CHAPTER II

GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, HYDROLOGY, GEOLOGY, FLORA, FAUNA, POPULATION, COMMUNICATION AND HISTORY.

Locations - (23\textdegree -35' and 24\textdegree -43' north latitude and 71\textdegree -0' and 73\textdegree -0' east longitude)

Situated in the north-western part of Gujarat State, Banaskantha is the State's third largest district. It lies between 23\textdegree -35' and 24\textdegree -43' north latitude and 71\textdegree -0' and 73\textdegree -0' east longitude. Banaskantha district is bounded on the North by Marwar and Sirohi areas of Rajasthan, in the South by Mehsana district of Gujarat State, in the East by the Sabarkantha district of Gujarat State and on the West by the desert of Kutch, which forms frontier with Pakistan.

Areas -

The estimated length (east-west) of the district is about 127 Kms. and breadth (north-south) is about 100 Kms. The total area is about 12702.0 sq.Kms.\textsuperscript{1} The district was formed in the year 1947 and at present it consists of the old native States of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Danta, Tharad, Vav, Deodar and Thara jagir and the old agency thanas of Bhabhar, Deodar, Sihori, Varshi and Santalpur and sub-thana of Suigam.\textsuperscript{2}

For the purpose of administration, the district has been divided into four sub-divisions with 11 talukas. They are
The district was a part of the former Bombay State. On the formation of the Gujarat State on 1st May 1960, it became one of the districts of the State of Gujarat.

Changes that have taken place in the territorial limits of the district between 1951 and 1961 are broadly listed below:

1. Radhanpur taluka was transferred from the Mehsana district to the Banaskantha district.
2. Santalpur taluka was transferred from the Mehsana district to the Banaskantha district.
3. Abu Road taluka was transferred from the Banaskantha district to the Rajasthan State.
Physiography:-

Physiographically, the district could be divided in two parts:-
1. Eastern hilly track.
2. Western plain.

Eastern hilly track:-

The river Banas can be treated as the dividing line between these physiographical sub-divisions. The eastern part of the district particularly Danta and the eastern part of Palanpur taluka is hilly and covered with good forests near Chitrasani (Palanpur taluka) and Ambaghata (Danta taluka). The hills of Jasore and Chikhodarmata attain substantial height. This is an extension of Aravalli ranges.

Jasore Hill:-

Jasore hill is about 27 Kms. north of Palanpur and is a hill of gneiss with intrusive granite. This hill about 1100 mts. high is a long hogbacked mountain. This whole hill is covered with thick forests on the top chiefly with bamboos.

The Chikhodar Mata Hill:-

The Chikhodar Mata hill has taken its name from a small shrine on the highest peak that rises about 800 mts. above the sea. The part near Karimabad is called the 'Rani tunk' or 'Queens Peak'; and the western end is known 'Subbakri hill'. About 3 Kms. from the town of Dantiwada, it is a marked feature in the landscape.
Western Plain:

The second sub-division is the western region of the district. It is a plain with sand dunes tending in its westernmost extremity on the border with Rajasthan and the runn of Kutch, to desert-like conditions. This part is devoid of heavy vegetation. The area touching on the runn of Kutch is a salty marsh. In the little runn of Kutch, the upper crust is hard and gives a formation known as 'takgr' formation which consists of a wrinkled polygonal design. Two chief rivers of the district the Banas and the Arjuni (Sarasvati) are non-Perrenial.

Climate:

The climate of the district is of continental type. In the hot season the heat is fierce and the temperature rises upto 115°F, and it becomes more intense in the northern, northwestern and the western part, towards the runn of Kutch. Because of the hills and jungles, rainfall is heavier in the eastern part of the district i.e. eastern, north-eastern Palanpur taluka, Danta taluka and the Vadgam taluka and scarce towards western part of the district i.e. Radhanpur, Tharad, Vav and Santalpur talukas of the district. Kankrej taluka is more favourably situated. The rainfall in this taluka is higher than the above mentioned talukas in the West adjoining the runn of Kutch viz. Vav, Tharad, Radhanpur and Santalpur.

The cycle of season consists of a winter season from November to February, succeeded by summer from March to June
and monsoon which lasts till about the 2nd week of September. The winter season is preceded by a short autumn which succeeds the monsoon and lasts from late September to about early November. Generally, May is the hottest month when maximum temperature usually goes upto 44°C (May, 1966) while the minimum temperature goes down to 3°C (Feb. 1966). It may be noted that the temperature is recorded at Deesa and the variation in temperature might be still more in the westernmost areas.

Rainfall:-

The average rainfall, on the basis of the figures of five years from 1966-70 in the district, is 584 mm. and on average there are 28 rainy days in the year. The monsoon in the district is generally accompanied by cyclones and dusty winds. The distribution of the rainfall over the district is uneven. The number of rainy days and rainfall at the district headquarters, Palanpur, during the five years are tabulated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of rainy days</th>
<th>Annual rainfall in mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>434.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>935.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>559.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>253.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>738.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hydrology:-

Rivers:-

The Banas and the Arjuni, which is also known as
Saraswati, are the main river systems of the district.

The Banas:

The river Banas, known in the Puranas by the name Payaswani which later on turned into Parnasa7 then into Banasa and finally into Banas, rises from the Dhebar lake situated in the hills of Udaipur in Rajasthan and flows westward into the Banaskantha district and passes through the Palanpur, Deesa, Radhanpur, Kankrej and Santalpur talukas of the district and empties itself into the small runn of Kutch by two mouths near Gokhatar in the Santalpur taluka and Agichana in the Radhanpur taluka of the district. Entering Palanpur, to the north-east of Sarotra, (Palanpur taluka) it flows for about 20 Kms. through thick forest and then about 13 Kms. has a rocky bed. Towards the west, both the banks and beds are sandy, and during the summer the stream practically ceases to flow. Towards Rajasthan its channel is 275 mts. wide, 10 Kms. above Deesa, one and a half Kms. at Deesa 700 mts. and at Radhanpur 400 mts. At Deesa and few Kms. above and below, it is a running stream throughout the year. Because of the construction of the dam at Dantiwada (taluka Dhanera) down stream areas get water regularly. Floods in the river, as it is the only drainage line from Abu, often bring down water in enormous quantity, covering the small desert of Kutch 12 Kms. from shore to shore, sometimes with 3 to 4 mts. of fresh water.
A dam is constructed on the river Banas near Dantiwada (Dhanera taluka), about 25 Kms. away from Palanpur in the west and forms the core of Dantiwada irrigation project. The project provides for irrigation facilities to farmers in the Palanpur, Deesa, Kankrej and Dhanera talukas of the district. The project irrigates 23328 hectares of land in the Banaskantha district and 16188 hectares in the Mehsana district. The river Banas has a flood history and frequently overflows the banks during monsoon. The Dantiwada project is a step in the direction of preventing damaging floods in the river Banas and utilizing the potential of the river for irrigation. The dam constructed at L.H.I. of 135.94 near Dantiwada is 4792.66 mts. long. The construction of another dam at Atal is under consideration and when completed, it is likely to be 6162.52 mts. long with a capacity to irrigate 25293 hectares of land.

