



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

AN INSIGHT INTO THE MANDLOI (MANDAVYA-VYAS) ROYAL FAMILY OF THE PRASHNORA NAGAR BRAHMIN COMMUNITY

Akhil Bharitiya Prashnora Nagar Brahmin Samaj- ABPNBS

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ABSTRACT:

This study explores the historical and cultural importance of the Mandloi (Mandavya-Vyas) royal family within the Prashnora Nagar Brahmin community following the catastrophic invasion by Alauddin Khilji in Vikram Samvat 1305 (1362 CE). The research examines the tragic massacre of the Prashnora Nagar Brahmins in Daspur (present-day Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh) and the subsequent migration led by the Mandloi family. Utilizing historical documents, religious texts, and oral narratives, this work reveals the Mandloi family's crucial role in safeguarding cultural and religious traditions and discusses their socio-cultural impact on the Malwa region. The findings underscore the resilience of the Prashnora Nagar Brahmins and highlight the broader implications of historical migrations and cultural preservation.

Keywords: Prashnora Nagar Brahmin, Mandloi, Malwa region, Alauddin Khilji, cultural preservation, Skanda Purana, socio-religious heritage.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Prashnora Nagar Brahmin community, originally from the historical town of Daspur, has significantly influenced the cultural and religious life in the Malwa region. The invasion by Alauddin Khilji in Vikram Samvat 1305 marked a crucial turning point, leading to widespread displacement and the destruction of sacred sites. This research aims to analyze the essential contributions of the Mandloi (Mandavya-Vyas) royal family in ensuring the community's survival and resurgence.

The study is guided by the following questions:

- What role did the Mandloi family play in preserving the cultural and religious practices of the Prashnora Nagar Brahmins post-invasion?
- What were the socio-political contributions of the Mandloi family in the historical context of Malwa?
- How did the migration affect the cultural landscape of the region?

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Historical texts such as the Skanda Purana and Matsya Purana document the spiritual and scholarly contributions of the Prashnora Nagar Brahmin community. Notable works, including those by Nandlal Dashora and Kishanlal Bhagirath Dashora, provide an overview of the community's twelve gotras, particularly the Mandavya-Vyas lineage. However, there is a limited focus on the socio-political role of the Mandloi family in the wake of the Khilji invasion. This study aims to bridge this gap by conducting a thorough historical analysis based on both primary and secondary sources, including genealogical records from the Dashora website (www.dashora.ca). The Mandloi family, known as **Meriya Vyasa**, has its origins in the **Vadnagara Nagar Brahmin** community. Historically, the Vadnagara Nagar Brahmins migrated to **Prashnipur**, from which they later came to be known as **Prashnora Brahmins**. The Mandloi family, part of this Prashnora lineage, retains its connection to the Vadnagara Nagar Brahmin roots. This distinguished family carries the **Mandavya Gotra** and upholds the legacy of **Brahma Kshatriya** heritage. The family's ancestral deities, shrines, and traditions continue to hold immense cultural and spiritual significance. Their **Sati Mata** shrine, dedicated to **Khushibai Fatehsingh Mandloi**, and their **Kul Batuk Bhairuji** deity reside in the village of Oon, Khargone district. The family's **Kuldevi (family goddess)** is **Mata Tuljapur Bhavani**, also known as **Atibala**, and their **Kulmata (family mother)** is **Boblaja**, the primordial goddess seated under a babul tree, symbolized by the sun and the moon.

Key Information:

Key Information	Details
Gotra	Mandavya
Surname	Vyasa (Meriya Vyasa)
Title	Mandloi
Pravara (Lineage)	5 sages—Mandavya, Chyavana, Aptavan, Jamadagni, Aurva
Lineage (Vansh)	Bhrigu
Patron Deity (Ganapati)	Bhargava
Family Deity (Kulmata)	Boblaja
Guardian Spirit (Yaksha Bhairava)	Kapalimala
Veda	Yajurveda
Sub-Veda (Upaveda)	Dhanurveda
Branch (Shakha)	Madhyandina
Sutra	Katyayana
Meter (Chhanda)	Trishtubh
Shikha	Right-sided
Foot (Pada)	Right
Deity (Devata)	Rudra
Region (Pur)	Dashapura

III. METHODOLOGY

The genealogical records of the Prashnora Nagar Brahmins, including the Mandloi family's history, are maintained by the Barot (Raoji) of the community, rather than in copperplate inscriptions (tāmrapatras). This research adopts a qualitative case study approach, integrating both primary and secondary sources to offer a comprehensive view of the Mandloi family's contributions. Primary sources include genealogical records held by the Barot (Raoji), along with interviews conducted with family descendants. Secondary sources consist of scholarly articles, historical texts, and community narratives.

