CHAPTER II

POLITICAL HISTORY OF JAMNAGAR DISTRICT

The picture of political history of Jamnagar district is not continuous and coherent. Due to very few original sources at our disposal, it is not possible to give a connecting account. Therefore, wherever, direct evidences are lacking, information are collected from the general history of the surrounding regions, in order to reconstruct the political history of the district.

Literary as well as archaeological sources are used for tracing the history of the district. So far as literary evidences like Purāṇas, Buddhist and Jain literature are concerned, they furnish information about the places like Dwarika and Pāndara villages of the district. However, bardic accounts were of greater help for constructing the political history of Jāṭhā. Generally most of the information about the history relay on a number of inscription found in this district as well as other parts of India, sometimes the information about the rulers of the district are briefly referred.

The earliest among the inscriptions found in the district is of Western Kātrapas. These are found from Cunda (Shahved Taluka) and Cuvasar (Oshanand Taluka). Inscriptions of Bāskaldēva and six copper plates of 3hindhava family found from Chumli, (Shahved Taluka) throw considerable light on the rulers
of Gainshava family and incidentally of Western Saunachtra or the Jamnagar district. Before, the discovery of Gainshava copper plates the family was only known by a clay seal from Vala (Valabhipur) and copper plates from Morvi (Rajkot district).

The coins also play an important role in constructing the dynastic history of the area. During present and past archaeological surveys, Gupta and Chalukya coins have been brought to light. So they have also been used to infer the political history of the district.

The traditional history narrated in bardic narration were of greater help in reconstructing the dynastic history of Jethav. Thus all the available evidences were scrutinized and utilized for the tracing the political history of the district.

To give brief reference to the political and physical boundaries of the district, is necessary to understand the main events in its history. The district of Jamnagar as constituted at present forms one of the western parts of Gujarat, and the North Eastern part of peninsula of Saunachtra. The latter is divided into six districts: Jamnagar, Rajkot, Surendranagar, Bhavnagar, Amreli and Junagadh. Whereas the southern half of the district of Ahmedabad forms a part of the peninsula, the upper connects it with the main land of Gujarat. The district also includes the former Okhemandal (Amreli district) Surbandar lies to its south and Rajkot to its south-east, east and north-east, whereas on the north-west is the Gulf of Kutch and the
Arabian sea on the west. Likewise a reference will have to be made to Porbandar, because the Jethwas or Saindhavas possessed it that they could control the western sea. Secondly, in the 7th century and earlier, the then rulers reigned over the entire territory. The division between Porbandar and Navapur or two such separate states, came into existence only after the foundation of Navapur in 1540. Thus political account up to the date deal with the undivided region, but Ochmandal has been included during the latest reorganization and now forms a part of the Jamnagar district. Due to such changing patterns of political and administration control some inconsistencies are likely to occur.

MAURYAS:

It is only with the advent of the Mauryas that real history of Gujarat and Saurashtra begins. Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of the Mauryan rule (319 B.C.). After consolidating his position in Magadha he spread his empire to the east and west. He defeated Seleukos Nikator, the Syrian King in about 304 B.C. and then turned west and annexed Saurashtra. It is known from the Pali sources that during Mauryan regime there was a local dynasty in Saurashtra, which were feudatory to them. "the tawny-eyed Prince" of this dynasty ascended the throne in sixteen regional year of Chandragupta’s son Bindusāra. However, this does not seem improbable that this family was in possession of Saurashtra during Chandragupta’s arrival and were allowed to rule on agreeing a feudatory status. Chandragupta of course appointed the viceroy to look after the imperial interests as
it is clear from Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman (A.D. 180) that of the viceroy (rastriya) was a Vaisya called Susyagupta, who immortalised his name by building the bund for the lake Sudarasana.

Bindusara succeeded Chandragupta after his death in about 299 B.C. Bindusara's region extended to a period of quarter century. Bindusara seems to have retained undiminished the empire of his father. The region of Bindusara probably terminated in or within a few years of 273 B.C.

After Bindusara his son Asoka ascended the throne in about a year, circa 269 B.C. Saursashtra continued to form a part of the empire as we have it on record that Yavanaraja Tusakan, possibly an Egyptian by birth, was the Mauryan Viceroy under Asoka, who further beautified the Sardarajana lake. However, the Asoka's occupation of Saursashtra has also been inferred by the existence of 14 rock edicts of Asoka at the foot of Girnar at Junagadh.

Asoka conquered Kalinga to extend his empire all over the Indian territories. But the Kalinga proved a turning point in the career of Asoka and produced results of far reaching consequence in the history of India and the whole of eastern world. The sight of misery and bloodshed in the Kalinga diapason smote the emperor's conscience and awakened in his breast sincere feelings and repentance and sorrow. It made Asoka, intensely devoted the practice of Dharma (morality and
piety) the love of Dharma and the instruction of the people in Dharma. The emperor evolved a policy of Dharma-vilaya (conquest by piety) in place of the old conquest by bows and arrows.

The pacific tendencies of Asoka, as believed resulted in rapid, collapse and disintegration, of the Mauryan empire, immediately after his death in or about 231-232 B.C. 15

Asoka's successors were not competent enough to control the vast empire effectively. However, according to Puranic accounts, king Bishadratha was the last ruler on the throne, the latter ruled over a much diminished empire and finally was assassinated by his Commander-in-Chief Pushyamitra of Gujra family. Thus the centre of the vast empire of Asoka passed to Gujras in 137 B.C. 13

SUKHA

It is difficult to ascertain the relation between the Gujra rulers and Saurashtra. Early Indian literary sources have noted that the Gujras marched to south and then to the Southern ocean under Pushyamitra, the other to Sindh with the Varadhan under Vasumitra, the grandson of Pushyamitra. 15

When Pushyamitra got access to the throne after slaying his master, Greeks of Central Asia under Demetrius, were already in the possession of the territories in north-west frontier province of India, part of Punjab, Sindh etc. captured possibly from the weak Mauryas or their local successors. Now there was fierce struggle between a Greek king, Demander and Pushyamitra for
supremacy in India. Pushyamitra became victorious and performed two horses sacrifices,¹⁶ to signify and proclaim his victory. But before this he seized Celay which was about to become the Greek Capital. He reached up to Sindh and probably conquered Kutch and Saurashtra.

