

**HIS5D02-HISTORICAL TOURISM- OPEN
COURSE
MODULE-1
TOPIC-TRAVELOGUES**



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- Ancient travellers :
- Hippalus – 45 CE- Alexandrian merchant & sailor-realize the phenomenon of monsoon wind- first six months south west monsoon- next six months north east monsoon- made it possible for the mariners to cross the Arabian sea in a much shorter time
- Periplus of Eritrean sea-in Greek- anonymous author, a Greek merchant lived in Egypt-1st CE/150 AD-describing navigation & trading opportunities in India & also noted trade contacts between India & Roman empire-list of commodities that were in demand in the Indian ports & also of those which were sent from these ports



- Ptolemy – 130 CE/ 1st c AD- wrote ‘Geography in Greek’-8 chapters-principles of map making, geography of India & important ports of India – mentions about important places on the western & eastern coasts of India from the mouth of Indus to that of Ganga- speaks about urban settlements in the Indus valley & neighboring areas- altogether these settlements numbered 41 & were situated in highways of commerce



- HIUEN TSANG/YUAN CHWANG/XUANZANG- Chinese pilgrim/scholar/traveller- 7th cc
 - visited between 630 & 644 CE-during the reign of Harshavardhana
 - wrote 'Si-yu-Ki/Record of his Travels
 - interesting informations about Harsha's reign
 - princes of pilgrims
 - social, economic,religious,cultural conditions
 - Noticed that Buddhism was not as popular in all parts of India
 - Nalanda university still a famous centre of Buddhism



- Also recorded the existence of rigid caste systems & talks about the existence of many sub castes
- Also take note of many outcastes & untouchables, who were segregated & not allow to mix with the people of higher varnas & had habitations marked with a distinguishing sign
- Gives account of Buddhist monasteries & the monks living in them, & compares their numbers with those of the Brahmanical establishments
- His account shows that the Buddhist monasteries were fading away & similar was the fate of the towns associated with Buddhism

MEDIEVAL TRAVELLERS



- MARCOPOLO:
- Venice in Italy
- 13th C
- Travels of Marcopolo
- Visited India while enjoying a official post in then Chinese govt
- Called a globe traveller- visited almost all places in western & southern India
- Wrote about social, religious life of those places where he had visited
- Details about trade between India & foreign countries



- IBN-BATUTA:
- Moroccan, North African traveller
- Visited India during the reign of Muhammad Thuglaq
- Travelogue – ‘Kitab-al-Rehla’- help us to know about 14th c AD India- travels in Asia & Africa
- Travelled widely in several countries of Asia, Africa & Europe
- During his continuous travels, Batuta arrived at Delhi & was received by the then sultan of Delhi, Muhammad Thuglaq



- He was appointed as the qazi by sultan, but was imprisoned after 8 years, having incurred the displeasure of sultan
- He wrote down everything that had interested him in this country
- Having released from imprisonment he was sent to China as sultanate ambassador
- His Rehla is a treasure of sources for the history of medieval India
- Given a political history of sultans who had ruled Delhi during the medieval period



- He wrote about everything of which he had personal experiences in India
- Various aspects of life is depicted in his work



- AL BERUNI/ ABU RAYHAN:
 - Persian
 - Came along with Mahmud of Ghazni during his invasion to India- stayed here for 13 years – observing, & studying India- wrote ‘Tarikh – Hind’
 - First Muslim scholar to study about India- so he is known as the founder of Indology
 - He was well versed in Turkish, Persian, Sanskrit, Arabic, Hebrew etc
 - He excelled in astronomy, mathematics, physics, medicine, mineralogy, history etc



- Wrote about social, religious, political nature of India at that time
- AL MASUDI:
 - Arab writer
 - 9th c AD
 - visited India during the reign of Mihir Bhoja of Kanauj
 - Provide information about history of north India

MODERN TRAVELLERS



- **FRANCIS BUCHANAN: 1762-1829**
- Surgeon, Surveyor & botanist of East India Company
- Published works on geography, flora & fauna in India, where he lived & explored from the end of the 18th c until 1815
- After acquiring degree in medicine in 1783 from the University of Edinburgh, he became a medical officer with East India Company spending time in Asia
- He was employed as assistant surgeon in Bengal, giving him the opportunity to explore large parts of Indian subcontinent



- Governor General Lord Wellesly, instructed Buchanan to investigate & document the agriculture, cattle farms, crops, mines, minerals, climate & seasons, trees & forests, the inhabitants & their religions, currencies & customs
- In 1800 with the British victory in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore war, he was commissioned to survey south India & later made a further , wide ranging survey of all the areas under the jurisdiction of the British East India Company



- It took him some 7 years from 1807 & covered not only topography & natural resources but also aspects of local culture, religion, history & archaeology
- The purpose of investigating the state of agriculture, arts, commerce, the religion, manners & customs, history, civil & antiquities in the dominions of the Rajah of Mysore & the countries acquired by Honorable East India Company
- He described the fort, palace & extensive gardens made by Haidar & Tipu
- In 1814- appointed as the Superintendent of Botanical Garden of Calcutta



- He had publications- A Journey from Madras through the countries of Mysore, Canara & Malabar-1807
- Also wrote an 'Account of Kingdom of Nepal'



- RALPH FITCH:
 - Merchant & explorer from London
 - one of the earliest English traveler & trader through India & south East Asia
 - He travelled extensively in Indian subcontinent in the course of an 8 year trading mission 1583-91
 - First early modern English traveler to produce a written account of India & its inhabitants
 - Portuguese had already established a military & trading presence in many of the areas he visited & they served as Fitch's main informants about India



- He visited the court of Mughal Emperor Akbar at Fatehpur Sikri near Agra
- He also travelled along Yamuna & Ganges rivers & visited Varanasi(Banares) & Patna- By land he travelled to Cooch Berar at the base of Himalayas- after travelling through East Bengal, he sailed for Myanmar in November 1586 – he also visited Rangoon



Ralph Fitch's voyages in South Asia 1583-1591

