

Modern India 2024  
Handout 4: India in the 18<sup>th</sup> century: First half  
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History of Modern India starts with the beginning of 18<sup>th</sup> century. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, new developments took place in India, especially in political and economic sphere. On the one hand, the Mughal Empire disintegrated with the onset of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and a kind of political vacuum developed in which many new states emerged. On the other hand, British East India Company was taking over India part by part in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**(A) Peeling of the Mughal Empire**

From Akbar until Aurangzeb's reign, the Mughal Empire expanded steadily. The Mughal empire had attained its greatest geographical extent, albeit for a very brief time, in 1707, the year Aurangzeb died. Its borders stretched from Kabul to Bengal, and from the Himalayan foothills to the deep south. It was, however, in the grip of a crisis. It began to crumble in the latter half of Aurangzeb's reign and dissolved fast after his death.

**Aurangzeb to Azam Shah in a letter written a few days before his death.**

"Health to thee! My heart is near thee. Old age has arrived: weakness subdues me, and strength has forsaken all my members. I came stranger to this world, and a stranger I depart. I know nothing of myself, what I am, and for what I am destined. The instant which passed in power, hath left only sorrow behind it. I have not been the guardian and protector of the empire. My valuable time has been passed vainly.... I brought nothing in this world and except the infirmities of man, carry nothing out..."

**Later Mughal Padshahs**

• **Bahadur Shah I (Shah Alam I)**

- Prince Muazzam defeated his two brothers Muhammad Azam and Kam Baksh and ascended the throne with the title Bahadur Shah.
- He was broad-minded person and followed policy of compromise and conciliation instead of the narrow-minded policies of Aurangzeb. He showed tolerance towards Hindu leaders and kings.
- He made peace with Guru Govind Singh (Sikhs), Chatrasal (Bundela chief), Churaman (Jats chief), released Shahu and granted sardeshmukhi but not chauth to the Marathas.
- His reign was characterised by reckless grant of promotions and jagirs and thus the state finances deteriorated immensely in his reign. Khafi Khan called him **Shah-i-Bekhabar**. Unfortunately died soon.

## • JahandarShah

- After Bahadur Shah's death, Jahandar Shah, one of the less abled sons came to throne with the help of a noble Zulfiqar Khan giving opportunity to Zulfiqar Khan to gain control of Mughal affairs. Since he was a weak and degenerate king, wholly devoted to pleasure. Thus, administration went in the hands of wazir **Zulfiqar Khan**
- Zulfiqar belonged to **Irani** group. Though he was able, he was **opposed** by court politics.
- Zulfiqar Khan adopted a wholesome policy of promoting friendly relations with neighbours and strengthening his own position especially by conciliating Hindu Chieftains. There was a rapid reversal of Aurangzeb policies like **Jizyah, which was now abolished**, because there was a need of Hindu support (Rajputs, Marathas etc) in the court politics.
- Zulfiqar tried to improve state finances by checking the reckless growth of **Jagirs and offices**. An evil tendency of **Ijarah** system was encouraged under which the right to collect revenue was auctioned.
- However, the emperor Jahandar was defeated by his nephew Farrukhsiyarat Agra in 1713.

### Later Mughal Emperors

- Bahadur Shah(1707 -1712)
- JahandarShah(1712-1713)
- Farrukhsiyar (1713 -1719)
- Rafi-ud-daulah (Shah Jahan II) (1719)
- Rafi-ud-darjat (1719)
- Muhammad Shah - Rangeela (1719-48)**
- Ahmad Shah Bahadur (1748 - 1754)
- Alamgir II (1754-1759)
- Shahjahan III (1759)
- Shah Alam II (1759 -1806)**
- Akbar II (1806-1837)
- Bahadur Shah (1837-1862)

## • The rise and fall of Sayyid Brothers (Abdulla Khan and Hussain Ali)

- These two brothers were known as the **king-makers** in Mughal history. Earlier, **Abdulla** Khan was the governor of **Allahabad** and **Hussain Ali** was the governor of **Patna**. In this period, they gained complete control of the state. There ensued a constant and **prolonged power struggle** between emperor and Sayyid brothers.

### • Farruksiyar (1713-19)

- Jahandar Shah's inglorious reign came to an early end in January 1713 when he was defeated at **Agra** by Farrukh Siyar, his nephew. Farrukh Siyar owed his victory to the Saiyid brothers. He made Abdullah Khan as **Wazir** and **Husain Ali Khan Baraha** and the **Mir Bakshi**.

He followed the policy of religious tolerance and **abolished pilgrimage tax**.

- Prolonged power struggle between the emperor and Farrukhsiyar, finally they deposed and killed the emperor.



Farrukhsiyar receiving Hussain Ali Khan

- Sayyid Brothers followed **policy of Religious Tolerance** (Abolition of Jizya) and focused on reconciliation with Rajputs, Jats and Marathas (granted swarajya to King Shahu; right to collect **Chauth** and **Sardeshmukhi**).

