

CHAPTER I
THE MAKING OF
SOUTH GUJARAT

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A region can be understood in terms of uniformity. This uniformity is either due to geographical location or identity that develops in course of time due to political, economic, social and cultural factors.¹ The South Gujarat territory under investigation is a construct of natural and human activities. For its deeper understanding the idea of Western India in general and that of Gujarat in particular is mandatory.² An attempt has been made here to understand the macro region i.e. the Gujarat, and the micro region i.e. the South Gujarat in time and space.³ The parameters under scrutiny are—the historical geography, landscape, drainage, soil conditions, climate, vegetation, fauna, minerals, demography, language and cultural heritage.

In the first instance a sketch of Gujarat's sub-regions is provided in terms of historical geography since the earliest times down to the first half of the twentieth century. It is followed by identification of political territory and pattern of administration, physical geography, demography, linguistic and cultural aspects of the South Gujarat sub-region in order to have its

¹ Geographers, Geologists, Economists and Historians have made an attempt at the understanding of region. They are of the view that either the regions are natural or man-made. The consensus regarding both the regions is on homogeneity. This homogeneity can be examined in terms of topography, climate, vegetation, soil conditions, human and natural resources, agriculture, forests, fauna, industry, language customs and culture. For details see Norton Ginsburg, 'The Regional Concept and Planning Region in Asia and Far East', Mimeo prepared for UN Seminar, *Regional Planning in Asia and Far East*, Tokyo, 1958, p. 1; John Brush, 'Regional Approach to Indian Geography', *The Pattern of Asia*, Norton Ginsburg (Ed.), New York, 1958; Robert E. Dickenson, *The City Region in Western Europe*, London, 1967; David L. Sills, (Ed.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, Vol. 13, New York, 1968, pp. 377-79; O. H. K. Spate and A. T. A. Learmonth, *India and Pakistan: A General and Regional Geography*, London, 1954, Bombay, (reprint), 1960.

² C. D. Deshpande, *Western India: A Regional Geography*, Dharwar, 1948, pp. 7-16 & 193-205.

³ The understanding is constructed for the macro and micro region separately as well as in relation to each other. The sources brought to use are both geographical and historical. For details see, C. D. Deshpande, *Western India*, pp. 193-97; Spate and Learmonth, *India and Pakistan: A General and Regional Geography*, p. 23 and contemporary historical documents both published and unpublished manuscripts.

understanding as a political, natural, economic and socio-cultural region during the nineteenth century.

I

The present State of Gujarat, which came into existence on 1st May 1960 on the linguistic basis⁴, derives the nomenclature from the earliest versions like *Gujara-mandal*, *Gujara-desh*, *Gujara-bhoomi* and *Gujara-rashtra*.⁵ The usage of the word *Gujara*/Gujarat that appears in various nomenclatures for the region came in vogue very late in the historical times. At this point of time, the Gujarat region had three prominent geographical sub-regions. These have been identified as Saurashtra,⁶ Anarta⁷ and Lat⁸ sub-regions located in

⁴ The Gujarat State of Indian Union lies between 20° 01' and 24° 07' N latitude and 68° 04' and 74° 04' E longitudes along the Arabian Sea-coast. It shares both land and sea frontiers. While the northern boundary of the State is the international boundary between India and Pakistan and from the inland point of view Rajasthan surrounds it on the north-east, Madhya Pradesh on the east and Maharashtra on the south. It initially came to existence through the State Reorganisation Bill, 1956 with 16 districts to form the part of bilingual State of Bombay. Its independent and separate status is traceable since 1st May 1960 with 17 districts. The boundary of this newly carved out territory was primarily based on local dialect i.e. *Gujarati*. The territorial area it then comprised was 1,79,320 sq.kms. This area is now presently divided into 25 districts with 223 *talukas*; see C. D. Deshpande, *Western India: A Regional Geography*, pp. 3 -16; A. R. P. Singh and Others, 'Gujarat Region' in R. L. Singh (Ed.), *India: A Regional Geography*, Varansi, 1968, pp. 879 - 881; K. R. Dikshit, *Geography of Gujarat*, New Delhi, 1970, p. 1; The Geographical regions of the state are the Rann, the Kutch Peninsula, The Peninsular Gujarat and the Gujarat Alluvial Plain.

⁵ The present nomenclature for Gujarat is derived from the term *Gurjjaratra*. The term *Gurjjara* came to vogue during the Chalukya period. According to the other contemporary references i.e. The Dohad Inscription of Jaysimha's (1140 A.D.) time refers to *Gurjjaramandala*. It says, "Sri Jaysimha is the king (*bhupa*) of *Gurjjara-mandala*"; after 30 years later an inscription from Prabhas Patan '*Somnath Prasasthi*', Kathiawad (1168A.D.) calls 'Kumarpala the lord of *Gurjjara-mandala*', denoted territories in Gujarat. See. H. D. Sankalia, *Studies in the Historical & Cultural Geography and Ethnography of Gujarat*, Poona, 1949, p. 13; M. R. Majumdar, *Cultural History of Gujarat (From Earliest time to Pre-British Period)*, Bombay, 1965, pp. 11- 33 and H. D. Sankalia, *Aspects of Indian History and Archaeology*, New Delhi, 1977, pp. 20 -26.

⁶ According to the earliest traditions, Saurashtra derives the name from Sanskrit word '*Sus*'. Saurashtra also traces a synonym as Sorath that probably remained in use during the medieval centuries. The territory identified for Saurashtra is Southern part of Kathiawar peninsula (20° 40' and 23° 25' N latitude and 69° 05' and 72° 20' E longitude). See, James Campbell (Ed.), *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency (here after GBP) History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, Pt. I, Bombay, 1896, pp. 6-7; H. D. Sankalia, *Studies in the Historical & Cultural Geography*, p. 9; R. L. Singh (Ed.) *India - A Regional Geography*, p. 779 and K. R. Dikshit, *Geography of Gujarat*, pp. 17 & 68 -70.

peninsular and plain areas of the present Gujarat State of Indian Union. Besides these three nomenclatures for the sub-regions of Gujarat, we also find mention about kingdoms of Bharuch/Broach and Kiu-chi-lo (the *Gujara* kingdom farther north) with its capital Pilo-molo⁹ in the accounts of Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang.¹⁰ These were probably located in 'Lat' and 'Anarta' sub-regions. The first written record as a testimony to the nomenclature '*Gujara*' appears in the Dohad inscription (1140 A.D.).¹¹ However, the territory indicated in it does not identify the present Gujarat territory that was carved out on linguistic basis out of Greater Bombay in the twentieth century. The present Gujarat territory can be traced in the Kachh/Kutch/Cutch, Saurashtra (Peninsular Gujarat), Anarta (North Gujarat) and Lat (South Gujarat) sub-regions of the earliest times.¹² It is difficult to locate the exact boundaries of these sub-regions in the early historical period, as the boundaries kept on shifting due to changing political scenario from time to time. Not going into the details of the administrative history of the ancient Gujarat territory,¹³

⁷ Anarta appears in the 'Girnar inscription of Rudradaman' (150 A.D.). This nomenclature applies to the northern region of present Gujarat State located between 22° 05' - 24° 07' N latitude and 68° 04' - 74° 04' E longitude. Its boundary extended as far as Ahmedabad. The desert of Kutch in the west, Mt. Abu in the north and Malwa in the east surrounded it. See James Campbell, *GBP, History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, Pt. I, p. 6 and H. D. Sankalia, *Studies in the Historical and Cultural Geography*, p. 9.

⁸ Lata refers to the parts of South Gujarat region. It lies between 20° 15' and 22° 15' N latitude, 72° 05' and 74° 04' E longitude. It is surrounded by Arabian Sea in the west, Maharashtra in the east and south. It finds first historical mention in 'Mandsor Inscription' of Kumargupta. Ptolemy also refers to it as 'Larika', see James Campbell, *GBP, History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, Pt. I, p. 7; *Mc Crindle's Ancient India as Described by Ptolemy*, Calcutta, 1927, p. 38; H. D. Sankalia, *Studies in the Historical & Cultural Geography*, p. 9-10 & R. L. Singh (Ed.), *India- A Regional Geography*, pp. 879-880.

⁹ This is plausibly identified with Bhinmal in the Jodhpur state. *Imperial Gazetteer of India, Baroda, (IGI)*, Calcutta, 1908, p. 69.

¹⁰ *Ibid*

¹¹ M. R. Majumdar, *Cultural History of Gujarat*, pp. 11- 33 and H. D. Sankalia, *Aspects of Indian History and Archaeology*, pp. 20-26.

¹² For the earliest references to the sub-regions, see, H. D. Sankalia, *Studies in the Historical and Cultural Geography*, pp. 9-12; Rush Brook Williams, *The Black Hills, Kutch- In History and Legend, A Study in Indian Local Loyalties*, London, 1958, pp.3-12; *Gazetteer of India- Gujarat State, Kutch District*, Ahmedabad, 1971, p. 1 and S. B. Rajyagor, *Gujarat no Rajkiya une Sanskritik Itihas*, Vol. I, New Delhi, 1972, pp. 253-256, 274 & 279-283.

¹³ M. S. Commissariat, *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, Bombay, 1938, pp. XXIII-LXXVII.

which has been attempted by several scholars¹⁴ of Geography, Archaeology, History and Sociology to a considerable extent. A discussion is being offered here regarding the understanding of Gujarat province during the medieval centuries. This certainly helps in providing a better understanding of the making of the territories/sub-regions of Gujarat during c.1200 - c.1750. Further, the first half of the eighteenth century can also be considered a trendsetter in the making of this territory during post mid-eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

The sub-regions of Gujarat started taking shape on the political map since the times of the Chavda dynasty¹⁵ (746-942 A.D.), the Solanki dynasty¹⁶ (942-1242 A.D.) and the Vaghela dynasty¹⁷ (1222-98 A.D.). This span of time is known as the period of 'Rajput Kingdoms of Gujarat'.¹⁸ The region attracted attention of the Sultans of Delhi. They had gradually brought the Rajput territory under their control by the close of the thirteenth century (1298 A.D.). The Khilji and the Tughlaq Sultans of Delhi (1298-1352 A.D.) ruled the

¹⁴ H. D. Sankalia, *Investigation in the Pre-historic Archaeology of Gujarat*, 1946; G. H. Desai, *Gujarat no Prachin Itihas*, Ahmedabad, 1944; G. H. Desai, *Gujarat no Prachin Itihas*, Ahmedabad, 1921; Umashankar Joshi, *Purano ma Gujarat*, Ahmedabad, 1944; Ratna Manirao Jote, *Gujarat no Sanskritik Itihas*, Vol. 1-4, 1954-55; Kavi Narmad Shankar L., *Gujarat Sarva Sangrah*; K. M. Munshi, *Gujarat ni Kirti Gatha*; Parikh R. C. and Shashtri H. G., *Maurya Kal thi Gupta Kal*, 1972; Parikh R. C. and Shashtri H. G., *Solanki Kal*, 1976.

¹⁵ The word Chavda or Chauda seems to be original form while Chapotkata or Chavotkata are its sanskritised forms. The original home of Chavada of north Gujarat was Panchasar. It is located in Simi taluka of Mahesana district. According to *Prabandhchintamani* (1305 A.D.) Vanraj was the founder of the Chavda dynasty. See H. D. Sankalia, *Archaeology of Gujarat*, New Delhi, 1908, p. 35; M. S. Commissariat, *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, Pt. I, pp. LIV-LV; M. R. Majumdar, *Chronology of Gujarat*, Baroda, 1960, pp. 258-61; S. B. Rajyagor, *History of Gujarat*, New Delhi, 1982, pp. 102-105 and James Campbell, *GPB*, Vol. I, Pt. I, pp. 149-55.

¹⁶ Mulraj Solanki founded Solanki or Chalukya dynasty. He remained popular as *Gurjeshwar*. In this dynasty, Siddharaj Jaysingh was the most versatile king. For details see James Campbell, *GPB*, Vol. I, Pt. I, pp. 156-169; M. S. Commissariat, *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, Pt. I, pp. LVI - LXXVI. Also see A. K. Majumdar, *Chalukya of Gujarat*, Bombay, 1953 and R. C. Parikh & H. G. Shastri, *Solankikal*, Delhi, 1976.

¹⁷ *Vaghelas* were the second branch of Chalukyas. This dynasty was located in south west of Anhilwad / Patan i.e. Vyagrapalli/ Vaghel surroundings. Amraj (1170-1200) founded the dynasty. The most popular king was Karnadeva (1296-1304). For details see A. K. Forbes, *Rasmala or Hindoo Annals of the Province Of Goozerat in Western India*, (Ed.) Rawlison, Vol. I, Delhi, 1924, reprint, 1977, p. 250; James Campbell, *GPB*, Vol. I, Pt. I, pp. 198-206 and A. K. Majumdar, *Chalukyas of Gujarat*, pp. 169-76.

¹⁸ M. S. Commissariat, *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, Pt. I, p. 1.

parts of Gujarat region through their governors.¹⁹ During these years, Gujarat territory acquired the identity as 'Gujarat Province of Delhi Sultanate'. It became more distinct under the rule of Gujarat Sultans (1403-1573 A.D.).²⁰ The period between 1403 A.D. and 1573 A.D. indicates the emergence of political territories under the control of central authority i.e. the kings of Ahemdabad and by the former rulers or the feudatory chiefs in lieu of tribute to the Gujarat Sultans.²¹ It is pertinent to mention that during the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and second half of the sixteenth century the nomenclature Gujarat was applicable to the province that was governed first from Anhilvad/Patan and then from Ahemdabad. The Gujarat province under Ahemdabad rulers was divided into 25 *sarkars*.²² These *sarkars* were

<u>¹⁹ Delhi Sultan</u>	<u>Governors of Gujarat</u>
1. Ala-ud-din Khilji	Ulugh Khan
2. Qutub-ud-din Mubarak	Kamal -ud-din, Malik Dinar, Husain -ud-din and Malik Wajih-ud-din Qureshi Shah Khilji
3. Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq	Taj -ud-din Jafar
4. Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq	Malik Muqbil Khan Jahan and Nizam-ul-Mulk
5. Feroz Shah Tughlaq	Zafar Khan, Shams-ud-din Damghani, Farahat-ul-Mulk Rasti Khan, Malik Mufarrah Sultani and Zafar Khan Wajih-ul-Mulk.

Source: *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, (tr.), M. F. Lokhandawala, Baroda, 1965, p. 929 and M. S. Commissariat, *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, Pt. I, pp. 1-42.

²⁰ For the identification of territories of the rulers of Gujarat see *Ibid.*; M. S. Commissariat, *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, Pt. I, pp. 267-68; James Campbell, *GBP*, Vol. I, Pt. I, p. 207; S. C. Mishra, *The Rise of Muslim Power*, Delhi, 1962, pp. 162-63; James Campbell, *GBP*, Vol. I, Pt. I, p. 207 and S. A. I. Tirmizi, 'Gujarat and Khandesh', pp. 846-98.

²¹ The author of *Mirat-i-Ahmadi* informs us of 25 *sarkars* under the Ahemdabad kings. The Gujarat Sultans divided the Gujarat territory into *khalsa* or crown domain administered directly by the central authority and the other on payment of tribute in service or in money left under the control of its former rulers under the Gujarat Sultans. The tribute was occasionally collected by military expeditions. This tribute was called as *mulkgiri* or country seizing circuit. The *khalsa* territory was divided into *sarkars*. These *sarkars* were administered in one of two ways. The *sarkars* were either assigned to nobles in support of the contingent of troops or they were set apart as crown domains and managed by paid officers. The *sarkars* were further sub-divided into the *parganas* or districts. The *parganas* under them have several villages. The second way consisted of the assigned lands given to nobles for the maintenance of contingence of troops. See James Campbell, *GBP*, Vol. I, Pt. I, pp. 209-11.

²² The period of Ahemdabad kings observed extension and contraction of the territorial limits. For instance the fourteenth century territory nominally – under the control of Muslim governors of Patan extended southward from Jhalor to the neighborhood of Bombay in length and from the line of Malwa and Khandesh hill to the western shore peninsula of

Patan, Ahemdabad, Godhara, Champaner, Baroda, Broach, Nandod and Surat in central plains of Gujarat; Jodhpur, Jhalor, Nagor and Sirohi in the northern direction; Dungarpur and Banaswada in the north-east direction; Mulher, Nandurbar and Ramnagar in the east and south-east direction; Bassien, Bombay, Daman and Danda Rajpur in the southern direction; Nawanagar, Somnath and Sorath in the western direction and Kutch in the north-west.²³ It means that contemporary Gujarat territory was located in the modern states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Union Territory of Daman and Diu. The most accurate administrative history of Gujarat is available since the last decade of the sixteenth century. *Ain-i-Akbari*²⁴ records the Gujarat territory as Gujarat *suba* that was spread in length from Burhanpur to Dwarika in Kathiawar peninsula, wrapping some 1, 214.8 kms. Breadth wise it was spread from Jhalor to the port of Daman and covered 868.9 kms and its extent from Idar to Cambay covered 281.6 kms. During the reign of Akbar and afterwards, the *suba* Gujarat comprised 9 *sarkars* and 198 *parganas*.²⁵ These nine *sarkars* were Ahemdabad, Patan, Nandod, Baroda, Broach, Champaner, Surat, Godhara and Sorath. The nature of these administrative territories remained both revenue incurring and tribute paying units.²⁶ An important understanding that is derived from *Ain-i-Akbari* regarding the Kutch and lesser Kutch sub-region is that these remained outside the control of Mughal rule.²⁷ There was however some contacts, which were probably restricted to the exchange of gifts and the rulers, respected the sovereignty of one another.

Gujarat. In the later part of fifteenth and beginning of the sixteenth centuries, the territorial limits spread to the east and northeast directions; which were further extended during the period 1530-37 in the present Maharashtra state. Fazlullah Lutfullah Faridi, *History of Gujarat- Muhammadan Period (1297-1760)* in James Campbell, *GPB*, Vol. I, Pt. I, p. 207 and Syed Nawab Ali, *Mirat-i-Ahmadi, Supplement*, Baroda, 1928, p. 184.

²³ Edalji Doshabhai, *History of Gujarat*, Bombay, 1894, 2nd edition, Delhi, 1986, p. 323, (Appendix G).

²⁴ Abul Fazl, *Ain-i-Akbari*, (tr.), Vol. II, Delhi, 1978, p. 246.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 257- 64.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 246-66. Also see Irfan Habib, *An Atlas of Mughal Empire, Political and Economic Maps*, Delhi, 1982, Sheet 7A (Gujarat Political).

²⁷ *Ibid.* Cutch /Kachh/Kutch is recorded as chiefdom in *Ain-i-Akbari*, (tr.), Vol. II, p. 255.

The comparison of 25 *sarkars* of Gujarat Sultans and 9 *sarkars* mentioned in *Ain-i-Akbari* (see Table 1) suggests the obvious demarcation of the Gujarat territory for the period covering late sixteenth, seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries (c. 1707). The extent of the then Gujarat province was certainly lesser than the earlier one. If one imposes the territorial maps of these periods one over the other, one finds that the latter's extent corresponds with the present Gujarat State of the Indian Union. In other words, it can be stated that the making of the present administrative Gujarat State territory started taking shape since the times of Akbar.

