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MODERN INDIA



QUICK AND COMPREHENSIVE REVISION SERIES

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1

Advent of Europeans and Consolidation of British Power

HISTORICAL TRADE LINKS

- Centuries of trade existed between India and Europe, as seen in the **Sangam age** with **Roman gold** and goods being discovered in India.
- Trade routes included the **Silk Route** via the **Amu Darya River, Caspian Sea, and Black Sea**, and sea routes via the **Arabian Sea and Mediterranean**.
- Italian merchants** played a significant role, using their **geographical advantage** over the Mediterranean to gain influence.

EUROPEANS IN INDIA -DETAILS AT A GLANCE

Details	Portuguese East India Company	Dutch East India Company	English East India Company	Danish East India Company	French East India Company
Established	1498	1602	1600	1616	1664
HQ/Capital	Goa (Portuguese)	Pulicat (later Nagapattinam)	Calcutta (later Delhi under Crown Rule)	Tranquebar	Pondicherry (Puducherry)
Trading Centres (Year Established)	Calicut (1500), Cannanore (1501), Cochin (1503), Goa (1510), Bassein (1534), Diu (1535)	Pulicat (1609), Surat (1616), Chinsurah (1653), Cochin (1663) [UPSC 2022]	Masulipatnam (1611), Surat (1612), Madras (1639), Hugli (1651), Bombay (1668), Calcutta (1690) [UPSC 2021]	Tranquebar (1620), Serampore (1755)	Mahe (1721), Yanam (1723) Karaikal (1739), Pondicherry (1674), Chandernagore (1673)
Year of Departure from India	1961	1825	1858 (Crown Rule: 1858-1947) British left in 1947	1845 (sold to British)	1954
First Factory	Calicut in 1500	Masulipatnam in 1605	Permanent factory at Surat in 1613; temporary at Masulipatnam 1611	Tranquebar near Tanjore in 1620	First factory in India at Surat in 1668

PORTUGUESE IN INDIA

- Papal Authority:** In 1454, Pope Nicholos V granted **Prince Henry of Portugal** the right to explore the East, including India.
- Treaty of Tordesillas (1494):** Portugal and Spain divided the non-Christian world by an imaginary line in the Atlantic. Portugal gained rights over territories east of this line, which included India.
- Navigational Breakthroughs:** **Bartholomew Dias** rounded the Cape of Good Hope in 1487. **Vasco da Gama** finally reached India in 1498, opening the sea route for European trade.

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Key Portuguese Figures in India

- Vasco da Gama:**
 - Arrived in India in 1498, guided by a Gujarati pilot named **Abdul Majid**, and received a friendly reception from the **Zamorin of Calicut**.
 - Returned in 1501 and established a **factory at Cannanore**.
 - Visited India thrice (1498, 1501, and 1524) and died in **Cochin** in 1524.

- **Pedro Alvarez Cabral:**

- Arrived in **1500** and set up a **factory in Calicut**.
- When the factory was attacked, Cabral retaliated by seizing **Arab ships**, killing many, confiscating cargo, and bombarding **Calicut**.
- Later negotiated favourable **treaties with Cochin** and **Cannanore**.

- **Francisco de Almeida:**

- Appointed **Governor of India** in **1505**, tasked with consolidating Portuguese power by disrupting **Muslim trade** and seizing strategic locations like **Aden, Ormuz, and Malacca**.
- Faced challenges from the **Zamorin** and the **Mamluk Sultan of Egypt**. In **1507**, his fleet was defeated at **Diu**, where his son died.
- Almeida retaliated in **1508**, crushing Egyptian and Gujarat forces.
- Implemented the **Blue Water Policy (Cartaze system)** to control the Indian Ocean.

