UNIT 17 TRADE ROUTES AND SEA-VOYAGES

Structure

17.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

- understand different trade routes and their importance;
- familiarise yourself with spice Route and Silk Route;
- identify other trading routes and their role;
- know sea-voyages done by Christopher Columbus and Vasco da Gama; and
- Learn route strategy of China and India in present scenario.

17.1 INTRODUCTION

In the Unit 14 related to concept of discovery, we have already discussed discovery, its type, nature, and characteristics. In the section of the World Discovery, you have understood the importance of discovery of lost cities and civilizations. In this unit we will discuss discovery of trade routes, mainly Spice

Route and Silk Route, and other important routes. We will also discuss sea-voyages done by Vasco Da Gama and Christopher Columbus and present route politics with their consequences.

17.2 AGE OF DISCOVERY

Age of Discovery, also known as the "Age of Exploration", is the time period when Europeans (mostly) explored new places, destination etc located in Africa, Americas, Asia and Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific Islands) started from 15th century to 17th century.

Such discoveries resulted in new routes, oceanic trade, commercial practices, and exchange of culture, ideas, technology and above all colonization of countries/ region by Portuguese, Dutch, French, Spanish, British and Japanese (From 1511 to 1984). Most prominent effect of discovery was finding of America (by chance) by Columbus (instead of India) and discovery of new route to India through Indian Ocean via the Cape of Good Hope by Portuguese explorer navigator Vasco da Gama in 1498. This discovery created a new route for Spice trade and affected whole world's political and social framework.

17.3 TRADE ROUTES

Since time immemorial, the transportation of goods from center of production to center of consumption was by trade routes. Rare commodities like spices and salt were available only in some regions were the biggest driver for development of trade route, but once developed and established these routes also exchanged culture, religion, tradition, language, knowledge, ideas and sometimes even virus and bacteria.

During middle age, transportation of commodities was made through land and water routes. Arab merchants played major role in the spread of business through trading routes. Central Asian's trade was mainly through land routes. Mediterranean region was linked with Iran, India and China through caravan routes. Muslim traders had established trading posts in Gujarat, Sind and Saymur (near Mumbai).

Major ports of that time were Jor, Jidda (Red Sea Ports), Ubullah (Persian Gulf), Siraf, Basra, Yemen, Muscat, and Oman etc.

In history of human civilization, silk route and spice route are the two most famous trade routes.

17.3.1 Spice Route

The sea route from west coast of Japan to Indonesian islands to India (around) to Middle East to Mediterranean area (across) to Europe is called Spice Route. Some author also mentioned this Spice Route with the name "Maritime Silk Roads". This was the sea route network for connecting the East with the West. Such dangerous sea routes were travelled by enthusiastic and brave sailors and explorers for trading (business tourism) and adventure (part of tourism). In those days demand of spices from India and South East Asian countries to European countries was the main reason for development of spice route. The articles traded were cinnamon, cassia, cardamom, ginger, peeper, turmeric, opium, ivory, silk,

cloth, porcelain, metals and precious/semi precious gemstones. The trading of articles brought heavy profits to traders who were prepared to take risk by voyaging on dangerous oceanic routes. Through this route only articles were not exchanged but there was exchange of people, thoughts philosophy, life style, foods, habits, cloth, knowledge, technology, religion, beliefs, culture, expertise, scientific and artistic skills. The word 'spice' comes from 'species' (Latin word) which means "item of special value." In those days spices were most valuable because of reasons mentioned below.

- Flavouring of food (cooking)
- As a preservative
- Medicinal and Spiritual values
- Ritual value/significance
- Used in religious ceremony
- Purifier of air (aroma)
- Prestige and Royalty
- Spices were small, dried and could be transported easily.