The tributaries:

The Sipu and the Balaram rivers are the chief tributaries of the river Banas.

The Sipu:

The Sipu rises in the east of Himaj hills in the Sirohi district of Rajasthan, and joins the river Banas near Bhadeth and chottaranpur-no-vas in the Deesa taluka.

The Balaram:

The river Balaram rises in the hills of north-eastern border of the district and passes by the Balaram shrine from
where it takes its name and joins the river Ba-nas near Kerja, in the Palanpur taluka.

The Sarasvati:

The river Arjuni which is also known as Sarasvati, is extremely sacred to the Hindus. It is a large river system which rises from near Koteswar in the Ambaji hills in the Danta taluka of the district, and becomes Sarasvati after its confluence with Sarasvati which rises in the Mahi Kantha hills near Bamanwara at the south-west corner of Vadgam taluka. The river passes by Siddhpur and Patan in the Mehsana district and enters the runn of Kutch.

Geology of the area:

Geologically the area consists chiefly of representatives of the Aravalli system, Delhi system (Ajabgarh series), Intrusives in the Delhi system and the recent deposits. In a tabular form they can be represented as follows:

**Recent**
- Alluvium, blown sand, river gravels.
- Oligoclase - dolerite dykes.

**Intrusives**
- Gabbros and dolerite Pluys, Erinpura granite--
  - and pegmatite.
- Epidiorites and hornblende - Schists.

**Delhi system**

**Ajabgarh series**
- Phyllites
- Lime stones
- Calc-gnisses
- Calc-Schists
- Phyllites and biotite-schists

**Alwar series**
- Quartzites.
Aravalli system— Mica-schists and composite gneisses.

The rocks of the Aravalli system are well exposed between Pathawada (24° 29' 72° 19") and Kapasia (24° 29' 72° 32'). They are described by A.L. Coulson (1933, p. 26) as mica schists. In places they contain abundant interfoliar, thin veins of pegmatites and hence are termed as composite gneisses. They consist of quartz, biotite, muscovite and chlorite with a little iron-ore and sometimes garnet. These rocks are traversed by basic dykes. These dykes run practically in the east-west direction.

Delhi system—

The quartzites, probably of Alwar series of the Delhi system that are mapped by A.L. Coulson (1933) in Sirohi State, do not extend southward into the Banaskantha district. Isolated outcrops of quartzites probably of Alwar system are seen near Chitrasani (taluka Palanpur). They form narrow elongated ridges running mostly in a north-east south west direction. These quartzites break up into smaller and more irregular fragments. These are harsh and rough in texture, even though they are not coarse grained.

Phyllites and biotite-schists cover a vast area. They are usually nearly white, fine-grained and triable. When they contain a fair amount of fine mica, they show schistose structure. When the mica is hardly discernible, they only mineral seen is quartz in small rounded grains. They are well
exposed in the vicinity of Ambamata.

Calc-schists are well exposed near about Gada (24°7' : 73°1'). There rocks can be cut as slabs and are being locally used as building stone.

Calc-gneisses and lime stone are well exposed in the eastern part of the area. These rocks give rise to a topography of heavily dissected plateau, slightly elevated above the surrounding country. The limestone breaks into slabs and the calc-gneisses into roughly quadrangular blocks. At places limestones occur in the form of crystalline limestones and marbles. Marble of Zarivav near Amba-Mata is pure white and saccharoidal. This is utilized as building stones.

The phyllites are exposed in a lens-shaped outcrop, two miles east of Danta. The colour of Phyllites is grey and their foliation planes are shining.

**Intrusives**: Out of all the intrusives the Erinpura granite covers a very large area.

The granite is usually hard, grey, fine or medium-grained non-porphyritic and homogeneous. It weathers into low, smooth whale-backs rising only a few feet above the alluvium. In this area the granite rocks show a great diversity of texture, mode of occurrence and mineral composition. The granite is massive as well as gneissic in structure. With almost complete absence of ferromagnesia minerals and the diminution in the grain size, these granitic rocks give rise to a variety which
has been termed, "Microgranite". Microgranite is well exposed in Menagir ridge to the north-east of Ambamata. The granite mass at places has given out numerous aplite veins which are seen intruding the older schistose rocks. The final stages of this Erinpura granite phase are represented in the numerous pegmatites.

Other intrusives represent the basic phase and are represented in the field by dolerite, basalt, epidiorite, amphibolite etc.

Recent:

Recent deposits include alluvium, blown sand, river gravels, soils etc. The soil derived from the granitic rock is usually a reddish sandy or gritty loam. Soils derived from calcareous rock are whitish and fine grained.

Economic Minerals:

The district of Banaskantha is famous for its economic minerals. Ancient copper workings near Ambamata, indicate the prosperous mining of copper deposits, during ancient period. The same area is thoroughly investigated and proved to be prosperous, for zinc, lead and copper deposits.

Marbles and limestones of this area are also economically important. Marbles near Zarivav is a pure white sacccharoidal marble. This marble forms an excellent building stone. The famous Jain temples at Dilwara at Mount Abu, and the local Jain temples of Kumbharia have been built of this Zarivav marble. Also numerous marble sculptures found in the district were also
carved out from this material.

The yellow ochre which occurs in a few patches near the copper workings, has been exploited by the local inhabitants only, for the purpose of colouring walls and utensils and for such other domestic uses.

Calcite deposits and limestones available in this area are also in great demand in various industries.

Flora:-

The area in the western side of the river Banas are arid regions but the eastern regions are protected by the hills of the Aravalli range. In the eastern region, large forests exist in Banaskantha district. The top of the Jassore hill is famous for its bamboo and suitable for extensive plantations, and grass lands.

The chief trees in the district are the bel, bili-(Aegle marmelos; the nhowa or mahuda (Bassia latifolia), the timru or timbarva (Diospyros montana), the wood apple or Kotha or Kothi (Feronia elephantum), the mango-amba (Mangifera indica), the ran or rayan (Mimusops indica), the tamarind or amli (Tamarindus indica), and the jujube or bordi (Zizyphus jajuba).

Timber trees available in the district are as follows:-

The Babul or baval (Acacia arabica), the blackwood or Sisam (Dalbergia Sisoo), the Khijro (Prosopis Spicigera) and the arjan or Sadado (Terminalia arguna).

Shade trees are as follows:-

The audeso (Alenthus excelsa), the nim or limbedo (melia
azadirachta), the Gundi (cordia rothii), the piplo (ficus religiosa), the piplo (Ficus religiosa), the Karanj (Pongamia glabra), the Kadai (Sterculia urens), the Vosl (Ficus bengalensis).

