CHAPTER 2
ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF TOWNS IN GUJARAT

The earliest civilization of the country which flourished in the north and north-west of the subcontinent is variously known as Indus civilization or Harappa culture and recently described as Indus Saraswati civilization (c.3000–2000B.C.). The Harappan expansion into Gujarat is now an established fact (Fig: 13). The explorations and excavations of several sites e.g. Dholavira, Surkotda, Lothal etc. suggest the characteristics of Harappan town planning with slight changes in the region of Gujarat.

DHOLAVIRA

The Harappan site at Dholavira¹ (Ta: Bhachau, Kachahha) lies in the northwestern area of the island of Khadir. This ancient settlement is embraced by two water tunnels namely Manhar in the south and Mansar in the north. Its ruins spread over an area of about 100 hectares (Fig: 14).

The salient components of the full-grown cityscape consisted of a bipartite ‘Citadel’ and a middle town and a ‘lower town’—one wide and extensive, the other much smaller and compact. The city was perhaps configured like a large parallelogram boldly outlined by massive walls. The three areas of city of Dholavira according to R.S. Bisht represent the well known Rigvedic trimeshthin system. The Rigveda makes mention of Parama-Veshthin (upper township), Madhyam-Veshthin (middle township) and Avam-Veshthin (lower township) respectively.
INDUS SITES OF GUJARAT
The citadel at Dholavira was laid out in the south of city area with five gates. To the north of the citadel was provided a broad and long ground, perhaps meant for community gathering, festival, a stadium and a marketing place. Further north there was laid out the en-walled middle town and to the east of it was founded the lower town. These three major built up divisions made together an L shaped design.

SURKOTDA

Surkotda situated 160 km north-east of Bhuj in Kaccha. Gujarat has provided much useful evidence relating to the diffusion of the Indus civilization from Sindh via the land route. The settlement was fortified on a rectangular plan divided into two equal parts. The western half was used as a citadel having two gates while the eastern served as residential division. The fortifications were made of mud with a veneer of rubble masonry (Fig: 15).

LOTHAL

Lothal is situated 80km south-west of Ahmedabad on the coastal flates at the head of the gulf of cambay. Being located on 16 km north-west of the junction of Sabarmati and Bhogavo rivers, it was subject to frequent floods. Lothal township was divided into blocks and seven such blocks have been excavated. The settlement was rectangular on plan and consisted of two parts: Citadel and lower town. The citadel or acropolis trapezoidal on plan (118*125 mts) was located in the south-western part and was built upon mud and mud brick platforms. Of the structures exposed within the citadel the warehouse is perhaps noteworthy.
PLAN OF SURKOTADA

FIG. 15
The houses were built in rows on platforms; there was an elaborate drainage system which was superior in some respects to that of Mohenjo-daro. The township was enclosed in a mud-brick wall which was built for protection from floods. There were wide roads, even a narrow lane was 3.60 mts wide. The lower-town contained apart from the residential sectors a centrally located bazaar with the industrial area was slightly away from the habitation area. The most individualistic structure brought to light by the excavation was an oblong basin measuring 214x36 mts, riveted on all sides with baked brick walls. It was furnished with a sluice gate and an inlet. The structure is brought to have been a dock for berthing ships. To the northwest of the settlement beyond the town-wall was located the cemetery. However some scholars are of the opinion that the structure may have been a dock but the convincing evidence should confirm excavation (Fig: 16).

KUNTASI

The site at Kuntasi (Dist: Rajkot-Saurashtra) is situated on the right bank of the Fulki nullah. Presently the gulf is 5 km from the site (C. 2200 B.C.-1700 B.C.). Like most Harappan settlement in the Kachchha region, Kuntasi was also fortified. The citadel has a double fortification wall with a watching tower on the river front and entrance about 3 mts in width on the east.4 However there was no lower town such as found at Mohenjo-daro, Kalibangan etc. Though no doubt there were few houses outside the fortification. The Kuntasi layout had another interesting feature viz. that the houses inside the fortifications were arranged along the four sides leaving an open area at the centre. This open area was used for occasional community gatherings. The result of the excavations suggest that Kuntasi was perhaps,
ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL CITIES AND TOWNS IN GUJARAT.
an industrial establishment. Moreover, during mature Harappan period it was plausibly a port for exporting items of ivory, carnelian etc. However in late Harappan period the maritime 'trade' declined as everywhere else in the Harappan domain (Fig: 17).

