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## KHANDESH : ITS ORIGIN AND DYNASTIES

**N. S. Patil**

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### **Abstract:-1.Origin of Khandesh as a name:**

The name 'Khandesh' is firstly found in the Bakhra of Farishta. Farishta was a mediaeval Bakharkar. He writes in his bakhra that before the Musalmani power swttdled down in this provenance, it had a same name or not he hasnot mentioned in it.

According to M.M.Mirashi its ancient name was 'Rishik'. In 'Ramayana', 'Mahabharat' and 'Kumar-Charit' the reference of 'rishik' as a grantha is there. In Khandesh in the period of Yadavas the first king was known as King Seoupchanda. And in the way from 'Seudesh' the name Khandesh had originated thinks M.M.Mirashi.

**Keywords:**Origin and Dynasties , ancient , intelligent.

### **INTRODUCTION :-**

Abdul fazal was one of the intelligent and famous writer there in the court of Akbar. According to him the first sultan of Gujrat named as Ahmed had honoured Khan to the second Farukhi King Malik Naser from Thalner and after that the province under him was named as 'Khandesh'.

Many Europeans and Natives have guessed that the name 'Khandesh' is given by the Nawabs of Burhanpur or Achalapur, and when we looked at the word Khan it looks like true in its sense. But when we look very carefully we see that the word is very ideal. The original name of this province would be Kanhadesh, Kanhadesh means the land of Lord Krishna, in the period of Devgiri's Yadav there was a King from his family named as Krishna or Kanha. And he had given his name to this province. And in this way from Kanhadesh, Kahandesh and then Khandesh the name has originated and used and entirely given to that province later on.

One of the researcher Colonel Saiska has opined that Khandesh, the word has taken from Khanda or Khinda.

When we think of the above opinions,then we see that, in Mediaeval this region had other similar name than Khandesh. But when Musalman rulers captured this province then it was known as 'Khandesh'.

### **2.VIVID DYNASTIES IN KHANDESH :**

i)Shak [About 300 A.D.]:-It may be possible that the Buddha religions empire was here and then the Andhra Bhrityas ruled here. They were driven out in the middle of the first century by the King of Uttar Pradesh, Mahakshapan. They ruled over near about forty years only.

ii)Satwahan [224 A.D. to 235 A.D.]:- In this period Gautamiputra Satak defeated Kshetrapasah. Then again Andhra Bhrityas ruled here.

iii)Shaliwahan [135 A.D. 250 A.D.]:- In this period Shaliwahan's were ruling over Khandesh. Then upto V century i.e. 410 A.D. the information about the rulers is not available. From the 419 A.D. stone inscriptions it can be observed that Nasikkar Virsen Abhir was ruling here. At that time he was ruling here. Dr.V.V.Mirashi has published one article in one of the journals in the University of Nagpur in this sense. And it relates to so called Indore plated of Swamidas Bhulund and others edited by Dr.R.C.Mujumdar. The provenance of these plates is not known but it may be said that they are from Khandesh. Dr.Mirashi has drawn a reasonable inference that these plates were probably issued by the Kings ruling over this region as foundations of supreme power.

From the similarity of names occurring in gene ology in stone Inscription in cave 17 in Ajintha, it would not be wrong to say that these Kings Swamidas Bhulund and others belonged to the same dynasty whose names occur in the gene ology mentioned above. The period of Swamidas is from 316 A.D. to 317. The last Ajintha gene ology King was there in between 475

A.D. to 500 A.D. as this was the same period of Wakatak King Hariyam. Amir's were ruling over Khandesh near about from 460 A.D. to 265 A.D. years. When we think about Ahirani as the language of Khandesh and Ahire, Sonar, Shimpi etc. people empire then we can observe that Amir's were not only the rulers of Khandesh but also it was the locality point of Amir and Gawali from Amir gene ology is named in this Nasik region.

**iv)Chalukya [502 A.D. to 573 A.D.]**:-In the next half of the fifth century first Pulkeshi from the family of Chalukya conquered the region upto Badami And their relatives King Sendrak were accompanied by him. After Chalukya the King from Myankhet King Rashtrakut conquered some part of South-Konkan Gujarat and some part of Vindhya Parvat from middle India.

