

GENERAL STUDIES

MODERN INDIAN HISTORY

For
UPSC/KPSC-CIVIL SERVICES
SAHARA

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UNIT - 1

ADVENT OF EUROPEANS IN INDIA



The reasons to find a Sea Route to India by European powers:

- (i) Spirit of renaissance in the 15th-century Europe.
- (ii) European economy growing rapidly, leading to prosperity and demand for luxury goods; increase in the supply of meat requiring spices for preservation.
- (iii) Capture of Constantinople in 1453, and Syria and Egypt later by the Ottoman Turks calling for a new route to reach India without dealing with Arabs and Turks.

The Portuguese, the pioneers followed by the Dutch, English, Danes and the French respectively to reach India.

- ✓ The first East India Company was the British East India Company. The term East India Company refers to the following entities,
 - British East India Company, founded in 1600
 - Dutch East India Company, founded in 1602
 - Danish East India Company, founded in 1616
 - Portuguese East India Company, founded in 1628
 - French East India Company, founded in 1664
 - Swedish East India Company, founded in 1731
- ✓ The voyages at that time involved higher investments, huge risks of piracy and shipwreck and there was a large fluctuation in not only the supply (of spices) but also demand (due to competition).
- ✓ Therefore, in Europe, even a single voyage was preceded by formation of a company, which was liquidated when the voyage was over and the shareholders shared the profits or losses as the case was.
- ✓ For the first time, British East India Company was formed by bundling all the forces into monopoly enterprises.
- ✓ The Netherlands government took a step ahead of their British Counterparts and gave all the powers to the company which were required to rule a colony just like a sovereign country.

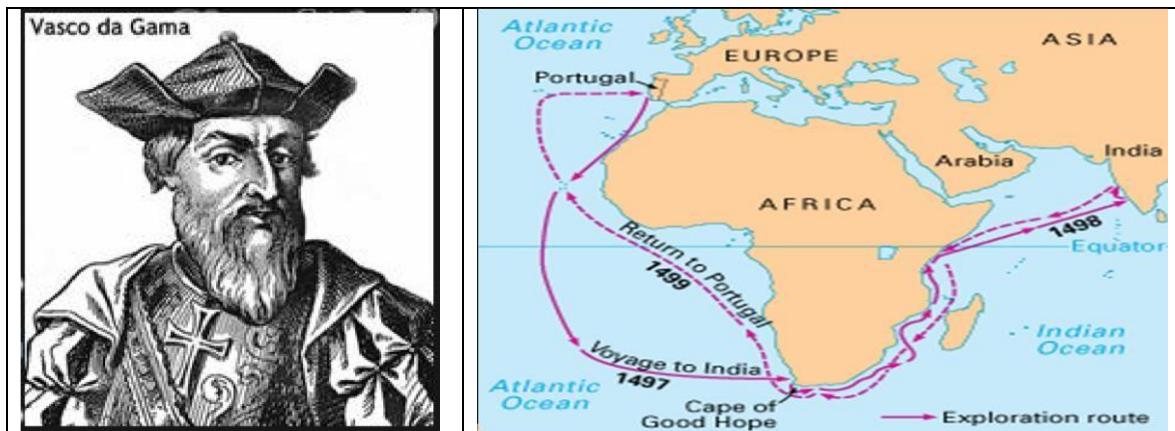
PORTUGUESE EMPIRE

- ✓ From 1505 to 1961, some territories of India remained under Portuguese State of India {Estado da India} or Portuguese India {Índia Portuguesa}.
- ✓ The Indian empire of Portuguese was mainly confined in isolated colonies on both East and West Coast of India and was part of Portuguese possessions in Asia, East Africa and Pacific.