There were at least two ancient city sites which seem to have developed during the process of first urbanization (chalcolithic period) to the second urbanization (Iron age, Early Historic period) Phase e.g. Prabhas Patan and Dwarka. Both these ancient towns situated close to the sea claim hoary antiquity and developed as centres of pilgrimage, maritime trade and commerce. Its historical and religious importance have been euologised in Mahabharata and the Puranas (Fig: 18).

**PRABHAS PATAN**

Prabhas Patan better known as Somnath Patan or Sri Deva Patan is the most sacred place of Gujarat where Mahabharata locates the death (Dehotsarga) of lord Krisna of the Yadavas (at Bhālkā-Tirth). Interestingly the earliest reference to the Lord and protector of Soma occurs in the Rgveda. According to the ancient tradition narrated in the Puranas (c.100 B.C.). The Saivacharya Somasarma who lived before Lakulisa, (c. 2nd cen. A.D.) is said to have built the first golden temple of Somnatha. The excavations conducted at the temple-site yielded evidence of Kshatrapa Maitraka and Medieval temples (c.1st/2nd cen. AD. to c.13th cen. AD.). The Nasik inscription of Saka Ushadvatta (c.100 A.D.) mentions Prabhāś as a very well known Hindu Tirtha. It was an international port during the reign of the Maitrakas who had erected the second temple while the lofty medieval
temple erected by the Chaulukyas of Anhilpur Patan was looted and demolished by the invasion of Mahamud of Ghazna.

The temple of Somnath became the nucleus and other essential components developed around it in concentric rings in accordance with norms of Vastusāstra. Somnatha Patan was fortified during medieval period. Further, a close inspection of the site suggest that the old town of Prābhās Patan had shifted to the present temple-site of Somnatha Patan.

Ancient archaeological mounds of Prabhas exist at a distance of about 3.2 kilometers to the north-east of the present town of Somnath on the right bank of the river Hiran. The remains of this habitation are shown by a narrow ridge like series of rolling mounds rising to a height of about 40' from the river bed. It is 4 furlongs long and about one furlong broad. It means this old nucleated township being on the river Hiran has naturally developed it’s linear pattern which gives the longest water front to the town. In the medieval texts like Aparaśītāpraccha such towns are known as 'Dandaka’ type of nagar. (Figure, 19)

The excavations at this old Prabhas mounds suggest a continuous habitation from the Chalcolithic level (c. 300 B.C. to Lustrous Red ware c. 1200 B.C. First urbanization) down to the early historic period (2nd urbanization, Iron Age c. 700 B.C. to c. 600 A.D.). Apparently this township was deserted after c. 6th cen. A.D. and subsequently shifted around the present site of Somnatha temple.
DWARKA

Dvaraka ancient Dwarka or Dvaravati has received the special attention of historians, marine archaeologists and oceanographers as it is wrapped with the legend of the sudden submergence of a flourishing port a few thousand years ago. Its importance lies in the fact that it represents the second urbanization which occurred during the Mahābhārata age. According to the account of Mahabharata, Harivamsa, Purāṇas, Dvarkāmahātmya of Skanda Purana and the traditions contained in the Jaina Agamas, original Dwarka was a fortified city. It lay in the vicinity of the Raivataka hill on the one hand and the sea on the other hands. The Jaina Agama works locate the Raivataka hill to the north-east of Dvaravati. The above said literary traditions¹⁰ suggest that the Yadavas are said to have renovated old desecrated Kushasthali and repaired and strengthened the old fort. The Harivamsa (57.6) an appendix to the Mahābhārata adds that the sea yielded 12 yojanas of land for its construction obviously suggesting that some kind of reclamation work had to be undertaken when the sea level was lower than at present. The city of Dvarka is said to have been fortified and built in the sea or overlooking the sea. Obviously it must have been a busy port. (Figure: 20)

According to the Mahabharata (Sabha Parva 13.49) and Harivamsa Purana (57.5) Dvarka has been described a fortress in water (Vāri Durga) and it was impregnable even by Gods (HV. 55. 103). Further it is also described as the impregnable fortress of nature which was protected by nature itself. Harivanisa locates four hills (presumably) e.g. four low mounds /hillocks on the four sides of the city. It further alludes to the great river
Mandakini on the east of the city, entering the sea with fifty mouths. The city is said to be eight yojana wide and it was shaped like Aṣṭapada.