Pushyamitra ruled for 36 years (197 B.C. to 151 B.C.).¹⁷ He was succeeded by his son Anangitra, who was the hero Kalidasa's AlvyakTiranmitra. He was the governor of Vidisa at a very tender age. Vasumitra who marched towards Sindhu with Aburantha of his grandfather, came to power. He had to face small band of Greeks on the Sindhu.¹⁸ In about 75 B.C. Vasumitra was killed in a dramatic performance.

EARLY ANDHRAS OR SATAVAHANAS

The centre of the vast empire of Asoka passed to Gujara's, while in the south and the south-east the Andhra's and the Kalinga's carved out independent kingdoms. The rule of the early Andhra's over Gujarast could be proved by their coins found from Siddhapur in North Gujarast,¹⁹ and in the South Gujarast and Saurashtra.²⁰ However, the Gautamiputra Sri Satakarni, claims, in his Nasik Prasasti that he "Destroyed the Sakas, Yavana's, Polhavas...... (and) rooted out Kshatrabata and restored the glory of Satavahana family".²¹ The Saryu's inscription also mentions Sri Satakarni as the "Protector of the West" (c.150 B.C.).²² Thus it is evident that Satavahana ruled over Saurashtra and parts of Gujarast at least for a short period.
But the Satavahana hold on the northern provinces of Kṣaṇa- kata kingdom like Saurashtra, Malva and Gujarat could not have been as firm as that in Deccan. For the coins of Nāhipa that were restrict have came so far only from Nasik district, a circumstance which would seem to suggest that Satavahanas were not long in possession of their northern conquest.

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After the downfall of the Mauryan empire the north-west province of which Saurashtra was probably an appendage declared its independence under one of the descendants of Aśoka himself. These western territories composed the kingdom of Cāndhāra and according to the Tibetan historian Tāranātha they were under Aśoka’s son Vireśa. Saubhāgāsana was ruling over their kingdom in 206 B.C. was possibly the son of Vireśa. Antiochus probably wished to emulate the example of Alexander the Great by invading India. But Saubhāgāsana, whom the Greeks call “Sophasanthas”, forced Antiochus to give up the intention with which he started. He retraced his steps contenting himself with gifts of elephants from the Indian potentate. Polyaenus says, "The (Antiochus the Great) crossed the Caucasus (Hindukush) and descended into India; renewed friendship with Sophasantes, the kings of the Indians, received more elephants, until he had 150 altogether, and having once more provisioned his troops, set out again personally with his troops leaving, Androtheneus of Cyzicus, the duty of taking treasure which the king had agreed to hand
over him. 28 Shortly after this effort one Buthydams of the
Magnesians 29 made a successful bid for the crown of Bactria. 30
He sent his son Demetrius 31 to conquer the north-west part of
India in C. 185 B.C. Demetrius was accompanied by his son
Demetrius II, his able general Menander, and Apollodotus who
was probably a brother of Demetrius. 32 The resistance of Sambha-
gasana or his successor proved fruitless, 33 and Demetrius himself
subjected the Indus valley, 34 while Apollodotus and Menander
reached Rajputana and Sagala (Siklhot between Chand and Rawl).
Following up their victory the Greeks under Apollodotus advanced
as far as Saurashtra and Gujarat. 35 In the meanwhile, Menander
had penetrated into Magadha country and was appointed viceroy
at Patilipura of the eastern part of the Greek empire 36 and
Bactria was seized by Eucratides. 37 The Greek viceroys became
independent in their respective provinces. Their independent
status may be gathered from their coins found in various parts
of their dominions. After the death Apollodotus Menander took
possession of the Eastern Provinces and on the death in 143 B.C.
the kingdom passed to his son Soter I. 38 Under Soter, Saurashtra
seems to have been administered by his estrag Apollodotus II. 39
They were replaced by the Partho-Sythains in the close of the
1st century B.C. 40 While the Greeks were confined only to the
mountain valley of Afghanistan. 41 However, few coins of Eucra-
tides of Bactria are found in this region. But in absence of any
evidence of his sway over the country, it may be said they were
possibly left by the Greek Merchants, so the Greek control seems to be of little consequence.

THE SAKAS AND THE PARTHIANS:

The Sakas, who were originally a powerful tribe had found their settlements in different regions. The Yuch-chi had driven away the Sakas from Oxus valley. The Parthian rulers struggled hard against Sakas. Later on the Sakas finally settled in the parts of Iran and freely intermixed with Parthians. The Partho-sythian state has first tributary to the Parthian emperor Mithrodates-II, but later on shook off the Parthian yoke, and then started their series of in roads into India.

These nomad invaders entered India from Sakasthana (Seistan) conquered Abirin (Shiras) on the Indus, later Patanole on the Indus and the provinces of Kutch and Saurashtra. The Jamnagar district also have felt the impact of this Saka invasion first because it lay almost on the road of invaders both by sea and land. In about 80 B.C. they proceeded northwards from Shiraz up to the Indus under names, or Moga and conquered north India. According to the Indian tradition these Sakas were driven out from Ujjain in 56 B.C. But whether they lost Gujarat and Saurashtra also we do not know.

KSHITADRA-KSTRAPAS:

Like Alexander, the Mauryas and the Indo-Greeks before them, the Sythio-Parthian emperors followed by "chaemnid system of
Government by Satraps. We are not here concerned with Satraps of the north, who made themselves independent in course of time eventually to disappear with coming of Kusanas. We are only concerned herewith the Satraps who built up large kingdom further south-west of Ujjain, an kingdom till the end of the 4th century and included besides Malva the whole of the coastal region of Saurashtra and Gujarat. These Satraps are known as western Satraps in contradiction to those of the north. They could well have entered Saurashtra by way of the Indus. But the conquest of Saurashtra does not seem to have affected in this manner. Their close resemblance between coins of Shumak and Nahapaena and those of western Ksatrapas especially of Mathura. This similarity while it points to the fact that they drew their inspiration from Mathura would also show that the extension of the Scythian dominions towards south-west was effected from that centre.