- The Blue Water Policy was the fortification of the Indian Ocean, not for the security but for the establishment of Portuguese business in the Indian Ocean.
- The cartaz system was a licensing system that the Portuguese East India Company used to control trade in the Indian Ocean.
- **Afonso de Albuquerque:** Took over as Governor in **1509** and is considered the **real founder of Portuguese power** in the East. Expanded Portuguese bases at **Ormuz, Malabar, and Malacca**, securing control over the **Indian Ocean**.
 - Acquired **Goa in 1510** from the Sultan of Bijapur, the first Indian territory under European control since Alexander the Great. **[UPSC 2022]**
 - Introduced new crops like **tobacco** and **cashew**, encouraged **intermarriage**, and abolished **sati**.
 - Instituted a **permit system** for other ships and established Portuguese settlers as landlords in Goa.
- **Nino da Cunha:** Became Governor in **1529** and moved the Portuguese capital from **Cochin to Goa** in **1530**.
 - In **1534**, **Bahadur Shah of Gujarat** ceded **Bassein** and promised **Diu** to the Portuguese for their support against **Humayun**.
 - However, relations soured after Humayun's withdrawal from Gujarat, leading to conflict. Bahadur Shah was killed by the Portuguese in **1537** during negotiations.
 - Expanded Portuguese influence in **Bengal**, making **Hooghly** their base.

Note: The Medieval ruler Krishnadevaraya gave permission to the Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal. **[UPSC 2024]**

Administration of India Under Portuguese

- **Geographical Expanses:**

- Controlled **Goa, Mumbai, Daman & Diu**, southern trading posts, and military posts in **San Thome** (Chennai) and **Nagapattinam** (Tamil Nadu).
- Major trading centres: **Mangalore, Calicut, Cannanore, Cochin**; in the 16th century, **Hooghly** (West Bengal) became crucial.

- **Religious Policy:**

- Focused on promoting **Christianity** and persecuting **Muslims**.
- Initially tolerant of **Hindus**, later persecuted for forced conversions.
- Sent **Jesuits** to Mughal court (1580); attempts to convert **Akbar** failed.

Political Relations with the Mughals

- Initially good relations with **Akbar** and **Jahangir**, but deteriorated after **British** entry in 1608.
- Portuguese engaged in **piracy**, angering the Mughal government.
- Under **Shah Jahan**, the Portuguese lost Mughal favour, and **Hooghly** was captured after a **Mughal siege** in 1632.

DUTCH IN INDIA

Arrival and Spread in India

- **Cornelis de Houtman** reached **Sumatra** and **Bantam** in **1596**.
- The **Dutch East India Company (VOC)** was established in **1602** with powers to trade, acquire land, and wage war.
- First factory in **Masulipatnam (1605)**; main base in **Nagapattinam** after capturing it from the Portuguese.
- Key factories: **Surat (1616)**, **Bimlipatam (1641)**, **Karaikal (1645)**, **Chinsurah (1653)**, **Nagapatam (1658)**, and **Cochin (1663)**.
- **Main Trade:** **Indigo, textiles, silk, saltpetre, opium, and black pepper**.

Decline of the Dutch

- The **Amboyna Massacre (1623)** intensified Anglo-Dutch rivalry, in which ten English merchants were beheaded on Amboyna in Indonesia by order of the Dutch governor of the island.
- **1667 compromise:** British exited Indonesia; Dutch shifted focus there.
- Defeated by the British in the **Battle of Hooghly (1759)**, also known as the Battle of Chinsurah or the Battle of Biderra, was a military engagement that took place on November 25, 1759, during the Seven Years' War, marking their decline in India.

Additional Facts:

- **Columbian Exchange:** It refers to the extensive transfer of plants, animals, culture, populations, technology, diseases, and ideas between the Americas, West Africa, and the Old World during the 15th and 16th centuries following Columbus's 1492 voyage.
- **Impact of European Exploration:** Introduction of invasive species and communicable diseases to the Americas.
- **Key Exchanges:**
 - ◆ **Old World to New World:** Crops: Coffee, wheat, barley, rice, sugarcane, cotton, sugar beet.
 - ◆ **New World to Old World:** Crops: Avocado, cashew, cocoa bean, potato, maize, rubber, tobacco.

[UPSC 2019]

THE DANES IN INDIA

- Danish East India Company established in 1616.
- First factory at **Tranquebar (1620)** near **Tanjore**.
- **Serampore** (near Calcutta) became their most significant settlement.
- Focused on **missionary activities** rather than commercial or political ambitions.

THE ENGLISH IN INDIA

- **Early Ventures**
 - **1580:** Francis Drake's voyage around the world.
 - **1588:** English victory over the Spanish Armada fostered British enterprise.
 - **31 December 1600:** Queen Elizabeth I issued a charter to the **Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies** with exclusive trading rights.
- **Initial Trading Efforts**
 - **1609:** Captain Hawkins arrived at **Jahangir's court** in order to seek permission to establish a factory at **Surat**.
 - **1611:** Trading commenced at **Masulipatnam**, leading to the establishment of a factory there in **1616**.
 - **1612:** Captain Thomas Best defeated the Portuguese off **Surat**, gaining permission for an English factory in **1613**.
 - **1615:** Sir Thomas Roe, ambassador of **James I**, arrived and, though he failed to secure a commercial treaty, obtained privileges for factories at **Agra**, **Ahmedabad**, and **Broach** by **1619**.

