# MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA

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## 1. Advent of European Companies

### Anglo-French Rivalry: Causes and beginning of conflicts

- Anglo-French Rivalry (Carnatic Wars) arose from commercial and colonial ambitions, intensified by European conflicts like the Austrian War of Succession and the Seven Years' War.
- Dupleix (French Governor) was the first European to initiate the policy of taking part in the quarrels of Indian princes to acquire territories and revenues.
- The Carnatic Wars were fought primarily between the English and French for supremacy in India.
- First Carnatic War (1746-1748):
  - Cause: Austrian War of Succession in Europe.
  - Battle of St. Thome (Adyar): French defeated Nawab of Carnatic's forces.
  - Ended by Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748), restoring Madras to the English.
- Second Carnatic War (1749-1754) / Second Anglo-French War:
  - Cause: French and English intervention in succession disputes for Hyderabad and Carnatic.
  - Ended by Treaty of Pondicherry (1754); French governor Dupleix was recalled.
- Third Carnatic War (1758-1763):
  - Cause: Seven Years' War in Europe.
  - Battle of Wandiwash (1760): Decisive English victory (Sir Eyre Coote) over French (Comte de Lally).
  - Ended by Treaty of Paris (1763); French factories restored but forbidden to fortify or engage in political activities, effectively ending French power in India.
- The Carnatic Wars established British supremacy and largely eliminated French military and political presence in India.
- Later, policies like the Subsidiary Alliance (introduced by Wellesley in 1798) were instrumental in eliminating foreign influence (including potential French resurgence) by bringing Indian states under British control and disallowing foreign relations.
- Chronological Order of Wars:
  - Second Anglo-French War (Second Carnatic War): 1749-1754
  - First Anglo-Mysore War: 1767-1769
  - First Anglo-Afghan War: 1838-1842
  - First Anglo-Sikh War: 1845-1846

### Arrival and establishment of the Dutch East India Company

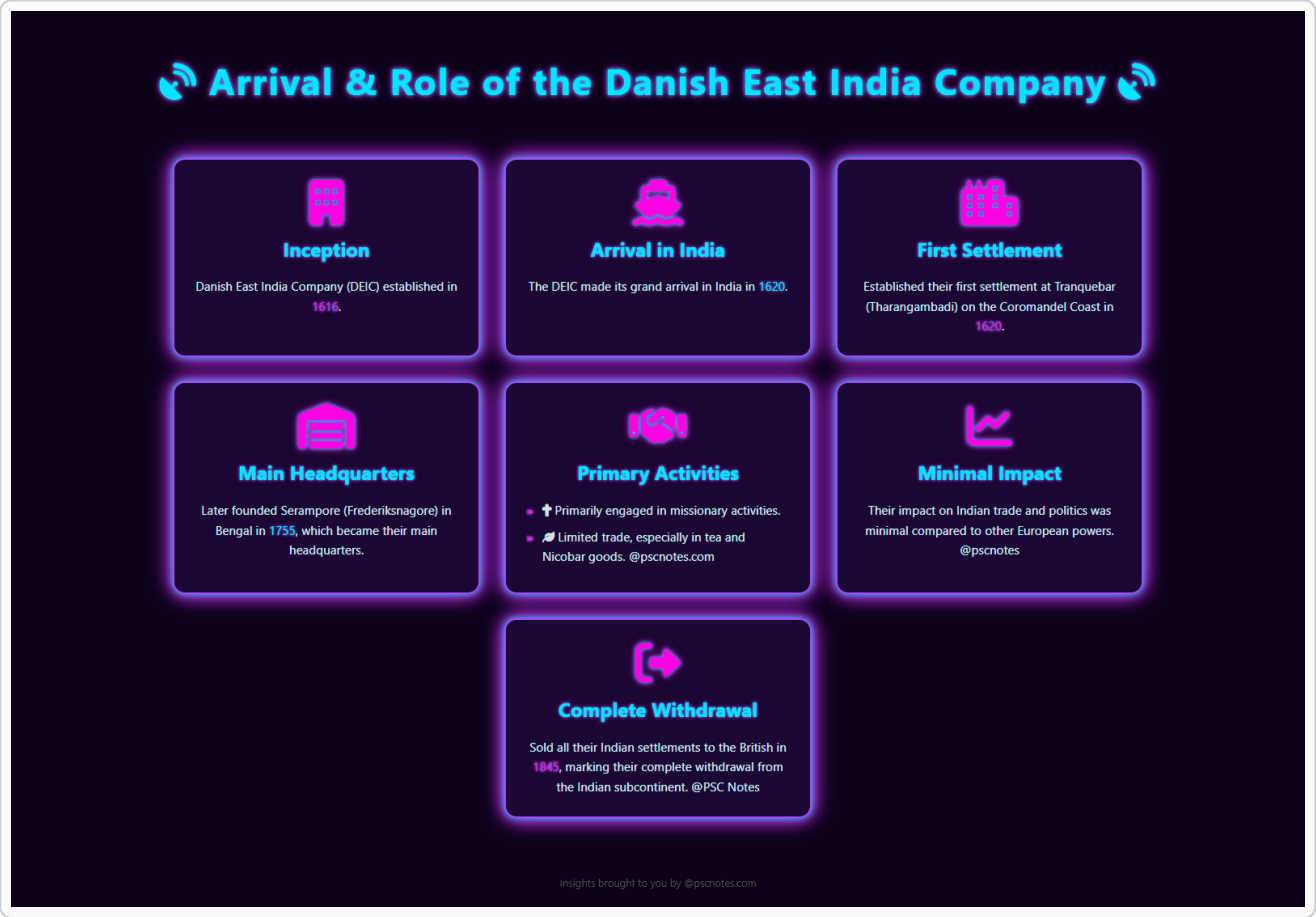
- The Dutch East India Company (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie - VOC) was formed in 1602 through the amalgamation of several Dutch trading companies.
- It was the first company to use the joint-stock model for overseas trade with India.
- The British East India Company was formed in 1600, thus preceding the Dutch East India Company (1602).
- Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, reached Calicut in 1498.
- The first Dutch factory in India was established at Masulipatnam (Andhra Pradesh) in 1605.
- Key Dutch factories and their establishment years:
  - Masulipatnam: 1605 (First factory)
  - Pullicat (Coromandel Coast): 1610 (Served as Dutch headquarters until 1690)
  - Surat: 1616
  - Patna: 1632
  - Bimilipatam: 1641
  - Karaikal: 1645
  - Chinsura (Bengal): 1653 (Replaced Pullicat as HQ in 1690)
  - Cochin: 1663 (Captured from the Portuguese)
- Major items of Dutch trade in India included spices (pepper, nutmeg, mace, cloves), indigo (from Coromandel, Gujarat), textiles (silk from Bengal, cotton from Coromandel), and saltpetre (from Bihar).

