Course No. P 32405 – for M.Phil (4 credits)

Trade and Commerce in Medieval India
(Seminar paper)
Course Instructor: Prof. Pius Malekandathil


2. Entry of the Portuguese- Notions of Monopoly trade – Control Systems of cartaz, armada, fortress and cafila- Participation of the Germans and Italians in Indo-Portuguese trade- Smuggling and piracy – Nature and composition of Commercial Company of the Portuguese- Nature of the evolving global trade systems

3. Native Merchants, bankers and credit-givers- Emergence of New –moneyed groups- Political economy- Nature of Commodity circulation

4. Company trade of the Dutch and the English versus the French- Contestations and Political assertions-Formation of Indigenous Commercial companies and role of native mercantile capital - Local mercantile collaborators – From spices to textiles- Commodity composition- How Indian trade changed the consumption culture of Europe

5. Trade through the movement-channels of Bhakti and Sufis- Evolution of new lines of Transport and communication in north India – Security bolstering Mechanisms- Changing character of trade – Commodities - Production centres and terrestrial routes- Orientation towards global markets- Were there potentialities for capitalistic development

Reading list
Dale, Stephen Ferderic, Indian Merchants and Eurasian Trade, 1600-1750, New York, 1994
Habib, Irfan, An Atlas of the Mughal Empire, Delhi, 1982
Hourani, George F., Arab Seafaring in the Indian Ocean in Ancient and Early Medieval Times, Princeton, 1951.
Jacob, Hugo s’, *The Rajas of Cochin 1663-1720: Kings, Chiefs and the Dutch East India Company*, New Delhi, 2000


Markovitz, Claude (ed.), *A History of Modern India, 1480-1950*, New York, 2004

Mathew, K.S., *Portuguese Trade with India in the Sixteenth Century*, New Delhi, 1983


