Advent of European Companies in India

Description

The advent of European companies transformed Indian history dramatically. Portuguese, Dutch, French, and English established trading posts in India. This period from late 15th to 18th century witnessed significant developments. Understanding European arrival is essential for UPSC Civil Services aspirants. Modern Indian history forms crucial portion of examination syllabus significantly. Questions on European companies appear regularly in Prelims and Mains. Mastering this topic helps you score valuable marks consistently.

Indiaâ??s Pre-European Trade Relations

India had commercial relations with western countries from ancient times. Maritime trade flourished through Indian Ocean routes extensively regularly. From seventh century AD, sea-borne trade changed dramatically significantly. Arabs began to dominate Indian Ocean and Red Sea. Indian goods passed into Arab hands for centuries continuously.

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Enterprising merchants of Venice and Genoa purchased Indian goods. They obtained goods from Arab middlemen at high prices. This trade was extremely lucrative for all participants. The search for direct route motivated European exploration. Understanding trade background helps in economic questions effectively. The **best IAS coaching in Delhi** emphasizes commercial motivations thoroughly.

Geographical Discoveries of 15th Century

Geographical discoveries deeply affected commercial relations of different countries. These discoveries produced far-reaching consequences in world history. Bartholomew Diaz doubled the Cape of Good Hope in 1487. He initially called it the Stormy Cape descriptively. This discovery opened new sea route possibilities significantly.

Vasco da Gama found new route to India successfully. He reached the famous port of Calicut on 17th May 1498. This discovery revolutionized world trade patterns completely dramatically. Direct sea route eliminated Arab middlemen from trade. Understanding geographical discoveries helps in world history questions. The **top IAS coaching in Delhi** covers European exploration comprehensively.

The Portuguese in India

Vasco da Gamaâ??s Arrival at Calicut

Vasco da Gamaâ??s arrival at Calicut was historic moment. He was received by Hindu ruler known as Zamorin. The Zamorin initially welcomed Portuguese traders for commerce. The arrival led to establishment of trading stations. Portuguese began settling at Calicut for trade purposes.

However, relations soon turned hostile and violent unfortunately. Portuguese used force to dominate Indian Ocean trade. Their aggressive tactics antagonized local rulers and traders. Understanding initial contacts helps in colonial history questions. The **best UPSC coaching in Delhi** discusses early encounters thoroughly.

Establishment of Portuguese Power

Vasco da Gama established a factory at Cochin in 1502. He was followed by Alfonso de Albuquerque in 1503. In 1505, Portuguese decided to appoint governor for India. Francisco de Almeida became the first Portuguese governor officially. Albuquerque succeeded him in 1509 as second governor.

Albuquerque was real founder of Portuguese empire in east. He captured Goa from Bijapur ruler in 1510 strategically. Goa became the capital of Portuguese possessions in India. Portuguese acquired Diu and Bassein from Bahadur Shah in 1534. Understanding Portuguese expansion helps in political questions effectively. The **top IAS coaching in Delhi** provides detailed chronological analysis.

Portuguese Chronology in India

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Year	Event
1498	Vasco da Gama reached Calicut port
1502	Factory established at Cochin
1505	Francisco de Almeida became first governor
1509	Albuquerque succeeded as governor
1510	Albuquerque captured Goa from Bijapur
1530	Capital transferred from Cochin to Goa
1534	Diu and Bassein acquired from Gujarat
1542	St. Francis Xavier arrived in India
1612	Lost Surat to the English
1631	Lost Hugli to Mughal noble
1661	Bombay given to England as dowry
1739	Lost Salsette and Bassein to Marathas

Decline of Portuguese Power

After Albuquerque, Portuguese began to decline gradually progressively. Multiple factors contributed to their downfall significantly continuously. Inefficient successors of Albuquerque weakened administration considerably substantially. Corruption in Portuguese administration became widespread and endemic. Religious intolerance of Portuguese alienated local populations badly.

Rise of Dutch, French, and British challenged Portuguese monopoly. Portuguese were left only with Goa, Diu, and Daman. They retained these territories till 1961 when India liberated. Understanding decline helps in comparative colonial questions effectively. The **best IAS coaching in Delhi** analyzes decline patterns thoroughly.

The Dutch in India

Formation of Dutch East India Company

Lucrative trade enriching Portuguese compelled jealous Dutch to act. Dutch wanted direct access to spice markets in Southeast Asia. After undertaking voyages since 1596, they organized themselves systematically. They set up United East India Company in 1602.

