

PAPER 2016

UNIT III

TOPIC :THE PROBLEM OF URBAN DECLINE
PATTERN OF TRADE , CURRENCY AND URBAN SETTLEMENT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY TRADE

DEFINATION OF TRADE :

1. COLLECTION , DISTRIBUTION AND EXCHANGE OF GOODS IS CALLED TRADE.
2. IT DEPENDS ON DIFFERENT FACTORS :
 - NATURE AND QUANTITY OF PRODUCTION.
 - FACILITIES OF TRANSPORT.
 - SAFETY AND SECURITY OF TRADERS.
 - PATTERN OF EXCHANGE.

TRADE INVOLVE DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF SOCIETY

- TRADERS (BANIJAR)
- MERCHANTS (WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES)
- PEASANTS /FARMERS.
- ARTISANS (KARIKAR)
- POLITICAL AUTHORITIES IN THE FORM OF TAX IMPOSED ON THE ARTICLES.

TWO PHASE OF TRADE

- PHASE 1

PERIOD 4TH TO 10TH CENTURY.

THIS PERIOD IS MARKED BY DECLINE OF TRADE, DECLINE OF METTALIC CURRENCY, DECLINE OF URBAN CENTRES AND VILLAGE ECONOMY.

PHASE 2

PERIOD 10TH TO 13TH CENTURY.

THIS PERIOD IS MARKED BY GROWTH IN RURAL ECONOMY AND PRODUCTION, URBANISATION.

PHASE 1 - TRADE DURING THIS PERIOD

- PRACTICE OF LAND GRANTS TO PRIEST AND TEMPLE.
- PRACTICE OF LAND GRANT TO WARRIOR CHIEF.
- PRACTICE OF LAND GRANT TO STATE OFFICIALS LIKE SAMANTA, MAHASAMANTA, MANDALIKA ETC.
- ACTUAL TILLERS OF LAND WERE THE PEASANTS AND ABOVE PERSONS WERE DEPENDENT ON SURPLUS EXTRACTED FROM THE PEASANTS.
- IT RESULTED IN THE GROWTH OF RURAL ECONOMY.

RULERS DURING THIS PERIOD

1. PRATI HARAS IN WESTERN INDIA.
2. PALAS IN EASTERN INDIA.
3. RASHTRAKUTAS IN DECCAN.

ALL WERE POWERFUL DYNASTIES BUT THE ABSENCE OF COINS THROUGH ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH LEAD US TO BELIEVE IN THE SHRINKAGE OF TRADE DURING THIS PERIOD.

PHASE 1 - MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE

- INDIA WAS RULED BY MANY DYNASTIES DURING THIS PERIOD.
- BUT THE COINS DURING THIS PERIOD WAS VERY FEW AND DO NOT MATCH THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF EARLIER PERIOD.
- THE ABSENCE OF ENOUGH COINS LEAD TO DECLINE OF TRADE.
- LESS SOURCE REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF COINS.
- BARTER SYSTEM EXISTED.
- LOCAL MARKET.

CAUSES OF THE DECLINE OF TRADE

INTERNAL CAUSE :

1. TOO MANY POLITICAL AUTHORITY WERE INVOLVED LIKE LOCAL CHIEFS , RELIGIOUS GRANTEES ,STATE OFFICIALS.
2. LOW PRODUCTION RESORTED TO LOOT AND PLUNDER OR EXCESSIVE TAXES ON GOODS.
3. TRADERS AND MERCHANTS BECAME DISCOURAGE.
4. FREQUENT WARS AMONG RULING CHIEFS.

CAUSES OF DECLINE

FOREIGN TRADE

1. FALL OF ROMAN EMPIRE.
2. EXPANSION OF ARAB TRADE. ARAB RAIDED COAST LIKE BROACH AND THANA IN THE 7TH CENTURY.
3. FIGHT BETWEEN CHINA AND TIBET AFFECTED ROUTES IN CENTRAL ASIA.
4. DISTRUPTION OF SEA TRADE.