[UPSC 2021]

Key Areas of British Control

- **Golden Farman (1632):** Issued by the Sultan of **Golconda**, granting British trading privileges to trade freely in the ports of Golconda in exchange for 500 pagodas per year.

- **Bombay Acquisition (1668):** Given as a dowry to **King Charles II**; the East India Company took control for an annual payment of **10 pounds**.
- **Madras Establishment (1639):** Ruler of **Chandragiri** permitted the construction of a fortified factory, **Fort St. George**, replacing **Masulipatnam** as the English headquarters in South India.
- **Expansion to Eastern India:** Factories established in **Hariharpur** and **Balasore (Odisha)** in **1633**.
- **Bengal Expansion:**
 - **Shah Shuja** permitted trade for an annual payment. Factories were set up at **Hooghly (1651)**, **Kasimbazar**, and **Patna**.
 - **William Hedges** attempted to build a fortified settlement but failed.
 - **Job Charnock** successfully negotiated a treaty for a factory in **Sutanuti (1691)**.
 - **1698:** Acquired zamindari of **Sutanuti, Gobindapur**, and **Kalikata (Kalighat)** for **Rs 1,200**; established **Fort William (1700)**, the eastern presidency's seat with **Sir Charles Eyre** as its first president.
 - The staple commodities of export by the English East India Company from Bengal in the middle of the 18th century were Cotton, silk, saltpetre and opium

[UPSC 2018]

Farrukhsiyar's Farman (1715)

- **John Surman** secured three farmans from Mughal Emperor **Farrukhsiyar**, granting the Company privileges in **Bengal, Gujarat**, and **Hyderabad**.
- Exemption from additional customs duties in Bengal (annual payment of **Rs 3,000**).
- Authority to issue passes (**dastaks**) for goods transport and lease more lands around **Calcutta**.
- Exemption from duties in **Hyderabad**; duty exemption in **Surat** for **Rs 10,000**.
- Coins minted in **Bombay** were recognized throughout the Mughal Empire.

Company Developments

- **1615:** Company granted authority to issue commissions to captains.
- **1686:** Authority to appoint Admirals for its navy and mint various coins.
- **1698-1702:** Faced financial difficulties, unable to provide **£2 million** to the British government.
- **January 1701 - April 1702:** A parallel company emerged with a monopoly trade licence, sending **Sir William Norris** as ambassador to **Aurangzeb**.
- **1702-1709:** Both companies operated together under a compromise agreement.
- **1709:** The old company surrendered its charter to **Queen Anne**; the **United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies** took over.

- **1708:** Two companies merged into the **United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies**, marking the East India Company's dominance from **1708 to 1873**.

THE FRENCH IN INDIA

- **French East India Company (Compagnie des Indes Orientales)** established in **1664** by **Colbert** during the reign of **Louis XIV**. It received a **50-year monopoly** on trade in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- **First French factory** in India was set up at **Surat (1667)** by **Francois Caron**. Another factory was established in **Masulipatnam (1669)** by **Mercara** with the Sultan of Golconda's permission.
- **Chandernagore** (near Calcutta) granted to the French in **1673** by **Shaista Khan**, Mughal subahdar of Bengal.
- **Pondicherry was acquired** in **1674** from **Sher Khan Lodi** of Bijapur, becoming the French **nerve centre** in India under **Francois Martin**.
- Other French centres: **Mahe, Karaikal, Balasore**.
- **The Dutch captured Pondicherry (1693)** but it was later returned under the **Treaty of Ryswick**.
- The French Company was **reorganised (1720-1742)** under **Governors Lenoir and Dumas** for further expansion.

