



Chapter

2

Colonial Rule in India



In this chapter you will learn about :

- ➊ Mercantilism
- ➋ Early Years of the EEIC
- ➌ Colonisation of Indian Subcontinent
- ➍ British Administration
- ➎ Origin of the EEIC
- ➏ The EEIC's European Rivals
- ➐ Expansion of the British Empire



India's trade relations with Europe go back to very early times. The discovery of new sea routes to India led many European countries to form trading companies to trade with India and other parts of Asia.

By 1750, the Mughal Empire has been reduced to just a faint shadow of its illustrious past. This situation proved to be a blessing in disguise for the English East India Company (EEIC), which was keen to play a dominant role in the political and economic affairs of the Indian subcontinent.

Mercantilism

In Europe, **mercantilism** became a popular economic theory and practice from the 17th century. It held that the prosperity of a country depended on its capability to produce more than it consumed and export more than it imported in order to maintain a positive balance of trade. Overseas trade carried out by the sea routes was the most important feature of the practice of mercantilism. The origin of the English East India Company (EEIC) and its powers laid in the economic theory and practice of mercantilism.

Origin of the EEIC

The English East India Company was a trading company which was started by a group of

merchants in Britain. The EEIC, which came as a trading company, eventually became the supreme political power in India.

The EEIC was established in London in the year 1600 by a **Royal Charter** issued by Queen Elizabeth I, the Queen of England. According to this Charter, the Company got the sole rights of trade in the East Indies, which included all places east of Cape of Good Hope.

Early Years of the EEIC

Captain William Hawkins led the first voyage of the EEIC to India in 1608. His crew sailed into the port of Surat. He succeeded in obtaining certain trade concessions from the then Mughal Emperor Jahangir. As a result, a trading post or **factory** was established in Surat by the English in 1613.

In 1615, **Sir Thomas Roe** arrived in India as the ambassador of King James I of England. He received a royal farmaan (order) from the Mughal Emperor Jahangir which allowed the EEIC to set up factories in Agra, Broach (modern day Bharuch), Ahmedabad and some other places.



Sir Thomas Roe

Prior to Roe's visit to India, the first English



factory in South India was established in Masulipatnam in 1611. Subsequently, the first English factories in eastern India were established in Balasore (1633) and Hugli (1651). Besides, the EEIC also began to set up much bigger and strongly fortified operational bases at the presidency towns of Madras (Chennai), Bombay (Mumbai) and Calcutta (Kolkata).

In 1668, the island of Bombay, under Portuguese control, was given away in dowry to the English King Charles II. Shortly afterwards, the EEIC got it from Charles II on lease and fortified it for protection against the Marathas. Soon, Bombay became an important base of the EEIC in India. In 1698, the company got the zamindari of three villages of Sutanuti, Govindapur and Kolikata and built Fort William around its factory and Calcutta (Kolkata) came into existence.

In 1717, the Mughal ruler Farukhsiyar issued a farmaan confirming the EEIC's rights to trade in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa upon an annual payment of a nominal sum. They also got the additional rights to trade in the Deccan and Gujarat.

The EEIC and other European companies made huge profits by the trade concessions they got from the Indian rulers. They bought goods, especially cotton clothes, silk, spices, saltpetre, etc. in India and exported them to Europe.

The EEIC's European Rivals

The Portuguese

In 1498, Portuguese navigator and explorer Vasco da Gama discovered the new sea route that linked India to Europe via the Cape of Good Hope. The route taken by Vasco da Gama's crew can be represented as Europe-West African coast-Southern Africa-Cape of Good



An 18th century sketch of Fort St. George by Jan Van Ryne



Vasco da Gama

Hope-Calicut (modern day Kozhikode in Kerala). This had become necessary because of the rise of the Ottoman Empire in Turkey and West Asia that prevented European traders from using the traditional land routes.



You must know

Vasco da Gama's expedition involved a fleet of four ships. The fleet with a crew of about 170 people set sail from Portugal's capital Lisbon on 8 July 1497, and after more than ten months, reached Calicut (India) on 20 May 1498.

