelets of tortoise shells and sea shells were manufactured and sent to different regions. Pottery was also flourishing. According to Lenuschi he says: "Bottles are also made and cup of clay finer than glass, lighter than paper, and highly scented; and these as curiosities are carried all over the world." 3

A number of towns in each region owed their importance to the fact that they were located at strategic points and were fortified, and powerful garrisons were maintained there. Towns like Allahabad, Ajmer, Gwalior, Kolinjar, Attock, Bhedkar, Ranthambhor, Narwar, Chunur, Hohtao, Chanderi and Hundu came under the category of such towns.

Such towns though originally established primarily for their strategic or military importance became important administrative centres later and developed and expanded rapidly. Allahabad was an important strategic centre, but it soon became an administrative centre and the capital of one of the biggest provinces. Similarly Ajmer, primarily a military and strategic town, later became an administrative centre, and the capital of a province. Towns like Gwalior, Hundu, and Ranthambhor too had some administrative importance. Most of the administrative centres were selected amongst other things for their strategic importance.

Such towns, if situated on important routes, began to develop as commercial centres. Attock, an important strategic town, became a commercial centre. Menucci, referring to Attock, says, "A city called by the same name (Attock), where all the caravans halt, from Persia, Tartary,
Balque (Balkh), Samarcand, Bukhara, Casher (Kashghar), Kabul, and many other kingdoms. Thence come every year one hundred and fifty thousand horses, more or less, besides many camels. Most of these are loaded with various kinds of... (fruits and other commodities).... All these are brought across the river to be sold in Hindustan, from which the Mogul king derives a great revenue.  

Similarly Monghyer a small town on the Ganges, commonly called the key of the kingdom of Bengal, forming a species of strait between the mountains, and a forest which is contiguous to the town, was of strategic importance. But due to its location alongside of the river and the trade route it became a commercial centre. According to Henrique its location facilitated the growth of commerce and goods were transported from there, and a custom-post was established. Town like Jaleesar and Etawah too developed similarly.

Gwalior became an industrial centre, as iron mines were found near it. According to Manucci numerous articles of iron were made and sent to the principal cities in the Lughul country. Oil of jasmine was also manufactured and

5. Peter Lundy, Vol. II, p. 71. According to Peter Lundy it was 'A great town', having a castle.
carried from here to various places.\textsuperscript{1} Kalinjar, due to the existence of iron and diamond mines developed mining industry.\textsuperscript{2} Narwar was an important town from the military and strategic point of view but it was also an industrial centre, and became the centre of textile manufacture.\textsuperscript{3}

In many cases where for various reasons the military importance of a town declined, it continued to flourish as a big commercial or industrial centre. Bhakkar was famous for its fortification and strategic importance,\textsuperscript{4} but it continued to flourish as a large commercial and industrial centre. Manrique, speaking in the context of its commercial importance, says, "Although it is not so rich or frequented by merchants as Multan, still large numbers do congregate here on account of a cafila which leaves every year for Persia, Corazane, and other external and distant provinces... It is at the same time well stocked with all kinds of provisions, owing to the highly fertility and great productivity of the district."\textsuperscript{5}

It was also the chief market for oil and butter which was sent to Thatta from here.\textsuperscript{6} Textile goods like 'baftas' were manufactured here.\textsuperscript{7} Sword blades were made in the town.\textsuperscript{8} Chanderi flourished as a commercial and industrial centre.\textsuperscript{9}

\begin{enumerate}
\item Peter Mundy, Vol. II, pp. 62 & 63. See also Manucci, Vol.I, p. 70.
\item K.T. p. 29.
\item Tavernier, Vol. I, p. 62. According to him the quilted coverlets some white, and others embroidered with flowers in gold, and silver silk were manufactured in large quantities.
\item E.F.R. Vol. VI, p. 136.
\item Ibid, Vol. V, p.129.
\item Salbencke, p. 84.
\item K.T. p.55. See also Ain, Vol. II, p.207. According to Abul Fazal Chanderi had 384 bazars, 360 spacious serais and 12,000 mosques. See also M.A.,p.100. According to it the factory of 'dodami'(extremely fine cloth) existed, which was abolished afterwards.
\end{enumerate}
A number of towns which had not have become administrative, commercial or industrial centres retained their importance as strategic centres. They had strong forts and large garrisons as maintained there.