TABLE 1

A Comparison of the Administrative Units of Gujarat Province c. 1403- c.1760

S. No. (1)	<i>Sarkars</i> in the time of Gujarat Sultans c.1403- c.1573 (2)	<i>Sarkars</i> in the time of Akbar c.1595-1760 (3)	Number of <i>Parganas</i> (4)	<i>Sarkars</i> in the time of Post-Aurangzeb's Period c.1760 (5)	Number of <i>Parganas</i> (6)
1	Patan,	Patan	16	Patan	17
2	Ahemdabad	Ahemdabad	28	Ahemdabad	33
3	Godhara	Godhara	12	Godhara	15
4	Champaner	Champaner	09	Champaner	12
5	Baroda	Baroda	04	Baroda	04
6	Broach,	Broach	14	Broach	14
7	Nandod	Nandod	12	Nandod	12
8	Surat	Surat	31	Surat	31
9	Jodhpur	Sorath/ Kathiawad	12	Nawanagar	17
10	Jhalor			Sorath	62
11	Nagor				
12	Sirohi				
13	Dungarpur				
14	Banaswada				
15	Mulher				
16	Nandurbar				
17	Ramnagar				
18	Bassien				
19	Bombay				
20	Daman				
21	Danda Rajpur				
22	Nawanagar				
23	Somnath				
24	Sorath				
25	Kachh/ Kutch (Cutch)				
		Of the 25 <i>Sarkars</i> mentioned for the Gujarat Sultans period, the <i>Ain-i-Akbari</i> remains silent			
		Edalji Dosha Bhai writes in nineteenth century, "the following were reannexed to their original provinces by the Emperor Akbar's order in or about A.D. 1578."			
		See Appendix H in Edalji Doshabhai, <i>History of Gujarat</i> , Bombay, 1894, 2 nd edition, Delhi, 1986, pp. 325-326			
Total	25	09	138	10	217

Source: *Ain-i-Akbari*, (tr.), II, pp. 258-64; *Supplement of Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, (tr.) pp. 184 - 228 and Edalji Doshabhai, *History of Gujarat*, Bombay, 1894, 2nd edition, Delhi, 1986, pp. 323 & 325-26 (Appendix G & H).

Information for administrative territory of the post-Akbar period is available from the *Mirat-i-Ahmadi* and *Khatima (Supplement)* of *Mirat-i-Ahmadi* (c.1760).²⁸ It apprises us of the existence of 10 *sarkars* along with their *parganas*/sub-divisions and state of political fragmentation. These *sarkars* and the number of their *parganas* are as follows: Ahemdabad -33, Patan -17, Baroda - 4, Broach - 14, Champaner - 12, Nandod - 12, Godhara - 15, Sorath -62, Surat -31 and Nawanagar -17. A conclusion can be drawn from the comparison of *Mirat's sarkars* to that of *Ain's sarkars*. There was increase of one *sarkar* (see Table 1). This increase was probably carried out for administrative convenience and the adjustment for the newly seized territory. The rule under the Mughal Emperor was carried through *subedar/viceroy*.²⁹ The Mughal Viceroys of Gujarat, who remained in office till the death of Aurangzeb in 1707 were on the whole successful in maintaining order and prosperity, in spite of turbulence of the Kolis and Rajputs in the north, the famines in 1596, 1631, 1681, 1684 and 1697-98, and the Deccani attacks on Surat city. Malik Amber (1609) and Shivaji (1664 and 1670) plundered Surat on three occasions.³⁰ Throughout the Mughal period the province generally yielded revenue of nearly 2 crores and a large foreign trade that was carried on at the ports of Cambay, Broach and Surat. This arrangement continued till the last Mughal Viceroy Momin Khan, who was defeated by the Marathas in 1758 A.D.³¹ The decline of Mughal rule in Gujarat began with a Maratha raid across the Narmada river in 1705 A.D. From 1711, these invasions became annual and the Marathas established themselves successively at Songarh in

²⁸ *Mirat-i-Ahmadi, Supplement*, Baroda, 1928, pp. 184 - 228 and *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, (tr.), pp. 18 & 85.

²⁹ Jadu Nath Sarkar, *Mughal Administration*, Calcutta, 1924, p. 57; P. Saran, *The Provincial Government of the Mughals, (1526- 1658)*, Allahabad, 1941, p. 45 and Satish Chandra, *Medieval India, from Sultanat to the Mughals, Part Two, Mughal Empire*, Delhi, 1999, pp. 142-45.

³⁰ IGI, *Baroda*, pp. 71-72. Also see B. G. Gokhale, *Surat in Seventeenth Century*, Bombay, 1979, pp. 7-26; Ashin Das Gupta, *Indian Merchants and the Decline of Surat c. 1700-1750*, Wiesbaden, 1979, pp. 20-93 & 134 - 96 & S. Gordon, *The New Cambridge History of India*, II. 4, *The Marathas, 1600-1818*, Delhi, 1998, (reprint, 2000), pp. 71 & 87-88.

³¹ James Campbell, *GBP*, Vol. I, Pt. I, p. 343. Also see M. S. Commissariat, *History of Gujarat*, Vol. III, pp. 638-39.

1719, Champaner in 1723 and Baroda in 1734. The beginning of this end game came during the governorship of Sarbuland Khan (1723-30), who farmed out the revenues to *ijaradars* and admitted the Maratha claims to *chauth* and *sardeshmukhi*.³² Henceforth, although the Delhi court continued to appoint Viceroys until 1748, absolute anarchy reigned in the province. Many hostile leaders ravaged this province mercilessly. These attackers included the Peshwa and the Gaekwad armies, the Rajas of Jodhpur, the agents of the Nizam-ul-mulk of Hyderabad, and local Muslim chiefs such as the Babis, who established themselves at Junagadh in 1738 and Balasinor in 1761; the Jhaloris, who settled at Palanpur in 1715 and Momin Khan, who began to scheme for the independence of Cambay about 1736.³³ In 1737, the Gaekwads were admitted to a full half-share in the revenues of the province. They occupied Ahmedabad jointly with the Viceroy's troops in 1738.³⁴ Similarly, the deputy of the Nizam held Broach from 1731 to 1752. He had to give up his share of its customs to the Gaekwads.³⁵ Similarly, Surat was contested for by among various rival candidates for its governorship.³⁶ In this way Gujarat was parceled out in the first half of the eighteenth century, among a number of local chiefs who carried on ceaseless petty wars, which the Marathas had no wish to suppress as long as they could secure their share of the plunder of the Gujarat province. The Peshwa's seizure of half the Gaekwads' share in 1751 only added another claimant of black mail. After the battle of Panipat in 1761, the Mughal representatives tried but failed to drive out the Gaekwads, and the last chance of growing up of a strong native government was ruined by

³² The *chauth* was one fourth and *sardeshmukhi* was the present on the revenue. In case of Gujarat both of these kept fluctuating in their proportion to the total revenue. *Ibid.* p. 338. Also see M. S. Commissariat, *History of Gujarat*, Vol. III, p. 136.

³³ *Ibid.* p. 317. Also see M. S. Commissariat, *History of Gujarat*, Vol. II, pp. 458-61.

³⁴ *Ibid.* p. 320. Also see M. S. Commissariat, *History of Gujarat*, Vol. II, pp. 462-63.

³⁵ *Ibid.* pp. 324 & 334. It was Damajirao Gaekwad who succeeded his father Pilajirao Gaekwad and established the Gaekwad's share in the revenue of Broach. He died in 1768 A. D. Also see Sayed Maqbool Ahmad, *A History of the Nawabs of Broach, (Based on the Persian Manuscript Majmua-e-Danish)*, Delhi, 1985, pp. 22-24.

³⁶ *GBP, Surat and Broach*, Vol. II, Bombay, 1877, p. 116.

the disputed succession at Baroda in 1768.³⁷ The British took Surat fort in 1759 and this ended the local troubles there.³⁸ During the last quarter of the eighteenth century, the Maratha Confederacy began to break up and the Gaekwads detached themselves from the Confederacy by their acceptance of British Protection in 1782.³⁹ In Gujarat, there was little improvement in the administration during the late eighteenth century as the disputes in the Gaekwad family and intrigues at the Poona court continued. However, a semblance of order was preserved due to British influence from 1782 to 1799 when the Gaekwads took Ahemdabad and imprisoned Peshwa's agent.⁴⁰ This order was further maintained when the British forces suppressed the disturbances in 1803⁴¹ and also when the Peshwa gave their share back to the Gaekwads, who, in turn, entered into subsidiary alliances with the British.⁴² Negotiations followed between the British, the Peshwa and the Gaekwads that ended in the official recognition of certain districts (Ahemdabad, Kaira, Panch Mahals, Broach and Surat) and their rights in Gujarat. The British government annexed Surat in 1800 on the death of the Nawab, whose family was pensioned off, and conquered Broach from Scindhia in 1803.⁴³ Further, the Peshwas were overthrown in 1818 and this finally led to territorial rearrangements in Gujarat. Thus, the post-Aurangzeb period evidenced extensive disorder and frequent changes as far as the administrative history is concerned. This disorder was due to Mughal-Maratha struggle, internal strifes among Mughal representatives, competitiveness among Maratha Sardars particularly the Peshwas, Scindhias and Gaekwads and the desire of

³⁷ James Campbell, *GPB*, Vol. I., Pt. I, pp. 399-400.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 343.

³⁹ The Gaekwads accepted British help for the breakup of Maratha Confederacy through the Treaty of Salbai on 17th May 1782. See James Campbell, *GPB*, Vol. I, Pt. I, p. 411 and C. U Atchison, *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, Vol. VII, Calcutta, 1931, pp. 62-68.

⁴⁰ James Campbell, *GPB*, Vol. I, Pt. I, pp. 411-12. Also see Neera Desai, *Social Changes in Gujarat*, Bombay, 1978, pp. 5-15.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 413.

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 414.

the British to control the Gujarat territory. All these factors led to the emergence of variety of governance. In this way, the present Gujarat state got divided in the second decade of the nineteenth century among the Gaekwads of Baroda State, the British districts of Ahmedabad, Broach, Panch mahals, Kaira and Surat under Bombay Presidency and numerous native states.⁴⁴ These native states amounted to 59 each with an area of over 260 sq. kms. Baroda, Kutch, Nawanagar, Junagadh and Bhavnagar were the chief native states. In addition to these native states there were 259 estates of Western India Agency⁴⁵ and 64 estates of Gujarat State Agency⁴⁶ each with an area of less than 250 sq. kms. This is illustrated in Table 2.

⁴⁴*Ibid.*, p. 428.

⁴⁵ Princely State in the nineteenth century Gujarat was grouped under two agencies. These were the Western India State Agency (area = 13,479,680 acres) and Baroda and Gujarat State Agency (area = 11,315,200 acres). A Resident controlled the Western India State Agency with headquarters at Rajkot. This was split into three administrative units headed by Political Agents- Eastern Kathiawad Agency, Western Kathiawar and Sabarkantha Agency. See S. Devdas Pillai, *Rajahs And Prajas: An Indian Princely State, Then and Now*, Bombay, 1976, pp. 2-3.

⁴⁶ The second group of Native States in Gujarat territory was the Baroda and Gujarat State Agency. Baroda was one of the most advanced States of India. It was then the biggest State in this Agency, which was controlled by a Resident with headquarters at Baroda City. The Gujarat State Agency had 144 states of which only 17 had jurisdictional power of higher order. The largest group of States of this Agency was grouped under a sub-agency called Rewakantha and a Political Agent controlled it. *Ibid.*, p. 3.

TABLE 2
Native States in Bombay Presidency – Northern Division

Native States	Newly Created Agency	Pre-excreated Agency	Designation of Controller	Subordinate Agency
Agar, Alwa, Amrapur, Anghad, Balasinor, Bansda (a tributary State), Baria, Bhadarwa, Bhilodia, Bihora, Cambay, Chhaliar, Chhota-Udepur, Chhorangla, Chudesar Damasia/Vannmala Dharampur (a small State), Dhari, Dodka, Dudhpur, Gad - Bariad, Gotardi, Gothda, Itwad, Jambugoda, Jawahar, Jesar, Jiral, Jamkha, Kamsoli, Kadana, Kanoda, Kasla, Paginu, Muwada, Lunawada, Mandwa, Mevli, Moka Nahara, Nalia, Nangam, Naswadi, Palsani, Pandu, Pan Talavdi, Poicha, Raika, Rajpipla (Petty State), Sachin (estate of 20 villages), Sanjeli, Sant, Shanor/Shinor, Sihora, Sindhiapura, Surguna, Uchad, Umeta, Vajiria, Vakhatpur, Varnolmal, Varnol Moti, Varnolnani, Vasan Sevada, Vasan Virpur, Virampura and Vora.	Gujarat State Agency ⁴⁷		Resident with HQs at Baroda city	Rewakantha Agency ⁴⁹ & Mahikantha Agency and Surat State ⁵⁰ under Political Agent at Baroda and Surat respectively
Ambaliara, Bawishi, Bhalusana, Bolundra, Dabha, Dadhalia, Dedhrota, Deloli, Derol, Gabat, Ghodasar, Hadol, Hapa, Idar, Ilpura, Iol, Kadoli, Kantha Thana, Kasalpura, Katosan, Khadal, Khedawada, Likhi, Magodi, Maguna, Malpur, Mansa, Mehmadvapur, Mohanpur, Mota, Kothasna, Palaj, Pethapur, Prempur, Punadra, Ramas, Rampura, Ranasan, Ranipura, Rupal, Sathamba, Satlasan, Sudasna, Tajpuri, Tejpur, Thana, Timba, Umri, Vakatapura, Valsana, Varsoda, Vatrak Vijyanagar, Virsoda, Wadagam, Wasna,		Western India State Agency ⁴⁸	Resident with HQs at Rajkot	Sabarkantha Agency under Political Agent at Sadra.

Source: Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, Notification No. 137 - I, dated 1st April 1933 and Government of India, Gazette, Part I, 1st April 1933, pp. 230 - 31.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ Western India State Agency had 14 states with rights of salute, 17 States with no salute rights and 191 small states making a total of 222 states. *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁴⁹ The Rewakantha Agency consisted of a few middle-sized states like Rajpipla and a number of small States. *Ibid.*, see Appendix 1.

⁵⁰ It consisted of tributary states, small state and estates that were under the supervision of Political Agent for Surat. See GBP, *Rewakantha and Surat States*, pp. 245, 254 and 258.

Thus, the period of Mughal rule observed disorder and a variety of governance, which is a distinct phenomenon, related to the nomenclature and demarcation of the sub-regions' territory. In the first case, the present peninsular Gujarat acquired its identity as Sorath, a shortened form of Saurashtra⁵¹ that stretched along the western seacoast between the banks of Indus to the Damanganga. It got transformed into Kathiawad, probably during the late eighteenth century. This happened because the Kathis, a tribe of peninsular Gujarat gave fiercest resistance to the tribute exacting Marathas.⁵² As these Kathis were spread all over peninsular Gujarat, the Marathas therefore called this peninsular sub-region as Kathiawad. This nomenclature was thus adopted in the early British documents and was flexibly used during the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century correspondences of the Political Department and Revenue Department. In the second case, the Kutch geographical region though underwent political transformations, it continued with the nomenclature Kutch. The eighteenth century documents referred to it as Suleiman nagar and Halar.⁵³ By the end of nineteenth century, Suleiman Nagar and Halar sub-regions became popular as the Greater Kutch and Lesser Kutch.⁵⁴ The third geographical region i.e., the 'Proper Gujarat', known as north, central and south Gujarat acquired heterogeneous nomenclatures during the second half of the

Source	Year	Sarkar	Sub-division/Pargana	Districts/Zillah
<i>Ain-i-Akbari</i>	1595	Sorath	63	-
		Nawanagar	17	-
<i>Mirat-i-Ahmadi</i>	1760	Sorath	05	Naiyad called Jelwar
		Kutch		Halar or Nawanagar
				Bhujnagar

Ain-i-Akbari, (tr.), II, pp. 250, & 263-64; *Mirat-i-Ahmadi, Supplement*, Baroda, 1928, pp. 204 - 213. See Campbell, *GBP*, pp. 208-09.

⁵² *Ibid.*; James M. Campbell, *GBP, Gujarat Population: Hindus*, Vol. I, Bombay, 1901, (2nd edition 1988), p. 259

⁵³ See Irfan Habib, *An Atlas of the Mughal Empire*, p. 21, sheet 7A; *Mirat -i-Ahmadi, Supplement*, pp. 217-18.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

eighteenth century and first quarter of the nineteenth century. It was due to the territorial limits of the sub-regions of Proper Gujarat that kept shifting due to political uncertainties⁵⁵ and adjustments.⁵⁶ The adjustments⁵⁷ that took shape in the first quarter of the nineteenth century help us to understand the Gujarat Proper sub-region to a considerable extent in general and the South Gujarat sub-region in particular throughout the nineteenth century. Before going deep into the details of the historical geography of the nineteenth century South Gujarat, I offer a brief description of the sub-region South Gujarat, which will be extremely useful in my study of the rural and urban centres of the sub-region.

II

The South Gujarat territory sub-region is known for its distinct geographical, ethnographical, linguistic and cultural existence within India. It forms a part of the western seaboard of India. It has the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Cambay as its western border. The historical period⁵⁸ records it as Lat/Lata/ Larike/Lati.⁵⁹ The minimum limits⁶⁰ of the sub-region lies between the river Mahi and the Narmada whereas the maximum limit⁶¹ stretches between the river Mahi in the north and the Damanganga in the south. It means that this portion of Gujarat state lies partly in the present districts of

⁵⁵The 'political uncertainties' for the period 1760-1802 can be understood in the struggle between the English East India Company, the Peshwas, the Scindhias, the Gaekwads for the control of the north, central and south Gujarat territory. See Campbell, *GBP*, Vol. 1, Pt. 1, pp. 390-413.

⁵⁶These 'adjustments' can be understood for the period 1802-19 from the clauses of the Treaty of Bassien, signed on 31st December 1802 followed by the Settlement of 1807 between Gaekwads and British, the Treaty of Poona in 1817 and the Treaties between Gaekwads and the Britishers in 1817, 1819 and 1820. *Ibid.*, pp. 413-32. Also see C. U. Atchison, *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, Vol. VI, Calcutta, 1864, pp. 330-36.

⁵⁷*Ibid.*

⁵⁸The historical period stands from the second century down to the fifteenth century. See H. D. Sankalia, 'Lata-Its Historical and Cultural Significance, *Aspects of Indian History and Archaeology*, pp. 27-28.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 27-37.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 27.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

Bharuch, Narmada, Surat, Navsari, Dang and Valsad and partly in Anand and Vadodara in Gujarat and moderately covers a very small portion of Dhulia and Nasik districts of Maharashtra. The South Gujarat territory/sub-region undertaken for study by me neither follows the conventional understanding of South Gujarat nor the maximum territory suggested by H.D. Sankalia⁶² but it includes the territory from the point, famous as Dabka where the river Mahi falls in the Gulf of Cambay⁶³ and the river Damanganga in the south along the western coast in terms of length. Some explanations are also needed for identifying the width of the South Gujarat territory studied by me. I have taken the eastern limits of present Gujarat as the limit of the territory in the east. In this way, I have excluded the portion of Dhulia and Nasik Districts of Maharashtra state and also the parts of Anand and Vadodara districts of Gujarat State. The reason for excluding Maharashtra portion is obvious as it is not part of present Gujarat State whereas for excluding portions of Anand and Vadodara districts, I have to submit that people of Gujarat understand this territory as Central Gujarat. Finally, the area under study covers the present districts of Bharuch, Narmada, Surat, Navsari, Dang, Valsad and the border portion of Vadodara district, i.e., Sinor *taluka* and Tilakwada *peta mahal* (see Map I).

Irfan Habib in *An Atlas of the Mughal Empire* identifies the location of this South Gujarat territory into the *sarkars* of Baroda, Broach, Champaner, Nandaut (modern Nandod) and Surat of *suba* Gujarat; principalities of Rajpipla, Baglana and Ramnagar of *suba* Gujarat and chiefdom Ali-Mohan of *suba* Gujarat for sixteenth, seventeenth and first half of the eighteenth

⁶² H. D. Sankalia, 'Lata- Its Historical and Cultural Significance, *Aspects of Indian History and Archaeology*, p. 28.

⁶³ This meeting point of Mahi with that of Gulf of Cambay's water is popularly understood as Mahisagar.

century.^{63a} Similarly, another significant source for the identification of the South Gujarat territory/sub-region is *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*. According to *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, the identified South Gujarat territory was located in the *sarkars* of Champaner, Baroda, Broach, Nandod, Surat, Ramnagar and principalities of Rajpipla and Baglana. Baglana (post c. 1595) was part of Khandesh and later Ahemadnagar.^{63b} A comparative study of the South Gujarat territory to that of *Supplement of Mirat-i-Ahmadi* gives the following picture in Table 3.