**v)Rashtrakutas [753 A.D. to 973 A.D.]**:- Few copper plates of Rashtrakuta's had been found out in Khandesh. Rashtrakuta's were defeated by King Telang from the family of Chalukya near about 970 A.D. And few think that Khandesh was included in the region of Sandupradesh and it was under the ruling power of Yadav from Sinner. From this family the V Bhillam defeated Chalukya in 1191 and it is found out on some copper plates at Dhule, Torkhede, Pimpri, Taloda, Javkhede etc. which were there in Khandesh at that time. The Rashtrakuta's power lasted ove 220 years i.e. upto 973 A.D.

Some Hunas Gandhirva coins have been found out at Ner and Sattarpada in Khandesh. And on one copper plate it is inscripted that the King Kakka from Rashtrakut had defeated Huna. It is guessed that Huna's had ruledover on some part of South Khandesh or minimum on the boundary. On the stone inscription at Chalisgaon it is given that in 1069 Govindagraj, the King Seumehand II from Mourya family had given respect to this.

**vi)Yadavas [1191 to 1310]**:- In A.D. 1191 Bhillam V established an empire of Yadavas and made Devgiri as his capital by defeating Chalukyas. In the period of Chalukya's Khandesh was ruled by Yadav. And it can be proved with the help of stone inscriptions which are found at Waghadi and Dhawade. From the temples and statues from Khandesh it is found that Brahmins had been donated lands. At that time this province and the life of the people of happy. Yadav's ruled here upto 1310 A.D.

**vii)Khilaji [1310 A.D to 1323]**:- At the end of the 13th century in 1295 Khandesh was looted by Allaudin Firoz Khilaji by attacking on Devgiri. Then in 1306 Allaudin sent his army chief to Ramdeo for getting more money. Then Ramdeo Yadav was brought at Delhi by Malik Kafoor and appointed Musalman army officers. Yadavas ruled over Khandesh upto 1312 A.D. as the representatives of Musalman and at last it was totally conquered by Khilaji.

**viii)Taghalaq [1323 to 1370 A.D.]**:- After Khilji's Delhi was there under of Taghalaq and in 1323 A.D. this province was under the ruling power of Mohammad Taghalaq. It was upto 1347. But in the same year some part of South and their leader Allauddin Hasan Gangu formed his own family empire as a Bahamani family. But again up to 1370 A.D. Khandesh was under the control of Taghalaq's. But in between in Khandesh Bahamani entered.

**ix)Farukis [1370 to 1600 A.D.]**:- In A.D. 1370, one Arab youth Malikraja Faruki got two subhas viz. Karwand & Thalner from Delhi Sultan Firoz Tughalaq as a present for the timely and given to him in the Gujarat campaign by Malikraja Faruki. After this Malikraja conquered the surrounding territory and established his power over whole of Khandesh. In the beginning Thalner was capital of the Farukis. At the time of his death Malikraja gave Laling fort to his elder son Malik Nasir captured the Asirgad fort by treachery and made Barhanpur his capital.

Twelve Farukis ruled successively up to A.D.1600 it means it was upto 230 years under them. The famousDurga Devi famine of 13 years between A.D.1397 to 1409 fell in last years of the first Farukis regime. From the reports of European travelers in the Faruki times it is learnt that there was affluence in Khandesh. Tombs of first three or four Farukis are seen built at Thalner 32 Mahals were there. Very huge markets were there and the total revenue was about 3031 lakhs. The stone inscription on the gate of Songir fort from Shak 1497 i.e. 1575 A.D. is available. And it is mentioned in that inscription that Mansingh the son of Ugrasen was very brave. And of course he was ruling over Songir fort and the adjacent region. And when Marathe were under his empire with the help of Fort Vajagarh few Rajputs were there and they were ruling on that province. It may be possible that the security of that province was their duty so far as the central power was concerned. Famous 211 Rawal from Khandesh would be from this and these people had come with the help of Gujarat sultan or the soldiers of Moghul Badshah or from Rajputa and settled down here.

**x)Moghul Empire [1600 to 1700]**:-Last Faruki raja Bahadur Khan was defeated by Moghul Badashah Akbar and made him under control. And then Khandesh was under ruling power of Moghul Empire. Rabhiya the son of Akbar was appointed as the subhedar by his father and this province was given the name as Dan-desh, and in En-A-Akbari it is mentioned that Khandesh was very affluent in this period and the description is very interesting.