The Ksatrapas are the family that carried the Scythian standards into Malva and Saurashtra. The names of only two of its members have come to us—Shumak and Nahapaena. There is no documentary evidence to show that power was in actual possession of Saurashtra at the time. But we know Malva was that in the possession of the Satavahan's and the wide prevalence of coins in this province as well as in Saurashtra and Gujarat would suggest that it was from then that the Ksatrapas wrested these countries. It is possible that with decline of their power in Gujarat and Saurashtra, slipped from the group of
Greiks only to fell into the hands of the Satavahanas. which later acquired possession of Malwa some time before 125 B.C. Of Dhunaka, the first named member of the Ksatrapas line, we only have the name. Very little is known beyond that. But the Nehapana appears to have been a ruler of conspicuous ability. The steady growth of this power is borne out by the titles, which he assumed, while in the forty-second year he called himself simply “King Ksatrapa satrapa”51 in the forty-sixth year he called himself “King grand Ksatrap” master,52 राजा गर्भासन क्षत्रियन समान. This shows that he ruled with independence rather than on dependent authority. The glory of Nehapana was also very short-lived. He sustained a disastrous defeat towards the end of the hands of his contemporary Gautamiputra Sri Satakarni, and Saurashtra passed over again into the hands of Satavahanas.53

EASTERN KSTRAPAS:

From the Satavahanas they were again taken back by the second Ksatrapa dynasty known as eastern Kstrapas, which rule over Gujarat and Saurashtra for about two hundred years continuously. Unfortunately nothing definite about Ksatrapa rule in Jamnagar district was known upto recently. No remains of Ksatrapa settlements village and town were discovered except one at Dwarka.54 However, during present exploration nearly fifty of Ksatrapa village settlements having thick, shurdy black and red ware resembling Ksatrapa pottery from Rangmahal Valbeta, etc. were found. Moreover, Junagadh claims the credit of their
finest and longest record as well as the remains of Stupas and Monasteries, while inscriptions at Gunda (Shahabad Taluka) and Mulvasar (Ekhemandal Taluka) of Jamnagar district belongs to this period. No doubt Kṣatrapa coins have been found from Pindara, Dwarka and Kalavad though no upto-date list exist. Thus the present finds testifies to the habitations in the district during Kṣatrapa period.

The Kṣatrapa family of Chāṣṭana, as of Bhumaka, was of northern origin, either Saka or Pahlva, though it is known later as Saka. He had come down to Malva as a Viceroy of northern power57 as is evident from their title 'Kṣatrapa' meaning 'Satrapa' or 'feudatory'. The first ruling member of the family seems to be Chāṣṭana son of Chāṣano-like.58 Chāṣṭana was appointed as a Satrapas and possibly defeated the Sātavāhana. He was assisted by his son Jayadēsana and grandson Hudradāman. On the coins of Chāṣṭana the symbol of Chāitya and crescent suggest his success against the Sātavāhana rulers.59

After Chāṣṭana a continuous line of rulers who were Kṛṣṇa-kṣatrapas and Mahā-kṛṣṇa-kṣatrapas upto Vīvasana is available. Jayadēsana died before his father and after his son, Mahā-kṛṣṇa-kṣatrapa Hudradāman was helping his grandfather.

The Kṛṣṇa-kṣatrapa rule reached to highest peak of power under Hudradāman I (150 B.C.). The Kṛṣṇa-kṣatrapa dominion extended to greater part of Central India, Rajasthan, Kutch, Sindh, Gujarat, Saurashtra and north Konkan,60 as is evident from the Hudradāman's inscription at Gīrnar. In the Gīrnar inscription his
victories over Śākambri, the lord of Deccan, are specifically mentioned, as also the fact that he won for himself the title of "Maha-kšatriya". The list of territories thus shows that he recovered the lost glory of Nāhāpāna and spread his domain from East-Malwa to Gulf of Cambay and Sind-Ahmar to north Punjab. Rudrasimha-I was not only great conqueror and an able administrator but also learned scholar in grammar (Sahuta), polity (Arthasastra), fine arts (Gandhara) and logic (Nyaya). For the public welfare he repaired Lake Sudarsana without increasing fresh taxes, and spending not from the state revenue but from his own purse.

Rudradēman-I was succeeded by his sons Dēmaycada whose Sanskritised name was Dēmajadāsī-I. He struck silver coins as Kṣatrapa during his father's lifetime. This sort of joint administration by the king as Mahā-kṣatrapa, with his son or by other in junior capacity of Kṣatrapa, seems to have been fairly regular practice in the family. Dēmaycada succeeded his father as Maha-kṣatrapa sometime after A.D. 150-51. The name of Dēmaycada does not occur in official genealogical list noted in Gunda and Jandana inscriptions of Rudrasimha-I and Rudradēman-I. Repson suggests that this omission is the result of a struggle for the throne, after the death of Dēmaycada, between his brother Rudrasimha-I and son Jīvadēman. However, D.C. Sarkar, is of the opinion that there is nothing unnatural in the omission of a Collectoral branch in epigraphy which often record only the direct descent from father to son.
No coin of Jivadēman as Kshatrapa is known and it is therefore probable that he did not exercise any administrative function during his father's reign. Jivadēman succeeded his father as Mahā-kshatrapa, but was soon ousted by his uncle Rudrasīhiha I.

Rudrasīhiha-I issued coins of Kshatrapa in the Caka year 102 (A.D. 180-81) and according to the Gunda inscription, he was still a Kshatrapa at the beginning of the next year, evidently under his nephew Jivadēman. Rudrasīhiha ruled as Mahā-kshatrapa and Kshatrapa and issued his coins in three capacities in periods 103-10 (A.D. 181-39) and 113-13 (A.D. 191-97). Epigraphic record of the time of Rudrasīhiha-I have been discovered in Gunda (Bhanvad Taluka) of Jamnagar district. This inscription records the pious work of the Abhir general Rudrabhūta, son of the general Bapaka.

The next ruler was Rudrasena-I, son of Rudrasīhiha-I. Rudrasena issued coins as Kshatrapa in the year 121 (A.D. 199-200), but according to the Sulvasar, (Okhamandal Taluka), Jamnagar district, inscription dated in the month of Vaisakha of the year 122 (A.D. 200-201), he had assumed the dignity of Mahā-kshatra pa by the beginning of this year.