Bhisma (Mahābhārata – Sahīparva) describes Dwarka as under:\(^{11}\)

"It is a metropolis town fortified by thick and broad yellowish colour stone wall with fifty city gates. It was surround by deep moat and a Puskarni river is flowing close to the town which is 100 Dhanusa in width (about 600’). There is a Raivatak- a low hillock visible on its east. On the top of the fort wall some 800 chariots are seen. There palacial whitish buildings behind the fort shining like sun and moon. Dwarka is rectangular in shape with 12 yojanas east-west long and 8 yojanas noth-south broad. The town is with seven principal roads (mahāpathas) and eight subsidiary roads. There are sixteen city squares (Chatvārs) and several suburbs which cover double the area of Dwarka town. There is a Nandanvan near the city which contains Yakṣāyatana (temple of Yakṣa). This scared city was planned by architect Usnas.

The onshore excavation in Dwarka town by the Deccan college, Pune in 1963 led to conclude that the earliest occupation was around the first cen. B.C./A.D. They observe "This is the ‘Dvarka’ mentioned in the Mahabharata, Skanda Purāṇa, Harivamsa and Ghata Jataka." Fresh excavation undertaken by S.R.Rao in 1979-80 brought to light a 9th cen. Temple of Visnu below its remains of two early temples (assignable to c. 1st cen. B.C. and the other to Kshatrap period) were discovered. Further digging yielded debris of a protohistoric settlement in which Lustrous Red Ware and other artifacts were found.\(^ {12}\) The under water excavation in December 1986 yielded significant evidence of fortified city. The bastion and fort wall were found. Two submerged structural periods have been distinguished in Dwarka.
waters. Structure of period 1st proto historic at water depths of 6 to 14 mts while a structure of period IInd (early historic) is encountered at 2.81 mt depth.

On the way to Rupen, about 500 mts Seaward of the TV tower at Dwarka some submerged proto-historic structures have been noticed in the sea. Thus ancient Dwarka was extended up to Rupen. On the baisis of TL dates of pottery from Dwarka it is possible to postulate on structural cermic and inscriptional evidence that Dwarka was built in the C.1500th century B.C. when the sea level was lower than at present which was submerged within a couple of centuries due to the tectonic disturbance and the transgression of the sea.

The most important result of underwater excavation off Dwarka and Bet Dwarka is the discovery of the submerged city of Dwarka to which references are made in the Mahabharata, Harivamsa, Bhagavata Purana and other texts, establishing thereby the historicity of submergence of the city. Perhaps this natural calamity occurred in C.14th/15th cen.B.C. Thereafter, the second urbanization took place during early historic period when iron technology was introduced.

**AMRELI**

The ancient site known as 'Gohilwad Timbo' is situated two kilometers west of Amreli town (Saurashtra), sandwiched between rivulets Vadi on the west and Thebi on the east. These archaeological mounds are roughly a triangle on plan rising gradually from the banks of the rivers to a height of 15 feet. The ancient township grew in its northern side with natural defence provided by the rivers on all the sides (Figure:21). Amreli is mentioned in the Maitrak copper-plate grant of Dharasena II of Vallabhi
(c.572 A.D.) as Amrilikā. Twice this site was excavated. The excavations at Amreli yielded besides a thin occupational deposit of the chalcolithic culture, the history of the site from the first cen. B.C. down to the decline of the Maitraka rule in c. 8th cen. A.D. Some stray punch-marked copper coins are known from Amreli. There is a medieval fortification running along the left banks of the Thebi.

**HATHAB**

Hathab ancient Astakvapra is situated some twenty five kilometer to the south of Bhavnagar on sea coast. It is mentioned in the two grants of Dharasena I. The author of the Periplus of the Erythrean sea, Strabo, Ptolemy etc. describe Ashtakvapra (modern Hathab) as an early historic port town and famous centre of maritime activity. The recent explorations of the archaeological mounds Sorath (1 km length & ½ km width) at Hathab yielded ceramic tradition of Harappan. Amphora, coins and early historic antiquities such as punch-marked coins, Indo-Greek coins and the coins of the Maitrakas. The Maitraka copper-plates mention 'Hastakvapra Āhār' meaning the district headquarter in the Vallabhi dominions(c. 6th cen. A.D.). This long settlement seems to be very similar to the growth of Bharuch which is of Daṇḍak type.

