

**Govt. Arts & Science College**  
**Nagercoil – 4**

**STUDY MATERIAL FOR II B.A HISTORY**  
**SEMESTER - III, ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21**

**Core Paper 7 - History of India (1526-1772 A.D.) (SMHI31)**

- Unit I :** The Mughal Empire - Sources - India on the eve of Babur's invasion - Babur - conquests - Administration - Humayun - causes for his failure - Shersha - conquests - administration.
- Unit II :** Akbar, the great - Conquests - administration - Religious Policy - Jahangir - Rule of Nurjahan - Shahjahan - Golden Age - war of Succession.
- Unit III :** Aurangzeb - conquests - Deccan policy - Religious policy - Downfall of Mughals - Mughal Administration - Social, economic and cultural conditions under the Mughals - Mughal art and architecture.
- Unit IV :** The Marathas - Shivaji - Early Career - Conquests - administration - Decline of Marathas - Peshwas – BalajiViswanth – Baji Rao – BalajiBaji Rao -Third battle of Panipat.
- Unit V :** The Advent of Europeans - Portuguese – Dutch - English and French - The Anglo – French rivalry in the Carnatic - Carnatic wars - Robert Clive - Battle of Plassery - Buxar - Dual government in Bengal.

## UNIT - I

### THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

#### **The Mughal Empire - Sources Literary Sources**

The literary sources of the period are numerous indeed. They range from the autobiographies of emperors to musical compositions of the day and are alive with vitality and truth. Tuzuk I Baburi or the Memoirs of Babour is an autobiographical piece in Turkilanguage by Babur In spite of certain time-gaps, it is a primary source for Babur's activities. The Emperor did not hesitate to record with great frankness his weaknesses as well as great merits. It is of great use in determining with accuracy many points in Babur's life as well as the early life of Humayun. "The Memoirs of Babur has been reckoned among the most enthralling and romantic works in the literature of all time".

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Abuk-Fazl's Akbar-nama, Ain -Akbari These works supplement each other and are invaluable in the reconstruction of Akbar's rule. They have a ring of authenticity and their veracity is not much doubted. The Tarikh -i-Sher-Shahi written by Abbas Sarwani deals with the reign of Sher Shah Sur.

The autobiography of Jahangir, Tuzuk-i-Fahangiri, constitutes an important source material for Akbar's last years,, Jahangir's own rule, and the early life of Shah Jahan. The last great king of Mughals, Aurangzeb, we have Alamgir-nama by Mirza Muhammad Kazim, MuntakhabulLubab by Muhammad HashimKhafi Khan, etc, as important source books.

### **Archaeological Sources**

Almost all the archaeological sources are catalogued and the notable remains have been critically analysed and put in proper shape. Exhaustive works on the numismatic sources also supplement the work of archaeological surveys. Edward Thomas, Lane-Poole, Nelson, Whitehead, Dames, Rodgers and others have rendered great service in proper collection and explanation of numismatic evidences. The architectural remains of the age testify to the excellence reached by the great Mughals. Huge palaces, big forts, great mausoleums, dreamlike cities like FathpurSikri, etc., are shining examples of Mughal architecture and form a valuable clue to the unfolding of Mughal drama. Babur's mighty structures have been ravaged by time but his tomb at Kabul is a magnificent one. Akbar, a great builder, left permanent imprint in the architecture of FathpurSikri, described as a "romance in stone, inconceivable and impossible at any other time or in any other circumstances". TajMahal built by Shah Jahan, one of the wonders of the world, is rapturously admired by one and all and bears eloquent testimony to the art and architecture of his times. The Mughal painting which reached its highest watermark during Jahangir's reign also testifies to the extraordinary achievements in the field of fine arts by the Mughals. The works of Percy Brown and Moti Chand throw a flood of light on the technique of Mughal painting.

### **Accounts of Foreign Visitors**

A large number of foreign travellers visited India during the 16th , 17th and 18th centuries. Their writings also constitute an important source material for the Mughal period. Though not all that is contained in the accounts of these visitors

can be accepted in toto, nonetheless they supplement to the indigenous material in many respects, Among the noteworthy accounts are Travels of Ralph Fitch; Early Travels in India of W.Hawkins, Finch, Withington , Coryat, W.Terry; The Embassy of Sir Thomas Roe to India (1615 -19) (edited by W.Foster);the Travels of Peter Mundy; Travels in the Mogul Empire (1656 -1688) by Bernier (edited by A. Constable ); Travels inIndia by J.B Tavernier, etc. These accounts along with a host of similar accounts deal not only with the court but also with the habits, customs and attitudes of people in general. As Prof. Srivastava points out “these accounts cannot be accepted at their face-value, for some of them are mere bazaar gossip, and certain others are vitiated on account of their racial, religious and national prejudices”. Nevertheless, these accounts do serve as an important source of information for the Mughal period.

## **India on the eve of Babur's invasion**

### **Political condition**

The empire of Ibrahim Lodi had already shrunk into smaller dimensions. The inevitable disintegration of the Sultanate started towards the close of the reign of Muhammad –binThughluq. After the invasion of timur in 1398, anarchy prevailed in the country and the Sultanate existed only in name. The tottering empire was held intact by Sikandar Lodi, the father of Ibrahim Lodi, by his unstated manlike acts, drove the last nail into the coffin of the Delhi Sultanate. India, on the eve of Babur’s invasion was parceled out into a number of independent kingdoms.

### **Kingdoms in the North and North - West Kangra, Nepal and Bhutan**

Kangra in the Punjab and Nepal and Bhutan skirting the Himalayas were independent Hindu kingdoms.

### **The Portuguese**

Among the European powers, the Portuguese had established a few strongholds – Cochin, Cannanore and Goa – on the western coast. In the words of

Ishwari Prasad: "India was thus a congeries of states at the opening of the sixteenth century and likely to be the easy prey of an invader who had the strength and will to attempt the conquest". Remoteness in the case of some countries and the indifference in the case of some others prevented them from meddling in the middle of the Delhi politics. The disturbed condition in the rest of the kingdoms gave an excellent opportunity to Babur to fish in troubled waters.

### **Social Condition**

Many changes took place in the social life of the people. The number of Muslims increased due to forcible conversions, Persuasions and promises held out for a better life. The new converts to the Islamic faith instead of adopting an indifferent attitude towards the Hindus, freely mingled with them. The life of the Hindus who were under the direct sway of the Delhi Sultans was pitiable. Many political, social and economic disabilities were put on them. Ala-ud-din Khilji reduced the Hindus to such abject misery that wives were forced to seek work in Mussulman houses to earn their livelihood. Firuz Tughluq imposed the jizya or poll-tax on the Brahmins. Ibrahim Lodi persecuted the Hindus and ordered for the wholesale desecration of temples. The Hindus contributed to the bulk of the revenue and over and above the usual taxes they were burdened with new taxes. In short, the Hindus were reduced to the position of mere „hewers of wood and drawers of water“ the helots of the empire“. The condition of the Hindus in the distant provinces and villages was satisfactory. Under the inspiring leadership of enlightened rulers like Zain -ul-Abidin of Kashmir and Ala-un-din Husain Shah of Bengal, the Hindus breathed an air of liberty. The Hindu kingdom of Vijayanagar stood forth as the champion of Hinduism and acted as a check on Muslim advance towards the south. The rise of Hindu Kingdoms like Vijayanagar and Mewar into power and prominence made the Muslim rulers administer caution in matters of religious belief persecutions, of course, existed here and there. But it was fast becoming an exception rather than a rule. Kabir and Nanak, the exponents of the later Bakhti cult, emphasized the need for Hindu-Muslim unity. They contributed a

great deal to the fraternization of the two classes. The Bakhti movement considerably enriched the vernacular literature. The Muslims were the fortunate few who enjoyed many concession and privileges. Affluence bred indolence and moral degradation. Wine-drinking and gambling were the common vices prevalent among the people. Slavery was quite common. Among the Hindus, the Brahmins occupied an honoured place. Though women occupied an honoured place, their freedom was much restricted. Sati, female infanticide and child-marriage were common among the Hindus.

### **Economic Condition**

India abounded in riches. Mahmud of Ghazni invaded India seventeen times. The invasions bear ample testimony to the fabulous wealth of the country. Timur carried away immense booty from India. Though the country abounded in riches, the Sultans of Delhi did not adopt a well-thought-out and comprehensive scheme for the economic regeneration of the country. Ala-ud-din Khilji introduced some reforms on the revenue side. Muhammad – bin Tughluq, the “Prince of Moneybags”, introduced some half hearted measures. But the experiments did not produce any permanent results. Firuz Tughluq constructed a number of irrigation canals. Agriculture was the main occupation of the people. But they were not indifferent to industries. Textile, sugar, metal and paper industries flourished in the country. Minor industries like cup-making, shoe making, match-making, etc., also flourished. Bombay and Gujarat topped the list in carrying on trade with foreign countries. On the whole, the people enjoyed prosperity due to the cheapness of prices and easy living conditions. Famine made occasional visits. But the Government undertook ameliorative measures to reduce the rigours of famine. With regard to the standard of living of the people, the awe-breathing distance between the tillers of the soil and the rich remained unaltered. The rich rolled in luxuries and the poor groaned under the weight of oppressive taxation. The life of the people in the villages was one of primitive simplicity and contentment. The financial breakdown of the empire started after the invasion of Timur. The invasion

brought about a complete dislocation and disorganization of trade and agriculture. The Muslim nobility, in course of time, became degenerate and its wasteful extravagance led to moral degradation and economic bankruptcy. BABUR

## **BABUR**

### **Early life**

Zahir-ud-din Muhammad, better known in history as Babur the Tiger, was born in 1483. He was connected with Timur, the Lame, on his father's side and Chingiz Khan on his mother's side. Thus the blood of the two great scourges of mankind, who took immense delight in the shedding of human blood, mingled in his veins.

### **His carrier**

His father Umar Shaik Mirza ruled over the small kingdom of Farghana in Central Asia. In 1494 after his death, his son, Babur assumed the reins of government in 1494 when he was only a lad of 11 years.

### **Conquest of Hindustan**

The conquest of Babur into the heart of Hindustan was heralded by some minor inroads on the border territories. He captured the fortress of Bajaur in 1519. He brought under his subjection, Bhira, Khushab and the country of the Chenab and thus got a foothold in the Punjab. But the Indians recovered all the places soon after Babur left for Kabul. In 1520, he captured Badakshan.

### **First Battle of Panipat (1526)**

Babur met Ibrahim Lodi, in the historic battle of Panipat in 1526. Babur inflicted a crushing a crushing defeat on him. The charge of his cavalry and the fire of his artillery worked wonders and smashed enemy resistance beyond recovery. Ibrahim Lodi was killed in the battlefield. The battle of Panipat was a decisive battle like that of Waterloo. Immediately after the battle, Babur occupied Delhi and Agra.

### **Battle of Khanua (1527)**

Babur and Rana Sangha meet in the battle of Khanua fought in 1527, Babur defeated the Rajputs. Rana Sangha escaped from the battle field and took refuge on one of his hill fortresses. The battle is one of the hardest fought battles in the history of India.

### **Battle of Chanderi (1528)**

Medini Rai who the ruler of Chanderi. Babur stormed the fortress of Chanderi in 1528, inspite of the gallant resistance put up by the Rajputs. It was only after this battle that the powerful Rajput confederacy was shattered to pieces and no other Rajput chief posed a serious threat to the Mughal Empire or challenged the authority of Babur.

### **Battle of Gogra (1529)**

The Afghans still fomented troubles. Muhammad Lodi, the brother of Ibrahim Lodi, captured Bihar. Many Afghan chiefs made common cause with him. Babur sent his son, Askari in advanced and himself followed him. In the battle of Gogra, he defeated Muhammad Lodi and thus shattered his hopes of regaining the throne of Delhi to pieces.

### **Extent of the empire**

Babur's Empire extended from the Oxus to the frontier of Bengal and from the Himalyas to Gwalior with certain portions left out here and there.

### **As an Administrator**

Babur divided the country into fiefs and each fief was put under the control of jagirdar. But the Jairdars did not en unrestrained autonomy which they d enjoyed during the time of the Lodis. Even though Babur was preoccupied with battles, he found time to effect some minor changes in the administration. He elevated the position and status of the Monarch and reduced the status of the nobles



to the position of mere vassals of the Emperor. He introduced Persian customs and manners in the Court. He did not take any steps for the promotion of agriculture.

### **Babur's Personality**

Babur is an interesting figure in the whole history of Islam. His autobiography (Babur – Nama) written in simple style speaks volumes of his outspokenness being trained in the school of adversity, he developed a spirit of toleration in his mind. He had a warm corner for his brother's inspite of the troubles fomented by them. He belonged to the orthodox section (Sunni) of the Muslims. But he was not a bigot in matters of religious belief. Though he preached jihad, he did not practice systematic persecution of the Hindus. After carving out an empire, he breathed his last in 1530 at the age of 47.

## **HUMAYUN**

### **Early Life**

Nasir-ud-din Muhammad better known as Hmayun was born in 1508. The conditions prevailing in Hindustan at that time warranted a strong man at the helm of affairs. Though Humayun had previous experience as Governor of Badakhan and was second in command during his father's expeditions in India, he was weak and incapable of sustained effort. So immediately after the death of Babur's steps were taken to place Mahdi Khwaja, the brother – in-law of Babur, on the throne. He was a past - master in the field of administration. But the attempt fizzled out.

### **Causes of his Failure Difficulties of Humayun**

Humayun assumed the reins of government in 1530 when he was only 23 years old. He was surrounded by difficulties on all sides. He not only inherited the patrimony left by his father but also the troubles that went along with it. He soon realized that the throne of Delhi was a bed of thorns. It was aptly said by Rushbrook Williams that Babur "bequeathed to his son a monarchy which could be held together only by the conditions of war; which in times of peace was weak, structureless and invertebrate".

## **Legacy from Babur**

Though Babur carved out an empire, he had no time to strengthen the bonds of unity and solidarity among the people. His wasteful extravagance impoverished the treasury. A practically empty treasury greeted him when Humayun ascended the throne. Further, Babur did not take steps to inculcate in the minds of the nobles the spirit of oneness and failed to instill in their hearts traditions of loyalty and obedience to the throne. The dying words of Babur to Humayun, to be lenient and considerate towards his brothers did more harm than good to him.

## **His brothers (Kamran, Askari and Hindal)**

Humayun had three brothers – Kamran, Askari. In accordance with the wishes of his father, Humayun gave Kabul and Kandahar to his brother, Kamran, Sambhal to Askari and Agra was given to Hindal.

## **The Afghans**

Afghans were still factors to be reckoned within the politics of Hindustan. Muhammad

Lodi, the brother of Ibrahim Lodi, was still thinking in terms of becoming the overlord of Hindustan. Sher Khan, the rising star of the east, was playing a waiting-game and was looking for an opportunity to unite the Afghans and seat himself on the throne of Delhi. Nusrat Shah backed up the cause of the Afghans in Bengal. Alam Khan, the uncle of Ibrahim Lodi who took refuge at the court of Bhadur Sha got able assistance from the latter to wreck the power of Humayun.

## **The Nobles**

Humayun's close relatives who styled themselves Mirzas also fomented troubles. Of them Muhammad Zaman and Muhammad Sultan were the most formidable rivals of Humayun. They advanced claims to the throne. Mahdi Khwaja, who was posed as a rival claimant to the throne after the death of Babur, was also a potential rival to Humayun to be bracketed with the two Mirzas

mentioned above Apart from these rivals, Humayun had to contend with other influential nobles who possessed large jagirs and wielded great power.

### **Bahadur Shah**

Bahadur Shah of Gujarat was one of the most formidable enemies“ of Humayun. He was a man of consummate practical genius He annexed Malwa and dragged Humayun into an open conflict with him by giving asylum to disaffected Afghans. He made capital out of the troubled conditions in Mewar and accupied Chitor. His ambition soared high and he was waiting for an opportunity to swallow the whole of Rajputana. In his subconscious mind, he was entertaining fond hopes to seat himself on the throne of Delhi.

### **Character of Humayun**

Humayun himself was his greatest enemy. He lacked resolution and action. In the words of Lane-Poole: “he was incapable of sustained effort, and after a moment of triumph would bury himself in his harem and dream away the precious hours in the opium-eater“s paradise whilst his enemies were thundering at the gate. Naturally kind, he forgave when he should have punished; light-hearted and sociable he reveled at the table when he ought to have been in the saddle. His character attracts but never dominates. His name means „fortunate“ and never was an unlucky sovereign more miscalled”.

### **Conquests of Humayun Exapedition to Kalinjar (1531)**

The fortress of Kalinjar in Bundelkhand was his first target of attack of Humayun. The Raja of the fortress put up a stiff resistance and Humayun was forced to sue for peace and receive a huge war indemnity. Though the Raja could not be cowed down to submission, he could have been at least coaxed and won over had Humayun used tact and intelligence. But he made an egregious mistake in accepting the indemnity in his hurry to face the Afghan danger in the east.

### **Expedition against Muhammad Lodi (1532)**

The Afgahan menace in Bihar under the leadership of Muhammad Lodi was the immediate cause for raising the siege of Kalinjar. He captured Jaunpur and was on his march to capture more places. His onward march was arrested by Humayun and Muhammad Lodi was defeated in the battle of Dadrah or Dourah near Lucknow in 1532.

### **Siege of Chunar (1532)**

After subduing Muhammad Lodi, Humayun besieged the fortress of Chunar held by Sher Khan. The siege lasted for 4 months. He was within easy reach of conquering it. But he gave up the siege and merely accepted the formal submission of Sher Khan. This was a serious diplomatic blunder committed by Humayun. Instead of subduing Sher Khan, he allowed him breathing space to recover and strengthen his position.

### **The period of recess (1533 – 34)**

Though alarming news continued to pour in from Gujarat where Bahadur Shah had embarked on a career of territorial aggression, Humayun frittered away his energy a year and time on feasts and festivities in Agra and Delhi for nearly a year and a half. He could have utilized this time in consolidating his conquests and in taking prompt action against Bahadur Shah. But he allowed the weed to grow

### **Expedition against Bahadur Shah (1535 -36)**

Bahadur Shah annexed Malwa in 1531, captured the fortress of Raisin in 1532 and defeated the Rana of Chitor in 1533. He also humbled the Sultans of Khandesh, Ahmadnagar and Berar. After the fall of Chitor into the hands of Bahadur Shah in 1535, Humayun defeated him in the battle of Mandasor. Humayun captured Mandu, Champaner, Ahmadabad and Cambay. He became the master of Gujarat and Malwa in 1535. Bahadur Shah, in the meantime, recovered Gujarat and Malwa and once again became the undisputed master of the two provinces in 1536.

## **Expedition against Sher Khan (1537 - 40)**

After the loss of the two provinces, Humayun met Sher Khan at battle of Chausa in 1539 and inflicted a crushing defeat Humayun. To save himself, Humayun plunged into the Ganges on horseback and was saved by a water-carrier. He returned to Agra, collected another army and met Sher Shah at Bilgram near Kanauj in 1540. But Humayun was beaten back. He became a fugitive and Sher Shah assumed the reins of the government of Hindustan.

## **Humayun's Plight and Restoration**

After the battle of Bilgram, better known as the battle of Kanauj, Humayun retired to Agra. He fled to Sind, then he met Hamita Banu Begam and married her, where his son Akbar was born in Amarkot in 1542. He went to Persia. The Shah of Persia promised to help him provided he became Humayun agreed to the terms. With the help of the Shah of Persia, he captured Kandahar, Kabul and he proceeded to Hindustan. He crossed the Indus in 1554 and captured Lahore in 1555. Sher Shah died in 1545 and taking advantage of the factions, Humayun defeated Sikandar Sur in the battle of Sirhind in 1555 and occupied Delhi and Agra. Humayun recovered a part of his lost possessions. He did not live long to enjoy the fruits of his hard-won labour. In 1556, he fell down from the staircase of his library and died.