Ranthambhor, Rohtas (Bihar), Rohtas (Punjab), Kangra, Chittor, Chunar and Umarkot, may be mentioned in this connection. These towns had permanent large garrisons, and consequently a permanent population grew up to minister the needs of the garrison. A number of small forts appear to have been under the control of local Zamindars, and did not grow into important towns.
SECTION - III: COMMERCIAL CENTRES

In this category may be included towns, which grew up and remained primarily commercial centres. Some of them may have started as administrative or military centres, but remained important as commercial centres after their political or military importance declined, or they may have become administrative and military centres because of their commercial importance. Towns like Dacca, Sultan, Lahore and Thatta may be included in this category.

Rajmahal was formerly the capital of Bengal but when Dacca developed as a commercial centre it became the capital of the province. Thus the remark of Tavernier who says, "The governor and the merchants who dwelt at Rajmahal removed to Dacca, which is to-day a place of considerable trade." ¹

Multan was an old commercial centre. According to Manucci it was an ancient city, where before the arrival of the Portuguese many caravans of merchandise, spices and drugs used to come.² It was 'a place of very great trade';³ According to Manrique, "Multan was a place of moderate size, is nevertheless very wealthy, well stocked, and plentifully supplied with all necessaries and conveniences man desires."⁴

3. Thevenot, p. 77.
According to Khulasat-ut-Tawarikh, "Various articles of all countries are bought and sold here."¹

Multan became a commercial centre, due to its location on the junction of various routes and excellent water communications. Due to its commercial importance it became the chief rendezvous of the merchants. In Multan, a customs post was established, and customs were realised on exports and imports.⁵

Multan also became the chief market for different commodities which were collected from different regions. It was the great market of textile goods, which were sent from here to the country as well as to foreign countries.⁶

According to Pelsaert, "From Agra or Lahore Multan receives large quantities of cotton, coarse yarns, Bengal cotton goods, turbans, prints, red salt from Burhanpur and small quantities of spices." It was a livestock market also. Camels were reared and horses of Arab breed were sold here and were imported from Iraq.⁹

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¹ K.T. p. 72.
⁴ Thevenot, p. 77.
⁵ E.F.R. Vol. VI, p. 135.
⁶ Pelsaert, p. 31. According to him white cotton goods and napkins were exported to Kundhar. These were also sent to Agra and from there distributed in all directions.
⁷ Pelsaert, p. 31.
⁸ DE Laet, p. 78.
⁹ K.T. p. 72.
Lahore became the seat of government, because it had been a flourishing commercial centre, since very old days. Pelsaert speaking about Lahore says, "It was a great centre of trade in the days before the English came to Agra, and the Armenian and Aleppo merchants did a large and very profitable business..." Terry calls it, "the chief city of trade in all India". The English Factors too mention it to be "the prime city of traffic in India". Being a great commercial centre, merchants from different countries came here. According to Monserrate, "This city is second to none, either in Asia or in Europe, with regard to size, population and wealth. It is crowded with merchants who foregather there from all over Asia. In all these respects it excels other cities, as also in the huge quantity of every kind of merchandise, which is imported." Similarly says Khulasat-ut-Tarikh, "the commodities of the seven climates and the things of sea and land are bought and sold here". The account of Abul Fazl also leads us to infer that it was a great commercial and industrial centre. He says "(It was)....the residence of various traders, and craftsmen who could easily supply a large army, and furnish them with arms...". It was also a flourishing market for

5. Monserrate, p. 159. See also Manucci, Vol. II, p. 186. According to him "The city is inhabited by great and rich merchants who deal with the whole of India..."
6. K.T. p. 81. See also Pelsaert, p. 30. According to him the different sorts of commodities were collected there from the different regions. See also E.F.R. Vol. I, p. 204. and Vol. VI, p. 135. According to it, "all commodities of the adjacent places being brought hither and are bought by rousbecks (uzbegs) or Tartars and soe transported by ccbull into those parts, and by those of casmeres as also by above named merchants..."
agricultural commodities like spices and salt, indigo, sugar and drugs.

