

## **Pre Aryan Settlements in Old Shahabad District:** **A Geographical Analysis**

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### **Abstract:-**

Based on historical facts, it is very difficult to present the exact chronology of the origin of human Civilization in the Old Shahabad District. In most civilization it is found that there is no real record. The history of those civilization is revealed by the poetry, statues, paintings etc. Found there ways and habitats of worship. All these facts are attended with little knowledge. Economic, social and political history is revealed from the material available in the district government record, mythological, travelogues and literacy sources etc.

Efforts are common in the developments of settlements and developments of facilities. Because with the development of Civilization, people started thinking about living together, which gave rise to the development of settlements. It is seen from Pre-Aryan times that both have geographical similarity.

If we consider the Old Shahabad District, the facts are found based on mythology. According to the legend, once the creator Brahma was happy and blessed both Kuru and Madhya Pradesh with happiness and prosperity. When a demon named Tadka emerged, then the people of both the states went away for fear of him. Due to which area was deserted. Today's Uttar Pradesh was then Kuru region. It was ruled by Suryavanshi kings. The strong hold built by king Trishanku's son Harishchandra and his son Rohitashraw testifies to this fact. His father cursed him to become a chandal due to a heinous crime of king Trishanku. Due to which he went to Guru Vashishtha for

liberation. But got disappointed. After that with the help of Guru Vishwamitra, he went to ward heaven in a plane. The Gods stopped them in the middle and hung them upside down. Salives released from the mouth of hung gave birth to karmanasa river.

The Sun dynasty to destroy us and the rise of the Lunar dynasty. Evidence of this is found from the remains found from excavation near Allahabad, which date from 23400 to 177650 BC on the basis of radio carbonating. The Lunar dynasty took over the entire Aryavarta. The founder of this dynasty was som. His capital was pratitin. There were many great rulers in this dynasty. This Lunar dynasty later split into two different dynasties, Yaduvanshi and hahavanshi.

During the Mahabharata period, Karun Pradesh was under the domination of the Chandravanshi people. It is not able to hear that Anirudh, Krishna's grandson was married to a girl from Kanasur. In the marriage dantavakra was killed in a war between Krishna's elder brother Balram. Dantavakra, the king of Karusha ruled the kingdom by Chandravanshi. In this period there is a discussion of the slaughter of Bakasura by Bhima. There used to be a Palace called Bakrid, 8 kilometers from Ara. Whose Man there is a mound which is still famous as Banka Baba All these fact are also found in government records. All the facts testify to the dominance of the Chandravanshi people in Karun Pradesh. In this region, they also pushed the tribals. The Cheri and the Kharwars into the remote Kaimur hill.

In fact, the entire Karun and Magadha etc. where influenced by Suryavanshi people. Chanravanshi's continued to establish his Dominion in this state even through Mathura. The major Lunar dynasty rulers were Jarasandha, Kansa and Shishupal etc. Other rulers were Gayasur, Sahastrabahu etc.

**Key word:-** Civilization, Old Shahabad District, Mythology, Pre-Aryan, Suryavanshi, Chandravanshi, Karmanasa, Bakasur, Kaimur hill.

## **Introductions:-**

Settlement Geography is a branch of human Geography that investigates the Earth's surfaces part settled by human. According to the United nation's Vancouver declaration on human settlement (1976)" human settlement means the totality of the human community- whether city, town or village - with all the social, material, organizational, spiritual and cultural elements that sustain it".