Several groups of Portuguese traders established settlements at Calicut, Cochin, Goa, Daman and Diu. Goa continued to be occupied by the Portuguese till 1968 when it was liberated and became a part of India.

The Portuguese were the first European power to establish their trading and administrative centres in India as well as many other parts of south-east Asia. They controlled several important sea routes in the region. After the arrival of other more powerful trade rivals from Europe, however, the Portuguese could only manage to retain their possessions in Western India.

The Dutch

By the early 17th century, the Dutch too were exploring the possibilities of trade in the Indian Ocean. The Dutch established their trading centres at Surat, Ahmedabad, Broach, Nagapatnam and Masulipatnam. However, the Dutch were more interested in the Far East. They established a colonial empire in Java and Indonesia.

The French

The French East India Company, established in 1664, posed a tough challenge to the EEIC. The first French factory was established at Surat in 1668. The early French settlements in India were Pondicherry (Puducherry), Chandernagore, Mahe and Karikal. When Dupleix was appointed the Governor of the French East India



Company in the mid-18th century, his ambition of establishing a French Indian Empire brought him in direct conflict with the EEIC.



J F Dupleix

Struggle for Power

After the establishment of trading companies by the various European powers, a conflict broke out among them.

Trade Rivalry

There were several trading companies from Portugal, Holland, Britain, France and Denmark competing for Indian goods. This led to intense rivalry among them. The motive of all these companies was to earn the maximum profit by buying goods at low prices in India and selling

them at very high prices in Europe. The companies which were set up by individuals stood no chance against those that had the support of their respective governments. These big companies built-up their own armies and did not hesitate in using force to achieve their goals.

In course of time, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the Danes were ousted from the trade in India with only the English and the French remaining as the key players and dominating trade between India and Europe.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the English and the French Companies supported by local Indian rulers, fought several wars. By the middle of the 18th century, the EEIC eventually succeeded in outclassing all other European powers.



British, French, Portuguese, Dutch settlements in the 18th century



Colonisation of the Indian Subcontinent

In 1756 Alivardi Khan, the Nawab of Bengal, was succeeded by his maternal grandson, Siraj-ud-daulah. He tried to check the EEIC's bid to extend the fortification of Calcutta (Kolkata) and get the treasures the Company had accumulated from the Bengal treasury at Dhaka. Besides, he refused to give more trade concessions and privileges to the EEIC. So, the Company started conspiring with the rivals of Siraj-ud-daulah, to overthrow him. When Siraj-ud-daulah learnt about it, he marched with his soldiers to the EEIC's Kassim Bazaar factory and captured it. He also captured the EEIC's headquarters and compelled the officials to surrender.

The Conquest of Bengal

While the Carnatic Wars were going on, the East India Company was keen on annexing Bengal as it was one of the most fertile and richest provinces. In 1717, Farukhsiyar, the Mughal Emperor, granted them the right to import and export goods without having to pay **customs duty**. However, some officials of the Company were also engaged in private trade and using this facility, they stopped paying duty on their private trade too. This resulted in an enormous loss of revenue to Bengal.

At this time, Bengal was ruled by Murshid Quli Khan, Shuja-ud-din and Alivardi Khan. They tried to keep the officials of the Company in check.

When Siraj-ud-Daulah became the Nawab of Bengal in 1756, he drove the England out of Calcutta (Kolkata) for expanding fortifications against the orders and misusing trading rights. The British officials were alarmed at this development and decided to depose Siraj-ud-daulah and install a puppet nawab in his place. Under Robert Clive's leadership, the Company tried to regain its position in Bengal. This led to the famed Battle of Plassey.