The following ones are the flowering trees available in the district—

The Simla (Bombax malabaricum), the garmala (Cassia fistula), the gagrio khakhro (Erythrina suberosa), the champa (Michelia Champaca), the borsali (Mimusops elengi) and the alri (Morinda exserra).

The following ones are the miscellaneous trees available in the district—

The Khar (Acacia Catechu), the singoria (Balanites roxburghii), the kachnami (Bauhinia purpurea), the asundra (Bauhinia racemso), the rebra (Bignonia undulata), the Salar or Salera (Boswellia thurifera), the Pardesi (Erythrine indica), Khakhro (Butea frondosa), the dhuman (Gremia asiatica), the saragvo (Maringe Pterigosperma), the Kalam (Stepheyne Parvifolia), the marda shenga (Randia dumetorum), the jolor pilvu (Salvadara indica), the arithi (Sapindus emarginatus), the rohan (Soymida febrifuga), the ambala (Spondias mangifera), the dudla (Springa emodr), the bastard (Cypress Spondias mangifera).

Fauna—

The climate of the district is conducive to cattle breeding. Hence, the breed available in the district is found to be very sturdy, healthy, and useful as draught animals in cultivation.
The district of Banaskantha has variety of animals but is mainly well known throughout the world, for the oxen of Kankraj, Vav and Tharad. The oxen are fine, strong, well built animals of good height and in colour generally white, and mazde. One pair of Kankraji bullocks generally costs Rs.5000 to 6000/. Kankraji cows are also equally well known and the yield of milk, as revealed by the All India cattle show, where the Kankraji cows with 43 lits. of milk yield have stood first in competition, and have won an award of Gopalratna.

Kankraji bullocks often remind us of the famous Harappan bulls, which we get on the Harappan seals and in the form of terracotta figurines.

These animals are bred by farmers and Rabari herdsmen. They are put to work at three years of age. One pair of bullocks can plough, work at well, and in hard soil draw a wagon load of nearly half a ton.

Because of the sandy areas, camels are also bred and put to work. In the past and even today, in the westerly region, the animal which is used for transportation is camel. Camels are reared by landowners and by Rabaris and Sindhi herdsmen. They are used for riding and transporting baggage. Of course, the camels which we get in the Banaskantha are inferior to those of Thar in Sind and Bikaner in Rajasthan.

Sheep are also reared in this region mainly by the Rabaris, and these animals yield 60% of wool.
Besides the above, male and female buffalos, goats, horses, hens, turkeys, pea-fowl, guinea-fowl are also found in this district.

**Wild animals found in the district:**

Formerly lion was found in the district. Now in the hilly areas Tiger or (Vagh) (Felis tigris), the panther or dipdo (Felis Leopardus), the Bear or Rinchh (Ursus labiatus), the hunting Pard, or chita (Felis jubata), the Hyaena or tarachh (Hyaena Striata), the wolf or Varu (Canis pallipes), Stag or sabar (Rusa aristotelis), the spotted deer or Chital (Axis maculatus), the Blue Bull or nilgai (Portax Pictus), the Indian Gazelle or chikara (Gazella benettii), the wild Boar or Suvar (Sus indicus), the Hare or Saslu (Lepus reficaudatus) are also found in the district.

**Population:**

The total area of the district as per 1971 census was 12702.0 sq.Kms. or 6.54% of the total area of the State. The percentage of population in 1971 was 4.744% of the total State population. The average density of population is 214 persons per sq.mile as against 290 for the State.

The highest average as well as rural density (410) is found in Vadgam taluka and the lowest in Santalpur taluka (35) but among urban areas, Palanpur taluka tops the list with 5298 persons per sq.mile, the lowest being (881) for Tharad Taluka.

The people of the district are generally tall, well built, and hard working. Particularly, people belonging to the Western region are more so. In their daily use, both men and women
wear multicoloured embroidered garments and ornaments of variety of types.

The population in the district generally consists of the Rajputs, Kolis, Thakardas, Kanbis, Sathvaras, and Narodas.

The Rajputs, a very large class, belong to seven leading divisions; the Chavada, Chouhan, Rathod, Solanki, Parmar, Yadav and Gohil. They are mainly farmers.

The Koli Thakardas are fairly numerous and are divided into eight leading classes; Solanki, Rathod, Chouhan, Parmar, Bhatesria, Dhab, Arnivaria and Khamboia. They are also mainly farmers.

Kanbis are divided into three chief divisions, Leuva, Kadva, and Anjna. They are also farmers.

The adivasis are mainly concentrated in the eastern regions of the Banaskantha, particularly in the hilly regions of Danta. The main occupation of the adivasis is generally agriculture. Their other industries are collection and sale of forest products such as lac, gum, and leaves of trees. They also work under contractors for cutting the trees in the jungle and preparing charcoal. Their cottage industries are basket weaving and other handicrafts.

Language:-

96.48% of the total population in the district have Gujarati as their mother tongue. 94.47% of them live in the rural areas and 5.53% in urban areas. Besides Gujarati speaking people, there are people who speak, Rajasthani.
Religion:
89.94% of the total population are Hindus, 6.96% Muslims, 3.02 are Jains.

Housing:
About 97% of the total population of the Banaskantha district is confined to the rural areas as the main occupation is agricultural and cattle breeding. The semi-arid condition and troublesome political situation of a few centuries have led to the development of overcrowded mudéated villages.

In the western region, soon after the month of February, wind and cyclones are regular phenomena on account of the nearness of the small desert of Kutch. During the exploratory tours in the western zone, the author came across the people who used to finish their supper quite early in the evening so as to save themselves from the sand being brought by the constantly blowing cyclones. Even while taking the supper, people have to cover themselves with cloth so that the blowing sand may not fall in the dish.

General pattern of houses:
The houses in general are rectangular or square and at times circular in case of tribals; however, some backward classes live also in the houses of cylindrical shape like beehives. Most houses are one room tenements and single-storeyed. All the houses generally have verandas where members of the house sit in leisure hours and women folk carry on their household work. The open space which most of the houses have in the
front and at the back, is enclosed by courtyards where the agriculturists keep their cattle and the village artisans pile their household industries.

**Wall material:**

Walls of the houses are generally made of mud or stones and are plastered with cowdung emulsion; though grass, leaves, reeds or bamboo are also in use in the construction of huts of those who are economically and socially backward, e.g. the scheduled castes and the schedule tribes.

**Roof material:**

Roofs are generally provided with half round terracotta tiles. But the houses belonging to the economically poor class have roofs prepared in straw, grass or palm-leaves.