### • Two more kings

The three successors of Farrukh Siyar were mere puppets in the hands of the **Saiyids**. They controlled the throne from 1713-20. They adopted the policy of religious tolerance and made efforts to create peaceful empire.

### • Anti-Saiyid Camp

- Saiyid brothers had tried hard to **conciliate** all sections, yet a powerful group of nobles headed by Nizam-ul-Mulk began to conspire against them. These nobles declared that the Saiyids were following **anti-Mughal** and anti-Islamic policies.

### • Muhammad Shah (1717-48)

- Roshan Akhtar became the emperor with the title **Muhammad Shah**.
- **End of Sayyid Brothers:** There was a growing **anxiety and jealousy** against sayyid brothers due to their power and hold over the administration. The **deposition** and **Murder** of Farukhsiyar created revulsion among public and led to branding of Sayyid brothers as "**Namak Haram**" (Not true to their salts). Muhammad Shah conspired against Sayyid brothers with the help of **Chin Qulich Khan (Nizam-ul-Mulk)**. Hussain Ali was assassinated while Abdulla Khan was defeated in war. Thus ended the era of 'king maker' brothers in 1720. With this, Chin Qulich Khan was made the **Wazir** of the Mughal Empire.
- **Rangile:** Muhammad Shah had a long reign of **30 years**. It could have been the last chance of Mughal **revival**, but he was not the man for the task. He was rather fond of easy life. He neglected affairs of the state and was under the influence of **corrupt** and **worthless** flatterers and intrigued against his own **ministers**.



Muhammad Shah Making Love, ca. 1735. British Library, London



Sadarang

- **Nizam-ul-Mulk** tried to reform the administration, but he was not given any importance. Disgusted with the fickle-mindedness, suspicious nature, and the constant quarrels, Nizam-ul-Mulk got frustrated and decided to leave the **emperor**. He marched Southwards and found a **state of Hyderabad** in Deccan in 1724.
- The other powerful and ambitious nobles also now began to leave. Everywhere petty **zamindars**, **rajas** and nawabs raised the **banner of rebellion** and

NIZAM UL MULK FOUNDED  
HYDARABAD  
AND  
BURAN UL MULK FOUNDED  
AUDHA



independence. Several states thus became independent during the reign of Muhammad Shah.

- One of the most important incidences during his reign was the **invasion of Nadir Shah** in 1739.

The Mughal army was defeated in the battle of Karnal. The Mughal army was commandeered by Mir Bakshi Khan-i-Daura.

- Delhi was laid waste, massacre took place. Mughal emperor was made prisoner. Nadir Shah received 70 crore rupees and a huge loot including peacock throne and Kohinoor diamond was carried away.
- Nadir Shah died in 1747 and one of his ablest generals, Ahmad Shah Abdali, succeeded him in 1748 in Afghanistan. He invaded India 7 times between 1748 and 67.



Mughals trying to negotiate with Nadir Shah's army outside Delhi

#### **The effects of Nadir Shah's campaign on Mughal Empire were:**

- Complete loss of central authority and irreplaceable loss of prestige.
- Exposed hidden weaknesses of Mughal empire to Maratha Sardars and European trading companies.
- Ruined imperial finances and affected economic life of country as impoverished nobles began to oppress peasantry even more in order to recover lost fortunes.

Loss of Kabul and Areas west to Indus opened threats for further attacks from northwest front.

Thus, there is no doubt that under a succession of weak and ineffective emperors (who were emperors only in name), Delhi lost its former grandeur. It was said at that time that the realm of the Mughal Badshah extended from Lal Qila to Palam.

## Mughal Decline: Factors and forces

There were many **internal** and external causes which were responsible for the decline of the empire. Earlier historians believed that **weak successors**, undisciplined nobility etc were the major causes. But later historians have given attention to the institutional drawbacks such as **Jagirdari crisis**, tension between **Zamindars** and Mughal officials, **Agrarian crisis** etc. further, external aggression gave pace to the process.