Spices were so valuable that Arab traders spread strange and unbelievable stories related to harvesting and collection of spices. Spices were linked to giant eagles, phoenix, dragons and serpents. Such myths and legends were woven in order to protect profit, trade secret and hide the sources of the spices. The mark of spice trades beginning in 3000 BC can be traced at port Muziris (Kerala-India) that was referred to as the "land of Spices" or "Spice Garden of India". Kerala (India) was the place for that, tracing the route was so important that Vasco da Gama, Christopher Columbus and other explorers invested their whole life.

The Sea routes to India and Srilanka were first controlled by Indians and Ethiopians and later with rise of Islam, Arab traders started dominating sea trade routes. The pattern of trade was changed in medieval period due to zeal of "Discovery of new lands and routes" by Europeans. Discovery Age created favorable circumstances for Portuguese, Dutch, British and Spanish to control part of Spice Trade Route.

17.3.1.1 Diffusion of Culture

Spice Trade was responsible for spread of Indian cuisine to Malaysia and Indonesia (South East Asia) where mixture of spices and curries became very popular. Europeans intermarried with the Indians and popularised baking skill, vinegar making and adopted Indian food and its taste. Spice Trade was most importantly responsible for the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism religion in the South East Asian Countries. Buddhism specially spread with maritime trade promoted art, literacy and coinage. Muslim merchants played crucial role in the spread of Islam religion and trade. Saint Francis Xavier (Christian Missionaries) spread Christianity in the East. Traders such as Arabs from Aden, Chinese from Fujian province, South Indian Chettis, Gujarati Banias and Syrian Christians etc were involved in Spice Trade. Culture, tradition, language, lifestyle, costumes etc were all affected by intermingling of two different geographical zones.

South East Asian food is a mixed form of Middle Eastern, Chinese, Indian, Portuguese, French, Polynesian and other European influences. Indonesian and

Malaysian cuisines share a common use of coconut milk. Fish sauce has strongly influenced Vietnamese and Thai cuisines.

Some records prove that spice trade began in the Middle East over 4000 years ago. It was controlled by Arab merchants who spread mythical and strange stories only to protect their spice trade right and profit. Europeans were forced to pay inflated price of spices as it was considered rare and hard to obtain. Initially, spice trade was conducted by camels over land routes (Silk Road) via India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Turkey. Europe, North Africa, Mediterranean area and Asia was connected by Silk Road. Silk Road trade was one of the significant factor in the development of the great civilizations of Rome, Arabia, Persia (Iran), Egypt, India and China. In the year 1453, the fall of the Constantinople (Istanbul–Turkey) to the Ottoman Empire (Muslims) ended Roman Empire. Rise of Ottoman Empire cut off the land connection between Asia and Europe. Ottoman Empire controls the trade route of that time and charged heavy taxes on the articles moving towards west. The activities of Ottoman Empire forced Western Europe to start the age of discovery and exploration by finding an alternative route to Asia. Western Europeans were not ready to be dependent on Ottoman Empire for lucrative spice trade. Spice trade was the world's biggest industry that established and destroyed empires and motivated Europeans to map the world by conducting comparatively dangerous sea-voyages. It also changed culinary world forever.

17.3.1.2 Spices vs Globalization

The value and quest for spices were the earliest drivers of globalization. Spices were responsible for creation of global economic network in middle age. The spices were the global commodity with complex chain of relation in between consumers and cultivators. Consumers were ignorant about the process and methods of cultivation of spices due to myth, stories, danger involved and mysterious origins. Spices were highly priced with limited supply. The desire of controlling spice trade was the major factor for colonial empires to create military, political and commercial network under a single rule.

The global demand of spices motivated Christopher Columbus and Vasco da Gama to initiate dangerous sea-voyages which finally culminated into waves of European Colonialism. All the ancient survived cookery books have emphasised use of spices in different forms. Spices were extensively used for taste combination, flavour, health, colour, medicinal benefits, fragrance (like present day aromatherapy), elite status and preservation. A spice growing region like India was very exotic and alluring to the Europeans. Europeans geographical maps placed India close to Bible's Garden of Eden (Earthly Paradise). Early Europeans thought that Indian pepper grew on trees, guarded by poisonous serpents that would bite who dare to come close for collecting the fruit.

