



HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF BHARATPUR DISTRICT RAJASTHAN: A STUDY

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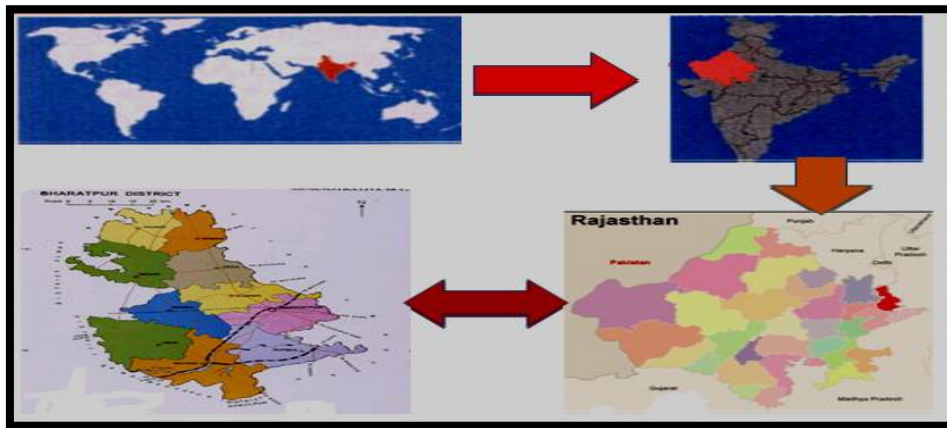
ABSTRACT

Present Paper is based on the History and Archaeology of Bharatpur District Rajasthan: A Study. This paper discusses the Introduction of Bharatpur district, Problems and prospects, Research Methodology, Geographical features, Explorations, Previous work, Settlement Pattern, Study of Pottery, Study of coins and Inscriptions, Study of Art and Architecture, Study of miscellaneous and History of the Region.

KEYWORDS: History, Art, Inscription, Pottery, Haryana, Rajasthan and Settlement Pattern.

INTRODUCTION

The separate district of Bharatpur was fashioned with the aid of merging the historical jurisdictional boundaries of the nation of Bharatpur and Dhaulpur. On April 15, 1982 a separate district comprising of the jurisdictional limits of Dhaulpur Subdivision. 30 district of Rajasthan state. (Census guide 2011, p.11) The district takes its name from the town of Bharatpur, the former capital of Bharatpur State. Local tradition claims that the place is named after Bharat, the brother of Lord Rama of Ayodhya, whose other brother Laxman was worshipped as the family deity by the rulers of this State and whose name was also engraved in the State coat of arms and seals. (District Gazetteers Rajasthan, Bharatpur, 1971, Sehegal, K.K) The district masking a complete geographical vicinity of 5066sq.kms is located between 26⁰44' to 27⁰5'' North latitudes and 76⁰53' to 77⁰40' East longitude. The district is irregularly rectangular in shape. It types boundaries with Gurgaon district of Haryana in North Agra & Mathura District of Uttar Pardesh in East, Alwar district in West Sawai Madhopur in South-West and Dholpur in South. The district of Bharatpur, takes its title from the city of Bharatpur, which is also the district headquarter prior to the formation of Dholpur. Bharatpur is properly connected by means of avenue and rail to other cities in India. The National Highway No.11 passes via Bharatpur connecting it with Jaipur (181kms.) and Agra. Bharatpur is a vital junction on Delhi-Bombay principal wide gauge line of western railway with department line to Agra & Jaipur. The nearest airport is Agra in U.P. (Census handbook, 2011, p. 10)



PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

Proto-historic period of this area could not get the special attention in previous research works which were conducted in the region. A sufficient number of proto-historic settlements have been pointed out in study area in the previously explorations. The tradition archaeological survey is done by collecting the surface of the site and its landscape by recording the features which are observed. There has been a significant refinement of this procedure, particularly in the identification of specific sites, the nature of remains and queries under concern. Indeed, even these sites show the same Geo-coordinate which gave a broken feeling of first appreciation. Several earlier published sites provide incorrect information in terms of their location, size, nomination, cultural remains. We surveyed about 25 villages by motorcycle in one day, in which some sites have been destroyed; cremation grounds, temples, and fields are being replaced in place of them. To go to the sites we had to face the raw material. In the context of the late Harappan culture, it was interesting to understand the number of late Harappa sites and the reasons for late expansion of Harappan people in this area.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Archaeological studies carried out so far in the study area have not addressed the problem of settlement pattern of the cultures from a holistic perspective. In the light of new evidences from Undra, Aghapur, Noh and Chaksana we need to understand the function of certain important sites like Chiksana and the distribution pattern in general. Regarding Sunga-Kushana and Early Medieval period an attempt has been made to search for numismatic and epigraphic evidence to reconstruct not only the political history but also the cultural history of the region.

- An attempt was made to record the correct location of the sites with the help of GPS and Google Earth Pro.
- Points of sites have been plotted on the map of the study area with the help of Google Earth Pro Software to prepare maps of sites.
- Point of sites' location has been generated on the Google earth to take the Satellite images.
- Sites to sites distance has been measured with the help of Google earth Pro Software.
- Visited also some of the known sites of adjoining area and studied their environmental and location aspects. Besides, the surface survey and systematic collection of archaeological material formed an important part of the research strategy.
- Cultural material obtained from explorations and excavations by other agencies housed in different museums and elsewhere studied and analyzed.
- Apart from field work a thorough study of available published and unpublished literature was made.
- Within the constraints of the available evidence this study attempts to construct a model of settlement pattern in Bharatpur district including site distribution, production and exchange organization.
- Analyzed the material remains whether their raw material was procured locally or outside places.