Thatta, too was a great commercial centre and afterwards become an administrative centre. According to Nicholas Withington, "No citie is by generall, report of a greater trade in the Indies than Tutta..." Thevenot describes it a centre of 'great traffick'. Its commercial importance was enhanced, due to its location on the junction of canyan routes and excellent water communication. Due to its commercial importance a large number of foreign merchants established there and made large investments. According to Thevenot merchants of several countries came there and commodities which were collected from different places. Similarly leather was available in abundance. The leather of Thatta was famous as "Sindi leather" which was exported in large quantities.

3. Finch, p. 57. See also Richard Steel & John Crowther, p. 268.
5. Withington, p. 171. See also Manrique p. 238, who mentions it to be a very rich city for several reasons. See also Payton, p. 297, who calls it the 'chiefe citie for trade'.
6. Thevenot, pp. 74 & 75. See also K.T. p. 67, who says that it was the 'emporium of all things'.
7. Thevenot, p. 77; See also Pelsaert, p. 32 and E.F.R. Vol. V, p. 130.
10. Manrique, Vol. II, p. 239; see also Manucci Vol. II, p. 427. According to him "Thatta has much leather which is exported to Arabia and Persia."
The growth of commercial towns appears to be mainly due to their location in an area where agricultural and industrial goods were produced in the neighbourhood or collected and then distributed to other regions. A large number of such towns existed in the 17th century. For example in Angrezabad, Panipat, and Samanah, the textile goods were produced and sent to different regions. Similarly towns like Tanda, Darbelah, Lucknow, Nadia, Kasimbazar, Biana, Sirhind, Kasur, Shergarh, Dabhoi, and Malda had flourishing industries and were important trading centres.

Secondly, a large number of towns became big markets, where goods were brought from different regions and sold to the local population as well as to the neighbouring

4. Fitch, p. 113. See also D Laet, p. 72.
6. Finch, p. 65, According to him it was a "Town of great traffic for linen and other merchandise". See also E.F.R. Vol. VII, p. 6, Vol. VIII, pp. 188 & 189. Vol. IX, p. 56.
7. Thevenot, p. 46. See also Nicholas Downton, p. 105.
12. Peter Mundy, Vol. II, p. 76. Here salt-petre was manufactured.
country side. For example, towns like Murshidabad and Bahraich became big markets. According to Abul Fazil, "Bahraich is a large town....From the northern mountains quantities of goods are carried on the backs of men, of stout ponies and of goats such as gold, copper, lead, musk tails of the 'kutas' cow honey, 'chuk' (an acid composed of orange juice, and lemon boiled together), pomegranate seeds, ginger, long pepper, 'Majith' root, borax, zedoary, wax, wollen stuffs, wooden ware, hawks, falcons, black falcons, merlins, and other articles. In exchange they carry back white and coloured cloths, amber, salt, assafoetida, ornaments, glass and earthen-ware." According to Khulasat-ut-Twarikh, in Bahraich at times, there is a great and ceaseless crowd, merchants from all sides come here, to make purchases, and gain profit."

Similarly Murshidabad was a big market of textile goods like cotton and silken cloth, girdles and sashes; and brass utensils like 'Aftaba' and 'Chilamchis' from Benaras. Bahadurpur a town one and a half kos from Burhanpur was according to Khafi Khan rich, and there were many bankers and merchants in it. Jewels, money, and goods from all parts of the world were found there in vast abundance."

