CHAPTER VI

BROACH AFTER THE DECLINE OF THE GUPTAS

(A) THE TRAIKOTAKAS, A COASTAL POWER:

After the withdrawal of the Guptas from Broach, the political and commercial contacts of the port became doubtful for more than 270 years. The profits of the overseas trade of Broach made it the target of military attacks from the ambitious chieftains of Malwa, Gujarat, Saurashtra, the Deccan Plateau and the Coast, all of whom had carved out kingdoms for themselves on the ruins of the Gupta Empire. The Traikutakas, the Vakatakas, the Kalachhuris, the Gurjaras, the Chalukyas, the Valabhis and the powers of the Gangetic Plateau in turn tried to capture the port and some of them succeeded in retaining it for short periods. The hinterland of Broach changed as rapidly as it changed hands from one master to another. Her overseas contacts also depended on the relations of its rulers with their counterparts in the Indian Ocean States. However the superior facilities which the Guptas and her previous rulers had bestowed on Broach, the navigability of its river, the adequate depths of water for the sailing ships of the period in the channels of the Gulf leading to the port, its nearness to the ports of the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian and the African Coasts and
the long standing experience of its merchants in overseas trade, sustained the trade of Broach during this period of uncertain political affinities. The trans-country trade routes converging on the market towns and the ports continued to function as feeding lines enabling Broach to draw to itself the commodities of a rich hinterland despite changing political contacts. The prosperity of a port depends largely on the richness and extent of a hinterland, from where it draws its resources, and on its relations with a foreland with which it trades. It is the organisational and administrative efficiency of peaceful governments and private institutions that permit the easy flow of goods. Political rivalries and internecine wars create economic barriers, and make trade risky and costly because of the breakdown of communications. The port loses its land base and the staple products of its export trade. It finds itself unable to pay for its imports by its exports. Its trade becomes unbalanced when it is forced to depend entirely on a transit trade and a foreland over which it has no administrative or economic control. Broach was no exception to such environmental controls for about three centuries following the collapse of the Gupta Empire.

The hinterland of Broach, when the Guptas held it, was naturally the Gupta Empire, which included within it Gujarat and Malwa, the Gangetic Plains in the north, the Punjab and
the frontier lands of the north west, and Bengal and Assam to the east. For a time the Guptas held also the upper Konkan coast and the reputed ports of Sopara and Kalleina, while a marriage alliance with the Vakatakas of the Deccan Plateau permitted them to extend the trade links of Broach upto the Kaveri Basin and Rameswaram through the well known Broach-Maheswar-Paithan routes.

In 470 A.D., the Gupta rule in Broach ended and it ceased to be a port of the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Its links with the Afghanistan-Persian Plateau to the north west, with Magadha to the north east, with the Himalayan territories to the north and Malwa and the Central India Plateau, were broken when the Traikutakas, coastal people gained control of Broach. The possession of Sopara and Kalleina on the upper Konkan coast made the Traikutakas powerful enough economically to extend their sway northwards to the more coveted port of Broach. The inclusion of Broach in their small kingdom made them a factor in the history of Western India. The large revenues which Broach brought, enabled them to resist the might of larger kingdoms in Malwa and the Deccan Plateau, which were also anxious to gain access to the sea and establish overseas contacts for their trade.

But Broach as a Traikutaka port had a precarious existence. It lost its inland connections. The Traikutaka territory stretched north-south along the narrow coastal
plain from perhaps Broach to Kanheri.\footnote{1} Blocked in the east by the Sahyadris and in the north by the Vindyas, the Traikutakas were an economically and politically isolated people. Malwa, and the Indo-Gangetic Plain with its rich resources and land links with the Persian Gulf ports and the Afghanistan Plateau, were outside the limits of the Traikutaka Kingdom. The Deccan Plateau was also cut off from the coastal kingdom not only by political barriers but also by forest and hill. The strategic market towns which commanded the passes through which ran the major trade routes from the Deccan to Malwa and to the Gujarat plains were in the possession of different dynasties. The Trimbak Pass and Nasik, Junnar and Nanaghat, all became bones of contention between the Coastal and Plateau powers. The location of Broach at the northern extremity of the Traikutaka territory also proved to be a disadvantage for an outlet of their kingdom. Sopara and Kalleina which were also Traikutaka ports were safer for their trade than Broach.

The hinterland of Broach during the Traikutaka Period had therefore only the opportunity of extending down a short distance along the narrow coast and even this small hinterland was encroached upon by the more favoured location of Kalleina and Sopara. The Traikutaka territory was poor in resources although rich in the traditions of trade. It could not boast of any craft, manufacture or industry barring a few exceptions.
Its main resources were forest products like honey and timber from the hills and rice from the coastal plains.

Faced with a shrinking hinterland, Broach looked to an overseas trade with the foreland for sustenance. Its merchants became carriers of trade in the Indian Ocean, exchanging the goods of the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea ports, the Arabian and African coasts, for those of the products of Ceylon, Burma and the Far East. As long as the mercantile community of Broach had the capital and the enterprise wherewith to carry on its trade, Broach could hold its own in international trade. Sandalwood from Timor and the Celebes, camphor and spices from Java and Sumatra, tin from Malacca, cloves, mace, nutmeg and agallochum from Malaya and Banda, rubies from Pegu, silk and porcelain from China, cinnamon, pepper, pearls, rubies and sapphires from Ceylon, costus from Sind, all came to Broach in exchange for seed pearls from Hormuz, sandalwood, camphor, gold and spices from Sofala, gold, silver and copper from Aden and tortoise shells, cowries and conch shells from the Maldives. It was a transit trade in which the merchants of Broach had a share. The port functioned almost as a clearing house for the products of the east and west through the sheer enterprise of its merchant community. But Broach had no land base and hardly any facilities which an organised Government could bestow on it. The Traikutakas were a mere clan with no kingdom or a stable administration. Their merchants carried
on the trade from port to port exchanging, buying and selling from the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea ports in the west to China and Japan in the east.