Geographical features (Geological Formations- Ravalli Super Group and Ajabgarh Group, Topography, Soils, Lakes, Drainage (The Banganga River, The Gambhir River, The Kakund River, The Ruparel River, The Parvati River), Ground Water Potential, Minerals (Barytes, Hathori Block, Karwan, Block, Ghatri Block, Sandstone, Silica Sand, Soapstone, Saltpeter, Copper, Lead), The ecological features (Climate, Rainfall Temperature, Humidity, Cloudiness, Wind) contemporary setting (Crops, Irrigation), flora (Dhok Forest, Khair Forest, Miscellaneous Forest, Grasslands, Ravine Scrub, Degraded Forest and Blanks, Keoladeo Ghana Birds Sanctuary, People Religions and Beliefs, Demographics, Languages and Dialect, Festivals, Music, fauna and Places of interest (Deeg Bhawan, Chaurasi Khamba Temple and Usha Mandir).

Explorations work which has been conducted by researcher and results of pervious Excavations and Exploration are also incorporated. Pervious Works in detail. During the present research work, 10 tehsils of one District were explored. Through this field investigation researcher explored 297 sites in the study area. Though 140 sites out of total 297 sites are discovered by the researcher on the archaeological map and 157 sites were revisited by researcher. However, these sites belong to cultural different phases. According to the typological based observations of material culture, these settlements related to Harappan, late Harappan, OCP, BRW, PGW, NBPW, and Sunga-Kushana, Gupta period and early medieval, medieval period and late medieval period. Only one site has been excavated in the study area as Noh.

Previous work: In the year 1871-72 and 1872-73, A.C.L Carlyle had survey this area under the superintendence of Major General. A Cunningham and the report of this survey was published as Cunningham's report of ASI; Volume VI IN 1878. Catalog of the Gupta the Bayana hoards was prepared by A.S.Altekar and were published in 1954 by the Numismatic Society of India. A Catalogue of Bharatpur museum prepared by Sh. Satyaprakash has been published by Directorate of Archaeology and museum Govt. of Rajasthan. Jawahar Kala Kandra, Govt. of Rajasthan has done the monumental survey of the district and it has been published. Some sporadic articles on art and Archaeology have been written continuously by Sh. R.C. Agarwala in different national and international journals. Noh is the only site excavated in the district in the years 1963-67 the department of Archaeology and Museum, Govt. of Rajasthan under the direction under the direction of Sh. R.C. Agarwala. Subsequently, the persons like B.S.Negi, Dr. Kanwar Singh of Archaeological Survey of India, under village to village survey Scheme and Vijay Kumar of State Archaeology explored the district and reported a number of sites of various natures.

Bharatpur was also excavated and explored many times. P.L. Chakarvarty (1968), M.N. Deshpande (IAR 1962-63:18), R.C. Agrawala , Vijay Kumar (1983), S.K. Mukherjee (1989), B.S. Negi (IAR 1980-88:105), I. S. Singh, R.P. Sharma, Budhi Singh (1981), also exploration in District Bharatpur. Kaman was excavated under D.P. Agrawala (IAR 1957-58:68-69) a part from the explorations a few sites in the area namely. Alwar (A. Khanna, IAR 1981-82:55) Exploration in districts Alwar (A. Khanna, IAR 1981-82:55) Exploration in districts Alwar, Banswara, Bharatpur, Jaipur, Dungarpur and Sikar (IAR 1979-80) Vijay Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Shyam Nandan, Harish Chandra Mishra, K.L.Meena, Krishna Lal and Jodha Ram, under the direction of Shri R.C. Agrawala the Dept. of Arch. and Museums, Govt. of Rajasthan, (IAR 1977-79). A. Cunningham, J.F. Fleet, Pandit Bhagwan Lal Indrajai, R.G. Banerjee, G.H. Ojha, articles have been written on the political history of Bharatpur, particularly on the history of Jats, but in these books no attempt have been made to discuss the archaeological potentiality of the region. Some research works have also been done and there of them is worth mentioning here; one by Dr. Rajiv Bagreti (2003) of Aligarh Muslim University which concentrates particularly on medieval monuments and township of Bayana and Second on the Archaeology of Matsya region by Dr. Komal Kant Sharma of the University of Rajasthan (2011) or Archaeology of Bharatpur by Shiv Kumar Bhagaht. (Archaeology of Bharatpur, Shiv Kumar Bhagaht) The central theme of the present research study was to document the archaeological sites and monuments though exploration and collection of data from the published works based on explorations/excavations. The second measure work was the classification, analysis and generalization to but the entire archaeological data in a scientific chrono-cultural perspective. The hypothesis that Bharatpur District could be the geographical and cultural extension of upper Gangetic doab has been substantiated from the comparative archaeological culture sequence of the two contiguous regions.

Table 1: Distribution of Sites area in terms of cultures:

S.NO	Cultures	TOTAL NO. OF SITE	New	Old
1.	Harappan	2	2	Nil
2	Late Harappan	3	2	1
3	OCP	25	Nil	25
4	BRW	23	Nil	23
5	PGW	75	Nil	75
6	NBPW	7	Nil	7
7	Sunga-Kushan	122	53	69
8	Gupta	34	8	26
9	Early Medieval	127	78	49