Khandesh passed over from Farukis to Moghuls in the regime of Akbar. In the first 30-35 years there were constant risings against Moghul power. In A.D.1629-30 in the beginning of Shahajan's regime Khandesh was a victim of a double clamity viz. war and famine. The earlier Sar-subhedar Khan Jahan Lodhi had risen in revolt and Shahajahan and come to Deccan to defeat him. His army had camped at Dhule during the rainy season. Due to scarcity of rain there was a severe famine in the region between Ahmedabad and Daulatabad. The severity of famine was such that child's flesh was dearer, it is said, than the child itself. In A.D. 1634 a separate subha of Khandesh was created with some portion of Berar and up to the Galana fort in the south. King Todarmal's system of land revenue was made applicable to it. In the middle of 17th century Khandesh was at its height of affluence and there were few regions so affluent in then Moghul Empire. In A.D.1670 Marathas started collecting chauthai and

Sar Deshmukh in Moghul territory and Khandesh was not an exception. Shivaji has passed through Khandesh in his campaign of plunder of Surat. Immediately after some months he deputed Prataprao Gujar for collecting chauthai and Sar Deshmukh from Khandesh. And it mentioned that in A.D.1706 Rajashah had looted Khandesh. Then in 1720 A.D. the sanads which Balaji Vishwanath obtained from the sayad brothers in respect of collection of chauthai and Sar Deshmukhi in six subhas of Deccan included Khandesh.

**xi)Maratha Empire [1700 to 1818]:-** Nijam-ul-mulka was appointed Sar subhedar of Malwa of the Moghuls. Just a few days later in A.D.1720 he revolted and conquered Khandesh and became owner of the Moghul territory in the Deccan. Clash between Nijam and the expanding Maratha power was inevitable. Once when the Marathas had an upper hand a treaty between the two was concluded according to which Marathas for communication with Malwa were to pass through Khandesh but cause no harassment. By a treaty in A.D.1752 after the defeat of Salabat Jung son of Nijam-ul-mulk. Marathaa annexed nearly the whole of Khandesh. Eight years later Marathas conquered Ashir Gada interval and established supremacy over complete Khandesh. After an interval of peaceful period Khandesh could not escape suffering for 16 years between A.D.1768-1784 as a result of family brickerings of the Peshwas.

**xii)Holkar Shinde:-** In 1795 A.D. a portion of Khandesh adjacent to Malwa was handed over to Holkars and Pachora,Yawal,Raver etc. The eastern portion to the Shindyas. The western portion including Navapur, Taloda, Akrani Mahal adjacent to Gaikwad's territory was under the control of Nana Fadnis. Further up to A.D.1800 Khandesh again suffered due to bickering's between Holkar families. Khandesh already harassed by battles between Holkar,Shinde,Peshwas and English had to face a grave neutral calamity of famine. Many animals suffered death. People migrated and many towns and villages were desolate. Bhils who formerly acted as guards in villages escaped to hilly tracts for shelter and the famine was over, returned as robbers and dacoits.

Arabs engaged by big landlords who were incapable to protect themselves, turned notorious moneylenders. To add to this the Government officers harassed the people for revenue collection. In 1816 there arose a new calamity of the pendharis and this they did with the help of army. In 1818 Maratha Empire was won by English. And Captain Briggs was appointed here and his headquarter was there at Dhule.

**xiii)Khandesh Paragane in the period of Peshwas:-** Khandesh was a separate subha in the period of Peshwa. Subha means province, as we see today Maharashtra, Gujarat and Taminadu etc. as the states. In this way in Maratha Empire Khandesh was a separate subha (province). Just I have found out a list at Pune which was brought by Chatrapati Shahu Maharaj in which it is given that how many Sarkar (Districts) and pargane (Taluke) were there in a subha i.e. Khandesh. From this view we canguess that how Khandesh was expanded in a subha. From this list we can see that Khandesh subha was divided into six Sarkars (Districts), and they were Nandurbar,Baglan,Galana,Burhanpur(Aashirgad),Poridgegard and Handiya. These sarkars were divided in to parganas. In Khandesh there were 120 parganas. They were again divided into Deh (Villages) or Mauje. In a pargana the number of Mauje (village) were not one and the same. They were different.

**xiv)Khandesh paragane in the period of British:-**In 1818 Peshwa Bajirao II was defeated by British and the complete Maratha Empire was undertaken by British. Captain Bridges was appointed as the first commissioner of Khandesh. He had expanded Khandesh in the following way. For the administrative purpose Khandesh was bi furcated by the British in 19 taluke and annual income of each taluka was 90 thousand rupees as the government income and it was divided in the same way. For the same purpose in 1906 Khandesh subha was divided into two parts by the British. It was East Khandesh and West Khandesh. After independence they are like the same. Quite recently they were newly named as Jagaon District & Dhule District.

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