- **Aurangzeb's role:** Aurangzeb inherited a large empire, yet he adopted a policy of expansion which put Mughal empire in **loggerheads** with prominent powers in the deccan and south mainly **Marathas**, **Bijapur** and **Golconda Kingdoms**. Aurangzeb's basic failure lay in the realm of statesmanship as he did not want to **reconcile** with Marathas and Rajput. This led to a long and **Protracted war** against Marathas in deccan which resulted in immense **loss of men** and material along with a gradual degradation of Mughal administration. Aurangzeb's religious **orthodoxy** and his policy towards Hindu rulers also damaged stability of Mughal empire. His policy of imposing **Jizya** and destroying **Hindu temples** and putting certain restrictions on **Hindus**, alienated the Hindu and split the Mughal society thereby widening the gulf between **hindu and muslim upper class** and weakened the alliances with Hindu Rulers for example the **Rajputs**.
- **Defective law of succession:** The absence of the law of primogeniture among the Mughals usually meant a **war of succession** among the sons of dying Mughal empire in which military leaders of the **time took sides**. This resulted in futile conspiracies, treachery and debauchery which hampered the foundations of **efficient** administration of state and denigrated the authority of the Mughal state.
- **Weak Successors of Aurangzeb:** A Monarchical system of government much depends on the character and the nature of **Ruling personality**. Mughal empire being built on similar foundations was no less vulnerable to the vagaries caused by poor and weak ruling personalities. Unfortunately, all Mughal emperors after Aurangzeb were weaklings and therefore unable to meet the challenges of the **mighty empire**. Most of the emperors were consumed in the **luxuries** of the **royalty** with no imminent plan on furthering the Mughal empire.
- **Degeneration of Mughal Nobility:** Apart from the personalities of Great Mughals, the strength of Mughal empire lay in the organisation and character of its nobility. The weakness of the king could have been successfully **overcome** with an alert and **efficient nobility**. However, the quality of nobility gradually declined with most nobles living an **extravagant** life. They got power hungry and utilized every war of succession to their own **benefits**. Nobles were often poorly educated and not even skilled in the art of warfare. Nobles monopolised all offices barring entry to **fresh blood**. Overall, the nobility reflected general decline in morals and their devotion towards the Mughal empire.
- **Economic Bankruptcy:** What worsened the Economic and financial conditions of the Mughals in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was the long and **protracted wars in** Deccan against **Marathas** which not only drained the treasury but also ruined the **Trade and Commerce**. Under later Mughal emperors, the financial conditions further **deteriorated**. The

numerous wars of succession and political convulsions coupled with lavish lifestyle of emperors emptied royal treasury to an extent that salaries of soldiers could not be paid.

- **Military Weaknesses:** The problems with the Mughal Army were both structural and Technical. The Mughal armies were organized more or less on feudal lines where soldiers owed allegiance to the mansabdar rather than the emperor. This provided an administrative disconnect between the soldier and the State. On the technical Front, Mughal army were nothing more than an armed rabble. The Mughal artillery was crude and ineffective against the guerilla tactics of marathas. There was a general lack of discipline among the soldiers as well which reduced their overall efficiency and kill power.
- **Rise of Marathas:** The most important external factor which brought about the decline of Mughal empire was the rising power of Marathas under the Peshwas. The peshwas consolidated the Maratha power in western India and channelized energies of nation in an attack on Mughal empire.
- **Failure of Jagirdari system & impoverishment of Peasantry:** As the number of Nobles Increased and Land Being fixed, there was increasing Paucity of Jagirs and the reducing income out of the Jagir. This led to intense rivalry among the nobles for possession of Jagirs. Due to the Paucity of Jagirs, Nobles tried to maximise their earnings at the cost of Peasantry. They made heavy demands on the Peasants and cruelly oppressed them, often in violation of official regulations. This led to severe Discontent among the peasantry which found their outlet in various uprisings for example the Satnamis, Jats, Sikhs etc which in turn eroded the stability of the empire.
- **Invasions by Nadir Shah and Ahmad shah Abdali:** The final blow to Mughal empire was a series of foreign invasions. Invasions by Nadir Shah and Ahmad shah Abdali which were themselves the consequences of their weakness, drained the empire of its wealth, ruined its trade and industry in north, and almost destroyed its military power.

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**(B) Regional Ppower:: Three Type: pfStates**

After the decline of the Mughals, many regional powers came into existence. These regional powers can be classified into three categories:

<b>Successor States</b>	Arose as result of assertion of autonomy by Mughal governors.	bangal, auvadh hydrabad,
<b>Rebel states</b>	Due to rebel by chieftains, zamindars, and peasants.	jatts,shikh, marathas
<b>Independent kingdoms</b>	Not much significant Mughal influence	mysore , tevsome



Recent historical writings on eighteenth century India have tended to focus on the emergence of regional political systems as a central theme, rather than highlighting the decline of the Mughal Empire as a process dominating the century. The emergence of these states represented a transformation ratherthan collapse of the polity. It signified a decentralisation of power and not a power vacuum or political chaos.

State	Founder
Hyderabad	Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah   (Chin Qulich Khan)
Awadh	Saadat Khan (Burhan-ul-Mulk)
Bengal	Murshid Quli Khan
Mysore	Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar woderyar dynasty and de facto hyder ali khan.
Carnatic	
Bharatpur	Churaman Jat (r. 1695-1721)
Ruhelkhand	

**The Mughal Structure:**

<b>Suba</b>	Subedar (Nazim) Diwan Bakshi Qazi Waqai Navis	<b>System of checks and balances</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The imperial control over the provinces was mainly through the control over appointment of the Nazim and the Diwan.</li><li>• Many other officials like Amils, Faujdars, etc., were dependent on the emperor who appointed them.</li></ul>
<b>Sarkar</b>	Fauzdar Amalguzar	
<b>Paragana</b>	Shiqdar Fotedar	
<b>Local</b>	Zamidars Chowdhary	

**Weakening central control in the successor states:**


- So, the subedars established their own **dynastic rule** in the provinces.
- Gradually the relationship of the centre with the provinces was virtually reduced to **tributary**. Soon, the flow of tribute to the imperial treasury became **irregular**.
- Tendency among the governors was to **appoint their own men** in the administration.
  - Subedars obtained collaborative support of local elements like **zamindars** and **merchants/money lenders**.

