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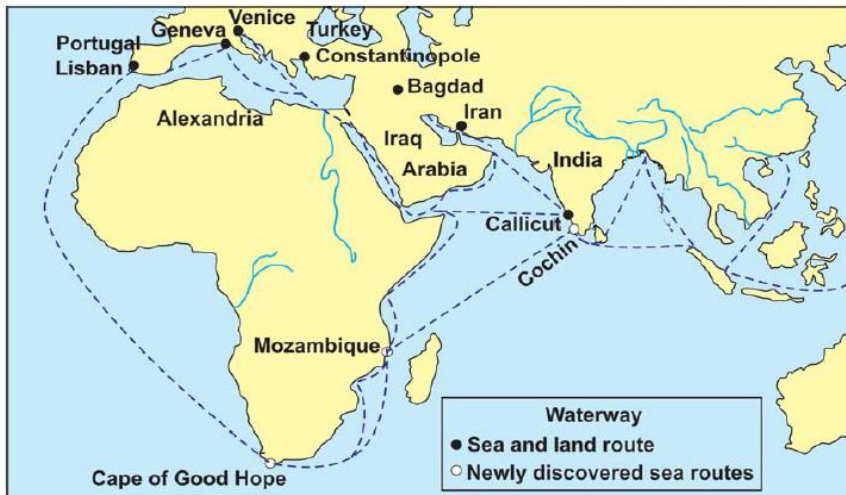
ARRIVAL OF EUROPEANS IN INDIA

We have learnt in the previous standard that many years ago, our country was one of the leading countries in the world. Our country was distinct in the whole world. The people of various countries were being influenced by our culture and prosperity. Many people worldwide were eager to enter into trade with our country and earn wealth out of it.

Earlier, the merchants from the various countries came to India from north-west by land route since constantinople was conquered by Turk Muslims for the purpose of trading. For years, the Arab traders undertook trade through land route; but as situations changed, trade through land route stopped. Consequently, the demand for Indian commodities like silk, cotton clothes, muslin, black pepper, spices, etc. increased in the European countries. To take the advantage of this situation, many countries of Europe started searching for a sea route to India.



1.1 Our Mother India



1.2 Sea Route

Think

- Which areas are to be crossed to reach India from Europe by land route?
- Which areas are to be crossed to reach India from Portugal by sea route?
- Which mode of transportation is used the maximum to travel abroad in the modern times?

Subsequently, some adventurous sailors of Europe and other countries started the search of sea route to come to India.

Christopher Columbus

Columbus, an Italian explorer, was one of the brave sailors who ventured out to find the sea route to India. He thought that one can go to the East via West also. Why did he believe so? Think about it. Columbus started his journey to India and accidentally reached America. As long as he lived, he was under the misconception that he had discovered the sea route to India. Hence, even today the natives of America are called Red Indians and the island group in the Caribbean is known as the West Indies.



1.3 Vasco-Da-Gama in the courtyard of Zamorin

Vasco-Da-Gama

Vasco-Da-Gama, a native of Portugal, discovered the sea route to India. He encircled the 'Cape of Good Hope' in South Africa and reached the Port of Calicut on 22nd May 1498 after crossing the Indian Ocean. The then ruling king of Calicut, Zamorin, gave permission to the Portuguese to trade.

The Portuguese established a fort in Calicut for trade in 1500 C.E. They fortified it and appointed a commander in chief, namely Albuquerque, to safeguard the fort. Moving northwards, Albuquerque conquered Goa in 1506 C.E. Within a span of 100 years, the Portuguese took control of Mangalore, Cochin, Goa, Diu, Mumbai and Island of Lanka.

End of Portuguese rule

In the beginning of the 17th century, the Portuguese expanded their trade to Bengal. At this time, the Mughal Emperor, Shahjahan ruled India from Delhi. The Subedar of Bengal complained to Shahjahan about the behaviour of the Portuguese. Thus, the fort of Hugli was demolished and the ships were burnt as per the order of the Emperor. In this way, the Portuguese rule came to end with the exception of the territories of Diu, Daman and Goa.

The Dutch

After 100 years of the arrival of the Portuguese, at the end of the 16th century, the Dutch of Holland (now the Netherlands) came to India for trading. Initially, they established forts at Pulicat and Madras (now Chennai). They also established a trading centre at Agra in the year 1663. Meanwhile the British also arrived in India. The Dutch could not withstand the competition against the British.

British Interest in India

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth of England in the year 1600 C.E., the British established the East India Company. This company belonged to merchants who wanted to increase their wealth by undertaking trade with India.

The first British ship arrived in India at the port of Surat in the year 1608 C.E. Captain W. Hawkins, the captain of the ship, was the first British to set foot in India. He met Jahangir but did not get his permission to trade. Thereafter, Sir Thomas Roe, arrived in India who acquired the permission to establish a trading centre in Surat. Later, Delhi went in to the hands of Shahjahan. Shahjahan gave permission to the British to carry out trade in Bengal.

The French

The French established 'The French East India Company' in the year 1664 C.E. They established factories in Surat, Machhalipatnam and Puducherry (Pondicherry). The head of the French company was Joseph Francois Dupleix, who had the desire to expand the European rule in India. Thus, the French and the British stood in competition against each other to become the strongest European company. There were innumerable disputes and battles and finally the British emerged as the winners.; However, the French retained their control over the trading centers of Puducherry, Mahe and Chandranagar.