Battle of Plassey (1757)

When the news of the English defeat reached Madras, Robert Clive was dispatched with a strong troop to recapture Calcutta (Kolkata). The British forces under Clive recaptured Calcutta, conspiring with Mir Jafar, the Commander-in-Chief of Siraj-ud-daulah. They also managed to win over other important members of Siraj-ud-daulah's court such as Jagat Seth (a banker) and Omi Chand (a rich merchant). With their support, the British forces defeated the forces of Siraj-ud-daulah in the Battle of Plassey in 1757. After this victory, the EEIC became the real power in Bengal. Mir Jafar became the puppet Nawab of Bengal. The EEIC officials and their Indian agents forced the peasants and crafts persons to sell their goods at very low prices, and thus made profits.

Mir Jafar gave the British undisputed rights to trade without taxes. He paid a huge sum as war compensation to the Company in the form of twenty-four Parganas and rights to free trade. However, British were not pleased with him as he had failed to meet their monetary demands. So the Britishers replaced him with his son-in-law Mir Qasim.

Following their victory in the Battle of Plassey, the EEIC officials amassed huge wealth and began to copy the lavish lifestyles of Indian potentates. In England, they were mockingly referred to as **nabobs**.

Battle of Buxar (1764)

Mir Qasim, the new Nawab of Bengal, also tried to free himself from the Company's yoke. Some of the steps he took were as follows :

- ❖ dismissal of all Mir Jafar's officials who were close to the EEIC
- ❖ inviting European mercenaries to train his soldiers in the new methods of warfare
- ❖ abolition of taxes on internal trade that would be against the interests of the British
- ❖ checking the misuse of trade privileges enjoyed by the British



Policies of Mir Qasim angered the EEIC officials and they decided to settle scores with the Nawab.

In the Battle of Buxar, fought in 1764, the combined forces of Mir Qasim and his allies—Nawab of Awadh Shuja-ud-Daulah and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II were defeated by the forces of the EEIC. This victory made the EEIC the real master of Bengal.

During that time, Shuja-ud-Daulah was the Nawab of Awadh. He had succeeded Safdar Jung. Mir Qasim took refuge in him. At that time, there was another refugee with the Nawab of Awadh, the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II. The three of them prepared for a battle against the British. This battle took place at Buxar in 1764. Buxar is located in the modern state of Bihar. It was one of the most decisive battles in Indian history. The British defeated the combined forces and established their unquestioned authority over Bengal. After the combined forces of the allies were defeated, Mir Qasim fled from there. He lived as fugitive till he died in 1777.

Case Study : Carnatic Wars

Between 1744 and 1763, a series of three wars were fought between the EEIC and the French East India Company. These wars, known as the Carnatic Wars, reflected the diplomatic and military struggle between the French East India Company and the English East India Company. The coastal Carnatic region, a dependency of Hyderabad, became the battleground of this struggle.

The First Carnatic War

In the **First Carnatic War**, the British captured some French ships. They were supported by the Nawab of Carnatic. The French under Dupleix responded by capturing Fort St George in Madras. Meanwhile, the War of Austrian Succession ended in Europe and with this, the First Carnatic War also came to an end. By the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748), Madras was returned to the British in exchange for the French fortress of Louisbourg in North America, which the British had captured.



You must know

Joseph Francis Dupleix made the first attempt to

establish colonial empire in India. In 1740, he began to train detachments of Indian soldiers under the command of the French officers. This was how the first Sepoy detachments came into existence. These Indian soldiers trained by French officers fought so well in the First Carnatic War that British also started forming Indian detachments.

The Second Carnatic War

When a peace treaty was signed in 1748 in Europe, peace also prevailed between the French and the British trading companies. But this peace lasted only for a short time. The Nawab of Carnatic was killed by the French. The Nizam of Hyderabad, Asaf Jah, too died at the same time. Now, both the British and the French wanted to wield influence in these two states so they wished to install their favourites on the thrones. Dupleix supported Chanda Sahib in Carnatic and Muzaffar Jung in Hyderabad. Thus, a tripartite understanding was developed among the French, Chanda Sahib and Muzaffar Jung. But the British supported rival candidates Muhammad Ali and Nasir Jung, respectively. Although the war broke out, it was unofficial war fought between the European countries in India. There was peace in Europe. Both Mohammad Ali and Nasir Jung were killed and French influence in Deccan was maintained.

