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HISTORICAL MATERIAL OF KHALJI AND TUGHLUQ PERIOD IN SANSKRIT INSCRIPTIONS OF MADHYA PRADESH AND GUJARAT



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ABSTRACT

Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat contain a number of Sanskrit inscriptions of Khalji and Tuahluq period. In the present paper an attempt is made to collect historical evidence from these inscriptions that lie scattered either in published form or in reported summaries in various journals. These are arranged in two groups: Group I for those found in Madhya Pradesh, and Group II for Gujarat. These epigraphic evidences throw significant light on the history of Khalji and Tuahluq period adding to the already existing corpus of historical knowledge.

KEYWORDS :Sanskrit Inscriptions, Khalji and Tughluq period, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Sati Pillar .

I

CONTENT

Inscriptions of the last phase of 13th century and beginning of the 14th century show that Sultans of Delhi extended their power into Madhya Pradesh which was governed by the rulers and chiefs of different dynasties. The two sati pillar inscriptions¹ dated 1302 and 1303 A.D. of Jubbalpur and Patan record that these regions were governed by



MaharajaputraPratihara chief Vaghdeva. But, on the other hand, a sati record² from village Bamhani of Damoha district mentions that MaharajaputraVaghdeva governed these districts under the sovereignty of Hammiradeva.³ A sati record at Saliya⁴, three miles from Bamhani, dated 1309 A.D., shows that Alayadina Sultana (Sultana Alaud-din) probably conquered this region from Vahadeva. The Kadhawa inscription⁵ of Guna district tells us that one ascetic Bhuteswar "practiced austere penance when the whole earth was overrun by the Mlecchas". It seems that by 1310 A.D. AlauddinKhalji had conquered the whole of Madhya Pradesh.

Narwar inscription⁶ mentions the name of SuratranaGayasdTn. It belongs to the 14th century.

This ruler may be identified with the Sultan Gayasuddin Tughluq who reigned from 1320-1325 A.D. Further, inscriptions indicate that the territory of Damoh and other adjoining regions was controlled by Muhammad Tughluq. An inscription⁷ of Bangaon, 13 miles from Damoh, dated 1328 A.D., mentions that Vennigoan (Bangaon) as the village of Hasamuddin who was the local governor during the reign of Muhammad Moizuddin.⁸ It seems that Muhammad Moizuddin here refers to Muhammad bin Tughluq and the Moizuddin might be the corrupt form of Abul Mujahid⁹ as this epithet occurs in his coins.

Three Batigadh inscriptions¹⁰ dated 1328 A.D. show that this part of Madhya Pradesh was controlled by the local governor of Muhammad Bin Tughluq. Further, an undated record belonging to the 14th century, records the construction of a garden and well at Khalchipur during the time of Jallala. Another inscription gives the date 1328 A.D. and mentions Suratana Muhamuda. It also describes the construction of a cow temple and step-Well together with a garden at Batihadum by the order of local ruler JallalShoja (JalalKhawzah) son of Isaka (Isaqar). This JallalShoja is stated to have been appointed as his representative by Hisamuddin Chipaka,¹¹ son of Malik Julaci who was made the commander of the Kharapara¹² armies and the lord of Cedi by SakendraSuratrpa Mahamuda¹³ (Sultana Mahmud) of Yoganipura (Delhi) who had conquered other kings also. The inscription further states that Jallala appointed his servant Dhanau as manager of the institutions as mentioned in the inscriptions. The principal architects were Bhojuk, Kamadeva and Hala of the Silapattavarhsa.¹⁴ The composer of the record is Baijuk and the writer is Vasu son of Sahadeva, both belonged to the Mathura Kayastha subdivision.

Sati pillar inscriptions are numerous in this region. They record the names of the Sultans and their officers and sometimes the names of local potentates. Sati pillar inscriptions¹⁵ of Tikamagarh district dated 1329 A.D., Isagarh, dated 1330 A.D., Shivapuri, dated 1331 A.D., and Bhiliya in district Bhilsa, dated 1338 A.D. record the name PatisahaMahamud. This ruler has been identified with Muhammad Bin Tughluq. Another Sati Pillar inscription¹⁶ of Jabalpur district, dated 1342 A.D. says that Saulagram was ruled by a local ruler Salasha Khan. Another Sati pillar inscription,¹⁷ dated 1343 A.D. of Sagar district mentions the name of two officers MahamalikTaja and PutaBhoja. Further a pillar inscription¹⁸ at Nayagan village at district Narwar, dated 1388 A.D. says that during the reign of Mhammad Ghazni¹⁹ of DhilliUdharan and his son Maharaj erected this pillar. It also mentions the name Gaha Khan DilawarofChanderi. According to the date of the inscription Mohammad Ghazni has been identified with Prince Muhammad who was the youngest son of Firuz Shah Tughluq and Dilawar Khan was an important amir who played an important role in the regency of prince Muhammad.²⁰