## **Sher Shah**

### **Early life**

Sher Khan Alias Farid better known as Sher Shah is a remarkable character in the history of India. The date and place of birth of Sher Shah are a subject of much learned debate and discussion among historians. Qanungo holds the view that Sher Shah was born in 1486 in Narnaul. Dr. Saran holds the view that he was born in 1472 in Bajwara. The original name of Sher Shah was Farid. His grandfather, Ibrahim Lodi, an Afghan of the Sur tribe, lived near Peshawar. He was a trader in horses.

## **His Carrier**

In beginning he entered Mughal service. In recognition of his services, Babur restored the jagirs to him. Having achieved his end, Sher Khan left Mughal service and returned to Bihar. In the meantime, Bahar Khan died and his widowed wife appointed Sher Khan her deputy and guardian to her minor son Jalal Khan. For all intents and purposes, Sher Khan was the ruler of Bihar. Jalal Khan wanted to free himself from the control of Sher Khan. But Sher Khan had in the meantime strengthened his power, he sought the help of Muhammad Shah, the ruler of Bengal. The combined forces of Jalal Khan and Muhammad Shah were defeated by Sher Shah Surajgarh. This victory gave him mastery over the whole of Bihar.

## **Expedition against Humayun**

After Sher Khan effected a junction with Humayun at Chausa in 1539 and inflicted a crushing defeat on him. After the battle of Chausa, Sher Khan assumed the title of Sher Shah. The Khutba was read and coins were struck in his name. Humayun returned to Agra, collected another army and met Sher Shah at Bilgram near Kanauj in 1540. But Humayun was beaten back. He became a fugitive and Sher Shah assumed the reins of the government of Hindustan.

## **Other Campaigns of Sher Shah (1540 – 1545)**

The fugitive Emperor, Humayun, was given a hot chase by Sher Shah. The pursuit took him up to the Punjab which he easily captured from Kamran. The revolt of Khizir Khan, the Governor of Bengal in 1541, drew his attention and Sher Shah hurried to Bengal, put down the revolt and dismissed him from service. He thoroughly reorganized the administration of Bengal. Rajputana was the next target of attack of Sher Shah. He conquered Malwa in 1542. In 1543, Raisin was captured. Multan and Sind were also conquered. In 1544, he conquered Marwar from Maldev. Chitor and Ranthambhor also fell. His last expedition was fitted against Kalinjar in 1544. While engaged in the siege, he was hurt by an explosion. The fortress fell, but Sher Shah died in 1545.

## **Extent of the Empire**

The Empire of Sher Shah practically included the whole of North India except Assam, Nepal, Kashmir and Gujarat. It extended from the Indus in the west to the mouth of the Ganges in the east. On the north, it was bordered by the Himalayas and in the south it stretched up to the Vindhya mountains. In the south, it included Multan, Sind, Rajputana (minus Jaisalmer), Malwa and Bundelkhand.

## **Sher Shah's Administration**

The fame of Sher Shah rests more on his brilliant administrative system than on his conquests. According to Qanungo, he was a constructive genius. But Tripathi and Dr.Saran hold the view that he was only a reformer and not an innovator because he only revived the administrative system of Ala-ud-din Khilji. But the fact cannot be denied that he breathed a new life into the dull and dreary administration which was prevailing at that time. Akbar anticipated in many ways the reforms of Sher Shah.

## **Central Government**

Sher Shah was an enlightened despot. Like a true enlightened despot he “attempted to found an Empire broad-based upon the people’s will”. He acted on the principle that “it behoves the great to be always active”. He concentrated in his person civil and military powers. He personally attended to the minute details of government. In the day-to-day administration of the country, he was assisted by four ministers and two minor officers. Though the officers had great powers, real power was wielded by Sher Shah. A highly centralized monarchy tinged with bureaucracy was the characteristic feature of his government.

## **Provincial Government**

He divided the country into units of divisions known as Sarkars. There were 47 Sarkars and each in its turn was subdivided into a number of paragonas. The administration of each pargana was carried out by one Amin, one Shiqdar, a Treasurer and two writers. The Amin was in charge of revenue collection. The

Shiqdar had to maintain law and order. The Treasurer was, of course, in charge of the treasury. The two writers kept the accounts – one in Hindi and the other in Persian.

### **Revenue System**

The revenue administration of Sher Shah was based on systematic way the survey of the land. The lands were carefully surveyed, classified and assessed. The State's due was fixed at one-fourth in some places and one-third in most parts. The payment of the State's due was allowed to be made in cash or kind, though cash payment was preferred. The settlement was directly made with each cultivator who received a patta or title-deed from the State. Sher Shah had been spared for some more years, he would have perpetuated the ryotwari system and would have completely eliminated the jagirdari system.

### **Army**

The army was divided and stationed in key centres of the Empire. He himself had a standing army under his direct command. It consisted of 1, 50, 000 cavalry, 25,000 infantry, 300 elephants and artillery. Discipline in the army was terrible and severe. The most brutal punishments were meted out to the disobedient and wavering soldiers. Soldiers in general were on the monarch. Though Sher Shah mainly relied on the Afghans, he reposed confidence in Hindus also. Brahmajit Gaur was one of his Hindu generals. Most of the soldiers recruited by Sher Shah came from the Afghan-stock. Like Ala-ud-din Khilji, he introduced the system of branding horses with the object of preventing false musters.

### **Justice**

Sher Shah had a high sense of justice. The administration of justice was just and evenhanded. Severe punishments were meted out to the offenders without any regard for their status and position. In the Parana, the civil cases were decided by the Amin and criminal cases were dispensed by the Qazi and the Mir-i-Adal. Several parganas had a common Musifi Munsifan who heard civil cases appealed



from the parganas. The cases of criminal appeal, however, went to the Chief Qazi at the capital city. The highest court of appeal in the country was the imperial Sadr presided over by the Emperor.

### **Police**

The police system of Sher Shah though crude was terribly efficient. He introduced the principle of local responsibility in detecting crimes. IF a crime was committed or a theft occurred in a village, the village headman was held responsible. Though the system was primitive and harsh, it brought security to the life and property of the people.

### **Communication**

Sher Shah realized the importance of roads for defence purposes as well as for the convenience of the people. He constructed four great roads connecting the key centres. Shady trees were planted on either side of the roads for the comfort of the travelers. Arrangements were made in the sarais for separate quarters for Hindus and Muslims. In each sarai, two horses were kept for the news-reporters to inform the Emperor about the day-to-day happenings in the distant parts of the Empire.

### **Trade and Commerce**

Sher Shah abolished many vexatious taxes that stood in the way of free-trade. Only two taxes were collected after wards-one when the goods actually entered the frontier and the other when they were actually sold. This greatly facilitated the easy movement of goods from one place to another and greatly contributed to the commercial prosperity of the Empire.

### **Buildings**

He was a great buikder. He constructed the fort of Rohtas on the Jhelum. The purana Qila in Delhi is another architectural achievement of Sher Shah. Perhaps the best specimen of the architecture of the period was his mausoleum

build on a high rock in the midst of a lake at Sasaram. With regard to the style adopted in the construction of the mausoleum.

### **Coinage**

Sher Shah also left his impress on the numismatic history of India. He thoroughly reformed the coinage. He issued a large numbers of silver coins known as rupees. The copper coin known as dam was also circulated along with the silver rupee.

### **Religious Policy**

Though a devout Muslim, Sher shah was not a fanatic. Though there were stray instances which revealed his religious fervor, in general he followed a policy of religious in a land of different faiths. He didi not undertake any systematic persecution of the Hindus. With regard to the attitude of Sher Shah towards Hinduism, Qanungo says that it was “not contemptuous sufferance but respectful deference”.

## **UNIT - II**

### **AKBAR THE GREAT**

#### **Early life**

Jalal-ud-din Muhammad Akbar was born in Amarkot in Sind in 1542 to Humayun and Hamida Banu Begum. After the death of his father, he came to the throne in 1556 when he was only 13 years old.

#### **Carrier of Akbar**

Immediately after his father's death, Hemu the chief minister of Muhammad Adil Shah captured Delhi and Agra before Akbar could arrive from the Punjab. Kabul was in the hands of Mirza Hakim. Kashmir and the Himalayan states were independent. Sind and Multan had independent after the death of Sher Shah. Bengal, Orissa, Gondwana, Malwa and Gujarat were independent kingdoms. Vijayanagar and the Muslim Sultanates of Ahamadnagar, Bijapur, Golkunda, Bidar and Berar lay in the south detached from the north with practically no political contact with the north. Akbar started his work from a scratch to reconstruct and reorganize the Empire. The task was formidable indeed. The rivals to the throne took advantage of Akbar's minority and found the time favourable to fish in troubled waters. But under the able guardianship of Bairam Khan, the boy king overcame one obstacle after another.

#### **Second battle of Panipat (1556)**

Muhammad Adli Shah sent his chief minister Hemu, to meet the forces of Akbar under the leadership of Bairam Khan in the second battle of Panipat in 1556. In the beginning everything went on in favour of Hemu. But quite unexpectedly an arrow pierced his eye and rendered him unconscious. This unexpected incident settled the issue in favour of Akbar. Thinking that their leader was dead, the forces of Hemu ran helter-skelter. The dying Hemu was brought before Akbar and was slain by Bairam Khan or Akbar himself. The Second battle of Panipat was a decisive battle. It sealed the doom of the Afghans. The victorious Mughal army soon occupied Delhi and Agra.

Then Akbar became the ruler of Delhi. This turned his head and he assumed the title of Raja Vikramaditya. Intoxicated by his success, he made a bold bid for the throne of Hindustan. He met the forces of Akbar under the leadership of Bairam Khan in the second battle of Panipat in 1556. In the beginning everything went on in favour of Hemu. But quite unexpectedly an arrow pierced his eye and rendered him unconscious. This unexpected incident settled the issue in favour of Akbar. Thinking that their leader was dead, the forces of Hemu ran helter-skelter. The dying Hemu was brought before Akbar and was slain by Bairam Khan or Akbar himself. The Second battle of Panipat was a decisive battle. It sealed the doom of the Afghans. The victorious Mughal army soon occupied Delhi and Agra. Sikandar Sur surrendered in 1557. The fallen foe was treated with great magnanimity by Akbar. Befitting his rank and position, Akbar granted him a fief and he died in 1559. Muhammad Adil Shah died in a fight with the Governor of Bengal in 1556. Ibrahim Sur wandered from place to place and finally sought asylum in Orissa where he was killed in 1568.

### **The Conquests of Akbar**

Like his illustrious grandfather, Akbar also entered into a career of conquest. But Akbar not only conquered places but consolidated them which his grandfather failed to accomplish. Like a true imperialist, he was also bent upon the expansion of his Empire. He was of the view that “A monarch should be ever intent on conquest; otherwise his neighbours rise in arms against him”. IN the course of 40 years ending with 1601, he was able to achieve the political unification of the whole of North and Central India. After the Second battle of Panipat, he recovered Delhi and Agra.

### **Gwalior, Jaunpur and Ajmer**

Gwalior, Jaunpur and Ajmer were incorporated with the Mughal dominions during the regency period when Bairam Khan was the guardian of Akbar.

## **Malwa (1561)**

Adam Khan, the son of Maham Anaga, was deputed to carry out the expedition of Malwa. Baz Bahadur, the ruler of Malwa, was defeated. His beautiful Hindu wife Rupmathi fearing disgrace poisoned herself.

## **Gondwana (1564)**

In 1564, Akbar was invaded on Gondwan. Its ruler Bir Narayan defeated by him and annexed with the Mughal dominions.

## **Rajputana (1562- 99) Amber**

Akbar realized the importance of an alliance with the Rajputs in his task of empirebuilding. In 1562, Raja Bihari Mall of Amber tendered his submission to Akbar. He strengthened his friendship by entering into a matrimonial alliance with the Raja. Akbar married his daughter Jodh Bai who later became the mother of Prince Salim. Bihari Mall along with his son Bhagwan Das and grandson Man Singh entered imperial service and held high positions.

## **Mewar**

Operations were started against Mewar in 1567. When Akbar laid siege to Chitor, the capital of Mewar, Udai Singh, the unworthy son of a worthy father (Ranaregent to her minor son, was a woman of matchless and surpassing beauty. She put up a stiff resistance against the Mughal forces. But the imperial forces overpowered her. Bir Narayan continued the resistance and died in the battle-field. Durgavathi committed suicide. After sometime, the kingdom was restored to a member of the dynasty and only a small portion of the kingdom was incorporated with the Mughal dominions.

## **Ranthambhor, Kalinjar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur**

The fall of Chitor in 1568 was followed by the surrender of Ranthambhor and Kalinjar to Akbar in 1569. He laid siege to the fortress of Ranthambhor. Surjan Hara, the ruler of Ranthambhor, put up a valiant resistance against the Mughal forces. But finding further resistance futile, he surrendered and he was absorbed in

imperial service. Ramachand, the ruler of Kalinjar, submitted without offering and resistance. In 1570, the rulers of Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur submitted.

### **Bengal, Bihar and Orissa**

The battle of Tukaroi between Daud and Munim Khan did not decide anything. The decisive battle was fought at Rajmahal in which Daud was defeated and killed. Bengal and Bihar were added to the Mughal Empire in 1576 in 1592, Orissa was annexed to the Empire.

### **Annexation of Kabul (1585)**

Mirza Muhammad Hakim, the half brother of Akbar was the ruler of Kabul. He gave offence to Akbar by invading the Punjab Akbar proceeded to the Punjab on hearing the news of Akbar's arrival, Mirza Hakim fled from the Punjab and retired to Kabul. Akbar entered Kabul. Akbar entered Kabul in 1581 and defeated him. But he reinstated him on his remaining faithful and loyal Mirza Hakim died in 1585. Kabul was annexed to the Empire.

### **Conquest of Sind, Baluchin and Kandahar**

Sind occupied a strategic position. The possession of Sind could provide Akbar with a base for his future operations against Kandahar which was held by Shah Abbas of Persia. Lower Sind (Thatta) was conquered from its ruler in 1591 and Baluchistan in 1595. In 1595, Kandahar was surrendered to Akbar by Muzaffar Husain Mirza, the Persian Governor of Kandhar.

### **Deccan campaigns (1595 – 1601)**

The Deccan campaigns earned for Akbar the three subhas of Ahamadnagar, Berar and Khandesh. (For details – Refer the Deccan Policy of the Mughals).

### **Extent of the Empire**

Akbar became the undisputed master of practically the whole of North India. His Empire stretched from Kandahar to the Brahmaputra and from the Himalayas to the river Godavari. His Empire consisted of 15 provinces. They were Kabul, Lahore and Multan in the north –west; Ajmer, Ahamadabad and Malwa in

Rajputana; Delhi, Agra, Oudhand Allahabad in thr Gangetic valley; Bihar and Bengal in the east and Khandesh, Berar and Ahmadnagar in the Deccan. It is worth mentioning that Mewar did not form a part of his Empire. Ahmadnagar practically remained as an independent country, even though it was included as a province under his Empire.

### **Council of Ministers:**

Akbar had a Council of Ministers to assist him in the discharge of his administrative responsibilities and state of affairs.

### **The Wazir:**

He was like the Prime Minister and advised the king in all matters. He coordinated the work of all other ministers. After the reign of Aurangzeb, the Prime Minister, then called 'Vakil' became very powerful. Likewise other Ministers became powerful.

### **Dewan or Finance Minister:**

He looked after the revenues of the state.

### **Mir Bakshi or Paymaster General:**

He was the head of the establishment department. He was also the head of the intelligence agencies of the empire.

### **Kham-i-Saman:**

He looked after the imperial house-hold. He also looked after the control of the royal body guards and etiquettes in the court.

### **Chief Qazi:**

He was the head of the judicial department. Other important high officials who assisted the king were Mir Atish who supervised the artillery, Daroga-i-Taksal, supervisor of royal mint and Daroga-i-Daak, supervisor of the mail.

### **Mansabdari System:**

The Mansab is an Arabic word meaning rank or position or status. Thus Mansabdari was a system in which the rank of a government official was determined. Every civil and military official was given a mansab and was called a Mansabdar. There were two methods of making payments to the nobles. One was giving them Jagirs (land) wherefrom they got their salaries. The second was making cash payment. In the Mansabdari system no Jagirs were granted for the purpose of paying salaries. A mansabdar got his salary from the royal treasury.

### **Land Revenue System:**

The land was divided into four categories according to its produce: Polaj land which was regularly cultivated and yielded crops regularly. Parauti land was left uncultivated after every crop to regain its productivity. Chachhar land was left uncultivated for 3 to 4 years. Banjar land was left uncultivated for more than 4 years. Three categories of Polaj and Parauti land. These types of lands were divided into three grades, good, average and bad.

### **Loans:**

Farmers could get loans easily from the state which could be paid in easy annual installments.

### **Remission of revenue:**

In bad seasons, remissions of revenues were granted to the farmers.

### **Records:**

Farmers were issued receipts for all the payments made by them. A record of all the holdings and liabilities of every farmer was maintained.

### **Provincial Administration:**

Akbar divided his empire into fifteen provinces. Each province was under the charge of Subedar (Governor). He was assisted by a 'Diwan' who looked after the revenue records. Bakshi looked after the needs of the army. The Kotwal was entrusted with the maintenance of law and order in the main cities. Qazi looked after justice.



## **RELIGIOUS POLICY OF AKBAR**

**Factors which shaped his religious policy** Akbar immortalized his name by following a policy of religious toleration. Various factors were at work which moulded and shaped his religious policy. Heredity coupled with environment played an important part. His mighty ancestors, Chingiz Khan and Timur who took immense delight in the shedding of human blood, has a soft corner in their hearts for art and literature. They were free from religious orgies due to their contact with Sufism. Akbar's father and grandfather were not fanatics in religious affairs. His mother Hamida Banu Begum belonged to the Shia sect. She instilled in his tender mind the spirit of tolerance. His early contact with Sufi saints exercised a profound influence on him and made him realize the importance of administering caution in religious matters. His tutor Abdul Latif taught him universal peace. His guardian Bairam Khan and foster-mother Mham Anaga both of whom subscribed to the Shia faith contributed their mite in making Akbar imbibe the spirit of moderation in religious matters. His association with Hindu wives and Hinduism revolutionized his inquisitive mind. His association with intellectual giants like Shaik Mubarak and his two illustrious sons Abdul Faizi and Abul Fazl created in his mind a craving to know the truth and attain eternal bliss by having direct contact with Divine Reality. The background had been already set up for him by the exponents of the Bhakti cult like Kanir, Vallabha, Chaitanya and Nanak. These religious reformers made the work of Akbar light. In shaping his religious policy, he was influenced to some extent by political considerations. He wanted to establish an Empire in Hindustan "broad-based on the people's will" by reconciling the conflicting interest of Hindus and Muslims. Above all the 16th century was an age of enquiry and doubt and there was an inner craving in the heart of hearts of Akbar to arrive at the truth. There was an element of mysticism in the Emperor. As Badauni says, "He would sit many a morning alone in prayer and melancholy, on a large flat stone of an building neat the palace (Fathpur) in a lonely spot with his head bent over his chest and gathering the bliss of early hours".

### **Akbar as pious Muslim (1556 – 74)**

There were different stages in the development of his religious views. During the period between 1556 and 1574, he, to all intents and purposes, conformed to the principles of the Sunni faith. He observed the daily prayers and built a number of mosques. With the passages of time, political principles superseded religious motives. In his desire to build an Empire with the willing co-operation of all the people“ he followed a policy of alliance and reconciliation towards the Hindus in general and the Rajputs in particular. Soon after his marriage with Jodh Bai of Amber, he abolished the pilgrim tax in 1563. In 1564, he abolished the jizya or poll tax on non-Muslims. Iconoclasm or idol-breaking was alien to him. He allowed his Hindu wives freedom of worship of their own Gods. He bestowed honours, titles and mansabs on the relatives of his Hindu wives. Akbar came into contact with Abul Fazl only in 1575 and even before that he had embarked upon a policy of religious toleration.