**Flooring:**

Flooring in the houses is done usually with earth and it is surfaced with cowdung mixed with clay. The flooring and even the walls are decorated in an ornamental way with rows semi-circular in nature. Many a times, the walls are decorated with floral designs and paintings of animals, birds and floral designs.

**Ventilation:**

Ventilation is not a problem for the people who reside in the rural areas, as they keep themselves busy out-door for agricultural operation and labour in the field for most part of the day. Moreover, the small size of houses proves to be a handicap for providing good ventilation. Also, more ventilation
avenues would mar the security of the house.

Because of the extreme scarcity of water, we generally do not find bathrooms or the bathing places in the houses. People generally take their bath, perhaps once in a week, and that too near the pond or the well.

The condition in the hilly areas of Palanpur and Danta talukas are quite different. Poverty prevails here among the adivasis and therefore the housing condition is far from satisfactory. As we find in the other hilly areas of the country, houses lie scattered and are not confined at one place. Water is generally not a problem and, therefore, we find these houses a little cleanly.

**Communication:**

Communication system, in the Banaskantha district, is still in a very primary stage. There are no good roads connecting the villages and, therefore, the main transactions are generally carried on by draught animals such as camels or by carts.

At present there are four main highways joining the four directions in the district. One of the State highways connects the east-west direction and links Palanpur to Kutch. It passes through Deesa, Bhiladi, Radhanpur, Varahi, Santalpur and reaches Bhuj. The second highway also runs in the east-west direction and connects Palanpur with Suigam, the last military outpost of the Indian Union, on the western international border. The third highway connects Palanpur to Ahmedabad on one hand (Vav, Siddhapur, Mehsana and Kalol) and southern Rajasthan on the other. While
the fourth highway joins Palanpur with Sabarkantha district and finally with north-eastern Rajasthan via Khedbrahma, Shamalaji and Ratanpur. In addition to the above State highways, there are a few minor roads which join the leading towns of the district.

The Banaskantha district enjoyed a very important strategic position with regard to the trunk roads in the ancient, classical and mediaeval periods of Indian history. Many important trunk roads connecting important commercial centres passed through the district. The ancient highway joining Delhi and Ajmer on one hand and Ahmedabad on the other, passed through Tharad and Deesa in the district.10 The other important places on the above highway were Bhinmal and Sanchor in Rajasthan. Also the ancient highway joining the lower Sind (Tharparkar) and the main land of Gujarat passed through Tharad and Deesa.11 Probably in the protohistoric times also the same route might have been in operation as we know that raw Agate for the manufacture of beads in the Indus Valley might have been obtained from Ratanpur (Rajasthan) and Rajpipala (Broach district) in the Central Gujarat, and transported to Sind. Also, the main route joining Dwarka and Mathura passed through this district.12 Because of all these caravan routes, important commercial centres like Tharad (ancient Thirupur), Deesa, Vadaval, developed and played significant role in the development of cultures in this district.

History:-

The early history of the Banaskantha district of the Gujarat State, prior to about 10th century A.D., is hidden away in
Legends and traditions. Banaskantha as a separate administrative unit, is of recent origin (1947). It seems to have formed part of ancient Anarta, often noted in the puranas and other literature. Existing Buddhist literature also does not give any reference about any of the places now covered up by the boundaries of the Banaskantha district. Ptolemy has made reference about 'Devala' perhaps a place situated in the Radhanpur taluka of the Banaskantha district, but the reference demands further scrutiny and, therefore, one should accept it with great reservation. The well known Chinese traveller of the 7th century A.D., Huen Tsi-ang (or Yuan-Chwang) when he visited Srimal might have passed through the area covered up by the Banaskantha district, but he does not give any account of the places now included in the Banaskantha district. As we move in time in historical studies, the documentation becomes more thin and irregular. Therefore, the political history of the area has to be inferred from the documents of wider neighbouring areas. Interpolation of the available evidences leads one to infer about the political activities in this region. But this picture requires careful analysis and search of local evidences for improvement.

Basically there are two sources which are available to give a broad picture of the political history of the district. They are (1) literary (2) archaeological.

**Literary sources:**

Literary sources include various Puranas which refer
to ancient Anarta. North Gujarat was usually identified with
the area called Anarta. It was named after the king Anarta,
son of Vaivasvata Manu. Panini also mentioned about Anarta.
The capital of Anarta was at Anandpura (Q-Nan-To-Pu-Lo of
Huien Tsi-ang) the modern Vadnagar, a town in the Kheralu
taluka of the Gujarat State. Anandpura was also known as
Anartapura. Both these names Anandpura and Anartapura were
also in vague during the times of the Valabhis (A.D.500-770).

Besides the above literary sources, one gets scattered
references about Anarta in inscriptions also. In the Girnar
inscription of Kshatrapa Rudradaman (A.D.150) Anarta and
Saurashtra have been mentioned as separate provinces and both
these provinces were under one office. In some of the Puranas,
Anarta appears as the name of the whole province including
Saurashtra with its capital at Kusthasthal, which is probably
the present Dwarikā. In other passages Dwarika and
Prabhas are both mentioned as in Anarta which would mean to show
that the term Anarta shows different connotations and includes
North Gujarat and Saurashtra in one of its meaning.

In the copper plate grants of the Valabhis, Vadnagara, the
capital of ancient Anarta, has been referred to as Anandpura.
Therefore, it can be said that in the beginning of the Christian
era, the whole area around Vadnagara including the Banaskantha
district, might have been known as Anarta.

Archaeological sources:

The other sources are archaeological. It has been
mentioned in the earlier pages of this thesis that, the Banaskantha district was "terra-incognito" from the archaeological point of view and no data is there at our disposal with the help of which we can build up the history. What we get is a punchmark coin found in the village Vadia in the Deodar taluka of the Banaskantha district.23

In the following pages an attempt has been made to give a connected picture of the history of the Banaskantha district from the earliest period upto 1500 A.D.

(1) Puranic History:

Among the Aryan tribes which came to India, the Bhrugas and the Saryatas seem to be the ancient one, connected with Anarta. Tradition says that Anarta, the son of Saryati and the grand son of Manu, gave his name and identified this region as Anartadesh.24 His son made Kusasthali the capital on which was erected Dwarika.

The other puranic legend says that Yadavas occupied Saurashtra which probably included Anarta also and established their capital at Dwarika.25 Yadavas under Krishna are said to have ruled Saurashtra and Anarta26 including probably areas covered up by the present Banaskantha district, from their capital at Dwarika.

(2) Mauryan Period:

The history of the Banaskantha district which seem to have formed part of ancient Anarta, gets documented from the
Mauryan period. The supremacy of Chandragupta Maurya (322-298 A.D.) was also extended over both Anarta and Lata. He not only brought the whole of northern India under his suzerainty but also included parts of Afghanistan and reached up to the border of Persia in the north-west. Rudradamana inscription at Junagadh shows that Saurashtra was a province of the Mauryan empire, and was ruled by Chandragupta’s provincial governor Pushagupta Vaishya and in Asoka’s time Yavana (Greek) Raja Tushaspha. The whole of Ancient Anarta including the Banaskantha district, might have also formed part of Saurashtra, and, therefore, they might have also been included in the great Mauryan empire.