British Trade in Bengal

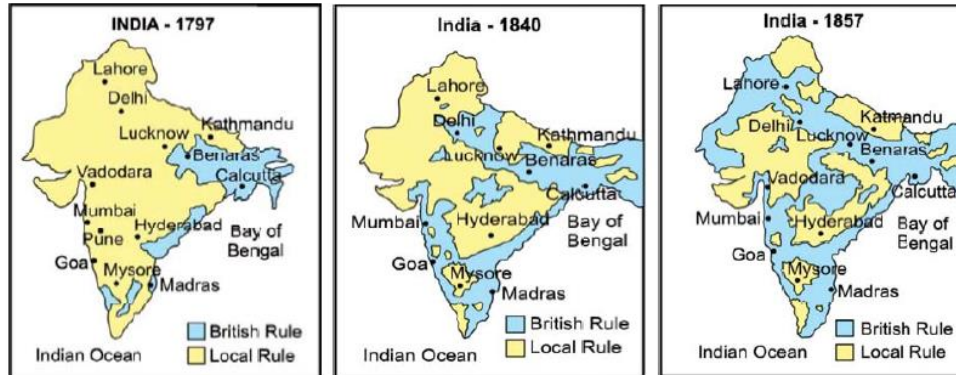
The British first started their trade on the banks of the river Hugli and established forts in the year 1651 C.E. The forts were garrisoned for their protection of the factory and got the permission from the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb to trade without paying taxes against an annual payment.



1.4 Ships of the British and their forts

Think

- Do the merchants from foreign countries seek permission to do such trade in India in today's times?



1.5 The Expansion of the British Rule between 1757 C.E. and 1857 C.E.

By this time, the East India Company was in a race to earn more and more money. As per the order passed in Bengal, only the Company availed the benefit of tax free trading; however many officers who were engaged in private trade did not pay the taxes as well. As a result, the income generated from the tax collection in Bengal reduced which in turn was opposed by the Nawab of Bengal, Murshid Quli Khan. This dispute kept on recurring even during the time of Ali Verdi Khan. After Ali Verdi Khan, his son Siraj-ud-Daulah took charge. He got involved into a major battle with the British.

Battle of Plassey



1.6 Siraj-Ud-Daulah

Siraj-ud-Daulah became Nawab of Bengal in the year 1756. He had an overwhelming influence over the British. The British helped the competitors of Siraj-ud-Daulah by conspiring against him so that he would not remain on the throne of Bengal. There were frequent conflicts with the British merchants regarding payment of taxes. When the British merchants failed to pay taxes, which were applicable to both Indian and foreign merchants, the situation came to a boil. He ordered that the British should not fortify the factory, pay the taxes as per the rules and trade as per the terms and conditions. This provocation was enough for Siraj to opt for war, and he succeeded in expelling the British from Calcutta.

The British counter-attacked under the leadership of Robert Clive. Clive bribed Mir Jafar, the commander in chief of Siraj-ud-Daulah, with a promise to confer the throne of Bengal to him and convinced him to join their side. With his help, Robert Clive defeated and murdered Siraj-ud-Daulah in the Battle of Plassey. This was the first war fought by the Company in India which marked the beginning of the British rule in India. Thus, this war is considered to be a turning point in the history of India.

Things to know

- *Do you know how Plassey got its name? The original name is Palassi, the trees of Palash (Khakhra). The flowers of Palash tree are saffron in color and are used in making colors for Holi.*

Do

- *Had Siraj-ud-Daulah won the Battle of Plassey, what would have been its impact?*

Battle of Buxar

As promised, the East India Company appointed Mir Jafar as Nawab of Bengal. Robert Clive also went back to England. With the passage of time, Mir Jafar became hostile towards the British. The Company decided to replace him with his son-in-law Mir Qasim. Mir Qasim was an efficient, disciplined and clever ruler. The problem arose between Nawab and the Company on account of non-payment of taxes, which ultimately brought both the forces face to face with each other. In 1763, Mir Qasim was defeated by the Company but he escaped. He reorganized his army along with the forces of Nawab of Oudh, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.

Their combined forces met the Company forces at Buxar in 1764. The British East India Company won the war, and all of a sudden Bengal, Avadh (Lucknow) and Mughal Empire was under their control. Robert Clive was sent to India to take control of the situation. That's how the East India Company, a trading company, emerged as a political power in the subcontinent of India.

Think

- *Draft headlines for the newspaper published from Britain and Patna with reference to the report printed on the Battle of Plassey and the death of Siraj-ud-Daulah.*

EXERCISES

Q.1 Answer the following questions

1. Why did the Europeans feel the need to discover a new sea route to India?
2. Who were the first and the last Europeans to arrive in India?
3. Between whom was the Battle of Plassey fought? What were its results?
4. Why did Battle of Buxar occur? What was its result?
5. How did the Portuguese rule come to an end?

Q2. Fill in the Blanks

1. was the Italian who accepted the challenge to discover the sea route to India.
2. Robert Clive conspired to murder