### **Akbar as skeptical Muslim (1575 – 82)**

Akbar got tired of the influence of the Ulema in political affairs. But he never allowed them to dominate him either in political or religious affairs. In 1575, he erected the IbadatKhana or House of Worship in Fathpur Sikri meant for religious discourses and discussions. In the beginning, only Muslims were admitted. The spiritual discourses among the Muslim divines often ended in vulgar discourses. They exchanged hot words and used filthy language. The endless bickering of the divines made Akbar understand the futility of their discourses and urged him to seek truth elsewhere. Therefore he invited learned men from other faiths like Hinduism, Jainism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism, etc. Akbara gave a patient hearing to the sacred doctrines of these religions. Akbar giving up meat and prohibiting the slaughter of animals on certain days were mainly due to the influence of Jain teachers. The Emperor adopted the worship of Sun as a result of the Zoroastrian influence. Permission given to Christians to get converts to their faith was due to the influence of Jesuit Fathers. Having realized that truth does not lie in one religion alone, he began to loosen his affinity with

orthodox Islam. He wanted to get rid of the unnecessary influence of the Ulema. HE did not like the idea of the Ulema being considered the final arbiter in disputed questions. So he decided to combine in himself the powers of both the State and the Muslim Church. The so-called infallibility Decree was passed in 1579 which made the Emperor the final arbiter in disputed questions concerning the Islamic faith. This document created great consternation in orthodox circles. They interpreted it as a step on the part of Akbar to renounce Islam.

### **Din-i-Ilahi (1582)**

Akbar got disgusted with the undue influence of the Ulema and the futility of their doctrines. His inner soul ached for a common meeting ground of all religions and the outcome was the Din-i-Ilahi or the Divine faith. Akbar promulgated the new religion in 1582. It contained the essence of all religions. The new religion was intended to be one which could be acceptable to the vast majority of his people. It was “a combination of mysticism, philosophy and nature worship”. It was a social-religious order or brotherhood among intellectuals and independent thinkers who had crossed the boundaries of caste and creed and shaken of the yoke of custom. According to the Divine Faith there was to be one God. Akbar was to be the representative of God earth. It recognized no Prophet. The new order enjoined every member to give a dinner during his lifetime instead of the old custom of honouring a dead soul with a dinner. Each member of the Order was to give a party on the anniversary of his birthday and give alms to the poor. As far as possible meat-eating should be avoided. They were not to co-habit with old, pregnant and barren women, and girls under the age of puberty. There were to four degrees of devotion in the new faith. They were property, life, honour and religion. The members should be prepared to sacrifice them for the sake of the Emperor.

## **So-called anti-Muslim Regulations**

After the promulgation of the new faith, religious discourses stopped and were followed by the issue of the so-called anti-Muslim regulations according to Badauni. Some of the regulations were the following: Islamic prayers were forbidden, cow-slaughter was prohibited and wearing of beards was discouraged. Pilgrimage to Mecca was disallowed. Mosques and prayer-rooms were converted into stables. But one cannot accept these statements because Badauni was a fanatic. As an orthodox Mussulman, he was prejudiced against the religious views of Akbar. The so-called anti-Muslim regulations issued by Akbar were corroborated by the Jesuit Fathers. The evidence of the Jesuit Fathers could not be accepted because having failed in their attempt to convert the Emperor to the Christian faith, they gave vent to their feelings to blacken the memory of Akbar. Misled by the evidence given by the Jesuit Fathers and Badauni, Vincent Smith also fell into the same pit and came to the conclusion that Akbar renounced Islam after 1582. But there is nothing in record or any conclusive evidence to prove the fact that Akbar ever renounced Islam. Jahangir in his memoris regards his father as a Muslim down to his death. Muslim writers also subscribe to the same view.

## **Criticism of Din-i-Ilahi**

Vincent Smith says that, “the divine Faith was a monument of Akbar’s folly, not of his wisdom. The whole scheme was the out-come of ridiculous vanity, a monstrous growth of unrestrained autocracy”. But the criticism is rather harsh and one-sided. Lane-Poole remarks, “of course an eclectic religion never takes hold of the people and Akbar „s curiously interesting hotch-potch of philosophy, mysticism and nature worship practically died with him. But the broadminded sympathy which inspired such a vision of catholicity left a lasting impression upon a land of warring creeds and tribes and for a brief while created a nation where before there had been only factions”. According to Ishwari Prasad the Dini-i-Ilahi was “an eclectic pantheism, containing food points of all religions – a combination of mysticism, philosophy and nature worship. Its

basis was rational, it upheld no dogms, recognized no Gods or prophets and the emperor was its chief exponent". Von Noer, the German historian of Akbar says, "One of his creations will assure to him for all time a preeminent Place among the benefactors of humanity – greatness and universal tolerance in matters of religion".

## **Conclusion**

The Din-i-Ilahi, the offspring of Akbar's deep thought and mature reflection, aimed at bridging the gulf that separated the different religions. But it proved a dismal failure. Even though it was a failure, it was a novel experiment. The new faith had a thousand followers. Raja Bhagwan Das and Man Singh refused to join the new faith. The religion fizzled out after the death of Akbar. It failed because Akbar had not the proselytizing spirit of missionary. The new religion failed to catch the popular imagination. Further, Akbar was a monarch and so it was difficult if not impossible for him to move among the masses and propagate the doctrines of the new faith.

## **JAHANGIR**

### **Early life**

Muhammad Sultan Salim affectionately called by Akbar as Shaikhu Baba was born in 1569. His education started in 1573. He picked up Persian, Turki and Hindi and learnt geography and history. He took keen interest in botany, zoology, music and painting. In 1585, he married the daughter of Raja Bhagwan Das of Amber when he was only 15 years old.

### **His Career**

Salim waited so long for throne of Hindustan, he raised the standard of rebellion against his father in 1600 and ruled over Allahabad as an independent King. Reconciliation was effected between the father and the rebel son in 1603. To

his immense relief, his two brothers Murad and Daniyal died even during the lifetime of Akbar. Akbar fell ill in 1605. Though a conspiracy was in the air to place Khusrau, the eldest son of Salim on throne, it fizzled out. After nominating Salim as heir apparent, Akbar died in 1605.

### **Accession to the throne**

Muhammad Sultan Salim ascended the throne in 1605 under the title of Nur-ud-din Muhammad Jahangir Padsha Ghazi. “Jahangir” means “World Grasper” or “the Conqueror of the World”. Immediately after he came to the throne, he set up the Chain of Justice containing 60 bells with one end in the fort of Agra and the other tied to a post on the banks of the Jamna. The purpose of this was to give the aggrieved the chance of getting justice directly from the King without the help of intermediaries. He signaled his accession by issuing number of coins and promulgating twelve edicts. Some of the edicts were the prohibition of tolls and cesses, free inheritance of property of deceased persons, prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, prohibition of slaughter of animals on certain days, prohibition of inhuman punishments like cutting of the noses, ears, etc., and a general amnesty to all prisoners. All these measures were intended to win the hearts of his subjects. Apart from these, he conferred titles and honours on important officials with the view to gathering around him a band of loyal supporters.

### **Revolt of Prince Khusrau (1606)**

Even the very first regnal year of Jahangir was marred by the revolt of his eldest son, Prince Khusrau. There was no love lost between father and son ever he was posed as a rival claimant to the throne during the last days of Akbar. Jahangir bore a grudge against him and was looking forward for the earliest lame excuse to punish the turbulent prince. Fired by his own ambition and kindled by the encouraging words of his supporters, Khusrau still cherished dreams of occupying the throne of Hindustan. He stole away with 350 horsemen from Agra on the pretext of visiting the tomb of his grandfather. He raised the flag of insurrection against his father in 1606. The fifth Sikh Guru, Arjun, rendered financial assistance

to him. The rebel army was defeated by the imperial forces. The rebel prince and his friends fled towards the direction of Kabul. But they were captured and brought to the court of Jahangir. He openly reproached Khusrau in the court and threw him into prison. Brutal punishments were meted out to his friends. Guru Arjun who rendered financial assistance was tortured to death on charges of treason and contumacy. In 1607 Jahangir scented a plot which aimed at murdering him and enthroning Khusrau. Prince Khusrau who was the guiding force behind the plot was ordered to be blinded. After ten years captivity, he was put under the care of Asaf Khan, the brother of Nur Jahan. In 1622 he was murdered by Shah Jahan.

### **Rebellion of Usman Khan of Bengal (1612)**

Bengal which was situated in a remote corner continued to be a headache to Jahangir also. The disaffected Afghans rallied under the banner of Usman Khan and unfurled the banner of revolt. But he was defeated and killed in 1612. The defeated Afghans were treated very leniently and were warmly welcomed to enter Mughal service if they liked. His conciliatory measures made the Afghans trounce their treasonable designs. From that time onwards, they remained loyal and faithful to the Mughal government.

### **Mewar (1614 – 15)**

Mewar remained unconquered during the time of Akbar. What his father was not able to achieve, Jahangir accomplished. The victory over Mewar was the greatest success of Mughal imperialism and was definitely a feather on the cap of Jahangir. The two expeditions - one under Prince Parwez and the other under Mahabat Khan - against Amar Singh, the Rana of Mewar, did not achieve anything. The expedition under Prince Khurram (Shah Jahan) proved a success. He smashed enemy resistance in such a way that Amar Singh was forced to sue for peace. But the fallen foe was treated with great generosity and liberal terms were offered to him. The Rana of Mewar was exempted from personal attendance in the imperial court. Chitor was restored to the Rana on condition that he should not fortify it. It was also agreed that no princesses of Mewar were to be taken to the imperial harem.

### **Deccan campaigns (1610 – 17)**

Jahangir followed the forward policy of his father towards the Deccan. Malik Amber, the new minister of Ahamadnagar, recovered the lost possessions and restored the old dynasty to power. The various expeditions sent against Ahmadnagar failed. Prince Khurram led an expedition to Ahmadnagar and captured it. But the victory was short-lived. Soon Malik Amber recovered the lost places. The Mughal territory did not advance an inch further during the time of Jahangir. It stood where it was in 1605.

### **Capture of Kangra (1620)**

One of the memorable and remarkable feats in the time of Jahangir was the conquest of the forts of Kangra in the Punjab. After a protracted siege which lasted for 14 months, the local chief-tain surrendered in 1620.

### **Loss of Kandahar (1622)**

Shah Abbas I of Persia feigning comradeship with the Mughal captured Kandahar in 1622. Shah Jahan was ordered to lead the campaign so as to recover Kandahar. But apprehending danger that his absence from headquarters might weaken his cause and strengthen the claims of Shahryar, the ward of Nur Jahan, he did not carry out the royal order. Jahangir gave up the idea of recapturing Kandahar.

### **Outbreak of Plague (1616 – 24)**

Bubonic plague broke out in the Doab in 1616. It soon spread to other places like a wildfire and ravaged the whole country in all its fury. It lasted for eight years and took a heavy toll of life.

### **Revolt of Shah Jahan (1623 – 26)**

Mahabat Khan played an important part in suppressing the rebellion of Shah Jahan. Mahabat Khan, the real commander of the Mughal forces, threw in his lot with Prince Parwez, the nominal commander of the forces. To effect a separation between the two, Nur Jahan procured a royal firman to the effect of appointing Mahabat Khan as the Governor of Bengal. To add insult to the already



humiliated, he was ordered to send back the elephants, which he got in Bengal and Bihar during his operations against the rebel prince, Shah Jahan. He was not able to brook such petty severities and so he proceeded at the head of an army to Lahore where the imperial party was camping on its way to Kabul. He effected a successful coup and the Emperor was put under guard. But Nur Jahan skillfully played upon the feelings of Mahabat Khan, outwitted him and effected the escape of herself and her husband. Mahabat Khan submitted.

### **Religious Policy**

It is very difficult to say anything conclusively about the religious faith of Jahangir. Some consider him an atheist or an eclectic pantheist or a devout Muslim or a Christian at heart. He was not an orthodox Muslim. His religious policy, omitting a few stray cases where he showed religious frenzy, was without a blemish. Though he had a contempt for the Hindu religion, he did not persecute the Hindus. The murder of the Sikh Guru was a political assassination and could not in any way be interpreted as an act of religious fanaticism. He permitted the Christian missionaries to preach and convert people to their faith. To give a balanced view, his religious policy was one of complete religious toleration.

### **Hawkins and Sir Thomas Roe**

Captain William Hawkins came to the court of Jahangir in 1609 with a letter from James I so as to get some trade concessions. Sir Thomas Roe came to India in 1615 with a letter from James I. He managed to get concessions for the British to set up trading stations in India. He left India in 1619. The Journals of Sir Thomas Roe and his Captain Terry are a very valuable source of information about the Mughal court.

### **Estimate**

After wielding the scepter for 22 years, Jahangir breathed his last in 1627. He is an interesting if not a fascinating personality in the history of India. It is quite unfortunate that his reign came in between Akbar the Great and Shah Jahan the Magnificent.

## NUR JAHAN

### Early Life

Her father Mirza Ghiyas Beg, a native of Persia, finding his life intolerable in his native country, migrated to Hindustan. He took along with him his two sons and his pregnant wife. The child born at Knadahar named Mithr-un-nisa blossomed into a beautiful lady. In her seventeenth year, She was married to ALiQuli Istajlu, a Persian adventurer.

### Character of Nur Jahan

Though Nur Jahan was 34 years old at the time of her second marriage, she retained her charm and was still a woman of matchless and surpassing beauty. She kept good health and possessed considerable physical strength. She was well-versed in the Persian language and took keen interest in poetry, music and painting. She possessed a sharp intellect. She wielded so much influence over Jahangir that became a nerveless tool in her hands. Though Jahangir was the de jure ruler, the de facto ruler was Nur Jahan. For all practical purposes, the Emperor was sealed off from the political life of the country. Under her influence he became a full-blooded pleasure-seeker, shirked administrative duties and left the affairs of the country to be run by Nur Jahan. He wanted only "a bottle of wine and a piece of meat to keep him merry" Nur Jahan worked earnestly and diligently and attended to the minute details of government. She exercised her influence to promote her kith and kin to high offices. She wielded so much power in the State that her slightest murmur could make or mar a man.

Nur Jahan set up fashions and tastes. She stood forth as the champion of the downtrodden and oppressed women. She spent money out of her own pocket and conducted the marriage of 500 destitute women. In spite of her good qualities, she was not devoid of bad traits. She was ambitious and arrogant. She lacked caution. Moderation and precision in judgment. Her humiliating treatment of the trusted and tried officers of the State landed the country in troubles.

## **Ascendancy of Nur Jahan**

Jahangir's infatuation for Nur Jahan grew day by day. She was styled Nur Mahal (Light of the Palace) in 1611. On the death of Sultana Salima Begum in 1613, Nur Mahal was elevated to the position of the first lady of the Realm. She was styled Nur Jahan (Light of the World) in 1616. Day by day her influence increased and in course of time she became the de facto ruler. The Nur Jahan junta a faction which wielded power in the country consisted of Nur Jahan herself, Asmat Begum (mother of Nur Jahan), Mirza Ghiyas Beg (father of Nur Jahan who was then better known by his title Itimad-ud-daulah), Asaf Khan (brother of Nur Jahan) and Prince Khurram (Shah Jahan). Asmat Begum was a wise counselor. Itimad uddaulah was the strongest pillar in the structure of the Nur Jahan junta. Nur Jahan chiefly depended on him. Asaf Khan was a tower of strength to the junta. Prince Khurram (Joyous) was dragged into the junta in 1612 when he was married to Arjumand Banu Begum (Mumtaz Mahal), the daughter of Asaf Khan. The junta was opposed by self-willed people like Mahabat Khan and so the court was divided into two cliques and earnestly entreated the Emperor "to free himself from the dishonourable petticoat bondage". But Jahangir who had already fallen a victim to the bewitching spell of Nur Jahan turned a deaf ear to it. The malignant motives of the clique reached its climax in 1616 when Prince Khusrau was transferred to the care of Asaf Khan.

## **Break-up of the Nur Jahan Junta**

The break-up of the junta, synchronized with the betrothal of Ladili Begum, daughter of Nur Jahan through Sher Afghan, to Prince Shahryar in 1620. Nur Jahan, thenceforward, advanced the claims of her son-in-law to the throne and left Shah Jahan in the lurch. Asaf Khan, the brother of Nur Jahan and father-in-law of Shah Jahan, bore a grudge against her. But he suppressed his feelings. The junta was further weakened by the death of Asmat Begum in 1621. The stunning blow to the junta came in 1622, when Itimad-ud-daulah died. His death sealed the doom of the junta.

## **Downfall of Nur Jahan**

Jahangir died in 1627. His death was a signal to the war of succession among his sons. Of the sons of Jahangir, Khusrau was murdered in 1622 and Parwez died in 1626. The two surviving rivals among his sons were, Shah Jahan, the son-in-law of Asaf Khan, and Shahryar, the son-in-law of Nur Jahan. After the death of Jahangir under guard and sent word to Shah Jahan, who was in the Deccan, about the latest developments and asked him to return to headquarters in post-haste. Asaf Khan placed Dawar Bakhsh, the son of Khusrau on the throne as a stop-gap arrangement so as to keep the throne warm till the arrival of Shah Jahan. Shahryar. Egged on by Nur Jahan made an unsuccessful bid to gain the throne. His attempt was foiled by Asaf Khan. He was defeated, thrown into prison and blinded. On his way to headquarters, Shah Jahan sent secret information to his father-in-law to dispatch all the rival claimants to the other world. The ghastly deed was promptly carried out by him. He put to death Dawar Bakhsh, his brother Gurshasp, Shahryar and the sons of Daniyal. But there is a story that the life of Dawar Bakhsh was spared and that he was allowed to go to Persia where he spent the rest of his life. Shah Jahan returned to headquarters and was proclaimed Emperor in 1628. Nur Jahan retired from political life. She received a pension of two lakhs of rupees a year from Shah Jahan. She spent the rest of her life in Lahore with her widowed daughter Ladili Begum. Nur Jahan died in 1645. She was interred in a tomb beside that of Jahangir.

## **SHAH JAHAN**

### **Early Life**

Prince Khurram (Joyous) better known to fame as Shah Jahan was born in 1592. His education started in 1596. He easily picked up the Persian language like a duck to water but had very little taste for Turki. He was betrothed to Arjumand Banu Begum (Mumtaz Mahal), the daughter of Asaf Khan in 1607.

### **His Career**

He was the hero of the day during the subjugation of Mewar. In 1617, he got the title of Shah Jahan for his memorable feats in Ahmadnagar. The cordial relations which so far existed between Shah Jahan and Nur Jahan became strained

after the betrothal of his daughter, Ladili Begum to Prince Shahryar in 1620. In 1622, Shah Jahan murdered his brother Khusru, then Shahryar also killed by him, he came to the throne in 1628. Accession to the throne Shah Jahan ascended the throne in 1628, assuming the high-sounding title of Abul Musaffar Shihab-ud-din Muhammad Sahib-i-qiram II, Shah Jahan Padshah Ghazi. The Khutba was read and coins were struck in his name.

### **Famine of 1630-31**

A terrible famine-ghastly and horrible beyond words – broke out in the Deccan and Gujarat. To add to the misery of the people, an epidemic also broke out. Famine and pestilence wrought untold misery on the people. They took a heavy toll of life. Ameliorative measures were undertaken on a large scale to reduce the rigours of famine and this considerably affected the State coffers.