Settlement Pattern; A regional settlement is significant and challenging work in the field of archaeology. The aim of this thesis is to discover archaeological settlement of regional cultural system. For this purpose, settlement data of study area was prepared. In settlement pattern distribution of archaeological sites within a particular geographical area which reflects the relationship of the inhabitants with their environment and the relationship of groups with one another and within that environment is depicted Settlement archaeology refers to archaeological research aimed at entire region rather than at single site. Settlement data are typically collected in the context of regional survey, and the problems addressed are likewise broadly regional in scope. Regional archaeology which has become common these days though regional studies in started in 20th century. For regional studies one needs only the chronological arrangement of assemblages. It is told that most of the archaeology is concerned with this essential task. In this work district Bharatpur of Rajasthan has been taken up to understand the culture of the settlement. History of Settlement Pattern Analysis, Scope of current study and research design, Archaeological Settlement Pattern of District Bharatpur; History of settlement pattern research started in India in 1970. Y.M. Chitawala studied in this context the Harappan Gujara (Chitawala 1977, 1979) and K.N. Dikshit studied of the late Harappan settlement in Ganga Yamuna Doab (Dikshit 1979). The first major effort in this direction was made by M. Lal in 1984 under title 'Settlement History and Rise of Civilization' in Ganga Yamuna Doab. (Chakrabarti 2001: 26) K. Paddaya in 1982 works on Asheulian culture of settlement pattern Peninsular India Inamgoan settlement pattern studies done by H.D. Sankalia, Ansari and Davlikar in the period from 1969-1983. (Chakrabarti 2001: 27). Rima Huja (1988) has done research on settlement and frontier of Mesolithic and early agricultural sites in southern Rajasthan. M. L Murti in 1988 studied the settlement pattern in his work on the Iron Age agrarian communities in South India. Apart from above work, V. Shinde drew a late settlement in the Tapti basin of Maharashtra. N Lahore in his studies mentions in 1996 the Faridabad area near Delhi in Aravalli zone. (Chakrabarti 2001: 27) A lot of work has settled in Haryana and other cultures in the adjoining areas of Haryana. Settlement pattern of archaeological sites during Ghaggar-Yamuna divide has provided the details of the archaeological mounds of different cultural phases in different ecological conditions (Kumar 2009: 1-27). The same types of studies were carried out by Vivek Dangi (2010: 136-162) in the upper Ghaggar basin during the course of his Ph.D. work and earlier in his M.Phil dissertation on Meham block (2009: 32-44). Previous researchers have drawn settlement pattern of only Shekhawati region (Raghubans 2007: 250). Regional settlements have been done in the adjoining area of Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan. Vikas has drawn the Harappan settlement. (Vikas 2012: 215) In the present work special focus has been laid on Bharatpur District regional settlement pattern.

Comparative Method; A very useful way of studying the settlement pattern is the comparative method. This is done by meticulously comparing the archaeological remains. With elements related to excavation sites and contemporary residences. In India, various stages of progress in the cultural development process are found at different geographical locations at the same time. For example, the co-

existence of highly complex urban societies in cities and cities of the country, existing societies in cities and towns of the country can be found in the internal pockets of the same country with tribes and clans, which are still in stages Hunting, collecting and livestock can be transferred to life, cultivation and semi-urban. Co-existence of different phases of life helps an investigator to rebuild the lives of post-settlements.

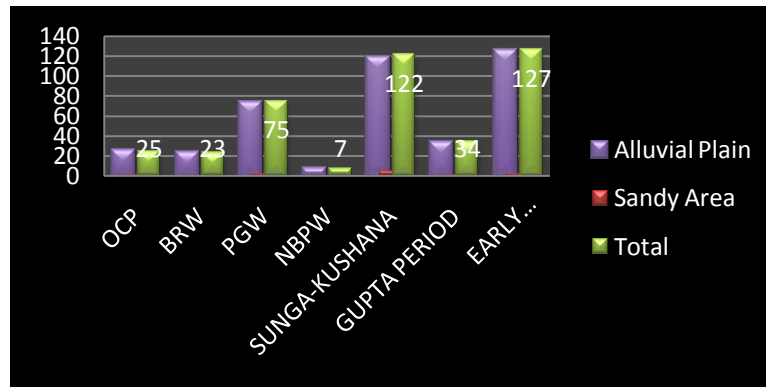


Fig.2: Histogram showing cultural distribution of sites in Bharatpur district.

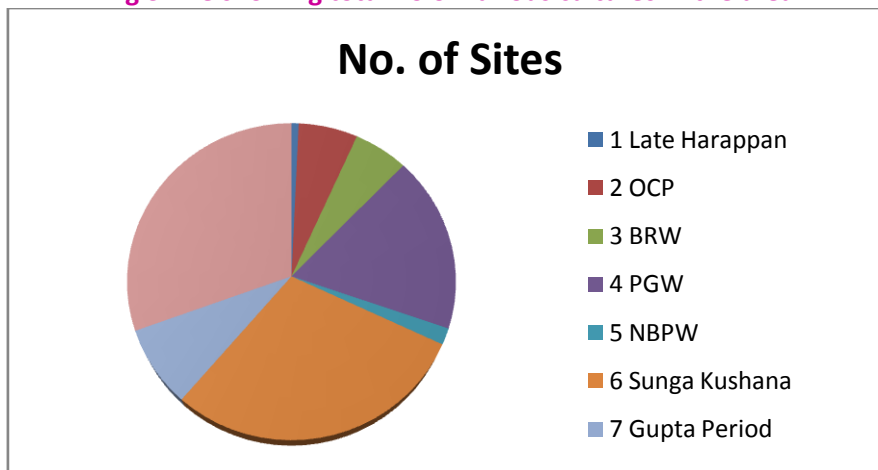
There are total 25 OCP sites. The total floor area occupied during the period was 197.66 hectare. The mean size of the settlement in whole study are during the OCP is 0.13 hectares. There are total 23 BRW sites. The total floor area occupied during the period was 434.05 hectare. The mean size of the settlement in whole study are during the BRW is 0.05 hectares. There are total 75 PGW sites. The total floor area occupied during the period was 1160.1 hectare. The mean size of the settlement in whole study are during the PGW is 0.06 hectares. There are total 7 NBPW sites. The total floor area occupied during the period was 228.7 hectare. The mean size of the settlement in whole study are during the NBPW is 0.03 hectares. There are total 122 Sunga- Kushana sites. The total floor area occupied during the period was 1468.15 hectare. The mean size of the settlement in whole study are during the Sunga-Kushana is 0.08 hectares. There are total 34 Gupta period sites. The total floor area occupied during the period was 284.5 hectare. The mean size of the settlement in whole study are during the Gupta Period is 0.11 hectares. There are total 127 early medieval period sites. The total floor area occupied during the period was 284.5 hectare. The mean size of the settlement in whole study are during the Early Medieval is 0.17 hectares.