Though the sovereignty of the Mughal emperor was not challenged. The establishment of practically independent and hereditary authority by the governor and subordination of all offices within the region to the governor showed the emergence of an independent states.



## (1) Bengal

- **Murshid Quli Khan** laid the foundation - Emergence of new power structure.
  - He was the **Subedar** of Bengal in 1713. However, he was the effective ruler of Bengal since 1700 when he was appointed as its **Diwan** by Aurangzeb.
  - He **established peace** by freeing Bengal of **internal and external** danger. He suppressed three major uprisings during his reign. He was a very successful governor who **reformed administration** and **increased** the collection of land **revenue**. Most importantly, he **consolidated Zaminadari** tenures by handing over the estates to his favourites.
  - There was growing **importance of commercial elements** due to relentless pressure on **zamindar** for payments.
  - Large number of **Hindu officers** were also part of his administration.



**Murshidabad** on the bank of Hooghly River was named after Murshid Quli Khan. It was the capital of the prosperous subah of Bengal, which included today's **Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, and Bangladesh**.

It was strategically located on the Hooghly River for transportation of goods from the countryside to cities and the seacoast. It also became a centre of high-quality **silk** weaving that attracted the interest of British, Dutch, and French.

This wealth and power enabled the nobility and its trading community to invest in grand structures - the building of lavish homes, public buildings, and tombs.

- **Shuja-ud-din** (r. till 1739)
  - Delhi ties and tribute continued but practically complete administrative independence achieved in his era.

- **Alivardi Khan (1740-56)**

Alivardi Khan killed Sarfaraz Khan, the son and successor to Shuja-ud-din and seized power. Thus, the family of Murshid Kuli Khan was replaced by the family of Alivardi Khan in 1740.

He later obtained the imperial confirmation of the appointment. He was a key figure in the **chief** establishment of Bengal. His rule **ushered in an era of political stability**.

- He was backed by the Zamindars and bankers.

- He **relied heavily on bankers for revenue collection** which enabled a few financial concerns to make huge profits through what actually amounted

Nawabs of Bengal		
1	Murshid Quli Khan	1713-27
2	Shuja-ud-din	1727-39
3	Sarfaraz Khan (incapable)	
4	Alivardi Khan	1740-56
5	<b>Siraj-ud-daulah</b>	1756-57
6	Mir Jafar	1757-60
7	Mir Qasim	1760-63
8	Mir Jafar	1763-65
9	Najim-ud-daulah (minor)	1765-66

to usury. The most important of these banking firms was that of the famous Jagat Seths.

- During his reign, there was **total break from the Mughals**.
  - All major appointment (of Alivardi's choice) without reference to the emperor. For the first time, all the revenue flow from Bengal to Delhi was completely stopped.
- He encouraged **trade** and **industry** by ensuring peace and order throughout his regime. He started giving **taccavi loan** to strengthen agriculture sector.
- Two external threats
  - **Marathas** entering from Central India and demanding Chauth. Alivardi sued for peace by agreeing to pay **Chauth** and handing over Odisha.
  - **Afghans** (Mustafa Khan) captures Patna, but Alivardi defeated him.
- After his death, **Siraj-ud-daula** became the nawab of Bengal in 1756. Suraj was his daughter's son. He came in direct face off with the British power in 1757 in the battle of Plassey.



Alivardi Khan with Hawk, in audience with nobles. (V&A Museum)



The Jagat Seth Palace, Murshidabad  
(Indian imitation of European building)

Jagat Seth was a **Jain family**, originally from **Rajasthan**. It rose to prominence and power after becoming the bankers (**seths**) and financiers of the nawabs of Murshidabad. The Jagat Seth family forged close ties with the British and conspired to overthrow **Nawab** Siraj-ud-Daula, for which they were later punished. Murshidabad lost its eminence when the treasury and banking centre was moved to **Calcutta**.



## (2) Awadh

### • Saadat Khan (Burhan-ul-Mulk)

- Burhan-ul-Mulk held the combined offices of subadari, diwani and faujdari. In other words, he was responsible for managing the political, financial and military affairs of the province of Awadh. With this, he created his own authority and exercised his independent power.
- In 1722, he refused the imperial order transferring him to Malwa from Awadh and declared himself the independent ruler of Awadh, based in Lucknow.
  - Suppressed local rebellious zamindars.
  - Reduced authority of madad-i-mash grantees.
  - Systematised revenue collection by introducing revenue reforms.
  - Filled up all posts with his relatives.
- Saadat wanted to use Persian connection to increase role in Delhi politics, but Nadir Shah frustrated that attempt. Saadat committed suicide in 1739.

