



*Announcement
&
Call for Papers*

Department of History
School of Social Sciences & International Studies
Pondicherry University

In Collaboration with

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE ARTS, NEW DELHI

ORGANIZE

THE UGC-SAP (DRS-II) TWO-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

On

Inland and Maritime Trade in Peninsular India

(From the earliest times up to 16th Century C E)

During

April 11-12, 2019

At

Convention Centre & Guest House
Pondicherry University

The Theme

Trade and trade networks were prominently manifested in proto-historic India. D. D. Kosambi and Nayanjyot Lahiri identify the emergence of trade routes during various periods of Pre and Proto Historic India. With the emergence of urban agglomerations in the Indus Valley region we notice the first organized Inland as well as Maritime trade networks. Subsequent to the disappearance of the Indus Valley Civilization, in the absence of cogent material evidences, it is presumed that there was a lull, if not absence of the internal as well as external trade contacts until the second urbanization in the Gangetic valley. The appearance of ship symbol on the punch marked coins of Vanga Janapada datable to 5th - 4th century BCE and on the Satavahana coins of 1st Century CE, marks the reappearance of external trade. With the emergence of Mauryan Empire and other dynasties of early historic period, the Indian boundaries open up for trade, cultural and religious transmissions. From that period onwards right up to the decline of Vijayanagara Empire India's domestic and external trade networks were eloquently evidenced in the literary, epigraphical, numismatic and archeological sources.

The beginning of maritime trade networks in peninsular India, as revealed by the literary descriptions and inscriptions and other archaeological remains such as hoards of Roman coins in association with structural/material evidences, ceramic ware etc., goes back to 5th-4th Century BCE. Colonies of foreign traders were also referred to in the inscriptional and literary sources of Indian and foreign origin.

The craft and trade guilds which make their appearance during the sixth century BCE evolve and expand in myriad ways by the medieval period playing a catalytic role in the economic, cultural and religious fields. The establishment of Islamic kingdoms heralds the dominant overseas trading networks of the Arab merchants, who acted as entrepots for the Indian merchandise to central Asia and beyond. It was during the medieval period that trade and cultural contacts with South East Asian countries

from peninsular India expanded manifold. Understanding the important the overseas trade in medieval dynasties of south India like Kakatiyas of Warangal has gone to the extent of issuing *Abhaya-sasana* (protective injunctions). The Cholas are known for their powerful naval fleets which led to the conquest of the South Asian regions. The medieval temples of south India in their inscriptions and sculptural art contain numerable evidences of trade and trade related activities.

The establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire marks the pinnacle of domestic trading networks and maritime trade relations between peninsular India and the Arab world, Europe, China and South-East Asia. Even the foreign currencies were in circulation on par with the official coinage in the Vijayanagara Empire.

Thus the emerging evidences indicate that a reinterpretation of the entire data base of sources is the desideratum to have a comprehensive picture of the peninsular Indian Maritime Heritage.

Broad Sub-Themes

1. Trade in Proto-Historic & Early Historic peninsular India: Material Manifestations
2. Trade / Craft Guilds in Early Historic peninsular India: Religious, Socio-economic dimensions
3. Inscriptions of Early and Medieval Peninsular India - reconstruction of trade networks
4. Sculptural & mural art and the Trade representations
5. Urbanization in medieval peninsular India: religious, trade and cultural dimensions
6. Islamic contribution to the trade networks in medieval peninsular India
7. European trade during the Vijayanagara period
8. Medieval Kingship in Peninsular India – Contribution to Trade



Important Dates

Submission of Abstracts of papers	28 th February, 2019
Communication of accepted papers	10 th March, 2019
Submission of Full papers	1 st April, 2019

Contact & Correspondence

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Registration Fee

Faculty	Rs.1500.00
Research Scholars	Rs.1000.00
<i>The registration fee should be sent through a Demand Draft on any nationalized Bank in the name of Coordinator, National Seminar, 2019, payable at Pondicherry</i>	

Publication of the Proceedings

The Proceedings of the academic deliberations will be published in the form of a book soon after the seminar, in collaboration with IGNCA. The selection of the papers to be included in the Proceedings Volume will be made by the Editorial Board.



Prof. K. Venugopal Reddy
Head of the Department



Prof. N. Chandramouli
Coordinator of the Seminar

