

## The Study of Sorath Harappan Ceramics: A Case Study from the Site of Padri, Gujarat

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The Harappan Civilization flourished and reached its zenith in the Mature phase but the stones for its high rise were laid from the Early phase. The climatologically studies reveal that the region was semi-arid in nature and not so arid as today. With adequate rainfall and the river flowing at its maximum, the Early Harappans (Kalibangan phase I) were attracted to this region (Dhavalikar 1996).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium B.C. witnessed the growth of the urban phase of the Civilization. A regional view reveals that Kachchh and Ranns of Kachchh border areas on one hand and Saurashtra and the Gujarat plains on the other hand, have distinct time frames and paces of urbanization. The urban organization of Sorath Harappa in Saurashtra and the Gujarat plains acquired through changes with the Harappan core area some urban features can be stressed from ca.2350B.C. Cal on (Herman 1996).

Gujarat is one of the smaller Indian states with 6.1% of the area of the Indian union. The geo-coordinates of the state are 20° - 1° and 24° - 7° north and 68° 4° and 74° - 4° east (Dikshit 1970). This state got its name in the 10th century A.D when Mulkrāj Solanki, the first Chalukyan ruler laid the foundation of his kingdom with its capital at Anhilwada (Gazetteer 1969).

### Study Area

The region of Bhavnagar was selected as an area for study. Bhavnagar district is situated in the south-east corner of the peninsular region of Gujarat known as Kathiawar or Saurashtra. Its geo-coordinates is between 21°-18' and 22°-18' north latitude and between 71°-15' and 72°-18' east longitude.

The district of Bhavnagar takes its name from the city of Bhavnagar, the former capital of Bhavnagar State and at present the headquarters of the district. This particular region has derived the title of Gohilwada as it was ruled by the various branches of Gohil Rajputs who came to Saurashtra from Rajasthan in the latter half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

A close review of the regional studies in the region of Kachchh and Saurashtra has revealed that these regions had different distinct timeframes and paces of urbanization. The urban set up in the Saurashtra region has occurred through exchanges with the Harappan core area.

The Harappan research as mentioned earlier has underwent a series of methodological changes which is reflected in the archaeological interpretation.

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