Scope of the Present Study; In the current chapter, the current author's settlement pattern is the third level of the study, i.e. the individual building and the regional pattern. The main idea is rank size frequency and micro disposal pattern. The data collected by current researchers and other scholars has been used to rebuild 'zonal pattern'. The main part of the data for this chapter comes from the work of the author's field in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. The period that constantly suggests maximum production and population during culture is that occupation

Harappan - 3000 BCE to 2500 BCE, Late Harappan - 1750 BCE to 1500 BCE, OCP - 3000-2500 BCE , BRW -1000 BCE (later Vedic period), PGW - 1500 BCE to 1200 BCE, NBPW - 600 BCE, Sunga-Kushana – 2nd BC to 2nd AD, Gupta period - 319 to 550 AD, Early Medieval period - 647 to 1206AD

The number of sites of various cultures/periods, in the area under present study which were included in the reconstruction of the settlement pattern is given below:

Fig.3: Pie showing total no of various cultures in the area



Study of Pottery; the first use of functional pottery vessels for storing water and food is thought to be around 9000 or 10,000 BC. It was unfired or sun-dried and rarely come across in archaeological remains. The earliest pottery fragments from about 6500 BC have been found Catal Huyuk in Turkey. (www.Localhistories.org>catalhuyuk) There are rare evidences of pottery from the Mesolithic levels at a few sites in the Ganga Valley. The earliest use of clay in pottery and for architectural purposes comes from Mehargarh (period II) in the Baluchi area pottery making began and gradually evolved with the necessities that arose with the changing economy. The emergence of pottery can be ascribed to the beginnings of agriculture and settled communication.

The method of pottery making employed by the present pottery of Rajasthan may be classified into wheel throwing and hand moulding. Wheel Throwing (Cleaning, Mixing, Beating and Enlarging); Hand-Modeling, Finish and Decoration, Shaving, Wash and Slipping, Polishing, Painting, Stamping and Inlay, Cut Facts, Perforation, Relief Designs, Drying, Firing Method (Open Firing, Oven Firing and Kiln Firing). (Sudha Satyawadi, 1994)

The cultural phase that follows the Early Harappan in the region is represented by the developed Harappan phase. The sites belongs to this phase are less than the early phase. Harappan ceramic assemblage mainly belongs to red ware, made of well levigated clay, turned on fast wheel and generally well fired. It is found generally painted in black. The main shapes are goblets, cylindrical perforated jars, vases with out-turned rim, disc based bowls dish on stand etc.

This pottery represents the decline phase of the Harappan civilization. The third group of the ceramic industry in the region is the late Harappan ware. The term 'Late Harappan' in comparison to the early and middle stage of development of the Harappan culture, implies a stage of decline and decay viewpoint of the cyclic concept of cultural developments. The pottery of the Late Harappan is of medium fabric, slightly inferior in levitation to that of the classical Harappan. It is predominantly wheel thrown and a tendency towards thicker and studier vessels can be clearly discerned. It is treated with light or dull red slip, the bright slip of the classical Harappan being absent. During the course of exploration only a few sites of this phase have been found in the region and these have not yielded pottery in much quality from their surface. Certain classical Harappan shapes such as beakers, goblet, perforated jar, S' shaped jar fell out of use.

The OCP is most important distinctive pottery industries of India. It was first recognized by B.B-lal in 1951 on his trial excavations at the copper hoard sites of Beaully dist. Badaun and Rajpur Parsu Dist. Bijnor. The Ochre Colored Pottery has been described as an ill-fired rolled and worn ware with a thick fabric and friable surface. (Lal, B.B., *The Ochre Coloured Pottery*, (Ed.) B.P. Sinha, op.cit. p.90) The important sites of OCP culture are Bahadarabad, (Y.D Sharma, "Post Patterns-Excavations at Rupar", Lalitkala, 1-11,121-29, India Pre-history,1964, pp.131-35.), Amberkhera, Baragaon (M.N. Deshpande, IAR, 1963-1964, p.56-57; and

Indian Prehistory, 1964, pp.127-129.), Bisauli, Rajpurparsu(B.B. Lal, Further Copper-Hoards etc.”, *Ancient India*.VII,1951pp.20-39; ‘Pre-Historic Investigation”, *Ancient India*, IX, 1953 pp.91-93; “Excavation at Hastinapura ”, *Ancient India*, X-XI, pp31-32), Ahichhatra (IAR, 1964-1965, p.39.), Noh(ibid), Atranjikhhera (Gaur, R.C., *Indian Pre-History*, 1964, p.98) ,and Lal qulia (IAR, 1969-70, p. 39), Saipai (B.B. Lal). (“The Copper Hoard Culture of Ganga Valley”, *Antiquity* XLVI, 1972, p. 282-287 and IAR, 1970-71), Mitathal, (B.B. Lal; “The Copper Hoard Culture of Ganga Valley”, *Antiquity* XLVI, 1972, p. 282-287 and IAR, 1970-71) and Jodhpur (Vijay Kumar, “Excavation at Jodhpura”, Paper read in Seminar of Indian Archaeological Society held at Jaipur in Dec. 1976).