2. K.T. p. 32.
Then there were towns lying on trade routes especially on the junction of roads. At such places, the caravanserais were built for the travellers, merchants and caravans. Naturally a market sprang up to meet the demands of the people and to supply other necessities for travel. Manrique speaking about the route from Benares to Patna says, "this route was studded with habitations of large towns...much frequented by travellers, on this account it was well supplied with caravanserais". According to Manucci "for the use of wayfare there are throughout the realms of the Mogul on every route many 'Sarais' (Sare)...These sarais are only intended for travellers (soldiers do not go into them) each one of them might hold, more or less from 800 to 1,000 persons, with their horses, camels, & carriages; and some of them are even larger. They contain different rooms, halls and verandas, with trees inside the courtyard, and many provision shops; also separate abodes for the women and men who arrange the rooms the beds for travellers." These sarais are only intended for travellers (soldiers do not go into them) each one of them might hold, more or less from 800 to 1,000 persons, with their horses, camels, & carriages; and some of them are even larger. They contain different rooms, halls and verandas, with trees inside the courtyard, and many provision shops; also separate abodes for the women and men who arrange the rooms the beds for travellers.  The townslike Itimadpur, Firozabad, Miraind, Etawah, Shikhoabad, Antri, Mirta, and Chapperganj and Ghoraghat are the best illustrations of such towns.

According to Peter Mundy, Firozabad was 'a good bigg town' lying on the trade route. According to Finch

1. Manrique, Vol. II, pp.146 & 184. Manrique, further on speaks highly of the buildings of the Caravanserais and expresses surprise at the great volume of commerce and number of travellers, which he found between Agra and Lahore.


Itimadpur was lying on the trade route, and was full of sarais for caravans.\(^1\) The town of Barangeo, owed its prosperity to the weekly market held every Tuesday.\(^2\)

For the countryside small towns served as markets in which agricultural produce was disposed of and manufactured goods purchased. Towns sometimes developed local industries. Amongst such smaller towns may be mentioned Khanwa, Lasmabazar, Nandurbar, Daryapur, and Daytaot. Of Khanwa Selbencke says, "there is much trading for cloth, swords, shashes, pieces and armour, besides colours for divers of all sorts..."\(^3\) Nandurbar a town of Gujrat, was "a market of all brasure wares, shirts of maille, swords and bucklers, lences, armours for horses, also cotton-wools, cotton yarn, pintados, shashes, and all manner of drugges..."\(^4\) In the markets of Lasmabazar Manrique noticed everything, "especially of eatables and household necessaries, as corn, rice vegetables, sugarcane, Ghi and many kinds of oil, from each of these articles, several vessels could have been loaded. Besides these kinds of cotton goods, drugs, tobacco, opium and numerous other articles of various sorts attracted..."\(^5\).

1. Finch, p. 69. Amedipore and Itimadpur are the same.
2. Delact p. 35. See also Withington p. 167.
4. Ibid, pp. 82 & 83. He mentions ‘Netherberg’ but in fact this is Nandurbar.
Towns like Multan, Lahore, and Thatta were predominantly commercial centres and several industries flourished there. In Multan the textile goods of various types like 'calicoes' painted cloths, 'chintze' and carpets with ornamented designs were manufactured in large quantities. Gows and arrows were manufactured and supplied to the country.

Lahore was a great industrial town, where numerous industries were flourishing, the most important being the textile industry; here all sorts of textile and painted cloths were manufactured. Manucci says, "A quantity of fine white cloth is made there; many pieces of silk of all colours, which are called elattchas (alachah)...." Woollen industry was also flourishing.

Carpets of various types were manufactured, Abul Faiz, speaking in the context of woollen industry says, "In Lahore...there are more than a thousand workshops. A kind of shawl called Mayan, is chiefly woven there, it consists of silk and wool mixed...." Thevenot speaking

2. K.T. p. 73.
According to Thevenot, "Indian merchants buy a great many curiosities made by the inhabitants who are wonderfully ingenious in all kinds of arts". Pelsaert speaking about the different products and the handicrafts says, "Ornamental desks, draught boards, writing cases, and similar goods are manufactured locally in large quantities they are very prettily in laid with ivory and ebony, and used to be exported in large quantities". Different types of ornamented stuffs out of leather were manufactured. Butter was exported, and oil from fish was extracted. Dry fish were collected and salt-pet was manufactured.

