



Coinage of Bundi Skewer “Katarshahi”

Neha Pradhan

Researcher and Lecturer History Department, Career Point University Kota, Rajasthan, India

Email: pehchaanngokota@gmail.com

Article Info

Received: 19 Dec 2021,

Received in revised form: 04 Feb 2022,

Accepted: 12 Feb 2022,

Available online: 30 Apr 2022

Keywords— *Skewers, Dagger, Mint.*

©2022 The Author(s). Published by AI Publications. This is an open access article under the CC BY license

Abstract

The study of the state currency of Bundi has been presented in this paper. As mentioned above, Bundi state was formerly a part of Malav Janpad. Later, the Hada Rajputs settled their settlement here and established Bundi in the valley of Bundi. In the past, evidence of currency in Bundi is known from Malav Janpad. The Mughal era is visible on the Bundi currency ever since the Bundi state joined the Mughal service. Coins in different names and periods were prevalent in Bundi, the main ones being Ramshahi, Katarshahi and Chehreshahi. The Ramshahi coin was in circulation between 1859 to 1886

INTRODUCTION

The Bundi region, located in the southeast region of Rajasthan, although descended as the state of Bundi in the Middle Ages, but its geographical existence existed in the Stone Age. The south-eastern landmass of Bundi. The part can be said to be an extension of the Malwa plateau. The Meenas, for almost a century, took possession of the drain of the river and gave it the name of Bundi. The study of the state currency of Bundi has been presented in this paper. As mentioned above, Bundi state was formerly a part of Malav Janpad. Later, the Hada Rajputs settled their settlement here and established Bundi in the valley of Bundi. In the past, evidence of currency in Bundi is known from Malav Janpad. The Mughal era is visible on the Bundi currency ever since the Bundi state joined the Mughal service.

The Bundi region, located in the southeast region of Rajasthan, although descended as the state of Bundi in the Middle Ages, but its geographical existence existed in the Stone Age. The south-eastern landmass of Bundi. The part can be said to be an extension of the Malwa plateau. The region is also addressed as fifty-two Bayalisan in local traditions. We know from the Jain text Avsayaka Sutra that the traditional ministers of the Nanda

kings of Magadha of the 4th and 5th centuries BC were Jains. Therefore, he had given a lot of publicity to this opinion in the aforesaid areas. This comprehensive description is capable of inscribing the golden history of the political and religious importance of the areas under Bundi state, mainly Keshoraipatan. Pro. Alan has established the opinion on the basis of the evidence of Malav Republic's currencies that the land of eastern Rajasthan must have been under Malavas between 2nd to 4th century AD. The Prayag Prashasti of Samudragupta also attests to this.

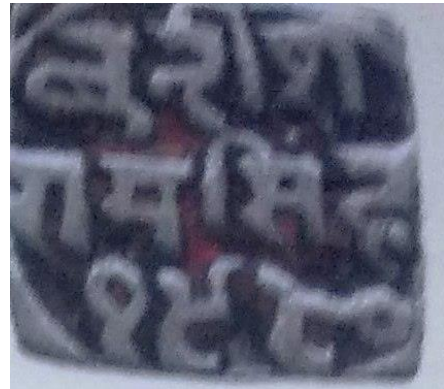
Many archaeological sites of the Gupta period have been found from Keshoraipatan, Lakheri and Nainwa under Bundi state. A Gupta inscription has also been found in Mukandra between Kota and Jhalawar. A Gupta inscription has also been available in the canvas under the state of Kota. From this evidence, the Gupta emperors dominate Bundi. Lakheri is also known to be a rich city from ancient evidence. Near this, the remains of Gupta civilization have been estimated in a village called Ishwarnagar. On the hill of this village, Tughlaq period 147 gold and silver coins have also been found. It clearly shows that future survey will be able to expand the historical importance of this area further.

The origin of the tribe named Meena is believed to be in the intermediate region of present Jaipur and Kalikoh. There were also twelve Meena branches which were considered to be the successors of the Rajputs. The names of Rajput castes existed in prefix form before their caste names. eg. Chauhan Meena, Kachwaha Meena etc. Many Meenas reached the Malwa plateau where by this time the influence of the Parmar Rajputs had ended. Although Parmar Naresh Narvarman had taken his kingdom to the Bundi region in 1094 AD. According to Dr. J.S. Gehlot, the Meenas made Bandu valley their home. This area was also known as Pariyatra. The Meenas, for almost a century, took possession of the drain of the river and gave it the name of Bundi.

