

## HISTORY OF INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE TILL GUPTA PERIOD

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### ABSTRACT

*Indian foreign trade has veritably long history. The frugality is inextricably linked with our diurnal lives. In ancient India also, there was no exception. This Study mean investigates the growth of exports, significances and trade balance in ancient India. International Business is the exchange of capital goods and services across transnational homes because there's a need or want of goods or services. In ancient history when archaeologist started exploring the places, in relation to Harappan culture and Indus valley Trade Numerous Attestations were plant. Chroniclers claim that this was the area of early progress where trade and agrarian frugality came into force. After this Vedic age came and Aryans were carried out ocean borne trade. Around 500 BC, the Mahajan padas formed punch marked tableware coins. This time was marked by important trade exertion and civic development. Utmost of the India key had been united by Maurya empire. By the result of this, A common profitable system and enhanced trade and commerce with increased agrarian productivity has been developed. When Gupta period came also India came the most important centre for transnational trade infect trade played main part in flashing the culture of India. In this period Anchorages of India always maintained relation with Persia, Srilanka, China, the Intricate Empire, Arabia Ethiopia and Islets of the Indian Ocean. This paper is an attempt to assay the trade policy and examine the trends and patterns in ancient India's foreign trade.*

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**Keywords:** *Ancient, Goods, Services, Foreign Trade, Agrarian Productivity, Exchange, Empire.*

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### Introduction

Foreign trade is the collective exchange of services or goods between transnational regions and borders. There are kinds similar as Import and Export. they're important generalities for the public frugality. When we talk about Ancient History of India we bandy about the different period. In every period profitable condition is most important. In profitable matters we've to bandy about husbandry, diligence and trade and commerce from ancient period India's foreign trade was flourish. the autocrats veritably well knew the significance of trade relation as that help out them to maintain political relation as well as profitable profit. As studies of the history are no longer limited only to enquiries about autocrats and lords, the analysts attention has accordingly shifted from 'episodic history' (to quote D.D. Kosambi) to the thorough understanding of social, profitable and artistic situation. An in- depth enquiry of the profitable life in the ancient times cannot be disassociated from the social, artistic and political developments.

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### **Foreign Trade during Indus Valley Period**

The Indus people were greatly reliant on trade. Trading with numerous different societies like, China, Mesopotamia and Persia by them. They were also known to trade in the Gulf region of Arab, Asia Central corridor, some portions of Afghanistan and western as well as Northern India. Some goods that were traded were earthenware, pots, globules, gold, tableware coloured gems like Turquoise and lapis lazuli, essence, flints, seashells and plums. Mesopotamia was the Main Trade Partner. Lothal point was used as ocean harborage for trading in Harappan civilization Lothal is the oldest stronghold in India, was located in moment's bhal region of Gujarat. Seals of harappan have been plant at archaeological spots of Mesopotamia, furnishing trade relations. Both land & ocean routes have been used by the dealers. The first trade of long distance passed between Indus valley & Mesopotamia.

### **Vedic Age and Foreign Trade**

The early part of the Vedic period or that pre-existing it, was an age of profitable tone-acceptability and consequently there was little compass for an exchange of goods. it's delicate to answer the question as to whether the ocean was known to the Vedic Aryan or whether these people had any commercial inter courage with the other Maritime nations of age. As to the actuality of trade relations between India and Babylonia or any other country of the ancient world we have no definite or positive information but there is particular validation is which throw light on the contact of nations image.

### **Mahajanapada Period**

Why the sixth century BC the political Units boosted into big businesses figured Mahajan padas. This period was marked by ferocious trade exertion and communal development. During this time all major cosmopolises were deposited on channel banks near the trade routes and were connected to each other. Due to its natural Bents and resources and its foreign trade this area arrived a great deal. Spices especially black pepper were also farmed and these were exported to Western countries

### **Foreign Trade during Maurya Period**

The Maurya empires politically combine and inner peace encouraged the breadth of trade in India. Under the Indo Greek fellowship convention during Ashoka reign, In Maurya period the state had an especial responsibility in the subject of trade. Its profit depended upon a salutary arrangement of the vast quantities of various goods which were continually collecting in its hands in its factories and shops under circumstances defined. the state therefore came the biggest dealer in the country, and had to control its entire trade to guard its own interests.

