Conclusion
CONCLUSION

The study of the commercial and cultural life of Sind during the sixteenth and seventeenth century, which has been attempted in foregoing chapters can be summarised in the following pages.

From the time immemorial the ports and towns of Sind played a significant role. The prosperity of Sind was based on its geographical and strategical position. All the ports and towns of Sind were situated on the bank of the river Indus. It is well known that Debal, was an important sea-port of Sind, but with the coming of the Muslims, Mansura also became an important town for commercial purpose. Besides these ports and towns, there were several others which were equally important.

Thatta, as an important port and town came into prominence in the medieval period. It also witnessed the rise and fall of several dynasties e.g. Sumrahs, Summahs, Arghuns, Tarkhans and the Mughals.

Sind, attracted the attention of many countries for the purpose of trade. It was a rich and fertile region because of the river Indus. All the ports and towns, because of the fertility of soil and climatic conditions increased an opportunity to produce cash crops such as opium, tobacco, indigo and cotton etc. Various foreign companies namely Portuguese,
Dutch and English established commercial relations with Sind. Compared to other countries they found the prices of goods in Sind cheaper and the custom charges were also lesser than the other countries.

As regard to the port officers, the port administration was well established at Laharibandar and port officers and faujdar were appointed to check the port administration. In the context of trade, Sind had trade relation with Arabia, Persia, Masqat and Congo etc. The Sind’s self-sufficient economy, its fertile soil, enabled it to develop textile industry and leather industry. It exported various commercial commodities such as leather, sugar, indigo, butter, oil, calico, white and printed cloth, and perfumes to various parts of India and the world. But on the other hand, imports in Sind was less because of its own textile industry, leather industry and handicrafts.

Various tribes and races settled in Sind. In other words, it can be said that it became conglomeration of different tribes. They inter-mingled with each other and adopted the culture of Sind as their own. Various tribes entered matrimonial relations with the ruling class of Sind and participated in their administration such as Sadat Lak Alwis, one of the most aristocratic class among the Sadat group established matrimonial relations with Arghun and the Tarkhan.
Religion was dominant in Sind and from the twelfth century, various Sufis entered in Sind from Central Asia, Middle East and settled in different region of Sind like Thatta, Makli hill, Siwistan, Bhakkar, Sukkhar and Nasrpur. Under their influence some of the non-Muslims in Sind embraced Islam especially Lohanas. One thing which is remarkable is that the Muslims and Hindus both were the firm believer and follower of the Sufi Saints. After their death the tombs of the Sufis became a centre of pilgrimage for both the Hindus and Muslims. At the shrines of the Sufis, annual *Urs* were celebrated. The people had firm belief that by visiting the tombs, their wishes would be fulfilled. The tomb of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar of Siwistan and Uderolal’s tomb are famous for its *urs* even today.

Sind was also the centre of learning and education. From the Arab period, scholars gave their full contribution to promote the literary and cultural activities in Sind. Various *madrasas* were established by the scholars and the rulers in Sind. As Hamilton, who visited Sind in 1699 found 400 educational institution in Thatta. The Arghun and Tarkhan rulers promoted literature to the great extent. A large number of poems, *masanavis* and *Qasidas* were written during this period and the rulers composed poetry with their pen names for instance Ghazi Beg Tarkhan composed poetry with the *Takhallus* of ‘Waqari’.
Besides these cultural and literary importance, Architecture also flourished under Arghuns, Tarkhans and the Mughals. They adopted the Timurid style in the construction of the buildings.

Sind Architecture led the development of the composite culture because the architectural designs were greatly influenced by Persian, Iranian and Gujarat style of architecture.