Sagar district inscription²¹ dated 1400 A.D. indicates that during the reign of Maharajadhiraja Dilawar Khan, Mahammada was the Mahamalika of Duluchipura. It shows that now Dilawar Khan had become practically an independent ruler of Malwa. Inscriptions also give evidence to the fact that local chiefs and potentates of even these territories were governed by the officers of the Delhi Sultans. KevatiKunda inscriptions²² dated 1331 and 1340 A.D. mention two petty chiefs, Maharaja Hammir Deva of Lukasthana and Maharajadhiraja DevakaKathaulisthana. The Narwar and Gwalior inscriptions²³ give detailed accounts of the chiefs of Yajvapal dynasty of Nalapura (1293 A.D. to 1394 A.D.); the Chaura inscription²⁴ mentions the name Maharaja Ramchandra of Nagavarftsa (1350 A.D.); and Udaypur inscription²⁵ mentions Maharaja Jayasimha deva of the Paramara family (1310 A.D.).

Inscriptions also give interesting information about the Kayasthas of Mathura, they being known as Mathura Kayasthas. Some of them were probably servants of the Hindu kings of Gwalior and a good number of them appear to have been absorbed under the Yajvapal kings of Nalapura. The inscriptions also show that some of the Kayasthas of Mathura were the learned students of Sanskrit literature and composed prasatis.

II

In the last phase of the 13th century, some parts of Gujarat were governed by different dynasties such as the Chaulukyas, Vaghelas and Paramaras. From the inscriptions²⁶ of Sararigadeva-a Vaghela ruler, and of the Paramara rulers-Pratapsimha and Visala²⁷ who later on became the feudatory of this Vaghela ruler, it becomes clear that they also saved the territory of Gujarat from the invasions of Turuskas. But another inscription²⁸ indicates that they also subdued local chiefs. The VanthalT inscription²⁹ dated 1290 A.D. informs us that Sararigadev's governor of VamanasthalT Bijayanandadeva, son of Kshemanand and grandson of Viradhavala, invaded Bhubhrit Pa Mi and fought with one Bhanu.³⁰ In this battle his Mahasadhanika³¹ Haripalla, son of Malla, died while trying to save Kedarpur. In his memory a Raria stambha³² was erected by his brother who succeeded him as Mahasadhanika.

An inscription on the wall of Ramaji temple at Bhavanatha³³ in Sabarkantha district dated 1297 A.D. has preserved the name of the next Vaghela ruler Kama. This Kama has been identified with Kama II who was the son of Ram, the elder brother of Sararigadeva. D.C. Sircar has suggested that this is the only inscription of the time of Vaghela king Kama II who was popularly known to be insane and was ousted from the throne of Gujarat by Alauddin Khalil. As we know Kama II ruled from A.D. 1296 to 1303, or 1304 A.D.³⁴ This inscription was engraved in the second year of his reign. The question arises when Kama lost his kingdom-whether in A.D. 1299 or in A.D. 1304, as Alauddin sent his army to conquer Gujarat in A.D. 1296-97. Junagadh inscription³⁵ dated 1299 A.D. records the death of two soldiers in a fight with Turuskas. So it seems that in the year 1299 A.D. Kama had been defeated by AlauddinKhalijT. The Cambay inscription³⁶ dated A.D. 1310 records that Alp Khan was the representative of Sultan Alavadina stationed at StambhTtrtha. Alp Khan was the title of Malik Saujar, brother of AlauddinKhalijT's wife. He was appointed the governor of Gujarat in 1300 A.D. and remained in this position up to 1314 A.D.³⁷

The Palanpur inscription³⁸ dated 1313 A.D. informs us that during the reign of SuratranaAlavadin when Alp Khan was the governor of Gujarat, MaharanaMahTpaladeva ruled over Tharpadra mandala. It also records some benefaction of Mahipaladeva's wife of Kamla Devi, daughter of the Solanki King Munjala Deva. The Navasari inscription³⁹ of 1303 A.D., a record coming from the northern most area of the Yadava empire refers to the reign of the Yadava king Ramadeva or Ramachandra. It also shows that Nausari belonged to the dominions of Yadavas of Devagiri about the beginning of the 14th century. It informs us that Kamadeva, YadavaRamachandra's subordinate, then ruled over Naurasika region and enjoyed the title of Pradhana, Maharaja and Ranaka side by side with certain official designations. This Kama cannot be identified with the ChaulukyaVaghela Kama II who continued to rule over the parts of Khandesh as a vassal of YadavaRamachandra after he had lost the kingdom of Gujarat. Therefore, it seems that this Kamadeva was a governor of the Yadava king stationed at Nausari.⁴⁰