Only limited section of the west coast of the Indian subcontinent the central Gujarat plain appear on the basis of scanty evidence currently available to have supported cities of second urbanization. Two major sites are known i.e. Bharukaccha modern Broach and Sopara (ancient Surparak) near Kalyan. In Saurashtra too there are at least couple of sites of the Mauryan period viz Girinagar, Prabhas Patan (Somnath) and a number of minor sites.
GIRINAGAR

Girinagar the modern Junagadh in Saurashtra is identified on the basis of Asokan rock edicts and noticing its proximity to archaeologically recognizable city datable to that period. It is the earliest epigraphic record as yet discovered in Gujarat which is unique for the history of Indian also as it bears side by side inscriptions of kings of three dynasties. Ashoka Maurya (c.273-237 B.C.) Mahaksatrapa Rudradaman (c.150 A.D.) and the Gupta Emperor Skanda Gupta (c.457-58 A.D.). A beautiful water reservoir Sudarsan tadaka was built in the vicinity of Girinagar across Suvarnasikta, Palasini and other water streams of mount Urjayat (Girinagar). The city of Girinagar stood at the foot of Urjayat. The area of Uparkot at the foot hill seems to represent early historic settlement of Girinagar, at the periphery of which had Sudarsan-setu (Figure: 22). The Arthasastra talk us that certain components should be located outside the fortification. In the case of Girinagar these include Sudarsan-setu tadaka, Boriya stupa, Intwa vihara, parks etc. all located outside the city (Upakot area). As per the Arthasastra the fortified city surrounded by hills and rivers provide natural defence and thus call it a second type of Giridurga. Further Hiuensang travel account describes this hill city with a circumference of five miles and consisted some fifty Mahayana viharas. Girinagar was an important seat of trade and commerce which was connected with some five highways network of various parts of the country. Thus Girinagar enjoyed the reputation of being provincial capital of Gujarat from c.4th cen.B.C. to c.500 A.D. However, visit of Hiuentsang (c.635-638 A.D.) and account mentioned in Vasudev Hindi (c.814 A.D) suggest that Girinagar fell into background and ceased to be a capital city but did not lose its importance.
EXCAVATED AREAS.

Fig. 1

Areas yielding early historic pottery.
Tank beds
Excavated areas.

Fig. 23

Courtesy: M.S. University, Baroda.
VADNAGAR

Vadnagar, located in the Kheralu Taluka Mehsana District, North Gujarat, was known by several names, such as Viznagar, Anartapura, Chamatkarpur, Anandpur and Vrdhanagar. The present town is picturesquely situated on the southern-western edge of a large tank called Sharmistha; and was completely fortified during the regime of Kumarpal (c.1152 A.D.) (Figure: 23). Tradition associates it with the settlements of the well-known Brahmin community of Gujarat, the Nagars. According to traditional data preserved in our Puranas and other literature about Anarta, it was established by a son of Sharyata in North Gujarat. It might have been a prominent landmark on the highway running across Gujarat, connecting Rajputana, Malwa, Saurashtra and Deccan. Nagarkhanda, a sub-section of the Skanda Purana give an account of the traditional history of the town. It provides us the story of the growth of this settlement into an important township. The Jain literature refer to Vadnagar from c. 7th cen. on wards. The most authentic account is provided by Hiuen-ti-sang, who visited this town, called by him Anandpura. This ancient town is also mentioned in the inscription of the Maitrakas of Vallabhi as ‘Nagaraka’, Anandpura and Anarthpura. The excavations and exploration of Vadnagar area show several archaeological mounds located on the southern eastern and northern bank of the Sharmistha tank. These archaeological mounds yielded punch marked copper coins, Red Polished ware and various early historic antiquities covering an area of about one square mile. Ancient Vrddhanagar (Vadnagar) shows a semi-circular or crescent shape growth around the tank of Sharmistha tank which is filled up by a water stream called Banagaṅga originating from the Taranga Hill. There are as many as ten tanks a step-well
and several pre-Solanki temples in the vicinity of the ancient township. In fact this town according to the principles of Indian town-planning, was one Krosa in width and length. According to Aparajita-prccha, Vadnagar follows the Kanistamana.

According to Chinese account called `Siyuki', the early historic town was spread in the area of five kilometers around the medieval fortification. Its squarish fort and six prākār were built during the regime of Solanki ruler Kumarpal which is recorded in the Arjanbari gate inscription. Mularaja is also said to have built Hatakesvar Siva temple. Moreover, there are magnificent toranas of Solanki period at the northern periphery of the fort.