### Safdar Jang (1739-54)

- He became Wazir of the Mughal emperor in 1748 and from this time onwards, the Nawab of Awadh came to be known as Nawab-Wazir.
- Revenue to Delhi was sent irregularly.
- Office of Diwan was abolished, large number of Hindu gentry officers were absorbed.
- Last monumental tomb garden of Mughal era.



Safdar Jang's Tomb, New Delhi

He was the nephew of Saadat Khan. He lived in Delhi and served in the court of Muhammad Shah. He died in 1754 and was buried in Delhi.

The tomb is made in red sandstone, like Humayun's tomb, yet its elongated form, pointed onion-shaped dome and painted stucco decorations lack elegance of the older imperial style.

**Shuja-ud-daula** (r. 1754-75)

- He didn't cut off the ties with Delhi completely, formal nominal acknowledgement continued. He re-established dominance of Awadh over Delhi and got appointed as **Wazir**.
- He took the side of Ahmad Shah Abdali to check **Maratha** threat in north India during the **Third Battle of Panipat**.
- He was in alliance against rising English power but defeated by **British in Buxar** (1764).



Bara Imambara (Lucknow) was built in 1780s as famine relief operation.



Built in 1789s, Rumi Darwaza in Lucknow is also known as Turkish gate. It is a fine example of Late Awadhi architecture.

### (3) Bharatpur State of Jats

Churaman Jat (r. 1695-1721) established the Jat state of Bharatpur in Agra-Mathura region. He had become the Jat leader after the death of Rajaram and continued with his hit-and-run raids. Under Churaman, Jats acquired control over territories situated to the west of the city of Delhi, and by the 1680s they had begun dominating the region between the two imperial cities of Delhi and Agra. For a while they became the virtual custodians of the city of Agra. Aurangzeb's successors had no option but to yield to the demands of the Jats.

Under Badan Singh (1721-56), Jats consolidated their position and built forts of Degh, Bher, Kumbher and Bharatpur. Ahmad Shah Abdali conferred him with the titles of Raja and Mahendra.

Suraj Mal Jat (r. 1756-63) succeeded him. In the Third battle of Panipat, his was the only north Indian state that helped Marathas in some capacity against the invasion of Abdali. He had taken Agra and marched onto Delhi in 1763. He was made Faujdar of Mathura by Mughals - a clear signal that the later Mughals were unable quell the Jats and were forced to recognize their power.



Lohagar Fort, Bharatpur

It was built by Suraj Mal between 1740-60. From here, Jats controlled the prosperous land between Agra and Delhi and hence were continuously attacked by Mughals.



Palace complex at Deeg

While Bharatpur fort was built in traditional style, the Deeg palace is elaborate garden palace combining styles seen at Amber and Agra, (eg Bangla dome)

#### (4) Rohilla Pathans - Rohilkhanda

Rohilla Pathan named Ali Muhammad Khan established Rohilla state at the foothills of Himalayas between Ganga and Kumaon mountains. It largely came into existence as a check to the power of Awadh during factional politics in Delhi. Its initial capital was Aaolan in Bareilly and later it moved to Rampur.

Some important personalities:

- Najib ud Daula - His collaboration with Abdali during later's invasion of India made him Mir Bakshi and Delhi passed under his control. During the Third battle of Panipat, he sided with Ahmad Shah Abdali against Marathas.
- Muhammad Khan Bangash Pathan founded independent state of Farrukhabad.

This state existed from 1721 till 1774 as independent power. It was first invaded by Awadh and then it continued as the princely state of Rampur under British.

##### Rampur Raza Library:

It was built up by successive Nawabs of Rampur and is now managed by the Government of India on the name of Raza Ali Khan of Rampur. It contains very rare and valuable collection of manuscripts, historical documents, specimens of Islamic calligraphy, miniature paintings, astronomical instruments, and rare illustrated works in Arabic and Persian.






(5) Kingdom of Amber (Dhoondhar or Jaipur State)

The most outstanding Rajput ruler of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was Raja Sawai Jai Singh of Amber (1681-1743). He was a distinguished statesman, law-maker, and reformer.

- He founded the city of Jaipur and transformed it into a great centre of science and art. Jaipur was built on strictly scientific principles and according to a regular plan.
- He also erected observatories with accurate and advanced instruments at Delhi, Jaipur, Ujjain, Varanasi and Mathura. He drew up a set of tables entitled Zij Muhammad Shai.
- He had translated Euclid's Elements of Geometry, Napier's work on construction and logarithms into Sanskrit.
- Jai Singh was also a social reformer. He tried to enforce a law to reduce the lavish expenditure which the Rajputs had to incur on their daughters' weddings.