### **Relations with the Portuguese**

Portuguese exacted heavy duties from the Indian merchants. Apart from this, their proselytizing activities and slave-trading went on unabated. Kaskm Khan, the Governor of Bengal, was deputed to deal with the Portuguese. Hughli was laid siege by the imperial forces and it fell in 1632 after three months' resistance. Many of the Portuguese were taken captives and a large number of them was forcibly converted to the Islamic faith and the rest were brutally dealt with.

### **Policy towards the Deccan**

Ahmadnagar was annexed to the Empire in 1633. Aurangzeb served two terms as Viceroy of the Deccan. He waged wars against Bijapur and Golkunda. But as Dara, the eldest brother of Aurangzeb interfered in his policy, he was not able to annex the two kingdoms. (For details – Refer the Deccan Policy of the Mughals).

### **Central Asian Policy**

Shah Jahan cherished dreams of recovering his ancestral dominions of Balkh, Badakshan and Samarqand in Central Asia. Balkh and Badakshan were captured by the imperial forces in 1646. But they were not able to consolidate the conquered territories. The expedition was a failure because the Mughal troops were

unaccustomed to the biting cold of the region. The traditional rivalry between the Uzbeks and the Chaghatais made the people of Central Asia rise as a out of the country. It cost the State treasury a very big amount. Thousands of people lost their lives.

### **Expeditions against Kandahar**

Kandahar was lost to the Mughals in 1622 during the time of Jahangir. It is needless to say that it occupied a vulnerable position in the North-West-Frontier. Shah Jahan recovered Kandahar in 1638 by treachery. Shah Abbas II of Persia recovered Kandahar in 1649. Shah Jahan made three more attempts to recover Kandahar. But all the attempts failed and Kandahar was lost for ever to the Mughals. It cost the State treasury more than half the annual income of the Empire.

### **Religious Policy**

Shah Jahan was an orthodox Sunni Muslim. He was a devout Muslim and strictly adhered to the tenets of the Islamic faith. His policy towards the Hindus marked a reaction against the policy of his grandfather, Akbar. His religious policy was shaped mainly by the fanatical and persecuting temper of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. He issued an order in 1653 to demolish the newly built temples. In Benaras alone, 72 temples were demolished. In the same year another order was passed prohibiting the erection of new temples and the repair of old ones. The pilgrim tax which was abolished by Akbar was revived by Shah Jahan. He disliked the Christians and persecuted them. Though he did not follow a policy of systematic persecution of the Hindus, he took earnest efforts to forcibly convert people to the Islamic faith. He effectively checked the conversion of Muslims to the Hindu faith. He effectively checked the conversion of Muslims to the Hindu faith. The floodgates of religious orgy let loose during the time of Shah Jahan crashed during the reign of his son and successor Aurangzeb.

### **Buildings**

The age of Shah Jahan is rightly called the Augustan Age in India. Shah Jahan is rightly called “the Prince of Builders”. He built a new capital city at

Delhi, called Shahjahanabad. His important buildings in Agra are the Diwan-i-Am (hall of Public Audience), Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience), the Muzamman Burj (Saman Burj), the Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque), Fami Masjid and the Taj Mahal. Taj Mahal “that bubble in marble” is fitting monument of Mumtaz Mahal, “the Lady of the Taj”. The Taj has been called “a dream in marble, designed by Titans and finished by Jewelers”. It is “a tender elegy in marble”, whose “beauty has made immortal the loveliness it commemorates”. The Taj is considered one of the wonders of the world. Shah Jahan constructed the celebrated peacock-throne at a cost of one crore of rupees. He had a passion for the collections of precious stones. The rich diamond Koh-i-nur (Mountain of Light) presented to him by Mir Jumla added to the brilliance and splendour of the court. In conclusion it may be pointed out that the age of Shah Jahan saw not only prosperity but also witnessed symptoms of decay of the mighty Timurid Empire. The period witnessed brisk trade with Europe.

The State coffers were overflowing. The Mammoth structures erected by him bear eloquent testimony to the splendour of the age. It is true that a huge amount of money was spent for the Kandahar campaign and for the conquest of Balkh and Badakshan. Money was spent like water for the upkeep of a showy court and for the erection of mammoth buildings. The money for such wasteful schemes and costly decorations came from the poor tax-payers. But it should be noted that such schemes gave employment to a number of people. It is true that misgovernment prevailed in some of the provinces. But it was only an exception rather than a general rule. The religious fanaticism of Shah Jahan is only a blot in his personal character. It is true that he waded to the throne after murdering his kith and kin. The tradition of the land warranted such a practice for which he could not be blamed. His costly campaigns against Kandahar, Balkh and Badakshan failed. But he could not be solely blamed because circumstances conspired against him. The inexorable thing called “Fate” is unfortunately external to man. The ameliorative measures undertaken by Shah Jahan during the time of famine were commendable. There were some limitations and shortcomings in the life of Shah

Jahan as a man and as a ruler. But they are only negligible drawbacks for which a man cannot be seriously condemned.

Lane Poole remarks: “Shah Jahan was renowned for his kindness and benevolence which endeared him to the people” Hunter points out: “The Mughal Empire attained its highest union of strength and magnificence under Shah Jahan”. He was a great patron of letters. In fine, it may be concluded that the reign of Shah Jahan barring some reservations richly deserves to be called the Golden Age in the history of the Mughals.



## **War of Succession**

Shah Jahan has four sons and two daughters – all born to Mumtaz Mahal. The sons were Dara Shukoh, Shuja, Aurangzeb and Murad and the daughters were Jahan Ara and Roshan Ara. All the four sons had previous knowledge of statecraft and had acted as Governors in different provinces. Dara Shukoh, the eldest son, was the Governor of the Punjab But he, for most of the time stayed at court and enjoyed the confidence of his father. He was an eclectic in religious matters By his proud and arrogant nature, he incurred the displeasure of many of the nobles in the court. His eclectic views on religion were bitterly opposed by the orthodox section of the Muslims.

The second son, Shuja, was the Governor of Bengal. He was an intelligent and brave soldier. But he led a life of ease and pleasure and that rendered him weak and indolent and erratic in taking decisions at critical moments. He was a Shia by tendency and was bitterly opposed by the Sunni section of the Muslims. Aurangzeb, the third son, was the Governor of the Deccan. He was the ablest of all the sons of Shah Jahan and was marked out from the very beginning as a man of promise. He was an accomplished general, a past-master in administration, crafty in action and cool and farsighted by nature. He was an orthodox Sunni and was liked by the Sunnis in the court. Muras, the “black sheep of the imperial family” was the youngest son. He was the Governor of Gujarat. He was a brave soldier but brainless and was addicted to heavy drinking. Shah Jahan fell ill in September, 1657.

The wildest rumours spread throughout the country like a wildfire that Shah Jahan was dead. The four sons of Shah Jahan prepared themselves for the inevitable and impending trial for strength. Shuja proclaimed his independence in Bengal. The Khutba was read in his name and coins were struck. In Gujarat, Murad Bakhsh followed suit. The two were rather hasty in action which later landed them in troubles. But Aurangzeb played a waiting-game. He entered into an alliance with Murad literally dividing the country between themselves. It was agreed that Murad was to be the ruler of the Punjab, Afghanistan, Kashmir and Sind and one third of the spoils of war should go to him. The rest of the Empire and the remaining spoils should go to Aurangzeb. Shuja marched at the head of a large army from Bengal, but was defeated by Sulaiman Shukoh, (the eldest son of Dara Shukoh) and Raja JaiSingh in the battle of Bahadupur near Benaras in 1658.

In the meantime, Aurangzeb proceeded towards the north. Two imperial forces were dispatched – one under the command of Jaswant Singh of Marwar and the other under Qasim Khan to arrest the onward march of Aurangzeb and Murad. The combined armies of the two brothers effected a junction with the imperial forces commanded by Jaswant Singh and Qasim Khan at Dharmat in 1658. The imperial army was beaten back. Dara collected another army but was again defeated in the battle of Samuragarh. He returned to headquarters rudely shaken in health and spirits. Finding the chapter closed, he fled to Lahore. Aurangzeb entered Agra and besieged the Agra Fort. Shah Jahan put up a mild resistance. But finding further resistance futile, he opened the city-gates. He became a state prisoner. The earnest entreaties of Jahan Ara to Aurangzeb to partition the Empire among the brothers did not bear fruit. Aurangzeb then proceeded from Agra to Delhi giving a hot-chase to Dara. But as he smelled a rat in the designs of Murad, he hastily returned to Agra. He tactfully handled the situation. By giving lavish presents he lulled the suspicion of Murad. When he was asleep, he was disarmed and taken captive and sent to the fortress of Gwalior. In Dec. 1661, he was executed on a charge of murder.

Dara fled from Delhi to Lahore and then to Gujarat. He raised another army. Raja Jaswant Singh promised to help him. But he was easily won over by Aurangzeb. Dara met the force of Aurangzeb at Deorai near Ajmer in March, 1659. But Dara once again tasted defeat at the hands of his brother. He fled to Sind in the hope of getting help from Malik Jawn, the Zamindar of Dadar, whose life he saved some years ago from the wrath of Shah Jahah. But he treacherously betrayed him into the hands of Aurangzeb's men. Dara and his second son, Sipihr Shukoh were seated on a filthy elephant and paraded round the streets of Delhi. A decision was passed declaring Dara a kafir and was sentenced to death in 30th Aug. 1659. The assailants literally cut Dara to pieces. His head was cut off and the ghastly was arrested and confined in the Fort of Gwalior where he was murdered of slow poisoning in May. 1662. Shuja, in the mean while, was defeated by Aurangzeb in the battle of Khajwa in 5th Jan 1659. He fled from place to place and finally went to the Arakkan hills where he was murdered by the natives in Feb. 1661. Thus Aurangzeb got rid of all his rivals, He spread the lives of Sipihr Shukoh (the second son of Dara) and Lzid Bakhsh (one of the sons of Murad Bakhsh). Later on they were married to his daughters.

### **Last days of Shah Jahan**

Shah Jahan who was made a prisoner in 1658, remained a prisoner till his death in 1666. His last days were made miserable by petty severities inflicted by Aurangzeb through his slaves and eunuchs. This treatment meted out to him was nothing when compared to the murder of his own children in cold-blood when he was alive. He bore the shocks in life with great courage and patience. He found solace in the company of his eldest daughter, Jahanara. He died in 1666.

## **UNIT – III**

### **AURANGZEB**

#### **Early Life**

Muhi-ud-din Muhammad Aurangzeb was born to Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal in 1618. His education started in his tenth year. He got a perfect mastery over the Koran and Hadis. In a very short period, he became well-versed in Arabic and Persian. He picked up Hindi and Turki.

#### **His Career**

Shah Jahan who was elated by the courage of his son conferred on him the title of Bahadur (hero). Aurangzeb played an important part in suppressing the rebellion of Jujahar Singh the Bundela chieftain. He served as Viceroy of the Deccan from 1636 to 1644. He distinguished himself in the campaigns against Balkh in 1647. After the campaign he served as Viceroy of Multan and Sind from 1648 to 1652. During this periods, he was called back twice for carrying on the siege of Kandahar.

#### **Accession to the throne :**

Aurangzeb came to the throne in 1658. But he was pre-occupied with the elimination of his rivals, the formal accession took place only in 1659. Aurangzeb ascended the throne for a second time assuming the lofty and high-sounding title of Abul-Muzaffar Muhi-ud-din Aurangzeb Bahadur Alamgir Padshah Ghazi. "Alamgir" means "Conqueror of the World" and "Ghazi" means "Holy Warrior". The Khutba was read in his name and coins were struck. The occasion was celebrated with great pomp and splendor. To win the hearts of his subjects, he abolished many vexatious taxes that stood in the way of free trade. Being an orthodox Sunni Mussulman, he promulgated a number of ordinances to make the Muslims strictly adhere to the sacred tenets of the Koran. He persecuted the Sufis for holding liberal views on religion and the Shias for heretic views.

The reign of Aurangzeb for a period of 50 years may be divided into two equal halves- one from 1658 to 1681 and the other from 1682 to 1707. During the first period, he concentrated his attention of the north and engaged himself in the expansion of the mighty Timurid Empire of far off places. During the second period, he riveted his attention to the Deccan and completely neglected the north His in difference aggravated the already existing economic and cultural maladies in the north. The diplomatic blunders committed by Aurangzeb by annexing Bijapur and Golkunda and his repressive measures on religious grounds against different sections of the people sowed the seeds for the political, economic and cultural breakdown of the Empire.

### **War in the Eastern front Conquest of Palamau (1661)**

Beyond the southern border of Bihar, lay the district of Palamau. During the time of Shah Jahan, it was a fief of the Mughal Empire. The Raja of Palamau gave offence to Aurangzeb by failing to clear of the arrears of tribute. Daud Khan, the Governor of Bihar, was deputed by Aurangzeb to invade the district. HE captured Palamau in 1661 and it was added to the province of Bihar.

### **War with Cooch Bihar and the Ahoms of Assam**

The disorder following the war of succession was taken advantage of by the rulers of Cooch Bihar and Assam and they seized the Mughal district of Kamarup. To bring the two rulers to book, Aurangzeb sent Mir Jumla, the Governor of Bengal, against them. He captured Cooch Bihar in 1661 and it was added to the Mughal Empire. After subjugating Cooch Bihar, he showed his might to the king of Assam. He recovered Kamarup and captured Garhgaon, the capital of Assam in 1662.

### **War in the North –West Front (1672 – 75)**

The Afghans of the North –West Frontier plundered Mughal territories. At first Aurangzeb tried to ward off their attacks by bribing the Afghan chieftains. But this policy instead of silencing them whetted their appetite and they continued to

carry on plundering activities with renewed vigour. The Yusufzai clan under its leader Bhagu attacked the Mughal district of Hazara. Similar attacks were made in Attock and Peshwar. But all these risings were suppressed by Aurangzeb.

### **Marwar**

Aurangzeb wanted to annex Marwar. He imposed paying a succession fee of 36 lakhs of rupees. But Jaswant Sing not paid. So Aurangzeb sent three contingents under his three sons Muazzam, Azam and Akbar to invade Marwar. Aurangzeb himself came to Ajmer to direct the operations. After Marwar was annexed in 1679.

### **Mewar**

Rana Raj Singh was the ruler of Mewar. He helped to Marwar during the expedition of Mewar. So Aurangzeb want revenge against Mewar. Aurangzeb set his son Prince Akbar to invade on Mewar but not succeeded and deal with Mewar.

### **Rebellion of Prince Akbar (1681)**

Prince Akbar got insulted and irritated when he was transferred to Marwar. Akbar who was then 23 years old, entertained dreams of seating himself on the throne of Hindustan with the help of the two Rajput clans. He entered into treasonable negotiations with the Sisodias and Rathors. With their help, he raised the flag of insurrection and proclaimed himself Emperor of India in 1681. He did not succeed his father and fled to Persia where he died in 1704.

### **Deccan policy of Aurangzeb (1680 – 1707) Campaigns against Sivaji**

Aurangzeb appointed Shaista Khan as the Governor of the Deccan in 1660 with the main purpose of crushing the power of Sivaji. But his plans were thwarted by the masterly strokes of Sivaji. He made successful night attack on Shaista Khan's camp at Poona in 1663, mutilated his fingers and killed one of his sons. Shaista Khan was recalled.

Aurangzeb sent Raja Jai Singh against Sivaji. He besieged Purandar in 1665. Sivaji put up a heroic resistance. But finding further resistance futile, he surrendered. According to the terms of the treaty of Purandar, 1665, given 23 forts to the Mughals retaining 12 forts for himself. He promised to supply a contingent of 5,000 horses to be compensated by the collection of Chauth and Sardeshmukhi in certain districts of Bijapur.

Sivaji went to Agra in 1666 to seek audience with Emperor only to find himself a prisoner in his hands. But he effected his escape along with his son Shambhuji and returned home in 1666. Aurangzeb recognized Sivaji as Raja in 1668. Shambhuji, the son of Sivaji, was made a Mansabdar of 5,000 and Sivaji got a jagir in Berar. He started his offensive against the Mughals in 1670 and recovered almost all the forts he had ceded to them.

### **Bijapur (1686)**

His attention on Bijapur and Golkunda. In 1685, operations was started against Bijapur. In 1686, Bijapur surrendered and the dynasty which ruled over the State for nearly two centuries came to an inglorious end. Bijapur was annexed in 1686. This was the first diplomatic blunder committed by Aurangzeb in the Deccan because the people of Bijapur hated Mughal imperialism and longed for the rule of the old dynasty.

### **Golkunda (1687)**

After the fall of Bijapur, Aurangzeb turned his attention to Golkunda. Abul Hasan, the ruler of Golkunda was a pleasure-seeker. Golkunda was besieged by the Mughal forces in 1687.

### **Religious Policy of Aurangze**

Aurangzeb was an orthodox Sunni Muslim. His religious policy was inextricably intertwined with his personal views on religion. As the champion of Sunni orthodoxy, he preached a crusade against heresy. As a staunch defender of the Islamic faith, he signalized his accession by the promulgation of a number of

Islamic ordinances. He discontinued the practice of inscribing the Kalima (the Muhammed and confession of faith) on the coins with the object of preventing them from being sullied by the infidels. He abolished the celebration of the Persian New Year's day (Nauroz). He forbade the cultivation of bhang (a herb from which intoxicating beverage can be distilled). He appointed MUhtasibs (Censors of Public Morals) in different parts of the country in order to see that the people strictly adhered to the sacred tenets of the Islamic faith. To keep the moral sense of the people at a high order, the Muhtasibs were expected to put down drinking, gambling and prostitution. Aurangzeb issued orders for the repair of old mosques.

As days rolled on, the Puritan Emperor became more puritanic. In the eleventh year of his reign, he put an end to the practice of jharoka darshan (giving darshan to the people from the balcony of the palace). In the same year, he banned music in the court and dismissed all musicians. He simplified many customs in the court. The ceremonial weighing against gold and silver twice a year was stopped. He persecuted the Shias for heresy and the Sufis for holding liberal views on religion.

After refining Islam, Aurangzeb attempted to transform the infidel country (Dar-ulharb) into the Realm of Islam (Dar-ul-Islam). Though he did not forcibly convert the people to the Islamic faith, he made them realize that they belonged to an inferior class. He imposed on them many political, social and economic disabilities. He prohibited the Hindus from repairing old temples. In 1669, he issued an order "to demolish all the schools and temples of the infidels and to put down their religious teaching and practices". The jizya was reimposed in 1679.

The pilgrim tax was reimposed on the Hindus. He forbade sati which had the sanction of Brahmanical custom. He dismissed the astronomers and astrologers. The religious fanaticism of Aurangzeb reached its height when he started a systematic apolicy of iconoclasm or idol-breaking. Many temples were razed to the ground. Promises were held out to non-Muslims for a better life by asking



them to become converts to the Islamic faith. Posts and honours were conferred on people who embraced the Islamic faith. Hindu fairs and festivals were prohibited. Hindus were deliberately excluded from public offices. A duty of 5% was collected from Hindi traders where as it was only 2 ½ % for the Muslims and from that too they were exempted in 1667. Hindus except the Rajputs were not allowed to carry arms or ride on horses or elephants. All these repressive measures aimed at systematically discouraging the Hindus irritated and inflamed them. The pent up feelings of the people found expression in a number of religious risings.

### **Effects of his Religious Policy**

#### **a) Rebellion of the Jats (1669)**

The Jats, a set of sturdy people of the Mathura district, rose in open rebellion in 1669. Abdun Nabi Khan, the faujdar of Mathura, was faithfully discharging the policy of his master in systematically breaking down idols and desecrating temples. He built a mosque on the ruins of a Hindu temple. By threat and force, he removed the carved stone railing which had been presented by Dara to Keshav Rai Temple. It provoked the Jats, They killed Abdun Nabi and plundered the pargana of Sadabad. The annoyed Emperor sent several contingents against the Jats and defeated them in a battle near Tilapat. Gokul, the ring-leader, and the members of his family were imprisoned and taken to Agra. On the platform of the police office at Agra, the leader was literally cut to pieces and the members of his family were forced to embrace the Islamic faith. But the blood of the martyr is the cement of the church. They continued their work of insurrection. In 1686, they rose in rebellion under the leadership of Raja Ram. But he was defeated and killed. After the death of Raja Ram, the work of insurrection was carried on by his nephew, Churaman.