The economic instability of such a trade had its impact before long on the political hold of the Traikutakas on Broach. After thirty years of unstable existence, during which period it drew its wealth mainly from its overseas trade, the Traikutaka Dynasty came to an end in 500 A.D. The Vakatakas of the upper Deccan Plateau, were thrusting to the coast to find an outlet for their rich kingdom. The Vakatakas finally succeeded in ousting the Traikutakas from Broach and the Narbada estuary.

References:
(A) THIS TRAIKUTAKAS, A COASTAL POWER:

1. The Classical Age, op.cit., pp. 192-194. The Traikutakas, it is said, held the country at least from Kanheri to Surat. But their coins were found not only in Gujarat and Konkan but also in the Maratha country on the other side of the Ghats. The Copper Plate grant of Dharasena (455 A.D.) was discovered at Pardi some 50 miles of Surat. Dharasena is said to have defeated the Abhiras and their neighbours. Vyaghrasena's Surat Grant (489 A.D.) was issued from Aniruddhapura. He is described as the "lord of Aparanta and other neighbouring countries". The increasing strength
of the Traikutakas is recorded in the Krishnagiri (Kanheri) Copper Plate dated 493 A.D. After this date, the Traikutakas lost their territories to the Gurjaras and the Kalachchuris. One of the earliest Gurjara records, the Sunaokala grant, was issued from Bharukachcha. Broach might have been held by the Traikutakas during parts of the reigns of Dharasena and Vyagrasena who are considered the greatest of the Traikutakas.
Unlike the territory of the Traikutakas which stretched along the coast, the Vatakak territory included within its limits parts of Madhya Pradesh, Berar, Maharashtra and Andhra. They were also in alliance with the Guptas. But the Vatakakas were divided into two houses, that of the Nagpur District and the other of the Akola District (the Vatsagulma Branch). The former was considered the main branch. It is this branch that accepted the suzerainty of the Guptas in 376 A.D. The Nagpur Branch seems to have held the Wardha, Chhindwara, Siwani, Nagpur, Balaghat, Amraoti and the Betul districts when Pravarasena II was the ruler. He is said to have been honoured by the kings of Kosala, Mekala and Malawa. He is described as the Lord of Kuntala (Kanarese area). But his political influence over these territories is doubtful. Malwa particularly, remained with the Guptas till the Huns overpowered them. After that it seems to have passed into the hands of the Kalachchuris, Gurjaras, Chalukyas and probably, the Valabhis. The Nagpur Branch of the Vatakakas is never reported to have extended its sway over Broach.

It was the Akola Branch of the Vatakakas, with its capital at Vatsagulma considered to be a minor branch, that extended its influence to Kuntala, Avanti, Kalinga, Kosala and the Traikutaka territory. They also conquered Lata and
Andhra. But it is doubtful whether they completely subjugated these people. The Valsagulma Vakatakas were at variance with the Kuntalas for the possession of the Kanarese coast and it is reported that the Kuntalas were sided by the Nagpur Vakatakas. This brought about a rift between the Nagpur and the Vatsagulma Branches. Perhaps the Vatsagulma Branch, after defeating the Traikutakas held Broach for some time. But the strained relations between Nagpur and Akola did not permit much peaceful trade between Broach and the major part of the Vakataka territory. The Akola Branch, further, seems to have concentrated on a sea outlet through the Kuntala territory (Kanara coast) and not the Gujarat coast and Broach. Their claims to having conquered Avanti (Western Malwa) and Lata (South Gujarat) also seem exaggerated, because Harishena, the reported Vakataka conqueror of Malwa, flourished in the latter half of the 5th century, when Malwa was still with Skandagupta (455-467 A.D.) of the Gupta Dynasty, despite Hunic invasions. After the death of Skandagupta, the Hunas seem to have over run Malwa. (1)

Broach as a Vakataka port therefore does not seem to have enjoyed accessibility to the entire territory of the Vakatakas because of the struggle between the two houses. Both Akola and Nagpur commanded well known trade routes of the Deccan, and the products of the Deccan had ample opportunity to flow to Broach. But it had to compete with
other Deccan ports which had an equally long established trade as that of Broach. The inclusion of Broach in the territories of a Deccan power thrust the economic watershed of Broach to the south and east. The Deccan Plateau was rich in cotton and cotton cloth, precious stones such as diamonds, semi-precious stones like agates and carnelians, forest wealth including timber, lac, gum, honey and resin, manufactured goods such as jewellery, wood work etc. and various products of household and handicraft industry. Once again the close links of Broach with the great market town of Paithan on the Plateau, through the Maheshwar crossing on the Narbada and the Khandesh gateway, established as far back as the Mauryan period, gradually came into function. The Deccan was not an unfamiliar or a new hinterland for Broach. Standing between the Gangetic Plain and the Deccan, Broach could easily function as an outlet for both, provided political and other conditions were favourable. The products of the Deccan had better chance of using Broach for an overseas trade when it was a Vakataka part. Gold, copper, silver and pearls from the Persian Gulf and Red Sea ports were exchanged for the cotton, timber and the forest products of the Deccan, while its manufactured goods were found to be in good demand in the West.