Benares was a famous emporium for the products of Bengal. Finch too calls it to be a 'principall mart of Bengal goods'. It was a great market of textile goods and from there the foreign merchants purchased large quantities of goods. Manucci mentions about the export of its goods to many parts of the world.

1. Thevenot, pp. 74 & 75.
2. Pelsaert, p. 32
5. K.T. p. 68.
8. Laet, p. 65.
Burhanpur too became a 'good mercatkle town'1 was the chief market for textile goods, weapons of war and such other commodities, due to market facilities. Joseph Salbancke speaking about Burhanpur says, "Where Muskets, snaps lances, pistols, petronels, and swords are very saleable. Woollen cloth in this place will prove a great commodity, as also cloth of gold and silver, velvets, broad cloths and Beves because there are so many Gallants."2

The markets were plentifully stored with all provisions collected from all parts of the country.3 It was also the chief market of agricultural and other commercial commodities.4

Being a flourishing centre of industries foreign factories were established there5 and a large number of foreign merchants visited it6.

Dacca, which was predominantly an industrial town, was also, 'a place of considerable trade'.7 The foreign merchants and factories of English and Dutch were established and had extensive trade rights.8 According to Khulasat-ut-Twarikh, "The commodities and products of the seven climes are found here."9

2. Salbancke, p. 83. See also Thevenot, p. 101, and Tavernier, Vol. I, p. 51. According to these authorities, Burhanpur was the market for textile goods.
Baroda, too developed into a commercial centre. It was a 'town of great trade'\(^1\). It was the chief market of textile goods\(^2\). Here the foreign merchants and factories were established and made large investments and purchased textile goods.\(^3\)

In addition to the above mentioned towns, other towns, like Jurshidebad, Kasimbazar, Sonargaon, Nausari, Nasarpur, Sirong, and Sampa, \(^4\) flourished and were famous for their local industries.

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2. Tavernier, Vol. I, p. 138, & 71. According to Tavernier in Baroda there was a considerable trade in calico.
5. Bowrey, p. 213. See also Court Minutes of E.I.C. (1668-70) p. 102.
9. Tavernier, Vol. I, p. 50. According to him the town was inhabited by the merchants.
India has been connected with foreign countries by many sea routes from times immemorial, and port towns are consequently very old, centres of overseas trade and centres of coastal trade from ancient times.

Some of the important port towns of the country were Surat, Cambay, Surat, Benc, Scally, Gogja, Lahri Bander, Roon Kunny, Angali, Karaasur, dadawar, byly, Muzafir and Chittagong. The growth and decline of the port towns, was influenced by the geographical, economic and political factors. The prosperity of a port town depended on its hinterland, facility of communications with the interior and the location of the harbour. When the sea was close to Cambay, it was a very good port as vessels reached the town directly but when the sea receded, it resulted in immense loss to the port of Cambay.1 A convenient base for loading and unloading the goods from the ships, and excellent water or road communication for collecting and dispatching the goods to distant places, further added to the growth of such port towns. This was especially the case with the port towns. According to Fryer, nature had designed her (port of Surat) by sea, and land, the seat of traffic, would have nothing to hinder her from being the completest mistress.

there of in the whole world. Surat had a good harbour and had also a convenient base for collecting goods for export as it was well connected by roads with the different regions.

Goods produced in the empire of the Great Mughul and a portion of those of the kingdom of Golconda and the kingdom of Bijapur reached Surat to be exported by sea to different places of Asia and Europe. Dacca, due to its location on the river, could be approached by ships of 500 or 600 tons. The other port towns like Baroch, Hugli, Rajmahal and Lahri-Bandar had many geographical and economic advantages, which enhanced their importance.

