**British Control over the Bengal**

**Introduction:**

The first half of 18th century saw decline of Mughals. The reign of Aurangzeb (1658-1707) was beginning of the end of the Mughal rule in India. Aurangzeb’s misguided policies weakened stability of the state and decline gained momentum after his death due to wars of succession and weak rulers. Muhammad shah rule for 29 years but could not revive imperial fortune. New states of Hyderabad, Bengal, Awadh and punjab established and Marathas began to make their bid to inherit the imperial mantle.

**Bengal:**

The founder of Bengal was Murshid Quli Khan. Other rulers were Shuja-ud-din, Sarfaraz khan, Alivardi khan.

Siraj ud daula ascended the throne in 1756 who was defeated and killed by East India Company in the Battle of Plassey.

The British increased their influence in the north-east after 1630 AD. In 1633, trading houses were established in Hariharpur and Balasore at the mouth of Mahanadi in Odisha. In 1651, a Kothi was opened in Hoogly under Brijman. After this, cells were also opened in Patna, Dhaka and Qasim Bazar. In 1658, all the settlements of Bengal, Orissa and Coromandel beaches were made under Fort St. George.

**Development of British power in Bengal**

The British were first granted trade exemption in Bengal in 1651 when Gabriel Bantan who lived with the subedar Shahsuja of Bengal as court physician, obtained a license for an english company. Through this, the company was allowed to do free trade in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa in exchange for an annual tax of 3000 rupees.

In 1656, a second ‘mark’ was approved under which the british were allowed to trade without any further reaffirmation, but the successors of Shahshuja did not consider this ‘mark’ as obligatory.

The company received a decree in 1680, ordering that no one should harass the men of the company for the sake of octroi and not interrupt his business.

In october, 1686, the British looted Hoogly, but they fled from Hoogly after being defeated by Aurangzeb.

The British got permission to return to Sutanati in the autumn of 1687 AD. Job Charnock setup The English Kothi in Sutanati in August 1690.

In february, 1691, Ibrahim Khan, the successor of the Subedar of Bengal, Shaista Khan, issued a decree, according to which the British were relieved of the payment of tax in lieu of annual tax of Rs. 3000.

Due to the revolt of Sobha Singh, a zamindar of Burdwan district, the British got permission to fortify their new kothi in 1696 AD.

Subedar Azim-us-san of Bengal granted the British the title of three villages namely Sutanati, Kalikata and Govindpur in 1698 AD, in return for which they had to pay 1200 rupees to the owners of these villages.

The fortified business establishment was named Fort William in honor of the Emperor of England, Sir Charles Eyre became its first president. In 1700 AD, it was declared the first presidency city, which was the capital of British India from 1774 AD to 1911 AD.

**Establishment of British factories in Bengal**

Shahshuja, the Subedar of Bengal, issued a decree in 1651 AD, granting the priviledge of trade in Bengal to the British in lieu of annual tax of Rs 3000.

First British factory was established in 1651 AD under the leadership of Bridgeman at a place called Hoogly in Bengal.

After Hooghly, English factories were established in Qasim Baxar, Patna and Rajamahal respectively. In 1686 AD, the British and Aurangzeb were confronted. The reason was that the mughal emperor accused the britishers of plunder across Hoogly region. The British were defeated in the Battle they had to flee from Hoogly.

Aurangzeb once again granted the britishers, the permission and freedom of trade in lieu of the compensation of Rs 1,50,000.

In 1698 AD, the subedar of Bengal, Azim-ush-Shan, handed over the zamindari(landlordship) of Sutanati, kalikata and Govindpur to the Britishers. At that time, the landlord of Sutanati, kolkata and Govindpur was Ibrahim khan.

Job Charnock laid the foundation of a new city of calcutta by merging together Sutanati, Kalikata and Govindpur. For this reason, Job Charnock is called the **father of Calcutta**.

Fort William was established in calcutta in 1700 AD. Charles Iyre was appointed the first governor of fort william (kolkata).

Calcutta was declared the first presidency city in 1700 AD.

**Important Timeline:**

1765- English East India company acquires Diwani of Bengal.

1773- Regulating act passed by the british parliament to regulate the activities of the East India Company.

1793- Permanent settlement in Bengal.

1800- Santhals begin to come to the Rajmahal hills and settle there

1818- First revenue settlement in Bombay Deccan.