But the Vakataka hold on Malwa was doubtful. The vital Malwa corridor which linked Broach with the Gangetic Plain
was a bone of contention between the Hunic tribes which poured into India during the latter years of the Imperial Guptas. The exclusion of Malwa from the Vakataka territories, not only deprived them of the markets of the Gangetic plain, but also made their possessions in Central India and Gujarat less valuable commercially. The nearness of the Hunic kingdom of Toramana in Eastern Malwa, established in 485 A.D., on the ruins of the Gupta Empire, proved a menace. At the height of its power, the Kingdom of Toramana included within its limits Western Malwa, Rajasthan and the Punjab. There was also a Hunic kingdom in Kashmir. The Huns were in possession of the Persian and Afghanistan Plateau and their territory extended over 40 countries. The Takshashila route, the Multan route, the Makran and the Bolan routes, the Bamiyan route and the lesser Kashmir routes were in the territories dominated by the Hunic people. Malwa's trade was therefore mainly across land to the Punjab, Kashmir and the Persian-Afghanistan Plateau. Its contacts with Broach all but ceased. With the loss of Malwa and the frontier lands of India, Broach lost a valuable part of its hinterland. The Vakatakas were not militarily competent to resist the might of the Huns, nor were they a politically conscious people to hold the balance in their favour by establishing friendly alliances with them.

The Vakatakas, like the Traikutakas had no great institutional efficiency. They were a people divided into
clans and groups and their territory hardly attained the status of a kingdom. The Vakataka administration could not guarantee safety of goods on the cumbersome trade routes. Continuous military campaigns and lack of facilities and policies, made journey by land risky. Even though the deeply rooted segregation of functional groups in Indian Society prevented the merchant community from involvement in the military, the unsettled state of affairs had its impact on trade.

Further, the fact that Broach was the outlet for several land locked kingdoms made it a target of attack from all directions, with disastrous results on its economy. Broach became a helpless pawn between the powers that ruled Malwa, the Gangetic Plain, Gujarat and the Deccan Plateau. After 20 years of unstable existence under the Vakatakas, Broach surrendered to the Kalachchuris in 520 A.D.
The Vakatakas rose to power in Central India under Vindhyasakti and Pravarasena I. During Pravarasena's time, the Empire was divided into two, with their headquarters in the Nagpur District and at Vatsagulma in the Akola District. Perhaps they were ruled by the sons of Pravarasena as his viceroy and became independent after his death. The branch ruling in the Nagpur district became the main one and absorbed the territories ruled by the other sons of Pravarasena. A considerable part of Bundelkhand acknowledged the suzerainty of the Vakatakas, when Rudrasena became their ruler. His son Prithvisena perhaps ruled about the 3rd quarter of the 4th century A.D. and he is described as one, who enjoyed the "continuity of treasure, army and means of fulfilling desires that had been accumulating for a hundred years" (p. 178).

Emperor Samudragupta seems to have curbed the might of the Vakatakas in 376 A.D. and contracted a marriage alliance with them. The Vakatakas of Nagpur district became subordinate allies of the Guptas. The charters of Pravarasena II (who ruled about the middle of the 5th century) have been found at Wardha, Chindwara, Siwani, Nagpur, Balaghat, Amraoti and Betul districts. He is described as the lord of Kuntala.
(Kanarese area). His son Narendrasena is said to have been "honoured by the kings of Kosala, Mekala and Malwa but his political influence over these territories is doubtful. Malwa remained with the Guptas till it was threatened by the Huns. But Narendrasena seems to have defeated a number of the subordinate vassals of the Guptas. Nothing is known of the history of the family after Prathvisena II who succeeded Narendrasena.

The Vakatakas of Vatsagulma (Akola district) came into prominence under Vindhyasakti II, grandson of Pravarasena I. An inscription in the Ajanta caves was believed to have contained the names of some Vakataka kings, probably belonging to the Vatsagulma Branch (p.185). They seem to have defeated the king of Kuntala. The most powerful of the Vatsagulma Vakatakas, was Harishena who seems to have extended his influence to Kuntala, Avanti, Kalinga, Kosala, the Traikutaka territory, Lata, and Andhra (p.186). But it is doubtful whether he completely subjugated them. It is also believed that the relations of the Vakatakas of Vatsagulma with the main branch at Nagpur was unfriendly because the relations of Kuntala with the main branch was friendly, but those with the Vatsagulma branch was unfriendly. Both Kosala and Malwa are claimed as being within the influence of the main branch and the Vatsagulma Branch. The strained relations of the two houses left the Vatsagulma Branch, which held the northern Konkan after it defeated the Traikutakas, and also Broach, with a limited hinterland.
The Kalachchuris perhaps came with the Huns. Their original location in the region of Mahishmati\(^{(1)}\) gave them command over the vital trade route from the Gangetic Plain and Malwa (Ujjain) to the Deccan Plateau, which passed through Mahishmati on the Narbada. They had established themselves as a commercially important people even before the collapse of the Gupta Empire. Under Krishnaraja, the Kalachchuris held Western Malwa and the western part of the upper Deccan Plateau. The important market towns of Ujjain, Dhar and Mandu gave them control over the trade of the Gangetic Plain with the Deccan and with the Gujarat ports. In the upper Deccan they held Nasik, which commanded the Trimbak Pass and the trade route to Sopara, and also Junnar which commanded the Nanaghat pass to Kalleina. They also had in their possession Paithan, the major market town of the Deccan Plateau, on which converged the routes from Ujjain and Mahishmati in the north, from Sopara and Kalleina on the coast, from Rameswaran and Nasik in the south and several other routes from all directions. Sankaragana the successor of Krishnaraja seems to have included Kathiawad and Gujarat to the Kalachchuri dominion because he is said to have conquered "all lands bounded by the western and eastern seas"\(^{(2)}\). Even though the claims of Sankaragana seem to be exaggerated he was undoubtedly one of
the greatest of the Kalachchuri rulers. His kingdom was able to establish contacts with the sea and wrest from its rivals and neighbours a part of the trade of the west coast ports with the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Arabian and the African coast and the Far East. Whether Broach was added to the Kalachchuri Kingdom during the reign of Sankaragana or of his successor Buddharaja is open to doubt. Sankaragana's rule ended in 595 A.D. The Sankheda Copper Plate grant issued about the last quarter of the 6th century refers to a prince named Nirihullaka as having recognised the suzerainty of Sankaragana. The occupation of Gujarat by the Kalachchuris is suggested by this copper plate. Nirihullaka, mentioned in the copper plate, is believed to be the descendant of the Gurjara ruler Samgamasimha of Bharukachcha mentioned in the Sunaokala Grant dated 540 A.D.\(^{(3)}\) Towards the end of his rule, Sankaragana seems to have wrested Broach from the Gurjaras. Sankaragana's son Buddharaja who succeeded him in 595 A.D. is said to have concentrated on extending his territory to Vidisa (Eastern Malwa). He included it in his territory in 608 A.D., when Devagupta of the later Gupta Dynasty surrendered to him.\(^{(4)}\) He does not seem to have added to Sankaragana's conquests in Gujarat. But his Sarsavni Copper Plate issued from Padra in Baroda district makes a mention of grants of land by the Kalachchuris in the Bharukachcha Vishaya in 609 A.D.\(^{(5)}\) Broach was thus definitely part of the Kalachchuri dominion in 609 A.D. but was, most likely, included in it by the end of the
6th century by Sankaragana.