(3) Post-Asokan Period:

Post-Asokan period of Indian history is surrounded in obscurity. During the periods of Chandragupta and Asoka, the empire had extended so much that it was not possible for the
successors of Asoka to keep it intact. The post-Mauryan period of Indian history may, therefore, be considered as the "Dark age". 27

Considering the evidences provided by the Buddhist and the Jain literature, 28 Asoka the great was not succeeded by his son Kunal, who was blind, but by his grand son Dasaratha and Samprati (the latter was a son of Kunal). That Dasaratha ruled after Asoka, is proved by three short dedicatory inscriptions found on the rock cut caves at the Barabar hills near Gaya in Bihar. 29 Here Dasaratha uses Asoka's title "Devanampriya". 30

While on the other hand Jain texts do not mention anything about Dasaratha but say that Asoka was succeeded by his grand son Samprati, who was the son of eyeless Kunal. It may be possible that, after the death of Asoka, there might have been a dispute for succession and as a compromise, the Asokan empire might have been divided between Dasaratha and Samprati. Dasaratha might have become the lord of eastern India, while Samprati, whom Jain texts specially mention, might have ruled over Western India. It is too obvious to indicate that, Anarta including the Banaskantha district was also included in the areas ruled by Samprati. Mauryan rule in the area ended with Samprati. This might have happened somewhere in 200 B.C.

Post-Mauryan period:

The last Mauryan King Brihadatha, was assasianated in a 'coup detat' and the Mauryan empire of eastern India, went into the hands of the Sungas. But, because of the dearth of material, it is very difficult to say, what relations Western India,
particularly Gujarat, had with the Sungas. Indian literary sources speak of two Sunga marches to the south, one to the north-west and then to the southern ocean under Pushyagupta; the other to the Sindhu, with the Asvamedh, under prince Vasumitra, son of Agnimitra. Tarn thinks that southern ocean might have been southern ocean at Saurashtra. 31 If this view of Tarn is accepted Saurashtra including Anarta (including Banaskantha district), might have come under the jurisdiction of the Sungas also. Although the said rule may be for a very short period.

**Early Andhras:**

We do not get any reliable evidence as to whether the early Andhras had extended their sovereignty over Gujarat? However when their rule under Krsna was extended to Nasik and further towards the west, they might have spread their jurisdiction over Lata, Anarta and Saurashtra too. This might have happened particularly during the period of Sri.Satkarni, who has been referred to as "protector of the west" in the Kharavela inscription of C.168 B.C. 32

**Greeks:**

Indo-Greeks under Demetrius, famous son of Euthydemus were marching towards India, and entered north-west India. They further moved towards western India on the Indus and took possession of Sindhu delta, Saurashtra and Kutch. Strobo (54 B.C. to 24 B.C.) observes, "They got possession not only of Patalene but also of the kingdoms of Saraostos and Sigerdis,
which constitute the remainder of the coast. Here in the absence of Demeterius, the Indo-Greek established themselves under the leadership of Apollodotus, probably the brother of Demetrius. Apollodotus might have ruled for a very long time and over a vast area because his coins were found in a great number from Gandhara to Barygaza (Broach). After the death of Apollodotus and Demetrius, Bactria was taken over by Menander, the greatest of the Yavana kings and became the master of the Greek possessions in India. The rule of the Greeks did not come to an end with the death of Menander but continued under his son Soter I, who ruled through his general Apollodotus II, whose coins were imitated by Saka Satrap Chistan and Nahapan.

The Sakas:-

The Greeks were overthrown by the Sakas. The Sakas entered India from Sakastana (Seistan) and conquered Abhira, on the Indus and further moved towards Patalena, Kutch and Saurashtra and might have taken Anarta including the Banaskantha district. From Abhira, in about 80 B.C., they moved towards northern India, under Maues and conquered northern India. But according to the local belief, the Sakas were driven out from Ujjain in about 58 B.C. However we do not know whether Sakas were driven out of Saurashtra and Kutch also.

The Kshaharata Satrapas:-

It is difficult to say as to who ruled the region until we meet with another branch of the Sakas in about 100 A.D. This dynasty, which ruled probably as the Kshatrapa of the Kushana king Kaniska I, was known as the Kshaharatas and was probably
the Scythian in origin. From the viewpoint of the history of
the Banaskantha district, the rule of this dynasty is very
important, because for the first time we get written reference
about the river Banas.35

Kshatrapa Bhumaka, is the earliest known king of this
dynasty. His coins are found in the coastal regions of Gujarat
and Saurashtra, Malwa and the Ajmer regions of Rajasthan. It is
noteworthy that, coins issued by Bhumaka contain two scripts
both Brahmi and Kharosthi. The use of these two scripts points
to the fact that, the coins were also meant for circulation in the
areas such as Western Rajasthan and Sind, where Kharothi script
was in vogue.

Kshatrapa Nahapana, succeeded Bhumaka and is considered
as one of the greatest personalities in Indian history. Although
we get a mine of information from the silver and gold coins
issued by Nahapana, a great deal of information is also forth­
coming from his inscriptions. Nahapana’s coins have been
discovered in the Ajmer regions of Rajasthan in the north and
in the Nasik district of Maharashtra in the south. His kingdom
included the area from Ajmer to Maharashtra in the south.
Rshabhatta, the son-in-law of Nahapana, who had married his
daughter Dushamitra, worked as the viceroy in the southern
province of the kingdom of Nahapana. Rsabhatta was very pious
type and a man having deep faith in religious. He performed
many charitable acts and works of public utility to his credit.
All other acts are mentioned in the Nasik Cave inscriptions
X, XII, and XIV. In one of his inscriptions he mentioned that he has given in gift 300,000 cows; of gold, and river side steps at the river Banasa, near Mount Abu in north Gujarat. The Kshatrapa Nahapana was defeated and killed by equally powerfully Satavahana king Gautamiputra Satkarni who annexed the kingdom of Kshatrapa to the Andhra empire. Saurashtra and Anarta, again were passed over to the hands of the Andhras. The Banaskantha district might have been passed over to the Andhra kingdom as we get Andhra coin from Siddhapur which is very near from the present boundary of the Banaskantha district.

The Kshatrapas:

Andhra rule did not last for a very long time in Saurashtra, Anarta, and Lata. The Kshatrapa family of Nahapana was succeeded by the Scythian family of the Kardambakas, the name of which family derived from Kardamba river in Bactria. Castana, son of Ghasasmotika of the family of Kardamba and the first ruler of this dynasty, recovered the lost territories of the early Kshtrapas from the Satvahana.