1. Fryer, Vol. I, 302
2. E.F.R. Vol. I, p. 11. English Factors mention its being connected with Burhanpur and other south-eastern regions. See also Thevenot, p. 77. According to him Surat was connected by road with Thatta, from where also goods were brought to it.
4. Bowrey, p. 149. See also Thevenot, p. 95.
5. Dodsworth, p. 103. According to it ships of 500 tons could come up to the town. See also Withington, p. 107.
8. Thevenot, p. 75. According to him it has a better harbour for ships than any other place of the Indies.
The port of Dacca had a great rush of overseas trade and a large number of foreign ships visited it. Surat port, according to Manucci, is the largest port in India. Thus it is resorted to by a great number of ships from different parts of Europe, Persia, Arabia, Mecca, Bassora, the coasts of Malabar and Choromandal, Avasculapetao... Bengal, Siam, Achean, Quulddah, the Maldives Malacca, Batavia, Vanilla, China and many other parts of the world.

According to Careri, "Suratte is the prime mart of India all nations in the world trading thither..." According to Handelslo it was, "one of the most eminent cities for traffic of all the east." The Indian and foreign merchants assembled, and the foreign factories were established there. As Manucci says, "Surat which was inhabited by rich traders, Mahomdedan, Hindu, English, Dutch, became still more populous, by the arrival of the French."

2. Manucci, Vol. I, p. 61. See also Pelsaert, p. 40. Payton, p. 396, Terry, p. 15, and Careri, p. 163. According to Careri no ships were sailing to Indian ocean with Commodities from Surat.
3. Careri, p. 163.
4. Handelslo, p. 10. See also 'Letters from Servants', Vol. I, p. 238. It says: "through the whole Indies there cannot be any place more beneficial for our country than this being the only key to open all the rich and best trade of the Indies."
5. Thevenot, pp. 21 & 22. According to him Persians, Arabians, Turks, Franks, Armenians, Jews, Dutch and English and other Christians were present there. See also Handelslo, p. 10.
to the sea convey all their wealth to Suratte, because of
the good went they find for it there. \(^1\) The carpets of silk
embroidered as also \(^2\) with gold and silver were manufactured \(^3\) cotton yarns. Ship building was another industry in Surat, where were
"built very fine lofty ships in a very short time, every­
thing necessary being found, principally excellent timber,
for which reason these ships last much longer than those
made in Europe. \(^4\) Metal goods were manufactured and making
of jewels and cutting of precious stones was practiced.
\(^5\) gumlac \(^6\) was refined and \(^7\) Tari, the Indian drink, was
prepared.

Cambay was 'the mart of Guzurat' \(^8\), the inhabitants
of which "applied themselves to commerce and carried on
an extensive business with Achin, Div, Goa, Mecca and Persia." \(^9\)

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1. Careri, Vol. II, p. 164. See also Pelsaert, p. 41. According to him 'there was hardly any market in India for the foreign goods'. See also Bernier, p. 188
8. Finch, p. 64. See also Mandelslo, p. 6. According to him Cambay was the chief city where the Portuguese had their principal trading.
Here the foreign Factors were established and goods from different countries\(^1\), were collected. Textile goods were manufactured\(^2\). Large number of ivory bracelets, agate cups, chaplets and rings were manufactured\(^3\). At Baroch, most flourishing industries were those of textiles\(^6\), bleaching\(^9\), shipbuilding\(^6\) and of mining\(^7\).