TABLE 3
The South Gujarat's Territory in the *Sarkars* of *Suba* Ahemdabad/Gujarat

S.No.	Suba/Province Ahemdabad c. 1760	Pargana/ Sub-division c.1760		South Gujarat During c. 2000
	Sarkars	Name	No.	Districts
1.	Champaner	Mohan	01	Godhara
2	Baroda	Sinor	01	Vadodara
3	Nandod	Havedi or Nandod & Basravi	02	Bharuch and Surat
4	Surat	Surat, Chorasi, Rander, Bardoli, Momra, Balesar, Mahuwa, Kamrej, Haroli, Bulsar, Chikhli, Gandevi, Navsari, Marpara, Mular, Khandka, Sahrat, Balvara, Anawal, Vahmuri, Lohari, Bansar, Sirbhom, Karod, Mosar, Biyadara, Kus, Barjoi Talari & Tasir	30	Surat, Navsari and Valsad
5	Ramnagar	Ramnagar/Dharampur	01	Valsad
6	Principalities Rajpipla Baglana	-- --	01	Narmada
			01	Dhulia & Nasik Districts

Source: *Mirat-i-Ahmadi, Supplement*, (tr.), S. Nawab Ali and C. N. Seddon, Baroda, 1928, pp. 198-215; Irfan Habib, *An Atlas of the Mughal Empire*, 21-23 Sheet 7A; *An Atlas of India*, Delhi, 1990, p. 85; *Gujarat Political: Survey of India Map*, Surveyor General of India, Delhi, 2000 and *Maharashtra Political: Survey of India Map*, Surveyor General of India, Delhi, 2000.

^{63a} See Irfan Habib, *An Atlas of the Mughal Empire*, Sheet 7A, Political Map c. 1595, Gujarat, pp. 21-23.

^{63b} James Campbell, *GBP, Nasik*, Vol. XVI, pp. 91-92.

The period for identification of the South Gujarat territory between c. 1760 and the last quarter of nineteenth century is obscure. The reasons for this obscurity have already been discussed in 'uncertainties and adjustments' period, when the process of state formation was in progress under the independent Nawabs, Maratha Sardars, Tribal Chiefs and the British. A careful perusal of the political developments in the territories of the above-mentioned imperial authorities and chiefs has helped in mapping the South Gujarat territory in Table 4 and Table 5 under independent Nawabs, Maratha Sardars—Peshwas, Scindhias and Gaekwads; British Gujarat Districts and Dang Forest territory in Bombay Presidency and Native State rulers like Solanki, Sisodia and Sidi Nawab.

TABLE 4
The South Gujarat Territory c.1760 - c. 1875

Sr. No.	South Gujarat Territory c.1760- c.1875		Rulers	Nature of Rule	Districts in c. 2000
	City/ <i>Pargana</i> Collectorate	<i>Pargana</i> / <i>Taluka</i>			
1.	Surat City	-	Nawabs of Surat (1724- 1800)	Independent	Surat
2.	Broach City	-	Nawabs of Broach (1736- 1772)	Independent	Bharuch
3.	Broach City	-	Scindhia (1783-1803)	Control and right to collect revenue	Bharuch
4.	Surat Athavisi <i>Pargana</i>	Olpad, Sarbhan, Supa, Bardoli, Parnera, Bhutsar, Parchol and Valod.	Peshwa's (1798-1818) (Peshwa's rights were relinquished by 16 th Dec. 1803 on city of Surat and <i>talukas</i> of Chorasi and Chikli)	Control and right to collect revenue	Surat
	Broach <i>Pargana</i>	Bulsar			Valsad
	<i>Parganas</i> between Narmada and	Ankleshwar & Hansot Dabhoi Amod, Dahejbara			Bharuch Vadodara Bharuch

		Broach, Ankleshwar, Wagra ♦, Jambusar and Amod.	Ankleshwar.) (♦Dahej remained a <i>peta mahal</i> till 1861) (1861-1875) (♦Wagra became a separate <i>taluka</i> of Broach Collectorate in 1834; it was originally located in Broach <i>taluka</i> and since then till 1872-73 and 1875 is recorded as separate <i>taluka</i>) Finally in 1875 Broach had five <i>talukas</i> ; Jambusar, Amod, Wagra, Broach & Ankleshwar. c.1800	British Crown	Bharuch
b)	Surat Collectorate	Surat city and its dependencies ⁶⁴ Surat & Chorasi ⁶⁵ Surat, Chorasi and Chikli ⁶⁷ Surat, Chorasi, Chikli, Olpad, Bulsar, Jalalpur, Bardoli and three villages- Katagram, Kumbhara and Fulpara & land of small state of Mandvi/ Nandari ⁶⁸ Lands of Karod added ⁶⁹ Addition of Bagwara, Surat Athwasi from Gaekwads and Olpad ⁷⁰ Additions of	in 1801 in June 1802 in December 1802 on 5 th June 1816 (1817-1839) (1839-1843)	Lt Governor for Surat appointed by Govt. of Bombay ⁶⁶	Surat Surat Surat & Navsari Surat, Valsad & Navsari Surat, Valsad & Navsari Surat, Valsad & Navsari Surat,

		estates of Mandvi <i>taluka</i> , fort of Pardi and Villages of Pardi <i>taluka</i> ⁷¹ Controlled the Broach sub-Collectorate ⁷² Control over Broach sub-Collectorate taken back ⁷³ Broach again under control of Surat Collectorate ⁷⁴ Olpad, Chorasi, Mandvi, Bardoli including <i>peta mahul</i> Valod, Chikhli, Jalalpur, Bulsar & Pardi	(1830-43) (1843-61) (1861-69) (1869-75)		Valsad & Navsari Surat, Valsad & Navsari Surat, Valsad & Navsari Bharuch, Surat, Valsad & Navsari Surat, Valsad & Navsari
Dang ⁷⁵	- Amala, Avchar, Chinchli, Derbhavati, Gudhe, Gadhvi, Jhari Gharkhadi,	Nizam-ul-Mulk ⁷⁶ (1723-1794) Peshwas ⁷⁷ (1794-1802) Tribal Chiefs ⁷⁸ (1802-18) Insurrection of the Dang Chiefs ⁷⁹ (1818-57)	Ruled through Governor Ruled through <i>Sardars</i> from Gaekwad and Holkar family Plundered the territory and administration by revenue farmers ⁸⁰	Dang	Dang

⁷⁵ Dang territory is located between 20° 33' 40" and 21° 5' 10" N latitude and 73° 27' 58" and 73° 56' 36" E longitude. It is surrounded in north by Vyara and Songadh *taluka* of the Navsari *prant* and Navapur *taluka* of Dhulia district; in the east by Sakari *taluka* of Dhulia district and Baglan and Kalwan *talukas* of Nasik district; in the south by Kalwan and Surgana *mahal* of Nasik district and west by Banoda *taluka* of Valsad district and Vyara of Navsari district. For pre-1760 history of Dangs see J. M. Campbell, *GBP*, Vol. XVI, *Nasik*, 1883, pp. 3-4 and *GBP*, *Khandesh*, Vol. XII, Bombay, 1880, p. 597.

⁷⁶ James Campbell, *GBP*, Vol. XVI, *Nasik*, Bombay, 1883, p. 192.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 193-94.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 194-95.

⁷⁹ *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government (SRBG)*, No. XXVI, 1856, p. 165, Appendix A, *GBP*, *Khandesh*, Vol. XII, p. 603 and Mani Bhai Dwiwedi, *Puratan Dakshin Gujarat*, Bombay, 1940, pp. 1-23. Also see A. H. A. Simcox, *Memoir of the Khandesh Bhil Corps*, 1825-91, Bombay, 1912.

⁸⁰ James Campbell, *GBP*, Vol. XVI, *Nasik*, p. 195.

⁸¹ *GBP*, *Rewakantha and Surat States*, pp. 99-110.

	Kekat Kadupada, Kirli, Palavihir, Pimpladevi, Pimpri, Shivbara, Vadhivan and Wasurna	Forest Leases (1857-79) 1879-1900	Control of British under North- Western Agency Through Assistant Political Agent Dang under Political Agent of Khandesh		
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⁸² For Dharampur's history and its position during the mid-eighteenth and mid nineteenth century see *GBP, Rewakantha and Surat State*, pp. 256-57.

⁸³ For the details of these *parganas* see J. P. Willoughby, *Memoir on the Rajporepla State, Prepared in 1821, SRBG, No. XXIII, New Series (NS)*, Bombay, 1856, pp. 288-296 and appendices.

⁸⁴ For Bansda's history and its position during the mid-eighteenth and mid nineteenth century see *GBP, Rewakantha and Surat States*, pp. 249-251 and S. D. Pillai, *Rajahs and Prajas*, Bombay, 1976, p. 23.

⁸⁵ For Sachin's history and its position during the mid-eighteenth and mid nineteenth century see *GBP, Rewakantha and Surat States*, pp. 259-61.

7. a)	Native States Rajpipla ⁸¹	19 <i>parganas</i> ⁸³ 7 <i>parganas</i>	Rajput Raja of Rajpipla (1786-1820) Rajput Raja of Rajpipla (1820-1879) (Under the supervision of Gaekwad & British by Sisodia's (1775-1875)	Through Political Agent of Rewakantha Agency	Narmada
b)	Dharampur ⁸²	Dharampur <i>taluka</i> and Dharampur town	Solanki (1791- 1875)	Through Political Agent of Surat State	Valsad
c)	Bansda ⁸⁴	4 sub-divisions/ <i>Mahals</i> Sarangpur, Amba, Mandva & Fatehpur	Sidhi Nawab (1772- 1877)	Through Political Agent of Surat State	Navsari
d)	Sachin ⁸⁵	Estate comprising of 20 villages		Through Political Agent of Surat State	Surat

*EEIC = English East India Company

Source: Monier Williams, *Memoir on the Zilla of Baroche*, (reprint), Bombay, 1852, pp. 1-15; IGI, *Baroda*, Calcutta, 1908, p. 98; Edalji Doshabhai, *History of Gujarat*, 1894, 2nd edition, Delhi, 1986, pp. 333-34; M. S. Commissariat, *History of Gujarat*, III, Bombay, 1938, pp. 595, 808 & 837, *Majmua-e- Danish (M.D.)* (tr.), Saeed Hasan, Allahabad, 1957, pp. IV & 19; GBP, *Rewakantha and Surat States*, pp. 249-51, 256-57 & 259-61; *Gujarat State Gazetteers, Dang District*, Ahemdabad, 1971, pp. 124 - 26 and *Smiriti Saurabh -A Life Sketch and the Memoirs in Respect of Late Maharaja Shri Indrasinji of Vansda*, Ahemdabad, 1989, p. 5.

3.	Native States			
a)	Rajpipla	Nandod, Bhalod, Jhaghadia, Valia, Garudeshwar and Dedipada	Rewakantha Agency	Narmada
b)	Dharampur	Dharampur taluka	Surat State	Valsad
c)	Bansda	4 sub-divisions/ <i>mahals</i> (Sarangpur, Amba, Mandva & Fatehpur)	Surat State	Navsari
d)	Sachin	Estate comprising of 20 villages	Surat State	Surat

Source: *Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency*, Vol. VI, *Rewakantha, Narukota, Cambay and Surat State*, (GBP) Bombay, 1880, pp. 101, 245-65; *GBP, Khundesh*, Vol XII, pp. 604-606; *Revision Survey Settlement (RSS) of Broach Taluka, Broach Collectorate, Bombay*, 1901, p. 35; *RSS, Jambusar Taluka, Broach Collectorate, Bombay*, 1901, p.34; *RSS, Amod Taluka, Broach Collectorate, Bombay*, 1901, p.26; *IGI, Baroda, Calcutta*, 1908, p. 98; *M. S. Commissariat, History of Gujarat*, III, pp. 595, 808 & 837, *Gujarat State Gazetteers (GSG), Dang District, Ahemdabad*, 1971, pp. 155-57 and C. D. Deshpande, *A Regional Geography*, p. 227.

Table 3, 4 and 5 suggest the identification of South Gujarat territory for the period c.1760 to c. 1900. Further, these tables also establish the nature of governance and the transformations that the territory had undergone. If we put the tables cartographically, the comprehensive picture that emerges suggests that during the period c. 1760 to c. 1800 the local and regional powers remained in control followed by the process that raised some stability in administrative sense till c.1875. The period c.1875 to c.1900 obtained a definite shape and placed South Gujarat's polity and economy on the trail of steadiness as far as its political and fiscal administration is concerned (see Map II). On the basis of *Administrative Reports, Memoirs, Memorandums, Letters, Regulations, Survey Settlement Reports and Revised Settlement Reports*, Table 6 is drawn which gives an overview of the administrative unit of the South Gujarat territory.

TABLE 6

**Administrative Units of the South Gujarat Territory in Last Quarter of the
Nineteenth Century**

S No.	Administrative Units along with Sub-divisions	Administrative Head	Number of Villages
1.	Gaekwad State of Baroda	Gaekwad Ruler	
	(a) Baroda <i>Prant</i>	<i>Suba</i>	
	i) Sinor <i>taluka</i>	<i>Vahivatadar</i>	54
	ii) Tilakwada <i>peta mahal</i>	<i>Vahivatadar</i>	38
	(b) Navsari <i>Prant</i>	<i>Suba</i>	
	i) Navsari <i>taluka</i>	<i>Vahivatadar</i>	66
	ii) Gandevi <i>taluka</i>	<i>Vahivatadar</i>	30
	iii) Vyara <i>taluka</i>	<i>Vahivatadar</i>	156
2.	iv) Songadh <i>taluka</i> & Vajpur <i>peta mahal</i>	<i>Vahivatadar</i>	505
	v) Velachha <i>taluka</i> & Vakal <i>peta mahal</i>	<i>Mahalkari</i>	-
	vi) Kamrej <i>taluka</i>	<i>Vahivatadar</i>	137
	vii) Palsana <i>taluka</i>	<i>Mahalkari</i>	-
	viii) Mahuva <i>taluka</i>	<i>Vahivatadar</i>	78
	Bombay Presidency	Governor/ Lt. Governor	
	(a) Broach	Collector	
	i) Wagra <i>taluka</i>	<i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i>	69
	ii) Amod <i>taluka</i>	<i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i>	53
	iii) Broach <i>taluka</i>	<i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i>	111
	iv) Jambusar <i>taluka</i>	<i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i>	87
v) Ankleshwar <i>taluka</i> / Hansot <i>Peta mahal</i>	<i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i> / <i>Mahalkari</i>	105 -	

	(b) Surat i) Olpad taluka ii) Chorasi taluka iii) Mandvi taluka iv) Bardoli taluka including <i>peta mahal</i> Valod v) Chikhli taluka vi) Jalalpur taluka vii) Bular taluka viii) Pardi taluka (c) Dang i) Amala Dang ii) Gadhvi Dang iii) Pimpri Dang iv) Wasuma Dang v) Deher Dang vi) Avchar vii) Chinchli viii) Palasvihir ix) Pimpladevi x) Kirli xi) Shivbarimal	Collector <i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i> <i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i> <i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i> <i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i> <i>Mahalkari</i> <i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i> <i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i> <i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i> <i>Tahsildar/Mamlatdar</i> Divisional Forest Officer Chief Chief Chief Chief Chief <i>Naik</i> <i>Naik</i> <i>Naik</i> <i>Naik</i> <i>Naik</i> <i>Naik</i>	139 78 169 138 63 95 96 81 50 58 31 70 20 11 17 01 01 06 03
3.	Native States (a) Rajpipla i) Nandod ii) Panatha iii) Bhalod iv) Jhaghadia v) Rupnagar vi) Thava vii) Rajpipla (b) Dharampur (c) Bansda (d) Sachin	Political Agent, Rewakantha Agency Raja of Rajpipla of Rajput dynasty. Sub -divisions were administered by Commandant, <i>thamedar</i> , revenue officials, police and magistrate Political Agent of Surat Political Agent of Surat Political Agent of Surat	591 278 88 20

Source: GBP, Baroda, Vol. VII, Bombay, 1883, pp. 4 & 11; GBP, Surat and Broach, Vol. II, Bombay, 1877, pp. 2 & 337; GBP, Rewa Kantha and Surat States, Vol. VI, Bombay, 1880, pp. 2, 97 & 251; Administration Report on the Dharampur State, Surat, 1903, p. 31; IGI, Baroda, 1908, pp. 87 & 98. Jamabandi Settlement Report (JSR), Vakal Peta Mahal, Navsari Division, Baroda, 1912, pp. 1-2; JSR, Vajpur and Umarpada Petu mahals of the Navsari Division, Baroda, 1916, pp. 1-2 & 9 and GSG, Dang District, Ahmedabad, 1971, p. 155-57

III

The South Gujarat territory under examination during the nineteenth century evidenced two types of political administration: One was directly under the British rule and the other under that of the native rulers.⁸⁶ It was part of a long process that had started with the British conquest under East India Company when India was transformed into a subordinate colonial part of the British Empire. A Governor-General/Viceroy, who, though subordinate to the Secretary of State for India, was the supreme executive head in the Indian Territory. This territory was organized into various Presidencies headed by Governors or Lieutenant Governors and aided by Councils. Gujarat became an administrative zone which included the northern zone of Bombay Presidency that comprised large areas from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Sind (now in Pakistan) and even other parts of the Western and Central India along with Gujarat.⁸⁷ Directly administered area of British Gujarat was distinct from the Native States and composed of five districts viz. Ahmedabad, Kaira, Surat, Broach and Panch mahals with headquarters at Ahmedabad, Kaira, Surat, Broach and Godhara respectively. Surat and Broach districts formed the directly administered parts of the South Gujarat territory. The Dang forest territory was another territory under British control with distinctive administrative pattern. It remained under Political Agent of Khandesh of Bombay Presidency.^{87a} For administrative purposes the Presidency machinery was divided into Divisions, Districts, *Talukas (Mahals)* and village administrative units. Commissioners, Collectors, *Mamlatdars* and *Patels* headed these units respectively, each subordinate to the authority above. The

⁸⁶ The native states were organized and grouped into various agencies. They were classed as A, B, C, etc. according to their size and powers and were supervised through Residents, Political Agents and others. In Gujarat the native states were grouped into Agencies like the Rewa Kantha Agency, the Mahi Kantha Agency and others. *IGI*, Vol. IV, 1909, p. 89.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 16 & 46 and refer to W. W. Hunter, *Bombay, 1885-1890*, Bombay, 1892, pp. 22 & 29.

^{87a} Mr. J. R. Naylor's Opinion on the State of Dangs', *Report of the Commission on Dang Forest* in Annexure II of GSG, *Dang District*, Ahmedabad, 1971, pp. 149-51.

most important unit was the district.⁸⁸ The Native States, though ruled by native rulers, were under paramount supervision of the British control. The Native States were organized and grouped into various agencies. These were classed as A, B, C, etc. according to their size and powers and were supervised through Residents, Political Agents and others. In Gujarat, the Native States were grouped into Agencies like the Rewa Kantha Agency and the Mahi Kantha Agency.

During the nineteenth century, a drastic change took place in political administration, as the fragmented and multiple administrations were abolished and, finally, it was replaced by a uniform and unified administration. This revised administration was also a part of complex but uniform centralized administration tiering up from a village, *taluka*, district, presidency and all India levels to a still wider colonial imperial system. It would be pertinent to mention that the Native States (Baroda, Rajpipla, Bansda, Dharampur and Sachin) under consideration started following the administrative pattern of the directly administered area to a large extent by the late nineteenth century. The administrative machinery in the South Gujarat territory was based on the functional differentiation into various departments like the Revenue Department, the Police Department, the Judicial Department, the Public Health Department and the Excise Department. A discussion pertaining to each during the last quarter of the nineteenth century is offered in the forthcoming section.

Baroda State had a different status in comparison to other Native States. The State was in direct political relation with the Government of India. All the correspondences were carried out through the Resident located at Baroda.⁸⁹ The Maharaja being the supreme head had under his control an

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 48; Narmada Shankar Dave, *Gujarat Sarva Sangrah*, 1887, p. 385 and A. K. Nairne, *The Revenue Handbook*, 1872, pp. 33-35.