The material culture of the OCP ware people was in an elementary state and they have been associated with the copper hoards discovered in the Gangetic valley. The OCP wares are of various shapes included vases, basins, bowl, dish on stands lids, troughs, ring, stand, and stump. OCP material has different sizes, designs and decorations. The artist of OCP pottery used the popular form of creative expression through painted designs. Atranjikhhera (Gaur, R.C., op.cit., p.98) and Lal quila have provided enough evidence for decoration designs; with sections with band (IAR, 1969-70, p.39), Wave line(IAR, 1963-64, p.56), Chris cross or checked pattern, cross hatch triangle, vertical line(IAR, 1969-70, p.39; IAR, 1963-64, p.56), circle and diagonal, semi circle and gird, loop, similar lines, flower design.(IAR, 1969-70, p.39; IAR, 1968-69, p.37) The chronology of this vessel is not sure. Gupta and other scholars have come to the conclusion that OCP people have some connection with Harappan and 3000-2500 BC. The date bracket is suggested.

The cultural Phase of Bharatpur is represented by the appearance of sherds of B-R-W. This type of Ceramics revealed in separate horizon from Noh and Forms a distinct phase between OCP and PGW. This is in un-painted and quite different from chalcolithic B-R-W OF Ahar, Gilund, Balathal and Ojhiyana. At Noh, Iron is found in association with this ware. The earliest evidence of Iron in north India comes from the Black-and red ware levels which have been identified at Noh and Jodhpura-both in Rajasthan and at Atranjikhhera in district of U.P. in the upper Ganga-Yamuna doab. The excavations of these horizon at all three sites have been in a very small area, and therefore not much is known about the material culture associated with this ware. The Black-and-Red ware of this period is plain and of an inferior quality as compared to its namesake of the chalcolithic Ahar culture which is highly burnished and profusely decorated with paintings. Dish and bowl are the principal types represented in this ware and sometimes they are decorated with incised designs. (Shiv Kumar Bhagat Singh, 2012, *Archaeology of Bharatpur*, p. 26) The evidences available from the excavations of above mentioned sites reveals that the B and R ware people lived in huts and knew the use of metal and wheel turned pottery. Use of rice (*Oryza sativa*) and legume (*Dolichos biflours*), evidenced from Noh (Shiv Kumar Bhagat Singh, 2012, *Archaeology of Bharatpur*, p. 27) most probably the chronology of the Black and Red ware dated back to about 1000 B.C (Later Vedic Period)

The distinguished aspect to notice about archaeology of Bharatpur is the occurrence of PGW in the fourth successive Phase. This denotes the principal early Iron Age culture of North-West India comprising the Indo-Gangetic divide and upper Ganga Yamuna doab. PGW was first discovered at Ahichchhatra (*Ancient India* No.1 and *Indian Archaeology* 1963-64 A Review, pp. 43-44, 1964-65, pp. 39-40) However, its full significance was recognized only after B.B. Lai's excavation at Hastinapura (Lai, B.B., *Ancient India*, Nos. 10-11, p. 11.). Since then it has been reported from large number of sites in Western U.P, northern Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, and about dozen sites in the dried-up Hakra valley in Bahawalpur district of Punjab in Pakistan. They were closely associated with the sites mentioned in Mahabharata.

The designs mostly consist of geometric pattern like lotuses, leaves, branches of flowers and the sun are also found. The high technical quality of the ware and small proportion(3 to 10%) in the total pottery yield at excavated sites shows that it was a deluxe ware (Mishra 2007: 263).the other ceramic industries of the period are the Black-and-Red Ware, Black Slipped Ware Red Ware and Grey Ware.

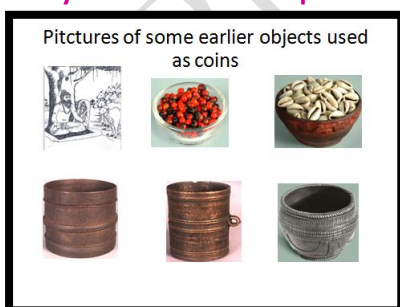
The Northern Black Polished Ware industry has been placed in the time Bracket of 600 BC to 200 B.C. It has a broad period of time from the 7th C.B.C. to 1st C.B.C NBP Ware accumulation usually comes from deposits of PGW or Black slip and Black and Red Ware. (Gaur R.C., *The NBP Ware Assemblage and its*

Relation with the PGW, The Painted Grey Ware (Seminar Proceeding), p.134) It is the best economic goods, it has thin black slip and brown, red ochre, and even silver and gold varieties. NBP is the most specialized vessel that displays a high degree of technical excellence. (Dhavalikar, M.K., op.cit. p.133) The fabric is very fine thin and smooth of NBP ware as like the PG ware. This ware were used on special occasions, while in routine or daily use the rough fabric is popular Marshall took it to be a variety of the Greek black ware which is a deluxe ceramic of the 4th, 3rd C.B.C. but was not sure whether it was locally made or imported. It is therefore NBP attained an advance stage of technological development in pot making. The collection of various forms of NBP ware from north Indian sites is distinctive. The principal shapes are bowls, dishes, handi and jars.