The Gadha (near Jasad, Saurashtra) inscription of Mahā-kshatrapa, Rudrasena I, probably dated in the year 127 (A.D. 205-206). He ended his rule in the year 144 (A.D. 222-223) when he was succeeded by his brother Sanghadēman, another son of
Rudrasimha-I. After Rudrasimha-I, it became almost a regular practice to succeed one's own brother.

But Deve hoard (Taluka Petlad, Dist. Kaira) has raised a question about the relationship of chronology of the rule of Prthvisena, Sanghadaman and Damašena, because in Deve hoard Prthvisena is represented as Mahākṣatrapa with a different date. Previously only coins with title of Kṣatrapa were found. At the same time his uncles Sangrādana and Damašena were also ruling as Kṣatrapa or Mahākṣatrapa.

A perusal of the dates of the coins of Prthvisena, Sanghadaman and Damašena gives the following picture:

Prthvisena S.E. 144 and S.E. 146 = 222 A.D. and 224 A.D.
Sanghadaman S.E. 144, 145, 149 = 222, 223, 227 A.D.
Damašena S.E. 145, 146, 147 to 150 = 223 to 226 A.D.

These dates clearly indicate the overlap in the years 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, i.e. for a period of five years the kings are issuing coins under the titles, Kṣatrapa and Mahākṣatrapa. But the overlap of the coins with the titles of Mahākṣatrapa is significant. It indicates a relationship that is different in the sense that the latter is claimed by three rulers in same period, and hence the facile explanation of the succession does not seem reasonable. The claim of Kṣatrapa and Mahākṣatrapa by each then requires a reappraisal of the history of the period.
Prthviraj, upon the death of Rudrasena-I, might have exercised his right as the son of the deceased ruler to the throne and he seems to have maintained it as could be inferred from the record. However, his uncles Saighadaman and Damasaena also tried to contest. Numismatic evidence indicates the beginning of this struggle from the year 144 between Prthviraj and Saighadaman and from the year 145 Damasaena also entered into the fray. In this tripartite struggle Prthviraj seems to have been eliminated first, and Saighadaman was eliminated by 149. After it Damasaena (149/150) seems to have reestablished his power slowly. Damasaena seems to have spent a large part of his reign in the family feud for power and possibly could stabilize effectively the rule by the year 153 and might have ruled rather peacefully after this date. He ruled up to A.D. 156 and had four sons, Virdaman, Vashodana, Vijayasaena and Damajadari-III.

If one takes into consideration, the family feud, it also appears that Damajadari-II deserted his brother and took the side of the uncle Damasaena-I. As a reward he was given Khattrapaship by his uncle at least for two years 154-155. That happened to him after that is a moot point.

Numismatic evidence refers to four sons of Damasaena. During the reign of Damasaena, he had his Khattrapas, his nephew (Damajadari-II) and his son Virdaman. Virdaman seems to have died early in the Saka year 160 (239-39) and was succeeded by his brother Vashodana as Khattrap. He became a Mahashatrap in the
same year after the death of his father. This is evident from his coins from Sarvania hoard. He ruled only for two years i.e. S.E. 160-161. His coins having the title of Mahākṣatrap do not bear the date later than S.E. 161. This is further supported by the coins of his brother, which mention Vijayasena as a Mahākṣatrap in S.E. 161. He continued to rule as Mahākṣatrap upto S.E. 172.

Vijayasena was succeeded by his brother Dāmajadēśi-II in S.E. 172. He ruled only for five years. His latest date according to Sarvania hoard is S.E. 172. His successor Rudrasena-II, son of Virdama issued coins and Mahākṣatrap in the S.E. 177. As a Mahākṣatrap he ruled up to S.E. 199, as the coins of his successor Vishvasisha are available as Mahākṣatrap from the S.E. 200. Thus this possibly indicates that Rudrasen-II ruled peacefully for about twenty-two years.

The earliest coin of Vishvasisha as Kṣatrapa bears year S.E. 190. Before this his coins as Kṣatrapa are not found and even during S.E. 191 to 196, his coins are yet to be found. The latest year known from his coins is S.E. 200 and the coins of his successor as Kṣatrapa bearing S.E. 200, proves that during earlier part of that year Vishvasisha must have become Mahākṣatrap. His coins bearing the title Mahākṣatrap of the year S.E. 200 and S.E. 201 suggests it. The coins of his successor Bhartrudaman are reported as Kṣatrapa, dated upto S.E. 204 and as Mahākṣatrap dated S.E. 204. From this we can
assume that up to S.E. 204 Vishvasānaha enjoyed as Mahākṣatrap.

Bhartrudāman succeeded Vishvasānaha, whose coins as Kṣatrap are dated from S.E. 200 to S.E. 204. As noted above his predecessor Vishvasānaha had issued coins as Kṣatrap up to S.E. 200 and Vishvasānaha, his successor had issued the coins as Kṣatrap bearing the year from S.E. 205. This shows that Bhartrudāman was a Kṣatrap up to S.E. 204 and the latest year of the rule is S.E. 221.

Bhartrudāman was succeeded by his son Vishvasānaha whose date as Kṣatrapa ranges from 215 to 226 (A.D. 293-305). He does not assume the title Mahākṣatrap, which office seems to have been in abeyance till 270 (A.D. 343-49). Vishvasānaha is the last Kṣatrapa who is definitely known to have belonged to family of Chaṣṭāna. It seems that during the reign of Bhartrudāman and Vishvasānaha, the power of western Kṣatrap started deteriorating. The decline of Kṣatrap power in western India is generally attributed to expansion of Sasanians power towards west during the reign of Varamān-II (A.D. 270-293)."77

The house of Chaṣṭāna, ruled over western India including Jamnagar for about two centuries. During this time the district enjoyed the place of importance. The evidences of Roman amphorae, black-on-red ware and the red polished ware found from excavations and during present exploration, shows either political or cultural influence in this area and the contact with Roman world through the sea.
GUPTA:

The Gupta sway on Gujarat and Saurashtra is attested by inscriptional as well as numismatic evidences. In the Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta (c. 330-370 CE) it is mentioned that the Eastern Ksatrapas were paying homage to the Gupta emperor Samudragupta. Chandragupta II, well-known in the Indian history as Vikramaditya, planned his campaign against Malwa, Gujarat and Saurashtra. In the campaign he not only defeated the Western Ksatrapas but completely annihilated their power, and annexed their empire to his own dominion. His conquest of Malwa, Gujarat and Saurashtra, after defeating Ksatrapa king Sudrasinha III of Ujjain, is attested by the Udayagiri and Sanchi inscriptions.