Castana was succeeded by his son Jivadaman as the Kshatrapa. It seems that Jivadaman died earlier and he was succeeded by his son Rudradaman I. It seems that Castana and Rudradaman jointly ruled for sometime which has been proved by inscription found at Andhau in Kutch.

The rule of this dynasty reached its zenith during the rule of Rudradaman I (A.D. 143-158 A.D.). As it is mentioned in the famous inscription found at Girnar in Saurashtra, and
also confirmed by the distribution of his coins, his dominion extended up to the greatest part of South Rajasthan, Malwa, Kutch, Saurashtra (including Anarta) and North Konkan. Rudradaman's capital was at Ujjain in Malwa and he was ruling his province of Saurashtra, including Anarta, through his governor Suvisakha.

The family of Castana ruled for a very long period, for about 200 years without any break, till the year of 304 A.D. making a total of 300 years of rule, to the entire Kshatrapa period.

What happened to this family. We do not have any information, but a new family of the Kshatrapa Rudrasimha II, son of Jivadaman, perhaps the relative of Kardamaka, Kshatrapa succeeded Kshatrapa Visvasena in S.5.227 (i.e.305 A.D.). This family ruled till 390 A.D. It was finally exterminated by the great Guptas.

The Guptas:

In the Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta (C.330-370 A.D.) it is mentioned that the Western Kshatrapas were paying homage to the Gupta emperor Samudragupta. Probably Saka Kshatrapa power in Gujarat and Saurashtra (including Anarta) was rapidly declining. Chandragupta II, well known in the Indian history as Vikramaditya, planned his campaign against Malwa, Gujarat and Saurashtra. He entered the province through the north-eastern corner and conquered Gujarat and proceeded towards Saurashtra. He defeated Rudrasimha III and annexed
his kingdom into the mighty empire of the Guptas. The latest coin of the western Kshatrapa Svami Rudrasimha, is dated 383-39 A.D. whereas the earliest coin of Chandragupta II bears the date 409-10 A.D. Chandragupta II also issued silver coins for the new province of his empire.

As in other parts of India, Gupta rule in Gujarat may be considered as a period of great importance. The artistic activities flourished on a large scale in Gujarat during this period.

Kumargupta (C.414-455 A.D.) succeeded Chandragupta and continued to rule upto 455 A.D. Skandagupta (455-467 A.D.) succeeded Kumargupta. The Girnar Rock Inscription of Skandagupta dated 456-57 A.D. refers to the achievement of his son Chakra Palita in detail. Skandagupta died in 467 A.D. and Buddhagupta succeeded the throne. Bhattarka was appointed as the governor of Saurashtra with the headquarters at Valabhi. His son Dronasimha, assumed the title of 'Maharaja' and probably Buddhagupta endowed royalty on him. This may suggest that Guptas lordship over Saurashtra and Anarta continued in the beginning of the 6th century A.D. The Guptas lost their stronghold over Gujarat, Saurashtra and Anarta after 470 A.D.

**The Maitrakas:- (A.D.470-788)**

Because of several reasons, Buddhagupta, son of Skandagupta, could not manage the vast empire inherited by him. He died in about c.500 A.D. and with his death, the Gupta empire came to an end. After the death of Buddhagupta, the Gupta
empire was split up into two sectors viz. the western sector consisting of Malwa and Avanti and; the eastern sector consisting of the Magadha and the north Bengal. Saurashtra, Anarta and major part of Lata also formed the parts of the western sector. Gupta emperors, from security point of view had established several military out-posts under the chosen military governors in Gujarat and at Anarpura (Vadnagar) and another at Brugukaccha.

Because of the disintegration of the Gupta empire, several independent principalities emerged under different chieftains. The emergence of Valabhi under the Maitrakas was also the result of the same phenomenon. The Maitrakas of Valabhi proved to be the most powerful and enlightened rulers and the dynasty ruled for a very long time and left an everlasting influence on the life and culture of Gujarat.

Senapati Bhattarka, a general of Skandagupta was appointed to help Parnadatta, the governor mentioned in the Girnar rock inscription of Skandagupta, to maintain peace and order against invaders, especially the Hunas. After the death of Skandagupta Senapati Bhattarka, gradually consolidated his position and started ruling over the entire Saurashtra and part of North Gujarat, which might have included the present jurisdiction of the Banaskantha district at least for sometime. Senapati Bhattarka shifted his capital from Girinagara to Valabhipura after ascertaining his independence.

The Maitraka dynasty of Valabhipura had 18 kings in all
and it ruled for about 300 years. The rule of the dynasty started in 470 A.D. and ended in c.788 A.D. The rule of the dynasty, in a course of time, extended over the remaining parts of north Gujarat, Central Gujarat and Western Malwa.

The Maitrakas of Valabhi have left for us very valuable records. Nearly 100 copper plates issued from time to time by various kings of this dynasty have been brought to light. These copper plates enable us to reconstruct the genealogy and the chronology of the kings of this dynasty. But these copper plates are generally concerned with the land grants and therefore provide us a very little of historical data.

Although a large number of copper plates issued by the Maitrakas, have been found from Gujarat and Saurashtra, none of them contains any reference to any of the places now included in the Banaskantha district. Nevertheless, since the dynasty had jurisdiction over Anarta and since Banaskantha district formed part of Anarta, it is certain that the Banaskantha district also formed a part of the kingdom of the mighty Maitrakas of Valabhi.

The Guriara Pratiharas:

As noted by Alberuni the invading Arabs, under Amru-bin-gamal, sent by Caliph Mansur, gave a shattering blow to the Maitrakas of Valabhi and probably they (Arabs) were responsible for destroying them. While Dr. R.C. Majmudar holds the Pratihara king responsible for the destruction of the Valabhi.

He observes, "It would not be unreasonable to conclude that
the Pratihara king destroyed the kingdom of Valabhi and set up one or more feudatory families like the Capas and the Chaulukyas to rule over the region. This seems to be the most reasonable explanation of the downfall of the Maitrakas. If this version is to be accepted, the Gurjara Pratiharas of the Jodhpur branch might have brought the downfall of the Maitrakas of Valabhi. They might have also appointed 'Capas' to rule over the region as their feudatories because before the emergence of the 'Eastern branch of the Gurjara Pratiharas at Bhillamala, one of the dynasties belonging to the 'Chap' or Chapotaka family was ruling in Bhillamala, probably as a feudatory of the Maitrakas of Valabhi. In A.D. 626 one vermadat of the 'Chap' family was ruling there. We do not have information as to how long the 'Chap' family ruled from Bhillamala. There is every possibility that the eastern branch of the Gurjara Pratiharas family in the beginning, might have ruled as the feudatory of the Maitrakas of Valabhi. Probably the northern part of the present Banaskantha district might have been included in the kingdom of the Gurjara Pratiharas of the eastern branch.