- The Dutch power in India declined significantly after their defeat by the British in the Battle of Chinsura (or Bidara) in 1759.

## Arrival and formation of the English East India Company

1. British arrived in India primarily as traders.
2. English East India Company (EIC) formed in 1599 by a group of merchants known as "The Merchant Adventurers".
3. EIC was also informally known as "John Company".
4. EIC was officially established on 31st December 1600 by a Royal Charter issued by Queen Elizabeth I.
5. The Royal Charter granted EIC a monopoly of eastern trade for 15 years.
6. At the time of EIC's formation (1600), Queen Elizabeth I was the ruler of England and Emperor Akbar was the ruler of India.
7. The first English ship to reach India was the "Red Dragon".
8. EIC decided to open its first factory at Surat in 1608.
9. Initially, permission for a factory at Surat was denied by Mughal Emperor Jahangir due to Portuguese influence.
10. The defeat of Portuguese naval squadrons by the English in the Battle of Swally (1612) impressed Jahangir.
11. Jahangir subsequently issued a Farman in 1613 A.D., allowing the English to establish a factory at Surat.
12. Sir Thomas Roe, ambassador of King James I of England, arrived in India in 1615 to secure further trading concessions.
13. EIC established a factory at Madras (Fort St. George) in 1639 on land leased from a representative of the Vijayanagara empire.
14. Bombay (now Mumbai) was acquired by the English from the Portuguese.

## Arrival and role of the Danish East India Company




- Danish East India Company (DEIC) established in 1616.
- Arrived in India in 1620.
- Established their first settlement at Tranquebar (Tharangambadi) on the Coromandel Coast in 1620.

- Later founded Serampore (Frederiksnagore) in Bengal in 1755, which became their main headquarters.
- Primarily engaged in missionary activities and limited trade, especially in tea and Nicobar goods.
- Their impact on Indian trade and politics was minimal compared to other European powers.
- Sold all their Indian settlements to the British in 1845, marking their complete withdrawal.

## Arrival of the Portuguese: Vasco da Gama and early settlements

- Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in India for trading purposes.
- Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, arrived at Kappad near Calicut on May 20, 1498.
- Zamorin (Samuthiri) was the ruler of Calicut during Vasco da Gama's first visit.
- Vasco da Gama stayed for approximately three months during his first trip to India.
- Vasco da Gama revisited India in 1502.
- Francisco de Almeida (1505-1509) was the first Portuguese Governor in India.
- Almeida is associated with the 'Blue Water Policy', aiming for Portuguese naval supremacy.
- Afonso de Albuquerque (1509-1515) is considered the real founder of the Portuguese colonial empire in India.
- The Portuguese built their first fort/fortress in India at Cochin in 1503.
- The Portuguese introduced the printing press to India in 1556, initially in Goa.

## Background: European search for a sea route to India

- Peter the Great of Russia remarked: "Bear in mind that the commerce of India is the commerce of the world ... he who can exclusively command it is the dictator of Europe."