The date of Chandragupta's conquest of Gujarat and Saurashtra can be fixed with numismatic evidences only. The latest coin of the Western Ksatrapas, Swami Sudrasinha, is dated to 380-90 A.D., whereas the earliest coin of Chandragupta II bears the date 409-10 A.D. The evidence suggested that Chandragupta II issued silver coins for the new province of his empire.

The annexation of Saurashtra and Malwa not only added to the empire provinces of exceptional wealth and fertility, but opened up the paramount power free access to the ports of the Western coast; and thus placed Chandragupta II in direct touch with the seaborne commerce with Europe through Egypt.
After Chandragupta II, Kumārgupta came to power. A number of his coins found from Saurashtra and Gujarat are eloquent testimony of his long and firmly established regime (415-435 A.D.) supported by a well organised administrative system.

Skandagupta (455-467 A.D.) succeeded Kumārgupta. Skandagupta rule over Saurashtra and Gujarat is clearly proved by the Junagadh inscription of his governor Parmadatta. After assuming power, he had to face the Huna invasions, which he repulsed successfully with the help of Vashvan of Malwa. Coins of Chandragupta II, Kumārgupta I and Skandagupta have been discovered in Kutch, Saurashtra, Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach and Surat districts. Gupta suzerainty over Gujarat and Saurashtra was lost with the break up of the empire after the death of Skandagupta. But so far the history of the Jamnagar district is concerned, like the adjoining regions Jamnagar seems to have formed a part of the Gupta empire upto 6470 A.D.

The Guptas had adopted a silver coinage of Kshatrapas and are found all over Saurashtra. Though specifically no Gupta monument could be found in the district, still it is very probable that the earliest Viṣṇu temples at Dwarka might belong to this period.

When the Gupta power disintegrated after the death of Skandagupta the distant provinces were the first to become independent. Saurashtra was no exception. Here first the Maitrakas of Valabhi on the east coast and the Gārubakas on
the west coast declared their independence, though for long both of them never claimed suzerain titles. Both appear, were generals (Senapatis) under the Guptas. While the Maitrakas gradually became more powerful, and ultimately in the fourth generation under Sharasena II assumed imperial positions, their eastern contemporaries particularly the Garulakas, remained subordinate rulers, and were satisfied with the titles, Senanti and Senantii.

Much later, after nearly 200 years, we meet with another vassal family, viz.; the Saindhaves. The Saindhaves were followed after sometime by another family. It is the records of these which provide, for the first time, details of the history of Jamnagar.

GARULAKAS:

The earliest are the Garulakas, whose two copper plate inscription are available to us. These seem to be connected with Maitraka, because the records were found at Vaiśe and Palitana respectively along with Maitraka plate. Garulakas ruled near the Dwarka. This fact is inferred by the references in both the grants to the victory over king of Dwarks by Varāhādara (II) and the absence of any reference to any place in the western coast in Maitraka records, thus possibly suggest that the Garulakas ruled the country near about Dwarka. The Varāhādasravans might be Dhank. H.G. Chaudri thinks it might be Dhana- ngate, 12.9 km north-west of Mandrol.
above assumption that brief account of the Garulkas is given in the history of Jamnagar district.

Combining the date from both the grants, the genealogy is as follows:

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Sri-Maharaja Sura
Senapati, Varahadasa, Parmabhegavata

Santana
Sri-Maharaja Sura
Shri(Maha)Santana
Varahadasa(II)

Santana Maharaja
Shri Varaditya
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The two grants are dated in the Gupta-Valabhi eras 230 and 255 respectively, that is 549 and 574 A.D. The effective ruler seems to be Varahadasa who might be Senapati under Gupta’s, but became semi-independent when the Maitrakas followed similar course or he might have imitated them. This Varahadasa was the most important ruler. For he is credited not only with victory over the kings of Dwarka, but with the building temples and mahaviharas, gardens (aramas) and asotas (Charitable institutions, particularly free food). The Garulkas could not have been the only vessels of the Maitrakas. At present, however, the Maitrakas alone seem to occupy the field for more than two centuries.

SANDHAVAS

Early in the eighth century the Sandhavas appear. They were known until recently from only three records: a clay seal from Vai, and the Phinki, and Harvi copper plates, of
which Dhinki copper plate is proved to be a forgery and from
Var vi copper plates only second half is available. However, we
get reference of them in a grant of Gujarot Chalukya ruler Hulak-
kar Janashraja, dated to the year 490 of the Pratihara era
which Dhinki copper plate is proved to be a forgery and from

Kervt copper platen only second half is available. However, we
get reference of them in a grant of Gujarot Chalukya ruler Hulak-
kar Janashraja, dated to the year 490 of the Pratihara era
corresponding to A.D. 739-39 where they are mentioned among the
kings defeated in the Arab raid. This raid was repulsed at
Nagari by the Chalukyas. The next reference to them is in
the swallor prastati of Bhajadheva, the 8th verse of which de-
scribes the Saindhavas as being overwhelmed by the Pratihara
emperor Nagabhata. Fortunately, the six copper plate grants,
which were discovered at Ghumli provides the history of Sain-
dhavas and illustrates what has been happening in western India,
owing to some pressure—political, economic or even climatic—
the rulers of Sind moved down to Kutch and then crossed over to
the Western Saurashtra. Here they settle down or fanned out
inland. The Saindhavas who are expressly called in their
records were originally rulers of Sind. These twelve copper
plates contain six records and are designated as A, B, C, D, E
and F by Altekar. A consisting of three plates, C of one
and B, D, E and F of two each. All these grants were made by the
rulers of the Saindhava family, which at present to have been
ruining at ancient Shikarbilli or modern Ghumli from c.740 to
970 A.D.