PHASE 1 DECLINE OF URBAN SETTLEMENTS

1. DECAY AND DESERTION OF MANY TOWNS.
2. COMMERCIAL DECLINE.
3. AS TRADE DECLINED AND THE DEMANDS DECREASE,TRADERS,ARTISANS LIVING IN TOWNS SHIFTED TO VILLAGE FOR ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD.
4. IMPORTANT TOWNS LIKE VAISHALI,PATALIPUTRA,VARANASI DECAYED.

PHASE II

- IT MARKED THE REVIVAL OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.
- PERIOD OF AGRARIAN EXPANSION, INCREASED USE OF MONEY, RISE IN MARKET ECONOMY, GOODS WERE EXCHANGE FOR TRADE.
- URBAN SETTLEMENTS GREW IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.
- BOTH FOOD CROPS AND COMMERCIAL CROPS WERE GROWN.
- BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRADE WITNESSED EXPANSION AND GROWTH.

PHASE II CRAFTS AND INDUSTRY

- GROWTH OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION LED TO INCREASED CRAFT PRODUCTIN.
- BOTH REGIONAL AND INTER REGIONAL EXCHANGE.
- TEXTILE(CLOTHING) INDUSTRY DEVELOPED AS A MAJOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.
- PAITHAN,KALINGA AND MULTAN WERE IMPORTANT CENTRES OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY.
- SILK OF KARNATAKA AND TAMIL NADU WAS FAMOUS.
- OIL INDUSTRY,SUGAR CULTIVATION,JAGGERY CULTIVATED.
- IRON,GOLD AND COPPER WAS USED.
- GUJARAT WAS KNOWN FOR GOLD AND COPPER EMBRIODERY.

PHASE II – COINS AND MEDIA OF EXCHANGE.

- REVIVAL OF TRADE LED TO RE EMERGENCE OF METAL MONEY.
- DIFFERENT TYPES OF COINS – GOLD, SILVER, COPPER USED.
- COINS WERE REDUCED IN WEIGHT.
- DEVICE CALLED 'HUNDIKA' OR BILL OF EXCHANGE WAS USED FOR COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION.

DIFFERENT PATTERNS/TYPES OF TRADE

1. INLAND TRADE : MERCHANT CARRYING FOODGRAINS AS WELL AS COMMERCIAL COMMODITIES LIKE COTTON ,CARPETS , HORSES,ELEPHANTS,JEWELLERY.

- CHIEF CUSTOMER : CHINA, ARAB,EGYPT AND EUROPE.

2. MARITIME TRADE : SEA TRADE BETWEEN PERSIAN GULF AND SOUTH CHINA.

- INDIA LAY MID WAY BETWEEN THE TWO AND THIS WAS OF GREAT BENEFIT.
- ARABS DOMINATE ASIAN TRADE.
- INDIANS WERE GOING TO LAND BEYOND SEA FOR TRADE FROM 10TH CENTURY.

TRADE ROUTES AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

- A VAST NETWORK OF ROADS CONNECTED TO DIFFERENT MARKETS, PORTS AND TOWNS SERVED AS CHANNEL OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.
- HISTORIANS AND TRAVELLER LIKE
- HIUEN TSANG : VISITED TOWNS FROM KASHMIR IN NORTH TO KANCHI IN SOUTH, ASSAM IN THE EAST TO SINDH IN THE WEST.
- BILHANA TELLS ABOUT HIS TRAVEL FROM KASHMIR TO MATHURA.
- ALBERUNI MENTION 15 ROUTES WHICH STARTED FROM KANNAUJ, MATHURA, BAYANA ETC.

MATERIALS EXPORT AND IMPORT

- BEADS/JEWELLERY
- RICE
- SPICES (MASALA)
- COCONUT
- COTTON TEXTILES
- PRECIOUS STONES LIKE PEARLS.
- BRONZE
- TEAKWOOD
- HORSE
- DATES
- IVORY
- GOLD
- SILVER
- EMERALDS
- CORAL

CONCLUSION

- THIS UNIT THROWS LIGHT ON THE TWO PHASES OF TRADE AND COMMERCE INDICATED THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA.
- THE FIRST PHASE DISCUSSES ABOUT TRADE DECLINE, CURRENCY AND DECAY OF URBAN SETTLEMENT.
- THE SECOND PHASE SHOWS GROWTH IN TRADE ECONOMY, MONEY SYSTEM, FOREIGN TRADE IMPORT AND EXPORT.