## Decline of Portuguese power in India

- Alfonso de Albuquerque captured Goa from the Bijapur Sultanate in 1510.
- Religious Intolerance & Piracy: Practiced forced conversions (Goa Inquisition), engaged in piracy, alienating local rulers and populations.
- Rise of Rival European Powers:
  - Dutch: Displaced Portuguese from the Spice Islands (Indonesia), eroding their lucrative spice trade monopoly.
  - English: Demonstrated naval superiority (Battle of Swally, 1612); acquired strategic territories like Bombay (ceded as dowry in 1661).
- Union with Spain (1580-1640): Portugal lost its independence, diverting its resources and making its Indian possessions targets for Spain's enemies (Dutch, English).
- Diversion of Resources: Discovery of Brazil shifted Portugal's colonial focus and resources away from India.
- Mughal Hostility: Conflicts with Mughals (e.g., Shah Jahan's action leading to loss of Hooghly in 1632 due to Portuguese piracy).
- Internal Weaknesses: Corruption, administrative inefficiency, and a small population unable to sustain a vast empire.
- Loss of Key Territories: Hormuz lost to English/Persians (1622), Hooghly to Mughals (1632), and Bombay to English (1661).

## Dutch trading centers and their focus on the Spice Islands

- Dutch East India Company (VOC) was formed in 1602.
- Primary focus of Dutch trade was on the Spice Islands (Indonesia/Maluku) for spices (e.g., pepper, nutmeg, cloves).
- India served as a vital source for textiles and other commodities (e.g., indigo, saltpetre) needed for exchange in Southeast Asia.
- First Dutch factory in India was established at Masulipatnam (Machilipatnam) in 1605.
- Key Dutch trading centers in India included:
  - Coromandel Coast: Masulipatnam, Pulicat (served as their initial capital), Nagapatnam (became capital from 1690).
  - Bengal: Chinsura (established in 1653, near Hooghly), Kasimbazar, Balasore.
  - West Coast: Cochin (captured from Portuguese in 1663), Surat.

- Bihar: Patna (major center for saltpetre).
- The chief Dutch export from the Coromandel Ports was textiles (e.g., muslin, calicoes).
- Saltpetre from Patna was another significant export.

## Establishment of English factories and trading posts (Surat, Madras, Bombay, Calcutta)

- Early English Presence:
  - Ralph Fitch (1585-91): First Englishman to visit India, visited Emperor Akbar's court.
  - Captain William Hawkins (1608): Arrived at Jahangir's court as King James I's envoy, fluent in Turkish. Sought permission for a factory at Surat.
  - Initial permission for Surat (1608) was granted but revoked due to Portuguese pressure.
  - 1612: English navy defeated Portuguese fleet at the Battle of Swally (near Surat).
- Surat:
  - 1613: Emperor Jahangir issued a farman allowing the English to establish a permanent factory at Surat.
  - Surat served as the Western Presidency of the EIC in its early period, before Bombay.
  - Portuguese were the first European trading company to establish a factory at Surat (c. 1512).
  - Sir Thomas Roe (1615-19): Ambassador of King James I to Jahangir's court, secured additional trade concessions and firmans for establishing factories at Agra, Ahmedabad, and Broach (Bharuch).
  - Broach (Bharuch): An early factory of the English East India Company in the first quarter of the 17th century.
- Madras (Chennai):
  - 1611: English established their first factory in South India at Masulipatnam (Coromandel Coast).
  - 1639: Francis Day obtained the lease of Madraspatam from the local Nayak ruler.
  - Fort St. George was constructed in Madraspatam (now Chennai) in 1639. It was the first fort constructed by the British in India.
  - Madras later became the seat of the English Eastern Presidency.
- Bombay (Mumbai):
  - 1661: King Charles II of England received Bombay as part of the dowry for his marriage to Catherine of Braganza (Portugal).
  - 1668: Charles II leased Bombay to the East India Company for an annual rent of £10.
  - 1687: The EIC's Western Presidency headquarters was shifted from Surat to Bombay.
- Calcutta (Kolkata):
  - 1633: English opened their first factory in Eastern India at Balasore (Orissa).
  - 1651: English established a factory at Hooghly (Bugli) in Bengal.
  - 1690: Job Charnock established a trading post at Sutanuti, one of the three villages that formed Calcutta.
  - 1698: English acquired the zamindari rights of Sutanuti, Gobindapur, and Kalikata (Calcutta).
  - 1700: Fort William was built and became the seat of the Eastern Presidency (later Bengal Presidency).
- Other European Settlements (for context from MCQ):
  - Dutch: Pulicat, Chinsura.
  - Portuguese: Goa.
  - English: Bugli (Hooghly).
- Company Administration:
  - Charter of 1661: Authorized the English East India Company to appoint Governors and other officers, raise troops, administer justice, and wage war/peace in India.

## Formation and early ventures of the French East India Company

- French East India Company (Compagnie française pour le Commerce des Indes ori-