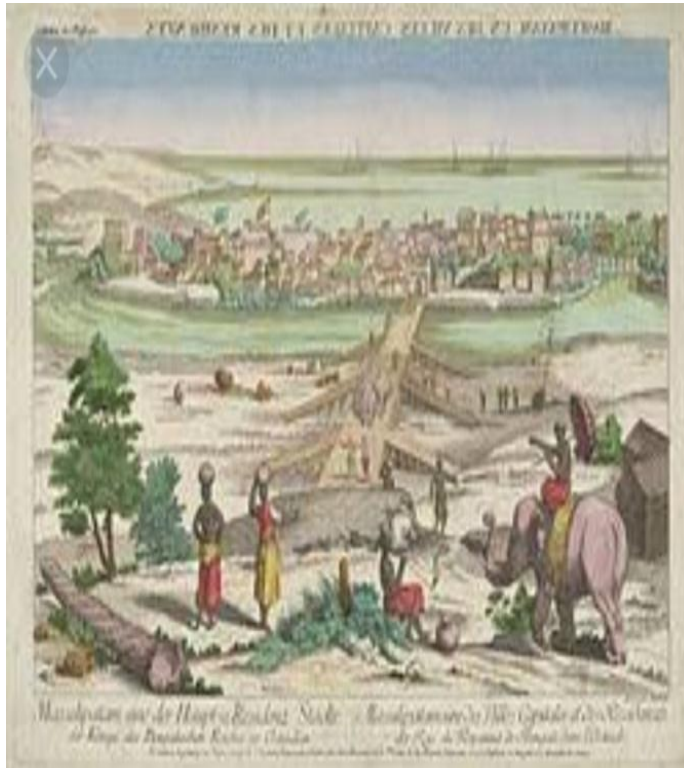


CLASS - 7
HISTORY
CHAPTER 6
MODULE- 4/4

**TOWNS, TRADERS AND
CRAFTSPERSONS**

Fishing in Troubled Waters: Masulipatnam

- The town Masulipatnam or Machlipatnam [literally means, **fish port town**) lay on the delta of Krishna river. The town was a centre of intense activity in the seventeenth century.
- **Dutch and English** East Companies attempted to control Masulipatnam as it became the most important port on the Andhra coast.
- **The Qutb Shahi** rulers of Golconda tried to prevent the trade passing completely into the hands of the various East India Companies. Fierce competition among various trading groups made the city populous and prosperous.
- **Golconda** was annexed by Aurangzeb in **1686-1687**
- This caused the European Companies to look for alternatives. The Company traders moved to **Bombay, Calcutta and Madras**.
- This caused the decline of Masulipatnam in eighteenth century.



Masulipatnam



Golconda

New Towns and Traders

- In sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, European countries were searching for **spices and textiles**, which had become popular both in Europe and West Asia.
- The English, Dutch and French **formed East India Companies** in order to expand their commercial activities in the east.
- Indian traders like **Mulla Abdul Ghafur and Virji Vora** who owned a large number of ships competed with them. The European Companies used their naval power to gain control of the sea trade and forced Indian traders to work as their agents.
- The English emerged as the most successful commercial and political power in the subcontinent.

Indian Textiles

- Indian Textiles were in great demand in **Europe and West Asia**.
- More and more people began to engage themselves in the crafts of spinning, weaving, bleaching, dying, etc.
- However, this period saw **the decline** of the independence of craftsmen.
- They now began to work on a system of **advance payments**. Gradually they lost their freedom.
- Weavers no longer had the **liberty** of selling their own cloth or weaving their own patterns.
- The eighteenth century saw the rise of **Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, which are nodal cities today**.
- The crafts and commerce also underwent major changes as the local or native merchants and artisans were moved into **“Black towns”** established by the European companies within these new cities.
- The Black towns were mainly for native traders and craftsmen.
- White towns were for **Europeans**.

INDIAN TEXTILES



Vasco da Gama and Christopher Columbus

- Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese sailor, sailed down the African Coast, went round **the Cape of Good Hope** and crossed over to the Indian Ocean. He reached **Calicut** in **1498**, and returned to Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. He lost two of his four ships, and of the 170 men at the start of the journey, only 54 survived. He was followed by English, Dutch and French sailors.
- On the assumption that the earth was round, **Christopher Columbus, an Italian**, decided to sail westwards across the Atlantic Ocean to find a route to India. He landed in the **West Indies in 1492**. He was followed by the sailors and conquerors from Spain and Portugal.

Vasco da Gama and Christopher Columbus



- Vasco da Gama



Christopher Columbus