The Junagadh inscription⁴¹ dated 1389 A.D. gives an account of some chiefs of Sattrirhsa family. In this description the record also gives an idea about the conquest of Saurashtra by Mohammad Bin Tughluq. The inscription informs us of Mamkanaka, Luniga,⁴² who came from MarusthalT to Saurashtra as a general, his son BhTmsingha, his eldest son Lakshma Singh who died fighting at JTmadurga (Junagadh), his son Rajasimha who married Ratandevi, daughter of the Vaghela Vira, his eldest son Malla, who married Vimaladevi of the Paramara family, his son YuvarajaSivaraja. In the Karakarapuri of Muru-mandala, the VaghelaKshemaraja, his grandson Vira, who came to Saurashtra and died along with his brother's son Bhimdeva, fighting for Khariigara when JTmadurga was besieged by the PatisahaMahammada.

Commissariat has mentioned that in 1349 A.D. the emperor (Mohammad Bin Tuahluq)

marched towards Girnar; the Ra of Junagadh saw the strength of the royal army he decided to imprison and deliver up rebel leader. But Sultan captured the hill fort of Girnar and brought the whole coast-line and island under subjection, Ra-Khengar,⁴³ the ruler of Girnar tried to escape but was caught and brought back.⁴⁴ It seems that when the Sultan besieged Junagadh, Ra-Khengar got the help of Pramara and Vaghela chiefs.

Number of inscriptions⁴⁵ show that local chiefs were designated as Pradhana, Maharana, Rana and RavMandalik. RavMandalikk appears to have been the official title of the Hindu rulers of Junagadh. It means a feudatory prince, one of the petty rulers who formed a mandal.⁴⁶ Inscriptions also give us the names and designation of Muslim officers, the Petlad inscription⁴⁷ dated 1323 A.D. mentions "... the illustrious Gayasdn (Ghias-uddnTughluq) the paramount king, by the order of DTwan at Anhilpattana...appointed, under the despension of the glorious BadradinaAvubakaAhmadaAmlra-Koha (Badr-ud-din Abu Bakr Ahmad AmTr-i Koh)⁴⁸ agent in the circle of Petilapadra in the proximity of the revered Arjun-Ghori at Petila...by IsmailUsmanSiraj (Ismail UsmanShirazi) an inhabitant of stambhatTrtha (Cambay) were given 20 kubha of land marked off with boundary...repaired well...The illustrious thakurs should protect (these gifts) written also in Persian". This record indicates that the ancient name of Petlad is Petilapadra. The well adjoined the sacred sanctuary of Baba ArjunGhori at this town. The builder was one Haji Ismail Utman of Shiraz and resident of the neighbouring city of Cambay. The order of the imperial diwan at the provincial capital of PatanAnhilvad was probably secured for the grant of 20 kubhas of pulic land for the construction of well in the town of Petlad.

The Baroda inscription⁴⁹ dated 1340 A.D. of Maharajadhiraja Mohammad (Mohammad bin Tuahluq^ records the construction of mosque with a well in the village Karkhadin in Vatapadraka in Lata desa by the order of MlikMuzaffar, who was a local officer. The Mangrol inscription⁵⁰ dated 1396 A.D., tells us that during the victorious reign of PadshahNusrath at Yognipura, Sri Dafar (Zafar) Khan was appointed and was ruling on his behalf in Gujarat. At Mangalpura in Surashtra, Malik Yakubmuqti the son of Rai MultanT was carrying on trade, doors fitted with iron were fixed into the gateway by Kotwal Malik Musa.

This inscription relates to the construction of the town wall of Mangrol. The Sultan PadshahNusrath was NasiruddinNusarat Shah, the son of Fateh Khan and grandson of FiruzTuahluq. Sri Dafar was MuzaffarZafar Khan, WazTr of the Sultan.⁵¹ The inscriptions⁵² also record the names of two merchants i.e. Sri Phazarala Ahmad and SresthinSamayaka son of Pragavatigotra.

While the Sanskrit inscriptions do not themselves constitute a comprehensive source of information in this period, but they do add details not known to us otherwise. In a sense they are important cultural records, since Muslim rulers and officers appear in them as effortlessly as their Hindu predecessors or contemporaries. Clearly, there is a need to further explore this kind of evidence.

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- 3.Hammiradeva was a Candella ruler and successor of Bhojavarman. H.C. Ray, Dynastic History of India II, (Delhi 1973), p.734.
- 4.B.L. No. 665; E.L. XVI, p.II, No.2.
- 5.Annual Report of Archaeological Department of Gwalior State, 1994, no.4.
- 6.Ibid., 1929-30, No.35.