These copper plates state that Saindhavas were ruling in
western Saurashtra. Charter F issued by Jaika II in Gujrat
era 596 or A.D. 915-16 gives the genealogy of this family.
According to it, king Pushyadeva flourished seven generations earlier, was the founder of this dynasty. The name of the family given is Jayadratha-Vasā. All the other charters state that Saíndhava was the name of the family. This discrepancy has been rightly explained by Altakar. According to Mahabharata, king Jayadratha, the son-in-law of Hṛtarṣastra, was ruling in Sindh. So these rulers who claimed descent from him could be described as hailing from the Jayadratha family (Jayadratha-Vasā-sākhara). In the earlier charters the first name is preferred, while in the later one the last one is introduced.

Pushyadeva was the founder of the Saíndhava dynasty. He was the son of Maharāja Abhirama, who claimed an uninterrupted descent from Jayadratha. He is described as an ornament of the Jayadratha family in Charter F, Pushyadeva and his descendants were generally known as Saíndhavas, probably because they were among the immigrants from Sindh who had to leave that province after its conquest by the Arabs in 712 A.D. He began his career as a military commander and ended by founding a feudatory family between C.515 and 535 G.E. (C.734 and 754 A.D.).

A copper plate grant of the Gujarat Chalukya ruler Pulakesi, Janharaya, dated in the year 733-39 A.D. describes an Arab raid over Kutch, Saurashtra and how it had overpowered Saíndhava, Chapa and Gujara chiefs. The chief who suffered from the Arab raid was probably Pushyadeva himself, as the approximate period of his reign is A.D. 734-54.
The Saindhavas were at that time feudatories as shown by their own charters, in fact they never claimed imperial titles at any time in their career. However, Shiniki copper plate, claim Jāṅkadeva as an imperial ruler enjoying the titles like Prabhuhāditya, Mahānātha and Narasīhāra. But it has been proved to be forgery as the Charter F do not mention of Jāṅkadeva.

Pushyadeva was succeeded by his son Krīṣṇadeva and latter by his son Agguka I, whose rule may be approximately placed in the period from 435 to 455 C.E. (A.D. 754 to 774) and from 455 to 475 C.E. (A.D. 774 to 794) respectively. During the reign of these kings Saurashtra suffered a good deal from Arab invasions. All these were naval attacks coming directly from Sindh. In C.760 A.D. Hasa a governor of Sindh, send Tura bin Jumal with fleet of barks to the coast of Barada and the invasion was repeated 20 years later. The Muslim historians tells us that though the last expedition was successful, but sickness swept away a great portion of the army and remaining were swept away in a ship wrack on the coast of Persia. This experience was so bitter that, the Muslims were afraid from making further attempts. Unfortunately, there is no account of their military exploits in their charters of the Saindhavas. However, there is a reference of Muslim invasion Charter F where Agguka is compared with the greatness of Varaha who rescued his country, which was being drowned in an ocean of naval forces sent by powerful
Aggeken I was succeeded by his son Bahaka (I), who may be presumed to have ruled from C.E. 475 to 495 (A.D. 794 to 814). No contemporary grant of the first rulers of the Saindhava family have so far been recorded, but there is no doubt that they were mere feudatories as stated above. The epithet

अप्रतु सुस्त्रत्रमांडलो नोंदना used in connection with the member of this family in most of its genuine records show that its sphere of influence never extended much beyond Western Saurashtra. However, it appears that they developed considerable Naval strength. For our charter invariably describe them as the masters of the Western ocean. The Mers, who were prominent among the subject of the Saindhavas, were well-known for their maritime activities. Arab historians admit that they were great maritime power during 8th to 9th century A.D. in Saurashtra.99

Bahaka had two sons, Krishnaraja II and Jaika I, as figured in charters A and B, of these Krishnaraja was elder and Jaika I was the younger. They were half brothers, for Jaika is expressly described as वाल्लीत्रभ्रेत in charter A. Krishnaraja II succeeded his father, Bahaka in C.495 G.C. (A.D. 814). He is described as full of enthusiasm in troubling the host of his enemies the chapins in Charter A. The observation has been made about his younger brother Jaika I and the latter two sons, kings Charupa and Aggauna XII. These rulers were ruling from C.814 to 374 A.D. and they all seems to have war with the Chapins and the Chapas.100 There were two chapā families ruling
In northern Gujarat and north-eastern Saurashtra at that time. The one founded by Vanaraja was ruling at Aṇḍhilapatana since C.765 A.D., while the other to which king Dharanivirāho of the Haddāla plates of the Saka year 336 belonged, was ruling at Vadhan since C.950 A.D. 101

Chapter 4 describes king Krishṇarāja II as a ruler who had, like Chorada propitiated Rāma by his steady and proper behaviour. This statement has been made with reference to his brother Jāīka I and the latter's son Agguka in charters B and D. It is almost certain that a double entendre is intended to be convey by the expression Chorālaity = Rāhulad = ushita = samāśānita-Sārap. The loyalty to whom king Krishṇarāja and Jāīka I had been answering were possibly Prāṭihāra's emperor Rāvabhadra, who ruled from C. 833 to 836 A.D. From the 8th verse in the Gwalior Cragati of Prāṭihāra Śāhaja I it is known that the Saindhavas were among the rulers defeated by the Prāṭihāra emperor Nāgabhata II, 102 who is known to have ruled from C. 305 to 833 A.D. Rāhuk I (C.794 to 814 A.D.) must have been the person whom Nāgabhata defeated. It appears that the campaign in Saurashtra was entrusted by Nāgabhata II to the crown prince Rāvabhadra and Krishṇarāja II and Jāīka I appear to have remained loyal to the royal Viceroy Rāvabhadra.

From the time of Krishṇarāja II (C.820 A.D.), the Saindhavas became feudatories of the Prāṭihāras. The Prāṭihāras, however, were not able to exercise the same rigorous control
over their administration as they had imposed upon the government of many of their other feudatories. As it is clear from all the Saindhava grants that they never mentioned Pratiharas as their overlords in any of their grants. However, Pratihara of charter B is no doubt an officer named Pratihara Krishna but there is nothing to indicate that he was a local representative of the imperial power.