The conquests of Krishnaraja, Sankaragana and Buddharaja, three of the most powerful of the Kalachchuri kings, opened out many of the trade routes for the Kalachchuri dominion. Broach as a Kalachchuri port had opportunities to extend its hinterland to the Gangetic Plain through Ujjain. The possession of the Ujjain-Mahishmati route by the Kalachchuris right from the inception of the kingdom, was a great asset for the trade of Broach. The inclusion of Kathiawad and Gujarat in the Kalachchuri territories by Sankaragana cemented the links of Broach with the ports of Kathiawad which had an established overseas trade with the Persian Gulf and Red Sea ports. The trade of Broach with the Kathiawad ports, across the Gulf of Cambay, established as early as the Pre-Mauryan period, revived with the Kalachchuri thrust to Kathiawad.

The land route to the Persian Gulf being somewhat disrupted by political upheavals, the sea route along the Saurashtra coast, Sind, and Makran came to be used. Saurashtra was rich in teak, lac, gingelly and cotton, all of which were exchanged for the textiles of Broach.

The extension of the Kalachchuri influence to Vidisa by Buddharaja, opened out a second and vital link for their kingdom with the Gangetic Plain. The possession of Western Malwa and Ujjain had already brought within the limits of the Kalachchuri dominion, one of the most frequented routes to
the Gangetic Plain. The Vidisa route extended the hinterland of Broach further. The route ran through Chanderi, Kalaras, Morena, and Dholpur to Mathura, all important market centres. Mathura like Ujjain, was connected to the Taxila route and to the Persian-Afghanistan Plateau.

The possession of Paithan also gave the Kalachchuris command over the Deccan products. Paithan controlled the trade routes of the Deccan to Malwa through the western Narbada Valley.

But the Kalachchuris were a clan of people like the Traikutakas and the Vakatakas, with no great institutional and organisational efficiency. Despite their claims on Vidisa and Ujjain, the flow of goods from the Gangetic Plain to Broach was disrupted. Wool, woollen cloth from Kashmir, lapis lazuli, musk and yaks' tail from Tibet, tasar from Banaras etc. began to look to land routes for a market across the frontiers of India. Instead of these high priced goods, Broach began to trade in forest products like teak, lac etc. from the Central India highlands, cotton and coarse cloth from the Central India Plateau and the Deccan. Even though the Kalachchuris made every effort to make the trade routes within their territory safe for travel, the political rivalry between the Gurjaras and the Kalachchuris over the possession of Broach made trade with that port risky.
The Kalachchuris became vulnerable to attacks from the neighbouring kingdoms which also wanted control over the strategic market towns on the important trade routes to the ports. The Valabhis who had become a commercial power on the south Saurashtra coast wanted access to Malwa and the Gangetic plain. They allied with the later Guptas of Eastern Malwa. Even though Buddharaja was able to ward off the threat of a Valabhi-Gupta alliance, his successors were not able to hold Eastern Malwa. A second threat came from Yasodharman of Malwa who had made himself powerful on the Ujjain route to Mathura. He checked the Kalachchuri expansion to the north. A third power which threatened the Kalachchuris were the Chalukyas of Badami who under Kirtivarman I, were encroaching upon the southern frontiers of the Kalachchuri territories by 567 A.D. The route to the Deccan was of doubtful value to the Kalachchuris, with the rise of the Chalukyas. In Broach itself the rivalry of the Gurjaras, which Buddharaja had to contend with, became more intense after his death. The Gurjaras began to assert themselves in Broach when Dadda I claimed it in 580 A.D. He seems to have established his sway from the Kim river in the south and the Arabian Sea coast in the west to the borders of Malwa and Khandesh in the east. His capital was Nandipuri which Buhler identifies as Broach, but was probably, Nanded in Rajpipla, according to Bhagavanlal Indraji. Whether the Gurjaras controlled Broach at this time or acknowledged the suzerainty of the Kalachchuris...
is uncertain because Krishnaraja of the Kalachchuri Dynasty also claims to have conquered the lands upto the sea coast.
Krishnaraja's successor Sankaragana was a powerful ruler and his last known date is 595 A.D. Dadda I's dates are 580-605 A.D. It is known that Buddharaja the successor of Sankaragana, diverted his attention to the conquest of Eastern Malwa. Dadda I was a contemporary of all the three powerful Kalachchuri rulers. But it is possible that he was able to establish himself at Broach in 595 A.D. after the death of Sankaragana and when Buddharaja was engaged in a fight with the later Guptas of Eastern Malwa. However, it is certain that by the time Hiuen Tsang came to India in 641 A.D. the Gurjara King Dadda II (620-642 A.D.) was ruler of Broach. Hiuen Tsang mentions that Broach was an independent kingdom and that Dadda II styled himself "protector of Valabhi" as well. The Kalachchuris by the time had retired to Malwa and lost contacts with the coast. As the pressures from the west increased they were pushed to the east where they settled in Jubhulpore. They emerged as a powerful force again only towards the end of the 9th century. (10)
References:

(C) THE KALACHCHURIS - THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE COASTAL AND PLATEAU POWERS

(1) The Classical Age, op.cit., p.194.
(2) The Classical Age, op.cit., p.195.
(9) The Classical Age, op.cit., p.66.
THE GURJARAS OF NANDIPURI:

The Gurjaras were another clan of people who took advantage of the declining power of the Guptas, the kingdom of Mihiragula, the Hun, in Kashmir and the north-west, that of Yasodharman in Malwa and of the Kalachchuris in Central India, to extend their sway over a large territory. The Gurjaras like the Kalachchuris probably came with the Huns. The imperial Guptas knew them as a frontier tribal people who disturbed the peace of the Empire. Gradually they moved to the Punjab and later to Rajasthan and Gujarat. It was only in the 12th century that they finally merged with the people of Gujarat and bestowed their clan name to Gurjara Desa. (1)

The earliest Gurjara Kingdom was in the vicinity of Jodhpur, founded by Harichandra about the middle of the 6th century. The Gurjara-Pratiharas were his descendants. His four sons seem to have ruled over separate principalities but only Rajjila of Merta (70 miles north east of Jodhpur) and Dadda of Nandipuri (Rajpipla) established kingdoms. Of these, the branch at Nandipuri became quite powerful and established an independent kingdom in the region of Broach.

By 580 A.D. Dadda I had established himself in the region between the Kim in the south and the Mahi in the north and claimed Broach as a Gurjara port. He is said to have included within his principality the territories from the
sea coast in the west to the borders of Malwa and Khandesh in the east. All the grants of the Gurjaras are from Nandipuri, which was probably their capital. Buhler has identified it as Broach while Bhagawanlal Indraji is of the opinion that it is Nanded in Rajpipla. It is however doubtful whether Dadda I held Broach because the Kalachchuri Kings Krishnaraja and his successors Sankaragana and Buddharaja also claimed Broach at this time. It is possible that Dadda sought the help of the Chalukyas to meet the challenge of the Kalachchuris and accepted the Chalukya suzerainty over his territories. It is the alliance of the Gurjaras with the Chalukyas that finally enabled them to occupy the Kalachchuri territories in Gujarat and later Malwa, sometime about 610 A.D. Dadda and his successors are known as feudatories and never assumed royal titles. But their grants do not refer to any sovereign power to which they were subservient. With the withdrawal of the Kalachchuris to Malwa and from thence to Jubballapore, the Gurjaras seem to have established themselves in the region of Broach. Dadda II (620-642 A.D.) was undoubtedly a great ruler and was in possession of a great part of Gujarat. Hiuen Tsang says that in his time the Gurjaras were very powerful and that the Maitrakas of Valabhi owed allegiance to him. Broach, he says was an independent kingdom ruled by the Gurjaras. Between 610 and 640 A.D. the Gurjaras extended their sway over the south Saurashtra coast as well as a large portion of western Malwa. (2)
Dadda II was however a contemporary of Pulakesin II (610-11 to 642) of the Chalukya Dynasty. Pulakesin is said to have subdued the Gurjaras, the Latas and the Malawas. His successes in Gujarat was followed by the appointment of a Chalukya Viceroy in Gujarat. Lata at this time was only a small territory south of the Kim river with Navasarika as the capital. The claim of Pulakesin to have defeated the Gurjaras was probably a reference to the aid sought by Dadda from the Chalukyas and the subsequent acceptance of a feudatory status for the Gurjaras. The Chalukya rule may not have gone north of Lata (Kim river) because the land between the Kim and the Mahi is referred to as the home territory of the Gurjaras. But the military aid given by the Chalukyas to the Gurjaras gradually paved the way to the Chalukya domination in Gujarat, probably after the death of Dadda II in 642 A.D. The Kaira Grant of 643 A.D. issued by the Chalukya King Vijayaraja, records the grant of "the village of Pariyala in Surat District to the priests and religious students of Jambusaras (Jambusar in Broach district)". But Pulakesin also died in 642 A.D. and there was a temporary eclipse of the Chalukyas of the Badami House. (3)

However, that Pulakesin included Broach in his territory is suggested by the Aihole inscription, which records the Chalukya presence in "the region of the Vindhya and the Rewa" (Narbada). The threat of Harshvardhana from the Gangetic Plain had induced a powerful alliance between the Gurjaras, the Latas, the Malwas and the Maitrakas (Valabhi) who called in the aid
of Pulakesin against the thrust from the north. The Navasari Grant of Jayabhata III confirms the Valabhi alliance with the Gurjaras. It says that Dadda II attained fame by "sheltering the Lord of Valabhi who was overpowered by Harsha."

Whether the Chalukyas or the Gurjaras held Broach at this time, one fact that emerges out of the above records is that the Gujarat, Deccan and the Saurashtra dynasties were undoubtedly against the thrust of Harsha to the south and to the ports of Gujarat and Saurashtra. It was once again a struggle between a land power in the Gangetic plain and a sea power on the western coast of India in which Vale the port of the Valabhis, Broach the port of Gujarat, and Kalleina and Sopara, the ports of the upper Deccan Plateau, had a heavy stake. Harsha did not directly threaten Pulakesin but his attack on the Valabhis, the Gurjaras and the Malawas was an indirect threat to Pulakesin. Broach as a Gurjara port, therefore was oriented towards Central India, the Deccan Plateau and Saurashtra rather than to the Gangetic plain.

