

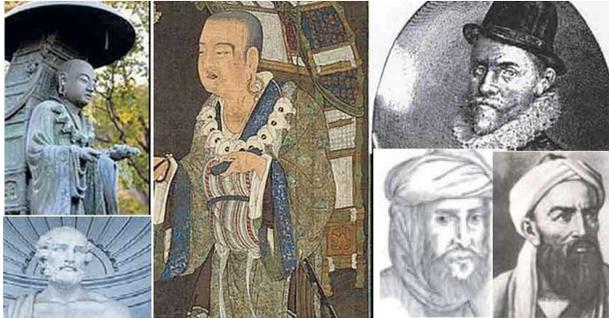
## A Few Minutes Series

Subject - History

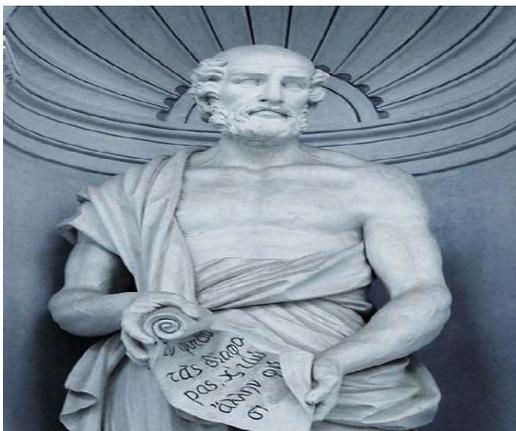
Date - 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

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### List of Foreign Ambassadors to India Mauryan Empire



#### Megasthenes (302 - 298 BC)



- Greek Ambassador in the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
- Ambassador of Seleucus Nicator, who visited in the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
- Wrote Book Indica - Describing the situation of India - Economic, political and societal scenario.
- He is the first person to describe Ancient India and thereby called as the "Father of Indian History".

- In INDICA - he wrote that Slavery is absent in India, Indica describes the Gangaridai region and the massive herds of elephants that made the Gangaridai unconquerable by any foreign king.
- Indica by Megasthenes is a description of India's diverse culture. India was a melting pot of races. There were no foreign colonies, and there are no Indian colonies outside of India.
- There were seven endogamous and hereditary castes in India:
  - Philosophers are people who think about things (believed to be most dear to the gods)
  - Farmers
  - Herders (hunters, lived outside villages and towns)
  - Artisans (created weapons and tools)
  - Military (secured the city and equipped for war)
  - Overseers (carry out administrative tasks)
  - Councilors and Assessors (wise people with a good character)

#### Economy

- Indian soil is rich in gold, silver, copper, and iron.
- A variety of tools, weapons, decorations, and other things are made from tin and other metals.
- India's plains are extremely fertile, and irrigation is commonly used.
- **Rice, millet**, a grain called bosporum, other cereals, pulses, and other food plants are the principal crops.
- Because rain occurs in both summer and

winter, there are **two agricultural cycles every year**.

- Rice, millet, bosporus, and sesamum are seeded around the summer solstice. Wheat is seeded in the winter.
- There have never been any famines in India.

### **Deimachos (320 - 273 BC)**



- Greek Ambassador in the court of Bindusara.
- Sent by Antiochus I (son of Seleucus Nikator)
- Provided information about the contemporary society and polity.

### **Foreign Invasion in India till Mauryan Age**

- Achaemenian Invasion - 550 BCE (Persian)
- Macedonian Invasion of Alexander - 326 BCE (Greek)