

In Indian history the period of 1200 years between 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century is called the medieval Age in which the history from death of emperor Harsha (647 AD) to the end of Maratha rule (1818 AD) is included. The political history of this age is divided into 3 subparts (1) Rajput period (from 647 to 1192 AD) (2) Saltanat period (from 1206 to 1526 AD) (3) Mughal period (from 1526 to 1707 AD) and Maratha period (from 1720 to 1818 AD). During these ages, there lived many remarkable kings of Indian history. Among Rajput kings Maharana Pratap, great secular Mughal emperor Akbar and his son Jahangir, Chhatrapati Shivaji, lover of art and architecture Shahjahan, Krishnadevrai of Vijaynagar empire, welfare-worker of people-Siddhraj Jaysinh and one having Navy empire Southern Indian king Rajendra I of Chola dynasty. Also the heterodox and expansionist Alauddin Khilji and simple yet fanatic rulers also belonged to this age.

### **The Sources to Know History of Medieval Age**

The sufficiently available material to study history of the medieval ages can be divided in two types: (1) written material and (2) kelics.

#### **Written Material**

The kings, Sultans and Badshahs of this age provided patronage to scholars. Most of the scholars were writers and thinkers. They have written in detail about many states. Let's study about some of the works and their scholarly writers.

'Rajtarangini' created by Kalhan in middle age time India is considered to be the first accepted book of history of India. It provides much authentic information about history of Kashmir. Similarly 'Pruthvirajraso' by Rajputana scholar poet Chandbardai is a book in Hindi describing brave deeds of Pruthviraj Chauhan. In 'Vikramankdevcharit' life story of Chalukya king Vikramaditya IV is written. Moreover, after entry of Islam in India, Sultans and Badshah had begun the tradition of writing Arabic and Persian books. History book of Sindh, 'Chachnama' is written in Arabic. It is description of the defeat faced by Dahir - son of Brahmin king of Sindh and condition of Sindh at that time.

Historical literature written in Persian is a remarkable gift of people of Turkey to India. Turks have made Indians aware of the Arabic - Irani tradition of writing history. There had been many historians in this age. Among them, Ziyauddin Barani wrote 'Tarikh-e-Phirozshahi'. Detailed description of the reign of Khalji and Tughlakh dynasty. He also wrote a book on principles of administration named 'Fatawa-e-Jahandari'. Amir Khushroo had been a remarkable writer of this time. He wrote books called 'Khazain-ul-Fattuh' and 'Kirat-ul-Sadin'. He had described India's social, political, economic and cultural condition in his books. Primarily it is about history of Alauddin Khilji.

Many Mughal emperors and members of royal family were very good writers. The first Mughal emperor Babar wrote his autobiography named 'Tuzuk-i-Babri' in Turkish language. It is translated in Persian as Babarnama. Humayun's sister Gulabdan Begum had written 'Humayunnama' which is a description of achievements of Humayun. Jahangir also wrote autobiography named 'Tuzuk-e-Jahangiri'. Abul Fazl was the famous historian and 'Ain-i-Akbari' where in detailed description of ethical codes of Mughal rulers. This book is very valuable as a historical document. Abdul Hameed Lahori Khafikhan, Muhammad Kazim and Sujana were important historians of Mughal age. Their books provide important information regarding Mughal age. Moreover, Muhammad Husain Azad wrote an important book called 'Darbar-e-Akbari'.

### Some Other Historical Books

Taj-UI-Mashir	Muhmmad Hasn Nizami Iltumish	Original Turkey book, from Ghori to
Kiran-Us-Sahen/ Nuhsiparav, Ashiqui, Khami-UI-Fattuh	- Amir Khushro	Information regarding India then and Gutam Khilji and Tughlak dynasty
Malik Muhammad Jaysi	- Padmavat Jayasi	Description of attack on chittar by Allauddin Khilji to get queen Padmavati and political situation at that time.
Abdul Hamid Lahon	- Badshahnama	Description of Akbar's reign
Aunangzeb	- Rukawat-r-Alamgiri	Description of Aurangzebes achievement
Abbas Sarvani	- Tawarikhe Shershah	Description of Shershah's achievement
Inayat Khan and Sadik Khan	- Shahjahan Nama	Descrption of Shahjahan's rule
Poet Bhushan	- Shiv Bavani	Story of achievements of Shivaji Maharaj
Sarangdhar	Hamiraso and Hamir Kavya	About kings of Ranthams bhore and Rajputana
Sikandar Manju	Mirat-e-sikandari	About life of common people in Saltanat age

### Reports of Foreign Writers

Travellers from abroad have been visiting India since ancient times. From their descriptions we get political history and information regarding life of people. Alberuni came to India with Mehmood Gaznavi in 11<sup>th</sup> century. He wrote many books. He has provided information regarding India's social situation, customs, economic religious and political life of the people as well as astronomy and astrology. Among his books 'Twarikt-Ol-Hind' is main. More over during 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> century, Chau-Ju-Kua (Chinese) Marco Polo (Italy) wrote a book regarding different region and business activity of Southern India named 'Travel Accounts of Marcopolo'. And the Italian traveller Micolo D Conto visited emperor of Vijaynagar Krishnadevrai, Domingopias (Portuguese), Fernando Noonies, Messenger of Shahrukhkhan of Iran Abdul Razak and Kazi of Muhammad



**Alberuni**

Tughlakh, Arab traveller Iban Batuta had written notes which provide useful information. After the end of 16<sup>th</sup> century, hosts of Portugese, English and French travellers came to visit India. Maximum number of visitors were in the time of emperor Jahangir. Noteworthy among them were William Hawking and Thomas Raw. By reading accounts written by them, many European travellers and adventurers were attracted to visit India. Jean Travenear and Peter Mundy came to India at tender age, joined the army of Aurangzeb's son Darasikoh and stayed till death of Aurangzeb. They wrote many important notes. Burnier from France stayed till Shah Jahan's time and documented Indian history of that time.

## Jain Books

Jain literature is useful to know social history. There were repositories of Jain books at different places at that time. There are Jain and other books in it. Manuscripts on paper and tadpatra from Patan, Khambhat and Ahmedabad provide historical information.

Mosque	- Kuwat-Ul-Islam, Jumma Masjid (Delhi) - Dhair-Din-Ka-Zonpada mosque (Ajmera), Atala mosque (Jonpur)
Tombs	- Humayun's Tomb (Delhi), Taj Mahal (Agra) Gol Gumbaj (Bijapur), Tomb of Gyasuddin Tuhlakh (Delhi)
Forts	- Kumhal Garh, Chitter Garh, Ranthambhar, Amer (Rajasthan), Red Fort (Delhi) Fort of Agra, Gol Konda (Andhra Pradesh), Forts of Shivaji Maharaj (Maharashtra)
New Cities	- Ahmedabad, Champaner (Pavagadh), Jaunpur, Agra, Tughlakhbad, Fatehpur Sikri, Firozabad, Buildings and architecture of these cities
Palaces	- Hawamaharal, Palaces of Udaipur

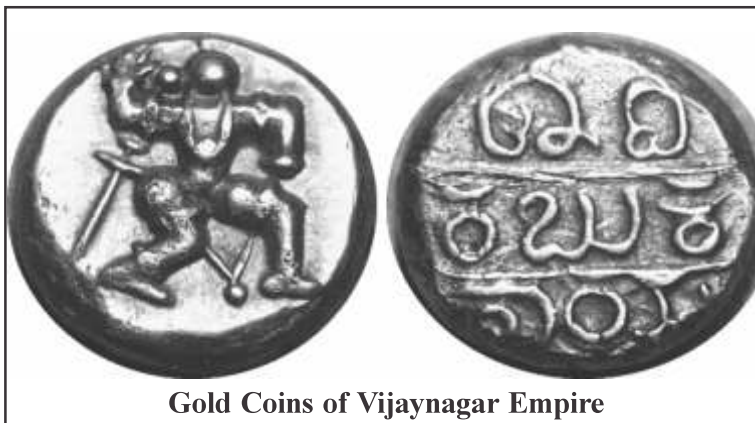
## Unwritten Materials

### Inscriptions :

The Muslim inscriptions of this time are in Persian and Urdu. The inscription of 'Kuwat-Ul-Islam' mosque is written in Persian language. It is the oldest of Muslim inscription. More than 500 inscriptions are found during Medieval age and are published in 'Epigraphica Indo-Moslemica'.

### Coins :

We can get idea of the economic prosperity of the time from the coins. Sanskrit translation of Kala is inscribed on Mahmud Gaznavi's coin. Coins of Alauddin Khalji are also proofs of the victories he gained. Coins of the time of Akbar provide evidence of 'Din-i-ilahi' religion founded by him. Gold coins of Muhammad Ghori, Giasuddin Balban and 'Varah' of Vijaynagar show the peak of their economic prosperity. And Iltutmish named silver coins 'Tanka' and copper coins 'Jeetal' in currency. All those details vividly describe the economic condition of the time.



Gold Coins of Vijaynagar Empire

Many paintings are also available describing middle ages. They are found on the wall and vaults of forts. During Mughal age, many picture books were also found. These pictures describe Mughal court, Zenana palace, hunting, customs, costumes, jewellery, invasions and luxurious life of Badshah. 'Humayunama' and 'Shahnama' are pictorial books of Mughal age.

## Rise of Islam and Arabia

The period from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century AD is considered the age of dominance of Arabs in the history of the world. During this century, an Islamic empire was established from China to Spain and major parts of Asia, Europe and Africa. This added to a new civilization called Islamic civilization in the world civilization which was founded by Prophet Muhammad.

He was born in the city of Mecca in Arabia. At that time, Arabians had been divided into small groups. Each followed different gods. They had been fighting in the name of clan and religion. Prophet Muhammad freed them from idol-worship. They were worshipping the Sun, the Moon and the stars also. He preached them that God is one and Muhammad is his messenger. (Paygambar)

The one and half century following Muhammad's death, their successors representative of Prophet Muhammad known as 'Khalifa' had tried hard to expand Islamic territories. For that, they organised huge armies. To face Arab army was equal to facing tides of ocean. Empire of Iran and Spain were broken by them. Under leadership of Muhammad Bin Kasim, an Arab army invaded India and won over Sindh. The second phase of wars of Islamic expansion were the Turks. They had two things - Quran and sword. There had been no scope of bargaining. After this, India's long connection with Islam begins with sultanate rule.



### **Arab Invasion Over India**

India had been invaded by foreigners time to time. It was initiated by the Arabs. First invasion was carried out on Mumbai, Thane. Second on Valabhi and third on Sindh by Muhammad Bin Kasim. Then there came Muhammad Ghaznavi. An Afghan named Shiyabuddin Muhammad Ghori invaded India other Muslim invaders on India were Chingiz Khan (Mongol), Nadirshah and Ahmed Shah Abdali (Afghan).

#### **Valabhi Invasion :**

Travellers like Hiuen-Tsang has appreciated Vallabhi much. During the rule of Shiladitya I to VII, the city had been vibrant in prosperity, education, knowledge and political power. Impressed by this, Sindh Subedar Junaid (Arab) had destroyed Vallabhi. The Valabhi Vidyapith also got destroyed during this invasion.

Muslim invasions have been considered responsible for destruction of Vallabhi, Muslim Historians Al-Beruni also notes that the invader of Valabhi was an Arab subedar of Almansura city of Sindh. As per other references a traitor of Valabhipur named Kaku had tempted that subedar to attack Vallabhi. According to other Arabic records, after many unsuccessful naval attacks of 758 AD, Abdul Malik had made a naval attack on Valabhi in 766 AD.

During 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D. king of Lanka sent ships filled with valuable gifts to please the Iranian suba Al Hazaj. These ships were robbed by pirates near Deval port of Sindh. So Al Hazaj sent a message to provide compensation for the valuable goods. Dahir conveyed his inability to catch pirates by saying that the area had not been in his boundary. Now Al Hazaj requested Khalifa to provide army and sent 6000 soldiers and weapons with Muhammad Bin Kasim to attack Sindh. Muhammad Bin Kasim was only 17 years old then and governor of Iran. King Dahir and his army fought Muhammad and his army. But Dahir had been defeated due to some traitors helping Kasim. Capital Deval had been robbed. People were tortured, queens of Dahir and their women also fought bravely. At last, they did 'Jauhar' (collective self immolation by fire) for their self-respect. After the victory over Deval nagar Muhammed, Bin Kasim moved ahead and fought with Jaysinh, son of Dahir in Bhahamanabad of Sindh. He captured Sindh

because Jaysingh was defeated due to some traitors again. Moving ahead, Muhammed Bin Kasim won over Alor and Multan and established Muslim over entire Sindh region.

After Muhammed Bin Kasim's death, Dahir's son Jaysinh also acquired his rule over Sindh and regained Brahmanabad. When Khalifa got this news, he appointed a vehement general named Junaid as governor of Sindh and ordered him to invade Sindh. Junaid defeated Jaysinh and arrested him. He also tried to attack border regions of Gujarat and Rajasthan and establish his dominance. But by collective efforts of kings of Lat, Kashmir and Kanoj, his dominance was for very limited time. It is noteworthy that brave kings Yashoverma (Kanoj), Lalitaditya (Kashmir), Vagbhatt II and Avnijanashray did not allow Arab invaders to cross Sindh and move ahead.

### **Effects of Arab Invasions**

Muslims had better quality of war weapons than Indians. Indian king used to have more elephants in warfare. Instead, Muslim invaders used horses on larger scale. Horses proved to be more useful than elephants. After the time of Arab victory, games like hunting, wrestling and animal fighting were introduced in India. Also Greek knowledge of medicine added to Vedakshastra.

Rajput kings of that time were extremely brave and spirited. They longed sacrifices their lives for their country, religion and king. To them, death was a natural incident. They believed strongly that if one died in warfare, would go to paradise. They believed, dying while fighting was a great occasion in life. Still, they were defeated. Peace-loving and untouched by external problems, Indian people were disturbed by invasions of Arabs and Vehement Turks. Prior to this, there had been many experiences of foreign invasion. But even invaders became natives impressed by culture, heritage and religion. But with arrival of the Muslims, circumstances changed. Muslims came to India, with their own religion and social system. Arabs ruled Sindh for about one century. Their hobby was to see, to know, to learn new things. They learnt and adopted open mindedly. They learnt Indian astrology, mathematics, vedicvidya, music and painting. They traslated Sanskrit books like the Ramayan, the Mahabharat into Arabic. Unfortunately Indian scholars were not having such receptive mindset. So they did not get the benefit of knowing more about Arabian art and science resulting from this mingling.

### **India's Contact with the Countries of the World with Special Reference to South East and East Asia**

During medieval age Rajputs ruled for 500 years and Muslim for 500 years. Many new element had entered into Indian civilization as a result of communication between Indian and Islamic culture. Indian people thought of overseas journey as an evil. But there had been no such restrictions in Islam. So people became broadminded and started travelling abroad. Banjara and ships from our country started trading overseas. Trade and business developed in regions like Samarkand, Balkh (Bactriya), Iran, China, Java and Sumatra.

After Arabian victory in Sindh many Arabs started settling in Sindh. They came in deep contact with Indian scholars and started studying mathematics, astronomy, philosophy and vedakshastra. Khalifa also invited Indian scholars to Bagdad in passage of time, Arabs spread the legacy of knowledge acquired from Indians to the European countries.

Arabian traders used to visit countries of Southern India for business. They also started settling there permanantly in the passage of time, they also migrated to South-East Asian countries and Islam

spread to the countries like Malasia and Indonasia. With the expansion of Muslim rule, trade between Eastern and Western countries was done via Arabia. Macca was considered to be a big business hub. Arabs used to send goods of Asian countries to Syria, Misar (Egypt), Rome and Greece. Like religion trade also provided Arabs an opportunity to travel various countries and mingle with the local people. Vibrant business flourished from East ports of India to South East Asia. And on Western coast business was done with Africa and West Asia. Arabs had also settled down in Kerala, Shrilanka and Maldeep coast since 8<sup>th</sup> century. It were Arabs who opposed strongly to Portugese attack under the leadership of Vasco-De-Gama. People of these regions used to get plenty of money by exporting soft cloth, spices and valuable stones.

### EXERCISE

#### 1. Answer the following questions in detail :

- (1) Write about the written sources to know about history of medieval age.
- (2) Discuss the invasion of Arabs on Sindh.
- (3) Write a note on travelling authors from foreign countries during medieval age.
- (4) Give a detail about contact of India with and East Asian countries.
- (5) Provide details of influence of Arab invasions.

#### 2. Answer the following questions briefly :

- (1) Who was the founder of Islam ?
- (2) Which games were introduced to India due to contact with Arabs ?
- (3) By which name, golden coins were known in Vijaynagar empire ?
- (4) Who was Al Beruni ?
- (5) In how many parts, medieval age is divided in Indian history? Name them.

#### 3. Choose the correct option from the given alternatives and give answers :

- (1) Which language was used by Sultans of Delhi ?  
 (A) Urdu                      (B) Persian                      (C) Arebic                      (D) Hindi
- (2) Which book is recognized as first history of India ?  
 (A) Geet Govind              (B) Bhashya                      (C) Raj Tarangini              (D) Ramcharti Manas
- (3) Which invader had attacked India and acquired Sindh region ?  
 (A) Muhammad Bin Kasim                      (B) Muhammad Fazi  
 (C) Muhammad Hussain                      (D) Muhammad Shah
- (4) Who was the writer of 'ShivBavni' ?  
 (A) Poet Chandidas              (B) Poet Bhushan              (C) Poet Keshav              (D) Poet Kant
- (5) In which state, fort of Kumbhal Garh is situated ?  
 (A) Gujarat                      (B) Madhya Pradesh              (C) Delhi                      (D) Rajasthan