In the early days of the rise of the Gurjaras, the hinterland of Broach was confined probably to the "region between the Kim and the Mahi", the homeland of the Gurjaras of Nandipuri. Dadda I is said to have conquered large portions of Western Malwa. Dadda II was in alliance with the Valabhis of Saurashtra and the Chalukyas of the Deccan. Dadda also had
the support of the Gandharas of Sind and the Gurjaras of Rajputana. The hinterland of the Broach had opportunities to extend to Saurashtra, Sind, Rajputana, Malwa and the Deccan. But it is doubtful whether a military alliance, to meet the challenges from the Gangetic Plain, could have cemented a commercial relationship on a longstanding basis. Pulakesin II and Dadda II died about the same time, and both the Chalukya and Gurjara Powers received a set back. By 675 A.D., when Jayabhata II succeeded Dadda III in the Gurjara territories, the Valabhis asserted themselves and refused to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Gurjaras. The Chalukya power revived under Vikramaditya I about 655 A.D. They proved to be an ambitious power and moved north from Navsari to the Narbada. They attacked the Valabhis and the Gurjaras. Jayabhata IV was the last Gurjara King of Nandipuri. After 735 A.D. there is no record of the Gurjara dynasty, but long before that Broach and the Narbada estuary seem to have passed into the hands of the Chalukyas.

The trade of Broach under the Gurjaras followed the same pattern as during the major part of the Kalachchuri Period. Western Malwa supplied Broach with its commodities mainly because the Malawas found it the nearest outlet. The alliance with the Valabhis gave Broach access to the Saurashtra ports across the Gulf of Cambay and across land. The alliance with the Chalukyas, and the later Chalukya expansion to Gujrat, placed Broach in a favourable position to draw the resources.
of the Deccan Plateau. The friendship of Dadda with the Gandharas of Sind and the Gurjara-Pratiharas of Rajputana and the north west, gave Broach access to the Sind-Makran route and the Multan route to the Persian-Afghanistan Plateau and the Persian Gulf. But political disturbances hindered smooth trade along these routes. The rivalry of Harsha closed the Mathura route to Broach. The closest ties of Broach at this time seem to have been with Saurashtra. Broach exchanged textiles, grain, spices and sugar for teak, lac, cotton, gingelly oil and ghee from Saurashtra.

References:

(D) THE GURJARAS OF NANDIPURI

(1) a. A.S. Altekar, op.cit., p.5.
(3) The Classical Age, op.cit., p.236.
(4) The Classical Age, op.cit., p.236.
The Maitrakas of Valabhi were another people who rose to establish a State on the ruins of the Gupta Empire. Bhatārka, a Gupta General of the Maitraka Clan, and Governor of Saurashtra, made himself quite powerful towards the end of the 5th century. The first two chiefs called themselves Senapatis but the third chief was given the title of Maharaja by his Gupta overlord. Both he and his successor considered themselves independent but did not finally throw off the Gupta suzerainty. By the time Guhasena became the Maharaja (556-559 A.D.), the nominal allegiance to the Guptas was discarded. Since the final overthrow of the imperial Guptas also came between 550 A.D. and 570 A.D., it is obvious that the Valabhis made themselves independent with the decline of the Guptas. The extent of the Valabhi kingdom under king Siladitya, whose known dates are 606 A.D. and 612 A.D., is given by the Chinese traveller Huien Tsang (641 A.D.). Huien Tsang says that Siladitya was ruler of Valabhi, 60 years before him. This would give the date of Siladitya's accession as 581 A.D. By the end of the 6th century, Siladitya was ruling a vast country, including considerable portions of Western Malwa, and Valabhi had become the most powerful kingdom in Western India. (1) But it is difficult to believe the statement of Huien Tsang because the Kalachchuris under Sankaragana (whose reign ended in 595 A.D.) and Buddharaja (whose last known date is 612 A.D.) were a great power in
Western India. The Gurjaras under Dadda I were also a power to be reckoned with in the Mahi-Kim Basin. Dadda I flourished in the last quarter of the 6th century. Eventually, the Gurjaras are reputed to have extended their sway to Western Malwa. The Chalukyas, under Pulakesin I and Kiritvarman (535-598 A.D.), were also a powerful people. Even though the conquests of these two Chalukya rulers were confined to the Deccan, Pulakesin II (610-642 A.D.), whose help was sought by Dadda II in his struggle against Harshavardhana, seems to have been recognised as the overlord of the Gurjara territories in Malwa and Gujarat. Siladitya's influence may have been confined to northern Gujarat and portions of Western Malwa on the Mainland.

All the five kings of Valabhi, dating from Siladitya I to Dharasena IV, were contemporaries of Harshavardhana, whose thrust to Gujarat necessitated the alliance of the Valabhis, the Gurjaras and the Chalukyas. But the Valabhis seem to have been in possession of parts of Malwa even during Dhruvasena II's reign, who ruled at least till 640-41 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Dharasena IV. Hiuen Tsang who visited the Valabhi Kingdom in Dhruvasena's time says that the Valabhis ruled over Malwa and that several neighbouring kingdoms were subjected to it. A grant of Dhruvasena II dated 640-41 A.D. also supports that he was in possession of at least parts of Malwa. Dharasena IV who succeeded Dhruvasena II, assumed
imperial title. His known dates are 646 A.D. and 650 A.D. The Valabhis therefore could not have lost any of the territories which they held previously.

That Dadda II attained glory by protecting the Valabhis against Harsha, is recorded in the Gurjara inscriptions. The Valabhis were able to defeat Harsha because of the military help rendered by Dadda II and Pulakesin II. The Aihole Inscription dated 634 A.D. refers to the defeat of Harsha at the hands of Pulakesin II, and says that the Latas, Malvas and the Gurjaras accepted Pulakesin's suzerainty. The defeat must have taken place sometime between 620 A.D. and 630 A.D.