1.1 Bundi Dynasty

1. Bundi takeover by Rao Deva (1241-43 AD)
2. Rao Samarsingh (1243-1275 AD)
3. Rao Napaji or Narpal ji (1275-1286 AD)
4. Rao Hammir Dev or Hamaji (1286-1336 AD)
5. Rao Barsingh (1336-1383 AD)
6. Rao Barishal (1383-1433 AD)
7. Rao Subhandadeva (1433-1446 AD)
8. Rao Narayan Das (1503-1527 AD)
9. Rao Surajmal (1527-1531 AD)
10. Rao Suratana (1531-1554 AD)
11. Rao Arjun Singh
12. Rao Surjan (1554-1585 AD)
13. Rao Bhoj (1585-1607 A.D.)
14. Rao Ratan Singh (1607-1631 A.D.)
15. Rao Shatrushalya or Chhatrashal (1631-1658)
16. Maharao Raja Bhav Singh (1658-1681)
17. Maharao Raja Aniru (Singh 1681-1695 AD)
18. Maharao Raja Budh (Singh 1695-1730 AD)
19. Maharao Raja Dalelsingh (1730-1748 AD)
20. Maharao Raja Umaid Singh (1748-71)
21. Maharao Raja Bishan Singh (1772-1821)
22. Maharao Raja Ram Singh (1821-1889)

The study of the state currency of Bundi has been presented in this paper. As mentioned above, Bundi state was formerly a part of Malav Janpad. Later, the Hada Rajputs settled their settlement here and established Bundi in the valley of Bundi. In the past, evidence of currency in Bundi is known from Malav Janpad. The Mughal era is visible on the Bundi currency ever since the Bundi state joined the Mughal service.

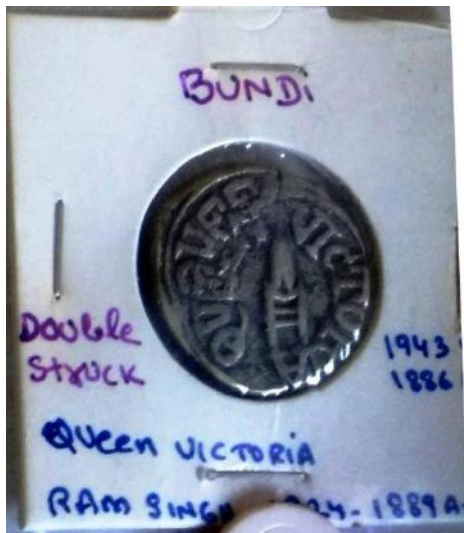


During the Mughal period, the names of the Mughal emperors were inscribed on the coins manufactured from the Bundi mint. Due to the good relations of the Maharao of Bundi with the Mughals, different Maharao of Bundi minted many types of coins during their time. Silver Chavanni, Athani and Duanni were cast. Mughal influence is visible on coins during the reign of Maharao Raja Bishan Singh (Vishnu Singh). Later, after the domination of the British East India Company in India, the Kota state signed a treaty with the British East India Company on 10 February 1818.

Thus, during the British rule, only 34 states were given the right to issue their own coins. These included the states of Bundi and Kotah, which inscribed the name of Queen Victoria on their coins. Many states inscribed the name and image in Persian on the coins, but due to good relations with the British officials of Bundi state, Queen Victoria's name was written in English in Bundi and the name of Maharao of Bundi was inscribed on the second page of the currency. Also got an exemption. Coins in different names and periods were prevalent in Bundi, the main ones being Ramshahi, Katarshari and Chehreshahi. The Ramshahi coin was in circulation between 1859 to 1886.



बूंदी की चेहरेशाही मुद्रा



बूंदी की कटारशाही मुद्रा डबल स्ट्रक

Photo – Shri Lankesh Dandona, Coin Collector of Kota Rajasthan

Due to the prevalent dagger in Bundi, Katarshahi coins were also in circulation, in which Bundi's dagger was made on one side and Queen Victoria was inscribed in English on top. From 1876 to 1886, many such Katarshahi coins were minted in which twice the marking is done. That's why they are called double strokes. By marking twice, it appeared a little thick and different, due to the fall in the price of the coins of Bundi, the price of 162 Bundi coins remained equal to 100 kaldars, in 1901, in Bundi, by mixing silver with a cheap metal, Cheresshahi Coins came into circulation. In these, on one side Bundi Ram Singh and Samvat were inscribed in Nagari script and on the other side the picture of Bundi King with a dagger in his hand and Queen Victoria was inscribed on it. The Katarshahi currency of Bundi remained quite popular.