The study follows a historiographical approach to highlight the socio-cultural impact of the Mandloi family's leadership. In-depth interviews with selected descendants of the Mandloi family were conducted to capture oral histories related to the community's migration and settlement experiences. Archival records were cross-referenced with historical texts to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the findings.

IV. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

4.1 Alauddin Khilji's Invasion

In Vikram Samvat 1305, the forces of Alauddin Khilji targeted the Prashnora Nagar Brahmins in Daspur, leading to significant loss of life and the destruction of cultural sites. This invasion not only disrupted the community's stability but also forced them to seek refuge elsewhere.

4.2 Massacre and Displacement

The aftermath of the massacre compelled the remaining community members, including the Mandloi family, to migrate in various directions. The family, under its patriarchal leadership, moved westward to the Malwa region, establishing a new community Dashora Nagar Samaj in Oon, Khargone Madhya Pradesh.

V. THE MANDLOI (MANDAVYA-VYAS) ROYAL FAMILY

5.1 Lineage and Gotras

The Mandavya-Vyas lineage represents one of the twelve gotras of the Prashnora Nagar Brahmin community. The Mandloi family, also referred to as Meriya-Vyas, held positions of both spiritual and military leadership, recognized for their expertise in Vedic rituals.

5.2 Establishment in Oon, Khargone

Upon resettling in Oon, the Mandloi family became instrumental in fostering a thriving community. They managed the administration of numerous villages and played a significant role in maintaining the Hatkeshwar Temple, a crucial religious center.

5.3 Cultural and Religious Contributions

The family's influence extended beyond ritual practices; they were key in revitalizing the community's socio-economic status. Through the organization of festivals like Hatkeshwar Patotsav and Kuldevi & Sati Mata, Bheruji Pujan, they strengthened communal identity and cohesion.

VI. MIGRATION AND RESETTLEMENT

The Mandloi family's leadership during the migration was instrumental in the successful resettlement of the Prashnora Nagar Brahmins throughout the Malwa region. While there is no known copperplate inscription verifying the acquisition of multiple villages, historical records and oral histories from community descendants emphasize the family's efforts in establishing a strong support system, which was vital for the community's continuity and resilience.

VII. MARATHA INFLUENCE AND TITLES

During the Maratha rule, the Mandloi family was acknowledged as Jagirdars, wielding significant administrative power over a large territory. The title 'Mandloi,' bestowed upon them by King Madhav Singh of Barwani, underscored their authority under the Holkar dynasty and highlighted their contribution to local governance and cultural preservation.

VIII. CULTURAL IMPACT ON DASPUR (MANDSAUR)

The historical significance of Mandsaur is deeply tied to both its cultural and spiritual heritage. One poignant event that marked the town's history is the mass sacrifice of women as Sati on the banks of the Shivna River during Vikram Samvat 1362 (1305 CE) on the auspicious day of Shravani Poornima. This tragic event took place at what is now known as the Mahasati Sthanak, a revered site of remembrance.

Additionally, the return of the Prashnora Nagar Brahmins to Daspur (modern-day Mandsaur) after their migration played a crucial role in shaping the local cultural fabric. One of their most significant contributions was the establishment of the Hatkeshwar Mahadev Temple in Vikram Samvat 532. Though this sacred site was later destroyed during Alauddin Khilji's invasion, it was a spiritual hub for the Prashnora community.

The legacy of this temple continues in the form of the Ashtamukh Pashupatinath Temple, which now stands in Mandsour, serving as a powerful testament to the community's enduring spiritual and cultural influence.

IX. CONCLUSION

The leadership of the Mandloi family in the wake of Alauddin Khilji's invasion exemplifies the critical role that community leaders play in the preservation of cultural identity. Their initiatives not only ensured the survival of the Prashnora Nagar Brahmins' traditions but also contributed significantly to the socio-religious fabric of the Malwa region. This research enhances our understanding of how displaced communities leverage strategic leadership and cultural resilience to maintain their heritage amidst adversity. Furthermore, the royal family's ongoing homage to their ancestral sword, manifested in the sacred puja on Dussehra, underscores their deep-rooted commitment to honoring their heritage and the enduring significance it embodies.

X. REFERENCES

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5. Dashora Brahmin community genealogical records, which provide insights into the socio-cultural dynamics and historical lineage (www.dashora.ca, 2023).

XI. APPENDIX

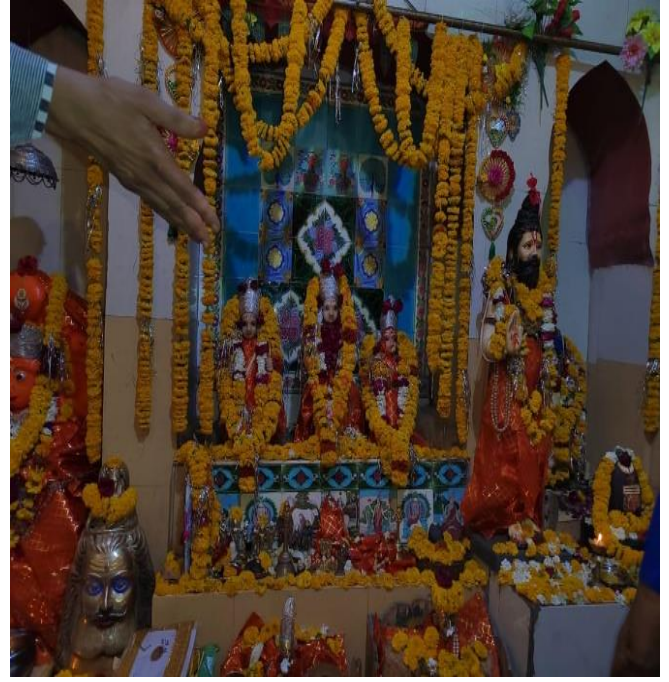


प्राचीन तलवार तथा कुलदेवी माँ तुलजापुर भवानी पूजन चित्र 1-2

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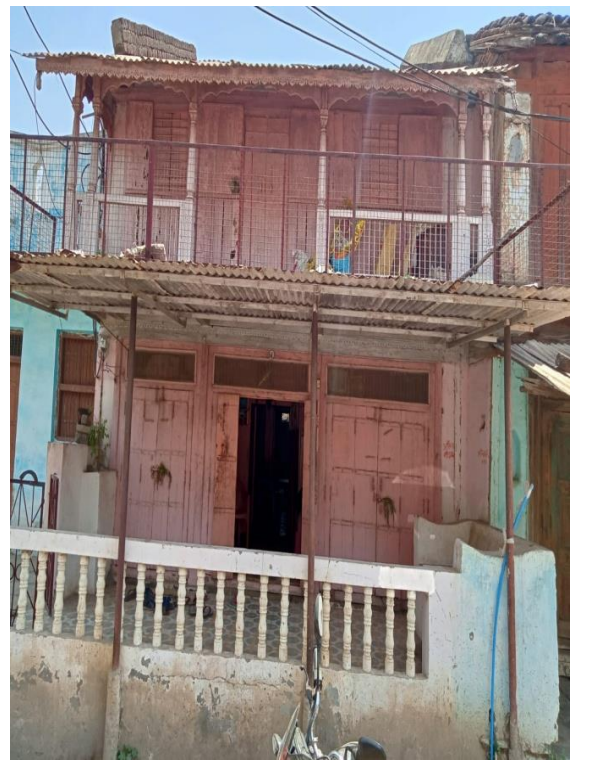
- 4 श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह मण्डलोई तथा पत्नि सौ. दुर्गा मण्डलोई कुल सतीमाता सौ खुशीबाई फतेहिसिंग (१) मण्डलोई की पूजा करते हुए।

नोट: सौ खुशीबाई फतेहिसिंग (१) मण्डलोई विक्रम सम्वत १४१४ में ग्राम ऊन जिला खरगोन में सती हुई।

5. प्राचीन श्री राम मंदिर मुख्य पुजारी परिवार (नागर) गोत्र- कोडिन्य अटक- भट्ट) परिवार। (प्रश्नोरा नागर ब्राह्मण परिवार) गौर जी - समस्त दशोरा नागर समाज पश्चिम निमाड़।



गोत्र - मांडव्य अटक- व्यास परिवार (मेरिया व्यास - मण्डलोई) के कुल - बटुक भेरुजी ग्राम- ऊन जिला खरगोन मप्र



स्वर्गीय श्री फतेहसिंह मण्डलोई जी (२) ऊन जिला खरगोन (यह श्री नरेंद्र सिंह जी के दादा जी का चित्र है)
मण्डलोई राजपरिवार (दरबार) का मूल निवास विक्रम सम्वत् १३६२ इसवी सन १३०५ से।



प्राचीन हाटकेश्वर महादेव मंदिर ऊन (भारतीय पुरातत्त्व विभाग द्वारा संरक्षित)

मण्डलोई परिवार के वंशज:-श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह मण्डलोई (मांडव्य - व्यास)

ग्राम- ऊन जिला- खरगोन मध्यप्रदेश

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