➤ **India's Trade at the time of Arrival of Portuguese**

- ✓ From 7th century onwards, India's merchandise trade with European countries was dominated by Arabs, who took goods from India and supplied it to the merchants of Venice and Geneva in Italy, who in turn supplied it to European markets.
- ✓ Naturally, the sea routes was also dominated by the Arabs who did not allow any other to encroach these routes.
- ✓ However, this arrangement was disturbed when Spanish and Portuguese discovered an alternative sea routes to India and South East Asia.
- ✓ Gradually, the seaborne trade of Arabs in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea was paralysed.

➤ **Foundation of Estado da India**



- ✓ Foundation of this state began with discovery of an alternate route from Portugal to India by **Vasco-da-Gama** via Cape of Good Hope.
- ✓ The first fleet of **Vasco-da-Gama** arrived on 20 May 1498 at Koppad near Calicut.
- ✓ Whatever gifts were brought by Vasco for the Zamorin was not up to his expectation and due to this Vasco had to return without any concrete outcome of his visit. The rival Arabs told the Zamorin that Vasco is not a royal ambassador but only a small time pirate. Thus, this particular journey of Vasco was an utter failure. Nevertheless, it opened up a new route, which was safe from the rival Arabs.

▪ **First Portuguese Colony at Calicut**

- ✓ Two years later the discovery of Vasco, another Armada came in 1500 under **Pedro Álvares Cabral**.

- ✓ He was able to make some fruitful treaties with the rulers of Kozhikode and Cannanore and established first Portuguese factory at Calicut.
- ✓ However, he had to fight with the Arabs in the efforts of creating a niche for Portuguese. During these fights, he captured some of the vessels of the Arabs and killed their crew. Arabs retaliated by burning down the factory and killing several Portuguese. This is called **Battle of Calicut**.
- ✓ In 1501, Cabral had to go back to Portugal, defeated and humiliated.
- ✓ In 1502, Vasco returned to India and this time, he was able to get some favour from local rulers. His demand to get the Arabs expelled from the area was not fulfilled and so he started some serious naval fights in the region.

➤ **Consolidation of Empire**

- ✓ In 1503, Francisco de Almeida was sent as Governor and Viceroy of Estado da India. He was able to erect some fortresses at Cochin, Cannanore, Kilwa and Anjadiva. He had to engage in a fierce fight with a Muslim confederacy of Egypt, Turkey and Gujarat. He was able to defeat them but died soon in 1510. He was replaced by **Alfonso-de-Albuquerque**.
- ✓ Afonso-de-Albuquerque invaded Goa in 1510 and fought the Battle of Goa (1510) with the forces of Sultan of Bijapur Adil Shah. In this battle, he was able to take possession of some of the territories of Goa and made them the Portuguese colonies. He started first Portuguese mint and issued coins in Gold, Silver and Bronze with badge of Portuguese Kings. In 1511, he was also able to win Malacca by defeating the Arab merchants.
- ✓ Albuquerque is known as real founder of Portuguese colonial empire and a Portuguese Cultural Ambassador also. In view of the paucity of manpower in Portugal, Albuquerque had encouraged the lower classes of the Portuguese settlers to marry Indian women. From that time onwards, the Portuguese started settling in Goa and marrying the local ladies.
- ✓ Albuquerque was the **first to abolish the practice of Sati**, which was in vogue at that time, in his territories.
- ✓ The next important Portuguese Governor was **Nuno da Kunha**, who brought Mombasa, Mozambique etc. under Portuguese circle.
- ✓ During his term, Vasco had come to India for a smaller duration under pompous title of Viceroy of India, but he died in 1524 in Cochin. By 1529, Nuno was able to capture Daman and

Diu from Gujarat's ruler Bahadur Shah and compelled the Indian ruler to sign a Treaty of Bassein. By this treaty, Bahadur Shah gave Bassein to Portuguese.

- ✓ When Gujarat was captured by forces of Mughal emperor Akbar, Bahadurshah tried to win support of Portuguese by giving them Mumbai and surrounding areas.
- ✓ By 1534, Portuguese had acquired Mumbai, Vasai, Virar, Daman and Diu, Surat and entire Goa.
- ✓ In 1579, they had established the town of Hooghly-Chuchura.