THE CARNATIC WARS (1740-1763): ANGLO-FRENCH STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY

1. First Carnatic War (1740-48)

- **Background:** Extension of the Anglo-French War in Europe; a contest between British and French East India Companies.
- **Key Events:**
 - ◆ **Siege of Madras (1746):** French captured Madras under Dupleix.
 - ◆ **Battle of St.Thome:** The British sought the help of the Nawab of Carnatic, Anwar-ud-din, to regain Madras from the French. The Nawab of forces, numbering around 10,000, besieged the French-held St. Thome. The French, despite being outnumbered, decisively defeated the Nawab's army using superior tactics and artillery.
 - ◆ **British Counterattack:** Led by Admiral Boscawen and Robert Clive, the British regained Madras in 1748.
 - ◆ **Peace Settlement:** Concluded with **Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748)**, restoring Madras to British but unresolved tensions persisted.

2. Second Carnatic War (1749-1754)

- **Background:** Declining influence of the central Mughal authority and the war of succession in Carnatic and Hyderabad, created an opportunity for the European powers(French and British) to meddle in regional affairs and expand their footprint in India.

○ Key Events:

- ◆ **Battle of Ambur (1749):** French-backed Chanda Sahib vs. British-supported Muhammad Ali Khan Wallajah.
- ◆ **Territorial Gains:** French successes followed by British counterattacks led by Robert Clive.
- ◆ **Treaty of Pondicherry (1754):** Ended the war, affirming Muhammad Ali Khan Wallajah as Nawab and requiring French withdrawal.

3. Third Carnatic War (1758-1763)

- **Background:** Extension of ongoing competition for territorial and commercial dominance in India, framed within the global **Seven Years' War**.
- **Key Events:**
 - ◆ **Outbreak of War (1757):** Renewed hostilities amid the broader conflict in Europe.
 - ◆ **Siege of Madras (1758):** Captured by the French under Count de Lally.
 - ◆ **British Counteroffensive:** British recaptured Madras in 1759 under Sir Eyre Coote.
 - ◆ **Battle of Wandiwash (1760):** Decisive British victory that weakened French forces.
 - ◆ **French Defeat:** French lost key territories such as Pondicherry after a long British siege, ultimately leading to French surrender.
 - ◆ **Treaty of Paris (1763):** Concluded the war, resulting in French cession of several territories to the British and French allowed to use Indian settlements for commercial purposes.

FACTORS BEHIND ENGLISH SUCCESS

- **Company Governance:** The English company had **elected directors**, fostering **enthusiasm**. The French operated as a **state-owned** entity.
- **Naval Dominance:** The **Royal Navy** was the largest and most advanced, defeating both the Portuguese and French.
- **Industrial Revolution:** Technological advancements from the **Industrial Revolution** enhanced productivity in England.
- **Military Discipline:** Well-trained British soldiers under strong leaders contributed to battlefield success.
- **Political Stability:** Britain experienced stable governance, while France faced **revolution** and turmoil.
- **Acceptance of Rule:** British rule was more acceptable due to lesser emphasis on spreading **Christianity**.
- **Debt Market Utilisation:** The **Bank of England** allowed Britain to finance wars effectively, while France struggled financially, leading to **bankruptcy**.

INDIA ON THE EVE OF BRITISH CONQUEST

The powerful Mughal Empire began its decline in the 18th century, particularly during Aurangzeb's reign (1658–1707). His policies initiated a downward spiral that was exacerbated by succession struggles and incompetent successors. By the time of Muhammad Shah (1719–48), regional states like Hyderabad, Bengal, Awadh, and Punjab emerged, as many local leaders sought autonomy.

External Challenges

- **Nadir Shah's Invasion (1738-39):**
 - Defeated the Mughal army at the **Battle of Karnal**, capturing Muhammad Shah.
 - Looted Delhi, taking treasures including the Peacock Throne and the Kohinoor diamond, leaving India vulnerable to further invasions.
- **Ahmad Shah Abdali's Invasions:**
 - Captured Delhi in 1757 and appointed an Afghan caretaker for the Mughal emperor.
 - Defeated the Marathas at the **Third Battle of Panipat (1761)**, marking a significant setback for the Mughal Empire.