The Dutch East India Company was formed in March 1602. A Charter of Dutch Parliament gave it extensive powers. The company could make wars, conclude treaties, and acquire territories. It could also build fortresses in eastern regions. Understanding company structure helps in institutional questions effectively. The **top UPSC coaching in Delhi** discusses company charters comprehensively.

Dutch Factories in India

The Dutch established numerous factories across India strategically extensively. Factory at Masulipatam was set up in 1605 initially. Pulicat factory was established in 1610 in coastal region. Surat factory came up in 1616 for western trade. Bimilipatam factory was set up in 1641 progressively.

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Karikal factory was established in 1645 in south India. Chinsura factory came up in 1653 in Bengal region. Factories at Kasimbazar, Baranagore, Patna, and Balasore established in 1658. Negapatam and Cochin factories were set up in 1658 and 1663. Understanding factory network helps in geographical questions significantly. The **best IAS coaching in Delhi** provides factory location maps.

Dutch Dominance and Decline

Dutch replaced Portuguese as most dominant European power. Their position in eastern trade including India was supreme. Pulicat was their main center in India till 1690. After 1690, Negapatam replaced Pulicat as main center importantly.

The Dutch conceded to English after defeat eventually finally. Battle of Bedara in 1759 marked their decline. Increasing Anglo-French rivalry affected Dutch interests negatively adversely. Dutch governmentâ??s interference in company affairs proved harmful. Government stressed maintaining primacy over carrying trade unwisely. Understanding Dutch decline helps in comparative analysis questions. The **top IAS coaching in Delhi** discusses all European powers.

The French in India

Formation of French East India Company

In middle of seventeenth century, French entered Indian trade. Louis XIVâ??s finance minister Colbert formed the company significantly. Compagnie des Indes Orientales was formed in 1664 officially. Louis XIV provided company with interest-free loan generously substantially. The loan was of 3 million livre supporting operations.

Accompanied by Marcara, French reached India and established presence. First French factory was set up at Surat in 1668. Second factory was established at Masulipatam in 1669 subsequently. Factory was developed at Chandernagar between 1690 and 1692. Understanding French entry helps in chronological questions effectively. The **best UPSC coaching in Delhi** covers all European entries.

Major French Trading Posts

Two major French trading posts were established in India. Pondicherry was established in 1674 by Francis Martin strategically. Chandernagar in Bengal was another important post significantly notably. These became centers of French power in India.

In 1693, Dutch captured newly built Pondicherry factory. By Treaty of Ryswick, mutual conquests were restored. Dutch returned Pondicherry to French in 1697 peacefully. Understanding such conflicts helps in international relations questions. The **top UPSC coaching in Delhi** discusses European conflicts thoroughly.

Change Under Dupleix

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From 1742, when Dupleix became Governor, things changed. Character and objective of French company transformed dramatically completely. Imperial expansion motive replaced former commercial motive significantly. This naturally opened new chapter in Anglo-French conflict.

Dupleix pursued aggressive territorial expansion policy actively ambitiously. He involved French in Indian political affairs deeply extensively. This territorial ambition led to conflicts with English. Understanding this shift helps in colonial policy questions. The **best IAS coaching in Delhi** analyzes colonial strategies comprehensively.

The English East India Company

Foundation of English Company

Before East India Company established trade, individual adventurers came. John Mildenhall was first Englishman who arrived in 1599. He came by overland route ostensibly for trade. His mission was to explore trade possibilities with Indians.

On 31st December 1600, Queen Elizabeth granted charter officially. The company was named â??Governor and Company of Merchantsâ?? formally. It got rights to trade with all eastern countries. This company is commonly known as English East India Company. Understanding company foundation helps in institutional questions effectively. The **top UPSC coaching in Delhi** discusses company evolution thoroughly.

English Chronology in India

Year	Event
1600	Establishment of English East India Company

Year	Event
1608	Captain William Hawkins visited Jahangirâ??s court
1609	Jahangir issued farman for factory at Surat
1613	English factory set up at Surat
1615	Sir Thomas Roe obtained trade farmans
1616	Branch factory at Masulipatam
1632	Golden Farman from Sultan of Golconda
1639	Lease of Madras obtained
1651	Trade rights in Bengal from Nawab
1662	Bombay received as dowry
1687	Headquarters moved from Surat to Bombay
1717	Trade concessions from Farrukhsiyar

Early English Efforts

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Captain William Hawkins came to Jahangirâ??s court in 1608. He carried letter from King James I of England. He requested permission for English merchants to establish trade. Portuguese and Surat merchants vehemently opposed this request strongly.

