

THE STUDY OF MAIN TRADE ROUTES AND TRADE CENTERS IN THE NORTHERN INDIA IN EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD

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ABSTRACT

Early medieval trade significantly influenced the development of society through the benefits gained from enhanced trade relation with the use of commercial routes. These trade routes improved the connection of neighboring land as well as those lands abroad. Consequently, the construction of roads and passage ways for both land and sea travel significantly aided the linkage between diverse societies. Early medieval traders created and expanded passages of travel that through the expansion of trade led to extensive commercial axes.

KEYWORDS: *Transport & Communication, Sea-Routes, Overland Trade Route, Internal Trade Routes.*

Introduction

We know that it is a natural phenomenon as certain regions produce some commodities in excess while others are deficient in them, and an exchange between them tends to maintain a balance. The methods and techniques as well as the volume of trade may have varied according to the economic circumstances of any given place and time, but what is important is to view trade as a social and economic process which enables different societies to come closer for the sake of sharing each other's surpluses in respect of certain goods. We know that trade is an exchange of goods. No society known to us, however, remote in time or backward in economic development was wholly incapable of exchanging goods within itself or with other societies. The economic history of ancient India has been engaging the attention of scholars for quite some time. Some scholars point out that the increased productivity in agriculture and the developed state or industry.

Transport and Communication

Transport and communication have always played a very significant role in the development of trade and industry of a country. India's past history of communication and transport would show that both the mediums and the means (highways and vehicles) were developed to the fullest extent of the capacity of skill and resources. A study of legal texts and secular literatures, both indigenous and foreign, and inscriptions of the period would reveal that the communication were two distinct kinds-lands and sea-through which trade was carried on. Each kind of communication resolved under two subheads-one within the frontiers of the country (i.e. internal communication) and the other extending beyond to foreign countries. Medhātithī also speaks of trade as being carried on through land and sea. He has also described at least three different kinds of roads in connection with the movement of the armies.

Sea Routes (Overseas and Rivers)

The post-tenth centuries witnessed a gradual increase in the use of sea route as a means of international communication. We have the testimony of I-tsing who speaks of Tā-shi (Arabs) as interfering with trade on the road of Kapiśā. A story in the Kathāsaritasāgara tells us that once the

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