The early historical pottery belongs to the early centuries of Christian era. It can be divided into red ware and Red Polished Ware. At the sites of early historical period, the red ware is found in large quantity. But sherds of grey ware are no exception. Typologically they are same as are in the red ware. The fabric of the pottery ranges from medium to coarse and the sections from thin to thick. The whole range of pottery is wheel-made. Large storage jars are the exceptions of this fact because they cannot be turned on wheel due to their bigger size. In certain cases, the pottery is ill-fired. The larger percentage of the ceramic is treated with a wash but sometimes it is treated with bright red slip except in the case of bowls and lids. The main shapes of this ceramic are bowls, vases, basins, handis, incense burner, large storage jars, etc. The storage jars are found with externally grooved beaded or collared rim and a wide or narrow mouth with raised neck. A few of these shapes continued even up to the early medieval times. The bowls with vertical externally beveled rim and lids with External knobs are the most typical vessels of Kushana period. Spouted vessels are commonly found in this ware. The main shapes of this ware include sprinklers, bowls and thin walled vases. A few sherds of early historical ceramic industry collected from different sites of the study area are illustrated and described here.

The entire pottery of the early medieval period is wheel-made. It is almost of dull red color and a coarse fabric. Usually no surface wash is met with and, whenever available, it approximates to the color of the paste. A pleasing effect is produced on some of the vessels by mixing powdered mica in the paste or by dusting it on the pots before firing. The firing is good but examples of ill-firing are also there. The main shapes include knife-edged bow, lid either of inverted platter-type with flat terminal or cup-shaped with cone-like hollow knobs in the centre, vases, flat plate, carinated handis, spouted vases and basins. Some of the pots are painted with black designs on the red surface. Most of the painted designs are geometric and linear, consisting of parallel bands on the shoulder. Applied, incised and stamped patterns are also met with. The applied pattern usually consists of a rope-design. Incised decorations consist of grouped oblique incisions. Among the stamped designs, most prolific is the chequer-pattern, the depressions being filled with mica.

Study of coins and Inscriptions:



Coin is interesting source for the study of past. Over the years, they have played a significant role in the study, construction and reconstruction of the history. It is undoubtedly, one of the most valuable sources of history, useful corroborative evidence to literary and epigraphic sources. Their remarkable contribution is

universally recognized. It is very difficult to know today where the concept of coinage first evolved, but based on available evidences.

Excavations at Noh reveal five cultural periods of habitation unscripted cast copper coins have been reported from period IV (NBPW Phase). From period v (Sunga-Kushana period), cast copper coins of mitra rulers of Mathura and recovered along with some other copper coins (The Researcher 1963-64: 92-94; 64-65: 109-111; 65-66:1-2; 70-71: 17-19; 71-72: 25-27; 72-73: XII-XIII and XXV-XXVII) The coin types known from the excavations at Noh include silver and copper punch marked coins, unscripted copper coins and coins of Yaudheyas, Varupamitra and Virsenas. (IAR 1968-69:62) These are Pre Kushana coins. Among Kushanas, one copper coin of Havishka's coin of elephant rider type Ordoksho. One the Vasudeva's coin the king is shown in Iranian dress, offering oblations in the fire altar and his left hand is on the sword –hanging from his waist. His hat is conical and behind him there is a trisula. On the rev. most probably Siva is depicted (The researcher vol.XII-XIII 1972-73:7) four coins were found from the mound of Aghapur by the state museum Bharatpur (IAR 1971-72:70) The discovery and recovery of the largest Gupta hoard containing as many as 1821 gold coins undoubtedly is the most sensational numismatic discovery so far made in the history Indian archaeology.

Besides, the Bharatpur museum had an acquired 5 coins assignable to 10th cent. A.D from Bharatpur town (IAR 1986-87: 116). There are also some silver coins of the Sultanate period found at Bharatpur. These were minted at Bharatpur, and bear Arabic inscriptions (Vasishtha 2008: 114). 62 Mughal coins were found by a cultivator while digging his field (IAR 1971-72:70). 9 of those issue of Akbar, dated A.H. 979 to A.H. 1000, minted variously at Delhi, Lahore, Ahmadabad and Thatta. 4 coins of A.H. 1010-1032 were issue of Akbar, dated A.H. 1037 to A.H. 1068, having their mint at Ahmadabad Akbarnagar, Allahabad, Burhanpur, Delhi, Jahangiranagar, Lahore, Patna, Surat and Thatta. The remaining 01 coin dated A.H. 1072 and minted at Ahmadabad belongs to Aurangzeb. A weathered copper coin of the medieval period bearing the date A.H. 1120 on the obverse and name of Zarab (mint) on the reverse was also found (IAR 1978-79: 91). The Govt. Museum Bharatpur acquired 90 copper and 5 silver coins from Jivad (Weir) and 271 silver coins from Newara as treasure trove find (IAR 1980-81:88)

Inscriptions are of considerable importance for the reconstruction of the history of any region. A number of inscriptions have been found in the district of Bharatpur and its neighborhood, which are generally engraved on stone. It is strange but true that after the downfall of the Indus civilization, material proof of writing appears only in the Mauryan period though the interesting period is quite rich in literature and much more. Vasishtha Dharamsastra, a later Vedic work, older than Manusamhita offers clear evidences of the widely spread use of writing during the Vedic period. It mentions the written document to be legal evidence and the first of these Sutras is a quotation from an older work of traditional lore.

STUDY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE:

Statues of Bharatpur district are of stone and mud, records from pre-Christian period to 19th Century AD. From the eighth to the tenth century AD, there is a beautifully carved architecture section from the temple. In Bharatpur area, the discovery of statues and terracotta from archaeological sites represent the elements of this region. Terracotta finds smaller in size, while stone sculptures are larger in size.