Internal Challenges of the Later Mughals

Weak Rulers after Aurangzeb (1707-1857)

- **Bahadur Shah I (1707-1712):** Also known as 'Shah-i-Bekhabar,' he adopted a **pacific policy** towards the **Marathas, Rajputs, and Jats**.
- **Jahandar Shah (1712-1713):** Ascended the throne with the support of **Zulfikar Khan**, his prime minister, and instituted the **Izara system** to strengthen finances.
- **Farrukhsiyar (1713-1719):** Came to power after killing **Jahandar Shah**, supported by the **Sayyid Brothers**. Followed a policy of **religious tolerance**, abolishing both the **Jizya** and **pilgrimage tax**. Granted trading privileges to the **British East India Company**, which contributed to their rise. Dethroned and killed by the **Sayyid Brothers** with the assistance of **Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath**, marking the first Mughal emperor killed by nobles.
- **Rafi-ud-Darajat (1719):** Had the **shortest reign** among Mughal rulers.
- **Rafi-ud-Daula (1719):** Installed by the **Sayyid Brothers**, he became known as '**Shah Jahan II**'.
- **Muhammad Shah Rangeela (1719-1748):** Assassinated the **Sayyid Brothers** with the help of **Nizam-ul-Mulk**, who later established an independent state in **Hyderabad**. Defeated by **Nadir Shah** at the **Battle of Karnal (1739)** and imprisoned. Supported cultural advancements and promoted **Urdu** as the court language.
- **Ahmad Shah Bahadur (1748-1754):** Seen as **incompetent**, left state affairs to **Udham Bai**, the '**Queen Mother**'.

- **Alamgir II (1754-1759):** Faced invasions from **Ahmad Shah Abdali** and was Battle of Plassey was fought during his reign.
- **Shah Alam II (1759-1806):** Witnessed the **Third Battle of Panipat (1761)** and the **Battle of Buxar (1764)**. Signed the **Treaty of Allahabad (1765)**, granting the **English** rights to collect revenue from **Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa**, and became a **pensioner** of the English.
- **Akbar Shah II (1806-1837):** Gave the title of '**Raja**' to **Rammohan Roy**. The **East India Company** ceased recognizing the Mughal emperor in **1835**.
- **Shah Bahadur II (1837-1857):** Known as **Bahadur Shah Zafar**, he was declared '**Emperor of India**' during the **Revolt of 1857**. Captured and exiled to **Rangoon**, he died in **1862**. The Mughal Empire legally ended on **November 1, 1858**, with **Queen Victoria's declaration**.

Causes of Mughal Decline

- Aurangzeb's overextension strained resources and alienated allies, creating widespread discontent.
- Weak successors lacked governance skills, accelerating decline.
- Nobility's focus shifted from military to luxury, and court factions eroded stability.
- A flawed succession system led to power struggles.
- The Maratha rise under the Peshwas challenged authority, while military loyalty drifted to commanders, weakening discipline.
- Economic hardship from raids and mismanagement depleted finances, and competition in the jagirdari system intensified noble rivalries.
- Divisive policies sparked uprisings, foreign invasions (Nadir Shah, Abdali) damaged prestige, and European presence exposed stagnation in trade and warfare.

Rise of Regional States

During **Aurangzeb's** reign, regional factions like the **Jats, Sikhs, and Marathas** rose against Mughal dominance, striving for autonomy. Despite their failure to establish independent kingdoms, they weakened Mughal control. Post-Aurangzeb, **Bahadur Shah I's** attempts to curb Rajput power led to unrest, making future alliances difficult.