The history of north Gujarat after the downfall of the Maitrakas of Valabhi is in obscurity. According to Dr. Sankalia, "North Gujarat was probably under the control of the Gurjara-Pratiharas of Jodhpur, Ujjain and Kanauj, Maitrakas of Valabhi and Rastrakutas of Lata and Deccan." He quotes Majumdar and says that, "North Gujarat under the control of the Gurjara-Pratiharas of Jodhpur seems to have remained till C. 750 A.D."
they regained it perhaps in C.810 A.D. and lost it for ever in C.840 A.D., when it form the part of the Gurjara Pratiharas of Kanauj till about 920 A.D. Before C.750 A.D. Maitrakas might have held it at times, while between C.A.D.750 and A.D. 970, the Rastrakutas might have held it when the Gurjara-Pratiharas' power was weak." We do not have information regarding the position of the Banaskantha district but since it formed a part of north Gujarat, it might have also enjoyed the same position like that of other parts of north Gujarat.

The Pratihara dynasty, founded by Brahmana Harichandra, established a very powerful kingdom in Rajputana. The other Gurjara families, perhaps the off-shoots of the dynasty established by Harichandra, established their kingdoms to the south and the east. The Gurjara branch, which was ruling in the south, had its capital at Nandipuri, perhaps the present town of Rajipipala in the Broach district of the Gujarat State. Its founder was Dadda I, probably one of the sons of Harichandra, the founder of the main line at Jodhpur, while the eastern branch was ruling from Billamala or Srimala referred to and visited by Hiuen Tsi-ang. It seems that both the branches, the southern and the eastern, were the feudatories of the Maitrakas of Valabhi. It seems that Nagabhotta I of the eastern branch of Gurjara Pratihara dynasty fought vigorously against the invading Arabs who had overrun Saurashtra, Billamala, and reached Ujjain in 725 A.D. Nagabhotta is described in the Gwalior inscription as, "having destroyed the armies of the
powerful mlech king."

Nagabhatta I, who came to the throne probably after 730 A.D. and ruled up to C.A.D. 756 put his kingdom on the firm footing which was disrupted by the invading Arabs in 725 A.D. Nagabhatta I came into conflict with the Rastrakuta king Danti Durga (C. 733 A.D. to 758 A.D.) and the latter defeated Nagabhatta and made him to serve as a door keeper (Pratihara). Although Nagabhatta I was defeated by Dantidurga, he regained his territories gradually and left for his successors a kingdom comprising north Gujarat, Malwa and parts of Rajasthan. Banaskantha district formed a part of north Gujarat and, therefore, might have formed a part of the kingdom of Nagabhatta I.

Nagabhatta I was succeeded by Vatsaraja (A.D. 778-792 A.D.) who was the son of Nagabhatta's nephew Devaraja. Vatsaraja was ambitious and succeeded in establishing an empire in north India, and conquered Anarta and Saurashtra in 780 A.D., and thus laid the foundation of his mighty empire. Vatsaraja also defeated the Gauda king Dharmapala and thus expanded his empire far and wide. But the Rastrakutas, the year old foes of the Gurjara-Pratiharas, came in his way. Rashtrakuta king Dhruva got a decisive victory over Vatsaraja, who had to take refuge in some inaccessible region.

Vatsaraja was succeeded by his equally illustrious son Nagabhatta II (792-834 A.D.). Nagabhatta II wanted to put his house in order and consolidated the territories, which then comprised of Malwa, Marwar and north Gujarat. The Gwalior
inscription of his grand son tells us that he forcibly seized the hill forts of the kings of Anarta, Malwa, Kirata, Turushka, Vatsa, and Matsya. The district of Banaskantha which formed the part of north Gujarat might have been occupied by him.

Nagabhhatta II came in conflict with Govinda III, the Rashtrakuta king. Govinda III gave a decisive defeat to Nagabhhatta II. Although, Nagabhhatta II lost his territories in North India, he continued to exercise his sway over Anarta as we have found in his grant issued from Radhampur. Nagabhhatta II was succeeded by his son Rambhadra, whose rule did not last long. Rambhadra was succeeded by his son Bhoj (A.D.835 to 888 A.D.). In Gujarat, he has been referred to as Bhuvada of Kalyana Kataka (Kanauj). He had to subdue Anarta and Saurashtra. He was the greatest of the kings and ruled over the empire larger than perhaps of Guptas and Sri Harsa.

Mihir Bhoj also known as 'Adivarah', had to fight with Gauda king Devapala and the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsa. Mihir ruled over north Gujarat, which might have included Banaskantha district, till his death.

Mihir Bhoj was succeeded by his son Mahendrapala (A.D.888-907 A.D.). He had not only maintained the empire inherited from his father, but also expanded it. His records have been found from Saurashtra.

Mahendrapala was succeeded by his son Mahipal (C.A.D.912). He has been identified by Rajasekhara as the 'Pearl Jewel' of the lineage of Raghu and 'Maharajadhiraj' of Aryavarta.
He had not only kept intact the empire inherited by him, but also added to it. Within a few years of Mahipal's accession to the throne of Kanauj, Indra III, the Rashtrakuta king defeated him. Rashtrakutas did not stay long to consolidate their empire which gave Mahipal I to restore his powers. According to literary records, it is evident that, Mahipala could get back his lost territories in 931 A.D., the empire of Mahipala extended up to Saurashtra in the west and Banaras in the east-North Gujarat, including the Banaskantha district, might have been ruled by Mahipala.

But, because of the defeats, the prestige of the great Pratiharas got a severe set-back. Every feudatory asserted his independence and struggle for supremacy also started. Abu with its capital at Chandravati and the Saraswata Mandala with its capital at Anhilwada Pattana, asserted their independence. Though Gurjara Pratihara empire was disintegrated in 940 A.D., Krishna III again reappeared in the north and gave a shattering blow to the Pratihara empire.

The Capotkatas:

It would not be inappropriate if one discusses in brief the part played by one of the dynasties, although insignificant from the political point of view, but having considerable effect on the mind of the people in Gujarat. That dynasty is Capotkatas which is popularly known as the Cavada or the Chapas. There were two branches of the Cavada dynasty. One of the branches was ruling from Vardhamana in Saurashtra while the
other from Anhilwada Pattana, modern Patan in North Gujarat, which was the capital of Sarasvata-mandala. 57

It is surprising that the dynasty in question which ruled about 140 years has left no inscription, copper plate coins or seals. But the existence of the Capotakata family was revealed by the Navasari grant of Pulakesi Janasraya. 59

Chronology of the Cavada kings of Anhilwada Pattana has been given in Prabhandacintamani, Vividhatirtha Kalpa, Vichara-shreni, Kumarapala Prabhandha, Dharmarangamahatmya, Mirat-i-Ahmedi. How far the information given in the above literature is correct, we do not know, and therefore, we have to be cautious in accepting it.