The availability and prices of spices in Europe were affected by global factors like India's relation with neighbouring powers (Muslim and Christian) and weather condition in the region (mausam and mansoon). Portuguese, Dutch, British etc fought with each other only to control spice trade. Even in the 17th century Dutch and English were fighting to control spice region and as a settlement New York or Dutch New Amsterdam was exchanged by English (British) for one of the nutmeg growing region (Moluccan Islands). It's a fact that spices were the main cause of large scale global economic network, large empires and motivation for European's to expand and colonized the whole world.

17.3.2 Silk Route

This was one of the most famous trade routes of ancient times that connected China to Rome. Through Silk trade route, silk was traded to Rome from China in exchange of gold, silver and wool. It was originated from Xi'an in China, travelled alongside the Great Wall of China to Pamir Mountains (Afghanistan) to Levant. At Levant articles were shipped to Mediterranean ports. This trade route not only transported goods but also became a major channel of knowledge, technology, religion and arts. In between, some centers became important melting pots for intellectual amalgamation like Samarkand (Uzbekistan). The distance between China to Rome was nearly 4000 miles, so it was not possible for one trader to cross whole length. One trader was specialised to transport goods on a particular section of silk trade route, handed over to another trader for onward journey. In the fourth century CE, the Silk Trade Route became unsafe due to crumbling of Roman Empire. In 13th century it was revived by the Mongols. Through Silk Road, the explorer Marco Polo visited China and became first European to do so. Some researcher says that even spread of bacteria caused plague was through silk trade route.

According to, historical records sericulture developed as early as 4000–3000 BCE. Southern China was one of the ancient, most famous centres of Sericulture. In earlier days silk was so valuable that acted as currency. Until the 5th century, the process of silk making was secretly guarded by Chinese. Silk making was backbone of many Chinese rural economies. In the Han dynasty, silk making became a major industry and one of the chief exports. Later India and Japan also became major center of silk producing areas.

The caravan route across Central Asia (Silk Road) traded silk from China to Syria and then to Rome. India was shipping raw silk and cloth to Persia. Persia became one of the major trading centers between East and West. Rome, Greece, Egypt and Syria developed silk weaving and dyeing as a craft. It is said that the two Persian monks who were living in China, smuggled silkworms in bamboo canes to Istanbul (Constantinople) which started European Sericulture business.

The silk road traded goods like silk, satin and other fine fabrics, slaves, spices, medicines, perfumes, musk, porcelain, glassware and jewel. This route passes from ancient China, India, Persia, Asia Minor and Mediterranean countries and created favourable condition for technological, cultural and commercial exchange between nomads, rulers, soldiers, missionaries, pilgrims, merchants and traders.

The trading activity on the Silk Road was a significant factor in the development of great civilizations like China, Rome, Arabia, Persia, Egypt and India.

Check Your Progress-1

1) What do you mean by trade routes?

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2) Elaborate the route of Spice and Silk trade route.

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3) What is the role of spices in globalization and cultural diffusion?

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17.4 OTHER TRADING ROUTES

"Age of Discovery" (exploration) created important commercial links between America, Europe, Africa and Asia. International trade was executed through Baltic, Atlantic, Mediterranean, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. One research has listed four major routes for crossing Mediterranean. Two trading routes were from Indian Ocean and other two were land routes. One trading route was started from China to steppes of Southern Siberia and culminated at Black Sea. The second trading route was from China to desert of Turkistan to Iran and connected to Persian Gulf. In this trading route land and Sea routes were interconnected. Other routes were from Indian Ocean like from India to Malacca and then to East Indies, converged at the Persian Gulf. There were so many other trading routes that connected England, France, Troyes and Compiegne etc. Holland emerged as the main centre of trade due to network of canals and rivers.