The foreign merchandisers were mulcted of their earnings on the borders, by road impositions and offerings, and by control at the gates of cosmopolises, which were precisely guarded by officers in charge of the customs houses handed indeed with a douane and a place for detention for merchandisers escaping the law.

The Greeks Style of the royal Road mentoring from the North West frontier to Patali Putra. Mega thanes the Greek pen refers to government officers in administration of roads and how sign boards were set up at breaks to indicate turnings and expansions.

There was the great north west over land trade route linking India with Central and Western Asia by way of Takshila and metropolises of the Gangetic vale like Saket, Banaras or Rajgrah. (vi. Texts, ii,,ff. Mahavagga, viii, I,, ff.)

One review is that, of trade paths by land and by water, the water route is preferable as giving up farther profit on the ground that transport of goods by water costs lower moneybags and lower labour.

Kautilya does not agree to this view in his opinion water route cannot be used in all cloudbursts, is more exposed to threat without remedies against them.

The Mauryan Empire served from accumulated contact from the separate regions of the world operating from convention throughout West Asia and the Roman empire. The trade reckoned on seaports, the silk road and Khyber pass which were all the important main foundations of exchange.

Trade served the people of the Empire because they would change their abundant coffers for the supplies that were in high necessity. The resources that were constantly trades were ivory, cotton, silk and spices for the resources they demanded containing, lead and wine and other products that were factory useful.

Chandragupta Maurya introduced a single currency across India which made Trade comfortable. As well as introducing a single currency, Maurya's used camel affair because it was a helpful and genuine tool for trading of their different neighbours across the silk Road in China.

The addition of India's trade led to the rising of bankers and financiers among the townies of the Empire. orders in banking and commerce accelerated their establishments in to as multitudinous communal centres as they could in India and indeed beyond. This addition in trade brought a rise in intellectual exertion among the people of the Mauryan Empire, just as trade had among the Greeks, Romans and innumerable other empires across the world. Kautiliya Arthasastra views the Panyadhyaksha as one striking a balance between the interest of the patron and the consumer. Kautilya explosively recommends that the rate of profit should be quested five percent on indigenous goods and ten percent on foreign goods. The panyadhyaksha is entrusted with the trade of goods produced in royal granges and factories (rajapanyam) which would be distributed through a single Centralized channel (Ekamukham). He's to look after trade not only within the realm of the king (Svavishaya), but also trade abroad (paravishaya). Kautilya recommends transferring out of trade operations to countries abroad to assess the possibilities of long- distance trade. The Panyadhyaksha is advised to go wherever there's profit and avoid the absence of profit.

The silk Road as well as the ocean routes handed a way to get their goods to other areas and the khyber pass, located on the modern border of Pakistan and Afghanistan, developed into a strategically significant place of trade and hold with the rest of the world. The Indo Greek fellowship convention was the empires pivotal to a successful trade appreciation. Through the Khyber Pass the silk Road and the ocean routes the Mauryans could trade with Greece, China and the Malay Peninsula.