⁸⁹ IGI, *Baroda*, p. 40 and GBP, *Baroda*, Vol. VII, pp. 286-88.

executive council and was entitled to twenty-one gun salutes.⁹⁰ In State administration he was assisted by *Diwan* and other officials of revenue, finance, settlement, public works, medicine, education, police, jails, judiciary, military, records and palace departments.⁹¹ By 1877, the state remained divided into three *prants*, which were further expanded into four *prants*.⁹² The *prants* corresponded to the British districts. Each *prant* was divided into *talukas/mahals* besides a few sub-*taluka/peta mahal*. *Prant* remained under the control of *Subah/Collector*, who in turn was assisted by *naib-subah/ Deputy Collector*. *Taluka* was administered by *vahivataadar/tahsildar*. At the village level there was a village headman designated as *patel*.

The South Gujarat territory under examination is constituted by Tilakwada *peta mahal* and Sinor *taluka* of Baroda *prant*, Navsari, Gandevi, Mahuva, Vyara, Songarh, Velachha, Kamrej and Palsana *talukas*, Vajpur and Vakal *peta mahals* of Navsari *prant*.⁹³ The area covered by these *talukas* and *peta mahals* accounted for 1,345,920 acres in 1883, which increased to another 14,080 acres in 1908.⁹⁴ As far as land revenue administration and land assessment are concerned, each *prant* had a similar pattern. The earliest *Gazetteers, Settlement Reports* and *Administrative Reports* inform us that these *talukas* had both *khalsa* and alienated villages.⁹⁵ The cultivable lands were classified as *barkhali, nakari, varshasan, pasaita, inam, kasbati, vechania, gherania, rarvatia, mehvasi*, etc.⁹⁶ These lands evidenced the assessment and revenue collection patterns like *ryotwari*, revenue farming to *giras, bhagbatai, narvadari, ankadabandi*, etc.⁹⁷ Besides the land revenue the state levied excise, stamp, custom, income, municipality-tax,

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, and J. M. Mehta, 'Upper and Lower Chambers' in *Desi Praja*, January, 1934, pp. 6-7.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 40 - 42 and GBP, Baroda, Vol. VII, pp. 399 - 406.

⁹² GBP, Baroda, Vol. VII, Bombay 1883, p. 2.

⁹³ GBP, Baroda, Vol. VII, pp. 552, 558, 560, 569, 572, 574, 576, 579, 581 & 584 and IGI, Baroda, pp. 87 & 98 and also see JSR, Vajpur and Umarpada Peta mahals of the Navsari Division, Baroda, 1916, pp. 1-2 & 9.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 340 - 48.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 349 - 62.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

tax on salt, liquor, etc.⁹⁸ The *taluka* headquarter with population of 10,000 or more can generally be understood as an urban settlement or a town with a municipality.⁹⁹ The chief official was the Municipal Officer. In 1877, municipalities were established in all towns containing a population of 10,000 or more and grants were made by the State at the rate of 4 *annas* per head of population. These grants sufficed only for a limited attention i.e. conservancy, light, water, etc. Later, the grants were raised to 8 *annas* per head for all the towns, where the population was more than 6000 and 6 *annas* in other cases, where the population was less than 7000.

Broach district underwent numerous changes before the final administration was set up during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. These changes were in five stages:

1. From 1772 to 1783, when the Government of India tried to maintain claim and extend its territory.¹⁰⁰
2. From 1803 to 1830, when Bombay Presidency tried to give proper administrative management under Collector because of larger revenue shares in Broach district.¹⁰¹
3. From 1830 to 1841, when certain territorial adjustments were carried out and it was given a status of sub-Collectorate along with Surat under Principal Collectorate of Surat.¹⁰²
4. From 1843 to 1861, when both Broach and Surat were separated and again reunited in 1861.¹⁰³
5. From 1869-1875, when Broach existed as a separate district with five *talukas*—Jambusar, Amod, Wagra, Broach and Ankleshwar.¹⁰⁴

Since 1875, the administrative setup remained unaltered till the end of the nineteenth century.¹⁰⁵ For fiscal and other administrative purposes, the land

⁹⁸ JGI, Vol. VII, Baroda, pp. 44 - 50.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 49 - 50.

¹⁰⁰ Government Order (G. O.) dated 30th July 1776 in GBP, Broach and Surat, p. 478.

¹⁰¹ G. O. 14th & 24th June 1805 and Government Proclamation, dated 20th January 1805 and Regulation II of 1805 in *Ibid.*

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, p. 479.

¹⁰³ G. O. 25th October 1843 in *Ibid.*, p. 479.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

under Collector's charge was distributed among above-mentioned five *talukas*. Of these, two were generally entrusted to the Assistant Collector, two to the Deputy Collector and one to the Collector under direct control.¹⁰⁶ The officer designated as *Huzur* was in charge of the district's treasury.¹⁰⁷ The officials for the fiscal purposes in each *taluka* were designated as *mamlatdar*.¹⁰⁸ Ankleshwar *taluka* had Hansot as *peta mahal* under an officer designated as *mahalkari*.¹⁰⁹ The villages were placed under the village headmen/*patels*. The Broach district had some 753 Village Headmen for 410 villages. These Headmen were in charge of both revenue and police matters in most of the cases.¹¹⁰ *Talatis* and a number of servants assisted the Village Headman.¹¹¹ The servants were liable for both revenue and police duties. These generally belonged to the concerned villages from castes/communities like *Bhil*, *Koli*, *Talavia*, *Dher* and *Bhangi*.

The district had efficient judicial and police management system as well. It probably started taking shape since 1772 and by 1875 the district had efficient judicial and police management systems. There was a hierarchy in the system as far as existence of courts was concerned. Extreme care was taken to resolve civil and criminal cases through judges and magistrates.¹¹² Similarly, the police management also comprised of a well-organized setup. For example, the police *thanas* were under the charge of *thanedars*.¹¹³ There were arrangements of policing in both rural and urban settlements.¹¹⁴ Both the units had Head Constable, constable and other petty officials.

¹⁰⁶ See RSS of Bharuch, Amod, Wagra, Jambusar and Ankleshwar *talukas* published between 1901-1903.

¹⁰⁶ GBP, Broach and Surat, p. 479.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 480.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹¹ *Talati was the Village Accountant., Ibid.*

¹¹² *Ibid.*, pp. 498-503.

¹¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 505.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

Like Broach, Surat also evidenced numerous changes that have been registered in Table 4. The Collector mainly administered Surat and Broach districts. Based on this, one can conclude that the history of British administration of Surat district's land contained two main stages—the first from 1804 to 1817, when the land revenue was collected through a class of middlemen; and the second, from 1817 to 1875 when the land revenue had been directly collected by the *ryots*.¹¹⁵ In the first case, this middleman has been identified as *garasia* and their agent termed as *desai*.¹¹⁶ The *desai* acted as a *talukdar* as well as a *patel*.¹¹⁷ Surat district evidenced a unique pattern of land management under these officials during the period from 1800 to 1817. This was due to frequent practice of revenue farming and compulsions for continuous gains through the collection of land revenue.¹¹⁸ In the second stage, i.e. from 1817 to 1875, the land administration can be understood in three phases:

1. from 1817 to 1833, when the previous rates and methods continued;
2. from 1833 to 1863, when the rates from time to time were raised by district officers; and
3. from 1863 to 1876, when under the working of a special survey department, the lands of the district were remeasured and fresh rate of assessment was introduced.

During the above-mentioned period, the farming practice got gradually and effectively reduced.¹¹⁹ The *Revision Survey Settlement Reports* of each *taluka* published during 1901-03 suggests an increasing pattern in the discontinuity of revenue farming.¹²⁰ During the second and third quarter of the nineteenth century, the lands under Collector's charge were redistributed among eight

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 213.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 214-15.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 215.

¹¹⁸ See Mr. Morrison Report of 1812 and Mr. Elphinistone's Minute of 1821 in *Ibid.*, pp. 216-17.

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 219-26.

¹²⁰ See Appendix O in RSS, *Broach Taluka*, 1902, p. 25; RSS, *Jambusar Taluka*, 1903, p. 18; RSS, *Amod Taluka*, 1903, p. 18; RSS, *Vagra Taluka*, 1903, pp. 17-21; RSS, *Olpad Taluka*, 1896, p. 20; RSS, *Mandvi Taluka*, 1904, p. 21, RSS, *Jalalpur Taluka*, 1900, p. 23, RSS, *Chikhli Taluka*, 1899, p. 37; RSS, *Bardoli Taluka*, 1897, p. 26; RSS, *Chorasi Taluka*, 1897, p. 23; RSS, *Bulsar Taluka*, 1900, p. 24 and RSS, *Pardi Taluka*, 1904, p. 22.

talukas for fiscal and administrative purpose. Three of which were generally entrusted to the covenanted first assistant, three to the covenanted second assistant and two to the uncovenanted district's Deputy Collector. This uncovenanted assistant was also the *Huzur* i.e. the in-charge of district treasury. The above-mentioned official also took care of management of other administrative bodies like local funds and municipal committees. At the *taluka* level, the chief official was *talukadar/ mamlatdar* and *mahalkari* for *peta mahal*. The village headmen/*patels* looked after the village's revenue and police affairs. In these functions, *talatis* and village servants who belonged to castes/communities like *Bhil, Koli, Talavia, Dher* and *Bhangi*, etc. helped the village headmen/*patels*. Extreme care was taken in dispensing the judicial and police responsibilities. The system regarding this kind of administration had started taking shape since 1800.¹²¹ There were separate civil and criminal courts. In 1874, the district had some twenty-six magistrates to administer criminal justice.¹²² These magistrates belonged to three categories—honorary first, second and third classes.¹²³ At the village level, the *patels* took care of administering justice through fining and imprisoning by implementing the *Bombay Village Police Act VIII of 1867*.¹²⁴ The Superintendent of police, who was always a European,¹²⁵ carried out the police administration at the district level. Native officials assisted him.

Physically, Dang territory is distinct from other administrative units of the South Gujarat territory. It is an undulating country of hills and dales with the dense forests. During the period covered in the present study, it remained sparsely inhabited, and that too by tribal population mainly *Bhils*. The Dang territory consisted of fourteen or fifteen small groups identified as the Dangs

¹²¹ GBP, *Broach and Surat*, pp. 228-237.

¹²² *Ibid.*, p. 232.

¹²³ *Ibid.*, pp. 232-33.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 233.

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 236.

with an area of 1709.40 sq. kms.¹²⁶ During the first quarter of the nineteenth century, I found reference to Amala, Avchar, Chinchli, Derbhavati, Gudhe, Gadhvi, Jhari Gharkhadi, Kekat Kadupada, Kirli, Palasvihir, Pimpladevi, Pimpri, Shivbara, Vadhivan and Wasurna under *Bhil* Chiefs, when the Britishers established contacts with the Dangs.¹²⁷ These contacts were the outcome of wittiness and diplomatic skills of James Outram.¹²⁸ Gadhvi, Derbhavati, Amala and Wasurna were maintained by Raja and the Naiks controlled the rest.¹²⁹ Gadhvi chief was the principal Raja of the Dang territory. During the period 1818-1843, the control by the British was mainly through military pressures.¹³⁰ It followed expeditions by *Bhil* Corps for the suppression of rebellious chiefs. The main interest of Britishers in Dang was in the excellent timber available in plenty for the naval yard of Bombay. This forced them to enter into obtainment of forest leases. The period of lease lasted in two phases: one from 1842 to 1862;¹³¹ and second from 1862 to 1943. During the first phase, the British were able to manage loose control through the Political Agent of Khandesh.¹³² In 1852, the British government provided authority to *Bhil* Agent in Khandesh to control the petty chiefs, who were also in subordination to the Magistrate of the Province.¹³³ This magistrate was then the Officer of the Forest Department. During 1874-75, the charge was with Major Probyn, Superintendent of Police in Khandesh, who worked under the

¹²⁶ This area got increased to 295.26 sq kms in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Also See GSG, *Dang District*, Ahmedabad, 1971, p. 347.

¹²⁷ *Ibid.* and James Campbell, *GBP, Khandesh*, Vol. XII, 1880, pp. 597 & 603.

¹²⁸ Outram suppressed the Bhils raid and brought them under control through raising a *Bhil* Corps in Khandesh, GSG, *Dangs District*, p. 347.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 348.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*

¹³¹ For forest leases accounts in 1842 and 1862 see 'Forest Lease of 1842' and 'Forest Lease of 1862'; 'Mr. J. R. Naylor's Opinion on the status of Dangs', *Report of the Commission on Dang Forest*, in Annexure I & II of GSG, *Dang District*, Ahmedabad, 1971, pp. 139-41.

¹³² For status see *Ibid.*, 'Mr. J. R. Naylor's Opinion on the status of Dangs', *Report of the Commission on Dang Forest*, in Annexure VI, pp. 149-51.

¹³³ *Annual Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency for the Year 1861-62*, pp. 39-40 and *Ibid.*, p. 348.

Collector and Political Agent of Khandesh.¹³⁴ For larger control on Dang territory, the British Government in 1879 classified the Dang forests into reserved and protected categories.¹³⁵ This arrangement continued till 1902. On 1st January 1903, the Dang territory was transferred under Political Agent of Surat.¹³⁶

Rajpipla was a petty state under the Rewakantha Political Agent of Bombay Presidency.¹³⁷ Its area was 971,000 acres. Its 2/3 part had hilly and jungle tracts.¹³⁸ Statistical information regarding the state for the second half of the eighteenth and the first quarter of the nineteenth century is available in the *Memoir of J. P. Willoughby, Bombay Presidency Gazetteer and Administration Reports*. From these sources we can get an idea about its administration.¹³⁹ Willoughby informs about the existence of 19 *parganas* during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. It was ruled by the Raja of Rajpipla of Rajput dynasty.¹⁴⁰ In 1901, it is recorded as a native state.¹⁴¹ Its ruler had salute of 11 guns.¹⁴² The survey of the revenue records reveals that both the British and Gaekwads had their share in revenue of some of the *parganas*.¹⁴³ It also had its feudatories.¹⁴⁴ In the late nineteenth century, the State was divided into seven sub-divisions: Nandod, Panetha, Bhalod, Jhaghadia, Rupnagar, Thava and Rajpipla.¹⁴⁵ These sub-divisions were organized into four groups:¹⁴⁶

¹³⁴ *Annual Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency for the Year 1874-75*. See *Ibid.*, p. 349.

¹³⁵ *GSG, Dang District*, p. 349.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 350.

¹³⁷ For the history of Rajpipla State see *GBP, Rewakantha and Surat States*, pp. 99-110.

¹³⁸ *Administration Report on the Rajpipla State for the Year, 1902-03*, p. 3.

¹³⁹ J. P. Willoughby, *Memoir on the Rajpeepla State, Prepared in 1821*, SRBG, No. XXIII-New Series (NS), Bombay, 1856, pp. 263-296.

¹⁴⁰ *GBP, Rewakantha and Surat States*, pp. 101-104.

¹⁴¹ *GBP, Rewakantha and Surat States*, p. 110 and *Administration Report on the Rajpipla State for the Year, 1902-03*, p. 7.

¹⁴² *Administration Report on the Rajpipla State, for the Year, 1902-03*, p. 7.

¹⁴³ For the details of *pargana* revenue see appendix no, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII in J. P. Willoughby, *Memoir on the Rajpeepla State*, pp. 288-296.

¹⁴⁴ *Administration Report on the Rajpipla State for the Year, 1902-03*, p. 8.

¹⁴⁵ *GBP, Rewakantha and Surat States*, p. 97.

1. Narmada Sub-division: Nandod, Panetha, Bhalod and Jhaghadia having 125, 46, 20 and 81 villages respectively and Nandod had one town.
 2. West Sub-division*
 3. South Sub-division*
 4. Hilly Tract Sub-division*
- (2, 3 & 4 had mostly *Bhil* villages/ hamlets.)

These sub-divisions were administered under commandant, *thunadar*, revenue, police and magisterial officials. These sub-divisions were further reorganized and reduced to six: Nandod, Bhalod, Jhaghadia, Valia, Garudeshwar and Dediapada.¹⁴⁷ The details of the reorganized administration of the state can be comprehended from the *Administration Report of 1902-03*, which is registered here.¹⁴⁸ The administered land of Rajpipla state was divided into settled tract called *rasti* and the forest tract locally understood as *rani*. The *rasti* tract included the greater parts of Nandod, Bhalod, Jhaghadia and smaller parts of Valia and Garudeshwar *talukas* whereas the *Rani* tract covered the portions of the Nandod, Bhalod, Jhaghadia and greater parts of Valia and Garudeshwar *talukas*. The land assessment applicable to both was *Bighotia* and *halbandhi* respectively. However, the other land management system recorded at the end of the century was *Dajhia* and *Jhumta*.¹⁴⁹

Dharampur was a small state under the supervision of the Political Agent of Surat.¹⁵⁰ It was headed by the Maharana of Sisodia Rajput family and was assisted by his Councilors looking after various departments. Diwan was the chief official. The Dharampur chief exercised second-class powers,

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 97-98.

¹⁴⁷ *Administration Report on the Rajpipla State for the Year, 1902-03*, p. 12.

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 10-12.

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 11-12.

¹⁵⁰ *History and Administration of Dharampur State (Prant Rannagar), from 1262 to 1937*, Published by Mr. D. V. Saraiya, President State Council, Dharampur by special order of His highness Maharana Shri Vijyadevji, Maharana Saheb of Dharampur, 1937, pp. 30 - 31. For the histories of earlier period of Dharampur see pp. 20-30 of the same book when Dharampur territory underwent frequent changes due to struggle between Marathas and Portuguese before the third battle of Panipat and Treaty of Bassien.

tried his subjects for every class of offence and was entitled to a salute of nine guns.¹⁵¹ The State had an estimated area of about 5,12,000 acres. The entire cultivable land was surveyed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century (1885–1904).¹⁵² The State of Dharampur was divided into four *parganas* to serve the revenue collection purposes. Each *pargana* was under a revenue officer. These officers were called *thanedars*, who were under the *Naib Diwan* and under them had a number of *talatis* or village revenue officers. The *talatis* looked after the *sajja* or group of villages. The other official pertaining to justice was *Nyayadisha* and regarding policing was the Head Constable.¹⁵³

Bansda was a tributary state under the supervision of Surat Political Agent.¹⁵⁴ The Maharaja/Chief was a Solanki Rajput, who in turn was assisted by his Council. Diwan was the most important official. The Dharampur chief exercised second-class powers, tried his subjects for every class of offence and was entitled to a salute of nine guns.¹⁵⁵ The Bansda ruler paid a yearly tribute of Rs. 7350 and maintained an armed force of 153 men during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. During 1833–1852, when it was not under the British rule, the land management was through lease of villages to *ijaradars* and, later on, during the period 1876 to 1882 when it came under British management, the direct settlement with the cultivators/*raiyats* was introduced. It had an estimated surveyed area of about 1,53,600 acres during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.¹⁵⁶ The state had 88 villages out of which seven were alienated. Each village was under the village headman and every village had a village establishment with accountants and other assisting officials.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵¹ GBP, *Rewakantha and Surat States*, p. 257.

¹⁵² *History and Administration of Dharampur State*, pp. 32-33.

¹⁵³ GBP, *Rewakantha and Surat States*, p. 257.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 245.

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 251.

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 252.

Sachin was an estate of twenty villages, scattered through the Chorasi and Jalalpur sub-divisions of Surat.¹⁵⁸ Sidi Nawab ruled it.¹⁵⁹ The Nawab was entitled to the salute of nine guns and had the same status as that of Dharampur and Bansda chiefs. It remained under British management since the middle of the nineteenth century and was administered with the help of an assistant to the Political Agent of Surat.¹⁶⁰ The land of the state was managed through *khatabandi* system. In theory, the land's possession depended on Nawab's pleasure but in practice a holder was not ousted unless he failed to pay the assessment.¹⁶¹ The highest authority to administer justice was the Nawab. The other officials were the *Diwan*, *Tahsildar*, *Village-Headman*, *Havaldar*, Constables, etc.¹⁶²

IV

Geographically speaking, Gujarat can be divided into four parts—the Rann, the Kutch Peninsula, the Peninsular Gujarat/Kathiawar and the Gujarat Plains.¹⁶³ The South Gujarat sub-region lies between 20° 15' and 22°05' N latitudes and between 72° 05' and 74° 04' E longitudes.¹⁶⁴ The South Gujarat territory under investigation lies south of the point, where river Mahi falls into the Arabian Sea. This point is popularly known as Dabka.¹⁶⁵ The selection of this point lies in the technicalities of the disciplines of Geography and History and also in the lack of consensus regarding the understanding of the South Gujarat territory during the nineteenth century. The earlier discussion in the historical-geographical section establishes the South Gujarat territory to be the part of the plains of the 'Proper Gujarat Region'. The Gujarat plain developed due to the deposition of the Sabarmati, the Mahi, the Narmada and the Tapti that belong to recent alluvium. In case of South Gujarat, the plain is formed

¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 261.

