

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

Project Mausam

Lecture

On

**Monsoon winds and Maritime Trade: with reference to the Portuguese
shipwreck explorations off Sunchi Reef, Goa**

Date: 19-06-2018

Venue- Lecture Hall, 11 Mansingh Road-110011

Abstract

The maritime history of India can be traced back to the Indus Valley Civilisation, and studies suggest that even at that time, monsoon winds and currents assisted in navigation. Recent archaeological exploration and excavations along the Indian margin, Persian Gulf, Red Sea and coasts of Southeast Asia provide convincing evidence about a maritime network and connections between mariners of India and other parts of the world in those ancient times.

The author of the *Peripuls of the Erythraean Sea* (PES) (60-100 CE) has credited Hippalus (~45 CE), the Greek mariner with this discovery of monsoon winds and the mid-ocean route to the Indian ports from the Mediterranean to the Indian coast. However, archaeological findings of the Indus Valley Civilisation, as well as the Vedic and Sangam period texts, suggest that the mariners of India were Trading in the Indian Ocean and adjoining seas and had knowledge about the monsoon winds much before Hippalus. The mariners of India sailed to the Southeast Asian countries and beyond with the help of monsoon winds. Monsoon winds even assisted the Europeans to reach Indian shores.

Keywords: Monsoon winds, Maritime Trade, Navigation, Vedic texts, Indus Valley Civilisation

























