

**Environment, Economy & Society
through the ages in Indian Context**

**युग-युगीन भारत में
समाज, पर्यावरण और अर्थव्यवस्था**



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विषय सूची

संपादकीय		I-VIII
1. Impact of the Political Change on Society and Economy of Saurashtra (Kathiawad 1820-1947 A.D.)	Prof. S.V. Jani	1-9
2. The Social Protest Movement in Medieval Odisha : The Laxmipurān an Analysis	Dr. Pareshwar Sahu	10-15
3. Contextualizing Environment in Historical Perspectives	Dr. Sanjay Kumar	16-25
4. Military Grants under the Chandellas	Dr. Rashmi Upadhyay	26-32
5. Importance of the Economy of the Deccan Region during 17 th Century	Dr. Sujata H. Gaurkhede	33-41
6. Environmental Factors Resulting in Deterioration of Jat Architecture at Deeg : A case study of Suraj Bhawan	Dr. Anil Kumar Varma	42-53
7. Perception of the Saints to the Patterns of Agricultural Production in Medieval Bengal	Abdul Motleb Shaikh	54-63
8. Explorative Study of Arzdashits for Merchants of Amber c. 1640-1720	Mohammad Shahnawaz	64-75
9. Economic Impact of the Marathas on the Jaipur State During the Eighteenth Century	Dr. Kalpana Malik	76-87
10. Trade under Maratha Economy Merchants of Amber c. 1640-1720	Deepali Khodade	88-93

Explorative Study of Arzdashts for Merchants of Amber c. 1640-1720

Mohammad Shahnawaz

Arzdasht is a Persian word which means 'a written petition'.¹ *Arzdashts* had been written by the *pargana* or state officials to the Maharaja of Amber. These are written in both Persian and *Rajasthani* languages and preserved at the Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner. At present 20 bundles of *arzdasht* (*Rajasthani*) are preserved at the archives. Present study focuses on *Rajasthani arzdashts*.

Various *arzdashts* were written by the *Vakils*. These were known as *Vakil Reports*.² These are also written in both *Persian* and *Rajasthani* languages. These reports were sent to the ruler by the *Vakils* of the state posted at the Mughal court. Sometimes *arzdasht* were written by the laypersons. For instance one *arzdasht* was written by the *mahajans* of Sanganer addressed to the Maharaja Ram Singh.³ An attempt has been made in this paper to explore merchants from the *arzdashts*. Fortunately we have enough material to explore information pertaining to merchants. Some of them are not readable and cut on the corners.

It is interesting to note that mostly Persian words were used in *arzdashts* such as *huqm* (order), *naib* (deputy), *muwafiq* (according), *salamat* (blessed), *arz* (to say), *daro bast* (entirety), *talab* (demand), *mulazim* (servant), *maratib* (honour, gradations of rank), *inayat* (confer), *fasad* (rebellion), *mufsid* (miscreant), *gumashta* (agent), *rukhsat* (departure), *siropao* (dress of honour), *khidamat* (service), *izafa* (enhancement), *haqiqat* (actuality), *shagird pasha* (apprentice),