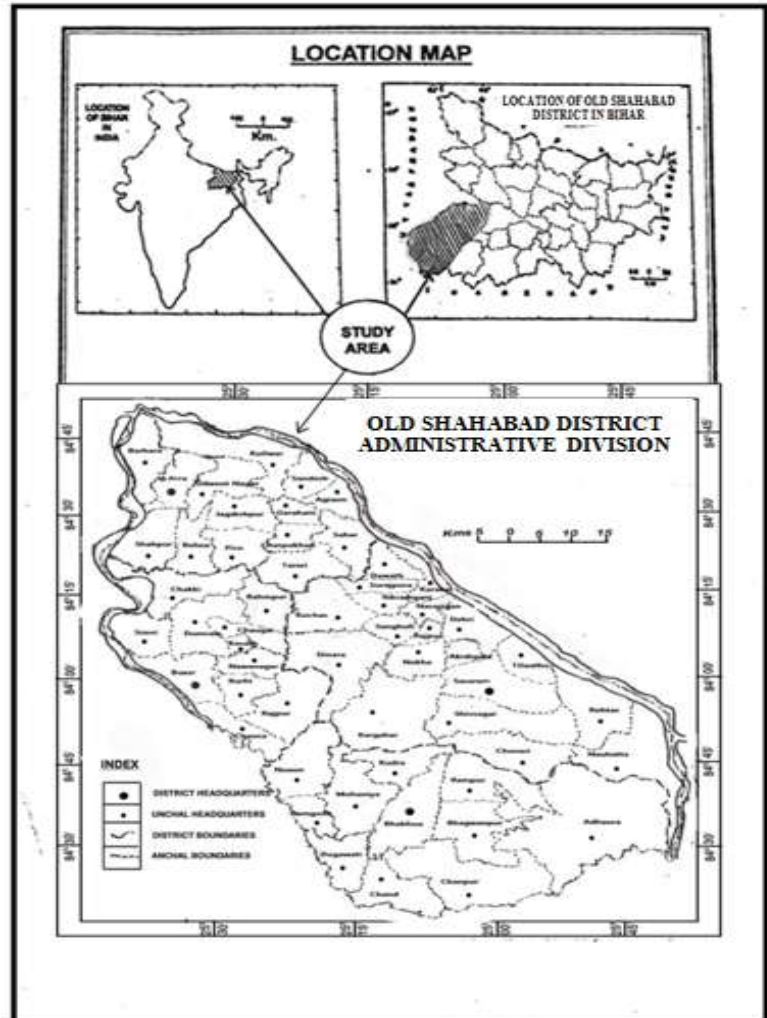
The study of has evolved into the interaction of humans with the physical and ecological world. This more holistic study is concerned with sustainability and seeks to better understand the present land scope and plan the future.

Before the arrival of man in the Ganga Valley, region is believed to have been covered with forest. The people of Negrito and Proto-austratiod stock were the earliest to occupy this region during the pre-historic period. In pre-historic period Old Shahabad was occupied by aboriginal races of whom the chief represented was the Birhor, Chero and Savars. Rigveda superior, race, contemptuously called the non-Aryan as 'Dasyu' or 'Asuras'. Rigveda also refers to numerous towns and forts built of stone in the non-Aryan kingdom. Moreover, the presence of Shiva temples in urban centers bears testimony to the fact that this region was earlier occupied by non-Aryan.

The source of the English word Aryan comes from the Sanskrit word Arya, which is self designation used by the Vedic indic people who migrated into the Indian subcontinent around 15,00 BCE. The Sanskrit term has a cognate in the Iranian word Arya, which is also a self-designation. Both the Sanskrit and the Iranian terms descend from a form Arya that was used by the Indo-Iranian tribes to refer to themselves, a term which is also connected to the source of the country name Iran, from a phrase meaning Kingdom of the Aryans. The Aryan has had a history filled with controversy.

### **Study area :-**

In present research paper an attempt has been made to analysis the shape characteristics of villages of old Shahabad district. The district consists of the new districts of Bhojpur, Rohtas, Buxar and Kaimur. It extends from  $83^{\circ}19'$  to  $84^{\circ}15'$  East longitude and  $24^{\circ}31'$  to  $25^{\circ}46'$  North latitude and comprises an area of 4406 sq. miles (11311 sq. km.) This portion of land consists of physiographic diversity like southern hilly area, Northern Ganga diara areas and the alluvial plains. It is bounded by rivers almost for the whole of its perimeter and only for a small distance of about sixty kilometers out of its whole perimeter of over 1200 kilometers. The study area does not possess a natural barrier. In the North, the river Ganga separates the region from Ghazipur and Ballia districts of U.P. and from Saran district of Bihar. In the East river son separates it from the districts of Patna, Jahanabad, Aurangabad in the South again the same river separating it from Palamu and Garhwa districts of Jharkhand province and on the west it has districts of Gazipur, Mirzapur, Banaras etc. of U.P.



### **Objectives:-**

Main objectives of the present study are the following:-

- The study highlights the changes in the characteristics of the rural settlements.
- The study also find out the evolution of rural settlements during early historic periods.
- The study also considers the spatial variation in changing settlements characteristics.
- The study is to analyze the settlements of the Pre-Aryan civilization, as well as to understand the dominance of the Aryans in ancient times.

### **Data and Mythology:-**

The study of nature requires both primary and secondary data. In the present investigation some places of different areas would be selected using purposive sampling technique. Primary data concerning rural settlements would generate with the help of questionnaires and intensive field work.

Secondary data would be collected from published historical books, vVedas, Purans, Upnoshad etc. Primary and secondary data would be processed and analyzed. Suitable maps and digrams will be constructed for different types of data.

