

PROJECT REPORT

Shipping and Ship Building in India-Medieval Period by Baldeo Sahai

The project was sponsored by INSA during the financial year 1991-1993. It gives information on the evolution and development of Shipping in India. India's maritime activities is noteworthy since Indus Valley civilization. In Gujarat important ports like Lothal, dating back to 2000 BC, indicates that India was actively engaged in the art of shipping, shipbuilding and trade with neighbouring countries like Mesopotamia and Egypt before and during 2000 B.C. Alan Villiers, who circumnavigated the earth in 1934-36, regarded the Indian ocean as the birth place of sailing in the world. The study deals with the history of Indian shipping with reference to political, economic and technological developments. The history since primitive navigation (sailing during day by sun and during night by stars) to modern technology is interesting for readers. India, the "Land of Desire", according to a German philosopher Hegal (1770-1831), attracted world wide attention due to its natural resources and treasures like pearls, diamonds, perfumes, rose essences, lions, elephants etc. and also was regarded as a land of wisdom.

Besides introductory history, the monograph begins with the Indo-Arab relations and covers the study upto post-independence period. The study is based on manuscripts, secondary sources, records and personal interviews.

The contents are as follows :

1. Indian Shipping-The Beginning
2. Indo-Arab Relations
3. The Glorious Era
4. Shipping during the Guptas and the Colas
5. Portuguese enter the Indian Ocean
6. Shipping under the Mughals
7. Dutch, French, British and other Trading Companies
8. Shipbuilding and Instrumentation
9. Indian Shipping after Independence

The monograph also contains a list of references and notes, bibliography and sketches of a few important models of ships besides an index.

The monograph was published with a new title, *Indian Shipping: A Historical Survey* in 1996 by the Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India, Patiala House, New Delhi-110001.

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