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 259 - 261.

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 261.

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶² *Ibid.*, pp. 262-63.

¹⁶³ R. L. Singh (Ed.), *India: A Regional Geography*, pp. 882-83.

¹⁶⁴ *GBP, Surat and Broach*, pp. 1 & 337.

¹⁶⁵ *GSG, Vadodara District, Ahmedabad*, 1979, pp. 803-04.

by the deposition of the river Mahi, Narmada and Tapti and have variation in its formation due to Rajpipla hills, which are the detached portions of the trap plateau.¹⁶⁶ The nature of plains in South Gujarat can be understood in the following words of C. D. Deshpande.

.... In general, the plain forms an arc of lowlands backed by the hill chains of Central India. East of the Palanpur Gap, this upland backbone is almost continuous as far as the Narmada rift. In the southern region, it is pierced by the rifts of Narmada and Tapti. In addition to the lowland characters of Gujarat region, its second feature of importance is its orientation to the Arabian Sea through the Gulf of Cambay.¹⁶⁷

An attempt is made here to understand the landscape, drainage, soil, climate, vegetation, fauna, population and linguistic pattern of South Gujarat territory with reference to the administrative divisions and geographical sub-divisions formed during the nineteenth century (see Map III). The geographical sub-divisions are as follows:

- a) Baroda Plain¹⁶⁸ (present district of Vadodara)
- b) Broach Plain¹⁶⁹ (present districts of Bharuch and Narmada)
- c) Surat Plain¹⁷⁰ (present district of Surat)
- d) Rajpipla Hills¹⁷¹ (present district of Narmada)
- e) Dang Hills¹⁷² (present district of Dang)

Baroda plain forms a part of the Gujarat plain. The eastern portion of the Baroda plain comprised ChhotaUdepur, Jabugam and Nasvadi *taluka*.¹⁷³ Except Nasvadi *taluka*, which is hilly the rest of the Baroda plain territory is a level plain and undulating. The Narmada and Mahi are the major rivers of this sub- region. In this way, it lies between the Mahi-Narmada doab and is popular for black/*kali* soil, which is suitable for production of cotton. This doab covers the Baroda plain that is drained by tributaries of the Narmada,

¹⁶⁶ D. N. Wadia, *Geology of India*, London, 1955, p. 195 and K. R. Dikshit, *Geography of Gujarat*, p. 10.

¹⁶⁷ K. R. Dikshit, *Geography of Gujarat*, p. 193.

¹⁶⁸ GSG, *Vadodara District*, p. 6.

¹⁶⁹ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, pp. 338-39.

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 2-3.

¹⁷¹ *Administration Report on the Rajpipla State* for the year, 1902 - 03, p. 2.

¹⁷² GSG, *Dang District*, Ahmedabad, 1971, pp. 9-10.

¹⁷³ These places are located in present Vadodara district.

Mahi and Dhadhar. The River Vishvamitri¹⁷⁴ is a dividing line between the black soil and red loam. Both the regions are very fertile, but when the black soil area is not brought to cultivation, it gives a deserted look whereas the red loam area is generally cultivated throughout the year. The area that lies in northern part of South Gujarat territory i.e. between Dabhoi and Sankheda *taluka* has the sandy soil and has mangroves in plenty. The Baroda plain has some isolated hills in certain parts, but in general consists of an unbroken landscape. The northern part of Baroda plain formerly a part of the Baroda State is sandier, where the result is an enormous amount of dissection and gullifying carried on by the Dhadhar and its tributaries, all of which are underfit in their channels. The western part of the doab is lowland, often faced with problems of drainage. It has soils that share the properties of both the sandy loam of Baroda plains on the north and the black cotton soil of the Narmada valley on the south. In fact during the nineteenth century as well as afterwards, this area had remained ill drained, faced scarcity of fresh water and low yield. During the nineteenth century, there are records that the Broach plain was alluvial.¹⁷⁵ This plain covered almost eighty-seven kms in length from north to south and sloped gently westward to the shore of the Gulf of Cambay.¹⁷⁶ Breadth wise the Broach plain varies from forty-nine kms in the north to over forty kms.¹⁷⁷ Further, it narrows down again from this point till the Kim River to forty kms in the southern direction.¹⁷⁸ The eastern boundary is not more than thirty-two kms from the sea.¹⁷⁹ Geographically, two rivers—the Dhadhar and the Narmada divide the plains into three

¹⁷⁴ GBP, *Baroda*, pp. 14 -15.

¹⁷⁵ For the first quarter of nineteenth century description see Monier Williams, *Memoir on the Zilla of Baroche*, (reprint), Bombay, 1852, pp. 1-15. It apprises us about the Broach plain in terms of description to each *pargana* located in Broach plain within the limits of Broach Collectorate.

¹⁷⁶ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 338.

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

sections. It thus acquires almost peninsular form.¹⁸⁰ The most northerly lies between the lines of the Mahi and Dhadhar rivers. It contains the lands of Jambusar *taluka*. The central and largest section is south of the Dhadhar and north of the Narmada. It includes the land of the *talukas* of Amod, Wagra and Broach. The southern portion lies between the Narmada and the Kim and it covers the Ankleshwar *taluka*. As far as the surface appearance of Broach plain is concerned, it can be divided into three belts¹⁸¹ and these run along the whole north and south parallel to the line of the Gulf of Cambay. These three belts are narrow strips of sand on the coast followed by a low salt waste and, finally, by a rich cultivated plain. The rich cultivated plain lies behind the salt lands beyond the reach of the tidal waters. These three belts had been of immense help in terms of agricultural produce, as pastures for the herds of deer and flock of sheep during the contemporary period.¹⁸² The cultivated plain had been rich in wheat production and growing of fruits on one hand¹⁸³ and presence of abundant domesticating animals¹⁸⁴ on the other along with clusters of villages.¹⁸⁵ The villages of Broach plain find references as prosperous and nicely built.¹⁸⁶ The Surat plain finds reference as alluvial in nature. It stretches from north to south for about one hundred twenty nine kms, with a gradual fall, sloping from the high lands to the east and westward touching the shores of the Arabian Sea. The extent of the plain from east to west is again 129 kms along the delta of the Tapti in the north. Similarly, the line of coast bends inwards and reduces the plain in the extreme south. Here, the breadth recorded is little more than 24 kms.¹⁸⁷ The Surat plain, if taken as

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸² *Ibid.*

¹⁸³ *Memoir on the Zilla of Baroche*, (reprint), Bombay, 1852, pp. 17-22

¹⁸⁴ *GBP, Surat and Broach*, pp. 338-39.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 2-3.

a whole, gives impression as if rising grounds break it. This characteristic gives the Surat plain's land a unique nature that is discussed below:¹⁸⁸

.... The lands of the district vary from the rich level stretches of alluvial soil in the northwest, to the poorer tracts in the south-east, furrowed in some places by the channels of quick flowing streams and in others raised into barren and rocky uplands. Again especially in the northern parts of the district, the aspect of the plain varies in accordance with its distance from north to south, parallel to the line of the coast nearest the sea is a barren stretch of sand-drift and salt marsh, behind that a rich highly cultivated plain, further east poorer and more open land rising gradually into a wild tract of hill forest.

Rajpipla hills form the eastern frontiers of the South Gujarat sub-region. This eastern frontier marches with Khandesh-Mehvas along the Maharashtra-Gujarat border.^{189*} The Rajpipla hills are the part of Satpuda Mountain. From Khandesh (present Dhule district, Maharashtra)¹⁹⁰, Satpuda Mountain¹⁹¹ runs into spurs of hills in Rajpipla territory (presently located in Narmada district), known as the central and the southern ranges of the Rajpipla hills. The central ranges are the most important of the two, and with depression here and there as well as many ramifications particularly in the eastern part run right down the middle of the Rajpipla territory and as far west as the village of Ratanpur in the Jhaghadia *taluka*.¹⁹² The southern range consists mostly of insignificant hills along a portion of the southern frontiers of the state. In the north of this part, the only hilly tract is a portion of the Garudeshwar *taluka*.¹⁹³ The hills in this part also are a continuation of the Khandesh Satpudas. The south-eastern part of South Gujarat sub-region, which is known as Dang district, starts from the rugged mountain chains of the Sahyadri in the east and descends on the western side extending to the edge of the plains of Gujarat state.¹⁹⁴ It is essentially a forest region, which has provided enormous forest produce that

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁹ *Administration Report on the Rajpipla State, 1902-03, p. 2 & fn. 2*

¹⁹⁰ *GBP, Khandesh, Vol. XII, Bombay, 1880, p. 1.*

¹⁹¹ The Satpuda's natural region exists between the central India and Khandesh. This highland belt separates Western India from Malwa. See *Ibid*, pp. 27,75, 148-49 & 153.

¹⁹² Jhaghadia *taluka* is located in Bharuch district.

¹⁹³ Garudeshwar *taluka* is located in Narmada district.

¹⁹⁴ *GSG, Dang District, Ahmedabad, 1971, p. 9.*



generated income for those who stayed on the fringes of forest-villages or transacted in the middle size and small size urban settlements.¹⁹⁵ The whole of the tract is hilly. However, except for the few high hills in the east and south it is a mass of flat-topped low hills. There is no main ridge in the area. Beginning on the east with a chain of rugged mountains running up to about 1,100 meters the spurs of the Sahyadri Mountain¹⁹⁶ descend to the edge of the Gujarat plains on the west by a series of plateaus and slopes to the lowest level of 105 meters near Bheskatri in Dang district. Dangs form the outer edge of the Sahyadri and, by far, most of the area has rugged hilly terrain. The tract varies in elevation from 105 meters near Bheskatri, to 1,137 meters above mean sea level on the crest of Gaolan hill on the Khandesh border in the Pipalaidevi range.¹⁹⁷ On the whole, the area in Dangs lies between elevations of 300 to 700 meters above mean sea level.¹⁹⁸ Patches of plain ground of small size are interspersed with hilly terrain making this tract a very undulating rolling country. The area is distinctly divided into four main valleys of the Gira, the Purna, the Khapri and the Ambika river streams.¹⁹⁹ The tributaries of these rivers cut deeply into intervening country north and south and form an irregular series of ravines and parallel ridges. The latter sometimes were sharp and steep, which often formed the extensive plateau.²⁰⁰

In this way, the survey of landscape of both plain and hills suggests uniqueness for the South Gujarat sub-region that supported extensive agrarian activity, horticulture and husbandry occupations on one hand and sustained enormous non-agrarian production and internal and external trade and commerce activity on the other.

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁶ In the extreme south of Gujarat we trace the hills of the Sahyadri Mountain stretching towards Gujarat covering about 100 miles of its territories. The hills in Gujarat are thickly covered with groves of trees. These served the great purpose of forest produce in South Gujarat during nineteenth century. *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

The South Gujarat sub-region is very rich in terms of natural drainage²⁰¹ and has a distinct pattern. The natural drainage includes primary, secondary and tertiary rivers, river streams and other minor water bodies. It is important to remember that the region receives annual rainfall, which fulfills the needs of water bodies like rivers, river streams, lakes, ponds, etc. In this way, the natural drainage through rivers remained annual, unlike the Himalayan drainage system, which is perennial. As stated earlier, the South Gujarat sub-region is bordered by the Arabian Sea in the west and the Mahi, the Narmada and the Tapti are the primary rivers that watered the inland territory during the contemporary times. The Narmada and Tapti have the large catchment area that not only covers the South Gujarat territory but also parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The secondary rivers, which flow in the sub-region, are the rivers like Dhadhar, Vishvamitri, Kim, Mindhola, Ambika, Auranga, Par, Kolak and Damanganga whereas the rivers like Orsang, Karjan, Wareli, Purna, Waghur, Girina, Bori, Panjhra and Shiva are the major tertiary streams along with those like the Kaveri, Amravati, Bhuki, Suki, Aner, Arunawati, Gomai, Sina and Waler as minor tertiary streams. These rivers and river streams serve the main purpose of the agricultural activity in the monsoon fed region. Besides the primary and secondary rivers and river streams, the sub-region also traces the existence of creeks, backwaters and minor creeks. These water bodies are however not brought to use for intensive agricultural purposes. Instead, these rivers help in the maintenance of the ecological system of the sub-region and have served trade purposes as these remained navigable. Besides the natural drainage, we find references to digging of wells and to efforts for the making of canals in the region under study.

²⁰¹ GBP, *Surat and Brouch*, pp. 15 & 339; R. L. Singh, (Ed.), *India: A Regional Geography*, pp. 883-84; K. R. Dikshit, *Geography of Gujarat*, pp. 27-28 and *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, Vol. I, Gandhinagar, 1982, pp. 9-10.

A detailed discussion regarding the natural and artificial drainage for the period covered in this study is offered here.

The Mahi,²⁰² identified as Mophis of Ptolemy, Mais of the *Periplus of the Erythrean Sea* and Mahindri of Arab travelers, is the major river of Western India.²⁰³ It rises in the Amjhera district of the nineteenth century Scindhia State of Gwalior (present Madhya Pradesh). Our sources reveal that the Mahi watered Central India Agency.²⁰⁴ The total course traversed by it comprise between 483 to 563 kms whereas the drainage area lies between 3,899 and 4,418 sq kms.²⁰⁵ During the nineteenth century it traversed through the following Native States—Gwalior, Dhar, Jhabua, Ratlam and Sailana and the Rajputana territory. The *Imperial Gazetteer of India- Baroda* records its course in the Rajputana territory (present Rajasthan) before joining Central and South Gujarat sub-regions in the following words:²⁰⁶

.... It then enters Rajputana and flows in a northerly direction with a somewhat tortuous course, intersecting the eastern half of Banswara state, till it reaches the Udaipur frontier, where it is soon turned by the Mewar hills to the southwest, and for the rest of its course in Rajputana it forms the boundary between the states of Dungarpur and Banswara.

In the Central Gujarat sub-region, it flowed through the lands of Mahi Kantha and Rewa Kantha Native States, the British territory under Bombay Presidency (Districts Kaira on the right of Panch mahals) and the Gaekwad State of Baroda.²⁰⁷ Its entry in the South Gujarat can be traced from the east near the Village Dehvan in Bharuch Collectorate (i.e., approximately 48 kms. along the seacoast), where it forms an estuary. The last 70 kms of the river carry the tidal influences, which have broadened the estuary. It cascades to join the Arabeian Sea in the west at a point popular by name of village Dabka.

²⁰² *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat, Resource Profile*, Vol. I, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, 1982, pp. 9-13 and see Map no. 4.

²⁰³ IGI, *Baroda*, p. 61 and *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, Vol. I, p. 10.

²⁰⁴ B. H. Baden Powell, *The Land Systems of British India*, vol. II, pt. III, Delhi, 1947, pp. 370-71.

²⁰⁵ IGI, *Baroda*, p. 61 and *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, Vol. I, p. 10.

²⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 62.

²⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

In its lower parts, it is known as Mahisagar. Heavily gullied sand banks and numerous ravines characterize this part of the Mahi. This portion of land had faced regular floods during the period covered under study²⁰⁸ and many a time proved harmful to the agrarian activity in the nearby villages of the seacoast.

Narmada²⁰⁹ also known as Rewa originates in the hills of Amarkantak in the Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh before entering Gujarat.²¹⁰ Because of this name, the area that is watered by it and its tributaries is known as Rewakantha. It traversed through the hill ranges of Satpuda and Vindhya and finally falls into the Gulf of Cambay near Bharuch. Its course across Gujarat was about 805 kms, before falling into the Gulf of Cambay near Bharuch. The course of Narmada can be understood in five stages.²¹¹ These five stages are expressed in the following words:

...the first, about two hundred miles in length from its rise in the hill of Amarkantak to its fall, about nine miles below Jubbulpore, into the deep cut channel of the marble rocks; the second, a great basin, supposed at one time to have been a lake, stretching from Jubbulpore to the town of Handia, a distance of nearly two hundred miles; the third, about 180 miles, is from Handia to Haranfāl, where the river begins to force its way from the table-land of Malwa to the level of the Gujarat plain; the fourth eighty miles, from Haranfāl to Makrai, the scene of last rapid; and the fifth, a passage of 100 miles across Gujarat to the Gulf of Cambay.

It is in the fifth stage that the South Gujarat territory is watered by it. Its course during this stage is described as follows:²¹²

.... Below Makrai the Narbada flows westward to the Gulf of Cambay. For the first twenty or thirty miles the river separated the Baroda territory on the right from the state of Rajpipla on the left, and then, for the rest of its course, a distance, including windings, of about seventy miles, it passes through the lands of the district of Broach. Throughout this section of its course the Narbada moves through a rich, flat plain, between high trough banks of hardened mud and sand... where it first enters the district to a mile near the town of Broach. Below Broach it slowly widens into an estuary... To the east and west of the city of Broach the northern bank of the river is

²⁰⁸ GBP, *Kaira and Panch Mahals*, Vol. III, Bombay, 1879, pp. 5-6.

²⁰⁹ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, pp. 340 - 49.

²¹⁰ *Transactions of Bombay Geological Society*, Vol. XIX, p. 17.

²¹¹ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, Vol. II, Bombay, 1877, pp. 340-41.

²¹² *Ibid*, pp. 341- 42; *Survey Report of the Broach Sub-division*, p. 98; *Transactions of Bombay Geological Society*, XX, p. II and SRBG, *New Series*, IX, p. 56.

high and precipitous, its seamed and roughened surface gradually wearing away by the action of the waters. This bank has been found to consist of a stratum of black earth, three to four feet deep; under this, mixed with pieces of nodular limestone, alternate layers of sand and clay, varying in thickness from two to eight feet withstand the action of floods. The south bank is low and shelving, raised about twenty-one feet above the fair-weather level of the river. The upper stratum of this bank consists of an alluvial deposit of earth and sand, in some part cultivated, in others covered with low brushwood extending for a distance of more than a mile southwards to a former channel of the river, when the bank rises abruptly.

The Narmada has numerous secondary and tertiary tributaries, which are as follows:²¹³ Orsang joins Narmada on the right at Vyas; another tributary Karjan on the left bank joins Narmada at Rundh; the Narmada, Orsang and Karjan form a "Triveni Sangam."²¹⁴ Lower down course, between Bharuch and Shuklateerth, three more tributaries, namely, the Kaveri, the Amravati and the Bhuki join the Narmada River. Another tributary of Narmada is Dhadhar, which rises from Shivrajpur hills and is joined by Vishvamitri at Pirmgatwada.

Within the limits of the banks of the river Narmada are several tracts of land raised above the level of the bed, which in times of floods become islands. Among some of the popular islands²¹⁵ are Sukaltirth, Kabirwad, Alia Bet and Kadavia. These islands were very useful during the nineteenth century. For instance, when in 1819, Mr. Newport surveyed this part; he found these islands producing good quality fodder for cattle called *hal* and also being used by poorer sections of society as flour for eating purpose.²¹⁶

The Tapti²¹⁷ or Tapi originates from a sacred reservoir in the town of Multai, in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh. From Madhya Pradesh in Central India towards westward in Gujarat, the river traverses some 724 kms. This course can be divided into four main sections: the first, heads towards the

²¹³ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 342

²¹⁴ *Ibid.* and *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, Vol. I, p. 9.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 343.

²¹⁶ Mr. Newport's *Survey Remark Book* in GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 343 and *Stavorinus' Voyages*, Vol. III, p. 108.

