



DAILY CLASS NOTES

BPSC MODERN HISTORY

Lecture - 07

European Company 04





European Company 04

Dutch Company

- ❖ In 1595–1596, the first Dutch fleet, led by Cornelis de Houtman, sailed east. This fleet came towards the spice islands of Indonesia, not directly to India. In 1596, Houtman traveled to Sumatra and Bantam.
- ❖ The main purpose of this expedition was to reach the spice islands of Indonesia, not directly to India.
- ❖ The United East India Company of the Netherlands (Dutch East India Company) was founded in 1602, originally named the Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie (VOC).
- ❖ The company was established by the States-General of the Netherlands and was granted a 21-year trading monopoly in Asia. It is considered the world's first multinational corporation and the first company to issue stock.
- ❖ The Dutch East India Company was founded in 1602, but their first factory in India was established in 1605 at Masulipatnam (present-day Andhra Pradesh).
- ❖ The Dutch companies worked on the basis of joint capital.
- ❖ The company made all treaties in the name of the Dutch government.
- ❖ The Dutch initially took interest in the spice trade and then in the cloth trade.
- ❖ In 1619 the Dutch conquered Jakarta and established a city called Batavia there.

Dutch settlements:-

- ❖ **Masulipatnam (Machilipatnam):-** In 1605 (The first Dutch settlement was established in Masulipatnam in 1605.)
- ❖ **Pulicat:-** In 1610
- ❖ **Surat:-** In 1616
- ❖ **Pipli:-** In 1627 (The Dutch East India Company established its first factory in Bengal in 1627 at Pipli.)
- ❖ **Bimlipatam:-** In 1641
- ❖ **Chinsurah:-** In 1653 (Chinsurah became a more powerful Dutch trade center in 1653. The Dutch built a fort named Gustavul here.)
- ❖ **Cochin:-** 1663
- ❖ In 1690, the Dutch shifted their headquarters from Pulicat to Nagapattinam.

Dutch trade in India:-

- ❖ The Dutch traded cotton, indigo, silk, rice and opium with India.

- ❖ The Dutch exported heavily from the Coromandel coast.
- ❖ The Dutch made Indian cloth a major export item.
- ❖ The Dutch introduced their gold-made “Pagoda” coin in Pulicat.

Competition of the Dutch with other European companies:-

- ❖ The Dutch virtually expelled the Portuguese from maritime trade in India. But they could not stand before the naval power of the British.
- ❖ The Dutch were defeated by the British in the “Battle of Bedara” in 1759. The Battle of Bedara was fought between British and Dutch forces on 25 November 1759. This war took place in Bengal, and the British defeated the Dutch decisively in it. After this war, the influence of the Dutch in India diminished and they moved to Indonesia.
- ❖ The Battle of Bedara is also known as the Battle of Chinsura. This war was the result of trade competition between the British and the Dutch. The Dutch had worked together with Nawab Mir Jafar to oust the British and strengthen their position in Bengal.
- ❖ In 1795, the British invaded the Dutch Republic following the French Revolution and began taking over Dutch colonies.
- ❖ In 1795, the British took over the Dutch settlements on the Malabar coast, but this was not the final departure of the Dutch from India.
- ❖ In 1824–25, the British annexed the last of the Dutch trading centres to the English East India Company.

Danish Company

- ❖ The Danish East India Company came to India in 1616.
- ❖ The first Danish factory was established in Tranquebar (Tamil Nadu) in 1620. They built a fort (Fort Dansborg) in Tranquebar.
- ❖ The second factory was built in Serampore (Bengal) in 1676. Serampore was the headquarters of the Danes in India.
- ❖ In the 17th century, the town of Cossimbazar, under the supervision of the Danes, was the largest producer of silk thread.
- ❖ Initially, the Danes had trading competition with the Portuguese. But they left India in 1745.
- ❖ The Danes were the first European company to leave India.

French Company

- ❖ It was established in 1664.
- ❖ It was the last European company to come to India.
- ❖ During the time of Louis 14th (1643-1715, dynasty - Bourbon) the French East India Company i.e. 'Compagnie Indes Orientales' was established with the help of Prime Minister Colbert. It was a state controlled company.
- ❖ In 1667 the first French expedition team came to India under the leadership of Francis Carro.