### **Main discussion:-**

Due to lack of authentic historical records and large gaps in historical accounts, it is very difficult to present a well coordinated chronological accounts of origin and evolution of settlement in the old Shahabad District. There are no written records left by first settlers in any part of the world about their doings, except a few relics in the shape of instruments and potteries they used idols they worshipped and in some cases, pictures they drew and paintings they made on the walls of their dwellings, from which we can form rudimentary ideas about their lives and civilization. Therefore, an attempt has been made to utilize the materials available in the District Gazetteers, settlement reports other semi-authentic records travel accounts and original historical

studies. Help has also been taken from literary sources which throw some light on economic social and political history of the region. These literature includes the name like Diwakar R.R.<sup>1</sup> Husain Majid<sup>2</sup>, Sinha<sup>3</sup>, Ahmad<sup>4</sup>, Chaudhary<sup>5</sup>, Mukherjee<sup>6</sup>, Singh, R.L.<sup>7</sup>, Singh R.Y.<sup>8</sup>, Singh A.K.<sup>9</sup> etc. are more important for the present study

The establishment of settlements is as old as civilization itself, because "the rise of civilization has been immediately bound up the gathering of men to live in cities and the two phenomena have a common geographical basis. Since the nature of settlements depends upon the civilization in which they have developed, it is useful to study the origin and evolution of settlement of the region in pre-Aryan period of history as described below.

The story of settlements in Pre Aryan period in old Shahabad division describes several mythological stories. According to a mythological story after Indra was freed from the sin of Brahma hatya, Brahma, the creator was very much happy and he blessed both the Karus and the Madhya Pradesh with prosperity and happiness till the advent of Tadka originally a Yakshini who was cursed by August Rishi with demonhood. Being infuriated by the Pradesh and the inhabitant of both the regions left their habitation to settle in other regions. Thus, these beautiful and prosperous regions turned into jungle. Karus Pradesh being part of Aryabarta was culturally one with the east of Ganga plain, west of it forming today Uttar Pradesh and was under the dominance of people of Solar line (Suryavanshis) who ruled the Rohitashwa, the son of Raja Harishchandra. The fort of Rohitashwa Garh established by Rohitashwa is the glaring proof of the dominance of people of solar line in the region. Raja Trisanku, who wished to go Heaven in his earthly body was no other than the father of the famous king Raja Harish Chandra. As boundary of Karus is associated with the curse of the king Trisanku. The mighty Trisanku conquered the Brahmin king of Vidarbha and snatched his wife. Father of Trisanku cursed him for this heinous work with Chandalhood and deprived him from the throne. Trisanku wanted his Kulgura Vashishtha to purify him and to get him freed from Chandalhood, but the latter refused to do so and then Trisanku turned to Vishwanmitra who was the only competitor of Vashitha

those days. 'Vishwa Mitra' with the power of his 'Trisanku' with a Viman which proceeded towards Heaven. But the Gods pushed trisanku out of the Vishwa Mitra stopped him in between and the water which dropped out of his mouth gave rise to Karmanasa. Thus the existence of Rohitashwa garh and river Karmanasa are sufficient proof of the dominance of people of solarline in the region. The people of lunar line were also flourishing in Aryavarta along with those of solar dynasty because both were close relations but the dominance was that of the people of solar line.

After Kusambu, the grand son of Rama, and son of Kus began to downfall of solar people and the dominance of lunar people started. It will not be out of place to mention here that Kusambi, 38 miles ahead Allahabad, the excavation of which have by Kusambu, the son of Kush. The excavation of Kausambi has brought out rice & cement gravel, the radio-carbonating which proves it to be of upper paleolithic to Mesolithic period ranging from 23400 to 177650 B.C.<sup>12</sup> is sufficient to make untenable the hypothesis that Aryan have come here from central Asia.

As stated above the Som bansis or Chandra banshees defeated the Suruya banshees and established their territory in the eastern Aryavarta. This dynasty was established by Som, the son of Atri Rishi who established his capital at Pratishtan a place in between the Ganga and Jamuna, a few miles from Allahabad. Important king like Parurwa, Nahus yagati, Paru, Dushyanta and his famous son Bharata ruled Aryavarta for long time. Buxar was the Capital of Raja Gadhi & Vishwamitra who belonged to the lunar line. Karus was snatched from the Suryavanshis at the time of Raja Babu, the grand son of Rohitashwa and father of Raja Sagar by Turwasu, the third son of Yayati. This Chandravanshi dynasty was subsequently divided into two separate dynasties the Yadawa or Yaduvanshi and the Hahawbansis.<sup>13</sup> The descendents of Rarwasu were subsequently known as Hohawbansis.

