Chapter - 02 History

From Trade to Territory

• Auranangzeb was the last powerful Mughal ruler.

• East India Company comes East:

- (i) In 1600 royal charter granted to East India Company granting the sole right to trade with the East.
- (ii) East India Company bought goods at a cheap price and sold them at higher price in Europe.
- (iii) Cotton and silk produced in India had a big market in Europe.
- (iv) Pepper, cloves, cardamom and cinnamon were in great demand.

• East India Company begins Trade in Bengal:

- (i) In 1651, the first English factory was set up on the banks of river Hugli.
- (ii) Aurangzeb issued a farman granting the company the right to trade duty free.
- (iii) The company tried to press for more concessions and manipulate existing privileges.

How did Trade Lead to Battles:

- (i) After the death of Aurangzeb, the Bengal Nawabs asserted their power and autonomy.
- (ii) The Nawabs of Bengal refused to grant the company concessions.

• The Battle of Plassey:

- (i) On 23rd June 1757, Battle of Plassey was fought and was the first major victory of English in India.
- (ii) Alivardi Khan died in 1756 and Sirajuddaulah became the Nawab of Bengal.
- (iii) In 1757, Robert Clive led the Company's army against Sirajuddulah at Plassey.
- (iv) Main reason for defeat of the Nawab was that the forces led by Mir Jafar, one of Sirajuddaulah's commanders, never fought the battle.
- (v) Mir Jafar was promised by Clive to be made Nawab after crushing Sirajuddaulah.

• The Battle of Buxar:

- (i) After the defeat at Plassey, Sirajuddaulah was assassinated and Mir Jafar was made the Nawab.
- (ii) Mir Jafar was just a puppet in the hands of Britishers.
- (iii) In 1764, the battle of Buxar was fought between Britishers and Mir Qasim.
- (iv) In 1765 Mir Jafar died.
- (v) In 1765, the Mughal emperor appointed the company as the Diwan of the provinces of Bengal.

• Company Officals became 'Nabobs':

- (i) In 1764, Robert Clive was appointed Governor of Bengal.
- (ii) 'Nabobs'-an anglicized version of the Indian word Nawab.

Company Rule Expands:

- (i) The process of annexation of Indian states by the East India Company from 1757 to 1857 brought forth some key aspects like the company rarely launched a direct military attack on as unknown territory.
- (ii) After battle of Buxar, the company appointed residents in Indian states.
- (iii) The company forced the states into a 'subsidiary alliance'.
- (iv) The Nawab of Awadh and the Nizam of Hyderabad were forced to cede territories and accept the subsidiary alliances.

• Tipu Sultan-'The Tiger of Mysore':

- (i) Tipu Sultan was the son of Haidar Ali, ruler of Mysore.
- (ii) Tipu Sultan ruled Mysore from 1782 to 1799.
- (iii) Four wars were fought between Britishers and Mysore and were known as the Anglo-Mysore wars(1767-1769, 1780-84, 1790-92 and 1799).
- (iv) In 1799, the Britishers won the battle of Seringapatam against Mysore.
- (v) Tipu Sultan was killed defending his capital Seringapatam.