The eastern, northern and southern Saurashtra was under Pratiharas from the time of Nagabhata II to that of Mahendrapala which is clear from the fact that the Pratiharas defeated the Saindhavas, and as also Saindhava never claimed anything more than feudatories, thus the conclusion becomes irresistible that their overlords were no other rulers than the imperial Pratiharas of Kanauj even during later half of the 9th century onwards. However, they were, able to secure a much larger share of internal autonomy than was ever conceded to their eastern and southern neighbours. The valuable assistance which the Saindhava navy could have given to Pratiharas in their struggles with the Arabs was probably the main reason for this preferential treatment.

Krishnaraaja II died comparatively young in 505 C.E. (C.824 A.D.) for Charter A shows that his son and successor Agguka II was a young boy at the time of his death, and that the administration had to be carried on by his uncle Jäkka. Agguka II possibly later on served as his uncle's feudatory for another
His son Ranika II may therefore be taken to have ruled from C.340 to 560 C.E. (C.859 to 879 A.D.).

Thus Jaika I, son of Agguka III, became the leader of Saindhava family. He came to the throne in C.315 C.E. (G.894 A.D.). He ruled for 15 years, i.e. upto C.530 C.E. (A.D. 949).

Jaika I died in C.549 A.D., leaving behind him two sons, Chāmūndarāja and Agguka III. Charters D, E and F make it absolutely clear that the title Saindhava kingdom was further subdivided between these brothers on the death of Jaika I. Ranika IV, a grandson of Jaika I through his son Agguka III, is seen issuing charter D in 555 C.E.; 12 years later, i.e., in 567 C.E., another grandson of Jaika I, named Agguka IV, through his son Chāmūndarāja, is found to be giving charter E. In the genealogy of charter F issued in 596 C.E., Agguka and Ranika of charter D are altogether passed over. Jaika I is stated to have been succeeded by his son Chāmūndarāja and later by Agguka III and this last by his son Jaika II and Jaika III of Ranika IV.

Members of all the three Saindhava houses are seen to be issuing their grants from Dhūtāmbilika, but one does not find them fighting with one another. It would therefore appear that they were all staying at Dhūtāmbilika, ruling over different parts of their ancestral kingdom, more like members of a federation than as rulers of separate states possibly as the Shāhantas.

The genealogy has been composite one, and it is difficult to understand it at first glance. According to the interva-
The size of their kingdom can also be judged from the villages granted and the administrative units referred to in their records. So far two units are mentioned. The first is called Pachchhatri Pradasika which occurs in charter A and B. The second is called Suvarnamanjari Visaya. What the relation in size and status between the Visaya and Pradosika was is difficult to decide in absence of fuller evidence. The size of Pachchhatri Pradasika seems to be at least 40 km in one direction. For in charter A Shanka-tirtha and something else are denoted to a Brahman of Sonevara, that in Somnath. Shankatirtha is Dhan, 40 km east of Ghumli. The headquarter of the territorial division is identified as Pachchhatri 9.7 km west of Ghumli from where a Saindhava coin was obtained by Prof. P.S. Nehta.

The second charter gives the extent of this unit in another direction, viz., north, north-east. It records the grant of Shotakila which is identified with Bhateja.
this subdivision there was the already famous Sedhipadreka village. To its west was the Enturakagrama, south Bhattagrama, north Bedanakagrama, and a village Sōghākhēkā and the east Varstrōyi river, and to the south a Bhattagrama, known as Chonakea.

Sedhipadra is probably Seolla, 9.7 km west of Chumli, Sōghākhēkā in Shekdāi, and Varstrōyi in Vartu river. The remaining places have not yet been identified.

The second subdivision was Swarnamaheri Vlasay. It is mentioned in grant S.E.F. But the identification of this unit is difficult. Possibly it is the limestone region to the north and east of Chumli.

How far northward, southward and eastward the Saindhava kingdom extended it is difficult to estimate. Most probably, Girinagara (Junagadh) has the limit on the south, south-east; the Manchandra hill on the north-east, the Gulf of Kutch and the Arabian sea on the north and east forming the natural boundaries. Thus what was Halar some 40 years or a century ago, the Saindhava kingdom was in the 9th century A.D.

The small shrines at Dwarka, the Sonkrsari group of temples on the Borda hills and the Sun temple at Pachhalal and also earliest temples at Pindara belong to the Chauluka-Vattra sea Saindhava period.

After the last king, Jāika II of Saindhava dynasty,
nothing definite is known about the political history of the area. However, Sardic chronicles were of immense help in order to provide a useful information about the kings who ruled over Ghumli.

The latest of the Ghumli copper plate inscription of Saindhava kings belongs to the reign of Jaitaka II and dated to Gupta year 598\(^{103}\) (A.D. 915). What happened to the Saindhava dynasty is not known. But the discovery of Bākhaladeva's grant of V.C. 1045 = 932 A.D. indicates the reign of Bākhaladeva over Ghumli.\(^{104}\) The name of the dynasty to which he belonged is not mentioned in his record, it is hardly possible to regard him as a later member of Saindhava dynasty, because in that case he would have traced his descent from the earlier rulers of the land. It may also be noted in this connection that there is difference between the two grants also. Bākhaladeva's capital at Shutarbhill (present Ghumli) was situated in Jyashthakadāsa, which is stated to have formed part of North-Surasstra (Shtra) mandala, while the Saindhava Jayadrath vāisa claimed to have been of Shutarbhilli - Sādhirāsa - napatī - nairīya-nira-Surasstra (Shtra)-mandala - mandana. Thus it will be seen that the Saindhava kingdom was called Apara-Surasstra (Shtra) mandala and Bākala's kingdom was called Nava-Surasstra (Shtra) mandal. Although both indicate the district round Shutarbhill. This indicates that this area was renamed after Saindhava's and possibly suggest Bākhaladeva did not belong to
Saíndhava family and possibly was of Jethava dynasty. Though there is no direct evidence, of his being feudatory to Pulçraja of Anhilapura of Gujarat, the use of Vikrama era in his records and the Chaulukyas were the first to introduce it in Gujarat and secondly, the grant made to a Vajurvedi Brahmin of Anhilapura seems to indicate a possibility of their feudatory position.