At the outset, the French succeeded in murdering their opponents and placing their supporters on thrones. However, the British troops soon captured Arcot in 1751. Clive's success led to additional victories for the British, the Nizam and Arcot allies. The war ended with the Treaty of Pondicherry (Puducherry), signed in 1754. The French leader Dupleix was asked to return to France. The directors of the French East India Company were dissatisfied with Dupleix's political ambitions, which had led to immense financial loss. In 1754, Charles Godeheu replaced Dupleix.

The Third Carnatic War

The outbreak of the Seven Years' War in Europe in 1756 led to a fresh conflict between French and British forces in India, leading to the Third Carnatic War. The British forces captured the French settlement of Chandernagore (now Chandannagar) in 1757. Then, the British commander Sir Eyre Coote decisively defeated the French under Comte de Lally at the Battle of Wandiwash in 1760. The war concluded with the signing of the 1763 Treaty of Paris, which returned Chandernagore and Pondicherry (Puducherry) to France and allowed the French to have 'factories' (trading



posts) in India but forbade French traders from administering them. The French agreed to support British client governments, thus ending the French ambitions of an Indian empire and making the British the dominant foreign power in India.



The Fort of Vandavasi or Wandiwash

▼ Treaty of Allahabad (1765)

After the battle, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam II signed two treaties at Allahabad with Clive, the Governor of the Company. The Nawab of Awadh got his territories restored except those of Allahabad and Kora, which were assigned to Shah Alam II. The Nawab had to maintain and keep the British troops who would defend him if he was attacked. Thus, Awadh became a dependent and a **buffer state** which would protect Bengal from the direct impact of any invasion from the north-west. The Mughal Emperor granted the **Diwani**, i.e. the right to collect revenue from Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, to the Company. In return, the company gave him Kora and Allahabad and an annual tribute of rupees 26 lakhs. The Nawab of Awadh had to pay an indemnity of rupees 50 lakhs. In lieu of this, his kingdom was restored to him as British protectorate.

The grant of Diwani enabled the EEIC to use the vast revenue resources of Bengal to purchase cotton and silk textiles in India, maintain the Company's troops and build forts, factories and offices.

▼ Dual Government

After the battle of Plassey, the Nawabs of Bengal were forced to give lands and money as gifts to EEIC officials. This help amassed huge wealth in their lockers and strengthened their economic position further.

In Bengal, the Company had full control over revenue collection, military and law. Thus, began

the system of dual government. The Nawab was given responsibility without any power or resources. The Company, meanwhile, enjoyed all the powers and resources without any responsibility. Bengal suffered due to this system and many people were forced to abandon their homes and land. Just at that time, a severe famine struck Bengal in 1770 which worsened the situation. There was mass starvation and millions died. Nothing was done to provide relief. The famine led to severe criticism of Dual Government both in Britain and in India.

Expansion of the British Empire (1757-1818)

By 1818, except for the provinces of Punjab and Sindh, the entire India was under the British rule. They ruled the part of it directly and the rest through the princely states over which the Company had supreme control.

▼ Anglo-Mysore Wars (1767-99)

The expansion of Mysore under Haider Ali alarmed the officials of the EEIC. It led to a series of wars between the EEIC and the rulers of Mysore, Haider Ali and his son Tipu Sultan.

First Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69)

Suspicious of the rising powers of Haider Ali, the Nizam of Hyderabad formed a coalition with the British and attacked Mysore. Haider Ali defeated them and forced the British to sign a treaty, by which they agreed to help each other in case of attack by a third party.

But soon, the British occupied the French port of Mahe, which was Mysore's only opening for European trade. This led to the Second Mysore War (1771-1784).

Second Anglo-Mysore War (1771-84)

In 1771, when the Marathas attacked Haider Ali, the British did not come to his help. Haider



Tipu Sultan



Ali died during the war. His son Tipu continued the war which finally came to an end in 1784 with the signing of the Treaty of Mangalore.