#### **Exports and Imports**

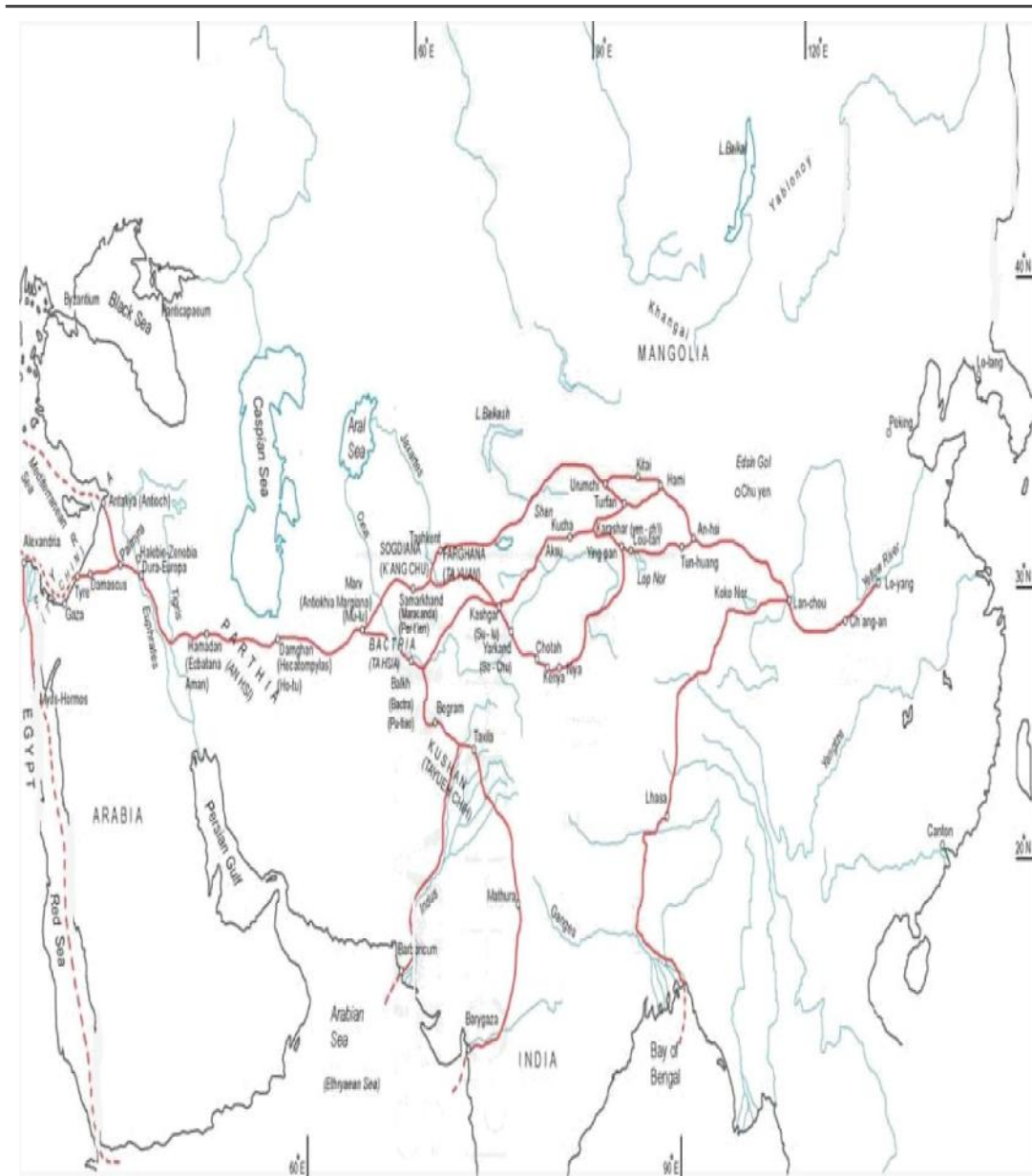
The West Asian countries largely valued Indian timber and other particulars of use like bamboo, colourings, food grains, ivory, tortoise shells, plums, rice, medicinal substances, etc. Either, exports included a variety of beast like hunting tykes, mammoths, peacocks, parrots, pheasants and snakes. In addition, West Asian countries imported particulars like spices, vegetable products, silk, fabrics, Indian copal, indigo, lac, etc. Significances by Indian lords were comparatively lower in number than exports. Import particulars included fruits, potables, wines, crude glass, asphalt and antimony, etc., therefore, pressing the balance of trade was in favour of the Mauryan autocrats. References to the import of foreign liquors and wines have been plant in the Arthashastra that refers to foreign guests in liquorshops. Though there isn't enough material to support India's overseas and transnational requests, literal textbooks relate to India's marketable gambles being extended to foreign countries like Assyria, Egypt, Israel, Syria, Parthia and Persiaetc. The Mauryan empire, one of the most well- known empires during those times reckoned on trade for its substance and conservation of fortified forces. While a lot is unknown about the Mauryan trade systems, their focus on maritime trade to maintain external relations underscores the substance and wealth synonymous with itsrule.

#### **Foreign Trade during Post Mauryan Period**

Foreign trade during the post Mauryan period was also largely developed. India had good trade coupling especially started with the Roman empire. Utmost notorious citations on the Western coast were those of sopara and Bharuch and on the eastern coast Arikmedu and kaveripattam. Dealers had orders with a view to promote trade. They had they're on constitution and rules to regulate their exertion. These orders played a vital part of icing goods and their payment in order to cover the dealer interest. Guild acted as bankers, financiers and Trustors. They made banking a broad profession. Romans imported from India muslin, pepper, Silk and cotton cloth, Scents, drugs, diamonds. Foreign trade relations with Java, Malaysia, Burma and China.

#### **Gupta Period and Foreign Trade**

India came the most important Centre for international trade both foreign as well as indigenous trade were well worked out. Indian trade was extended to far off Western countries containing multitudinous other countries. Main anchorages were Kalyan and Sindh. Export particulars clothes, incense, plums, Indigo, medicines, coconut, ivory papers etc Import particulars tableware, bobby, drum, lead, dates and nags. Gupta laid down laws for the purpose of a trade like for case foreign goods or imported goods were to be tested one fifth of the value of its risk. Kalidas gives a veritably good description of the city request and its business transactions. Faxian, the Chinese sightseer who recorded detailed obedience about his emprise in the Gupta Empire in his diary.



**Map : Silk Route from China to the Roman Orient (After Cambridge History of Iran, Vol.III (i), Cambridge, 1983, p.544-45)**

#### Highlights

- Silk thruway connected India to other requests.
- Indian merchandisers changed cotton, flavours for Chinese silk.
- Gupta, Tamil fiefdoms in Southern India substituted laboriously maximum of by ocean.
- Indian hearties use seasonal winds for addressing into foreign requests across Arabian blue.
- Trade played a vital part in spreading the Indian culture.

- Around 550 Announcement trading exertion with the Roman empire loosened. Guptas imported Chinese from Africa. South East Asia came a Trade Centre for this age
- The most influential event in the profitable history of East and southeast Asia during this age was the growth of an inter blue-water trade affecting from China through Indonesia and the east coast of India up to Simhala and boosting from the along the West Indian coast to Arabia and Ethiopia. coins of the Tang emperors of China has been ascertained in Southern India and Indian merchandisers resides in Canton. Consummate of the goods were tried one-fifth of the value as a tool in international trade.
- There is no disclaiming the fact that in the Gupta period India stood out as the veritably central of Asia and affirmed its place as one of the original Maritime motherlands in the world. Map Silk Route from China to the Roman Orient

### Conclusion

The period gauging from starting to Gupta age appears to have witnessed considerable trade conditioning. this time clearly marked brisk trade both within the key and also beyond marketable gambles of merchandisers are known not only in India but also in abroad. Dealers during those times had also preferred ocean routes over their land untoward corridor. This is because Maritime trade cost less in terms of transport piecemeal from saving time while explaining the benefits of trade via the ocean route in discrepancy to the land route, Kautilya in Arthshastra elucidates how the ocean and swash routes were cheaper than the land routes. The orders played a top place in the goods assiduity and also supported to beyond harden the profitable condition of the Empire. The orders had checked their own laws and all the factor merchandisers were anticipated to stay by these laws. Mauryan Empire one of the most well-known Empire during those times reckoned on trade for its substance and conservation of fortified forces. Their focus on Maritime trade to maintain external relations under Scores the substance and wealth synonymous with its rule. The presence of Dhaka muslin on the corpses plant from Egyptian conglomerations proves the fashion ability of Indian goods and trade thereof. Important thing that the autocrats should always keep a vigilant eye to help foreign operation and maintain good relations with the outside world, when we study about ancient ages of it prove true. successful foreign trade Prove their political and profitable success.

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