In Dwapar or Mahabharat period karus Pradesh was under the dominance of the aforesaid people of lunar line. In Mahabharata Dentbakra has been described as Karusadhipati

(the king of Karus).<sup>14</sup> It may be mentioned here that Anirudha, the grandson of Krishna was married to Usha, the daughter of Banasur whose capital was at Masarh a place 8 Kms. west of Arrah. In this marriage Dyut was being played between Bal Ram, the elder brother of Krishana and Danta Bakra, this play gave rise to a feud between Bal Ram and Danta Bakra in which Danta Bakra was killed by Bal Ram and Karus came under the dominance of Chandra bansis . Again, we see that during the period of exile of pandavas, they were moving incognito and Bhim killed Bakasura to save the life of the only son of a widow Brahmini. Bakasura was living at Bakari a place 8 Km south of Arrah. At Bakari even today the garh of bankasur can be seen in the shape of mound. people of village has raised a pucca platform under a pipal tree and they still worship Bakasura calling them as Banka Baba. The old stone statues collected at one place by the villagers are sufficient proof for Bakari being an ancient site with royal habitat. In the old revenue records village Bakari has been mentioned on Baka killing of Danta Bakra by Bal Ram and that Baka-Sur by Bhim close relation and follower of Krishna is sufficient proof that Karus remained under the dominance of the Chandra Bansis. Right from the Dwapar or the Mahabharata period 'Karus remained under the dominance of ChandraVanshi but their main stronghold was from Buxar to Arrah with Behea as their capital. The Haihaw bansis who ruled this region for very long period and drove away the aboriginal, the Cheros and kharwars in the remotest parts of kaimur plateau.

In fact the whole of Aryabarta including Karus and Magadha were under the dominance of the people of Lunar line. The ChandraVanshis could establish themselves in whole of Aryavarth, from Mathura, in the west Rajgir in the east, the chief rulers were the kurubansis in Hastinapur, Kans the maternal uncle of Lord Krishna, at Mathura, Dantbakra a cousin of Krishna, at Karus jara-sandh the father-in-law of kans at Rajgir and Shishupal at Chedi the present Bundelkhand. It may be mentioned here that the Pandwas, Shishupal and Dantbakra all were sons of the three sisters of Vasudeva, the father of Krishna. Except for the pandavas the rest two were at inimical term with krishna. This is because they were friends of Jarasandh who



became enemy of Krishna as the latter killed Kans the Son-in-law of Jarasandh. The other important figures in Chandra bansis were Gay the great grand son of Purusawa and son Amurtrama. Gaya ruthlessly conquered the areas between kannauj to Magadh and cirthally his army destroyed the entire region traversed by it. It was cruel and ruthless behavior that he was called an Asur by the Brahmins and was subsequently known as Gayasur. He established his capital at Gaya. Sahasarjun was another important personality in the Lunar race. Suhastrajun, popularly known as Shasbahu, who was killed by parshu Ram had established his capital at Sasaram. It is in his name that Sasaram is so named.

### **Problems:-**

The study of Pre-Aryan settlements had to go through the difficulties of the factual sources. Complete absence of factual sources was found. Whatever the sources we're, either they are based on folklore or mentioned in mythological texts. Difficulties also across in the verification of places mentioned in mythological texts. Which required extra efforts. Since the paper is based on Pre-Aryan facts. Therefore an attempt was made to come to the conclusion by linking the historical links with each other.

### **Finding:-**

After studying the Pre-Aryan settlements in the study area, Many such facts were found out which we were not aware of.

The establishment of settlements is as old as Civilization. There is a legend in Pre-Aryan settlements in the Old Shahabad District. The study area was an area of attraction for the dynasties even in Pre-Aryan times. The region has often been witness to the struggle between the Sure and the Asuras.

A mention of the citadel built by Harishchandra's son is also found in the area. The Karmanasa river originated from the salvia of the Trishanku. Evidence of the dominance of Suryavanshi

rulers as well as Chandravanshi rulers is also found in this area. Analysis of some archaeological materials found under the study area on radio-carbonating method reveals the outline of Pre-Aryan settlements. The mythological texts mention the origin of the Surya dynasty and the expansion of the kingdom by its majestic kings. The origin of Chandravanshi rulers is also mentioned. References to the Mahabharata suggest that Bakasura, whose residence was 8 km South of Ara, is killed by Bhima in a malla war. A demon named Tadka who tried to dissolve Vishwamitra yajna at Buxar was killed by Suryavanshi Rama. There is also a mention of an Asura named Shahastrabahu, who established his capital at Sasaram, slaughtered by Parashuram.

### **Conclusion:-**

The evaluation of settlement in study areas start with the human civilization on the earth. Because it is named after the son of manu himself. For the purpose of proper understanding of historical and cultural succession of the region. Civilization was started in the study area only since ancient times. With the introduction of civilization, settlements began to develop. The development of civilization takes place in the same area which is full of basic amenities of living. All these facilities were present in the study area. As a result, the inclination of the people and rulers of other states was also reflected in the dominance of this region. Most of the settlements in the study area are mentioned in mythological texts.

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