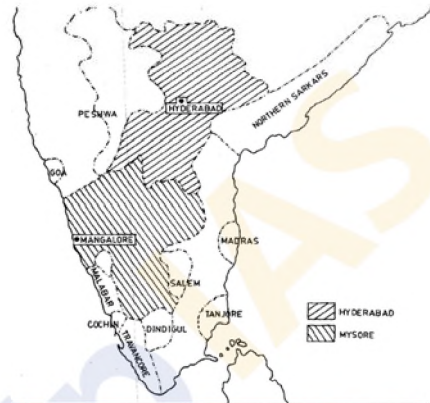
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	
Jantar Mantar, Jaipur	Jaipur City, Rajasthan
<p>The Jantar Mantar, in Jaipur, is an astronomical observation site built in the early 18th century. It includes a set of some 20 main fixed instruments. They are monumental examples in masonry of known instruments but which in many cases have specific characteristics of their own. Designed for the observation of astronomical positions with the naked eye, they embody several architectural and instrumental innovations. This is the most significant, most comprehensive, and the best preserved of India's historic observatories. It is an expression of the astronomical skills and cosmological concepts of the court of a scholarly prince at the end of the Mughal period.</p> 	<p>The walled city of Jaipur, in India's north-western state of Rajasthan was founded in 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh II. Unlike other cities in the region located in hilly terrain, Jaipur was established on the plain and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture. The streets feature continuous colonnaded businesses that intersect in the centre, creating large public squares called chaupars. Markets, shops, residences and temples built along the main streets have uniform facades. The city's urban planning shows an exchange of ideas from ancient Hindu and early modern Mughal as well as Western cultures. The grid plan is a model that prevails in the West, while the organization of the different city sectors (chowkris) refers to traditional Hindu concepts. Designed to be a commercial capital, the city has maintained its local commercial, artisanal and cooperative traditions to this day.</p>



## (7) Hyderabad - Asaf Jahi Family

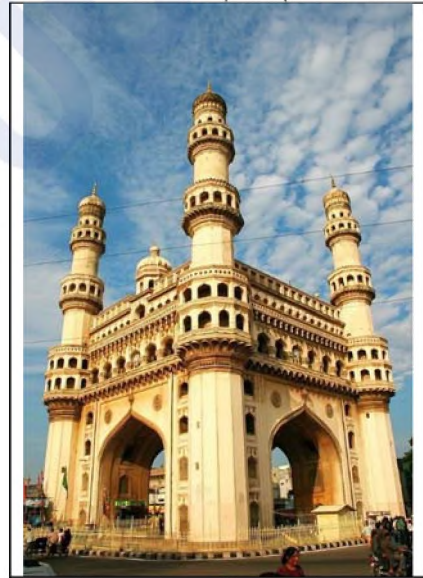
- **Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I** (Chin Qulich Khan) (r. 1724-48)

- Initially, he was appointed subedar in Deccan in 1713. He stayed on in Deccan and went to the Mughal court to become **Vazir** in 1721 after elimination of Sayyid brothers, but only after leaving his own appointee in charge.
- In 1724, when he was given the title of Nizam-ul-Mulk and made the governor of Deccan, he removed the Mughal officials in Hyderabad and installed his own men. He also assumed the right to make **treaties**, wars and **grant mansabas** and **titles**. Now gradually the Mughal authority was reduced to a symbolic reading of **Khutba** etc.
- After his death, Hyderabad became the scapegoat in the Anglo-French rivalry.



- **Nizam Ali** (1762-1803)

- By his time, **Carnatic**, **Marathas** and **Mysore** had all settled their territorial claims and some kind of a stable political pattern emerged in Hyderabad.
- One key feature of the administration was meticulous record-keeping and here **Hindu Kayasthas** played an important role as **scribes**.
- In spite of external threats, the principality of Hyderabad was prosperous. But growing pressure from Maratha and Mysore made the ruler sign a treaty with the EIC in 1759 which ensured an influence British presence - **Resident, troops, and concession of territory** in Hyderabad. **Finally, he signed subsidiary alliance with British in 1798.**



Charminar, Hyderabad

This landmark gateway to the old city of Hyderabad was built by Sultan Quli Qutb Shah in 1590s to provide employment after a deadly plague.

### Peshwa-Nizam Relations:

- Battle of Palkhed (1728)
- Battle of Bhopal (1737)
- Battle of Udgir (1760)
- Battle of Kharda (1795)

## (8) Marathas

TBD Later

## (9) Mysore

Mysore was the successor state of Vijayanagara after its decline. Wodeyar rulers transformed it from Vijayanagar viceroyalty to autonomous state.



### Chikkadeva Raja Wodeyar (r. 1673-1704)

- He was the most notable of the early Mysore kings who not only managed to survive but expand the territory.

Began the militarization of Mysore

state. To sustain it, he needed more revenue from state officials and exempted lands held by soldiers from revenue demands.

The political chaos which followed the decline of Mughal empire fostered the rise of a group of energetic and ambitious military adventures in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. One such successful military adventurer was Hyder Ali who laid the foundation of the autonomous Nawabi Riyasat of Mysore. Under Hyder and Tipu, Mysore not only emerged as an advanced military power but also became home to modern economic developments.

### Hyder Ali

- In the midst of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Haider Ali, a captain in the army, rose to prominence. His victory against the Marathas at Bangalore in 1758, resulting in the annexation of their territory, made him an iconic figure. In honour of his achievements, the king gave him the title "Nawab Haider Ali Khan Bahadur." So, starting from a low origin, Hyder gradually worked up his way through hierarchy.
- In 1761, he overthrew the authority of the king and established himself as the sultan. Within the next two decades, Mysore became the leading state of the region with an army that could effectively challenge the EIC.