17.4.1 Incense Route

Romans, Greeks and Egyptians were very fond of Frankincense and myrrh which was found in Yemen and Oman (Southern end of Arabian Peninsula). Frankincense and myrrh was burned as incense or used as perfumes. It was also used during burial rituals to aid embalming. The Incense Route was developed to transport valuable incense to the Mediterranean by Arabs through camel. This incense were derived from tree sap and dried in the sun. Even Pliny the Elder (Roman historian) had mentioned trading of Frankincense and myrrh in his writings. With the improvement in boat design and development of sea routes, this ancient overland route became redundant by the first century CE.

17.4.2 Amber Road (Trading Beads)

Romans have developed Amber Road for transporting amber beads from the Baltic to the rest of Europe. Amber beads were used as decorative item and valued for medicinal purposes. Baltic Sea is famous for good quality amber beads which were formed millions of years ago when covered forest submerged. Traces

of old Amber Road can be found at Poland where one of the routes is known as "Amber Highway".

17.4.3 Tea Route (Tea-Horse Road)

Tea route was developed for transporting Chinese tea and Tibetan warhorses from Hengduan Mountains of China through Tibet to India. This route was most dangerous due to terrain of crossing areas and numerous rivers. During Song dynasty (960–1279) maximum trading was done through this dangerous route. With increase of sea routes, the importance of Tea route was marginalised.

17.4.4 Salt Route

Since time immemorial, salt has been used as a preservative, antiseptic and for adding flavour to the food. It was a scarce mineral in antiquity, so areas rich in salt became important trading center like Roman via Salaria. This route passed from Ostia (near Rome) to Italy to Adriatic coast. The importance of salt can be recognised from the word "Salary" (Roman soldier's pay). Another important salt route was from Luneburg (north Germany) to Lubeck (German Coast). North Germany region was one of the major salt sources for Northern Europe.

17.4.5 Trading across the Desert (Trans Saharan Trade Route)

The Saharan desert was having many criss-cross trading links in between North Africa to West Africa. In this route camel was used to transport gold, slaves, salt, cloth, ostrich feathers, European guns etc. Through this route spread of Islam, Arabic knowledge, education and language took place. This route also encouraged state building and development of monetary system. With the advent of trans-Atlantic trade by the Europeans, this inland route was marginalised as commodities and wealth started moving from inland to coastal areas.

17.4.6 Bronze Age Business (Tin Route)

For creating stronger and useful metal like bronze, copper must be alloyed with tin. This technology created demand of tin which was not found in many places. One tin route flourished from Cornwall tin mines (SW of Britain) to France to Greece and beyond (first millennium BCE). Written record is not available but location of many hill forts as trading posts revealed existence of such trading route. Archaeological records also corroborated existence of Tin Route between northern Europe to Mediterranean.

17.4.7 Uttarpath and Dakshinpath

The two major trade routes of Indian subcontinent were Uttarpath of the north and north-west and Dakshinpath of the central India and the southern peninsula. Uttarpath is also referred as "Northern High Road". This trade route included the whole of North Western India, Northern India, Eastern India and also Himalaya in the north to Vindhya in the south. The route connected Bengal, Bihar, Gorakhpur, Bijnor, Saharanpur, Jallunder, Lahore, Taxila etc. Its Southern sector connected Lahore, Delhi, Hastinapur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Patliputra and Rajgir etc. The Manibhadra yaksha was the presiding deity of the Uttarapath traders. This trade route was famous for its fine breed of horses and horse dealers.

Dakshinpath, is often referred as "Southern High Road" connected Varanasi, Ujjain, Narmada Valley and Pratisthana (Paithan – Maharashtra) and then to

western coast of India, running in southern direction. Manimekalai was the presiding deity of Dakshinpath traders.

Lapis Lazuli, silver, semiprecious stones, sea shells, gold, lead, copper, iron, sandalwood, conch-shells, diamonds, rubies, pearls, cloth and rain proof cloth were the trading articles.

These trade routes were used by merchants, tourists, pilgrims, students, actors, acrobats, kings, army, horse traders, peddlers, monks etc for their respective purposes.

These trade routes were connected to sea ports like Uttarpath which was further connected to Odisha coasts, Sind and Rajasthan. The Dakshinpath was connected to Virampattinam (Arikamedu) through Pratisthan.

17.5 MARKETS AND FAIRS

Trade routes were responsible for establishment of markets and fairs. It is said that India was having nearly 3200 towns in 16th century. All towns were having markets and in some cases more than one market. A merchant reports revealed that Jaunpur's (Eastern U.P.) fifty two paragons had mandi and bazaars. Dindigul, Cambay, Broach, Masuli- patnam, Bijapur, Delhi, Dacca, Patna, Multan, Lahore, Agra, Surat etc were centers of International trade. In medieval time Agra was bigger than London. The Cambridge Economic History of India, vol. 1 has reported exchange of commodities in India. As per that during 14th century Delhi was getting

Horses from Khurasan via Multan

Grain from different parts of country

Wines from Kol (Aligarh) and Meerut

Betel Leaf from Dhar (Malwa)

Cloth from Awadh (Ayodhya)

Muslin from Devagiri

Striped cloth from Bengal

Brocade from Tabriz (Iran)etc.

Arab region was having big markets in almost all towns like Basra, Baghdad, Mecca, Harmuz, Aden, Istanbul, Jeddah etc. China's market centers were attracting traders from India, Africa and Central Asia. Cairo (Egypt) was having more than thirty markets. Mexico, Brazil, Argentina were also had big markets for trading activities. In most of the cases these markets were also associated with either religious or ritual festivals. These fairs were held in a particular season or time of year. Some fairs were specialised in a particular commodity and became centre of trade.

Check Your Progress-2

1) What is Incense Route and Trans-Saharan Trade Route?

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2) Describe Uttarapath and Dakshinpath trade routes.

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3) What is the role of markets and fairs in trade?

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17.6 CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS – SEA VOYAGES

Christopher Colombus was born in the year 1451 at Genoa (Italy). His father (Domenico Columbo) was a wool merchant. After completing his formal education, he started sailing on trading trips. In the year 1476, he went to Portugal and set up a mapmaking business with his brother. In 1479 Christopher Columbus married a noblewoman called Felipa Perestrello Moniz (daughter of explorer Bartolomeu Perestrello, involved in discovery of Madeira Islands). Christopher's wife provided charts of the currents and winds in the Atlantic. Christopher Columbus tried to gain patronage of the Portugal king for starting sea-voyage to find new trade route to the Indies, but his proposal was not accepted.

In the year 1485, after death of his wife he moved to Spain and started a shop of maps and charts.

In the 1450s, northern Africa was controlled by Turkish Empire who blocked Europe's easiest access to spices. Many countries started finding alternative route to get spices via sea. Portugal in practical tried hard to find a route around the Southern tip of Africa (Cape of Good Hope). At that time earth's actual size was not known and proved but Columbus argued that whatever earth size is presumed is too large. Columbus calculation of earth size set the world at 66 percent smaller than previous estimates. For finding new route to spices, he first presented his plan to Portugal in 1483, but it was rejected. In 1487, Columbus submitted his plan to King Henry VII of England and King Charles VIII of France but was not able to convince. Columbus petitioned his plan of voyage to Spanish court in the years 1486 and 1491. First it was refused but in the year 1492 King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella (Spain) finally agreed to patronise and provided money and ship to Christopher Columbus.

The chronology of Christopher Columbus Voyage

September 1492: Columbus started his journey from Palos, Spain in the Santa Maria Ship

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Two more ships named Pinta and Nina also accompanied

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Reached Canaries under favourable condition

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Weather condition changed at Sargasso Sea

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Crew becomes disgruntled

⇩

False landfall spotted

⇩

October 12, 1492 landed on witling's Island (Bahamas)
(They named discovered island as San Salvador and believed that as passage to India and China).

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Reached Cuba

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Santa Maria ship sinks (cost of Hispaniola). Columbus established the first Spanish settlement in the New world.

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Started return journey to Palos in Spain

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5th March 1493, Columbus arrived at Palos in Spain with news of new world discovery.

On October12, 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on a small island situated in the Caribbean Sea. They named it as San Salvador. This day is celebrated as Columbus Day in America. Columbus was sure that he had come to India so he dubbed the natives of that island as Indians. The crew further travelled along the coast of Cuba and Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) but Santa Maria ship crashed into a reef of Haiti. Columbus started his return Journey to Spain with several captive natives to prove his achievements. Historical records tell that Columbus was not the first European to land there but Vikings had reached there several hundred years back. In later period Columbus made three more journeys to the new world. Columbus explored Jamaica and established Spanish settlement in Haiti. At Haiti, the native people (Taino) were forced to search for Gold. Christopher Columbus was criticized for condition of Spanish settlement at South America and an inquiry was conducted. During further voyages, he explored coast of Venezuela, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama etc. He died in the year 1506.

17.7 VASCO DA GAMA – SEA VOYAGES

Vasco da Gama was born to a noble family in Sines at Portugal in the year 1460. He was one of the most successful explorers of the age of geographical discovery. He was the first European to discover water trade route between India and Europe. In the said voyage, Gama sailed around Cape of Good Hope (Africa). Gama's voyage breaks the monopoly of the Arab and created a new route to India for trade of spices and other commodities.

Not much information is available about his early life, but it has been proved that he was living in maritime environment and learned desired skills of sailing, fishing and swimming. He studied navigation, astronomy, mathematics, geometry, physics and various languages. He became a naval officer at the age of 23. He played an important role in defending Portuguese interest related to West African coast and other areas against the French incursions. Gama's father was selected to lead a voyage to open new sea trading route to Asia. His father's selection created favorable environment for Vasco da Gama to become an Explorer. The chronological development of Vasco da Gama's voyage is given below.

Voyage of Vasco da Gama

1497: He became Commander of expedition after death of his father.

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He started his journey from Port Tagus (Lisbon) with 4 ships. The expedition was led by Gama brothers, Paulo, Vasco and Nicolao.

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Reached coast of Natal by sailing around Cape of Good Hope (Africa)

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Reached mouth of Zambezi. Arabs attacked ships of Gama

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Landed in Mozambique (African Country)

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May1498, Arrived at Calicut, India

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5th October 1498, started back journey to Portugal

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September 1499, Reached Portugal.

When Vasco da Gama reached Portugal after discovering India's route, he was declared "Admiral of the Indian Ocean". In the year 1502, he re-visited India on the order of King Manuel I of Portugal. After returning to Portugal, Gama became the Advisor to King on Indian matters.

In the year 1519, the title of "Count" was conferred on Gama and he became Portuguese Viceroy to India. In 1524 he died on the Malabar Coast at Cochin in India.

17.8 INDIA, CHINA AND TRADE ROUTES

Recent reports have pointed out that China wants to expand its military influence in Indian Ocean region by reviving historical trade route areas (Silk Route). As per records, during second century BC, China was using sea route to trade in silk with India, Persia, Arabia and Europe. China wants to revive that route through its new silk route plan by establishing an economic cooperation block with Europe, Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia and South East Asia.

China wants to develop a parallel trading network by encircling the whole of Asia and running into Europe. Through this maritime Silk Road, China wants to dominate in Asia-Pacific region. China wants to invest in infrastructure so that Peoples Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) base can be developed in the Indian Ocean and beyond. China wants to create a reliable supply of armaments, food and fuel in South Asia and South East Asia. Even China's "one belt and one road" (OBOR) strategy is for the same purpose.

