Class: 10th
Board: Karnataka
Subject: Social

The Advent of Europeans to India

Trade and Commerce Relationship India had with Europeans

- India had trade relations with Europe since ancient times.
- Indian spices like pepper, cumin, cinnamon, cardamom, ginger were in high demand.
- Trade was carried through Arab and Italian merchants.
- Constantinople was the main trade centre called the "Gateway of European Trade".
- Italians controlled European trade and Arabs controlled Asian trade routes.

Fall of Constantinople (1453)

- Fall of Constantinople
- Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople.
- Trade routes came under Turkish control.
- Heavy taxes were imposed on goods.
- Trade became expensive and difficult.
- Europeans started searching for a new sea route to India.

Arrival of Europeans to India for Trade

- Spain and Portugal encouraged sea exploration.
- Inventions like compass, astrolabe, and gunpowder helped navigation.
- Aim: find a direct sea route to India.
- Vasco da Gama discovered sea route in 1498 and reached Kappad near Calicut.
- This opened direct trade between India and Europe.

A New Sea Route to India

- Vasco da Gama's route became the main trade route for many years.
- Ships had to travel around the Cape of Good Hope (South Africa).
- Later replaced by Suez Canal route (1869).

European Trade Companies

- Different European nations formed trading companies to control trade in India.
- Main companies: Portuguese, Dutch, English, French.

The Portuguese

- First Europeans to reach India by sea.
- Francisco de Almeida introduced Blue Water Policy (sea dominance).
- Afonso de Albuquerque captured Goa in 1510 from Bijapur Sultan.
- Goa became Portuguese administrative centre.
- They had monopoly in trade for nearly 100 years.
- Later declined due to English and French competition.

The Dutch

- Dutch East India Company established in 1602.
- Entered India and Southeast Asia for trade.
- Factories established at Surat, Broach, Cambay, Cochin, Nagapattinam, Machilipatnam, Chinsurah.
- Focused mainly on spice trade.
- Defeated later by British power.

Marthanda Varma (Kerala)

- Marthanda Varma ruled Travancore (1729–1758).
- Defeated Dutch forces and protected Travancore.
- Made Travancore a strong kingdom.
- Shifted capital from Padmanabhapuram to Thiruvananthapuram.
- Defeated Dutch in 1741 war and later signed treaty in 1753.
- Strengthened administration and trade control.

The English

- British East India Company received royal charter in 1600.
- First factory at Surat in 1613 (permission from Jahangir).
- Sir Thomas Roe got permission for trading rights.
- Established factories at Agra, Ahmedabad, Broach.
- Built Fort St. George at Madras (1639).
- Acquired Bombay in 1668 from Charles II.
- Purchased Sutanuti, Calcutta, Govindapur in 1690 and built Fort William.
- Calcutta became capital later.

The French

- French East India Company established in 1664.
- First factory at Surat (1668).
- Centres: Pondicherry, Mahe, Karaikal, Chandernagore.
- Dupleix became Governor General in 1742.
- Tried to establish French supremacy in India.
- Led to Carnatic Wars against the British.

Competition between English and French

- Both wanted control over South India and Deccan.
- Took advantage of political instability in Hyderabad and Carnatic.
- Led to three Carnatic Wars

Carnatic Wars

First Carnatic War (1746–1748)

- French captured Madras.
- British sought help of Nawab of Carnatic.
- Ended by Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748).

Second Carnatic War (1749–1754)

- French supported Chandasaheb and Muzaffar Jung.
- British supported Muhammad Ali and Nasir Jung.
- Robert Clive captured Arcot.
- British victory; Treaty of Pondicherry.

Third Carnatic War (1756–1763)

- Battle of Wandiwash (1760) decisive.
- French defeated by Sir Eyre Coote.
- Treaty of Paris (1763) ended French power in India.
- British became dominant in South India.

Battle of Plassey (1757)

- Fought between Siraj-ud-Daula and British.
- Causes:
    - Misuse of Dastaks
    - Fortification of Calcutta
    - Black Hole Tragedy
- Robert Clive bribed Mir Jafar and other officials.
- Siraj-ud-Daula defeated and killed.
- Mir Jafar made Nawab.
- British gained control over Bengal.

Battle of Buxar (1764)

- Fought between British and combined Indian forces:
    - Mir Qasim
    - Shah Alam II
    - Shuja-ud-Daula
- British led by Hector Munro.
- Indian forces defeated.
- Shah Alam II granted Diwani rights to British.
- British gained control over Bengal, Bihar, Odisha.

Dual Government System (1765)

- Introduced by Robert Clive.
- British collected revenue (Diwani rights).
- Indians handled administration and justice.
- British controlled economy without direct responsibility.
- Marked beginning of British rule in India.

Important Dates

- 1600 – British East India Company formed
- 1602 – Dutch East India Company formed
- 1608 – English reached Surat
- 1617 – Jahangir permitted trade
- 1639 – Fort St. George (Madras)
- 1664 – French East India Company formed
- 1690 – Calcutta established
- 1757 – Battle of Plassey
- 1764 – Battle of Buxar
- 1765 – Dual Government system



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