Centralization of power

- Controlled independent poligars' activities.
- Introduced the system of imposing land taxes directly on the peasants.

He expanded the territories. The territories of the state now encompassed much of present-day Karnataka, large portions of Andhra, most of western Tamil Nadu barring the extreme south and northern Kerala. He also succeeded in defeating British in a number of military encounters.

### Tipu Sultan

- He took the reign from father in 1782. In 1787, he declared himself Badshah after repudiating the overlordship of the Mughal emperor Shah Alam.
- He played a very significant role in the modernization of Mysore. Under Tipu, the state became a critical player in various kinds of economic activities.

## development of agriculture and horticulture

tipu played very significant role in agriculture.  
tax incentive vest line declension  
protecting peasant from money lender and

industry Gun factory/foundry salt factory  
he try to devolve modern industry with French support

trade and commerce's among Indian rule he first try to run first trading company on model of urope.  
he sends ambassador to france and try to build navy for oceanic trade.

introduce state monopoly :

he participated in lucrative trade sandal wood, cocunut ,silk rise by established trading center including musscut

globe outlook : tipu was much aware than comtempary in Indian in trends in polities. he attempted to forge international allien by sending ambasees to turkey and france his relationship with France become more cardiant in which his sympathy with jaccobeen.

military reorgansation : they understood the rule of maysoor do well in polities only if they modern military

### Prelims Facts:

- As part of his social reform measures, Tipu tried to abolish various social abuses like **alcoholism**. He was the first modern Indian monarch to ban consumption of alcohol in the entire State, not on religious grounds, but on moral and health grounds.
- First to **confiscate** the **property** of upper castes, including Mutts, and distribute it among the **Shudras**.
- Tipu established a biodiversity garden named Lal Bagh.
- Tipu belonged to the Chisti/Bande Nawaz tradition of Sufism.
- Tipu identified himself with the American and French Revolution and Jacobinism



Daria Daulat Bagh, Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace, Srirangapatna, Mysore.

Tipu built a walled enclosure for his wooden summer palace. Its wide veranda is animated with paintings of marching, warring armies of the French and the British. There are several paintings of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan leading their men into battle.



(10) Travancore (state of Kerala)

The four states which became prominent in Kerala were Calicut, Chirakkal (Kannur), Cochin and Travancore. Among them, Calicut and Travancore were more prominent. Calicut was ruled by Zamorin.

Travancore had always maintained its independence from Mughal rule. After the decline of Vijayanagara, it was unified in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Martanda Varma.

- (Anizham Tirunal) Martanda Varma (r. 1729-58)

- Started expanding his dominions with the help of his **modernized army**.
- Dutch were ousted in the **Battle of Colachel** (1741) and the **English** were made to accept his terms of trade.
- By the beginning of the 1740s, Varma had constructed a **powerful bureaucratic state**, which required control over larger resources. He resolved this problem by **proclaiming royal monopoly**, first on pepper trade and then on all trade in the prosperous Malabar coast.



- Rama Varma (Dharma Raja) (1758-1798)

- His period is considered a **Golden Age in the history of Travancore**.
- He not only retained the **territorial gains** of his predecessor, but also improved and encouraged **social development**. Travancore was known for its relatively **high** literacy rate and its progressive government.
- He was a **poet, scholar, musician**, a renowned actor and a man of great culture. Under his leadership, his capital became a **centre of scholarship** and art. During his reign, **Malayalam** language developed.
- Travancore withstood the shock of a **Mysorean invasion** in 1766 (Hyder Ali) and 1798 (Tipu Sultan).



Swathi Thirunal Rama Varma (1829-46) was a patron of music and arts.