#### **b) The Bundela rebellion**

Champat Rai, the king of Bundelkhand, rebelled against Aurangzeb in the early part of his reign. But the rebellion was quelled. Circumstances forced the

Bundela King to commit suicide. Chhatrasal, the son of Champat Raj, organized an attack against the Mughals on a large scale. The people of Bundelkhand and Malwa got infuriated at the religious fanaticism of Aurangzeb. They found in Champat Rai a worthy leader and a champion of Hindu faith. He repulsed many of the attacks of the Mughal forces. He died in 1731 after carving out an independent principality.

### **c) Rebellion of Satnamis (1672)**

Another rebellion of a more formidable nature was organized by the Satnamis who resided in the districts of Narnaul and Mewar. They were a set of Hindu devotees with tonsured heads and shaven faces and dressed in the attire of Sanyasis. They were very honest and peacefully engaged themselves in traded and agriculture. The immediate provocation of the rebellion was the indecent behavior of a foot-soldier towards a Satnami peasant. Soon the quarrel developed and assumed a religious colour. They successfully repelled the attacks of the Mughal forces in charge of local officers on many occasions. Enraged at the audacity of Satnamis, Aurangzeb dispatched the imperial troops. In the battle that followed, 2,000 Satnamis were killed and the rest fled from the field of battle.

### **d) The opposition of the Sikhs**

The Sikhs also did not escape the fanatical fury of Aurangzeb. Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, protested against the anti-Hindu policy of Aurangzeb. He strongly objected to the desecration of temples" by the Emperor. He was summoned to Delhi and asked to embrace the Islamic faith. He preferred death to dishonor. The Guru was tortured to death in 1675. His successor, Guru Govind Singh, organized the Sikhs into a military brotherhood. The Guru was murdered by an Afgjan fanatic in 1708.

## **Last days of Aurangzeb**

His eldest son, Muhammad Sultan, died in prison in 1676. Prince Akbar ended his life in Persia in 1704. Muazzam, Azam and Kam Bakhsh survived him. His tireless and unceasing work shattered his health and spirits. In a moment of desperation, he wrote pathetic letters to his sons Azam and Kam Bakhsh. He executed a will partitioning the Empire among his three sons so as avert a war of succession. The Emperor died in 1707 at the ripe old age of 90 at Ahmadnagar. His mortal remains were interred in a tomb in Daulatabad.

## **AURANGZEB'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPERIAL DECLINE**

Aurangzeb was not to be solely blamed for the disintegration of the Mughal Empire. Before his death, the number of provinces rose to 21. Over centralization with a heavy dose of despotism became the nature of his government. The success of such a government depends upon the personality of the Emperor. It is true that Aurangzeb had an extraordinary memory power and was noted for his indefatigable industry. But they are poor substitutes for efficient administration. His narrow-minded bigotry and unstatesmanlike acts aggravated the already existing malady in the administration. In the evening of his life, he lost control over the Governors of distant provinces.

Suspicious by nature, Aurangzeb never took anybody into confidence. He suspected his own sons. He did not give proper training to his sons in the art of government. He always kept them at arms length and deputed spies to watch their movements. As was the father so were the sons. They retaliated by entering into treasonable negotiations with other powers. It is mockery to run a government without experienced leaders at the helm of affairs. The sons of Aurangzeb due to want of proper training became mediocrities. He had the utmost distrust for his ministers. So he himself attended to the minute details of government, the ministers remaining as glorified clerks. They lacked initiative, push and dash in administrative duties. In course of time, they became

irresponsible. It resulted in the demoralization and degeneration of the administrative machinery.

Aurangzeb failed to realize that the perpetuation of Mughal rule was based on the willing co-operation of the Hindus and Muslims. An important role was played by the Rajputs in defending and upholding the Mughal structure. But Aurangzeb by his intolerant religious policy and unstatesmanlike acts alienated the sympathies of the Sirdars of Mewar and the Rathors of Marwar. Instead of winning over the Rajputs, he carried on incessant wars against them. He succeeded in converting friends into foes. He made the Rajputs bitter enemies of the Empire.

Aurangzeb was an orthodox Sunni Muslim. In his desire to convert India into an Islamic State, the puritan Emperor rubbed with wrong shoulders. By his intolerant religious policy, he incurred the displeasure of a number of sects. He did not take into account the strength of popular movements in the country. The Marathas Sikhs, Jats, Satnamis and Bundelas became the sworn enemies of the Empire. Aurangzeb thought that by arresting Shivaji or executing Shamshuji or hacking the Sikh Guru to pieces or brutally suppressing the rebellions of the Jats and Satnamis, he could scare away or strike terror in the minds of the people. But he failed to realize that popular ideas could never be crushed by acts of suppression. But on the contrary, they gather only renewed and fresh momentum by the martyrdom of the leaders. Further, he failed to note that such ideas were becoming determining political factors. Shivaji, „the Deccan Ulcer“ foiled his plans. Govind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, organized the Sikhs into a military brotherhood. The Marathas and the Sikhs became the arch-enemies of Mughal imperialism. Had Aurangzeb been a far-sighted statesman, he would have followed a conciliatory policy towards them. But he became a slave to narrow prejudices and lacked realism in his views.

Aurangzeb's long drawn-out wars in the Deccan brought about demoralization and degeneration in the Mughal administration. The annexation of Bijapur and Golkunda were serious diplomatic blunders committed by him. He could have allowed them to continue as independent States and could have set them against the rising power Marathas. But by reducing them to impotence, he only allowed the Marathas to gain an upper hand in the south at the expense of the two Sultanates. Bijapur and Golkunda were already dead horses. But he wasted a lot of money and time in flogging the dead horses. The financial breakdown which started during the reign of his father assumed grater dimensions during his reign and brought about the inevitable decline of the Empire.

Military might alone can not keep an Empire intact. Ample scope should be given to the expansion of the creative talents of the people in artistic and literary fields. Aurangzeb had no taste for art and literature. All kinds of art and literature received a set-back during his reign. The creative talents of the people got stunted and stultified during his reign. In fine, it may be stated that Aurangzeb was not solely responsible for the dismemberment of the Mughal Empire. But he hastened the decline.

## **Mughal Administration**

### **The Emperor**

The Emperor was all in the administration of the Empire. Virtually he was an autocrat with unrestrained powers. His will was law. But he never behaved like a despot. His authority was tempered and controlled by rebellions and the crying needs of the people. But the fact remains that the Mughal Government was purely and one-man show. The Emperor was assisted in the day-to-day administration of the country by a council of ministers. But they were in no sense his colleagues. The Emperor combined in his person all the powers. He worked hard according to a set time-table. He used to transact business of a general nature in the Diwan-i-Am

(Hall of Public Audience), of a more serious nature in the Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience) and of a secret nature in the Ghusal Khana (Room of Secret Audience).

### **Central Government**

The Emperor was the pivot of the Government. They were only his servants appointed and dismissed by him at his will. The highest and most important minister was the Wazir or Prime Minister. The Wazir usually headed the revenue department in his capacity as Diwan and not in his capacity as Wazir. In the time of Akbar, the Prime Minister was called Vakil and the Revenue Minister, Diwan. The other important ministers were the Khan-i-Saman, Mir-Bakshi, Sadar-us-Sadar and Muhtasib. The Khan-i-Saman was in charge of the imperial household, the Mir Bakshi or Pay Master General was in charge of disbursement of salaries to the officers.

### **Imperial Service**

The military nature of the government was well reflected in the Imperial Service. Akbar introduced a new system known as the Mansabdari system which he borrowed from Persia. The military nature of government required the employment of a large number of people. Most of them, nearly 70% were foreign Muslims. Only 30% of the posts was occupied by the Indian Muslims and Hindus. During the time of Akbar, the Mansabdars were classified into 33 grades ranging from commanders of 10 to 10,000. The highest grade thrown open to ordinary officials was a mansab of 5,000. The higher grades above 5,000 were reserved to the members of the blood royal. Each Mansabdar received a fixed pay out of which he was expected to maintain his quota of horses, elephants, etc. The Mansabdars received cash payments or grant of Jagirs. Akbar preferred the cash payment to the grant of Jagirs. A Mansabdar of 5,000 received a monthly salary of Rs.30,000 and a Mansabdar of 10, Rs.100.

## **The Army**

There was no standing army worth the name during the Mughal period. In the time of Akbar, it consisted of not more than 25,000 equipped and maintained from the coffers of the State. The Emperor had to rely on four classes of troops, viz., (1) Irregular forces supplied by subordinate kings and chieftains. (2) Troops supplied by Mansabdars (3) Supplementary troops raised by the State and (4) Ahadis or a body of "Gentlemen troopers" composed of young men of locus standi and good family. The troops raised by the subordinate kings and chieftains were commanded by themselves.

## **Police**

The police administration was organized on efficient lines and it proved very effective. In the rural areas, no permanent arrangements were made to detect crimes. The Mughal Emperors since the time of Akbar followed the time immemorial custom of enforcing local responsibility for detecting crimes and thefts committed in rural areas. In the cities and towns, the Kotwal was entrusted with the duty of maintaining public order and decency. Abul Fazal in his Ain-i-Akbari enumerates a long list of duties which the Kotwal had to perform. Some of

## **Law and Justice**

The Diwan-i-Kas dispensing justice. Jahangir's „Bell of Justice“ reveals his high sense of justice. Shah Jahan used to hear cases on Wednesdays in the Diwan-i-Khas. The Chief Qazi was the highest judicial officer in the State and appointed by the Caliph Umar who enunciated the principle that the law was Supreme and that the judge must never be subservient to the ruler. The Muslim kings in India brought with them these high ideals and individual Sultans had very high ideals of justice.

## **Art, Architecture and Literature in the Mughals Architecture**

The three allied arts of architecture, painting and sculpture with the exception of the last one attained an extraordinarily high level of excellence

during the Mughal period. All the early Mughal Emperors with the exception of Aurangzeb were mighty builders. The style adopted in the construction of buildings was an admixture of the best Muslim and Hindu traditions and elements.

### **Architecture under Babur, Humayun**

Theravages of time have completely destroyed his mighty structures. Only three mosques conceived in a humbler scale have survived. They are at Panipat, Sambhal and Agra. His tomp at Kabul is a magnificent one. The two surviving specimens of the buildings of the fugitive Emperor Humayun are the two mosques – one at Agra and the other at Fathbad.

### **Architecture under Sher Shah**

He constructed the fort of Rohtas on the Jhelum. The two specimens of the architecture of his period are a mosque in the Purana Quila and his mausoleum built on a high rock in the midst of a lake at Sasaram.

### **Architecture under Akbar**

He constructed the mausoleum of Humayun at Delhi. Though the Persian style dominates the top, the ground-plan is Indian. How built important buildings and palaces at Fathaepur Sikri, 26 miles away from Agra and that served as the capital city between 1569 and 1584. The two imposing structures in Fathaepur Sikri the Fami Masjid and the Buland Darwaza.

His other buildings are Jodh Bai's palace, The Diwan-i-Am and the Diwan-i-Khas. The last two buildings should not be confused with those of Shah Jahan. Akbar erected these two buildings at Fathpur Sikri which is 26 miles away from Agra and Shah Jahan constructed them in Agra. Some of his other buildings are Jagangiri Mahal which is commonly called the Agra Fort, the Lahore Fort, and his mausoleum at Sikandara.



## **Architecture under Jahangir**

Jahangir was a poor builder. The work of the mausoleum of Akbar at Sikandarastarted in 1605 was completed by Jahangir. The best specimen of the architecture of the period was the tomb of Itimad-ud-daulah at Agra.

## **Architecture under Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb**

Shah Jahan was undoubtedly the “Prince of builders”. There was a spate of buildings in his time. (For details of the buildings of Shah Jahan refer pages 58-60). With the end of Shah Jahan’s reign, the glorious period of Mughal architecture comes to an end as Aurangzeb had neither the will nor the finance to patronize it. Aurangzeb constructed a small mosque in the Fort of Delhi, another at Benaras on the ruins of the famous Vishwanath temple and a third at Lahore.

## **Painting**

The art of painting owes its revival and excellence in India to the Mughals. Babur was a lover of nature. He liberally patronized painters. He greatly enjoyed flowers, springs and streams painted by them. Humayun developed a keen taste for painting when he was in exile. He brought with him two painters to India. Akbar was also interest in painting. An Indo Persian style of painting developed by Akbar. The Mughal painting reached the zenith during the time of Jahangir. The art of Painting of flowers, animals, birds and other natural objects reached an extraordinarily high degree of perfection. Shah Jahan had no taste for painting and under Aurangzeb there was a distinct decline of all kinds of art.

## **Sculpture**

Babur and Humayun were orthodox Muslims and so they had no taste for sculpture. In the reign of Akbar, a modest beginning was made in the development of the art of sculpture. Some of the specimens of the sculpture of the period are the statues of Jaimall and Patta at the gateway of the Agra Fort and the statues of two elephants at Fathpur Sikri. The marble statues of Rana Amar Singh and his son Karan Singh erected in the palace garden of Agra by Jahangir are

the two specimens of the sculpture of his period. Shah Jahan was indifferent to sculpture. Aurangzeb being an orthodox Sunni Muslim ordered for the demolition of statues and figures.

### **Music**

Music was also loved and patronized by the earlier mughal Emperors with the exception of Aurangzeb. According to Abul Fazl, 36 musicians enjoyed the patronage of Akbar. Tansen was the most accomplished singer of the time. Abul Fazl says that, "a singer like him has not been in India for the last thousand years". Jahangir and Shah Jahan loved and extended their patronage to music. Aurangzeb being an orthodox Muslim placed a ban on music at court.

### **Literature**

Babur himself was an accomplished scholar well-versed in Arabic, Persian and Turki. His autobiography, Babur-nama, written in flawless Turki is a priceless record. Humayun was also a refined scholar. The Humayun-nama of Gulbadan Begum, the daughter of Babur, is an authority on Humayun's reign. Akbar's age extended his patronage to Persian and Hindi literature. Abul Fazl was undoubtedly the greatest writer of the period. His title to fame rests on his two works – the Ain-I Akbari and Akbar-nama. Jahangir also patronized writers. He himself was a good scholar and writer. Abdul Hamid Lahori wrote the Padshah-nama and Inayat Khan wrote the Shahjahan-nama. The only literary work received the patronage of Aurangzeb was the fatwa-i-Alamgiri, the greatest digest of Muslim law. Zeb-un-Nisha Begum, the daughter of Aurangzeb, was an accomplished poetess and the diwan-i-Makhfi is a fitting monument to her poetic genius.

### **Education**

In spite of all these literary outbursts, the Mughal Emperors failed to take steps for the spread of education among the masses. Madrasahs were maintained by the State with liberal grants. But no well-thought-out attempt was made by

them to organise a system of public education. Aurangzeb issued an order to demolish the schools of the Hindus.

### **Downfall of the mughal Empire Personal Despotism**

The Mughal Government hinged on personal despotism depending upon the character and personality of the ruler for its perpetuation. The first six Mughal Emperors were men of ability and they kept the ship of the State on an even keel. The Mughal dynasty ceased to produce supermen after Aurangzeb. His successors were craven-hearted and thoroughly incompetent to shoulder the onerous responsibilities of the State. They became nerveless tools in the hands of self-seeking adventurers and opportunists whose corrupt and inefficient administration drivelled the country into the sorage of decay.

### **Decay of the Administrative Machinery**

The imperial civil service during the time of the early Mughal Emperors was manned by men of superior ability. The progressive deterioration in the character of the later Mughal Emperors went hand in hand with that of the Mughal nobility. The Muslim aristocracy was consisted of a band of adventurers and opportunists whose loyalty to the throne was notorious for its vagries.

### **Demoralisation of the Mughal army**

The organization of the Mughal army contained certain inherent defects. There was no standing army.

### **Aurangzeb's contribution to the imperial decline**

Absence of a regular law of Succession The absence of a regular law of succession to the throne seriously hampered the strength and growth of the law of primogeniture, i.e., the practice of the eldest son succeeding to the throne was alien to the Mughals. Kingship knew no kinship at that time. Such chronic blood-feuds created factions in the court which undermined the strength of the Empire.

## **Rise of the Marathas**

The Marathas under Sivaji grew into a strong power. In course of time, it became a national upsurge. They carried on their incessant crusade against the imperialism and fanaticism of the Mughals. The Marathas under the Peshwas and the Confederate Chiefs humiliated and dictated terms to the Mughal Emperors.

## **Foreign Invasions**

The tottering Mughal Empire was given stunning blows by foreign invaders like Nadir Shah of Persia and Ahmad Shah Abdali of Afghanistan. These two freebooters carried away immense riches from India.

## **Bad Finance**

The needless wars of Aurangzeb in the Deccan and the upkeep of a showy court by his predecessors completely drained up the sources of revenue. The financial breakdown of the Empire which started even during the time of Shah Jahan reached its culmination during the rule of Aurangzeb. Shah Jahan spent money like water in the erection of his mammoth structures. The people groaned under the weight of heavy taxation. Want of finance sapped the vitality of the Empire and that inevitably brought about the dismemberment of the Empire.

## **Successors of Aurangzeb**

The successors of Aurangzeb were thoroughly incompetent. It was the heyday of Kingmakers like the Sayyid brothers and opportunists like Gulam Quadir. The year 1719 witnessed four Emperors seated on the throne one after another. This itself clearly indicates the fact that the later Mughal Emperors were playthings in the hands of opportunists. The downfall of the Empire under such circumstances was only a foregone conclusion.

## **Advent of the English**

The infiltration and penetration of the British synchronized at a time when the Mughal Emperors practically became nonentities. The Mughal Empire which

had already become a dead horse was flogged more than once by the Marathas. It was left to the British to bury deep the dead horse.

### **Independent Kingdoms in the north Hyderabad**

In 1713, Mir Kamar-ud-din Chin Chilich Khan was appointed by Farrukhsiyar as Governor of the six provinces of the Deccan – Aurangabad (old Ahmadnagar), Berar, Bidar, Bijapur, Hyderabad and Khandesh. He was given the title of Nizam-ul-mulk. Later on he for another title Asaf Jah. Nizam-ul-mulk practically became an independent ruler in 1724. He died in 1748. The second Nizam was Nazir Jang (1748-50), the third Muzaffar Jang (1750 – 51), the fourth Salabat Jang (1751 – 61) and the fifth Nizam Ali (1762 – 1802). Nizam Ali became a vassal of the British East India Company.

### **Oudh**

Saadat Khan, a Persian adventurer, was appointed Governor of Oudh with the title of Burhan-ul-mulk in 1724. He gradually converted his Subah into an independent kingdom. He committed suicide in 1739. He was succeeded by his nephew and son-in-law Abdul Mansur Khan better known by his title Safdar Jang. He was appointed Wazir of the Mughal Government in 1748. He died in 1754. He was succeeded by his son Shuja-ud-daulah. He became a vassal of the British East India Company after the battle of Buxar (1764).

### **Bengal**

Murshid Quli Jafar Khan was appointed Governor Bengal by Aurangzeb in 1705. When he died in 1727, he was succeeded by his son-in-law Shuja-ud-din. Bihar was added to the province of Bengal in 1733 Alivardi Khan was appointed Deputy Governor of Bihar. After the death of Shuja-ud-din in 1737, his son Sarfaraz Khan became the Nawab. Alivardi Kahn hatched a plot against Sarfaraz Khan. The latter was defeated and killed by the former in 1740 who then became the Nawab of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. After his death in 1756, he was succeeded by his grandson Siraj-ud-daulah.