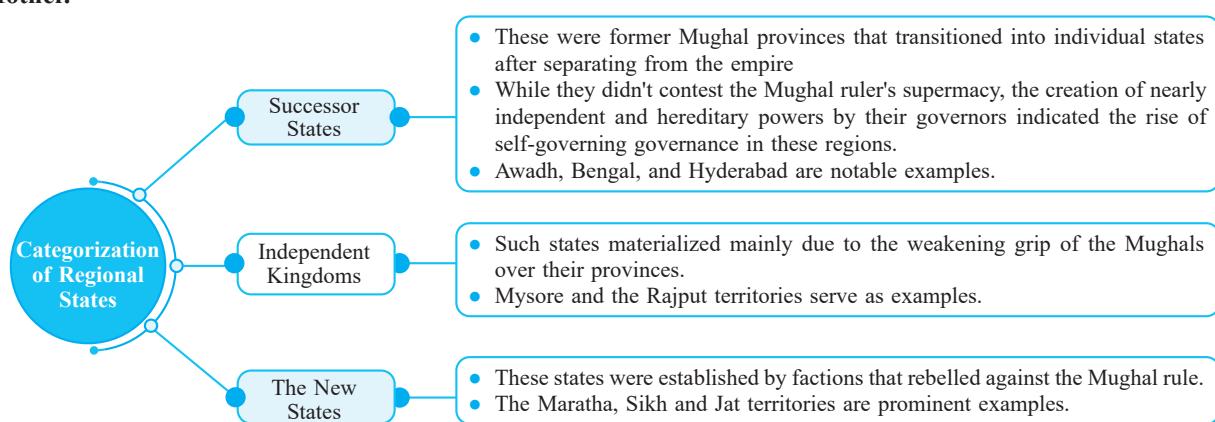


Fig.: Infographic on Regional States Corporation

- **Hyderabad**
 - **Founder:** **Kilich Khan** (Nizam-ul-Mulk), a former Mughal Wazir, disillusioned with the empire.
 - **Battle of Shaker-Kheda (1724):** Nizam defeated the Mughal Viceroy, assumed control, and became **Asaf Jah**.
 - **Administration:** Strengthened Hyderabad, blending northern soldiers with local leadership.
 - **Maratha Conflict:** Despite Baji Rao I's defeat in 1737, Nizam maintained autonomy.
 - **Legacy:** Under Nizam-ul-Mulk, Hyderabad became one of the wealthiest states in the British Raj.
 - **Succession:** Following Nizam's death in 1748, internal conflicts led to French intervention, with **Muzaffar Jung** victorious. Under **Nizam Ali Khan (1762)**, stability was restored.
- **Awadh:** **Founder:** **Saadat Khan (Burhan-ul-Mulk)** established autonomy in 1722 after rising from Faujdar of Biyana. **Safdar Jung** succeeded him in 1739, facing defeat in **Battle of Buxar (1764)**, marking Awadh's decline.
- **Bengal:** **Founder:** **Murshid Quli Khan**, former Diwan under Aurangzeb, became independent Nawab after 1717, shifting capital to **Murshidabad**. Introduced **Mal Jasmani**, a revenue reform focusing on leaseholder security. His son-in-law, **Shuja-ud-Din**, succeeded him, followed by **Alivardi Khan** (1740), who secured his position amid Maratha invasions. **Siraj-ud-Daula**'s reign ended after the **Battle of Plassey (1757)**, where the East India Company intervened.
- **Rise of Mysore and Kerala**
 - **Mysore:** Under the **Wodeyars**, **Haider Ali** and later **Tipu Sultan** fiercely resisted British encroachment.
 - **Kerala:** **Martanda Varma** expanded the region, establishing **Travancore** and reforming the military.
- **The Sikhs**
 - **Guru Tegh Bahadur:** Executed by Aurangzeb for resisting forced conversions, defending **Kashmiri Pandits**.
 - **Guru Gobind Singh:** Transformed the Sikhs into a militant group, establishing the **Khalsa** in 1699, advocating armed resistance.
 - **Banda Bahadur:** Led Sikh revolts post-Gobind Singh, ending the **Zamindari** system but was captured and executed in 1710.
 - **Ranjit Singh:** Founded the **Sikh Empire** in Punjab, uniting 12 misls, expanding territory, and modernising the military. Signed the **Treaty of Amritsar (1809)** with the British, recognizing their authority over Cis-Sutlej territories.
 - **The Marathas:** Originally soldiers for Deccan Sultanates, the Marathas grew powerful, leveraging Maharashtra's wealth. Operated a unique revenue model, imposing **Chauth (25%)** and **Sardeshmukhi (10%)** taxes on Mughal lands.
- **Key Figures:**
 - ◆ **Shivaji:** Founded the Maratha Empire; **Sambhaji** continued resistance against Aurangzeb.
 - ◆ **Shahu:** Secured Maratha influence after his release from Mughal captivity.
 - ◆ **Balaji Vishwanath:** As Peshwa, consolidated Maratha territories.
 - ◆ **Baji Rao I:** Expanded Maratha reach, even to **Agra**.
- **Decline:** **Third Battle of Panipat (1761)** against **Ahmad Shah Abdali** led to a significant defeat, weakening Maratha power.
- **Rohilkhand and Farrukhabad**
 - **Rohilkhand:** The **Rohillas**, led by **Daud** and his son **Ali Mohammad Khan**, established **Rohilkhand** from Bareilly, post-Nadir Shah's invasion, capitalising on Mughal weakness.
 - **Farrukhabad:** Established by **Mohammad Khan Bangash**, an Afghan chieftain, near Delhi.
- **Rise of Rajputs:** Rajputs seized the opportunity during Mughal decline, reclaiming territories in the early 18th century. Formed alliances and expanded power but faced internal conflicts, making them vulnerable to Maratha incursions.
- **Notable Leaders**
 - ◆ **Ajit Singh:** Secured control over Ajmer and Gujarat; formed an alliance against Mughals.
 - ◆ **Jay Singh II:** Appointed Agra governor; expanded influence in Surat.
- **Rise of Jats:** Primarily agricultural settlers, the Jats rebelled against Aurangzeb's policies, leading to significant uprisings.