Dharasena IV, however, is said to have extended his sway to Bharukachcha. Two of his land grants are issued from Broach and they are dated 648 A.D. But the lands donated are in the Kaira District, outside the limits of the Gurjara Kingdom. Whether the alliance of the Gurjaras with the Valabhis at this time permitted Dharasena to issue land grants from Broach, or whether Dharasena reached Broach in the course of his victorious military campaigns, is not known. But the occupation of Broach by the Valabhis, if at all, was temporary because the Gurjaras continued to hold Broach. After Dharasena's death in 653 A.D., the Valabhis met with a reversal, till the accession of Siladitya II. After Siladitya III, all Valabhi kings are called Siladitya. Hence the land grant made by one Siladitya in the Bharukachcha Vishaya may be Siladitya III or any of his
successors. But the date being 676 A.D., the Valabhis might have been in control of Broach at that date. But a son of Pulakesin II is credited with having defeated and exterminated the whole army of one Vajnata, identified as one of the Siladityas of Valabhi, and wrested from him the lands between the Mahi and the Narbada. The Chalukya power in Gujarat therefore did not decline with the death of Pulakesin II in 642 A.D. The Valabhi power declined however only with the invasion of the Arabs, during the reign of perhaps Siladitya V, but it is doubtful whether they held Broach for any long period. Their alliance with the Gurjaras and the Chalukyas in the latter quarter of the 6th century and the 1st half of the 7th century might have drawn Broach to Saurashtra, north Gujarat and parts of Malwa, but the friendship soon turned into rivalry and war between the Chalukyas, the Gurjara-Partiharas and the Valabhis. That the Valabhis were still powerful in the first part of the 8th century, and that Vale, their port, and the Valabhi Kingdom as a whole, commanded a good portion of the trade of the Indian Ocean, is proved by the fact that one of the first ports attacked by the Arabs was Vale. The Arab raids on Rajputana, Gujarat Kathiawad and Malwa took place between 725 A.D. and 735 A.D., but long before this, they had attacked Vale and Broach several times in the early part of the 7th century. The powers that repulsed them is said to be the Chalukyas of Lata and the Gurjara-Pratiharas.
of Malwa. By the 8th century therefore, there were four powers contending for the trade of Western India, the Arabs, the Valabhis, the Chalukyas and the Gurjara-Pratiharas. The advent of the Arabs did bring about a united action from the Indian dynasties as during the period of Harsha's threats from the Gangetic Plain, but commercial rivalry between them was too keen for maintaining a prolonged alliance. During the period of the Arab invasions Jayabhata IV, of the Gurjara Dynasty was in control of Broach. A record by him says that "Jayabhata IV of Broach defeated the Arabs in "the city of the Lord of Valabhi". Perhaps the Gurjaras came to the rescue of the Valabhis at this crisis also, but the Valabhis ceased to rule Kathiawad. A record of 733 A.D. says that one Jaikadeva assumed imperial titles, and was ruler of Bhumilka (Bhumli in Porbander). The south-western part of Saurashtra therefore had become independent of the Valabhis by this time.

Further the Chalukya advance from the south proved another threat to the Valabhis. The relations between the two had become strained by the 8th century.

Another threat came from the Gurjara-Pratiharas of Rajputana. The city of Valabhi was destroyed during the reign of Siladitya VII in 766-67 A.D.

In all the struggles of the Valabhi Kingdom and their intermittent alliances with the Chalukyas and the Gurjaras, whether it was against Harsha of Thaneshwar or the Arabs, one
thing stands out clear, namely the commercial importance of Broach, the Saurashtra ports and the upper Konkan ports, to the wide territory of the Gangetic Plain, Malwa, Rajputana, Saurashtra, Gujarat, Central India and the Deccan. The break up of the alliance of the Valabhis with the Chalukyas and the Gurjaras was also due to commercial rivalry in which Broach played an important role. The possession of Broach was necessary for the successful commerce of all these regions. A threat from outside temporarily brought about an alliance between them but the rivalry for an outlet to the sea prevented any lasting friendship between these powers.

References:

(E) THE VALABHIS (MATIRAKAS OF VALABH) :

(2) The Classical Age, op.cit., pp.103-104.
(3) The Classical Age, op.cit., pp.147-149.
(4) The Classical Age, op.cit., p.150.
(5) The Classical Age, op.cit., p.150.
The Chalukyas, like the Satavahanas (Andhras) of the early Christian Era, re-established the commercial superiority of the Deccan Plateau over the Gangetic Plain and Malwa, when they extended their power "from coast to coast". But their early expansion was not without challenges from the neighbouring kingdoms, equally ambitious in their thrust towards the sea.

The earliest nucleus of the Chalukya kingdom seems to have been Vatapi (Badami) in Bijapur District. Badami had a strategic location, commanding the Paithan-Nasik and Paithan-Maheshwar routes to the Narbada Valley and to Malwa in the north, and the Paithan-Rameshvaram route to the south. It was situated in an area which was agriculturally and industrially productive. After the decline of the Traikuktas in 500 A.D., the Chalukyas moved to the coast and gained control of Sopara and Kalleina which gave them access to the sea and a substantial share in the trade of the Indian Ocean. Both Pulakesin I (535-566 A.D.) and Kirtivarman 566-598 A.D.) embarked on a policy of expansion. The latter is credited with having subdued Anga, Vanga, Kalinga, Magadha and Kosala in the north east, in all of which the Gupta power was declining. But Sankargana of the Kalachchuri Dynasty, and the later Guptas of Vidisa, stemmed his progress to Western and Eastern Malwa. The successor of Sankargana, Buddharaja (595-612 A.D.) is said to have wrested eastern Malwa from Devagupta of the Later Gupta Dynasty.
and included Vidisa in the Kalachchuri Kingdom. There is record, however, that Mangalesan, Kirtivarman's successor, defeated the Kalachchuris in 602 A.D. But in 608 A.D. Buddharaja was in possession of Vidisa and Western Malwa. Mangalesan, having usurped the throne after Kirtivarman's death, had to face the opposition of Pulakesin, the rightful heir and son of Kirtivarman. Internal rivalry perhaps weakened the Chalukyas, till Pulakesin defeated his uncle Mangalesan in 610 A.D. But Pulakesin II (610-642 A.D.) found that the Chalukyas by this time had lost all the territories conquered by Kirtivarman and Mangalesan. He embarked on an ambitious career of conquest and subdued the Malwas, Gurjaras and the Latas. In the south he vanquished the Gangas of Mysore, the Alupas of Shimoga and the Mauryas of Rajapuri (near Janjira on the upper Konkan coast). (2)