1.2 Bundi dagger –

The practice of dagger is visible in all cultures in the Indian subcontinent. Its oldest form remained in South India. We find its earliest form in the Vijayanagara Empire. It was used as a weapon in the ancient Tamil wars. This weapon is kept under the 'Mushtikai' class. Which means to hold in the fist in a special way. Its meaning is - Mushti means fist and Kai means arm.



16th century dagger of the Vijayanagara Empire



It was made and used differently in different states. The difference is reflected in the skewers of the states of South India and North India. Later it was kept for decoration and protection. A special type of skewer was used in Bundi. In Bundi district also, a distinctive set of Bundi royal kataras were produced between the 18th and 19th centuries. These were embellished and the hilts were decorated with gold foils. In English books it was known as 'Bundi Dagger' which was presented in a completely wrong form. There it was displayed as equivalent to a knife.



Whereas this skewer was made by joining two thin bars together with another piece. Which was like a handle. It was made in such a way that it could be grasped with the claw of the whole hand and the thumb. Here the blade was attached at the end. According to the Bundi tradition, hunting lions etc. were inscribed on the blade. From the Ain-i-Akbari we get information about different types of weapons, of which Jamdhar is a type of weapon which is similar to Bundi's dagger. Its handle is similar to that of Bundi skewer, but there is a difference between the two.



Photo www. Mandarinmansion.com

1.3 Weapons in Ain-i-Akbari

Top row, left to right:

1. Jamdhar Sahlikneh (3 - pointy daggers)
2. Jamdhar Doulikneh (2 pointed daggers)
3. Jamdhar (wide daggers)
4. Baneh (Sword)

Second row, left to right:

5. Katara (dagger)
6. Jhambwah (dagger)
7. Khapwa (Dagger) 3

Madho Singh, son of Maharao Ratan Singh of Bundi, became the first ruler of Kota. Because of this, the trend of Bundi skewers is visible in Kota. Jamdhar displayed in Ain-e-Akbari became popular in Kota. here was a difference between Bundi's Katar and Kota's Jamdhar. Jamdhar was a pointed dagger which was equated with a sword, whereas many translators mistranslated them and equated them to Bundi daggers. The Bundi dagger was tied to the arm or waist with a rope or cloth bandage so that it would not slip.

The period of Maharao Raja Ram Singh (1821-1889) was prosperous for the manufacture of kataras in Bundi.



1

The dagger presented by Maharao Ramsingh to Edward VII, on which the article is written in Hadoti language, "Katari Bundi ki Usto Khemo Samvat. 1892 "According to its Hindi translation, Katar Bundi's creator is the khema.



During his reign from 1836 to 1872, a person named Khema was prevalent in Bundi for the manufacture of kataras. Evidence of the first dagger is found in Bundi, which was 18 1/2 long. Hunting scenes were engraved on it. The skewer was polished. Manufactured by the Khema. Similar flowers are also inscribed on another skewer. Flowers were carved on the wide area of its handle and it was also manufactured by the Khema. Similar flowers are also inscribed on another skewer. An inscription has been inscribed with gold on these daggers, according to which these skewers are the property of Maharao Raja Ram Singh and they were made by the Khema. Various kataras were made during the period of Maharao Raja Ram Singh. One of these daggers was presented by Maharao to Edward VII on the occasion of his visit to India in 1875-76, which is currently preserved in the Metropolitan Museum.

In this episode, we get an old dagger built in 1590, which was built during the time of Maharao Raja Bhoj.

¹ Royal Collection Trust RCIN 11408

A dagger preserved in the Metropolitan Museum bears an inscription from Hadoti in Devanagari script "Bundijaram, the Lord of Bundi, will protect with this dagger, when it pierces it is like the tongue of death." On the other side of the dagger Samvat. 1909 is inscribed.

CONCLUSION

The Bundi Skewer (dagger) was so popular that it was inscribed on the coins of Bundi. The coins of Bundi was Known as Katarshahi coins. The name was given by the locals .The popularity of this dagger was so much that later it was also inscribed on the postage stamps issued on Bundi. The famous Katar of Bundi is currently preserved in the Kota Museum and the National Museum, which is important as a historical and social resource of the time.

REFERENCES

It is based on the study of the Numismatic of the area. It is evident by the coinage of area, which is found in the accessed area and preserved at the Museum and local peoples.