Art, Architecture, and Literature

- **Bara Imambara:** Built by **Asaf-ud-Daula** in Lucknow (1784), showcasing remarkable architectural design.
- **Jaipur:** Founded by **Sawai Jai Singh**, who established five **astronomical observatories** and created **Jij Muhammad-shahi** timetables to promote astronomy.
- **Padmanabhapuram Palace:** A notable architectural gem in Kerala.
- **Urdu Poetry:** Flourished in the **18th century** with prominent poets like **Mir, Sauda, Nazir, and Mirza Ghalib**.
- **Malayalam Literature:** Supported by **Travancore rulers**, featuring influential poets like **Kunchan Nambiar**.
- **Sittar Poetry in Tamil:** Emerged with critiques of temple rule and caste by **Tayumanavar**.
- **Punjabi Epic:** **Warris Shah** authored **Heer Ranjha**, a celebrated romantic work.
- **Sindhi Literature:** Enriched by **Shah Abdul Latif**, who wrote **Risalo**.
- Widow remarriage discouraged; efforts by Raja Sawai Jai Singh and Prashuram Bhau to promote widow remarriage failed.

Education

- **Traditional Education:** Focused on **literature, law, religion, and logic**, missing **science and technology**.
- **Elementary Schools:** **Maktab**s (Muslim) and **Pathshalas** (Hindu), mainly for **maths, reading, and writing**.
- **Higher Education:** Centres like **Chatuspathis** and **Tols** in Bihar and Bengal, specialising in **Sanskrit and Persian**. **Madrasahs** taught **Arabic and Quranic studies**.

Trade and Industry

- **Self-reliance:** India was an exporter, balancing trade with **gold and silver**.
- **Imports:** Pearls, silk, wool, tea, spices, **drugs**, and **gold**.
- **Exports:** Cotton textiles, silk, opium, spices, and precious stones.
- **Textile Hubs:** **Dacca, Surat, Patna, Kashmir** (woollen products).

Navy and Shipbuilding

- Prominent in **Maharashtra, Andhra, Bengal, and Kerala** (Calicut, Quilon).
- **Shivaji's Navy** countered the Portuguese; European ships often built in India for trade operations.

BRITISH CONQUEST OF BENGAL

Bengal Before the Conquest

- **Wealthy Province:** Bengal was a rich part of the Mughal Empire, known for exporting **saltpetre, rice, indigo, and textiles** to Europe.
- **East India Company's Investment:** Since the 1630s, the **East India Company** sourced around **60%** of its Asian imports from Bengal.

Rulers of Bengal

- **Murshid Quli Khan (1700–1727):** Established the foundations for British trade in Bengal.
- **Shujauddin, Sarfaraz Khan, and Alivardi Khan:** Successive rulers, with Alivardi ruling until 1756, stopping tribute to the Mughal Emperor.
- **Siraj-ud-Daulah:** Inherited a politically unstable Bengal in 1756.

Political and Economic Context

- Bengal remained stable, while other regions faced invasions. Calcutta's population grew from **15,000 (1706)** to around **100000 (1750)**.
- **Tensions with the East India Company:** Growing dissatisfaction among Bengali rulers over the financial benefits to the British.

Alivardi Khan's Rule

- Defeated the **Marathas** and allowed the British to fortify **Fort William**. However, he grew wary of increasing European influence.

Siraj-ud-Daulah's Challenges

- Faced internal dissent from commanders like **Shaukat Jang** and **Mir Jafar**.
- His actions, like executing rivals, alienated factions in his court, especially as British power grew.
- Dominant group in court like **Jagat Seth, Omnidhand** opposed Siraj.

Conflict with the British

- Siraj resented the fortification of **Fort William** by the British and saw it as a threat, leading to the **Battle of Plassey** (1757).