- 7.B.L No.686.
- 8.There is another inscription of 1328 A.D. which also designatgeds Muhammad Bin Tughluq as Muhammad Moijadin, Cunningham, ASR, XXI, p.158.
- 9.Mahdi Husain, Tughluq Dynasty (Delhi 1976) p.55
- 10.Hira Lai, Inscriptions in Central Provinces and Berar. (Nagpur 1932), Nos. 104, 105, 106. EI, XII, pp.44-47; Journal of Indian History, XV, pt.II, p.80; DHNI. II, pp. 800-01.
- 11.Dr. Barnett suggests that 'Chipaka' is probably an Indian name, but Hiralaltakes it to stand for 'Shafiq' which is not convincing. EI, XII, p.44.
- 12.Kharapara are identical with the Kharparikas mentioned in Samudragupta's pillar inscription of Allahabad. Fleet, Gupta Inscriptions, p.18. It seems here to be used for the Sultan's army.
- 13.Hira Lai has identified SakendraSuratrapaMahamuda with Nasiruddin Mahmud of slave dynasty which is not possible. EI, XII, p.45. DHNI, II, p.801.
- 14.Silapatta is now known as the Silawat caste who are masons and found in neighbouring region of Damoh.
15. Annala Report of Indian Epigraphy, 1962-63, c.1897; Annual Report of Archaeology of Gwalior State, 1925-26, No.12; 1979, No.14; 1986, No.2; 1929-30, No.1.
- 16.H.N. Dvivedi, Gwalior Rajya Ke Abhilekha, No.195.
- 17.ARIE, 1962-63, B.433.
18. Annual Report of Archaeology of Gwalior State, 1929-30, No.29.
- 19.Khadwah inscription of V.S. 1451 also mentions the same designation for king. Gwalior Report, No.116.
- 20.Mahdi Husain Tughluq Dynasty, pp.444-45; U.N. Dey, Medieval Malwa, (Delhi, 1965) pp.9-10.
- 21.ARIE, 1962-63, B.433.
- 22.B.L. Nos.692, 702. Kathauli and Luka are the large villages. Kathauli is situated on the table land near Mamani pass, 30 miles to the west of north from Rewa, and Luka is on the right bank of Tons river, 27 miles to the east of north from Rewa. Cunningham, ASR, XXI, p. 143.
- 23.B.L. Nos. 628, 633, 636,637, 642, 654, 737; EI, XXXII, pp.339-46.
- 24.B.L No.707.
- 25.B.L. No. 661.
- 26.Indina Antiquary, (henceforth I.A.), p.21; B.L., No.631; Poona Orientalist, III, p.69.
- 27.B.L No.. 639; ARIE, 1966-67, B.100.
- 28.ARIE, 1950-51, B.390.
- 29.B.L. No.624; Annals of Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, V, pp.171-174.
- 30.The Bhanu hs been identified with BhanuJethva, the well known warrior, Annals of Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institutel, V, p.171.
- 31.The Prakrit form of Sadhanika is Sahania which means army or a general. It also signifies a royal official of importance D.C. Sircar, Epigraphical Glossary, pp.283-84; According to Pargiter the work does not occur in dictionaries. It is formed from Sadhana and would seem to mean a person who transacts any kind of business or who carried any matter through. Indian Antiquary, XXXIX, 211-12. AK. Majumdarsuggests that Mahasadhanik was incharge of the Police of a city, exercising control by means of Sadhanika - Chaulukyas of Gujarat (Bombay1956), pp.228, 234.
- 32.Rana Stambha is a memorial pillar raised for a person who died in battle for his master. D.C. Sircar, Epigraphical Glossary, p.276.
- 33.This inscription is not mentioned buy Commissariat in History of Gujarat, nor by A.K. Majumdar. See EI, XXXIV, pp. 151-52.

- 34.A.K. Mjumdar, Chaulukyas of Gujarat, p.188.
- 35.ARIE, 1950-51, B.392.
- 36.B.L. No.664. JinVijaya, PracinaJain-LekhaSartigraha, pt. II, No.447.
- 37.Commissariat, History of Guajrat, I (Bombay, 1938), p.10.
- 38.B.L. No.665; Annual Report of Watson Museum, Rajkot 1924-25, p.9.
- 39.ARIE, 1958-59, B.280; B.L. XXXV, pp.50.
- 40.Nausari is situated in Baroch district. N.L Dey, The Geographical Dictionary of Ancient and Medieval India, p.249.
- 41.B.L. No.731. Revised List of Antiquarian Remains of Bombay Presidency, p.250.
- 42.Mamkanaka seems to be the originator of MakawanaRajputs, EI, XIX-XXIII, p. 103.
- 43.Ra-Khengar was one the chief of Chudasama dynasty. Commissariat, History of Gujarat, I, p.168; Bayley, Early History of Gujarat, pp.42, 55.
- 44.Commissariat, History of Gujarat, I, p.39.
- 45.ARIE, 1966-67, B. 100, 41; EI, II, p.33. No. XVII; ARIE, 1958-59, B.280; B.L. Nos.665-674.

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