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3. Thevenot, p. 18. See also Mandelslo, p. 15. He mentions about the manufacture of cups, seals, handles for knife and daggers and other rarities from agates. See also Della Valle Vol. I, p. 61.
7. Finch, p. 64. According to him, near the town, the magnificent gems called agates were found.
Dacca was famous for the manufacture of textiles especially muslin. According to Manucci, "It is in this vast region that they produce the prodigious quantity of fine white cloth and silken stuffs of which the nations of Europe and elsewhere transport annually several ship loads."\(^1\) Galleys and boats were manufactured.\(^2\) Large quantity of ammunition was produced and English workmen were also employed along with Indians in its manufacture. Jute industry flourished and fine jute mattresses were manufactured.\(^4\)

Burhanpur was famous for its textile industries. Manucci speaking in this context says, "The town is much frequented by Persian and Armenian traders on account of many kinds of excellent cloth manufactured there, chiefly various sorts of women's head-dresses (touca) and cloth for veils (beatilha) scarlet and white of exceeding fineness."\(^5\)

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2. Thevenot, p. 95. See also Tavernier, Vol. I, p. 138. He says about Dacca, "a succession of houses...inhabited for the most part by the carpenters who build galleys and other vessels...". See also Manucci, Vol.II, p.87.


4. K.T., p. 41. It says, "...Some mattresses are so finely woven that they look nicer than silk. They also make mattresses which are called sital-patī".

Burhanpur very fine muslin was manufactured and sent to foreign countries. It was a mint town and it seems that a number of iron factories existed there. Baroda and Baroch too were great textile manufacturing centres.

In addition to the major industrial towns, smaller towns produced industrial goods for local markets, while the others for a wider market, national or international. The manufactured goods were sent from here to different regions, or were purchased by the foreign merchants for their factories for export. A very large number of such towns with different sorts of flourishing industries, attached to them existed in different regions of the country during the 17th century. Among such important industrial towns were Srinagar, Sialkot, Sirhind, Samanah Nasarpur, Sehwan, Pattan, Sironj, Nasari, Alwar, Bharatpur, Fatehpur-Sikri, Biana, Jaunpur, Shahzadpur, Gaya, Sonargaon, Kasimbazar, Murshidabad, Malda and Angrezabad.

In Srinagar a large number of industries and crafts were flourishing. The most notable were the textile industries which included the manufacture of cotton, and woollen cloth.

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2. Fitch, p. 172.
3. Manucci, Vol. I, p. 66. See also Salbancke, According to him in Burhanpur, "...Muskets snap-lances, pistols, Petronels, and swords are very saleable."
6. K.T. p. 113. According to the author, Srinagar was inhabited by all classes of artisans, skilled mechanics and experts of every trade and profession.
Rearing of silk worm was also practiced. Other noteworthy industries and crafts were the manufactures of ink, leather, wood, mining and metallurgy. In addition to these, wood carving was also carried on. Textile, iron and paper industries were flourishing in Sialkot. In Sirhind textile and leather industry and the manufacture of

1. K.T. p. 120.
2. Ibid, p. 112.
3. Bernier, p. 419. According to him raw leather was available in the vicinity and possibly the leather industry existed there.
5. K.T. p. 119. According to it gold was obtained by dust washing.
7. K.T. p. 95. According to it, "Embroidery with silk and gold threads and many kinds of bafta, chira (scarf) foth (sheet) sozani, sdeko, table cloth, tray covers and small tents with figures in gold thread are well manufactured here."
8. K.T. p. 95. It mentions about the manufacture of iron weapons.
9. Ibid, p. 95. According to it, "good paper, especially theliansinghi paper and silken paper of very good texture, was manufactured and exported in all directions.
bows and quivers\(^1\) flourished. Samor-\(\nu\) and Nasarpur\(^3\) were famous for their textile industries. Salt-petre\(^4\) was also manufactured in Nasarpur. Sehwan too was a centre for the manufacture of textile\(^5\) goods and opium\(^6\). In Pattan iron industries were flourishing, swords were manufactured. Sironj was a great centre of textile\(^8\) industries. Textile goods\(^9\) and perfumed oil\(^10\) were manufactured in Nosari. In Alwar woollen carpets and glass articles were manufactured.\(^{11}\) Bharatpur had a flourishing textile industry

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1. Monserrate, p. 102.
5. Ibid, Vol. V, p. 129. According to the it there were about 1,000 households of weavers, see also Vol. VI, p.136.
8. Ibid, Vol. II, p. 213. According to the white muslin was manufactured there, see also Tavernier, Vol. I, p.56, and Peter Mundy, Vol. II, p. 56. According to him great quantities of excellent 'pintadoes' or 'chints' were manufactured there which were esteemed throughout India, see also Manucci, Vol. I, p. 68.
In Murshidabad, textile industries, including the manufacture of silken cloth, were flourishing. Malda was also a centre of textile industries. Angrezabad was a centre of textile and metal industries.