According to tradition Ghumli was the capital of Jethva, Rajpots, the Ranas of Porbandar being their representatives. The name of the Jethva has been interpreted by different scholars. Wilson traced the origin of the term Jethwa to the term Jat, while Jackson looked it to be modification of Jethā, which was regarded as the shortened form Ve - the - I - U - to or ephthalite, the ruling class of the white Huns. According to Sardic tradition, Jethwa is derived from the name of Jetha, who was the 95th ruler of the list of Porbandar kings. Even some scholars suggest that they represent senior branch of the Saíndhava's, while other believe that the name is derived from Jayadratha.

Whatever may be the truth, but the Bāskaldeva's inscription point out the fact that a new dynasty of rulers ruled in the second half of the tenth century A.D. i.e. 989 A.D. In between the Jata II and Bāskal there is difference of 73 years and it is believed that the father and grandfather of the Bāskal ruled over Ghumli.105

According to the Jethwā's genealogical tab le king Śindhāli was ruling Ghumli from V.D. 1176-1206 (A.D. 1120-1150),106 and in between Śhenji (I) Vikooji (I) Kāneji, Vanbeerji, Nāgaarjuna.
(I) Shanji (II) and Hariyadarja ruled over Ghumli, whose dates we do not know. If 20 years of reign will be assigned to each ruler then the reign of Baksaldeva comes nearly to 1000 A.D., which is nearer to his copper plate date and thus can be accepted.

After Mianji, Banoji (I) ruled for few months and later on was succeeded by Manganji (II). He strengthened his position and collected the army and attacked Junagadh, the king Jaisingh was in north India, those days. On hearing this news, Jaisingh returned from north India and killed Manganji (II) in battle field in 1150 A.D. Jaisingh gave the throne of Ghumli to Baman after charging a heavy fine. After the death of Baman in 1150 A.D. Shanji (III) came to the throne and ruled up to 1172 A.D. He was succeeded by his son Rama Mehaji, who ruled for nearly 7 years.

Mehaji conquered Porbandar, Madhura by defeating Mahipal (II). Mehaji was succeeded by Rama Nagaji in 1190. He ruled for nearly three years and the throne was passed down to Vikyoji (II). Mahipal attacked Vikyoji in order to regain his lost territory. After some struggle Vikyoji got the throne of Ghumli back and was succeeded by his son Vishvajiraj 1193 A.D. and ruled up to 1206 A.D. Shojaraj (I) came to the throne of Ghumli after his death and ruled for nearly 39 years. Shojaraj was succeeded by Sendeva and ruled up to 1270 A.D. He was succeeded by Ranoji who ruled up to 1290 A.D. While Rana Shanji was possibly the last ruler of the Ghumli. Inscription of Sonkeraji pillar of v.s. 1348 (1290 A.D.) reads him Rajeshri Shamsaja and possibly
mentions about him.

What happened to Ghumli or Jethwā? Who destroyed them? Nothing definite is known. Tradition contributes the destruction to the curse of Sunkenasī, a daughter of a coppersmith, but this as pointed out by Burgess does not seem reasonable. For Ghumli was destroyed in 15th century A.D., probably by the Jains from Sind; whereas Sunkenasī’s incident took place in the 11-12th century A.D.

Several archaeological monuments of the period have been discovered. The small, beautiful Dukmini Devi temple at Dwarka, some part of the main temple of Dwarkadīsh at Dwarka, step-well (Vav) and Navalakha temple at Ghumli can be dated on the bases style of architecture assigned to the Chūlukyas (Solanki) period. To this period also belong the Dēsal temple at Pandia and temple at Vasai.
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The disintegration (of the Mauryan empire) which set in...
206 B.C. was accelerated by the invasion led by the Yavanas referred to in the Garga Samhita and Mahabhasya of Patanjali Pargiter, *Dynastics of the Kali Yuga*, p.30.

31. Cambridge History of India, I. p.449.
32. Ibid., pp. 140-41.
33. Ibid., p. 443.
34. Ibid.
35. School: *The Periphus of the Sthryean Sea*, p.149.
37. Ibid., p. 167.
39. Ibid.
41. Ibid., p.66.
42. Virji, *op.cit.*
43. Cambridge History of India, I. p.569.
46. Cambridge History of India, p.162.
47. Disc bow and arrow to be found in the medallion of Satilizes and Azes, the Parthio-sythian king of kings correspond to arrow, disc and thunder bolt in the coins of the Ksatrapas.
Sums Importance Is given to Uhasosil as the Srahvl. But already in the legends on the coins of Nahapana Kshatrdi come to be assigned a secondary place. There is thus very little doubt that coins of Ksatrapas is of northern origin.


43. De la vallée Poussin, India under the Mauryas, p.334.
50. Ibid., p.39.
51. Repson B.J., Coins of Andhra Dynasty, P.C.VIII. Repson,
52. Ibid.
53. Nasik cave inscription, No.2, of Shri Pulumayi Vasithpata.
Epigraphic Indica, VII, p.60.
55. Few Ksatrapa coins were also found during present exploration at Kalaavat, see Numismatic section of the dissertation.
57. Vincent Suth, Early History of India, 4th ed., p.202, holds that Castans held office as a great Satrata under Kadphises II of the Kushan dynasty.
59. Sestri N.A.; Comprehensive History of India.
60. For details information see Repson, Coins of the Indian Dynasty, p.xix.
64. *Ibid.*
74. Ranson places Mahashyrmu Iavaradatta between the year 1955 and 161, i.e. in A.D. 237-240. However there is lot of controversy about the identification of Iavaradatta. Some scholars identify him as Abhira. It is not necessary, however, to go through all these controversies.
79. Ibid., p.21,34.
80. Ibid., p.29.
81. Parikh R.C. and Shastri H.G.; (Eds.), Gujaratiya Itikha
dane Sanskritika Itihae, (Gujarati), Vol.II, p.103.
82. Sinth, V.A.; Early History of India, p.
84. Sankalia H.G.; op.cit., p.53 (Gazetteer of Jamnagar).
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89. Ibid., p.151.
93. Altakar, A.S.; The Six Copper Plates of Salindhava.
94. Ibid., p.126.
95. Suhler, C.; The Ushniki Grant of King Jaisaldeva. Together
with some Valebhni and Sukta.
96. Ibid.


109. Refer to Exploration portion of this thesis.

ABBREVIATIONS: