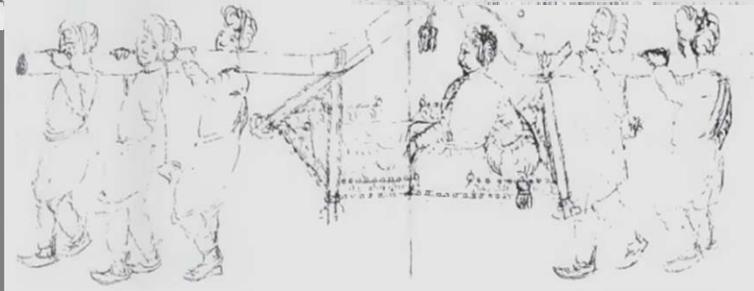
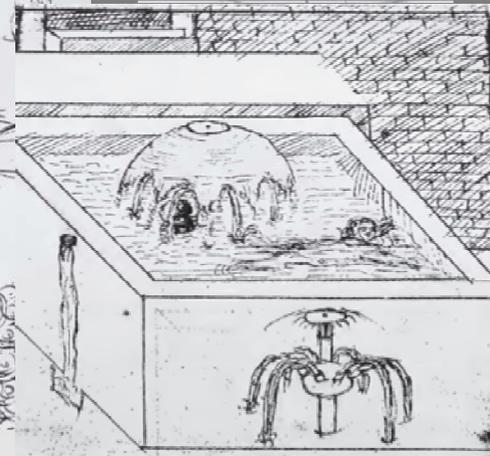
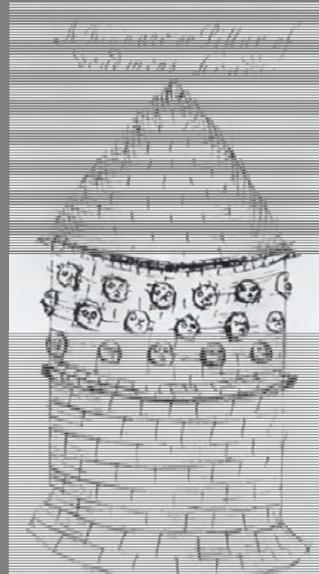
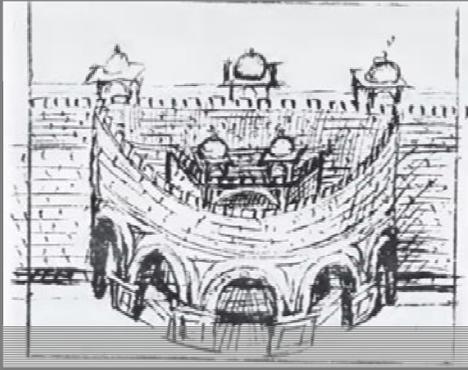


# Famine Chorography: Peter Mundy and the Gujarat Famine, 1630-32



Dr Ayesha Mukherjee  
University of Exeter

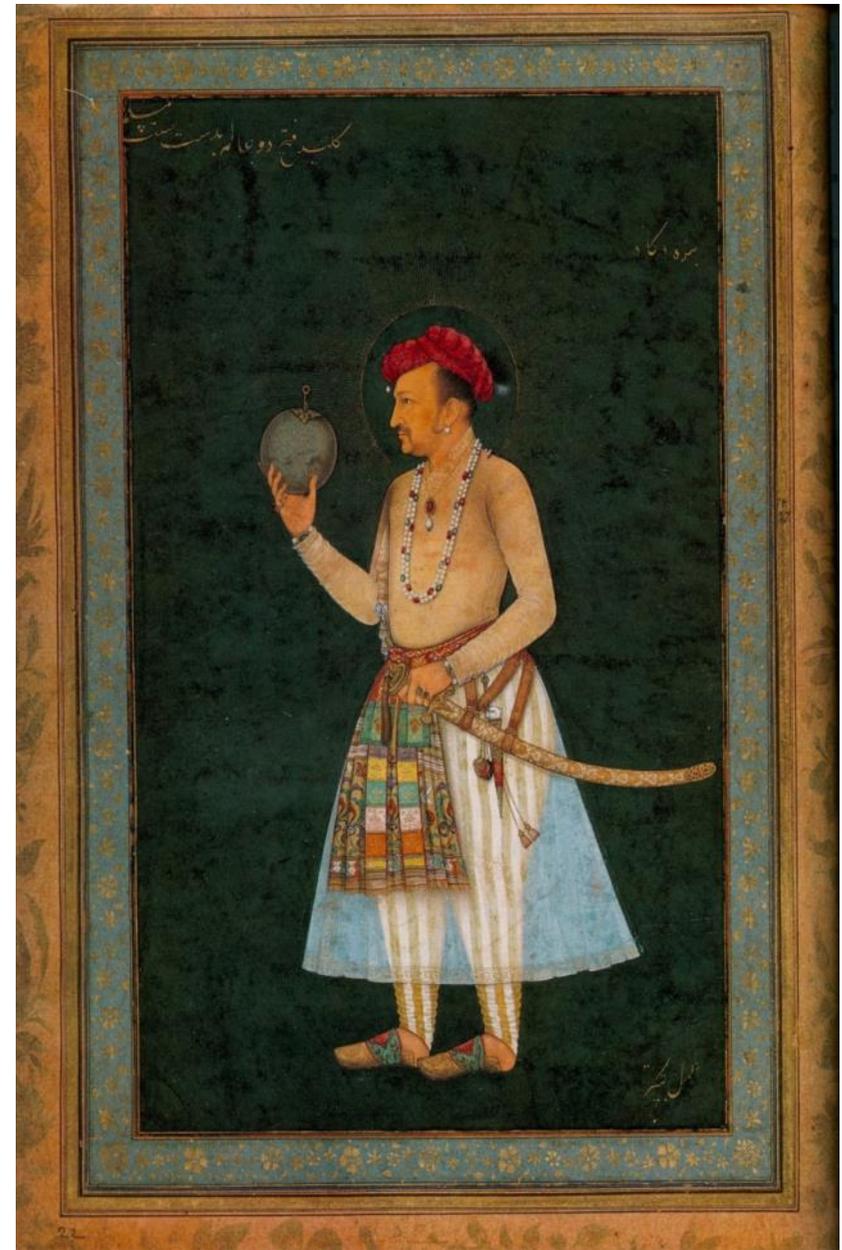


“as every fish lives in his owne place, some in the fresh, some in salt, some in the mud, so let every one live in his owne place, some at Court, some in the Citie, some in the Country.”

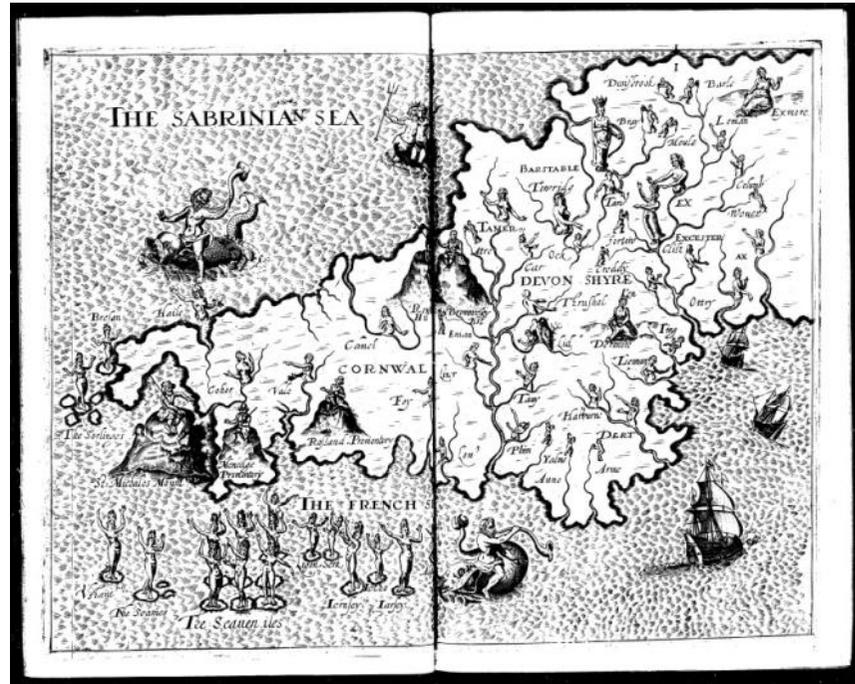
James I, Speech in the Star Chamber, 20 June 1616, Political Works I, p.344.

“I ordered a stream that flows from the *guzar-gah* (ferry) to be diverted into the middle of the ground so that a garden might be made such that in beauty and sweetness there should not be in the inhabited world another like it. I gave it the name of *Jahan-ara* (world-adorning).”

Jahangir (1605-1627), *Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri*, trans. Beveridge.







Michael Drayton,  
*Poly-Olbion. Or A Chorographical  
 Description of Tracts, Rivers,  
 Mountains, Forests, and other parts  
 of this renowned Isle of Great  
 Britaine (1612, 1622)*





“you gentlemen at ease,  
Whoe money haue, and goe where ere you please,  
Are neuer quiett; wearye of ye daye,  
You now comme hither to driue time away:  
Must time be driuen? Longest day with vs  
Shutts in to soone, as never tedious  
Vnto our businesse; making, mending nett,  
Preparing hooks and baits, wherewith to gett  
Cod, whiting, place, vppon ye sandie shelvs,  
Where with to feede ye markett and our selvs.”

Richard James, *Iter Lancastrense* (c.1636)



THE  
Carriers Cosmographicall

OR  
A Briefe Relation  
OF  
The Innes, Ordinaries  
and other lodgings in, and  
the Carriers, Waggons,  
Higglers, doe usually come  
to wntes, shires and countries  
of England, Principality of  
the Kingdomes of Scotland  
Ireland.

With nomination of  
the weeke they doe come  
what daies they returne, vnder  
people may finde direction  
or send, goods or letters, vnder  
as their occasions may require.

As also  
Where the Ships, Frigates,  
Tiltboats, Barges and wherries  
to Carry Passengers, and  
Townes of England, Scotland  
Netherlands; and where  
Boats are ordinarily  
that goe up the River  
Thames westward  
from London.

By John Taylor

London Printed by

THE PRAISE,  
ANTIQUITY,  
and commodity, of  
Beggery, Beggers, and  
Begging.

By JOHN TAYLOR.

Beggers Bush.

A Daubering Begger.

A gallant Begger.



At London Printed by E. A. for Henry Goffson, and are to be sold by  
Edward Wright neere Christs Church Gate. 1621.

THE  
PENNY LYLES  
IMAGE.

R  
the perambulation,  
TAYLOR, Alias  
Majesties  
Post.

MAILED ON FOOT

in Scotland, not carrying  
either Begging, Borrow-  
teate, drinke or  
ing.

of his Entertainment

ney, and a true Report  
Hunting in the Breas  
Badensoch in  
land.

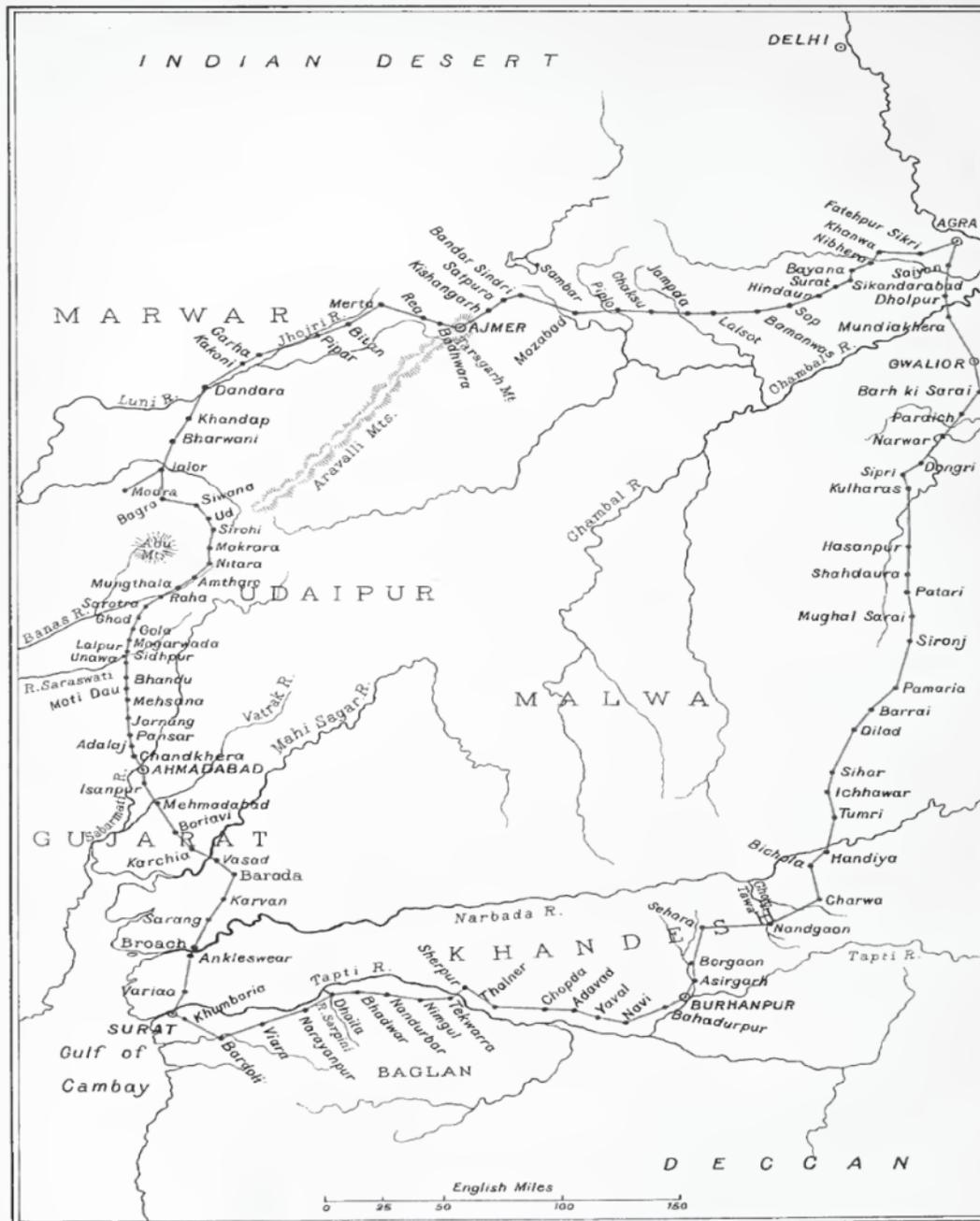
ons, some serious and  
y, and some merry  
be Remembered.

Rare in a Travailer)

ON  
at the charges of the  
1618.

“If like a Bee I seeke to live and thrive,  
Thou wilt yield hony freely to my hive,  
If like a drone I will not worke for meate,  
Thou in discretion gives me nought to eate  
Thou the true rules of Justice doth observe,  
To feed the lab’rer, let the idle sterve.”

John Taylor, in praise of the river Thames in *The Praise  
of Hemp-Seed* (1620)



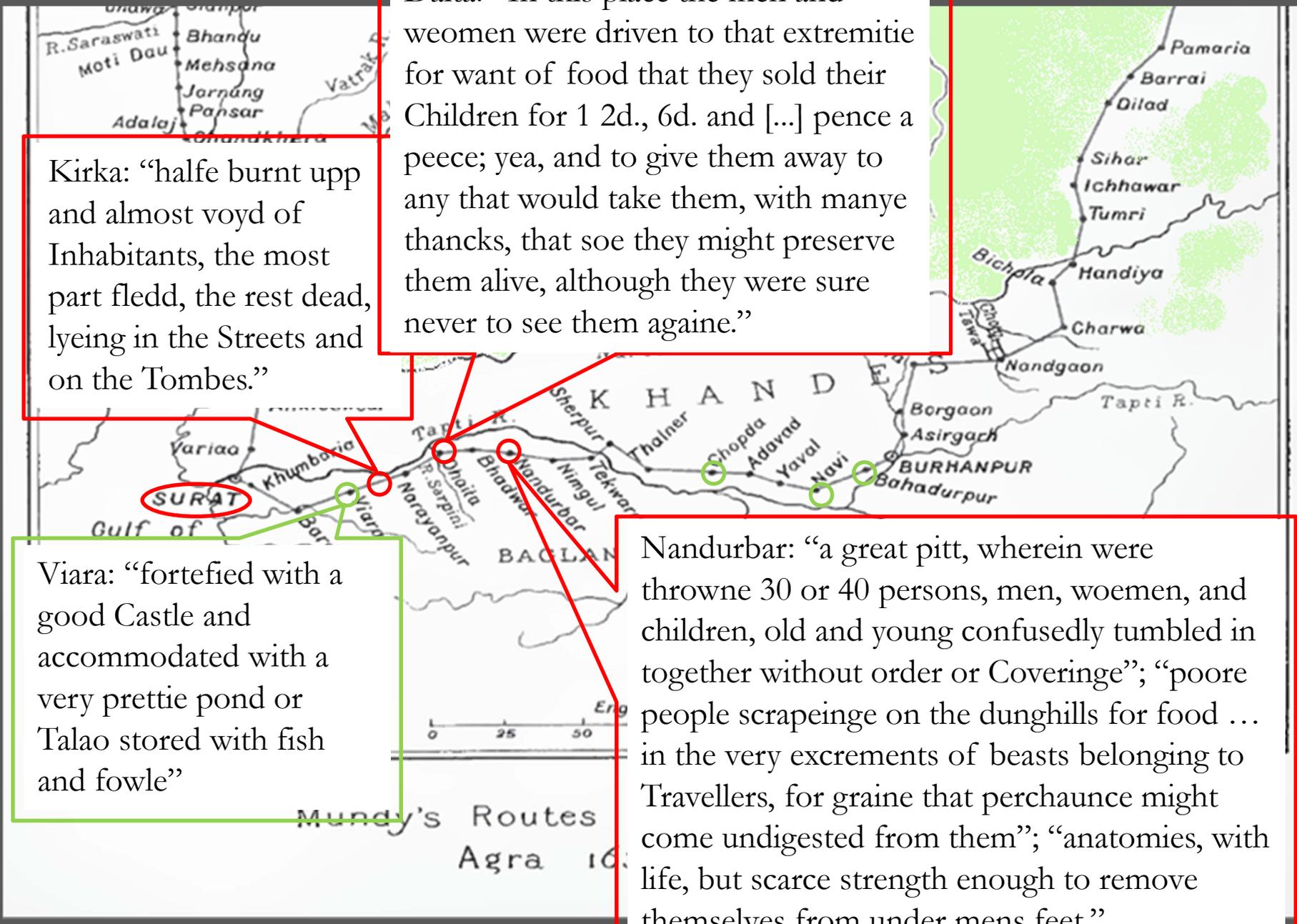
Mundy's Routes between Surat and Agra 1631 and 1633.

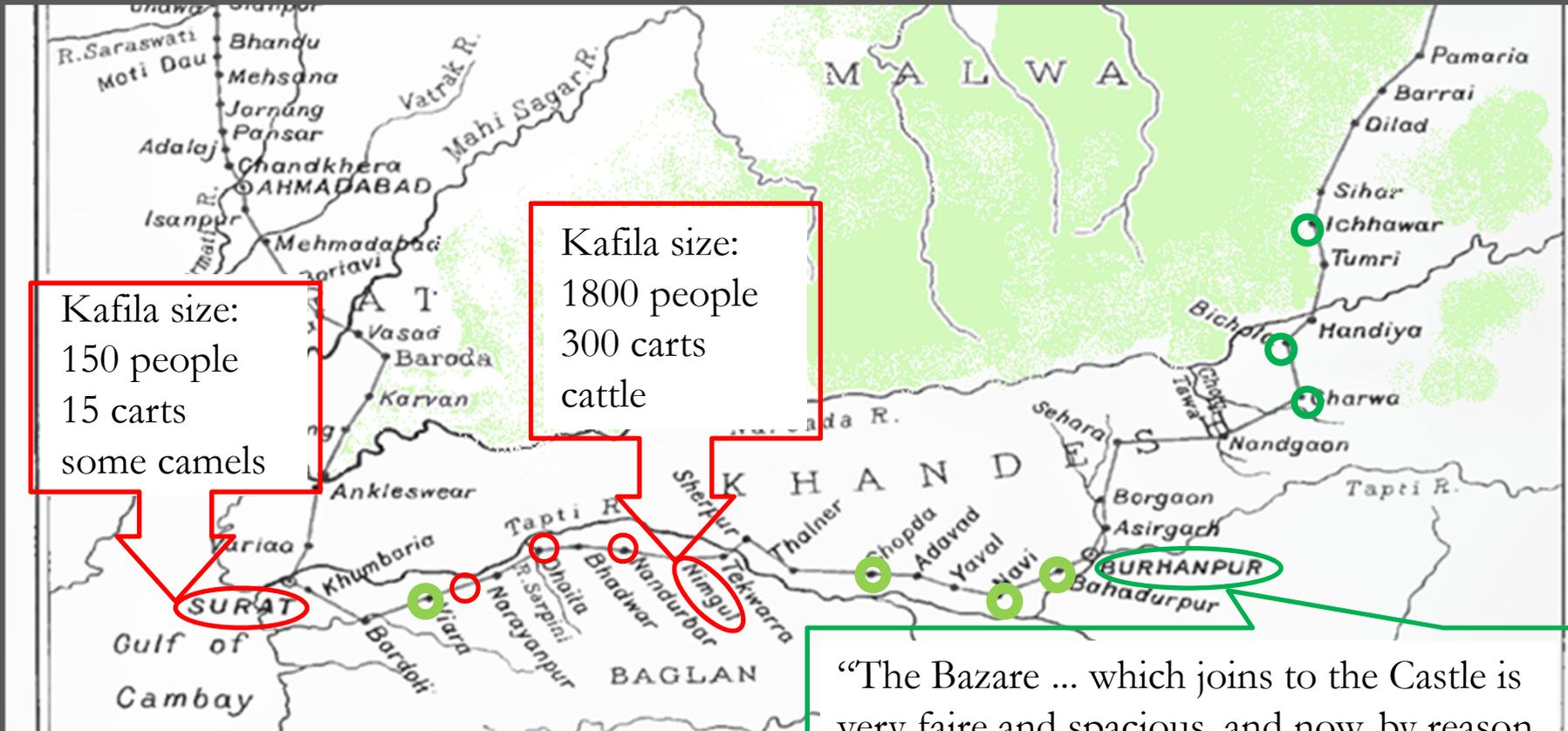
Kirka: “halfe burnt upp and almost voyd of Inhabitants, the most part fledd, the rest dead, lying in the Streets and on the Tombes.”

Daita: “In this place the men and weomen were driven to that extremitie for want of food that they sold their Children for 1 2d., 6d. and [...] pence a peece; yea, and to give them away to any that would take them, with manye thancks, that soe they might preserve them alive, although they were sure never to see them againe.”

Viara: “fortefied with a good Castle and accommodated with a very prettie pond or Talao stored with fish and fowle”

Nandurbar: “a great pitt, wherein were throwne 30 or 40 persons, men, woemen, and children, old and young confusedly tumbled in together without order or Coveringe”; “poore people scrapeinge on the dunghills for food ... in the very excrements of beasts belonging to Travellers, for graine that perchaunce might come undigested from them”; “anatomies, with life, but scarce strength enough to remove themselves from under mens feet.”