Major French Settlements:-

- ❖ In 1668 Francois Caron established the first French factory in Surat.
- ❖ In 1669 the second French factory was built in Masulipatnam by Marcara.
- ❖ The French acquired Chandranagar of Bengal from the then Nawab of Bengal Shaista Khan and here in 1673 they established a factory. In 1690 a fort named "Fort Orientales" was built here.
- ❖ In 1674, the French acquired a village named Pondicherry from the Sultan of Bijapur and a prosperous city was established here by Frank Martin, which later emerged as the main centre of the French in India.
- ❖ Frank Martin was the first governor of Pondicherry.
- ❖ Frank Martin had accepted the subordination of Shivaji.
- ❖ The French colony was established in Mauritius in 1721.
- ❖ The French factory in Yanam was established in 1723. In 1723, the French company established a trading post here, although it was vacated in 1727, as the expected results were not obtained. In 1731, during the reign of Dupleix, it was regained.
- ❖ The French factory was established in Mahe in 1725.
- ❖ The French colony was established in Karaikal in 1739.
- ❖ The headquarters of the French was initially Surat which was later shifted to Pondicherry.

Objectives of the French Company:-

- ❖ The main objective of the French to come to India was trade and commerce. From the time of their arrival in India till 1741, the main objective of the French, like the British, was completely commercial.

- ❖ With the passage of time, the objectives of the French also started changing and they started considering India as one of their colonies.
- ❖ In 1741, Joseph Francois Dupleix was made the governor of the French East India Company. During his time, the political objectives of the company became clearly visible and at times, they were given more importance than the commercial objectives of the company.
- ❖ Dupleix was highly intelligent who took advantage of the mutual enmity of the local kings and on the strength of his cleverness and diplomacy, achieved a respected place in the Indian political scenario.
- ❖ Dupleix's army, under the leadership of Marquis de Bussy, captured the area between Hyderabad and Cape Comorin.
- ❖ In 1744, British officer Robert Clive came to India who later defeated Dupleix. After this defeat, Dupleix was called back to France in 1754.

Battle of Wandiwash and decline of French power:-

- ❖ The Battle of Wandiwash was fought between the British and the French in India on 22 January 1760.
- ❖ This war was a part of the Third Carnatic War.
- ❖ In this war, the French army was led by Comte de Lally and the British army was led by Sir Eyre Coote.
- ❖ In this war, the British defeated the French decisively, which helped in establishing British dominance in India.

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MODERN HISTORY

DMP - 06

Model Answer

1. Write a short note on the circumstances of the arrival of the Dutch Company in India and its contribution. (8 Marks)

Ans:-

Approach:-

- ❖ **Introduction:-** Write briefly about the circumstances of the arrival of the Dutch Company in India.
- ❖ **Main Body:-** Write about the contribution of Dutch company in India.
- ❖ **Conclusion:-** Conclude the answer by writing a concise conclusion.

Dutch (Netherlands) traders arrived in India during a period of European trade, when India was a major center of world trade, with products such as spices, silk, cotton, and indigo. The Dutch were the second European traders to arrive in India, after the Portuguese.

Circumstances of arrival:

- ❖ **Establishment of East India Company:** The Dutch established the Dutch East India Company (VOC) in 1602 AD, whose objective was to trade with the countries of Asia.
- ❖ **Demand for spices:** Indian spices (pepper, cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, etc.) were in high demand in Europe. The Dutch turned to India to break the Portuguese monopoly.
- ❖ **Political circumstances:** During the Mughal rule, India enjoyed internal stability and trade opportunities, which facilitated trade for foreign traders.
- ❖ **Competition from the Portuguese:** To counter Portuguese trade, the Dutch expanded their influence along the sea routes and established trading posts along the Indian coast.

Contribution of the Dutch in India

- ❖ **Establishment of trading centres:** The Dutch established trading centres at places like Masulipatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Pulicat (Tamil Nadu), Surat, Hooghly (West Bengal), Chinsura, and Nagarampatnam etc.
- ❖ The Dutch traded cotton, indigo, silk, rice and opium with India.
- ❖ **The Dutch exported heavily from the Coromandel coast.**
- ❖ **The Dutch made Indian cloth a major export item.**
- ❖ The Dutch introduced their gold-made "Pagoda" coin in Pulicat.
- ❖ Although their influence was limited compared to that of the British, remnants of Dutch architecture and culture can still be seen in some areas (especially coastal South India).



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The Dutch's arrival in India was primarily commercial. They contributed to the development of India's overseas trade and maritime routes, but they failed to establish a lasting political influence. By the 18th century, their influence had ended after they were defeated by the British.

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