The Battle of Plassey (1757)

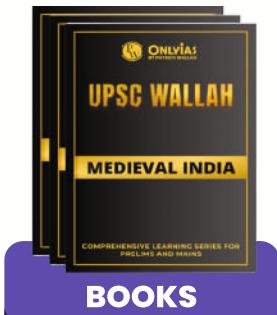
Prelude to the Battle

- **Internal Rivalries:** Siraj's court was rife with factionalism, involving key figures like **Mir Jafar** and **Jagat Seth**.
- **Economic Tensions:** The British misused trade privileges, damaging the Nawab's finances.
- **Black Hole Tragedy:** British captives were allegedly killed, escalating tensions.
- **Siraj's Response:** Concerned about British military buildup, Siraj captured **Calcutta** (Alinagar) in June 1756.
- **Clive's Strategy:** Forged alliances with Siraj's internal rivals, ensuring British victory.
- **Outcome:** On **June 23, 1757**, British forces, despite being outnumbered, won decisively, leading to Siraj's execution and the start of British control in Bengal.
- **Mir Jafar's Ascension:** In exchange for support, Mir Jafar became the new Nawab, cementing British dominance over Bengal.
- **Tensions with the British:** Mir Jafar grew frustrated with British interference, leading to his involvement in the **Battle of Bidera** (1759), which ended in British victory.
- **The Treaty of 1760:** Mir Jafar's son-in-law **Mir Qasim** was installed as a new ally, further increasing British control over Bengal.

Mir Qasim's Reforms and Struggles

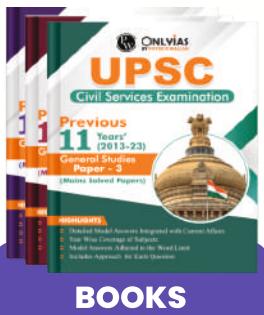
- **Capital Shift:** Moved the capital from **Murshidabad** to **Munger** to reduce British influence.
- **Military Modernization:** Initiated European-style military reforms and sought territorial expansion.
- **Conflict with British Influence:** Faced challenges from internal forces and British interference, leading to political instability.

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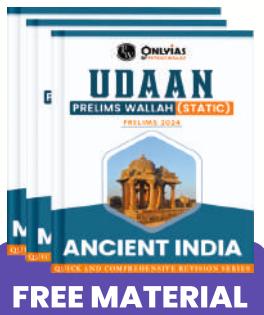
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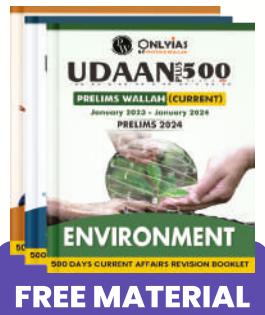
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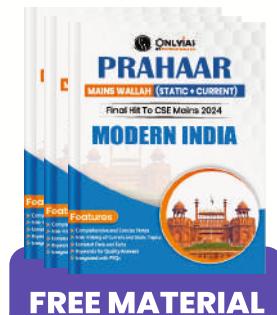
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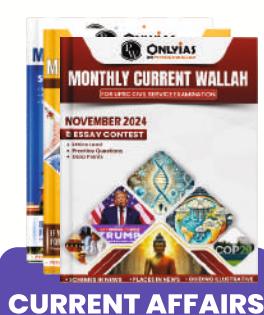
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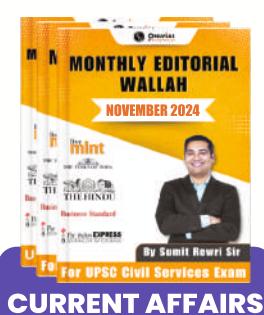
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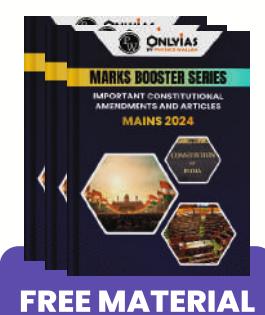
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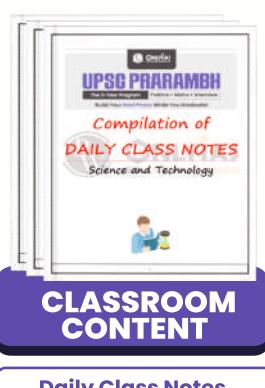
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