**KAMREJ**

Kamrej is situated on the left bank of river Tapi. It has been identified as Kamne of Ptolemy by H. Shastri. Shrayasraya Silāditya grant (dated 763 AP) and Pulekesin Janashraya mention it as Kārmaneya. Local tradition call it as Kamāvatī nagari. The Tapimahatmya records it as Kāmapuri. The archaeological mounds, locally known as 'Kot' is situated on a small island formed between Tapi on its north and a small rivulet known as 'Langali' on its south. The excavation of this linear pattern settlement in 1935 has yielded Red Polished ware Kshatrap brick structures and early historic coinage such as Punch-marked, Gupta, Traikutaka and Maitraka coins (Figure: 24).

**KARVAN**

Karvan is mentioned in the Purānas and the inscriptions as Kayāvarohana, Kayārohana Kayāvatār etc. According to Karvana-Mahatmya this ancient Saiva-Tirtha was established by sage Visvamitra. Kayavarohana, an early historic township is associated with Lakulisa- the 28th incarnation of Lord Siva and systematiser of Lakulisa Pasupata sect who
emanated at this Saiva-Tirth during c. 2nd cen, A.D. Karvan (Ta: Dabhoi) is situated some 28 km southeast of Vadodara, on ancient route from Broach to Ujjain via An Kotaka(Vadodara).25 Karvan stands on a 20’ high mound with a huge tank located to its west. There are several archaeological mounds around this tank and a small rivulet-called Rangav flowing from north to the west form boundary of east the township. The study of these archaeological mounds26 indicate that Karvan was an open town and had a thick rectangular habitation between tank and a rivulet. The excavations conducted here (during the years 1974-1978) yielded coin-types of punch-marked, Indo-Greek,27 Gupta, Maitraka and Gadhaiya varities. RPW, Amphora, Roman antiquities and remains of a brick temple datable to c. 5th. A.D. which was perhaps nucleus of this early historic pilgrimage town. The Roman antiquities and Amphora indicate its contact with the Roman world through Bhrugukaccha while its contact with Ujjain and Mathura via old Ankottaka nagar. A large number of Shiva lingas, Brahmanical images of post-Gupta period suggest that Kayavarohana was a Saiva tirth and a town of the temples like Bhubanesvara. (Figure: 25)

SHAMALAJI

Shamalaji an early historic settlement and the medieval pilgrim centre called Gadadhar (Visnu Temple) is picturesquely situated in a forested valley of the Arvalli mountains (Ta: Bhiloda, Sabarkantha District, North Gujarat). The field study indicated that Shamalaji was a flourishing town on river Meshvo near the Buddhist colony of Devnimori. Its excavation28 revealed that Shamalaji was a fortified town during Kshatrapa period. It was a rectangular fort in an area of about fifty acres which would have comprised scanty population of 3000 people. Soon after this habitation, it became an
important town with its fortification and moats suggesting thereby that it might have been a small military out post over looking a highway connecting the hinterland of India to the ports on the Arabian sea. This early historic township amidst hilly enclosure continued to prosper a few centuries more at least upto c. 9th cen. A.D. During medieval period it once again became a prosperous town with Gadadhar – Shamalaji temple as its nucleus. (Figure: 26)

**VALBHI OF THE MAITRAKAS**

Of all the states that arose out of the break-up of the Gupta Empire in the west the kingdom of Valabhi of the Maitrakas proved to be most durable (c. 6th - 8th cen. A.D.). During their period of supremacy this capital flourished and was a centre of attraction to merchants, soldiers, scholars and plunderes. Valabhi is ideally situated on an island between bifurcated two streams of Ghelo river. These two branches of Ghelo turn the area into a narrow crescentic plain. This geographical and historical data are amply supported by the spread of archaeological deposits. The pattern of habitation and the area of occupation it seems that this was a nucleated township. The occupation is about 3 kilometers long and about half kilometers broad. It was spread on the bank of the river length wise, hence it could be inferred that the original town was built on linear pattern. (Figure:27) The excavations at Valabhi yielded several phases of habitation (c.1st/2nd cen. A.D. to c. 10th cen. A.D.). Majority of the buildings were built of bricks or mud walls. This town did not show any contours of the existence of fortifications. This is rather a strange phenomena because a state capital, proximity of the creek of the gulf of cambay (sea is hardly 10 kilometers from the site) without a good fort is easily liable for destruction.
The excavations at this site yielded early historic pottery (Red polished ware etc.). The discovery of Roman Amphora provides the evidence of the trade contact of Valabhi with Rome, thus the survey of archeological material suggest that this town was perhaps established during early Kshatrap period and grew up into a large town during the time of the Maitrakas who made it a capital-city of their kingdom.

The lightly cream coloured bricks (15 9 2 $\frac{1}{2}$) formed a large part of the building material. Several vihars, palaces and residential quarters probably built by bricks. The township went on expanding along the southern bank of the Ghelo and took the linear pattern of nucleated township. The reference of the Puralaksana in Aparâjirâpaçchâ suggest that such town was known as Danda and was considered to give prosperity. Evidently by 5th cen. A.D. it had good fortune of becoming a state capital. Moreover, the town which was initially centre of vedic and Jaina studies grew up as Valabhi- Vidyapitha. Hieun Tsang records that over 6000 students from the country and abroad used to study here various aspects of Hinayana and Mahayana Buddhism. Valabhipura can be placed in the catagery of Dronamukha also as per medieval text on Vâstusâstra.31

The area of town is about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ square kilometers consisting of residential quarters markets, palace, army and other state requirements. Maitraka-Valabhi might have been densely populated town of 25000 people. Due to the defeat of the Maitrakas at the hands of Arabs, silting of river bed which led to end international commerce might have began to shrink.

NAVSARI

Navsari is situated on the left bank of river Purna (South Gujarat). It is identified with Navasarippa of, Ptolemy, Nâvsârikâ of Srayasraya Silâditya...
and Nagasarika of the Rashtrakuta grants. The present town overlies the old archaeological mounds now known as Mota Parsiwdada. It has yielded lead seal, copper plates, images of mother goddess, chank bangles and ceramic tradition of early historic period.

**NANDIPUR**

Nandipur, modern Nandod (Near Rajpipla, South Gujarat) is situated on the left bank of river Karjan, on an ancient route from (45 kilometers north-east) Bharuch to the Deccan via Rajpipla. By the end of c.6th cen. A.D. a new ruling dynasty of Gurjaras was established at Nandipur. In all 13 copper plates of this ruling line have been found. The Revâmahasîmya describe this town as Nandi-Tîrth. This linear pattern township enjoyed the status of a capital for a short period.

**KHEDA**

Kheda is the ancient Khetaka-Mandala of the Rashtrakuta copper plates is situated on the confluence of the rivers Vatrak and Shedhi. It is referred to as Khetaka in the Maitraka, copper plates. Hiuen Tsnag paid a visit to 'Keta'- the same Khetaka capital town of the Rastrakuta line of Gujarat. R.N.Mehta has noted an earthen dam on river Shedhi and antiquities such as Red polished ware, Kshatrap bricks, images and remains of medieval temples from the archaeological mounds of this linear pattern settlement.

**SANKHEDA**

Sankheda is a small town situated on the confluence of the rivers Orsang and Unch. It is mentioned as Sangam –Khetaka Visaya (ancient District Head-Quarters) in the grant of Gurjar King Dadda IV. It had a linear pattern settlement on the left bank of Orsang. Archaeological mounds
COURTESY: DABHOI MUNICIPALITY
ZINZUWADA FORT (C. 1200 A.D.),
TALUKA DASADA,
DIST. SURENDRAM NAGAR.

SCALE: 1CM = 54 M

COURTESY, M.S. UNIVERSITY, BARODA.
have shown remains of medieval fort, temples, images, pottery and coins. The ancient lacqure work on wood craft also might have played an important role in the development of Sangam-Khatak township.  

**DABHOI**

Dabhoi or Darbhavati as mentioned in the medieval inscriptions is situated 28 km south-east of Baroda. The town was fortified during the regime of the Vaghelas. Its four gateways, pratolis and its toranas are beautifully decorated with the sculptures of Yoginis, terrific forms of Śiva and Nātha yogis. Further the temples of Kalika and Vaidyanath located near eastern Hira gate seems to be the nucleus of the township. Fort of Darbhavati was a garrison centre of the south-eastern border of the Solanki kingdom. Due to the constant threatening of the Parmaras of Malwa and the Yadavas of Devagiri, this fortified military outpost was erected to check the raids of the enemies.