These industrial towns grew due to the following such as the factors, namely, availability of raw material, local skilled skill, cheap labour and market facilities. A large number of textile manufacturing towns developed in the eastern region, due to the fact that raw cotton and silk were available there. Srinagar became the centre of woollen and silken industry, because raw material and skilled workmen for it were available there. Iron was available in the neighbouring areas of Pattan and Gwalior and these two towns became centres of iron industry.

According to English Factors, in Murshidabad innumerable expert and cheap silk winders were available, which made it a silk manufacturing centre.

6. Pelsaert, pp. 8 & 9. According to him Patna yielded 1,000 to 2,000 maunds of silk. See also Peter Mundy, Vol. II, pp. 156.
The woollen garments and goods of Srinagar were in great demand. Abul Fazal mentions that the shawls of Kashmir were sent as valuable gifts to every clime. The manufactured goods of Pattan, Sialkot, Sironj, and Malda were in great demand and were sent to different places.

1. Ain, Vol. II, p. 353, and also Ain, Vol. I, p. 98. See also K.T. p. 111. It says, "Woollen stuffs, especially shawls are well made and sent to the seven climes (of the world) by way of present".


3. K.T., p. 95.


Some towns acquired importance because of religious associations. Among these were towns which have been regarded as sacred traditionally and thus became centres of pilgrimage, or learning and even where the other factors combined to give added importance to such towns, their religious importance continued to contribute materially towards their importance. Towns like Allahabad, Benares, Jagannath Puri, Hardwar, Ujjain, Mathura, Ajmer and Dwarka are the best illustrations of such towns. Some of these towns acquired importance because of their association with some saint, or religious leader or because some religious order was established there, such as Hansi, where Shaikh Jamaluddin the successor of Shaikh Fariduddin Ganj-i-Shakar was established and his tomb was also situated. Jalandhar was a centre of Muslim pilgrimage and Shaikh Abdullah of Sultanpur had established themselves. A large number of saints were established at Kalpi. The order of Abu-Ali Qalandar was established at Panipat. In Sialkot Muslim saint Imam-Aliyal-Haq used to reside. Eminent saints like Shaikh Fariduddin Sani and Shaikh Muhammad Masum Kabuli reposed in Sirhind. Bahraich too

2. K.T. p. 82.
3. Ibid, p. 25 & 75.
5. Ibid, p. 96.
was a Muslim religious centre, and it had the shrines of Saiyid Salar Dasam and Rajab Salar.¹

Very frequently those centres received endowments and charitable grants from the government or religious-minded persons. Here institutions of a religious, educational and charitable character were established, such as Maths, Khanqahs, Darghas, Madrasahs, Pathshalas and hospitals. Sialkot thus became the seat of Muhammadan learning. According to Sujan Rai Bhancari, the author of Khulasat-ut-Tawrikh it was, "...a seat of learning and the resort of learned men, a mine of scholarship and the abode of scholars"²

Scholars like Maulana Kamal, Maulvi Abdul Hakim and Maulvi Abdullah resided there³. Sirhind had a famous school of medicines from which doctors sent to distant parts⁴. Similarly Benares⁵ and Tirhut⁶ became seats of Hindu learning and culture.

Most of such towns were centres of pilgrimage, and even though they may not have had a large permanent population, during the season of pilgrimage or fairs, population increased and for a while during the period of pilgrimage the towns became centres of brisk trade.