India has strategised to start a Spice Project. India has initiated "Mausam (Spice Route)" project in which more than 50 countries have been identified. India is creating high level diplomatic engagement with Surinam, Trinidad, Tobago, Mauritius and other African countries, Fiji and 12 other Pacific region countries and South East Asian nations. India wants to revive its historical, religious and ethnic linkages as was with spice trade. Historical and archaeological research is going to be conducted for documenting cultural diversity, commercial and religious interactions in Indian Ocean (East Africa, Arabian Peninsula, Indian Subcontinent, Sri Lanka and South East Asian archipelago). Through these projects and activities India wants to deepen a cultural bonding, ensure maritime security and broaden economic connectivity. India's "Spice Route Project" is diplomatic answer to Chinese "Silk Route Project".

Check Your Progress-3

1) What is the role of Christopher Columbus as an explorer?

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2) Describe the route travelled by Vasco da Gama.

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17.9 LET US SUM UP

The transportation of goods from centre of production to centre of consumption was done by trade routes. In the history of human civilization, Silk Route and Spice Route were the most famous trade routes. These trade routes not only transported goods but also became a major channel of knowledge, technology, religion and arts. Age of discovery (Exploration) created more trading links between America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Such exploration had affected whole world's political and social framework. Portuguese, Dutch, British etc fought with each other only to control trade routes and their established colonies Trade routes were responsible for the establishment of markets and fairs. The phenomena of business tourism, cultural tourism, historical tourism, heritage tourism, adventure tourism etc are due to development of trade routes.

Spice trade was responsible for spread of Indian cuisine to the rest of the world. The value and quest for spices were the earliest drivers of Globalization. Spices were responsible for creation of global economic network in middle age. The spices were the global commodity with complex chain of relation in between consumers and cultivators. The global demand of spices motivated Christopher Columbus and Vasco da Gama to initiate dangerous sea-voyages which finally culminated into waves of European Colonialism. During second century BC, China was using sea route to trade in silk with India, Persia, Arabia and Europe. Now China wants to revive that route through its new silk route plan by establishing an economic cooperation block with Europe, Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia and South East Asia. India is countering Chinese silk route strategy with spice project. India has initiated "Mausam (Spice Route)" Project in which more than 50 countries have been identified and incorporated.

17.10 KEY WORDS

Age of Discovery : Known as Age of exploration is the time period when Europeans explored new places, destinations etc

Trade Route : The route used for transportation of goods from centre of production to centre of consumption.

Spice Route : Also called "Maritime Silk Road" is the sea route network for connecting the East with the West.

Silk Road : The most famous trade route of ancient times connecting China to Rome for trade of silk, gold, silver wool and other articles.

Christopher Columbus : The explorer wants to discover India but discovered America (by mistake).

Vasco da Gama : The explorer who discovered route to India by sailing around Cape of Good Hope (Africa).

17.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress-1

1) See Section 17.3
2) See Sub-section 17.3.1 and 17.3.2
3) See Sub-section 17.3.1.1 and 17.3.1.2

Check Your Progress Exercise-2

1) See Sub-section 17.4.1 and 17.4.5
2) See Sub-section 17.4.7
3) See Section 17.5

Check Your Progress-3

1) See Section 17.6
2) See Section 17.7

SOME USEFUL BOOKS AND RESEARCH PAPERS FOR THIS BLOCK

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ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BLOCK

Note: Discuss the results of Activities with your Counsellor.

Activity-1

Take a tour of your city/town and prepare a list of the following structures dating at least one hundred years or more:

a) Temples

b) Mosques

c) Buildings of the following category:

   i) Sarai

   ii) Step-well

   iii) Bridge

Activity-2

Keep reading the discovery and inventions related to technology and instruments in newspaper and magazines. Try to understand its impacts.

Activity-3

Visit local area office to find literature related to development plan of your region. Find the process of urbanization of your area and its implications.

Activity-4

Visit some museums in order to find displayed material related to trade routes and sea-voyages.

Activity-5

Along with your friends make a visit to the local market. Describe the spices available in the market and their origin.

Activity-6

Deliver a 15 minutes lecture on the Roman Empire, its contribution and fall to your friends or colleagues.