## **Rohilkhand**

The independent settlement of Rohilkhand skirting the Himalayas and lying to the north –west of Oudh was set up by Ali Muhammad Khan in 1721. Taking advantage of Nadir Shah’s invasion, he considerably extended his sphere of influence by adding a few territories. Muhammad Shah, the Mughal emperor appointed his Governor of the territories under his sphere of action. But Ali Muhammad Khan continued to rule as an independent Nawab. Muhammad Shah’s attempt in 1745 to chastise the rebel leader miserably failed. The Rohillas were “a simple pastoral people, paterens of antique virtue”. The majority of the people were Hindus and they were ruled by a confederacy of Rohilla and Pathan Chiefs.

## UNIT - IV

### THE MARATHAS - SHIVAJI

#### **Marathas – Rise of Shivaji**

The geographical situation of the country itself was a cause for the rise of Marathas. It was not very easy to attack a country which was surrounded on all sides by natural barriers. The Marathas had previous military experience. They had helped the Yadavas of Devagiri in their struggle against Ala-ud-din Khilji. They had served under the Bhamani Sultans in various military capacities. After the break-up of the Bahmani kingdom, they served under the Sultans of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Golkunda, Bidar and Berar. The Maratha noblemen filled the army of Ahmadnagar and Bijapur. They made capital out of the weakness of the sultans of the Deccan.

A common language, the religious revival brought up by religious reformers like Wkanath, Tukaram, Ramadas and Vaman Pandit and above all the genius of Shivaji sowed the seeds for renaissance in the country. All the essential ingredients for the development of a nation-state like a common language, religion, a glorious past with traditions of loyalty and obedience and a strong desire for union were present in the Maratha country. Political unity was the only thing which the people lacked and that was supplied by the resourceful intelligence of Shivaji.

#### **Career of Shivaji (1627 – 1680) Early life**

He was born in Shivner near Junnar in 1627, Shaji Bhonsle, the father of Shivaji, was a petty commander under Malik Amber, the Abyssinian minister of Ahmadnagar. After the death of Malik Amber, he played the role of king-maker in Ahmadnagar. When it was annexed to the Mughal dominions, he entered the service of the Sultan of Bijapur. In 1636, he deputed Shaji to conquer new places. He took along with him his second wife Turka Bai and his son Venkoji or Ekoji, leaving Shivaji and his mother Jija Bai in Poona under the guardianship of Dadaji

Kondadev. Dadaji Kondadev taught young Shivaji fighting, horseriding and a number of other manly feats. He also learnt from him the art of administration.

### **Early Conquests**

He started his career of conquest by measuring his strength with the Sultan of Bijapur. In 1646, he captured the fortress of Torna which belonged to the Sultan of Bijapur. An immense booty fell into his hands, He built a new fort Rajgarh, five miles east of Torna. In 1665 he captured the fort of Purandar. He renewed his activities with redoubled vigour in 1656. In the same year, he captured Javli in the Satara district from Chandra Rao More, a Maratha nobleman.

### **First rupture with the Mughals (1657)**

Shivaji stretched his gaze beyond his modest power. He gave offence to Aurangzeb, the then Viceroy of the Deccan, by attacking the Mughal districts of Ahmadnagar and Junnar, Aurangzeb sent a contingent against Shivaji and defeated him. Aurangzeb patched up a peace with Bijapur and Shivaji also made peace with Aurangzeb. He proceeded to the north in order to participate in the war of succession. Shivaji made capital out of his absence from the Deccan. He invaded North Konkan and captured the cities of Kalyan, Bhivand and the fort of Mahuli.

### **Murder of Afzal Khan (1659)**

Shivaji's personal exploit against Afzal Khan, one of the generals of Bijapur, was a memorable episode in the history of India. The Sultan sent Afzal Khan, a consummate general noted for his treachery and savagery, against Shivaji. He opened negotiations with Shivaji and solicited him to have a personal talk with him. Shivaji scented the treachery behind the move. In the conference hall where the two embraced, Afzal Khan attempted foul-play and so Shivaji tore open his bowels with the help of his bagh nakh and plunged his dagger into Afzal Khan's side and killed him. A terrible carnage was inflicted on the Bijapuri forces. An immense booty fell into the hands of Shivaji.



### **Night-attack on Shaista Khan's camp (1663)**

Another memorable feat during the time of Shivaji was his night- attack on Shaista Khan's camp. Aurangzeb who was then the Emperor appointed Shaista Khan as the Governor of the Deccan in 1660 with the main purpose of crushing the power of Shivaji. But his plans were thwarted by the masterly strokes of Shivaji. He made a successful night-attack on Shaista Khan's camp in Poona in 1663. He mutilated the fingers of Shaista Khan and killed one of his sons. Shaista Khan was recalled. Shivaji sacked Surat for the first time in 1664 and an immense booty fell into his hands.

### **Jai Singh and the Treaty of Purandar**

Aurangzeb sent Raja Jai Singh against Shivaji. By diplomatic moves, the Raja formed a ring of enemies and fifth columnists against Shivaji. He besieged Purandar in 1665. Shivaji put up a heroic resistance. But finding further resistance futile, he surrendered. According to the terms of the treaty of Purandar 1665, he ceded 23 forts to the Mughals retaining 12 forts for himself. He promised to supply a contingent of 5,000 horses to Aurangzeb, the cost of which was to be compensated by the collection of chauth and sardeshmukhi in certain districts of Bujapur.

### **Visit to Agra (1666)**

Jai Singh fed Shivaji with high hopes and employed a thousand devices to induce him to visit the Emperor at Agra. Shivaji went to Agra in 1666 to see the Emperor. In the Mughal Court, he had to stand along with third-rate nobles. Thus humiliated, he exchanged hot words with the Emperor only to find himself a prisoner in his hands. But he effected his escape along with his son Shambhuji and returned home in 1666. He remained quiet for three years without any hitch with the Mughals. But he utilized this time to consolidate his position.

**Aurangzeb recognized Sivaji as Raja in 1668.**

### **Second capture with the Mughals (1670)**

The peace treaty concluded between the Marathas and the Mughals was a mere truce. Soon difference of opinion developed. Aurangzeb attached a part of the jagir in Berar which was once assigned to Sivaji. Sivaji got infuriated, recalled his troops from Mughal service and opened hostilities with the Mughals. He recovered almost all the forts he had ceded to the Mughals by the treaty of Purandar. In 1670, he sacked Surat for a second time and an immense booty fell into his hands. Riding on the crest of victory, he inflicted defeat after defeat on the Mughals. Sivaji, the Deccan Ulcer, continued his policy of wrecking Mughal power by looting the Mughal provinces. In 1674, Sivaji celebrated his coronation and assumed the title of Chhatrapati.

### **Carnatic campaigns (1677)**

In 1677, Sivaji embarked upon his career of conquest in the south. He entered into a secret treaty with the Sultan of Golkunda promising him some of the would-be-conquered territories and thus got his support in men and materials. Sivaji captured Jinji and Vellore and annexed the adjoining territories which belonged to his father, Shaji. He wrested Tanjore from his half-brother Vyankoji or Ekoji but allowed him to carry on the administration after he accepted his overlordship. The Nayaks of Madur promised to pay a huge amount as tribute. The Carnatic campaigns enhanced his prestige and power. The newly conquered places especially Jinji acted as a second line of defence for his successors.

### **Last Days of Sivaji**

Sivaji's last days were clouded with grief and anxiety. His eldest son Shambhuji was a man of loose morals. Though Sivaji did not spare the rod, the child was spoiled. His attempts to refine him failed. He put him under arrest in

1676. But he escaped in the next year and joined the Mughal camp. He fled from the Mughal camp in 1679 and returned to his mother country. Though the home comment in his .character. So he was imprisoned and sent to Panhala fort. The desertion of his eldest son filled him with remorse. To nominate his second son Rajaram as the heir-apparent to the throne was out of question because he was only a boy of ten years. The ceaseless and tireless work of Sivaji considerably affected his health. He fell ill and died in 1680 at the age of 53.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM OF SIVAJI Sivaji's Ideal**

Historians are diametrically of opposite views with regard to the ideal of an Empire which Sivaji put forth. Sardesai strongly contends that Sivaji had a pan-Hindu ideal and he wanted to set up a Hindu Empire in India. But this view cannot be accepted because Sivaji himself knew about his own limitations. He was merely contented with the establishment of a Maratha State.

According to Khafi Khan, the Mughal historian, Sivaji was "an entrepreneur of rapine or a Hindu edition of Ala-ud-din or Tamerlane". The view endorsed by Khafi Khan is rather harsh. Still others hold the view that Sivaji found only a krieg staad, i.e., a government which thrives and grows only by conditions of war. His short life was one of perpetual struggle against powerful enemies like the Mughals and the Sultan of Bijapur. It was a period of preparation rather than fruition. But whatever may be the views held by historians, Sivaji did carve out a sovereign State.

### **Central Government**

He was assisted by a Council of Ministers known as Ashta Pradhan. It was purely an advisory body and its decisions were not binding on him. The eight ministers were:

- a. the Mukhya Pradhan or Peshwa or Prime
- b. Minister who looked after the general interests of the State and represented the

King in his

- c. absence,
- d. the Amatya or Auditor or the Finance Minister
- e. the Mantri or Chronicler who kept a record of the King's activities and the proceedings in the court
- f. the Sachiva or Superintendent was in charge of the royal correspondence, (5) the SYnabt ir Fireigh Secretary was in charge of the relations with foreign states
- g. Senapati or Commander-inChief
- h. Danadyaksha or Ecclesiastical head was in charge of religion and charities.
- i. Nyayadhisa or the chief Justice. With the exception of the last two ministers, all the others were expected to take up arms whenever commanded by the King.

### **Provincial Government**

For the sake of administrative convenience and fiscal purposes, Sivaji divided the country into four Pranths or provinces, each under a Viceroy. Each province was sub-divided into a number of Parganas. The fort was the nerve-centre of the activities of the Pranth. The lowest unit of the government was the village in which the traditional system of government prevailed.

### **Revenue System**

In his revenue administration, Sivaji borrowed the essential features of Malik Amber's revenue regulations. The revenue administration of Sivaji was humane and beneficent to the tillers of the soil. The lands were carefully surveyed and assessed. The State demand was fixed at 30% of the gross produce to be payable in cash or kind. Later on the tax was raised to 40% after abolishing all

taxes. Liberal loans were advanced to the peasants for purchasing cattle, seed, etc. he was not in favour of granting jagirs to the officers.

### **Chauth and Sardeshmukhi**

Sivaji collected two taxes chauth and sardeshmukhi from the adjoining tracts of his Empire, the Mughal provinces and the territories of the Sultan of Bujapur. He did not impose on Sivaji any corresponding obligation to guard the district from foreign invasion or internal disorder". Sardeshmukhi was an additional 10% of the revenue which Sivaji collected by virtue of his position as Sardeshmukhi or Lord of Maharashtra.

### **Military Organisation**

The army was organized on efficient lines. His army consisted of four divisions, viz, infantry, cavalry, an elephant corps and artillery. Though soldiers were good at guerilla methods of warfare, at a later stage they got accustomed to pitched battles. The cavalry was better paid than the infantry. In the cavalry, 25 horsemen formed the lowest unit. It was placed under a Havaladar. Five Havaladars were placed under one Jumladar (command of 125 horsemen). Five Hazaris were placed under a Panj Hazari (command of 6250 horsemen). The panj Hazaris were placed under a supreme Commander or Sar-i-nabat who commanded the entire cavalry force. In the infantry, the lowest unit of nine foot was under a Naik, five Naiks were placed under a Havaladar (command of 45 foot), two or three Havaladars were placed under one Jumladar (command of 90 or 135 foot), ten Jumladars were placed under a Hazari (command of 900 or 1350 foot) and seven Hazaris were placed under a Sar-i-nobat or Supreme commander of the infantry (command of 6300 or 9450 foot). The soldiers were recruited under the personal supervision of Sivaji.

## **MARATHAS UNDER THE PESHWAS BALAJI VISWANATH (1713 – 20)**

### **Rise to Peshwaship**

Balaji Viswanath hailed from a poor Maratha Brahmin family. He entered service under Dhanaji Jadhav as a carcoon or revenue clerk. Dhanaji was the commander-in-Chief of Tara Bai. Balaji Viswanath played a leading role in securing the help of Dhanaji to the cause of Shahu I. In the a battle of Khed (1707), Dhanaji deserted Tara Bai and made common cause with Shahu. Dhanaji died in 1708 and his office was filled by his son Chandra Sen. His leanings towards Tara Bai made Shahu appoint Balaji Viswanath as Sena Karte or organizer of the army as a precautionary measure against any untoward happenings. He discharged his duties admirably well. In recognition of his meritorious services, Shahu appointed him Peshwa in 1713.

### **Conciliation of Kanhoji Angre**

Balaji Viswanath was a self-made man. He began to show unmistakable proof of his administrative ability and diplomacy by tackling the most knotty problems. One of the diplomatic strokes of Balaji Viswanath was that he conciliated Kanhoji Angre and won him over to Shahu's side. Kanhoji was the leader of the Maratha navy. After the defection of Chandra Sen, he also threw in his lot with Tara Bai. He captured some forts in the western coast. Shahu deputed Viswanath to conciliate Kanhoji. By employing persuasive words, he exhorted him to avert the danger that threatened the House of the Chhatrapati. He explained to him the imperative necessity of showing loyalty and obedience to Shahu. He convinced him of the common danger to them from the British, the Portuguese and the Siddis of Janjira. He also convinced him of the futility of espousing the cause of Tara Bai whose cause was fast losing ground. Kanhoji was convinced of the reasonableness of his convictions. He stopped hostilities with Shahu and accepted the Admiral's post under him.

## **Maratha Expedition to Delhi (1716 – 19)**

The Peshwa along with his son Baji Rao and followed by a contingent of 15,000 soliders marched to Delhi in 1718. The Emperor refused to approve of the action of Husain Ali. So he was deposed by the Sayyid brothers who then placed on the throne Rafi-ud-Darajat. The new Emperor issued the much delayed firman in 1719 recognising the sovereignty of the Marathas over the regions conquered by Sivaji and the fresh acquisitions of Khandesh, Gondwana, Berar and the districts of Hyderabad and the Carnatic.

The firman further conferred on them the right to collect chauth and sardeshmukhi from the six Deccani Mugal provinces in return for maintaining 15,000 horses for Mughal evic and the payment of an annual tribute of 10 lakhs. In addition to these concessions, the Marathas get released Yesu Bai and other members of the royal family in captivity.

## **The Maratha Confederacy**

Sivaji discouraged the ractice of granting jagirs. Circumstances forced Rajaram to revivethe system. During the rule of Tara Bai, it took deep roots. The old constitution which recognized the Chhatrapati as the real head of the State gave place to a Confederacy of Maratha Chieftains. They collected sardeshmukhi and chauth, remitted the sardeshmukhi in the poona treasury and took for themselves 34% of the chauth.

Their power and influence grew as time went on. Balaji Viswanath bowed to the inevitable turn of events, but took careto see that all the confederate chiefs paid allegiance to Shahu and recognized him as the central figure. The confederate idea bore rich dividends so long as the chiefs co-operated without staking their common interest. But the idea collapsed like a house of cards, the movement they tried to feather their own nest at the expense of others.

## **Estimate**

Balaji Viswanath died in 1720. Before his death, he consolidated the position and power of the Peshwa. He inaugurated a new era in Maratha political history by which the Peshwa became the de facto ruler and the Chhatrapati was pushed to the background. He made the Peshwaship hereditary. Though not a great general, he was a brilliant administrator and a seasoned diplomat. He evolved order out of chaos, conciliated recalcitrant and wavering chieftains and raised the prestige of the Chhatrapati both at home and abroad. He was survived by his wife Radha Bai and two sons – Baji Rao and Chimnaji Appa – and two daughters.

### **(B) Baji Rao (1720 – 40)**

Baji Rao I succeeded to the Peshwaship when he was only 19 years old. He was the worthy son of a worthy father. When Shahu conferred on young Baji Rao the robes of the Peshwaship, it roused the jealousy of the older people in the court. The only offence committed by Baji Rao was that he was young. He was an excellent rider, an able administrator and a foresighted statesman. He took stock of the condition of the Mughal Empire and resolved to wreck its power and wrest territories from it.

### **Affairs with Nizam-ul-mulk (1721 – 28)**

Nizam-ul-mulk kindled Shambhuji of Kolhapur and asked him to pose as a rival claimant to the collection of chauth and sardeshmukhi. He then informed Baji Rao that he was withholding the amount because he did not know who the real claimant was. In spite of the repeated requests and diplomatic moves made by Baji Rao, Nizam-ul-mulk evaded payment. While matters were thus lingering on, the Nizam was asked by Muhammad Shah to take up the office of the Wazir. With the utmost reluctance, he accepted the office in 1722. In the vacancy, Mubariz Khan was appointed the Viceroy of the Deccan.



The relations between the Emperor and the Nizam worsened day by day. He resigned the Wazirship in 1723. As a mark of imperial displeasure, he was transferred to the government of Oudh. But he came to the south under the pretension of going to Oudh. The Emperor branded him a „grand rebel“ and directed Mubriz Khan to put down the rebel. He effected a junction with Nizam-ul-mulk but was defeated in the battle of Shakerkheda in 1724. Taking advantage of the division in the Mughal camp, Bajji Rao captured the province of Burhanpur.

### **Expedition of the Carnatic:**

Bajji Rao undertook the Carnatic expedition in 1726. He brought under subjection the chiefs who threw off their allegiance to the Marathas, collected the arrears of tribute and reestablished Maratha hegemony. In the absence of Bajji Rao, the Nizam created trouble and encroached into Maratha territories. He openly supported Shambhuji of Kolhapur. Both joined hands and invaded Maratha territories. But in the meantime, Bajji Rao returned and became the savior of the situation. He defeated the Nizam in the battle of Palkhed in 1728 and forced him to sue for peace. According to the terms of the treaty of Mungi-Shevgaon, the Nizam agreed to give up the cause of Shambhuji II of Kolhapur and promised to abide by the provisions of the treaty of 1719 by which the then Emperor had conceded to Shahu the right to collect chauth and sardeshmukhi. This treaty enhanced the prestige and power of Bajji Rao.

### **Malwa, Bundelkhand, Gujarat**

In the 1728, Bajji Rao sent an advance-guard under his brother Chimnaji Appa to Malwa.

He defeated and killed Giridhar Bahadur, the Rajput Governor of Malwa, in the battle of Amjhera near Dhar. The course of Bajji Rao was diverted to Bundelkhand by the urgent message of Chhatrasal to rescue him and his country from the siege

of Muhammad Khan Bangash, the Governor of Allahabad. Baji Rao proceeded in posthaste to Bundelkhand and forced the Governor to raise the siege of Jaipur in 1729, Bundlkhand became free from the control of the Mughals. Chhatrasal gave one-third of his territories to Baji Rao. He also presented him Mastani, a Muslim dancing girl- a daughter of him through a Muslim mistress. Gujarat was the next target of attack. In 1731, he compelled Abhay Singh, the Governor of Gujarat to accept the overlordship of the Marathas.

### **His last campaign and death**

Baji Rao's last exploit was directed against Nasir Jang, the second son of Nizam-ul-mulk Asaf Jah, who was acting on behalf of his father. Baji Rao defeated him and got the district of Handia and Khargaon in 1740. His last days were clouded with great grief. His association with Mastani, the Muslim dancing-girl, was abhorred by the elite among the Maratha Chiefs. Chimnaji Appa and Nana Sahib (son of Baji Rao) conspired and separated Mastani from Baji Rao. He felt as a fish out of water without the company of Mastani. Day by day agony aggravated and he died in 1740. Hearing the news of his death, Mastani also died.