The fort of Dabhoi is rectangular (1000 mts 800 mts) with a huge tank called Nāgēśvar on its north-east corner. It has four gates viz: Hira gate (east), Vadodara gate (west), Mahudi gate (north), and Nandod gate (south). These gates were all double structures consisting of an inner and outer curtain. The former being at right angles to the lines of the outer. Thus the plan of this military fort- architecture forms a swastika shape. Hence as per Vāstusāstra medieval the fort of Dabhoi is of Svastika type. (Figure: 28)

**ZINZUWADA**

Zinzuwada (Ta: Dasda, Dist: Surandranagr, Saurashtra) and Dabhoi were sister fortresses built during medieval period. It is situated on the junction of the routes running to Junagadh and Kaccha. And to check the movement of the rulers of Junagadh and Kaccha a square fort (size 880
880 mts) was erected as military outpost. As usual there are gate ways, its pratolis etc. are decorated with over-life size sandstone sculptures of Yoginis, Bhairava, Ganesa etc. There is a beautiful tank on its north-east corner. (Fig. 27)

**DHOLKA**

Medieval Dhavalakka was a capital of Gujarat during Vaghela rule in the c.13th cen A.D. On the western side of the town there is a polygonal tank called ‘Malav talav’ with Rudrakupa containing, Ekadasa Rudra images of Siva. It is situated in the trade-route between Gujarat and Saurashtra. During medieval period, Dhavalakka became important centre of trade and commerce, financial transactions and capital town of the Vaghelas. The recent explorations at archaeological mounds yielded Red polished ware, a Kshatrap seal and brick structures of early historic period (c.2nd cen A.D. to 7th cen. A.D.).

The study of early historic settlement patterns of the whole of Gujarat which is actually made of various sub-regions i.e., north Gujarat, Lata (South Gujarat) and Saurashtra. The material milue found from these different sub-regions indicated basis of its economy. This is a significant factor.

Saurashtra had contacts with the Persian Gulf, Rome and through Valabhipur, Dholka and Modhera to Rajasthan. The near absence of mineral resources from Saurashtra forced its inhabitants to make living from pastoralism agriculture and sea trade (salt and shell industry). The finding of amphorae sherds confirms that wine and olive oil was exchanged for foodgrains and Ghee. Thus, manufacturing and trade guilds were not abundant in Saurashtra which traded in small number where the pastoralists...
still existed. The region of Saurashtra was engaged in the trade of essential conditions.

The early historic settlements of central and southern Gujarat follow a linear pattern and show some aspects of manufacturing. The sites of south Gujarat (Latadesa) were engaged in agate bead manufacturing (Nagara-Khambhat, Bharukaccha etc.). The sites of North Gujarat show their contact with Saurashtra with bangle-manufacturing from chank (shell) being an important industry at Vadnagar and Nagara. The site of Dhatva and Kamrej were iron manufacturing centres in the south and Kapadavanj (Karpatavanjya), Shamalaji and Ambaji in the north.

As Bharukaccha was the nucleus of maritime activities of western India, some evidence of trade in luxury goods from Rome and the west where Eros figures Cameos and seals are found. These clearly show Graeco Roman features. These types of artefacts are not found from the other areas of Gujarat.

Due to increase in the population, trade and frequent political disturbances during medieval period, these towns either grew square, rectangular and in crescent shape. Many of the medieval towns were also fortified with royal enclosure (Bhadra) as its nucleus.

Thus various sub-regions of Gujarat, its topographical features and political situation during medieval period played significant role in the development of different forms and shapes of townscape in the region of Gujarat.
REFERENCES


10. Ansari Z.D. and Mate M.S. 1966 Excavations at Dwarka, Pune p 1-17.


15. Chitalwala, Y.M. 1985. Late Harappan cultures in Recent advances in Indian Archaeology proceedings of the seminar (Eds) S.B. Deo and K. Paddayya, Pune, p.58, Fig:8 and a list of the Harappan sites in Gujarat.


25. Mehta R. N. 1951. Karvan the seat of Lakulisa sect, Indian History Congress, Proceedings of the 14th session, Jaipur, P. 82. And yet another article in the same proceeding by J.N. Banerjee Lakulish – The founder or the syptanatiser of the Pasupata order, P.32-36.


27. Indian Archaeology – A review, 1976-77 A.S.I. New Delhi, P.78.