The Capotakata dynasty was established by Vanraja, the son of Jayasekhar, who was a small feudatory ruling in Panasara, situated near the small runn of Kutch, in the Sami taluka of the Mehsana district, North Gujarat. After Vanaraja, ruled Yogaraj, Ratnaditya, Vairisimha, Kshemaraja, Chamundaraja, Ahad and Bhuyaladeva also known as Samantsimha.

There is controversy among scholars as to when the Capotakatas came to the throne of Anhilwada Pattana. To get over this difficulty and reconcile the traditional dates, Dr. H.G. Sastri has suggested that, "the early date V.S. 302 may be taken to be Saka Samvat 802. The error of ascribing known years to a wrong era is not uncommon in the history of Gujarat. The years 753 and 802 were ascribed to Saka era will correspond to 830 and 880 A.D. respectively and accordingly the date of
the fall of Pancasara and coronation of Vanaraja will fall within the reign of Nagabhanna II, (792-834 A.D.) and Mihir Bhoja respectively. Thus, if the early years were ascribed to Saka era, the total period will be 132 years (A.D.810 to 942 A.D.) and the average for 7 to 8 kings will be of about 15 to 17 years each.60

The last king of the Capotkata dynasty Samantsimha, was killed by his own nephew Mulraja, the son of Raji, the Caulukya and the grand son of the Pratihara Mahipal from the daughter's side. The Vadnagar Prasasti says that, "Mulraja carried away the fortune of the kingdom of the Capotkata princes." That Mulraja occupied the Sarasvamatamandala in 942 A.D., is definitely known from the Sakambhari (Sambhar) inscription of Siddharaja Jayasimha.

The Solankis: (A.D.942)

The Solanki period seems to be well documented in the history of Gujarat. During the long span of their rule, this region enjoyed considerable prosperity. Also, from the times of the Solankis, this region is called Gujarat and this dynasty contributed quite substantially towards the development of culture in Gujarat.

The rule of the Solanki dynasty is also important from the viewpoint of the history of the Banaskantha district. Before the coming of the Solankis on the political arena of Gujarat, we hardly got any reference about any of the places now included in the Banaskantha district. In the times of
the Solankis, it seems that the district starts getting importance.\textsuperscript{61}

When Mulraja, the founder of the \textit{Caulukya} dynasty, after overthrowing the Capotkata king of Anhilvada Patan came to the throne, his kingdom consisted of the \textit{Sarasvatamandala} i.e. the modern Mehsana and the lower Banaskantha district.\textsuperscript{62} In the beginning he consolidated his kingdom, and later on added Satyapur Mandala (region around Sanchor and Jodhpur) and Lat Mandala. Mulraja ruled for a long period of 55 years and resigned in favour of his son Chamunda and died an unnatural death at Sristhala, modern Siddhapur, on the river Sarasvati. Chamunda (A.D.997-1010 A.D.) ruled for 13 years. His name is mentioned in all the copper plates, except one. He abdicated in favour of his son Durlabharaja, who also ruled for 13 years.

Bhima I (A.D.1022-1064) succeeded Durlabharaja as shown by the copper plates and attested by chronicles. During his time only Somnath was plundered and destroyed by Mahamud Gazni in A.D.1026.\textsuperscript{66} Along with Somnath, the Muslims also sacked Srimal, Anhilvadapatan and Chandravati. It seems likely that, Mahamud of Gazni first sacked Chandravati and after crossing the Banaskantha district reached Anhilwad Patkana and destroyed it.

Bhima I defeated the Parmara king Dhandhuka who was ruling at Abu and Chandravati. He also defeated the king of Bhilamala and imprisoned the Parmara king. It is, therefore, certain that Bhima I had not only ruled over the Banaskantha district but also over the regions adjoining to it.
That Banaskantha region was under Bhima I is proved by a copper plate grant of Bhima I, which relates to Dhandha-Jhar-Pathaka, modern village of Dhandha about 15 Kms. from Palanpur.

Bhima I was succeeded by his son Karnadeva (A.D. 1064-1094 A.D.). None of his copper plates mentions any of the places now in the Banaskantha district. Karnadeva was succeeded by his son Siddharaja Jayasimha (A.D. 1094-1142 A.D.). Very few inscriptions of Siddharaja Jayasimha have been found and only one gives information. He conquered Malwa, the parts of Rajputana, Saurashtra and Kutch as mentioned by his own inscription. According to a legend, he was born at Palanpur. Although there is no truth in the legend as Palanpur was founded by Pralahadendev nearly 10 years later. Needless to mention that, the Banaskantha district formed a part of the vast empire of Siddharaja Jayasimha.

Kumarapala succeeded Siddharaja (A.D. 1143-1174). He was perhaps greater than Jayasimha and ruled for 30 years as given by the Chroniclers and as supported by the inscription of his time. His rule extended over to Lata Mandala in the south and Sambhar and Ajmer in the north, Kutch and Saurashtra in the west and in the north upto Bhilsa. He might have kept the Sarasvatamandala including the Banaskantha district under his direct control.

Ajayapala (A.D. 1172-1176) succeeded Kumarapala. He ruled for 3 years. After the death of Kumarapala Pralahadendev
brother of Dharvash Parmar of Chandravati founded Palanpur.

Ajayapala was succeeded by Muiraja II (A.D. 1176-78). He was very ambitious and brave and defeated Sultan Mohamed of Ghor in A.D. 1178.

The Banaskantha district seems to have been ruled by Bhima II, thereafter by the Vaghela king Lavanaprasad, and by his son Virāvāla (A.D. 1235-1296). Visaldeva Vaghela brought an end to the house of Patan and started expanding his kingdom. He defeated the Paramars of Malwa in 1250 A.D. His son Sarangadeva, also defeated the Paramars in 1290 A.D. But the house of the Vaghelas came to an end when its last king Karnadeva was defeated by Alapkhān, the Commander of Alludindin Khilji. Arhilvād Patan, since then, went into the hands of the Muslims.

Although the Vaghelas were exterminated by the Khilji's but the Banaskantha district seems to have been by the Chowhans who were ruling there till about the middle of the 14th century A.D. Later on they were driven out by the southern movement of the Muslims. Jahlories, a family originally of the Lahano Afgan stock occupied the area, and were under its command for some time. The Jahlories recognised the suzani of the Taghalque dynasty and worked as their vessels. But after Taimurs invasion, the sovereigns were unable to control their distant provinces and the Jahlories for some time declared their independence. With the establishment of the dynasty of the Sultans of Gujarat in 1412 A.D. the Jahlories accepted their suzerainty and became their vessels.