Third Anglo-Mysore War (1785-94)

Under Tipu Sultan, Mysore controlled the lucrative trade carried out from the Malabar Coast. In 1785, Tipu Sultan stopped the export of some of the most profitable items of trade such as sandalwood, pepper and cardamom from the ports of his kingdom and disallowed local merchants any trade with the Company. Tipu had also established a close relationship with the French with whose help he modernised his army. All these angered the British. In the third Anglo-Mysore War, Tipu was defeated. Under the Treaty of Seringapatam, he had to give away a large part of his kingdom (Coorg, Malabar, Dandigul) to the British. He also had to pay a huge fine and send two of his sons as hostages to the British.

Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1798-99)

Lord Wellesley, the British Governor General, wanted Tipu to accept the Subsidiary Alliance. When Tipu refused, the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War started in 1798. Tipu died fighting. The British annexed a large portion of his conquests and gave them to the Nizam of Hyderabad for his help. Rest of the kingdom was placed under the heir of the erstwhile ruling family, the Wodeyars, who accepted the Subsidiary Alliance.

Anglo-Maratha Wars (1775-1818)

About a decade after the defeat of the Marathas in the third Battle of Panipat, an intense power struggle began among the five Maratha chiefs—the Peshwa, the Gaekwads, the Holkars, the Bhonsles and the Scindias. The British took advantage of this and interfered in their internal affairs, leading to four Anglo-Maratha wars.

First Anglo-Maratha War (1775-1782)

This war broke out over the question of the succession to the throne of the Peshwa. The

Maratha chiefs came together and defeated the British. Soon, Warren Hastings sent an army from Calcutta (Kolkata) to help the British forces. Finally, the Treaty of Salbai was signed by which the British recognised Madhav Rao II as the Peshwa.

Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-1805)

The Maratha chiefs, Scindia and Bhonsle, refused to accept the Subsidiary Alliance and declared war on the British in 1803. But they were defeated and had to cede the territories of Ahmednagar and Broach to the British.

Events before the Third Maratha War

Before the Third Maratha War, in 1809, the British signed the Treaty of Amritsar with Ranjit Singh, the ruler of Punjab. The two parties agreed to restrict their territories to the west and the east banks of the Satluj, respectively.

Third Anglo-Maratha War

This war broke out when the Maratha chief, Holkar, refused to accept the Subsidiary Alliance. The war was rather inconclusive and peace was signed with the Holkars.

Fourth Anglo-Maratha War (1817-1818)

This war broke out in 1817 when Peshwa Baji Rao II attacked the British Residency. In return, the British defeated the Marathas. The title of Peshwa was withdrawn and his territories were annexed to the British Empire.

Sind and Afghanistan

The EEIC wanted to annex Afghanistan, however, it could not be possible without conquering Sind. In 1809, a treaty was signed with the Amirs (rulers) of Sind. As per this treaty, the Amirs promised not to let the French pass through their territories, and the British promised not to transport arms through Sind. In 1839, the EEIC violated the terms of this treaty



Charles Napier



during the First Afghan War, when they carried their armed forces to Afghanistan via Sind. However, instead of admitting this, the EEIC officials accused the Amirs of plotting against the British. Sind was finally attacked and annexed by Charles Napier in 1843. In the late 1830s and early 1840s, the EEIC fought a long war with Afghanistan and eventually established indirect Company rule there.

❖ Sikh Wars (1845-1849)

Punjab

After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839, Punjab experienced a period of instability. Finally, his youngest son, Dalip Singh, was placed on the throne and the Queen Mother Rani Jindan, was made the Regent in 1843. The first Anglo-Sikh War broke out when the Sikh army tried to cross the Sutlej and occupy Lahore. The British defeated the Sikhs and the Treaty of Lahore was signed. It recognised Dalip Singh as the ruler and his mother as Regent. The Sikh had to pay a huge war indemnity and also gave away parts of their territories to the British.



Dalip Singh

Soon, the British accused Rani Jindan of anti-British activities and removed her from power. They sent her into exile. At this, the entire Sikh state rose to protest under the leadership of **Mulraj**, the Governor of Multan.