Sculpture is the appearance of heart and brain. It begins from the materialization of individual on earth in the form of their stone tool and additional develops in different mediums and diverse ways. Sculptures are the art objects carved out of stone. The detailed analysis of the sculptures is very important to understand the mutual and national relations at the socio religious-economic level of the peoples of a particular region and period. The art of this period represents a high point of indigenous Indian art. According to A.K. Coomarswamy (1972:72) the Gupta art marks an advance over the Kushana art in view of iconography, though the style is derived from that of Mathura. After the dawn fall of the Gupta Empire, the fine iconography also received a setback. The 7th century A.D. is a period of transition between the Gupta and early medieval art. There is no clear cut division between the Later Gupta art and that of early medieval period. In this period, the older conventions of art began to replace by that time latest conventions. In the

sphere of art the refined and restrained convention of the gupta period were replaced by colossal creation and cosmic conception (Agrawala, V.S. 1965: 257). During the early medieval period (8th-9th century A.D.) the Gurjara-Pratihara established their kingdom over Northern India and the sculptural art again got its glories depiction. Although my study topic belongs to proto-historic period, but during the course of explorations I come across some good specimens of sculptural art and being the important findings.

Architecture is both the process and the product of planning, designing, and constructing buildings or any other structures. Architectural works, in the material form of building, are often perceived as cultural symbols and as works of art. As discussed earlier, Noh is the only excavated site in the district, hence evidence of architectural activities at Noh are earliest so far. Traces of a floor level and storage space were noticed from the period-II of the Noh although these along with period-III were much disturbed. The period-IV was characterized by the NBPW in the fullness of its evolution and disappearance of fine Painted Grey Ware. The period is marked by several floor levels. A mud brick structure giving some idea of the house plan was also exposed. The size of mud brick there in was 46x24x08cm. Three structural phases were identified in this period. A mud brick structure, perhaps representing a rampart wall, ascribable to the beginning of the 1st century BC or so was found. The size of mud brick was 40x20x6cm. Two floors with hearths were also found. Period- V of Noh represent the Sunga and Kushana period. The period is marked by eight structural phases. Five distinct living floors with post-holes were found in the period. A well preserved smelter with iron slag was also exposed. The exact plan of the house, of course, could not be determined due to the limited area of excavation. The use of sun-dried and kiln baked brick is attested (size: 39x23x5.5 and 29x23x5.5 cm). Three earthen hearths in a single row were also exposed in upper strata of this period. A soak well with sixteen ring of terracotta was also exposed. This construction was in use during the period somewhere towards the second century B.C. Though ring-well have been reported almost all over India from early historic sites but this discovery is first of its kind from the Bharatpur region. The total depth of the ring well at Noh is about 3.50 meter. A mud brick structure, a covered drain and well prepared four armed and two armed hearths are of special interest (The Researcher, 1972-73: XVII-XX). Besides, burnt brick structures of Sunga- Kushana period have been noticed at many sites, which are either naturally exposed due to cutting of the mound. We have no idea of their plan in absence of excavation.

Fig.5: Table showing measurements of Bricks at some sites

S.no	Site name	Bricks Size
1	Aghapur	43x22x7 cm
2	Bahaj	44x22x7 cm
3	Darapur	27x22x6 cm
4	Gahanna	(I) 40x20x6 cm ; (ii) 25x25x8 cm
5	Noh	(I)39x23x5.5 cm; (ii) 29x23x5.5 cm
6	Parmandra	37x21x7 cm
7	Saheda	35x25x5 cm
8	Satwas	38x20x6 cm
9	Sheeshwada	37x23x6 cm
10	Undra	(I) 26x26x8.5 cm ; (ii) 32.9x25x5.5 cm
11	Chaksana II	(I) 44x22x7 cm ; (ii) 29x13x10 cm

Study of miscellaneous:

Deals with a brief description of miscellaneous finds collected during the field work. The study of artifacts found in the excavations conducted Bangles (terracotta, Shell, Faience), Beads (Terracotta, Steatite), and Humped Bull Figurine, Terracotta human and animals Figurines. Terracotta Bricks, Terracotta wheel, Stone pestles and Chart Blade and stone grading so far in the study region has also been included.

HISTORY OF THE REGION:

The Matsyas are also referred to in the historic Jaina Prajnapana and, the Mahabharata extols the purity of their social and non secular device (Chaudhuri, S.B., Ethnic Settlement in Ancient India, Calcutta, (1955) p.29-32). The epic associate's salvas with kuru-Panchalas and they likely occupied what is now the district of Alwar. Matsya used to be allies of the Pandvas in Mahabharata battle (Sircar D.C., Studies in the Geography of Ancient and Medieval India, Delhi (1960) p. 105). The disintegration of the Mauryan Empire was followed with the aid of the invasion of foreigners and evolution of small principalities. The punch marked coins fit in to the length of Heliokes, the Greek ruler of Bacteria and that of ApoUodotos, Menander Antialbidas and Heraios experiential at Bairath, (Ibid). The History of the Gurjara – Pratihara Bombay (1957) p.76, 96-97) In the later length of Pratihara supremacy, the Kingdom of Vats raja the Pratihara King protected Malwa., The History of the Gurjara - Pratihara Bombay (1957) p.76, 96-97) In the later length of Pratihara supremacy, the Kingdom of Vats raja the Pratihara King protected Malwa and east Rajputana. Near Naglakhela, south-east of Bayana, the greatest hoard of the Gupta coins numbering 1821 was once determined in February 1946. The Gupta sculptures have been experimental at Bayana, Kaman, Nehar and Pagore (Altekar A.S., Catalogue of the Gupta Gold Coins in Bayana Hoards, Bombay (1954), p.1).