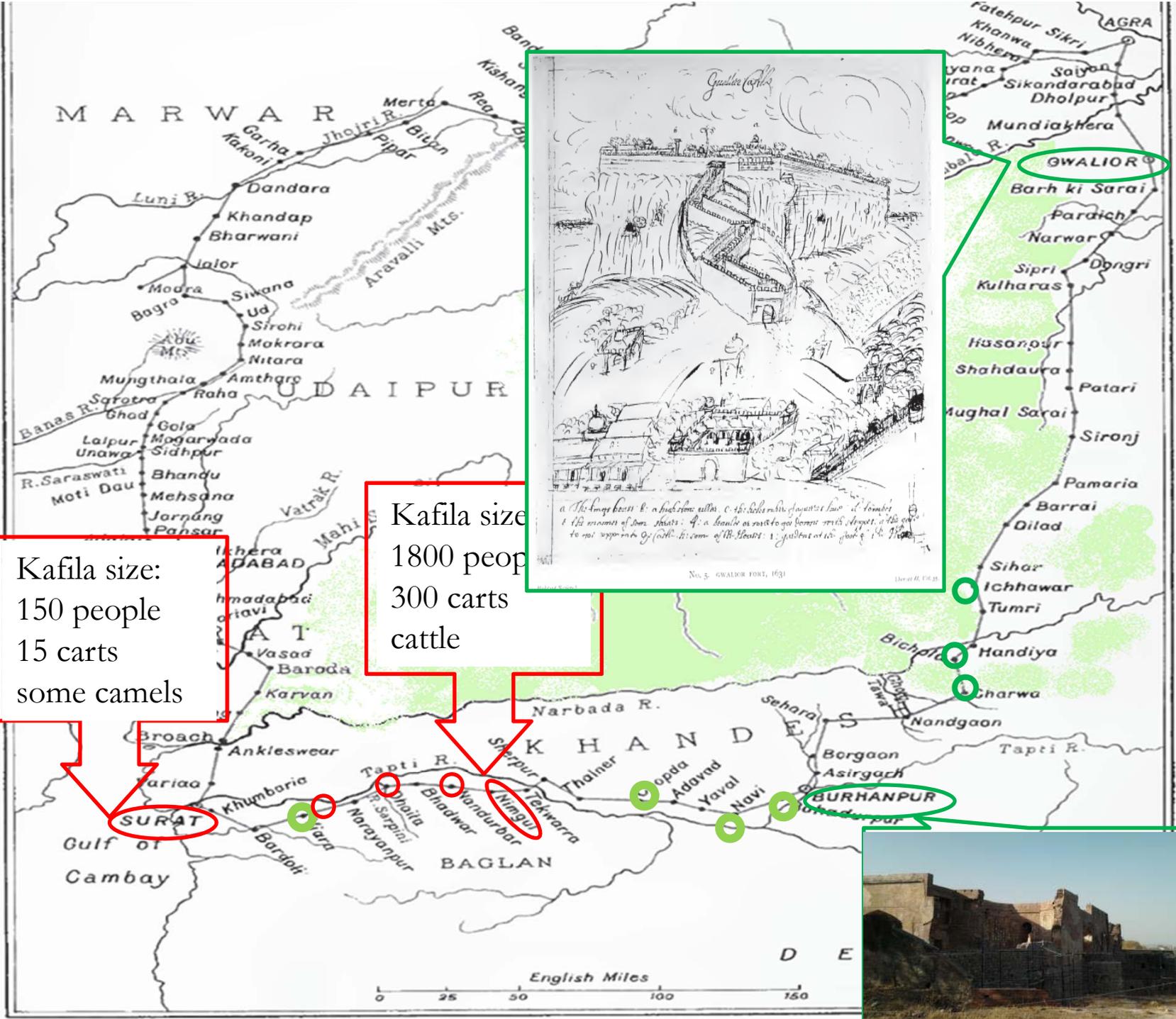
Kafila size:  
150 people  
15 carts  
some camels

Kafila size:  
1800 people  
300 carts  
cattle

BURHANPUR



“The Bazare ... which joins to the Castle is very faire and spacious, and now, by reason of the Kings being here, plentifully stored with all provisions, being supplied with all things from all parts, farr and neere, which otherwise, it may bee believed, would feele the same Calamitie with her Neighbour Townes, for there is litle or nothinge growes neere it for many miles.”



Kafila size:  
 150 people  
 15 carts  
 some camels

Kafila size:  
 1800 people  
 300 carts  
 cattle



“It was at least 1 ½ miles in length, and as many more returning empty to be reloaded, and all the face of the earth, as far and distant as we could discern, covered with green corn. But of all this abundance poor Guzerat was never the nearer, where there was most need, it being all to Brampore to supply the kings Laskarrie (or Armie) lying there against Decan.”

Kafila size:  
150 people  
15 carts  
some camels

Kafila size:  
1800 people  
300 carts  
cattle

“such a multitude of carts and people, which drew to such a length, that hitherto we could never see both ends from one place, and yet increasing daily.”