### **BALAJI BAJI RAO (1740 – 61)**

After the death of Baji Rao, Balaji Baji Rao- the eldest son of Baji Rao – the robes of the Peshwaaship. He was familiarly known as Nan Sahib. He was only 18 years and 6 months old when he assumed the reins of office. His appointment to the office was opposed by the Deccan party headed by Raghuji Bhonsle.

### **The Peshwa becomes Deputy Governor of Malwa (1741)**

The legal claim of the Marathas over Malwa still lingered on. They were in possession of Malwa since 1738. The position was legalized in 1741 by a formal

grant given by the Mughal Emperor. The crown prince Ahmad was appointed Governor of Malwa with Balaji Baji Rao as Deputy Governor.

### **Carnatic Expedition**

Shahu was not able to do anything at that time because he had to deal with his rebel son Nasir Jang. After putting down the revolt of his son, he swept over the plains of the Carnatic at a time when the Peshwa was busily engaged with his forces at Bundelkhand and Bengal. He took possession of Arcot and appointed Anwar-ud-din as the Nawab of the Carnatic. He then proceeded to Trichinopoly and captured it in 1743. Shahu sent two expeditions under Babuji Naik to recover the lost places. But the two expeditions failed. Balaji Baji Rao sent his cousin Sadasiva Rao to the Carnatic. He reestablished the authority of the Marathas in the Carnatic. But Trichinopoly was lost for ever to them.

### **Raghuji Bhonsle**

Raghuji, the hero of the Carnatic campaigns, bore a grudge against the Peshwa. His ambition soared high. He came into clash with the Peshwa because Bundelkhand which was in the eastern sphere was already in the possession of the Peshwa. But disregarding the claims of the Peshwa, he dispatched his trusted lieutenant, Bhaskar Rama, at the head of a large army to the eastern field. The Peshwa started countermoves against Raghuji. But reconciliation was brought between the two by Shahu in 1743. He again demarcated the sphere of influence of the two. The territory east of Berar was assigned to Raghuji and the west to the Peshwa. Raghuji again renewed his activities. Bhaskar Ram along with 21 officers was treacherously murdered by Aliwardi Khan in 1744. The infuriated Raghuji carried on his destructive activities and forced Aliwardi Khan to surrender Orissa in 1751 in lieu of the chauth and sardeshmukhi for Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. He died in 1755.

### **Rupture with the Nizam (1751 – 60)**

Nizam-ul-mulk Asaf Jah died in 1748. A war of succession ensued. Balaji sided with Ghazi-ud-din Khan, the eldest son of the Nizam, against Salabat Jang another son of the Nizam. With the help of the French General Bussy, Salabat Jang was able to defeat the Peshwa in 1751. But he wiped out the disgrace by defeating the Nizam's forces. The hostility ended with the poisoning of the Peshwa's candidate Ghazi-ud-din in 1752. Fresh hostilities commenced in 1758. The Maratha forces overran many of the territories of the Nizam. The Peshwa dispatched another army under Sadasiva Rao. He defeated Salabat Jang in the battle of Udgir in 1760. He signed a dictated treaty by which he handed over to the Marathas some territories. Udgir marked the climax of the Maratha military might.

### **Third Battle of Panipat (1761)**

Ahmad Shah Abdali who carved out an independent kingdom in Afghanistan invaded India several times. In his fourth invasion which was undertaken in 1757, he carried away immense booty and wrested from Alamgir II, the Mughal Emperor, the Punjab, Sind, Kashmir and Sirhind. Sadasiva Rao prepared for the trial of strength with Ahmad Shah Abdali. He captured Kunjpura and cantoned on the field of Panipat. The Abdali pitched up his camp opposite to that of the Marathas with the control of the fertile Doab from where he could command food supplies.

The Rohillas and the Nawab of Oudh Shuja-ud-daulah hitched their wagon to the star of the Abdali. Instead of attacking the forces of the Abdali, the Marathas remained quiet. The lull continued for a long time. It was only when they felt the scarcity of food that they decided to charge. The third historic battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. In the beginning everything went on well in favour of the Marathas. But the tide turned towards the close.

The Afghans smashed every resistance. Visvasa Rao and Sadasiva Rao died in the battlefield. The rest of the battle was butchery and pillage. Ahmad Shah Abdali won the day. Mahadhaji Sindhia and Nan Farnavis escaped miraculously.

### **Death of the Peshwa (1761)**

Balaji Raji Rao was terribly shocked to hear the terrible disaster at Panipat. The news was conveyed to him in the following words: "Two pearls have been dissolved, twenty-two gold mohars have been lost, and of the silver and copper the total cannot be cast up". The crestfallen Peshwa did not survive long. He died broken-hearted in 1761.

### **Causes of the failure of the Marathas**

The Abdali's forces were far superior to those of the Marathas in discipline and action.

The presence of large number of women in the Maratha camp weakened their efficiency.

Sadasiva Rao turned a deaf ear to the earnest entreaties of Malhar Rao Holkar and Suraj Malthe

Jat leader - to adopt the fureilla method of warfare. The inordinate delay caused by Sadaiva Rao's lethargy weakened the position of the Maraths. The Rajputs and the Sikhs, who were often harassed by the Marathas during their raids, remained neutral.

### **Effects of the battle of Panipat**

- a. Ahmad Shah Abdali, the hero of Panipat, carried away the trophy. Besides massacring the people right and left and inflicting untold misery on them, he bled the country white.
- b. To the Marathas it was a disaster of the first magnitude. The battle took a heavy toll of distinguished general. It gave free-play to Raghunatha Rao (Raghoba), an

- evil genius who gave a wrong twist to the political set of Maharashtra.
- c. The battle exposed the military hollowness of the Maraths. It made crystal clear to the Indian world that the “Maratha friendship was a veryt weak reed to lean upon in any realdanger”.
  - d. The Marathas retired from the political scens after making a bold and valiant bid for the sovereignty of India.
  - e. The battle in a way proved to be bloody operation of the rival contestants other than the British for power in India. Had all the powers united together, they could have easily driven out the Abdali and could have prevented the rise of the British.

## **UNIT – V**

### **THE ADVENT OF THE EUROPEANS**

When Vasco-da-gama reached Calicut through the new sea route on April 22, 1498 it might not have been known to him that he was laying stone for a new vital turn in Indian History. The Portuguese had many favourable factors to find out a sea route to Inida. Vascoda-gama stayed for three months in India. He came back to India and stayed her between 1501 and 1503. He managed the oppositionof the Arab merchants. He made a humble beginning in trade. He befriended the ruler of Cochin and established factories at Cochin and Quilon. After the departure of Vasco-da-gama king Zamorin attacked the Portuguese. But he was defeated. This victory established the seperiority of the Portuguese.

#### **Almeida and Albuquerque**

Almeida was the first Portuguese governor in India. He assessed the resources of Potugal and decided not to expand any more. He wanted to keep their factories in coastal regions as they could protect them by their powerful flect. He favoured the policy of strengthening the navy. This policy is called „Blue

Water Policy". The Sultan of Egypt sent a fleet to drive the Portuguese out of India. In the encounter Almeida was killed. Albuquerque came to India as Portuguese governor in November 1509. He was a great conqueror and administrator. In March 1510 he conquered Goa from Yusuf Adil Khan the ruler of Bijapur. In order to strengthen the defence of Goa he occupied Banasterim near Goa. This achievement in 1512 was undoubtedly an important one.

Albuquerque supported the Hindu and Muslim traders to settle in Goa. He permitted the Europeans to take Indian wives. He tried to introduce certain social reforms. The position of the Portuguese was further strengthened by his victory over Malacca. His attack on Aden in 1513 was a failure. However Ormuz, a Persian island in the Persian Gulf passed under the control of the Portuguese. His death on 16th December 1515 at Goa was a great loss to the Portuguese. He was a selfless patriot and a loyal servant. He was an able diplomat and efficient administrator. He was both foresighted and far-sighted. By his abilities and virtues he laid the foundation for the Portuguese settlement on the Indian soil.

### **Other important Governors**

Nino da Cunha was the important Portuguese governor after Albuquerque. By his tact and diplomacy he took Bassein and Diu into possession in 1534 and 1537 respectively. In 1559 the Portuguese won over the port of Daman. In 1518 the Portuguese built a port at Colombo. Later in the middle of the sixteenth century the whole of Ceylon came under them. Antonio de Noronha became the governor in September 1571. During his administration acquaintance was made with Akbar, the Mughal Emperor. In 1580 the first Jesuit Mission was received in the Mughal Court.

### **The effects of Portuguese rule**

The Portuguese rule in certain parts of India had greater effects. The most important effect was the introduction of a new political element in India. In India, there were already many political powers. The Portuguese came as the first European power followed the Dutch and the French. Later all these powers were supplanted by the English. Thus the gates of India were open to the Europeans by the Portuguese. The Portuguese introduced new methods of warfare. Their mastery in musketry and artillery was enviable. They established friendly relations with Vijayanagar. The credit of discovery of a sea route to India goes to the Portuguese. The Portuguese were successful in making trade route secured. The first Jesuit mission came to India in 1580; however, the cultural effects of the Portuguese were limited. Their attempts of social reform such as the abolition of sati were well ahead of time. Hence they failed. The Portuguese took stern measures to make people in their colonies to learn the Portuguese language. They even fixed time limit for learning the language. However in this attempt also they failed.

### **The fall of the Portuguese**

The Portuguese opened the doors of India. They had initial successes. They were able to establish their political control over certain pockets in India. However their power started to decline in 1580. In 1580 Philip II of Spain defeated Portugal and annexed it with Spain. The Portuguese possessions in India were lost one by one. Amboyna was taken by the Dutch. In 1640 Malacca was also lost to the Dutch. Iran occupied Ormuz in 1622. In 1739 the Marathas took away Bassein by a treaty. In 1656 the Portuguese were sent out of Ceylon. The Portuguese were able to retain Goa, Daman and Diu only. Thus the Portuguese failed to retain and expand their possessions in India.

### **The causes for their failure**



The Portuguese could not expand. They could not even keep their little possessions in tact. Their failure was due to certain causes. The highest officers of the Portuguese administration lacked diplomacy and moderation. Even Vasco-da-gama followed a policy of revenge towards the Arabs. Albuquerque also tortured them. The Portuguese officers were known for corruption and arrogance. Albuquerque was the first and last governor who possessed the genius of an administrator. His successors were not able to impress. They were incompetent with inherent defects. The Portuguese were Christians only by name. They oppressed the hindua and the Muslims. Many hindua temples in Goa were destroyed. These oppressive measures alienated the masses. Their administrative machinery was fully used to propagate their religion. They had no care for the welfare of the people. The salaries of the Portuguese officers were low. Hence, they engaged in illegal private trade in India.

The system of inter marriage created a new race. This new generation possessed nither neither the qualities of their fathers nor those of their mothers. When the Portuguese initiated the process of building their political hold, there ther was no powerful centralized political authority but later, the Mughals were able to expand their control in the Deccan. The Mughal expansion cheched the growth of the Portuguese control. When the Mughal Empire fell, there were many weaker factions in India. But the Portuguese were unableto compete with the Dutch, the frenceh amd the English. The resources of Portugal were very limited. They were unable to spend much on their efforts of empire building in India. The temporary union of Portugal and Spain between 1550 and 1640 also contributed for their failure in India.

Philip II was more interest in European affairs than in affairs. He sent worthless Spanish officers to manage the affairs in India. They were arrogant and corruptive. They adopted all foul means to make money for themselves. According to P.E. Roberts"s thw Portuguese did not hesitate to gain by priacy.

Their piratical method discredited them in the eyes of the Indians. The Portuguese discovered Brazil in South America. They began to give more attention to it. In short, the Portuguese lacked many which a colonial power needed. Hence the political power of the Portuguese in India declined.

## **THE DUTCH**

The Dutch had been taking Asiatic goods from the Portuguese port of Lisbon. They were distributing these goods to many of the countries in northern and Western Europe. In 1580 Portugal and Spain were unified by Philip II. He closed the port of Lisbon to the Dutch. The Dutch were badly in need of direct access to the Asiatic goods. Their attempts to find a sea route through the Arctic sea failed. Hence, they decided to use the route through the Cape of Good Hope. The unification of Portugal and Spain left the Dutch free to attack the Portuguese ships. By the end of sixteenth century the Dutch had freed themselves practically from the Spanish yoke. They were full of national spirit and energy. These factors were favourable for the Dutch to establish their power in the East.

### **Growth of the Dutch Power**

The Dutch concentrated much on the islands of South-East Asia. In the beginning, they did not concentrate much on India. They wanted to trade in spices. The spices were available in abundance in the islands of the East. Moreover, the Portuguese were less established in the islands than in India. The Portuguese had forts in India whereas they had to depend on their navy alone in the islands. The Dutch considered themselves superior in naval power. Hence, they decided to concentrate their attention on the islands of the East. The first Dutch expedition was sent under Houtman. He started in 1596 and reached Java in 1596. He returned with a cargo of spices. This trade was considered much profitable by many Dutch merchants. So many Dutch companies were formed.

Between 1598 and 1602 about thirteen Dutch fleets were sent to the East. The competition among the Dutch merchants created problems. There was no co-operation among themselves against the Portuguese attacks. In order to strengthen their efforts the existing eight companies were amalgamated in 1602. The amalgamated company was called the United Dutch East India Company. The Company was granted monopoly of Eastern trade. The company was granted powers to wage war, make treaties, occupy territories and to build forts.

The newly organized Dutch company entered the field with a bang. It developed hold over the Spice islands in the Far East. They wanted to establish trade monopoly in the islands. They took all efforts to maintain the monopoly. The Dutch and the English entered the East as friends. Both of them were against Spain which stood for the cause of Catholicism. In their bid to maintain monopoly of trade in the islands the Dutch developed hostility towards the English. In 1623 the massacre of Amboyna occurred in which all the English merchants in the islands were murdered. This made the British concentrate their attention on Indian trade. It was in fact a blessing in disguise to them. The Dutch paid an indemnity of about 85,000 pounds for the Amboyna massacre.

In 1641 the Dutch captured Malacca from the Portuguese. By 1658 the Portuguese were ousted from Ceylon by the Dutch. The Dutch realized their mistake in their lack of adequate concentration on India. They invaded Malabar and dislodged the Portuguese from one after the other position. The Dutch established their headquarters at Nagapatnam. Masulipatnam, Pulicat, Surat, Chinsura, Patna. Tuticorin, Quilon, Cranganore, Cochin and Cannanore were under them.

### **Their decline**

The Dutch were able to establish themselves within a short period. However, they did not continue to dominate. Their decline started very quickly.

This was due to many reasons. First of all, the Dutch started their endeavour by concentrating on the Far East. They turned their attention on India only after wasting their energy in the Far East. The Dutch administrative system in their colonial possessions was defective. Their employees were paid very low. Hence they were engaged in private trade. The Dutch military forces in the East were weak. The Dutch were very much affected by their problems in Europe. According to P.E. Roberts. "The Dutch power in India was largely jeopardized on European battlefields". The AngloDutch wars of 1652 – 54, 1665 – 67 and the Dutch struggle with the French From 1672 to 1713 also drained the resources of Holland. The Dutch rule in the east was purely commercial. It did not care for the welfare of the ruled. The Dutch were able to prove themselves able merchants. But they failed as a colonial power. The naval power of the Dutch was inadequate to meet the challenges in the eighteenth century. The Dutch were matchless to the French and the English. Hence they lost their possessions in India to the superior powers. The Dutch remained in the islands of South-East Asia.

## **THE FRENCH**

The first French merchant ship reached the shore of India at Diu in 1527. It was roughly fifty years before the arrival of any English ship. Thereafter many individual efforts were made by merchants of France. However the East India Company of France was formed in 1664 on the efforts taken by the French Minister Colbert. The French people were not interested in sea trade. When the French government made call for investment from the people to the East India Company, there was poor response from the people. They did not believe the government. They considered the propaganda of the government only as a device to levy fresh taxes. They had no instinct for adventure and trade. Hence the French government could not collect the estimated amount.

The king himself granted a big amount. As its birth the French East India Company was given a double task. It was directed to colonise Madagascar first.

This direction was given in order to create a good port of call on the long voyage to India. The plan was wise on paper but it was otherwise in practice. It was very risky and difficult to execute the project of colonising Madagascar. Hence the French established direct link with India. Berber, a French agent in India secured a firman of Aurangzeb, the Mughal emperor. By virtue of it the first French factory was established at Surat in December 1667. In 1669 another factory was established at Masulipatnam. The French trade started to flourish under the guidance of Francis Caron who was appointed the Director General. On the advice of Caron the French government sent a fleet under De la Haye in 1669. Caron wanted to show to the Indians a sample of his master's power. But the difference of opinion which developed between De la Haye and Caron made the show a poor one. Caron was called back in 1672.

### **Francis Martin**

Francis Martin succeeded Caron. He tried to help De la Haye in every possible way. However the French fleet left India leaving a bad opinion of its efficiency. Martin was more diplomatic than Caron. He played the king of Bijapur against the king of Golkonda. In the hostilities he was able to secure Pondicherry from the former. Later it became an important settlement of the French in India. In the forty years that followed, there was continuous hostility between the French and the Dutch either in India or in Europe. Pondicherry was captured by Dutch in 1693. However it was returned to the French in 1697 under the treaty of Ryswick, Martin tried his level best to expand the French power in India until his death in 1706. Martin was an able administrator.

### **Later developments**

Confusion prevailed in the French East India company at the death of Martin. This confusion and continuous warfare with the Dutch drained the finances of the company. The state of confusion and strain continued until the reorganization of its affairs by Jean Law in 1720. Jean Law took many efforts and put the company on a career of commercial growth. In 1725 the French East India Company got Mahe. Karaikkal came under its possession in 1739. The French were successful in establishing settlements at Qasim Bazar, Chandranagore and Balasor. IN 1735 Dumas came to India as the Governor of Pondicherry. He was also an efficient administrator. Dumas established very good relationship with the Mughal emperor. He even got permission to coin money. Thus, the French company continued to organise itself on better footing till the ourbreak of the Anglo-French rivalry in 1740.

### **Other Minor Powers**

The Portuguese were the first to knock at the doors of Inida to do trade. They were followed by the Dutch, the English and the French. Besides England, Portugal, Holland and France, certain minor powers also tried to establish trade centres in India. The Danes organized a company in 1616. They founded a settlement in Tranquebar in 1620 and the other at Swrampore in 1775. They were unable either to establish or to expand. Hence they sold their factories to the British and left Inida in 1845. Austria organized two companies in 1723 and 1755. In Swedan also a company was organized in 1731. But these companies failed to achieve anything significant.

### **THE BRITISH**

The birth and growth of the British East India Company On the last day of the year 1600 the Indians had no idea of an event happening in England which was destined to affect the history of this sub-continent. It was the day on which queen Elizabeth granted a charter to constitute the East Inida Company. Britain

was in a favourable position to initiate her efforts to develop the trade with the East. The papal authority has been derecognized and the Spanish armada had been defeated. Some leading merchants of London realized that it was the right time to sail towards the East. At first the members of the company had to subscribe to each trading expedition and the profits of the expeditions were to be distributed among them in proportion to their contribution. The entire business of the company was to be controlled by a Governor assisted by a board of directors.

In 1609 the Company's Charter was renewed by James I. During the reign of Charles I the company had reverses. The Amboyna massacre led to its exit from the Far East. Due to the competition with the Dutch its finance was drained. At home also it faced troubles. Charles I granted permission to Sir William Courten to start a new trading Company. It was called Courten's Association or Assada Company. However, as this Company could not achieve anything substantial it was merged with the East India Company. Oliver Cromwell helped the company much. Due to his efforts the company received a handsome amount by way of compensation for the Amboyna massacre.