The Gurjaras came into prominence about the 2d 1/2 of the sixth century and from the writing of Hieun Tsang, it might also be concluded that the portion of this district fell within the ancient Gujaratra of Gurjara country. (Sircar D.C., 'Studies in Geography of Ancient and Medieval India (1960) p.162-63) Its capital was once positioned at Bayana.(Kitabul Hind of Albaruni Tr. By E.C. Sachau, Vol.I, London (1914), p.202) Inscriptions advise that the Gurjara Pratihara Kings Bhoj I and Mahipala II held their sway over the region extending up to the district. (Puri, B.N., The History of the Gurjara - Pratihara Bombay (1957) p.76, 96-97) In the later length of Pratihara supremacy, the Kingdom of Vats raja the Pratihara King protected Malwa and east Rajputana.

The king Jaitapala of the typical listing of Yadu dynasty may also be placed in the first half of the seventh century. Yet archeological evidence makes one aspect clear that the region has stays in the occupation of different rulers in extraordinary duration and that they have all left their cultural imprint upon its bodily landscape. It is clear from foregoing analysis that the area was constantly settled from historical to medieval period, even though it is very difficult to trace the pattern of settlement for the duration of the different periods, till tremendous excavations are conducted, which is not possible on account of the excessive density of population in the region. The Ghuride attack had broken the Chauhan power in north India. Prithviraj used to be defeated in Tarain. In 1195 A.D. again got here to India and attacked Bayana, where upon Kunwarpal, the chief of Bayana evacuated his capital and entered himself in Thangarh which he had to capitulation after a brief siege. (The History and Culture of the Indian People Vol. V - The Struggle for Empire, Bombay (1957), p. 120).After the death of Qutb- ud- din Aibak the maintain of Turks over weakened, owing to the efforts of the dethroned rulers who were endeavouring to revive their power. Iltutmish's successors had been weak and the persisted depredations of the turbulent people of Northern Alwar vicinity known as 'Koh payah of Mewat' hampered their success considerably. The Yaduvanshi Rajputs of Bayana and Tahangarh having been disadvantaged of their stranglehold and territory had migrated to this site of Mewat. (The History and Culture of the Indian People, Vol. VI - The Struggle of Empire Bombay (1960) pp. 131-32).Later Bayana was captured with the aid of Mubarak shah.

The 2nd quarter of the sixteenth century marks and Establishments of Mughal Empire which contained till the middle of the nineteenth century. Babur fought towards Rana Sanga at Khanua village now in Rupbas tehsil of Bharatpur district. Following the combating of Khanua, Babur successfully marched on the Bayana and took control of it. He lowered Mewat on seventh April 1527, entered its capital Alwar in triumph. (The Cambridge History of India, vol. iv, Delhi (1957), p.17).Political circumstance used to be altering fast. Ahmad Shah Abdali was once hovering over north India and Marathas have been advancing their electrical energy beyond their popular Fortier. Suraj Mal joined them with his forces. Jawahar Singh the successor made problematic preparations for the combat in opposition to the Najib Khan. He employed Malhar Holker a Maratha army of 20,000 horses for 22 lakh of rupees. (Sarcar, J.N., and fall of the M vol. ii,

Calcutta (1950), p. 351). The drop of Mughal Empire, joined with the way out of Marathas, Jats created condition of insecurity in it. So a giant wide variety of fortresses (garbis) were constructed by using Jats, many times of mud for protection purpose. The remains of these garbis may additionally nevertheless be considered at many places. These have been structures of extensive electricity around every of which a large Wide variety of settlement emerged.

CONCLUSION:

At last, after reviewing of all facts, regarding the prehistoric phase of this region, Bharatpur is a densely populated district. It had the highest demographic density in Rajasthan. The central plain fertile land of the district is much dense compared to its hilly terrain of the northern and southern part. Northern portion is almost covered with alluvium which consists of schist and quartzite belonging to Aravalli and Delhi ranges respectively. The main occupation of the villagers is still agriculture. Animal husbandry is attached with farming. Jat and Gujjar are the chiefs communities based on agriculture. Most probably they inhabited Banganga, Gambhir, Kakund, Parvati and Ruparel valleys. Since the advent of man this area has attracted the human beings as we have site like Alipur, having the earliest traces of human activity evidenced from the presence of Paleolithic tools. The region was supposed to be a part of Bramhavarta in the Vedic period and later of the Matsya kingdom. A number of OCP and PGW sites have been reported from the northern and central part of the district. At the age of Mahajanapadas, it was a part of the shurs and the fishery. The number of sites related to the North Black Polish Ware has been explored in the district. It is believed that NBPW goes forward with the Mahajanapada era and the era of the Mauryan era. Kushana sculptures of Kushana records from Mathura and its neighbors and other findings in other places in Noh, Aghapur and Bharatpur; prove the residence of this area during Sunga-Kushan period. In the closing years of the first century BC, the rule of tribal republics in this area emerged and Bharatpur was occupied, which was further confirmed by inscriptions of Vijaygarh or Bayana fort. Vishnu Vardhan of Yupa (pillar) inscription from the same fort should have a dispute of Shahi Gupta. Apart from this, the discovery of Gupta gold coin hoard near Bayana is not only an excellent search for this region but for the whole country. From the work and some other sites, the number of samples of secret sculptures from art has been recorded. In this area, Gurjara has come to prominence about the second half of the sixth century AD (Segal, 1971: 49). In the days following the supremacy, in the state of Vatsarja, Malwa and Eastern Rajputana were included. The Yadav dynasty can be kept in the first half of the eleventh century. We don't have any clear-cut answer regarding the origin and arrival of this culture but in my personal opinion she wanted to suggest that Late Harappan and transformed as Sunga Kushana culture, due to the decay of urbanization and derailed the economic system, they became the agro-pastoral society in new terms and conditions and again developed during the second urbanization.

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