

Important Personalities and their contribution

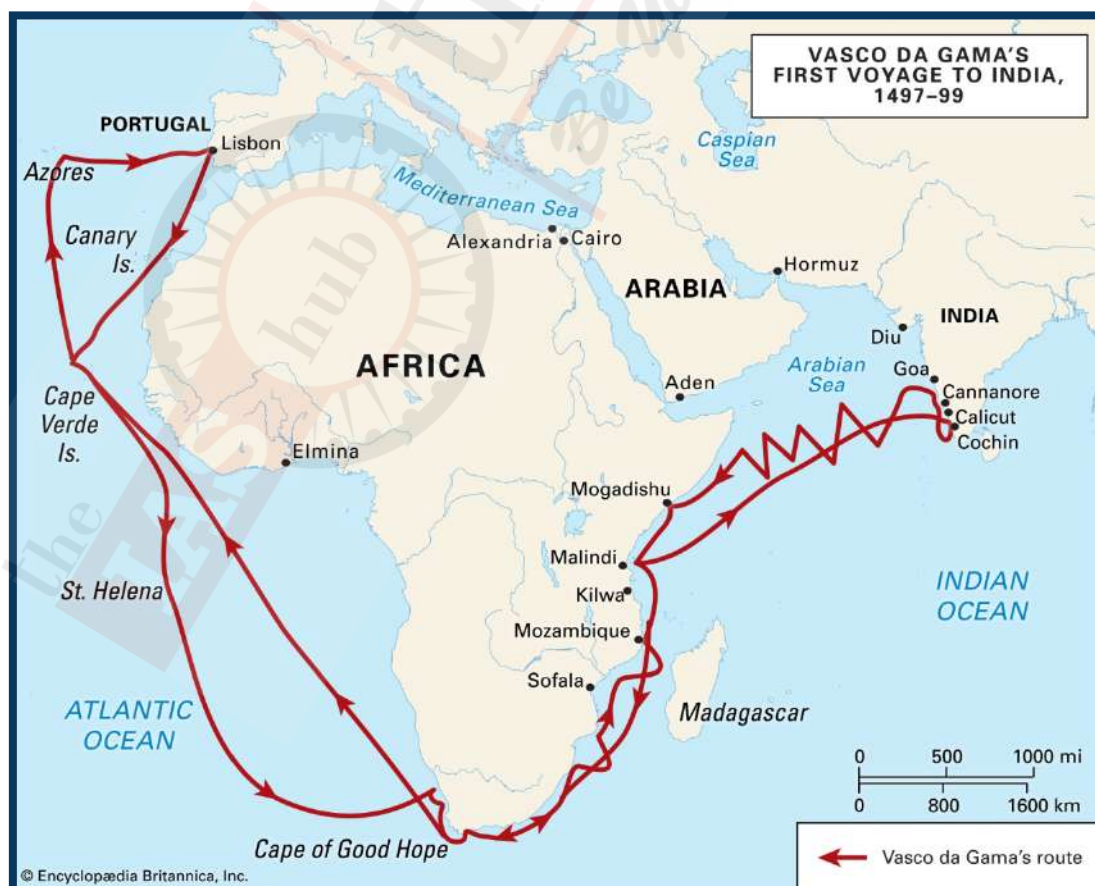
1. Vasco Da Gama : It took 10 years for Vasco Da Gama to reach Calicut in 1487, after the Bartholomew Dias, The Portuguese navigator rounded the cape of Good Hope in 1487. With the help of Gujarati pilot **Abdul Majid**, Vasco da Gama was able to find route up to India. Zamorin of the Calicut welcomed him since Calicut was an entreport and Indian trading system was itself open and had various players. On his second visit in 1501, he set up a trading factory at Cannanore. However due to his hostility towards Arab shipping, the ties between the Portuguese and Zamorin was ruptured. Zamorin rejected the demands of Portuguese, which was to expel all the Arab merchants settled there and to not have any trading relations with them. Due to this, the relation suffered. As a response to rejection of this demand, Da gama set a number of forts at Cochin, Quilon etc to dominate the Malabar trade.



Vasco da Gama

Impact of his visit :

- The significance of direct access to the pepper trade was made clear by him when he returned and sold the merchandise in European markets with huge profits.
- The access to Indian Spice trade also boosted the economy of the Portuguese empire.
- The huge profits also tempted other Europeans to come to India.
- Introduced an expedient under which those ships which carried a cartaz duly signed by the Portuguese authorities, namely the royal factor, were not to be attacked. This certificate was first issued in 1502.
- The discovery of the sea route to India opened the way for an age of global imperialism and enabled the Portuguese to establish a long-lasting colonial empire in Asia.



Vasco Da Gama Route Map