Emperor Jahangir changed his mind under pressure initially reluctantly. Hawkinsâ?? mission failed to achieve immediate objectives completely. However, next year Jahangir issued farman permitting English factory. Permanent factory at Surat was established in 1613 successfully. Understanding early struggles helps in diplomatic history questions. The **best IAS coaching in Delhi** covers diplomatic missions thoroughly.

Sir Thomas Roeâ??s Mission

In 1615, British mission under Sir Thomas Roe succeeded. He obtained farmans from Mughal court confirming rights officially. Free trade without liability to pay inland toll granted. This was major victory for English commercial interests.

In 1632, English obtained Golden Farman from Golconda Sultan. This granted right to trade throughout Golconda kingdom. Fixed customs duty of 500 pagodas per year payable. This farman was renewed in 1634 beneficially advantageously. Understanding such concessions helps in economic questions effectively. The **top UPSC coaching in Delhi** analyzes trade agreements comprehensively.

English Expansion in Bengal

Company obtained farman from Nawab Shuja-ud-din in 1651. English got right to trade on fixed duty payment. Annual payment of Rs. 3,000 was agreed upon. Ibrahim Khan granted duty-free trade farman in 1691.

Companyâ??s trade in Bengal began to prosper without break. In 1700, factories of Bengal got separate administration. President and Council were constituted for Bengal region. Fort William was

constructed and named after king. Sir Charles Eyre was appointed first President and Governor. Understanding administrative evolution helps in governance questions significantly. The **best IAS coaching in Delhi** discusses administrative structures thoroughly.

Farrukhsiyarâ??s Farman of 1717

In 1714, John Surman was sent to Delhi Court. He sought trading facilities for the company persistently patiently. He succeeded in obtaining farman from Emperor Farrukhsiyar. The farman of 1717 was extremely significant historically commercially.

Company was permitted to trade free of customs duty. This applied to Bengal, Bombay, and Madras territories comprehensively. Company was also permitted to mint its own coins. However, Nawabs of Bengal showed scant regard for farman. They often violated imperial orders for local interests. Understanding such farmans helps in legal history questions. The **top IAS coaching in Delhi** covers legal developments thoroughly.

Causes of Decline

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Portuguese Decline Factors

Inefficient successors of Albuquerque weakened Portuguese power considerably substantially. Corruption in Portuguese administration became rampant and widespread systematically. Religious intolerance of Portuguese alienated local populations completely. Rise of Dutch, French, and British challenged Portuguese monopoly.

Dutch Decline Factors

Increasing Anglo-French rivalry affected Dutch interests negatively adversely. Growing Dutch government interference in company affairs proved harmful. Government stressed maintaining primacy over carrying trade unwisely. Unsatisfactory behavior of Dutch towards Indians caused problems. Understanding decline helps in comparative questions effectively. The **best IAS coaching in Delhi** analyzes all decline patterns.

Relevance for UPSC Examination

European companies hold immense importance in UPSC syllabus significantly. Questions appear in both Prelims and Mains examinations regularly. Prelims tests factual knowledge about chronology and events specifically. Mains requires analytical understanding of colonial impact thoroughly comprehensively. You must explain commercial to political transition clearly.

Modern Indian history questions carry substantial weightage in examinations. European arrival appears in colonialism questions prominently frequently. Comparative questions ask about different European powers distinctly. Understanding trade concessions helps in economic questions significantly. Essay writing can incorporate colonial impact examples effectively. The **best IAS coaching in Delhi** prepares students comprehensively.

How to Prepare European Companies for UPSC

Preparing European companies requires systematic chronological approach and understanding. Start with NCERT textbooks for building basic historical foundation. Study each European power separately with timelines systematically thoroughly. Make comparative notes on their policies and decline. Create chronological tables for important events and dates.

Focus on understanding commercial motivations beyond mere facts. Analyze transition from trade to territorial control progressively. Practice answer writing on colonial topics regularly frequently. The **top UPSC coaching in Delhi** provides structured guidance.

SHRI RAM IAS in Mukherjee Nagar excels in modern history. Study material covers European companies comprehensively with details. The **best IAS coaching in Delhi** ensures quality delivery.

What is UPSC CSE Exam?

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