²¹⁷ *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, Vol. I, p. 9.

west of great Satpuda plateau covering 241 kms; the second, across Khandesh covering 290 kms; the third, covers 80 kms in the low land of Gujarat; and, the fourth section is across the alluvial plain of Surat, where it covers some 113 kms. A description of the fourth section²¹⁸ is offered here, which enhances our understanding of the Tapi drainage in the South Gujarat territory:

... On leaving the Dang forest the Tapi enters on its last stage, the passage of fifty miles across the Surat plain to the sea. For the first forty miles the river with some windings runs, on the whole north-west; ... Below Surat the course of the river continues westward till, as they near the sea, its water takes a final bend to the south. These seventy miles of the Tapi's course are naturally divided into two parts, above and below the limit of the tidal wave. Of these the upper or fresh-water section includes about forty miles, and the lower or tidal section but little more than thirty... In the upper part, the river passes through the less cultivated tract in the east of the Surat plain. And it is only when the village of Waghecha is passed twenty-two miles west of the point where it enters the district that the last spur of the Rajpipla hills is left behind... During almost the whole of its course of thirty-two miles as a tidal river, the Tapi passes through the rich highly cultivated plain that forms the central part of the district of Surat. Only for a few miles before it falls into the sea are the lands through which the river passes barren and liable to be submerged by the tides. Below Palri the course of the river stretches for about eight miles towards the southwest; then near the village of Waracha, where the tides daily ebb and flow, it winds westwards for about two miles. Here, a little above the village of Amroli, the limit of ordinary navigation, it strikes for three miles sharply to the north-west till, at Wariav, the lowest ford in the course of the river, ... During this section of its course the banks have little of the steep and rough character they bear further up the stream. Below the limit of the tide, as the current becomes weaker, the land on either side of the raised above the level of the stream that, for about two miles between the village of Waracha and Fulpara, in time of flood the river, overtopping the left bank, and in a great body of water rushing westwards, has more than once flooded the city of Surat. Further down the stream at the more abrupt turnings, as on the right bank at Rander, and at Surat about two miles further down on the left bank, the outer edge is heaped up by the force of the current into a high steep cliff. But below Rander the right bank soon drops again, and continues low and shelving fifteen miles to the sea.... Below the limit of the tide, the bed of the river is covered by a layer of mud. This deposit varies from a few inches, where the tide runs strong, to as much as four feet in the still bends of the river. Opposite the city of Surat, at Umra, two miles, and at Magdala, four miles, further to the west, the sand washed down in times of flood has formed banks and shoals.... Borings made in 1851 showed that the beds of sand and gravel in the channel of the river were firm and unyielding; the stratum of sand without gravel was compact, and the clay in all cases stiff.

One of the major tributaries of the Tapi is Wareli. This stream rises in the western spurs of the Rajpipla hills. It flows towards the south-west across

²¹⁸ GBP, *Surat and Brouch*, pp. 7-8.

the Mandvi *taluka*.²¹⁹ Wareli joins the Tapi after traversing 24 kms on the right bank at the village of Piparia, which is located 64 kms from the seacoast. Like the Narmada, the Tapi also forms islands in its bed. These islands can be traced at the Waghecha rapids i.e., about 64 kms from its mouth. Like other islands in the South Gujarat territory, these islands are also prone to floods and are covered with trees as well as with grass and bushes. The chief island or bet of Tapi lies in a bend of the right bank of the river about eight kms below the city of Surat.²²⁰

Mindhola rises in the slopes of the high lands between Surat and Khandesh. It flows westward across the district of Surat and falls into the sea about 8 kms south of the Tapi. Its course from the point of origin till Surat can be understood through the study of three sections: the first passes through Bardoli *taluka*; the second, through the central belt of Baroda territory of the Gaekwads; and, the third between the villages of the native state of Sachin and some of the southern parts of the Chorasi *taluka* on the right and Baroda territory on the left.

Purna²²¹ is another important river stream of the Surat Collectorate. It traverses in Surat district. It falls into the sea 16 kms south of Mindhola River. It enters the Surat territory in two streams near the southeast corner of the Bardoli *taluka*. Its course in Surat territory can be divided into two sections— one above and the other below the limit of the tide. In the upper part of its course, the Purna passes for some distance over beds and ridges of rock. During the nineteenth century, its water was used for irrigation. *Bombay Presidency Gazetteer* records the raising of water in buckets poised at the end of a long lever called dhekudi/dhekli.²²²

²¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

²²⁰ *Ibid.*

²²¹ See Map no. 4 in *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, Vol. I, p. 13.

²²² *GBP, Surat and Broach*, p. 26.

The Ambika²²³ flows parallel to south of Purna. It follows the winding course towards the southwest and falls into the sea. It rises in the Bansda hills. In order to reach the South Gujarat territory, it passes through Baroda territory in two separate channels and later enters the Bombay Presidency limits i.e. in Chikli and Jalalpur *taluka* of Surat Collectorate.²²⁴ On its route towards the sea, the river streams of Kaveri and Kharera join it in the south of this junction where the bed of the river Ambika widens out into a broad estuary stretching westwards to the sea. The river stream Kaveri originates in the Bansda territory whereas Kharera rises in the Dharampur hills. The Kaveri waters Chikli *taluka* and Kharera waters Chikli as well as Bulsar *taluka* before falling into the estuary of the river Ambika.

The Auranga/Orang²²⁵ rises in the Dharampur hills and is located south of the Ambika. It traverses in the Bulsar *taluka* of Surat Collectorate.²²⁶ It is a tidal river stream like any other in the south Gujarat territory. The only tributary of the Auranga recorded in the nineteenth century is Wanki, which, after a rocky and winding course, falls into the Auranga within eight hundred meters.²²⁷

The Par²²⁸ is another tidal river stream and it flows in the northwestern direction in the Surat Collectorate. Its northwestern course divided Bulsar *taluka* on the north from Pardi *taluka* in the south. It also falls into the sea to the south of Auranga river stream. It generally remained a light volume flowing stream, however, during the monsoon season heavy floods occurred.

Kolak²²⁹ traversed in Pardi *taluka* flowing towards the west. It lies in the south of the Par and falls into the sea. The Kolak remained the bordering

²²³ See Map no. 4 in *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, Vol. I, p. 13.

²²⁴ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 27.

²²⁵ See Map no. 4 in *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, Vol. I, p. 13.

²²⁶ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 27.

²²⁷ *Ibid.*

²²⁸ See Map no. 4 in *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, Vol. I, p. 13.

²²⁹ *Ibid.*

line between the British territory and Portuguese territory (Daman) in the nineteenth century.²³⁰ It has been famous for its oyster beds.²³¹

The Damanganga²³² is the southern most limit of the South Gujarat territory. It flows for about 5 kms towards the northwest and enters the sea 4 kms south of the Kolak. It waters the Bulsar *taluka* and later enters the Portuguese/Daman territory. It is also a tidal river stream.

Besides these rivers near the coast, there are many smaller streams. These streams are little more than channels for the waters of the tide. They form creeks²³³ and give birth to small harbors. The main creeks are: Sina creek, Tena creek and Bhagwa harbour in the Olpad *taluka*;²³⁴ Kanai creek in Jalalpur *taluka*;²³⁵ Kothal creek in Bulsar *taluka*²³⁶ of Surat district; Wand creek in Ankleshwar *taluka*;²³⁷ and, Badalpur creek (salt water creek) in Amod *taluka*²³⁸ of Broach district. The minor creeks²³⁹ were traced in Broach district during the nineteenth century. These are located between villages of Bodka and Tanchha, Mesral and Ikhar of Amod *taluka*; Diadra and Derol near village Sitpan, at Kantharia, Tavra and Karod in Broach *taluka* and near the villages of Diwa, Pungam and Sajod in Ankleshwar *taluka* of Broach district.²⁴⁰ These minor creeks had formed many roadsteads like Sarod, Kavi, Tankari, Sajod,

²³⁰ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 28.

²³¹ *Ibid.*

²³² See Map no. 4 in *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, Vol. I, p. 13.

²³³ A narrow recess or inlet in the coast-line of the sea, or the tidal estuary of a river, an armlet of the sea which runs inland in a comparatively narrow channel and offers facilities for harbouring and unloading smaller ship. Gujarat is known as a province of Shopkeepers, because rivers gifted with many creeks and hence with roadsteads and small harbour. Dudley Stamp & Andrey W. Clark (Eds.), *A Glossary of Geographical Terms*, London, 1961, (third edition 1979) p. 143.

²³⁴ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 28.

²³⁵ *Ibid.*

²³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

²³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 351.

²³⁸ *Ibid.*

²³⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁰ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 351.

Hansot, Bhagwa, Maroli, Navsari, Matwad and Dandi.²⁴¹ The South Gujarat coast also traces the salt- water creeks or back- waters. The most important are the Mota, Bhukhi and Wand located in Broach district.²⁴² During the monsoon season these become formidable to be crossed and generally water carts are used.

There is no mention of natural lakes in South Gujarat. Instead, there are well-supplied reservoirs. These reservoirs can be traced in Surat district of the nineteenth century. These reservoirs are both large and small. The area covered by these reservoirs has been 10,838 *acres*.²⁴³ All these reservoirs were brought to use for irrigation purposes except the reservoir at Palan, which was 153 *acre* in extent²⁴⁴ and the smaller ones, which were used for masonry purposes²⁴⁵ in the British district of Broach.

The soil is the ultimate source of production that requires water and warmth to be assured for the growth of plant life. Many a times due to monsoon failure, the rivers cannot meet the requirements of the region. Besides this difficulty, the region faced the shortage of drinking water and hence the need of artificial water body became essential. The construction of lakes, tanks and ponds for storing fresh water for irrigation and other purposes was carried throughout nineteenth century in South Gujarat. We find existence of small tanks near every important village.²⁴⁶ James Forbes, who resided at Dabohi near Baroda in 1777-78, stated that there was generally a tank in each large village. They were enclosed with strong masonry, and

²⁴¹ A. B. Trivedi, *Wealth of Gujarat*, Bombay, 1943, p. 345.

²⁴² GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 350-51.

²⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

²⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁶ Total number of tanks in the Baroda State by 1932 comes to 7,410. Our portion of South Gujarat territory in the Baroda State was located in Navsari *Prant* and marginally in Baroda *Prant*. This amounts to some 750 tanks. *Geography of the Baroda State*, (Vadodara Rajyani Bhugol), Baroda State Education Departments Publication, 1940; A. B. Trivedi, *Wealth of Gujarat*, Bombay, 1943, pp. 7-8.

banyan, mango and tamarind trees adorned their banks.²⁴⁷ Similarly, J. Cruikshank referred to a reservoir near Sanand in Ahmedabad district in 1825 that was repaired from the amount of land tax.²⁴⁸ The mention of these tanks can be traced in *Survey Settlement Reports* of each *taluka* under investigation²⁴⁹ and *Administration Reports* of Baroda State and the native states of Dharampur, Bansda, Sachin and Rajpipla as well.²⁵⁰

Not much can be stated regarding the nineteenth century underground water table as our sources are silent on it and the ground water investigation in Gujarat State started only in 1918.²⁵¹ The investigation in the alluvial tract was further delayed. There are records related to it since the second quarter of the twentieth century i.e. 1939 and afterwards. It doesn't mean that the area under study did not benefit or did not have structures whose resource was ground water. Gujarat records maximum number of wells (step-wells, *pucca* wells and *kachcha* wells) and tanks, which were used for irrigation and drinking purposes.²⁵² During the nineteenth century, the South Gujarat territory also became acquainted with a few new technologies that helped in

²⁴⁷ J. Forbes, *Oriental Memoirs; A Narrative of Seventeen Years Residence in India*, Vol. II, London, 1834, p. 40.

²⁴⁸ J. Cruikshank, Dec. 31, 1825, 'Report on Dholka *Taluka* in Ahmedabad district, SRBG, No. X, Bombay, 1853, p. 6.

²⁴⁹ See Appendix J, RSS, Broach *Taluka*, 1901, p. 21; Amod *Taluka*, 1903, p. 14; Jambusar *Taluka*, 1903, p. 14; Vagra *Taluka*, 1903, p. 14; RSS, Olpad *Taluka*, 1896, p. 16, Mandvi *Taluka*, 1904, p. 17; Chorasi *Taluka*, 1897, p. 18; Jalalpur *Taluka*, 1900, p. 19; Bardoli *Taluka*, 1897, p. 22; Chikhli *Taluka*, 1899, p. 33; Bulsar *Taluka*, 1900, p. 20 and Pardi *Taluka*, 1904, p. 18.

²⁵⁰ GBP, Baroda, 1883, Sinor *Taluka*, p. 552; Tilakwada *peta mahal*, p. 558; Navsari *Taluka*, p. 561; Gandevi *Taluka*, p. 569; Palsana *Taluka*, p. 573; Kamrej *Taluka*, p. 574; Velachha *Taluka*, p. 577; Mahuwa *Taluka*, p. 579; Vyara *Taluka*, p. 581; Songadh *Taluka*, p. 584; GBP, Rewakantha and Surat State, Rajpipla State, pp. 92-93; Bansda State, p. 245; Dharampur State, p. 255 and Sachin State, p. 258.

²⁵¹ *Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, Vol. I, P. 21, Map no. 8

²⁵² Hove, 'Tours for Scientific and Economical Research, Made in Gozerat, Kattiawar and the Conkun in 1787- 88', SRBG, No. XVI, *New series*, Bombay, 1885, p. 42. Wells provided the chief form of irrigation in many parts of India in the pre-colonial era, colonial period and afterwards. See David Hardiman, 'Well Irrigation in Gujarat: System of Use, Hierarchies of Control', *EPW*, June 20, 1998, pp. 1534 - 36; Irfan Habib and Tapan Raychaudhari (eds.), *The Cambridge Economic History of India*, Vol. 1, Cambridge, p. 49; *Report of the Indian Irrigation Commission, 1901-1903, British Parliamentary Papers, 1904*, Vol. LXVI, London, 1903, p. 44 and Anil Agarwal and Sunita Narain, *Dying Wisdom: Rise, Fall and Potential of India's Traditional Water Harvesting Systems*, New Delhi, 1997, pp. 378-79.

exploiting the underground water resource.²⁵³ A number of wells in the villages and urban settlements were excavated in the *talukas* of Baroda *prant*²⁵⁴ and Navsari *prant*²⁵⁵ of Baroda State; Surat²⁵⁶ and Broach²⁵⁷ districts of British Gujarat and the native states of Rajpipla,²⁵⁸ Dharampur,²⁵⁹ Bansda²⁶⁰ and Sachin.²⁶¹ This amounted to sum total of 19,357 wells. A survey of the records of Political and Revenue Department (unpublished), documents in the private collection of native states of Bansda and Dharampur (unpublished), *Settlement Reports, Gazetteers and Administration Reports* clearly suggest that the initiatives were taken by the rulers, British officials, individuals interested in philanthropy and community service to dig the wells and tanks.²⁶² For instance, two British reports for Ahemdabad district of 1825 and 1827,²⁶³ written less than ten years after the colonial annexation of the area, provide details of the wells found in the area at that time. According to these reports, "When water was found close to the surface, a rough, temporary well could be dug which lasted only for a season. When a deeper well has to be constructed, some sort of masonry had to be used, either of rock or bricks. If the water was not so deep down, unhewn stones could be used without any cement to bind them together. Peasants could build this sort of well without any professional

²⁵³ M. B. Desai, *The Rural Economy of Gujarat*, London, 1948, pp. 65-71.

²⁵⁴ JGI, Baroda, p. 30; GBP, Baroda, 1883, Sinor Taluka, p. 552; Tilakwada *peta mahul*, p. 558.

²⁵⁵ *Ibid*, Navsari Taluka, p. 561; Gandevi Taluka, p. 569; Palsana Taluka, p. 573; Kamrej Taluka, p. 574; Velachha Taluka, p. 577; Mahuwa Taluka, p. 579; Vyara Taluka, p. 581 and Songadh Taluka, p. 584.

²⁵⁶ See Appendix J, RSS, Olpad Taluka, 1896, p. 16, Mandvi Taluka, 1904, p. 17; Chorasi Taluka, 1897, p. 18; Jalalpur Taluka, 1900, p. 19; Bardoli Taluka, 1897, p. 22; Chikhli Taluka, 1899, p. 33; Bulsar Taluka, 1900, p. 20 and Pardi Taluka, 1904, p. 18.

²⁵⁷ See Appendix J, RSS, Broach Taluka, 1901, p. 21; Amod Taluka, 1903, p. 14; Jambusar Taluka, 1903, p. 14 and Vagra Taluka, 1903, p. 14.

²⁵⁸ GBP, Rewakantha and Surat State, (Rajpipla State), pp. 92-93.

²⁵⁹ *Ibid*, Dharampur State, p. 255.

²⁶⁰ *Ibid*, Bansda State, p. 245.

²⁶¹ *Ibid*, Sachin State, p. 258.

²⁶² David Hardiman, 'Well Irrigation in Gujarat', pp. 1534-1540.

²⁶³ J. Cruikshank, Sept. 30, 1825, 'Report on the Portion of the Duskroee Purganna Situated in Ahemdabad and Kaira Collectorate', and P. M. Melville, January 1827, 'Report on the Purgannas of Puranteej, Hursol, Morassa, Bayur and Veerungam of the Ahemdabad Collectorate', SRBG, No. X, Bombay, 1853, pp. 13, 90 and 93 and David Hardiman, 'Well Irrigation in Gujarat', p. 1534

help. Brick wells built by professional well constructors could be dug to greater depths. When such a well was built, an excavation was made up to a depth of 30 *haths* (about 12 meters)."²⁶⁴ These wells were dug in both rural and urban settlements and were probably built fifty years earlier.²⁶⁵ According to Captain Prescott, the *kutch* wells were common all over for irrigating garden tracts.²⁶⁶ In the rural areas, they served the purpose of irrigation in dry season along with drinking while in the urban areas these served the usual needs of drinking, bathing and masonry work.²⁶⁷

The nineteenth century in India evidenced numerous efforts in canal construction.²⁶⁸ As noticed earlier, the South Gujarat territory has a rich natural drainage. Despite that, many a time the British Government attempted to excavate and construct canals from the Tapi as early as 1856 in order to enhance agricultural productivity. The *Bombay Presidency Gazetteer* informs us about the project related to canal, canal irrigation and navigation.²⁶⁹ Captain Trevor of the Bombay Engineers and Captain Chambers in 1856, who worked on Madras rivers conceived this project and spotted sites at Kakdapar, Puna and Waghecha for the construction of main canal and its branches in various directions so that the area under Surat Collectorate could be benefited. The estimate for the project was also prepared but for some reasons not much was done to implement it. In 1867, Trevor reworked on the project and attempted in making it a large project. Due to high cost, the project was again reconsidered in 1871 and it was

²⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 1534 & 1542 and 'Hath - it means a hand; a measure of length, according to the mean of several taken by the Survey Department, it is about 19 +1/3 inches = 40cms' in E. P. Robertson, *Glossary of Gujaratee Revenue And Official Terms*, Bombay, 1865, p. 53.

²⁶⁵ J. Cruikshank, Sept. 30, 1825, 'Report on the portion of the Duskroee Purganna Situated in Ahemdabad and Kaira Collectorate', and P. M. Melville, January 1827, 'Report on the Purgannas of Puranteej, Hursol, Morassa, Bayur and Veerungam of the Ahemdabad Collectorate', SRBG, No. X, Bombay, 1853, p. 93.

²⁶⁶ RSS, *Chikhli Taluka*, 1899, p. 11.

²⁶⁷ Discussion on well irrigation in South Gujarat is offered in Chapter II.

²⁶⁸ Alexander Mackay, *Western India*, pp. 194-200.