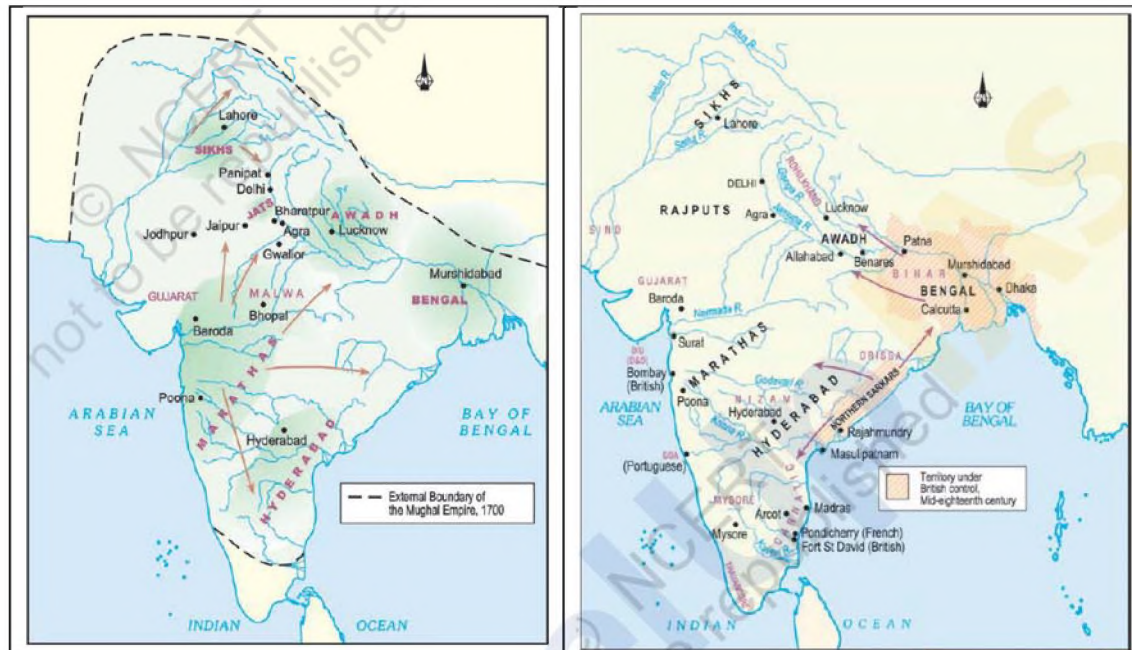
- **Balarama Varma** (1798-1810), the weakest ruler of the dynasty. A treaty brought Travancore under a **Subsidiary alliance with the East India Company** in 1795.

- **Velu Thampi Revolt (1809)**



### (C) 18<sup>th</sup> century Debate

Traditionally, the 18<sup>th</sup> century was divided into two parts i.e. first half and second half. Then in the course of their evaluation, both were juxtaposed with each other. The first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was characterized as the 'Dark age' or the age of crisis and the second half was projected as a progressive age which was associated with the Plassey Revolution. But in the light of recent scholarship, such a view has been rejected.



#### First half of the 18<sup>th</sup> c = Dark age or the Age of Crisis

Historians of the early generation saw the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Indian history as a period of decline. The contemporary British writers and later British historians described the period as one of total chaos. Rebel leaders were fighting with each other, and **Maratha raids disrupted** overall peace. It created overall anarchy from which India was rescued by British rule, who alone were able to establish stability.

Sir **Jadunath Sarkar** referred to the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a dark age for the moral decay and degeneration of the Mughal aristocracy leading to collapse of Mughal empire, and consequent political fragmentation of India. Many Indian historians believed that the 18<sup>th</sup> century represented the dark age due to Mughal **decline and political** fragmentation but most of them didn't buy the second half of the British -that British rescued Indian out of an abyss. For them, British only added to the chaos and confusion.

Then Marxist historians called this period the age of crises i.e., **Jagirdari crisis, Agrarian crisis**, etc. causing economic stagnation and leading to complete anarchy.

With the progress of historical scholarship however this view has appeared to be too simplistic. Recent scholarship on the subject has unveiled the fact that the on-ground realities

of the period were not so simple, and that the cultural and political developments of the period were more complex than they were earlier supposed to be. It appears that there were isolated pockets where cultural and economic regeneration, on a small scale, took place.

### **Why had this view been rejected?**

1) rise of successor state: while on one hand central power is been disintegrating other hand efficient government are established at regional level bengal avadh hyderabad marathas. these government only improve law and order but also cherish economical activity . lack of central empire is not sign of decline and present of central empire is not sign of progress.

2) such views of dark ages emerge delhi centric focus of study however mughal decline does not changes india . many social group outside the orbit was not affected by mughal decline

3) during this period two factors affected the economical prosperity activity influx of silver ,and influx of new cash crop on larger scale .hence this periods prosperous economical puppets

4) above all period is mark by great theory of absorption although mughal empire disintegrate there was wide culture spread in regional level painting architecture etc.

enlight of above mentioned factors first half of century does not become dark age rather this period egalant with new potentialities

establishment of new polities was dominant feature rather than rise of all indian empire than another.



## Second half of the 18\*\*1 c = Age of Revolution

This view has been promoted by a British apologist scholar, Sir Jadunath Sarkar. He characterized the Battle of Plassey as the Plassey Revolution. He believes that the conquest at Plassey heralded the process of modernization in India. So, he declared, with the Battle of Plassey the medieval age ended, and modern age started. In fact, the British apologist scholars characterized the first half of the 18th century as dark age so that it would be easy for them to highlight the success of British rule after the Battle of Plassey.

On 23rd June 1757 the Middle Ages of India ended and her modern age began in the twenty years from Plassey... all felt the revivifying touch of the impetus from the west. - Sir Jadunath Sarkar

However, this view has totally been rejected by Indian scholars. After the Battle of Plassey, during almost whole of the 18th century the company government did not take any concrete step to modernize India. Up to the end of the 18th century, the company government maintained almost all the old Mughal structure and the government with limited modifications. During this period, their main objective in India was simply to maximize the collection of revenue.