Rani Jindan

The Governor General, Lord Dalhousie declared war on the Sikhs and the **Second Sikh War** (1848-1849) broke out. The Sikhs were defeated and the British annexed Punjab in 1849. Dalip Singh was pensioned off to Britain.

❖ Subsidiary Alliance

The **Doctrine of Subsidiary Alliance** was initiated by Marquess Wellesley, Governor

General of India from 1798 to 1805. The main objective was to gain control over large tracts of India without direct wars. Its key features were as follows :



Marquess Wellesley

- ❖ Any Indian ruler who accepted Subsidiary Alliance with the British had to disband their army and keep British forces within their territory and agree to pay for their maintenance. The rulers were also forced to keep a British official at their court called the **Resident**.
- ❖ The rulers had to expel all non-English foreigners from their states. They had to surrender control of their foreign affairs to the British and agree to abide by the decisions of the British.
- ❖ The Company in return promised to protect such rulers from external and internal dangers.

The first Indian ruler to accept the terms of the Subsidiary Alliance was the Nizam of Hyderabad. He accepted it in 1798, ceded the territories of Bellari and Cuddapah to the British. The Nawab of Awadh followed it in 1801 and ceded to the British about half of his territories comprising Rohilkhand, Gorakhpur and territories between the Ganga and the Yamuna rivers. Peshwa Bajji Rao II accepted the Subsidiary Alliance as one of the terms of Treaty of Bassein in 1802 and agreed to pay in return an annual sum of ₹26 lakh.

❖ Doctrine of Lapse

The **Doctrine of Lapse** was a policy of annexation started by Lord Dalhousie, the Governor General of India between 1848 and 1856. According to this policy, any princely state or territory under Subsidiary Alliance System, would automatically be annexed if the ruler was either 'incompetent or died without a direct heir'. This



Lord Dalhousie



deprived an Indian ruler of their long-standing right to choose a successor or adopt a successor. The Company annexed the princely states of Satara (1848), Jaitpur and Samnampur (1849), Nagpur and Jhansi (1854) and Awadh (Oudh) (1856) using this doctrine.

Dalhousie was also responsible for the abolition of titles and pensions of the heirs of childless Indian rulers, and annexation of their territories. Tanjore and the Carnatic were annexed in this manner. When Peshwa Baji Rao II died, pension was denied to his adopted son, Nana Saheb, even though he had been accepted by the Marathas as the next Peshwa. Similarly, the imperial title of the Mughal Emperor was abolished after Bahadur Shah II.

Annexation of Awadh and other States

Dalhousie used different pretexts to annex various territories. He annexed Awadh in 1856 on the pretext of poor administration of the government. He annexed a part of Sikkim in 1850 because the ruler of Sikkim had ill-treated the servants of the Company. Dalhousie forced the Nizam of Hyderabad to surrender the province of Berar of failing to meet some financial conditions.

After the conquest of Bengal, the British Parliament passed several Acts to establish better control and supremacy. Among those Acts, the first important one was the **Regulating Act of 1773** through which the actions of EEIC came under direct supervision of the British government.

Similarly, the **Pitt's India Act 1784** was passed to overcome the

drawbacks of the Regulating Act. This put the administration of India into the hands of a Governor-General and a council of three members.

The **Charter Act of 1786** gave the Governor-General the supreme power to act against the majority of the Council in some special cases.

The **Charter Act of 1813** abolished the monopoly of the company over India's trade and the Charter Act of 1833 ended completely the trade of EEIC even with China. The Governor-General eventually became the effective ruler of the trade territories of EEIC.



You must know

Satyajit Ray's movie *Shatranj Ke Khiladi* portrays how the British took over Awadh by taking advantage of the incompetence of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah.



Provinces and States of British India



Why Did the British Succeed?

In less than a century, the British annexed a large part of India. Many factors contributed to their success.

- ❖ There was a lack of strong Indian leaders; Indian rulers also underestimated the danger posed by the British.
- ❖ The British strength lay in their navy. None of the Indian rulers had a strong navy.
- ❖ The Indian rulers lacked unity. All of them were victim of the British policy of **Divide and Rule**.
- ❖ Trade had made the British prosperous and they could spend enough money on wars.

British Administration

An efficient system of civil administration and a professional, well-trained army were two of the most important features of British rule in India.

The system of civil administration was set up to collect land revenue which was the main source of income. The army fulfilled the need of the Company to expand its territories and wage wars against Indian rulers.

Civil Administration

Lord Cornwallis is generally regarded as the Father of Indian Civil Administration. It was during his tenure as the Governor-General (1786-93) that the structure of an independent civil service was put in place. Before his term in the office had begun, the Company officials got low salaries. However, they enjoyed the freedom of making money through private trade and bribes from local rulers and traders. This practice was stopped by Cornwallis who replaced the corrupt, disloyal and self-seeking officials with well-educated, honest and loyal civil servants. He also raised their salary ₹1,500 per month.



Lord Cornwallis

In 1800, the then Governor General **Lord Wellesley** established **Fort William College** in Calcutta (Kolkata) to train civil servants in local languages and customs. In 1806, a similar college called the **Haileybury College** was established in England to train civil servants. From 1853, all recruits had to go through a competitive exam in order to qualify for the civil services. The **ICS Act of 1861** established the Indian Civil Service. For administrative convenience, British India was divided into districts. In each district, there was a collector to collect revenue, a magistrate to maintain law and order, and a Judge to administer justice.



You must know

In 1863, Satyendranath Tagore, the elder brother of Rabindranath Tagore, became the first Indian to successfully get through the ICS examination.

The Army

The EEIC's army was disciplined and loyal. Soldiers were thoroughly trained in the use of the latest arms and ammunition and paid regularly. From 1820s, the cavalry declined in importance and the infantry became more important. Soldiers of this regiment were trained in using muskets and match-locks.

Soldiers in the Company's army were mostly Indian, while the officers were exclusively British. The highest position held by an Indian soldier, also called a **sepoy**, was that of a Subedar. During the 19th century, the British developed uniform military culture. Soldiers were subjected to European style of training irrespective of their castes and communities.

The Judicial System

In the beginning, the administration of justice was carried out on the basis of the traditional laws of the Indian people. In the case of the Hindus, the Shastras, and in the case of the Muslims, the Shariat was the basis of justice. In 1772, a new system of justice was established.



Each district was to have two courts—a **Criminal Court** and a **Civil Court**. While Civil Courts were presided over by the Company's collectors, the Criminal Courts were left in the hands of the natives like a **qazi** and **mufti**, who worked under the supervision of the collectors.

Under the Regulating Act 1773, the Supreme Court at Calcutta (Kolkata) was established with Elijah Impey as its Chief Justice. By the **Act of 1781**, it was decided that the English law would be strictly applied only in the cases of the English and the Indians would be tried under their own traditional law. In 1793, the famous **Cornwallis Code** was compiled for the guidance of the officers of the new judicial service. In 1833, a graded structure of courts came into being. In 1865, High Courts were established at Calcutta (Kolkata), Madras (Chennai) and Bombay (Mumbai). The codification of laws was meant to establish judicial equality in the laws applied to both the rulers and the ruled. This

was the principle of **Rule of Law**. However, even though the judicial system professed equality before law, the Europeans were tried in special courts by the British Judges.

Like the civil administration and the army, judiciary was an important pillar of governance introduced by the British in India. It was based on the principles of rule of the land and equality before law.

According to the principle of the Rule of Law, at least in theory, the administration was carried out according to the laws of the land. According to the principle of equality before law, everyone was equal before the law at least in all civil cases.

Independence of judiciary was another important aspect which the colonial rule introduced in India. This meant that the judiciary was free from the influence of both the political and civil administration.