But Pulakesin II was a contemporary of Dadda II (620-642 A.D.) the Gurjara King of Broach. Dadda is reported to have been in possession of Western Malwa after the retreat of the Kalachchuris and also the territories upto the northern banks of the river Kim. Dadda was in alliance with the Valabhis and claimed overlordship of southern Saurashtra. Pulakesin's claim of having subdued the Gurjaras and Latas seem to have been confined to the territory south of the Kim. It is known that a small kingdom of Lata existed at this time with Navasarika as its capital. The dividing line between the Gurjaras and the Chalukyas, at least for sometime, was the Kim river.
Pulakesin was perhaps engaged with the Pallava power in the south to attend to or advance his north western frontiers. But that the Chalukyas were a great power is confirmed by the fact that Khusru II of Persia received an embassy from Pulakesin II in 625-26 A.D. Pulakesin’s influence had reached beyond the shores of India to the Persian Gulf, establishing close commercial links with the ports of the Persian Gulf, even in the early part of his reign.

But a new power rose in the Gangetic Plain when Harsha of Thaneshwar established a dynasty in 606 A.D. and advanced to the Gujarat coasts and the Valabhi Kingdom, threatening the Gurjaras of Broach. Dadda sought the alliance of the mighty Chalukyas to oust Harsha. It was Pulakesin who succeeded in ousting Harsha from the Gujarat Kingdom. Hiuen-Tsang confirms that Harsha suffered a defeat at the hands of Pulakesin in 612 A.D. The price Dadda had to pay for the military assistance of the Chalukyas was perhaps the acceptance of the Chalukya suzerainty over the Gurjaras. The Aihole Inscription says that the Gurjaras, Malawas and Latas were feudatories of the Chalukyas. According to V.A. Smith “Pulakesin guarded the passes of the Narbada effectively”. By the end of Dadda’s rule in Broach, the Chalukyas were at least in nominal control of the territory up to the Narbada.

Hiuen Tsang who visited India in 641 A.D. however, says that Broach, at this time, was an independent kingdom and that
the Gurjaras were a powerful people. But he was also impressed by the prosperity of the Chalukya Kingdom. He says that the country was rich, the soil productive and well cultivated, the people honest and simple. (5)

The death of Dadda II left the Chalukyas free to establish full control over Gujarat. Vikramaditya I (655-681 A.D.) sent his brother Jayasimha Varman as Viceroy of Gujarat. The Chalukya Viceroy of Gujarat had their headquarters at Navasarika (Navasari). (6) As the main branch was engaged in a struggle with the Pallavas in the south, their Viceroy at Navasari were left to chalk out their own policies. It was Jayasimhavarman who annihilated the entire army of Vajjada of the Chalukya records, and Vajrata of the Rashtrakuta records, and exterminated his army from the region of the Mahi and the Narbada. Vajrata is believed to be the Valabhi King Siladitya III or one of the Siladityas who succeeded him. (7) The Chalukya viceroy of Gujarat continued under Vineyaditya, son of Vikramaditya I (681-96 A.D.), Vijayaditya (696-733 A.D.) Vikramaditya II (733-45 A.D.) and Kiritvarman II (745-757 A.D.) and they stabilised their rule in the territories once controlled by the Gurjaras and the Kadambas (Kanarese coast). The Kaira Grant records the grant of village of Pariyaṣa in Surat district to the priests of Jambusar (Broach district) as early as 643 A.D. The Bagumra Grant (old Baroda State) dated 655 A.D. records the gift of land by the Chalukya Viceroy in the Baroda district. Neither
of them mention the suzerainty of the Chalukyas of Badami. Since the inception of the viceroyalty there was a tendency to adopt an independent policy. 

The Chalukyas of Badami disintegrated during the reign of Kirtivarman II and their fortunes passed into the hands of Dantidurga, the Rashtrakuta ruler, whose headquarter was probably Ellora.

While the Chalukyas were at the height of their power under Pulakesin II, Vikramaditya I, and his successors, their territory extended from Gujarat in the north to Nellore District in the south. Broach as a Chalukya port was once again oriented towards Deccan. Pulakesin is reported to have defeated the Malawas, and even Harsha of the Gangetic Valley. But the Chalukya hold on the northern provinces was challenged in the earlier decades by the Gurjaras, the Valabhis and Harsha of Thaneshwar, and in the later decades, by their viceroys. The struggle with the Pallavas demanded their constant attention in the south. It, not only exhausted their resources, but also loosened their hold on the northern provinces. The viceroys gradually began to rule as independent kings. The Chalukya House was also divided into two, those of Kalyan in the West (Western Chalukyas) and those of Vengi (Eastern Chalukyas). The viceroys of Gujarat claimed independence of both and established a line of their own.
References:

(F) THE CHALUKYAS OF BADAMI:

   b. V.A. Smith, The Early History of India, op.cit., p.441.

   b. V.A. Smith, The Early History of India, op.cit., p.441.

(3) a. The Classical Age, op.cit., p.240.
   b. V.A. Smith, The Early History of India, op.cit., p.442.

(4) a. V.A. Smith, The Early History of India, op.cit., p.353.


(6) The Classical Age, op.cit., p.244.

(7) The Classical Age, op.cit., pp.149 and pp.244-45.