

The background of the slide features a photograph of the Qutub Minar, a tall brick tower in Delhi, India. To its right is a smaller domed building with arched windows. The sky is clear and blue. The slide has a blue geometric overlay on the right side.

SOURCES OF MEDIEVAL INDIAN HISTORY (PART-3) मध्यकालीन भारतीय इतिहास के स्रोत (भाग-3)

(UG , SEM-4, PAPER MJC-7)

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ACCOUNT OF TRAVELLERS

(यात्रियों का वृत्तांत)

- (i) **Marco Polo:** He was a Venetian traveler who visited the court of Chinese Emperor Kublai Khan in 1274. On his return journey he passed through Eastern and Western coast of India. His account is very important for understanding commercial activities during the late 13th century. He has also described the life and conditions of common people.
- (ii) **Ibn Battuta's *Rihla* (1325-1342):** Ibn Battuta was an Arab traveler of Morocco. He was the qazi of Delhi for 8 years under the reign of Sultan Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq. He provides a graphic account of Sultan's

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character, his projects and contemporary socio-economic conditions. His work is also significant for geographical details. The area which he covered is important for the study of routes etc.

(iii) **Abdur Razzaque's *Matlaus Sadain wa Majmaul Bahrain***: The author was a Persian scholar, sent as an ambassador to the court of Vijaynagar (1442-43). He describes in detail his journey to the Vijayanagara court, life-style of the king, nobles, socio-economic and cultural life of the Deccan etc.

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- ▶ **(iv) Nicolo Conti:** He was a Venetian traveller who visited Malabar Coast in 1420. He provides useful information on the life at Vijayanagara court, its society and economy during the reign of Devaraya II.
- ▶ **(v) Domingo Paes:** He was a Portuguese traveler who visited India (1500-02) and describes life at Vijayanagara Empire.
- ▶ **(vi) Duarte Barbosa:** He was a Portuguese official in Cochin during 1500-16. His account is also important to study the Vijayanagara rule.

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- ▶ **(vii) Athanasius Nikitin:** He was a Russian trader who visited Deccan around 1470. He describes the court, army and condition of people under Bahmani rule.
- ▶ **(viii) F.Nuniz:** He was a Portuguese horse dealer who stayed in the Vijayanagara Empire during 1535-7. His account is valuable to study the court intrigues and civil war during this period.

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- ▶ **(ix) Tome Pires:** He was a European traveler who visited India during the first decade of the 16th century. He gives a graphic account of the trade at Cambay and Malacca.
- ▶ **Assam Buranjis:** To understand the regional history of Assam, especially that of the Ahoms,
- ▶ **Krishna Deva Raya's Amuktamalyada:** It is a poetic work which primarily deals with the principles of political administration by the monarch

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- ▶ **Khwaja Mahmud Gawan's Riyaz-ul-Insha:** It is a collection of letters of the Bahmani Wazir Khwaja Mahmud Gawan. It throws light on Mahmud Gawan's personal life, diplomatic relations, campaigns, court politics etc.
- ▶ **Muhammad Abdir Rahman us Sakhani's, Zau-ul-Lami:** It is a voluminous work which provides the biographical details of the great personalities of the Deccan during the 15th century.

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For studying the historical development between 13th and 15th century Kashmir numerous Sanskrit and Persian sources are available. Sanskrit works includes **Lokaprakasa** of Kshemendra which throws light on the socio-economic and administrative conditions of Kashmir.

Similarly, *Rajatarangini* of Jonaraja (up to 1459) and of Srivara (up to 1486) brings the account of Kalhana update up to 1486.

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Among the contemporary Persian works includes

- ▶ **Baharistan-i Shahi**, ***Malfuzat-i-Timur*** and ***Tarikh-i-Rashidi*** of Mirza Haider Dughlat are important works which describes the socio-economic, administrative and political structure of Kashmir during the 13th to 15th centuries.

(To be continued)