Terminology

Factory	: a place where goods for trade were stocked
Customs duty	: indirect tax levied on goods imported into a country as well as on goods exported from a country
Diwani	: the revenue collecting department of the state
Qazi	: a judge
Mufti	: a jurist of the Muslim community responsible for expounding the law that the Qazi would administer
Buffer state	: a small neutral state between two rival power

Recap

- ❖ Overseas trade was the most important feature of the practice of mercantilism.
- ❖ Captain William Hawkins led the first voyage of the EEIC to India in 1608.
- ❖ The EEIC began to set up much bigger and strongly fortified operational bases at Madras (Chennai), Bombay (Mumbai) and Calcutta (Kolkata).
- ❖ The Portuguese, the Dutch, the French were the rivals of the EEIC.
- ❖ The EEIC fought many wars to establish its power in India. These wars were—battle of Buxar, battle of Plassey, Carnatic wars, Anglo-Mysore wars and Anglo-Maratha wars.
- ❖ The British expanded their power through the Subsidiary Alliance and Doctrine of Lapse.



 Objective Type Questions

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

- Sir Thomas Roe arrived in India in :
(a) 1613 (b) 1614 (c) 1615 (d) 1616
- Vasco da Gama was a/an :
(a) French (b) English (c) Portuguese (d) none of these
- The French East India Company was established in :
(a) 1564 (b) 1664 (c) 1764 (d) 1864
- The Treaty of Allahabad was signed in :
(a) 1564 (b) 1665 (c) 1765 (d) 1865
- The Father of Indian Civil Administration was :
(a) Lord Dalhousie (b) Thomas Roe (c) Lord Cornwallis (d) none of these

B. Fill in the blanks :

- In Europe, _____ became a popular economic theory and practice from the _____.
- The EEIC and other European companies made huge profits by the trade _____ they got from the Indian rulers.
- The _____ were the first European power to establish their _____ and _____ centres in India.
- The British commander _____ decisively defeated the French under _____ at the battle of Wandiwash in _____.
- The _____ was initiated by Marquess Wellesley, Governor General of India from _____ to _____.

C. State True or False :

- Several groups of Portuguese traders established settlements at Calicut, Cochin, Goa, Daman and Diu.
- When the news of the English defeat reached Madras, Robert Clive was dispatched with a strong troop to recapture Calcutta.
- Under Tipu Sultan, Mysore controlled the lucrative trade carried out from the Malabar coast.
- The first Indian ruler to accept the terms of the Subsidiary Alliance was the Nizam of Hyderabad.
- Soldiers in the Company's army were mostly British, while the officers were exclusively Indians.



D. Match the following :

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 1. The Battle of Buxar | (a) 1793 |
| 2. First Mysore war | (b) 1765 |
| 3. Pitt's India Act | (c) 1764 |
| 4. Treaty of Allahabad | (d) 1767-69 |
| 5. Cornwallis Code | (e) 1784 |

Subjective Type Questions

E. Very short answer type questions :

1. When was the EEIC established in London?
2. Who explored the new sea route that linked India to Europe?
3. Name the English who obtained a farmaan from Jahangir to set up a factory at Surat in 1609.
4. Who was the Nawab of Bengal during the battle of Plassey?
5. Who brought Bengal directly under the Company administration?

F. Short answer type questions :

1. Write a short note on mercantilism.
2. What do you know about the early years of the EEIC?
3. Explain the Battle of Plassey briefly.
4. What was the Treaty of Allahabad?
5. How did the British expand their rule through Subsidiary Alliance?

G. Long answer type questions :

1. Give an account of the EEIC's European rivals.
2. Explain the Carnatic wars in detail.
3. What were the causes and consequences of the Anglo-Mysore wars of 1767-1799?
4. What do you understand by the Doctrine of Lapse?
5. Explain the British administration in India.



To Do Hour

Make a report on the British administration and the present day Indian administration.



Net Check

Browse the internet and know more about the Dual Government in Bengal.

www.gkforallexams.in>indianhistory>dualgovernmentinbengal1765



Think and Answer

Why did the traders prefer the sea routes to the land routes?