²⁶⁹ GPB, *Surat and Broach*, pp. 343-47.

thought that the project should be of lesser budget. This project, however, never materialized due to lack of consensus on site, water distribution, catchment area and local support.²⁷⁰ Later, in the last decade of the nineteenth century, we find reference to Tapti Canal and Irrigation Scheme in *Revised Survey Settlement Report of 1904* of Mandvi taluka that gives an idea of the possibility of irrigation in Surat Collectorate. I quote Colonel Fief's statement:

The weir of this great canal is to be erected of the village of Wagicha, in the neighbourhood of Bodhan, The canal is to carry 1,500 feet per second to the vicinity of Tarkesar, where it divides into two branches, termed by Mr. Clerke the Olpad and Anklesvar canals. The former throws off a branch call the Waracha channel, 6 miles from its head, to convey a supply of water for the city of Surat, and for the irrigation of the Chorasi Taluka to the westward of it. 7 Miles further on, and on the part of the canal called the southern Olpad Branch; another branch for navigation only connects the canal with the Tapti and Rander. Above the Weir at Wagicha there will be a long pool of deep water in the river, and immediately above artificial pool thus formed, there is already a similar natural one that extends upwards from the small town of Mandvi, for a distance of 6 miles. The whole length of river and canal navigation that will be afforded by the works is 46 miles. As navigation is already practiced on the lower part of the Tapti by means of boats of ordinary size, there is no doubt that the canal will be availed of for the purpose, and it will afford a cheap means of conveying metal for roads to various part of the Collectorate, a great desideratum where the roads are notoriously bad from the absence of any material but rich loam peculiar to the district. "The Olpad canal will carry 940 cubic feet per second of which is conveyed by the Waracha branch to Surat and the Chorasi Taluka, The Anklesvar canal will carry 525 cubic feet per second.²⁷¹

Another canal project conceived for the South Gujarat territory during mid-nineteenth century was by Colonel Grant on the Narmada.²⁷² He recommended the construction of two canals: one to commence at a point on the left bank of the Narbada [*sic*], a little above Broach and to unite the river with the Tapti at Surat; and another to start from a point on the right bank further up the river and run towards the Gulf of Cambay in the direction of the Dhadhar. Grant also informs us of acquiring the utility and development of catchment area through these canals in the following manner:

...starting not far from each other, but from opposite sides of the river, one would take a south-westerly direction towards Surat, whilst the other would take a south-

²⁷⁰ J. B. Shukla, *Life and Labour in a Gujarat Taluka*, London, 1937, p. 37.

²⁷¹ *RSS, Mandvi Taluka, 1904*, p. 40.

²⁷² Alexander Mackay, *Western India*, pp. 193-94.

westerly, by the town of Ahmode and the estuary of the Dhadur, to the gulf. Two such canals would form the main trunks for a system of irrigation which would embrace within its operation three fourth of the Broach Collectorate, and the chief cotton-producing district of Surat. The northern canal might be made conducive to the irrigation of the purgunnas of Broach, Wagra and Ahmode, the best cotton growing districts of the Broach Collectorate; ... The whole area which might thus be brought under irrigation would comprise nearly a million of acres, chiefly of cotton-growing soil.²⁷³

A brief description of primary, secondary and tertiary rivers and river streams of the South Gujarat territory suggests that the sub-region was enormously rich, as far as water accessibility was concerned and the sub-region faced very few difficulties in the agricultural activity. Continuous attempts were made to enhance the agricultural productivity by improving water facilities for irrigation purposes through digging of tanks, wells and conceiving canal projects.

Another important factor, which needs special attention about the drainage, is that most of the rivers and river streams remained navigable and contributed to external and internal trade and commerce.²⁷⁴ This generated income and employment for laborers in the urban settlements like ports and the nearby inland small towns.

The soils of the South Gujarat sub-region,^{274a} which are more or less alluvial in character, can be divided into three categories:

- (a) the black soil locally called *kali*²⁷⁵
- (b) the light soil locally called *goradu/gorat/marwa*²⁷⁶
- (c) the mixed soil (black & light) locally called *besar*²⁷⁷
- (d) the deep alluvial soil locally called *bhatha*.²⁷⁸

²⁷³ Alexander Mackay, *op.cit.*, pp. 194 -200.

²⁷⁴ This aspect is taken in detail in Chapter III.

^{274a} For details on soil see P. R. Mehta, *The Elements of agriculture of Bombay Presidency, Bombay, 1905*, pp. 15-44.

²⁷⁵ *Memoir on the Zilla of Baroche*, p. 20. See Robertson, *Glossary of Gujaratee Revenue and Official Terms*, 1865, p. 9.

²⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 17; See Robertson, *Glossary of Gujaratee Revenue and Official Terms*, p. 17.

²⁷⁷ Robertson, *Glossary of Gujaratee Revenue and Official Terms*, p. 42.

²⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 43.

I offer an overview in tabular form and description of soils separately for Baroda *prant* and Navsari *prant* of Baroda state, *parganas/talukas* of Broach and Surat Collectorate and the cultivable land in the Native States of Rajpipla, Dharampur, Bansda and Sachin.

Table 7
Soils and Crops in the South Gujarat Territory in Nineteenth Century

Soils	Crops			South Gujarat Territory c.1800-c. 1900
	Food Crops	Cash Crops	Garden Crops	
<i>Kali/Kalee Bhoee, Goradu/Gorat/Marwa, Besar and Bhatha/Eteena</i>	rice, wheat, bajri, tuwar, kodra, nagli, Tuver banti, val, peas, gram, bavta, mug, moth, adad, tal chola, diveli, kasumbo, guvar, makai, lang, kulthi, kharsani and bhagar	tobacco, castor-oil, plants, sugarcane, cotton, hemp and indigo	ginger, yam, chilies, brinjals, garlic, carrot, onions, etc.	Sinor and Tilakwada <i>peta mahals</i> of Baroda <i>prant</i> ; <i>talukas</i> of Navsari <i>prant</i> ; <i>Talukas</i> of Broach & Surat Collectorate; <i>Talukas</i> of Dang territory; subdivisions of Rajpipla, Dharampur, Bansda and Sachin.

Source: *Memoir on the Zilla of Baroache*, pp. 17 & 20-21; *GBP, Surat and Brouch*, pp. 59, 63 & 389-90; *GBP, Baroda*, pp. 77 & 86-87 and *GBP, Rewakantha and Surat States*, pp. 93, 247, 255 & 258.

The soils in Baroda *prant* and Navsari *prant* during the nineteenth century remained alluvial except the hilly areas in the Navsari *prant* i.e. *rani mahals* and, hilly and wooded portions in Sinor and Tilakwada *peta mahal*.²⁷⁹ The alluvial soils in these areas of Baroda State are *kali, goradu, besar* and *bhatha*.²⁸⁰ The black soil of Navsari *prant* was far superior to the soil of other *prants* in the Baroda State.²⁸¹ The Navsari *prant* also finds reference to *bhatha*, which remained most productive. The survey of soils in the early nineteenth century provides us detailed description of the *parganas* of Broach

²⁷⁹ *GBP, Baroda, Vol. VII*, pp. 552 & 558.

²⁸⁰ G.H. Desai, *Statistical Atlas of The Baroda State*, Bombay, 1918 p. 6, See Map no. 7.

²⁸¹ *GBP, Baroda, Vol. VII*, pp. 561, 570, 572, 575, 577, 579, 581 & 584.

Collectorate. Monier Williams records *Kalee Bhoee*/ black and *Marwa* light as the chief varieties soil of the Collectorate and also gives the extent of its spread in various *parganas* in the following words:²⁸²

The whole of the soil is classed into two grand divisions, viz. "marwa" or "gorat" and "kalee bhoee": the former prevails chiefly in Jumboosar purgunna. The small portions in the Amod and Dahej purgunnas have been given under those two purgunnas. In the Unklesur purgunna there are about 19,420 beegas, including what is called "bhata" and "eteena". In the Hansot purgunna, about 2,678 beegas, including the morkanta; and in the Broache purgunna, about 30,878 beegas of which by far the greatest part is termed "bhata" and belongs to the villages on the banks of the river. The lands of the village of Deewa, in the Unklesur purgunna, consist entirely, or nearly s, of gorat; and it pays an annual assessment to Government...

Further, *talukas* of Broach district during the late nineteenth century suggests existence of *kali*, *goradu* and *bhatha*.²⁸³ At many places *goradu* soil has a variation known as *morpana* whereas *kali* is found in *kanam*. *Kali*, the black soil yielded rice, cotton, wheat and millet—*juwar* whereas *goradu* helped in the cultivation of cereals, pulses and garden stuff.²⁸⁴ The rich alluvial deposit i.e. *bhatha-raised* was fertile for cash crops—tobacco and castor-oil plants besides other food crops.²⁸⁵

The *kali*, *goradu* and *besar*/ the mixed soil were distributed throughout the Surat Collectorate *talukas*. I offer a vivid description of these soils for Surat *talukas* during the late nineteenth century:²⁸⁶

... Olpad sub-division where it is most common two broad belts of black soil runs through district. Of these one passes along the seacoast the other through the Pardi and Chikli ... near the foot of the eastern hills. Between these two belts of black soil, the light or *gorat* and the medium or *besar* varieties are chiefly found...*Gorat* is commonest near banks of the Tapti, Ambika and Auranga rivers. This is the richest soil of the district producing in rapid succession, the most luxuriant crops...Under the general name of black are included, besides the ordinary black, or *kali*, the inferior black, or *molia*; the gritty-black, or *kali kokra*; and soil called *Khaniporan*, which, under the influence of rains, open into a number of small holes. Under the general name of light are included, besides the ordinary *gorat*, a rich yellow soil called *talia*, found on

²⁸² For *pargana* wise details of soil and their produce during 1811-20 see *Memoir on the Zilla of Baroche*, pp. 2-3, 7, 10-13 & 17.

²⁸³ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 389.

²⁸⁴ *Ibid.* and *Memoir on the Zilla of Baroche*, pp. 17 & 20-21.

²⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁶ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 95.

the banks of rivers, and a sandy variety called *retal*, a soil of little value. Under the general name of medium, or *besar*, come varieties known as *dadriwali*, or *kankriwali*, soils more or less charged with lime. Besides the different varieties included under some one of the three main classes there are, of peculiar soils along the coast, the marshy lands known as *khar* and *khajan*, and in the extreme south of the district, in the Pardi sub-division, tracts of land in character more like the soil of the Konkan than the soil of Gujarat. As compared with other parts of the province, Surat is conspicuous for the large proportion, which fertile soils bear to intrinsically poor soils. Of the entire culturable area, nine sixteenths is black soil, five-sixteenth light soil, and two-sixteenths medium.

Rajpipla traces the existence of the above-mentioned alluvial soils that produce *tuver*, castor oil, millet/*bajri* and *juvar*, cotton, gram, sugarcane, rice, hemp, wheat and tobacco.²⁸⁷ The produce of hilly and forest areas included coarse rice, *kodra*, *banti* and *bavta*.²⁸⁸ Bansda had predominance of *goradu* but *kali* was also traceable in smaller portions of land.²⁸⁹ The *kharif* crops produced in this native state were rice/*dangar*, *guvar*, *tal*, *nagli*, *kodra*, *juvar*, *banti*, *makai*, *adad*, *mag* whereas the rabi crops were *diveli*, *chana*, *vatana*/peas, *lang*, sugarcane, *kulthi*, *kharsani* and *bhagar*. The soil found in Dharampur is black/*kali* of the poor quality.²⁹⁰ The chief crops grown in the region were rice, *dangar*, *mag/mung*, sugarcane, *nagli* and *kodra*, which were produced in relatively less quantity.²⁹¹ The soil found in Sachin was both *goradu* and *kali*. These produced rice/*dangar*, *bajri*, *juvar*, wheat, *tuver*, *mag*, sugarcane and *kapas*.²⁹²

Climate is one of the most important factors that govern the natural resources of a region and also the mode of human activity. It has a decisive effect on the nature of cropping pattern and agricultural practices, livestock and forest resources. *The Report of Royal Commission on Agriculture, Livestock*

²⁸⁷ BPG, *Rewa Kantha and Surat States*, p. 95.

²⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 247.

²⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 255.

²⁹¹ *Ibid.*

²⁹² *Ibid.*, p. 258.

and Forest Relationship of Weather and Agriculture has recommended the following:

Much useful light would be thrown on agricultural questions, if the weather data collected by the Meteorological Department were correlated with the statistics of area sown and yield of crops collected by the Revenue Department. Agricultural Departments should make themselves responsible for meteorological studies relating to the influence of weather condition on the growing crop.²⁹³

The Gujarat state lies in the monsoon area and the climate is acknowledged as "monsoon climate." The rainfall period is confined to four months from middle of June to middle of October. The monsoon breaks in June, reaches its maximum intensity in July and retreats by the end of September. October is the month of transition and occasional showers mark it. Winter lasts from November to the end of February. From March onwards, the temperatures start rising till the maximum is reached in May. The onset of southwest monsoon and the resulting cloudiness lowers the temperature in June. There are variations in the climatic conditions of Gujarat. On the basis of regional variation in climatic conditions, the state can be broadly divided into five regions as under:²⁹⁴

- i) Sub-humid South Gujarat;
- ii) Moderately humid Gujarat from the Narmada to the Sabarmati;
- iii) Humid and sultry Saurashtra coastal region facing south;
- iv) Dry Region of Central Gujarat; and
- v) Arid and semi-arid North Gujarat and Kachchh.

The South Gujarat territory undertaken for study lies in (i) and partially in (ii). The Gujarat region received rainfall through southwest monsoons during the period from June to September. The south Gujarat territory was the first to receive the rainfall. The coastal area received the rainfall in plenty and it decreased as it moved towards the plain.²⁹⁵ The

²⁹³ *A Statistical Atlas of Gujarat*, p. 15.

²⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 16. Also see Map. No. 5.

annual rainfall recorded in the South Gujarat territory remained more than 100 mm.

The forests in the South Gujarat territory/sub-region were located in Surat district, Dang territory, Vyara and Songadh *talukas* of Navsari *prant* in the Baroda State, Rajpipla, Dharampur and Bansda States. The details regarding these forests are available in *Settlement Reports, Gazetteers of Bombay Presidency, Forest Reports, Report of the Commission on Dang Forests*, etc. The forest tracts in Surat district were located in Chikhli and Mandvi *talukas*.²⁹⁶ These forest tracts were placed in reserved categories.²⁹⁷ The Dang territory is recorded as the richest forest territory in Gujarat during the period under study. It has evidenced efficient efforts in the management of forest, which yielded good revenue to the state and income to the forest dwellers. The period of forest conservancy, management and exploitation could be divided into two phases: the first phase from 1818 to 1845, when farming of timber was done; and the second from 1846 to 1902, when the forests remained under departmental supervision.²⁹⁸ It was in 1879 that the Dang forests were demarcated and placed in reserved category.²⁹⁹ Navsari *prant* of Baroda State also traces the existence of reserved category forest tracts in Songadh and Velachha *taluka* and Vajpur and Vakal *peta mahals*.³⁰⁰ The forest cover accounted roughly to 3,84,000 *acres*.³⁰¹ In the Rajpipla State, one does not find any reference to thick forest cover like Surat and Dang, but references to timber trade from the hilly tracts suggest the presence of forests.³⁰² The existence of the forest tract is testified from the *Administration Report* of early years of the twentieth century. The forest cover in Rajpipla State was 4,85,600

²⁹⁶ GBP, *Surat and Broach*, p. 42.

²⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁸ GSG, *Dang District*, pp.13- 15.

²⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁰ GBP, *Baroda*, Vol. VII, p. 28.

³⁰¹ *Ibid.*

³⁰² GBP, *Rewakantha and Surat States*, p. 16.

acres approximately,³⁰³ which was categorized as reserved tract. Similarly, the traces of forest tracts in Dharampur and Bansda States indicate the importance of forest produce in the South Gujarat territory. These yielded handsome income to the Rajas of these states and transit duties to the British.³⁰⁴ A note on the forest produce is mandatory. The chief forest produce from these forest tracts were timber, timburni leaves, *toddy*, medicinal herbs like *harda*, etc., honey, wax, lac, gum, silkworm, bamboo mats, dinner plates, *bidi* leaves, etc. The timber trade is recorded as the most promising as it incurred heavy gains to the state and traders and income to the dwellers in the forest villages. The south Gujarat territory yielded very good variety of timber that was used for export purposes besides the local usage. The trees from which timber was yielded were *sag*, *haldaroo*, *ratanjalo*, *sisam*, *kher*, *simal*, *dhavdo*, *tanachha*, *beeyo*, *sadado*, *dudhiya*, mango, *mahura*, *rayan*, *tad* (palm), *khajuri*, *kanti*, *kadam*, *tiwas hed*, *kalam nano*, *bondaro*, *kilai*, *siris*, *jambudo hasan*, *vajari kangdoli*, *siven* and bamboo.³⁰⁵ This timber was carried through river, as most of the rivers remained navigable particularly during the monsoon. Reference to Narmada, Tapti, Ambika and Purna for timber transportation is available in our sources. These sources refer to timber marts and usage of timber for various purposes like ship making, paper making, etc.³⁰⁶ These timber marts were located at Surat, Kadod, port of Bulsar, Bilimora and Dang.³⁰⁷ The other significant product yielded from forest was the raw stuff for making *toddy* and *daru* (local liquor), which yielded high

³⁰³ Administration Report of the Rajppla State, 1902-03, p. 35.

³⁰⁴ GBP, Rewakantha and Surat States, pp. 245-46 & 254-55.

³⁰⁵ GBP, Surat and Broach, p. 42; GSG, Dang District, p. 234; IGI, Baroda, p. 98 GBP, Rewakanthi and Surat States, pp. 245-46; S. Pillai, Rajas and Prajas, p. 24. Also see A. B. Trivedi, Wealth of Gujarat, pp. 39-51.

³⁰⁶ GSG, Dang District, p. 14; A. B. Trivedi, Wealth of Gujarat, p. 42 (See Mr. B. Oates, Pamphlet on 'A Cursory Examination of the Tertiary formation in Rajppla state and its possible Resources' in 1929. I would emphasize that the profitable industry may be found from the conversion of the state resources of grass and bamboos that is if these articles are suitable for the purpose. Rather Oates suggested the possibility of having wood pulp and starting industry within the Rajppla state.

³⁰⁷ GBP, Surat and Broach, p. 42; GBP, Baroda, p. 34 and Prajas and Rajas, p. 91. Also see Irfan Habib, An Atlas of the Mughal Empire, pp. 25 - 26.

revenue figures.³⁰⁸ These products were yielded from the *brab or laid*, a common tree, *palmyra* and *mahura* found in the South Gujarat territory.³⁰⁹

The sub-region finds trees, shrubs and herbs. These have been useful in many ways as they had been providing a variety of produce that have been of much use in households as well as a commodity in rural and urban market. Their usage is in obtainment of fruits, medicine and handicrafts like making of ropes, baskets, mats, etc. I provide a brief profile of the vegetation in the South Gujarat territory along with their botanical name and usage in Table 8 given on the next page.

³⁰⁸ GBP *Surat and Broach*, pp. 39, 42, 354; GBP, *Baroda*, Vol. VII, p. 34 and GBP, *Rewankantha and Surat States*, pp. 246, 254 & 258.

³⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

TABLE 8
Vegetation in the South Gujarat Territory during the Nineteenth Century

Vegetation	Local Name	Botanical Name	Produce	
Trees	Amba	Mangifera Indica	Mango	
	Anli	Tamrindus	Tamarind	
	Bawal	Acacia Arabica	The Cultivation of the Gum Lac	
	Beheda	-	Medicinal plant	
	Beeyo	Pterocarpus	Timber	
	Bordi	Marsupium	The blunt leaved Zizyphus	
	Dhaman	Zizyphus Jujuba	-	
	Dhamodo	Grewia Tiliefolia	-	
	Gadgudi	Anogeissus Latifolia	The big gum berry or broad leaved cordia	
		Cordia Latifolia	Scented tree	
		Gugal	-	
		Ghatbor	-	
		Haladwan	-	
		Jambudo	Adina cordifolia	Plantains
		Kalam	Syzygium Jumbolanum	The smooth leaved Pongamia
		Kanti	Stephegyne Parviflora	Plantain
		Karmada	Acacia Ferrugina	Karmada eatable fruit
		Karanj	-	-
		Kel	Pongamia glabra	Fruit
		Khajuri	-	Date palm, spirituous liquor
		Kher	Phonix Sylvestris	The Cultivation of the Gum Lac
		Limdo	Acacia catechu	Ash leaved bead tree
		Piplo	Azadirachta Indica	-
		Rayan	Fecus Religiosa	Fruit
		Sadad	Mimusops Hexandra	Timber
		Samar	Terminalia Tomentosa	-
		Samdi	Bombax Malaburicum	The eatable polded Prosopis
		Sisam	Prosopis Spicigera	Timber
		Sitafal	Dalbergia latifolia	Custard apple
		Tad	Annonas Quarnisa	Use for liquor
		Tanacha	Borassus Flabelliform is	Timber
		Timru	Ongenia Dalbergioides	Timru leaves in preparing bidis
	Herbs	Tulsi	-	Medicinal plant
Adusi		-	Medicinal plant	
Pit Papdo		-	Medicinal plant	
Kado		-	-	
Indrajara		-	-	
Musk		-	-	

Source: *Memoir on the Zilla of Baroache*, pp. 17; *GBP, Surat and Broach*, Vol. II, Bombay, pp. 39-41 and 355-56 and *GBP, Rewukamitha and Surat States*, pp. 12-15.

The survey of the source material regarding information of mines and minerals in Gujarat reveals that no proper geological survey was carried out during the first three quarters of the nineteenth century; instead, information

in bits is available in some *Reports* or in the volumes of the *Gazetteers of Bombay Presidency*. The Gaekwad State evidenced geological survey in 1892. However, its report was published only in 1898. These altogether give some clue about the availability of certain minerals in the British districts and the different Native States of Gujarat. Based on this information regarding the South Gujarat territory, I am prompted to say that the minerals that were available and brought to use during the nineteenth century were found in Sankheda *taluka* of Baroda *prant* and Songadh *taluka* of Navsari *prant* of Gaekwad State; Ankleshwar *taluka* of Broach district; Mandvi *taluka*, Olpad *taluka*, Chorasi *taluka*, Bulsar *taluka*, Chikli *taluka* and Pardi *taluka* of Surat district and Nandod *taluka* of Rajpipla State of Rewakantha Agency. Their usage was largely in building and construction, decoration and metalling, and restrictively in implements for agricultural use, etc. It is pertinent to mention that the earliest references to mineral resources of the South Gujarat territory are available in the Persian text *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, Travelers Accounts like that of Finch, Mandelslo and Thevnot; the *Reports* of Copland and descriptions by M. S. Commissariat and George Watt. Based on this partial information and details from the *Reports of Geological Survey, Gazetteers, Settlement Survey Reports* and *Revised Survey Settlement Reports*, I have constructed a brief profile of the mineral resources and metals obtained in the South Gujarat territory in Table 9. The mineral ore and its products were used for building construction, making tools and as precious stones in the making of jewelry and stone carving.

TABLE 9
Metal and Mineral Ores in the South Gujarat Territory during the Nineteenth Century

Metal/Mineral ore	Location in c. 1900	Location in c. 2000
Iron: Iron slags Iron slags Iron slags Iron stone Iron stone Iron stone Iron sand	Tarkeshwar, Mandvi taluka	Surat
	Bhilod near Ratanpur and Limodra near Nandod, Rajpeepla State	Narmada
	Samdhi karkhana, Sankheda taluka, Baroda Prant	Vadodara
	Nani Naroli, Velachha taluka, Navsari prant	Surat
	Bodhan, Mandvi taluka	Surat
	Bulsar Trap, Bulsar taluka	Valsad
	Pardi taluka	Valsad
	Songadh taluka, Navsari prant	Surat
Gold	In the riverbeds of the Hiran river near village Sigam, Songadh taluka, Baroda Prant	Surat
Agate and Carnelians	Limodra near Ratanpur, Rajpeepla State	Narmada
Nummulitic Lime Stone	Tarkeshwar, Mandvi taluka	Surat
Laterite	Nogama, Mandvi taluka	Surat
Calcareous Sand Stone	Majlav, Mandvi taluka	Surat
Nodular Lime Stone/ Kankar	Jafarabad, Kosad & Waracha, Olpad taluka	Surat
	Dumas, Magdala & Athwa, Chorasi taluka	Surat
	Panoli, Samor and Obha, Ankleshwar taluka	Bharuch
Dungri Stone	Bulsar Trap, Bulsar taluka and Chikli taluka	Valsad Navsari
Conglomerate Stone	Sahol, Ankleshwar taluka	Bharuch
Black hard Stone	Bansda	Navsari

Source: GBP, *Surat and Broach*, Vol. II, 1877, p. 38; GBP, *Rewakantha and Surat States*, Vol. VI, 1880, pp. 11-22. GBP, *Baroda*, Vol. VII, 1883, pp. 27-28; R. Bruce Foote, *The Geology of Baroda State*, Madras, 1898; V. S. Sambasiva Iyer, *A Sketch of the Mineral Resources of the Baroda State*, Bangalore, 1910; G. H. Desai, *A Statistical Atlas of the Baroda State*, Bombay, 1918, Map. No. 6 and p. 6 and *An Atlas of the Mughal Empire*, p. 23 and Sheet 7B.

V

The people of various social and professional categories meaning the castes, sub castes and the upper, middle and lower classes inhabited the entire South Gujarat territory during the nineteenth century. Before I go into the details regarding the nineteenth century South Gujarat, it is relevant to review the pre-nineteenth century scenario through the contemporary sources. The first accurate information about the inhabitants of South Gujarat is available in *arazi/statistics* of "The Twelve *Subas* of Gujarat" in *Ain-i-Akbari*. Table 10 provides the details of the *Zamindar* castes of the inhabitants of South Gujarat for the period c. 1595.

TABLE 10
Zamindar Castes of South Gujarat c.1595

<i>Ain-i-Akbari</i> c.1595	<i>Mahal/Pargana</i>	Nineteenth Century South Gujarat	
Rajput	Sinor	Baroda <i>prant</i>	Gaekwad State of
Rajput	Balwarah/ Palsana	Navsari <i>prant</i>	Baroda
Gwalia	Altesar/ Amalsari	Broach District	Bombay Presidency
Rajput	Broach	Broach District	-do-
Rajput, Barhah/Borah	Kari/Kareli	Broach District	-do-
Rajput, Garasiah/ Garasias	Kala/Ghalha	Broach District	-do-
Rajput, Musalman	Maqbulabad	Broach District	-do-
Rajput, Baghela	Hansot	Broach District	-do-
Rajput	Beawarah	Surat District	-do-

Sources: *Ain-i-Akbari*, (tr.), Vol. II, 260-62.

Mirat-i-Ahmadi is silent over the nature of *zamindar* caste although it informs us of professional community and caste categories for the eighteenth century. The professional categories composed of cultivators in the rural setting, artisans—skilled and semi skilled—in rural and urban setting, *mahajans*, *varnias*, warrior-class, administrative class, nobility, service class, etc. in rural and urban setting, business class in urban setting and tribal population mainly located in the rural setting. However, the tribals had very limited interaction with the urban surroundings. Regarding the religious communities, mainly three communities i.e., Hindu, Muslim and *Parsee*

population— who were involved in all kind of occupations—are identified. At the social level, these communities were divided into castes, sub-castes and sects. The caste system among Hindus was very discrete and played a significant role in the socio-economic functioning since its inception in the early historic period. The Hindu Caste System was a development over the Varna System. The author of *Mirat-i- Ahmadi* described the castes during the eighteenth century in the following words: "Hindus are divided into various castes and sects. They are *Brahmins, Shravaks, Kshatriyas, Rajputs, Baniyas, Kaysthas, Kunbis, Goldsmiths, Blacksmiths, Fullers, Oilmakers, Carpenters, Weavers, Tailors, Dyers, Tanners, and Dheds....* Every caste in the course of centuries has been subdivided owing to the adoption of certain vicious customs or to some misalliance. Even the *Brahmans* who are considered the noblest of the race and who followed the four Vedas have become divided into different sub castes.... Excommunication is the punishment meted out to the guilty man or woman who is however taken back into the community on making penance and payment.... A description of all the Hindu castes being a difficult task I shall give an account only of the *Brahmans, Shravaks (Jains), Baniyas, Meshtris and Shravaks.*"³¹⁰ Based on the comparison of Jain source and Hindu *Varna* system Neera Desai reports for Gujarat that during the pre-nineteenth century period there were eighteen *Varnas* instead of universal four strata *Varna* system.³¹¹ These eighteen *Varnas* were composed of the four traditional *Varnas* plus nine *Narus* and five *Karus*.³¹² I find it difficult to agree with Neera Desai in this regard as the survey of this Jain source gives an account of the occupational categories of Gujarat that can be broadly placed in the universal *Varna* System as it happened in case of other regions like north

³¹⁰ *Supplement of Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, (tr.), pp. 124-25.

³¹¹ Neera Desai, *Social Change in Gujarat*, Bombay, 1978, p. 55.

³¹² *Ibid.* See Bechardas Doshi, *Mahavir ni Dharma Katho, Nayadhamma Kaha*, pp. 189-90. *Narus* comprised of potter, patel (farmer), goldsmith, cook, *gandhurva*, barber, gardner, *kacchakar/kujjukur* and *tamboli* whereas *Karus* category consisted of *chamar*, oil presser, printer, *vansfolo*, *tinsmith* tailor, *guar*, *Bhil* and fisherman.

India or eastern India. The occupational categories mentioned under *Naru* and *Karu* categories therefore cannot be considered as separate *Varna* categories.^{312a} Therefore, regarding the Hindu caste system, it can be suggested that it remained a combination of social hierarchy and the occupational needs that emerged in a region in time and space. In Gujarat, the Hindu castes were divided into two categories: *Ujlat* and *Ganchi-Gola*. The first category consisted of *Brahmans*, *Vaniyas*, *Khattris*, *Kaysthas*, *Kanbis* and a few artisan communities whereas the dark-skinned category consisted of occupational categories like oil-pressers, rice pounders, etc. The Hindu Caste system as stated above was based on hierarchy had sub-castes as well within Gujarat.³¹³ The probable reasons for castes and sub castes were internal conflicts and adjustments, migration from other localities, occupational distinctions and beliefs in different cults. The Muslim, Parsee and Christian population were divided into sect categories: Muslims were mainly divided into *Shias* and *Sunnis*,^{313a} *Parsees* were divided into *Shehenshahi* and *Kadami*³¹⁴ and Christians into Methodists, Catholics, etc.

A peep into the sources of the first three quarters suggests the similar trend in both the social categories. These sources are *Memoirs*, *Settlement Reports*, *Bombay Presidency Gazetteers*, *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, etc. whereas the sources for the last quarter of the nineteenth century are unique in the sense as they provide demographic figures for the caste and community categories in rural and urban setting. *Revised Survey Settlement Reports*, *Jamabandi Reports*, *Census Reports* for the period 1872-1901, *Annual Administration Reports*, Government and Royal Orders, Proceedings of the Judicial Courts, etc., Personal Diaries, Publications from Vernacular Press, etc.

^{312a} See C. A. Bayly, *Indian Society and the Making British Empire*, Delhi, 1987, pp. 1-44.

³¹³ For detail discussion on major castes, sub-castes and social system see Neera Desai, *op. cit.*, pp. 56-75.

^{313a} *GBP, Gujarat Population: Musalmans and Parsis*, Vol. IX, Pt. II, Bombay, 1899, p. 125.

³¹⁴ For division of Parsees see G. H. Desai, *A Glossary of Caste, Tribes and Races in the Baroda State*, Baroda, 1911, p. 67.

are the valuable sources in this direction. Based on these sources, a brief profile of the inhabitants of the South Gujarat territory is offered here. The details related to transformations and a comparison of the inhabitants in rural and urban setting, their interdependence, etc. are provided in Chapter V. The Social categories can be understood through these sources into two: the community category and the caste category. Table 11 & 12 give an overview of these categories in relation to the South Gujarat territory during the nineteenth century.

TABLE 11
Community and Caste Category in the South Gujarat Territory during the Nineteenth Century

Community	Caste	Sub-Caste
Hindu	<i>Brahmin</i>	<i>Audich, Anavala, Bhatela, Chovisa, Kayatia, Khedaval, Khadayats, Maradha Brahmin, Mevada, Modhs, Nagar, Naandoda, Shrimali, and Tapodhan</i>
	<i>Kshatriya/Rajput</i>	<i>Barad, Bihola, Chavda, Chohan, Dodia, Gohil, Gujar, Makwana, Padhar, Padiar, Parmar, Rana, Rathod, Raval, Sisodia, Sojantria, Solanki, Vadvasia. Vaghela and Vedia.</i>
	<i>Vaishya</i>	<i>Vanua, Porvad, Numa, Kadayata, Mevada, Shrimali, Nagar, Jhalora, Lad, Osaval, Umud, Maru, Desaval and Vayada.</i>
	<i>Shudra</i>	<i>Garoda, Turis, Bhungi, Mochi, Khulpa and Tirgar.</i>
Muslim	<i>Shia</i>	<i>Sidi, Syed, Shuikh, Pathan, Meman, Bohora and Makrani. Daudi, Sulaimana, Alia, Zoida, Hajunia, Ismailia and Nazaria.</i>
	<i>Sunni</i>	
Parsees	<i>Shehensahi Kadami</i>	<i>Sub-sects not known</i>
Christians	<i>Roman Catholicics</i>	<i>Sub-sects not known</i>
	<i>Presbyterians, Native Christians, Episcopalians, Wesleyans, Armenia, Baptist.</i>	
Others	<i>Sikhs, Jews, etc.</i>	<i>Sub-sects not known</i>

Sources: - Census Report 1901, Vol. XVIII, 'B', Baroda, Pt. II, pp. 8-12; GBP, Gujarat Population: Hindus, Vol. XI, Pt. I, Bombay, 1901, pp. 3, 55, 69 and 331 and James Campbell, GBP, Gujarat Population: Musalmans and Parsis, Vol. IX, Pt. II, Bombay, 1899, pp. 6-90 & 244-45.

TABLE 12
Occupational Categories in the Community Categories of South Gujarat Territory in the Nineteenth Century

Religion	Profession Category	Castes
Hindu	Cultivator	<i>Kachhia, Kanbi, Patel and Rajput.</i>
	Craftsman	<i>Bhuosar, Chunar, Chhipa, Darji, Galiara, Kansara, Kharadis, Kumbhar, Lakhuras, Luhar, Mochi, Salat and Soni.</i>
	Bards	<i>Bhat and Charan.</i>
	Personal Servant	<i>Dhobi and Hajan.</i>
	Shepard	<i>Bharvad and Rabari.</i>
	Fish Sailor	<i>Machhi and Bhoi.</i>
	Ordinary Business	<i>Bharthari, Gola and Vanjara.</i>
	Leather works	<i>Dabgar, Khalpa and Mochi.</i>
	Miscellaneous	<i>Bajana, Bhadbhuria, Daloadi, Gola, Kalali, Kandoi, Labana, Odds, Pinjara, Ravalia, Thori, Vaghri and Vanjara.</i>
	Tribes	<i>Bhil, Chodhara, Dhanka, Dhundias, Dubla, Gamit, Gamta, Kathodias, Kokana and Naikas.</i>
Musalman	Craftsman	<i>Bandhara, Bhudbuja, Chhipa, Chudivala, Chunara, Chundadigira, Ghanchi, Kaghzis, Kuda, Kasal, Kharadia, Khatkis, Luhara, Mamar, Memon, Multani, Nalbandh, Punynigar, Rangura, Salat, Sonu and Tal.</i>
	Trading Communities	<i>Bohora, Alia, Daudi, Dudwala, Jafri, Karalia, Khoju, Memon, Nagoshi and Sabalia.</i>
	Landholders	<i>Behlins, Bohora, Kakapuris, Gameti, Ghermelhis, Kasbats, Makwana, Maliks, Mata, Kunbi, Mosalamun, Parmars, Rathors, Samus, Shuikhs, Solanki, Sumaras, and Tonks.</i>
	Service Class	<i>Behrupla, Bhand, Bhatti, Bhawaya, Gandhrap, Kamalias, Madari, Mirs, Sipahi, Tashchis and Turki Hajan.</i>
	Labour Class	<i>Banjaras, Chatta, Chharas, Dhuldhoya, Gorkhodia, Kathura, Machhi, Mali, Mapura, Nagori, Nat, Pakhali, Shishahgar and Thori.</i>

Sources: - GBP, *Gujarat Population: Hindus*, Vol. XI, Pt. I, Bombay, 1901, pp. 3,55,69, 123, 153, 177, 207, 228, 236, 252, 264 and 331 and GBP, *Gujarat Population: Musalmans and Parsis*, Vol. IX, Pt. II, Bombay, 1899, pp. 6-90.

As far as demographic data of the South Gujarat territory is concerned, we have rough estimates of cities like Surat and Broach during late eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth century available from sources like *Mirat-i-Ahmadi* or *Majmua-e-Danish*, Travellers Accounts of James Forbes or in Brigg's *Cities of Gujarashtra*. These sources, however, do not serve our purpose as far as the empirical details are concerned because the empirical details

regarding population are extremely helpful in computing the potential of a village, small and medium size town and a large city, transformations that a society undergoes as a result of shifts in occupations, their beliefs, due to formation of social, economic and political associations. The Britishers introduced the census documentation in 1870's in the South Gujarat territory. Based on the Demographic data of the *Census Reports* and other helping information in *Survey and Revised Survey Settlements*, I offer the number of people living in rural and urban settlements in the South Gujarat territory in the last quarter of the nineteenth century in Table 13.

Table 13
Population of South Gujarat during 1872-1901

District/Native State	Total Population of South Gujarat			
	1872	1881	1891	1901
Surat	1,49,851	1,53,254	1,55,864	1,65,153
Broach	71,547	68,392	72,374	71,602
Dang		25,558	32,747	18,582
Sinor Taluka & Tilakwada <i>petu mahul</i> of Baroda <i>prant</i>	-	47,023	48,378	34,745
Navsari Prant	2,41,255	2,87,554	3,19,443	3,00,444
Rajpipla	1,20,036	-	71,771	1,17,175
Bansda	32,154	-	41,373	40,382
Dharampur	74,592	1,01,289	120,498	1,00,430
Sachin	17,103	-	19,337	20,530
Total	7,06,538	6,83,070	8,81,785	8,69,043

Sources: IGI, Baroda, Calcutta, 1908, p. 98; *Census of India*, 1901, Vol. XVIII B, Baroda, Pt. III, pp. 8-9; GBP, *Rewankantha and Surat States*, Vol. VI, Bombay, 1880, pp. 19-21 and GBP, *Surat and Broach*, pp. 8 & 43.

A comment on the linguistic and cultural aspects is mandatory for the nineteenth century South Gujarat. The South Gujarat predominantly registered the existence of Gujarati language, however, the presence of dialects cannot be overlooked. *Surati* dialect remained in use in Broach, Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Bansda, Dharampur; *charotari* in Broach, Sinor taluka and Tilakwada *petu mahul*; *Bhulli* in the tribal/*adivasis* localities like Dangs, forest tracts of Navsari, Rajpipla, Bansda, Dharampur and Sachin.³¹⁵ Culturally the territory remained active both in traditional and modern sense. People

³¹⁵ M. R. Majumdar, *Cultural History of Gujarat*, 1965, pp. 308.

developed a composite culture and responded positively to the changes that were the results of economic, educational and associational transformations during the second half of the nineteenth century. For instance, entertainment was provided in the form of *Kathas* and *akhyans*. In the nineteenth century, special organizations for performing dramas were established. The first such organization was started in Bombay in 1853. It was known as the Parsee Dramatic Society. The role of the *Parsees* in developing the dramatic associations was very significant in Bombay from 1868. Plays written by Gujarati authors like Dalpatram, Narmad and Ranchod Bhai Udayram were performed. In 1875, there was an association called the *Natak Uttejak Mandali* (Association to Encourage Drama), *Gujarati Natak Mandali* etc.³¹⁶ Similarly, Kalhans Patel an authority on folk arts registers for the South Gujarat territory the prevalence of dances³¹⁷ like *ras*, *garba*, *dangi*, *gheriya*, *mandava*, *shikar*, *toor* and *nritya* of *halpatis* and songs like *doha*, *chhand* and *bhajans*.³¹⁸

³¹⁶ Neera Desai, *op.cit.*, pp. 373-74.

³¹⁷ Kalhans Patel, *Cultural Heritage of Gujarat*, Vadodara, 1996, p. 117.

³¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 118.