The charter of 1657 converted the company into more or less a joint-stock company. The charter of 1661 issued by Charles II granted permission to the company to carry arms, ammunitions, men and material to safeguard the factories in India. It made the company a full fledged joint stock company. The charter of 1683 gave the company full power to declare war and make peace. The company was also permitted to maintain a strong army. The charters of 1683 and 1693 made considerable changes in the position of the company. In 1698 a new trading company was created by the name „General Society“. However the two companies were amalgamated later. The company was strengthened further from the concessions granted by the Crown and the Parliament. By 1765 it acquired territorial and political character.

### **Company's development in India**

In India, the English were unable to establish significant trade links in the beginning. They were able to contact only the subordinates of the Mughal Emperor. They were unable to achieve anything substantial as long as the Portuguese had influence in the Mughal Court. The efforts taken by James I in 1611 failed. In 1615 – 19 Sir Thomas Roe was sent to the Mughal Court as an ambassador of the British King. He was also unable to achieve anything significant. The company got some territorial footing in 1639. That too was granted by a Hindu King. The Chief of Wandiwash granted permission to the company to build fortress and govern Madras. The company had to pay fifty percent of the revenues and customs of the Madras Port. In September 1641 the headquarters of the company on the Coromandel coast was established at a station called Fort-St-George. Around 1645 the king of Golkonda got the territories. In 1687 Golkonda itself was won by Aurangzeb.

However, the company had the privilege granted earlier. Only the terms of payment varied. Certain new villages around Madras were also added to the territory under the company. In Bengal the company obtained certain trade privileges in 1656. However the company's relationship with the local officers was not cordial. In 1688 the company fought with the Mughal forces. Aurangzeb defeated the English and ordered them to quit the Mughal territory. However, peace was restored. In 1690 the English got permission to build a factory at Calcutta. In 1696 the company built Fort William. It also got the villages called Sutanati, Kalikata and Govindapur. Thus Calcutta was developed. In 1698 Norris was sent to Aurangzeb to secure more trade concessions. This mission failed. In 1714 – 17 Surman mission was sent to the Mughal Court. Surman was able to get three firmans to the local Chiefs of Gujarat, Hyderabad and Bengal. The firmans directed them to continue the existing privileges and also to grant new concessions. But as the imperial authority was already declining, the local chiefs did not give much importance to the firmans.



In 1661 Charles II got Bombay from the Portuguese. He had married Queen Catherine of Braganza and received it as dowry. The English East India Company received it from Charles II for an annual rent of ten sterling pounds. Bombay was their headquarters on the western Coast. Each factory of the British East India Company was administered by a Governor assisted by a Council. The Governor was also called the President. Thus the administration of the factory area was to be called Presidency. The company started a humble beginning with the three Presidencies established at Madras, Calcutta and Bombay.

### **The Anglo-French rivalry in the Carnatic wars**

The English were able to establish their supremacy in India by dislodging the Portuguese and the Dutch. The Anglo-Portuguese struggle and the Anglo-Dutch conflict were not as virulent as the Anglo-French rivalry. In the first half of the seventeenth century when the Portuguese and the English fought, the Mughal power was strong in India. It was in a position to resist any aggressive move of a foreign power. Though the Mughal power was weakened during the Anglo-Dutch conflict in the second part of the seventeenth century, yet it was able to play the earlier role. But in the fourth decade of eighteenth century the Mughal authority was tottering. It was a question among the European companies to decide who were going to dominate. There was none to resist them powerfully. Hence the Anglo-French rivalry was virulently tested on the soil of the Carnatic.

### **Position of the Companies**

The trading companies of the Portuguese and the Dutch were weakened. They were not in a position to involve themselves in a struggle to establish supremacy. The English were left with the French as the only rivals. The British East India Company was in a better position. Financially it was sound. Its trade was more profitable. The English company was a private enterprise. The employees

had the incentive and drive. But the French company was more or less a state department. The employees lacked the spirit and drive. The English company had better settlements like Madras, Bombay and Calcutta. Though the French also had settlements they were not equal in importance to those of the English. Thus, the British East India Company was in a better position to face any struggle or conflict.

### **Position of the Carnatic**

Carnatic was a narrow strip of territory in the Deccan. In the east it had the coastal region, a chain of mountains separated it from Mysore in the West. The river Gundakamma was its northern boundary. In the South it was up to Tanjore which was a Maratha jagir at that time. Further south, there were minor principalities. Trichinopoly was one among them. The Carnatic was under a Governor who was subordinate to the Viceroy of the Deccan. Nizam-ul-Mulk was the Viceroy of the Deccan. After many political confusions he made Anwar-uddin the Nawab of Carnatic. Nizam-ul-mulk had defied Delhi. But he had yet to establish independence. Anwar-ud-din became the Nawab after much confusion. He was yet also to establish his position. The Marathas were a formidable force who had stakes to play in the Carnatic. The English and the French were ready to test their relative strength in the Carnatic. Thus around 1745 the stage was set.

### **THE FIRST CARNATIC WAR (1746 – 48)**

#### **Causes**

The relationship between the English and the French was strained. In India, each wanted to send out the other. The political situation in India was also favourable to them. Hence, they were prepared for a clash. The European politics had also made them bitter enemies. The Austrian War of Succession broke out in 1740 England and France were in opposite camps. Hence they had to clash in India

as an echo of their conflict in Europe. Course Assessing the situation Dupleix, The French Governor at Pondicherry appealed to Morse, the English Governor at Madras to maintain peace in India, though their home countries were fighting in Europe. Morse was expecting the arrival of a fleet from England. Hence he made an evasive reply. Duplex took the matter to Anwar-hd-Din the Nawab of Arcot because both Madras and Pondicherry were situated within his territory. The Nawab directed both the Companies not to fight and spoil peace in his territory.

In 1746, La Bourdonnais came with a strong fleet from Mauritius, on the request of Dupleix. The expected English fleet came under Barnett. Barnett died before any fight. The English fleet was weak. Hence La Bourdonnais easily captured Madras. When Anwar-ud-Din intervened, Dupleix told him that Madras would be given to him later. While Madras was under the possession of La Bourdonnais the English negotiated. La Bourdonnais gave away Madras to the English after receiving an amount of 40,000 pounds as ransom. The arrangement made by La Bourdonnais was not agreeable to Dupleix captured Madras. Anwar-Din was irritated by the activities of the French. He sent a small army against the French. The battle of St. Thomas or the battle of Adyar was fought between the French company and the Nawab. In it the Nawab's force was terribly defeated. Then Dupleix attacked Fort. St. David. He could not capture it as it was bravely defended by Stringer Lawrence. The English also made a vain attack on Pondicherry. The War of Succession came to an end in Europe by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748. The first Carnatic was also ended. In accordance with the terms of the treaty Madras was given back to the English.

## **Results**

The first Carnatic war did not bring about any territorial changes in India. But it is clear that it made certain things clear. The French were able to win as they had a better fleet. The European powers understood it clear that the ultimate winner in the rivalry would be the one who could command at sea. The

first Carnatic war made the political situation in India clear. It was an open call to the Europeans to aspire for political power. The battle of Adyar exposed the weakness of the native forces. The Indian cavalry proved its weakness before the European infantry. The Europeans gained confidence of victory in case of future encounters. The British Company stopped paying rent to the Nawab in 1752. Hence the weakened position of the Nawab was made clear to himself. The first clash between the French and the English increased the spirit of hostility in them and they were bound to clash again.

## **THE SECOND CARNATIC WAR (1749 – 54)**

### **Causes**

The first Carnatic war ended in peace. But the Anglo-French rivalry was still there. The European companies had recruited soldiers and had spent in training them. They were not ready to disband them. At the same time they were unable to spend much to maintain them. Hence they wanted to interfere in the affairs of the native states and engage their troops in the struggle among the native rulers. Dupleix wanted to play the game again and to gain political power. For both the Companies the disputes over the thrones of Hyderabad and Carnatic came in handy. In 1748 Nizam-ul-Mulk died. Nasir Jung his second son succeeded him. Muzaffar Jung was a son of Nizam-ul-Mulk's daughter. He also claimed the throne. Thus there was dispute over succession in Hyderabad. Dost Ali the former Nawab of Arcot has been defeated earlier by the Marathas in 1741. They took Chanda Saheb his son-in-law as a hostage for the ransom amount. Chanda Saheb and Muzaffar Jung contacted Dupleix and requested his help to achieve their cause. Dupleix assured the Marathas to pay the ransom and got the release of Chanda Saheb. When Dupleix decided to support the cause of Muzaffar Jung and Chanda Saheb the British had to support the cause of Nasir Jung and Anwar-ud-Din. Thus the stage was set for the second Carnatic war.

## Course

Nuzaffar Jung and Chanda Saheb met Anwar-ud-Din at the battle of Ambur in 1749. They were helped by the French. Anwar-ud-Din was killed. Mahfuz Khan, his son was taken prisoner. However, Mohamad Ali, an illegitimate son of Anwar-ud-Din took shelter at Trichnopoly. After the victory at Ambur Muzaffar Jung declared himself the Nizam of the Deccan and nominated Chanda Saheb the Nawab of Arcot. In March 1750 Nasir Jung met Nuzaffar Jung at Jinji. Nasir Jung was assisted by the English and Muzaffar Jung by the French. Muzaffar Jung surrendered before actual fight. After this easy victory Nasir Jung spent about six months at Arcot. Meanwhile Dupleix played his diplomatic game and gained the support of some chiefs in the camp of Nasir Jung. In September 1750 the French troops under Bussy captured the fort of Jinji. Nasir Jung moved out of Arcot. But he was assassinated. Musaffar Jung became the Nizam of Deccan and Chanda Saheb became the Nawab of Arcot. It was a great victory for Dupleix.

The French were richly awarded by the benefactors. Muzaffar Jung was killed on the way. Bussy placed Salabat Jung, the third son of Nizam-ul-mulk on the throne of Hyderabad. Bussy stayed at Hyderabad and guided the Nizam in internal and external affairs. The English were depressed over the increasing influence of the French. The establishment of Chanda Saheb's rule in the Carnatic was very bitter to them. Chanda Saheb alongwith some French soldiers laid siege on Trichinopoly. The English stood by the side of Mohamad Ali. The French were in a better position. However there came Clive, the genius to make a breakthrough. He advised the English Governor to attack Arcot which was left unguarded. The task was assigned to him. In August 1751 Clive set out with a small force of 200 English and 300 Indian soldiers. He captured the fort of Arcot without the loss of a single man. This surprise victory had the desired effect. Chanda Saheb sent 3,000 of his best men alongwith 150 French soldiers to Arcot under the command of his son Raja Saheb. Raja Saheb laid siege on Arcot. Clive

proved his ability again. Unable to achieve anything Raja Saheb retired to Arni. He got some additional force sent by Dupleix. Clive set out to meet Raja Saheb. He was strengthened by the addition of about 1000 Maratha Soldiers under Murari Rao. Clive easily won over Raja Saheb. Clive captured Kancheepuram and returned to Madras. Dupleix wanted to pay back in the terms of the British. He advised Raja Saheb to attack Madras. French General Law and Chanda Saheb continued their siege on Trichinopoly. The force of Raja Saheb and Clive had an encounter at Kaveripaukin which also the former was defeated. The French General Law retired to Srirangam. Clive marched there and forced his surrender. Chanda Saheb also surrendered to Clive. Dupleix was not ready to accept the defeat. Fortunately for him, a difference of opinion arose in the British camp. The British demanded Trichinopoly from Mohamad Ali, in return to their service. Mohamad Ali wanted to give the city to Nanjraj the Regent of Mysore who had helped much during the siege. Dupleix won Nanjraj to his side and collected fresh troops. The siege continued. However the French government was not pleased with the policies of Dupleix. On August 1, 1754 Godeheu arrived at Pondicherry. Dupleix was recalled and Godeheu succeeded him.

## **Results**

The treaty of Pondicherry was concluded. It ended the Second Carnatic War. According to the terms of the treaty the two companies accepted not to interfere with the disputes of the local powers. Their mutual territorial possessions were defined. Then treaty was condemned as a disgrace to the French. It is said that Godeheu lost all that were gained by Dupleix by a single stroke of a pen. R.E. Roberts defends the treaty. According to him Godeheu had done the right thing to suit the circumstances which prevailed then. Mohamad Ali the ally of the English became the Nawab of Carnatic. Salabat Jung, the friend of the French remained on the throne of Hyderabad.

## **THE THIRD CARNATIC WAR (1758 – 1763)**

### **Causes**

The tense atmosphere created by the Second Carnatic war was not changed. The ascendance of the British in Bengal had created jealousy and fear in the minds of the French. In such a situation the seven years' war broke out in Europe in 1756. The third Carnatic war broke out as a repercussion to this war in Europe.

### **Course**

Count de Lally was sent by the French government of India as the Supreme commander of the French forces in 1758. He was a great soldier. But he was not experienced in Indian affairs. But he correctly assessed the situation. As the English forces were busy in Bengal, he decided to siege Fort St. David. He successfully captured it. Lally wanted to capture Madras. But Admiral De Ek did not cooperate with him. Lally concentrated his attention on Tanjore. He demanded the promised sum of 70,000,000 from the king of Tanjore. After a brief siege the king accepted to pay some amount. But Lally was not ready to accept anything less than ten lakhs. Suddenly the situation changed. After gaining strength by reinforcements from Bengal the English defeated De Ek. The security of Pondicherry was at stake. Lally had to leave Tanjore without getting a single rupee.

Lally returned from Madras more feeble. He directed Bussy to come from Hyderabad. Lally wanted to gain Madras at any cost. But Bussy preferred to retain Hyderabad. Bussy was compelled to leave Hyderabad. This was a great blunder committed by Lally. When Bussy left Hyderabad. Clive sent Colonel Forde to capture the northern circars of the French. He successfully completed it. The Nizam Salabat Jung also joined the English. The English took the offensive. Lally made a vain attack to capture Madras. The English commander Sir Eyre Coote defeated the French at Wandiwash and took Bussy prisoner. In 1760 the English captured

Jinji. In 1761 Pondicherry also fell. The Seven Year's War was brought to an end by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. The French settlements in India were returned. But a condition was laid that these should not be fortified again. The French agreed not to keep troops in Bengal.

## **Results**

The Third Carnatic War ended the military and political power of the French in India. The success of the British clearly demonstrated its superiority. The English got their way towards the establishment of a colonial empire in India clear. The Anglo-French conflict came to an end.

## **Causes for the French failure**

The Anglo-French conflict ended in favour of the English. The English East India Company was financially in a better position. It was well organized. Being a private commercial Company its officers had spirit, enthusiasm and energy whereas the French company was more or less a department of the French government. The English Company was supported by the British government in all respects. In France the despotic government was unable to give right direction and help to the Company in India. The rulers of France considered it more prestigious in establishing and expanding settlements in North America than in India. France was embroiled in the politics of Europe. Hence she could not spare much energy and time on India. England had no problems in Europe. Her resources and energy were fully utilized in India to achieve what they aspired. The officers of the British East India Company were better than the French Company in every aspect. They were more imaginative and they strove to achieve the common goal. But the French officers often quarreled among themselves.

The French entered India through the Deccan which was less fertile and less productive than Bengal. "Dupleix made a cardinal blunder in looking for the key of



India in Madras; Clive sought and found it in Bengal” says Marriott. The important English factories at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras; were far apart from each other. Hence the fall of one port did not affect the other. But the important French possessions were crowded together. The British naval supremacy was undoubtedly an important factor which humbled the French in India. Besides, the French Government and the officers committed many blunders. The French government committed a great blunder in recalling Dupliex at critical moment. It was a great blunder of Lally to recall Bussy from Hyderabad. Such blunders affected the French much. The French were defeated. Perhaps that might have been the will of History. Had the French won in the Deccan the History of India might have been otherwise, atleast in the Southern part of India.

### **Establishment to British Supremacy in Bengal Battle of Plassey**

The Mughal Empire started to decline after the death of Aurangzeb in 1707. Many independent kingdoms were born. Bengal was one among them. Shuja-ud-Daula became the ruler of independent Bengal in 1727. He brought Bihar under his control and made Alivard Khan its governor. In 1739 Shuja-ud-Daula was succeeded by his son Sarfaraz Khan. Alivardi Khan revolted against him and captured power in 1741. Alivardi Khan was a man of action and energy. He was able to withstand the menace of the Marathas. He correctly assisted the English and put necessary checks on them. He did not permit them to fortify their possessions. They had factories at Hugli, Kassimbazar, Patna, and other places. They had the villages of Sutanuti, Kalikata and Govindapur. These villages were later developed into the city of Calcutta. Alivardi Khan died 1756. He had three daughters and no son. Hence Siraj-ud-Daula the son of his youngest daughter succeeded him. The relation between Siraj-ud-Daula and the English became strained and led to the battle of Plassey.

## **CAUSES OF THE BATTLE**

### **Early Causes**

Allvardi Khan had ruled Bengal for about fifteen years. He was able to check the enemies. Only a person of his caliber and efficiency alone could manage the affairs. But Siraj-ud-Daula was not competent. Shaukat Jung was the rival claimant to the throne of Bengal. The English showed sympathy to him. Siraj-ud-Daula was sore over this. Siraj-ud-Daula got more irritation when the English misused certain privileges. As the seven years war was imminent in Europe, the English and the French started to fortify their possessions. The Nawab directed both the Companies to stop the steps of fortification. The French obeyed while the English simply ignored his direction. Kisan Das a Bengali merchant incurred the displeasure of the Nawab. When the Nawab tried to take action on him he sought asylum at Calcutta. The Nawab requested the English to hand him over. But the Company refused to comply. This Kisan Das affair also strained his relationship with the English.

### **Black – Hole incident**

Irritated by the factors mentioned above the Nawab captured the English factor at Kasim Bazar and then attacked Calcutta. His army consisted of about 50,000 soldiers. The meager English force at Calcutta surrendered. About 146 men, women and children were locked up in a small room of about eighteen by fourteen feet. They had to spend a summer night in it. It is said that one hundred and twenty three persons were found dead in the morning due to suffocation and stampede. This tragic incident is called Black-Hole incident or Black Hole Tragedy. Siraj-ud-Daula has been painted as a monster of cruelty and directly responsible for the tragic happenings.

H.Z. Holwelt was one of the survivors of the tragedy. He built the story of the tragedy. There is controversy over this. First of all it is pointed out that the Nawab might not have been personally responsible for the incident. The number

of victims is also said to be an exaggerated one. Some historians even say that the incident did not take place. In a fair assessment the Nawab may be held responsible for leaving the subordinate officers who shut the victims in small room unpunished. However, the incident was given so much of importance by the English. They tried to malign the name of the Nawab in order to gather public opinion and sympathy in their favour. The news of fall of Calcutta reached Madras. Immediately they sent Robert Clive with an army to recover Calcutta. Robert Clive was able to recover Calcutta by bribing the officer of the Nawab. The Treaty of Alinagar was signed between the Nawab and Robert Clive. By the treaty the Nawab agreed to restore all the privileges of the English. They were also permitted to fortify Calcutta.

### **The treacherous conspiracy**

Robert Clive was an English man by every inch. He was a better conspirator. He designed a conspiracy to oust the Nawab. Mir Jaffar the Commander-in Chief of the army of the Nawab and some others joined the conspiracy. Omi Chand a merchant of Bengal was the intermediary. A treaty was signed by the conspirators. According to the Treaty, Robert Clive agreed to make Mir Jaffar the Nawab. In return Mir Jaffar was to pay a great amount as compensation for the losses suffered by them earlier. Omi Chand demanded an amount of Rupees Thirty lakhs to keep his lips closed. Robert Clive fooled the greedy merchant by giving a forged treaty. Thus the English decided to achieve political gains by treachery rather by gallantry. The earlier causes and this conspiracy led to the battle of Plassey.

### **Course Robert**

Clive accused the Nawab for not implementing the terms of the Treaty of Alinagar. He marched towards Murshidabad with an army of 3,200 and reached Plassey. The Nawab was ready to clash with about 50,000 troops. The battle

was fought on 23rd June 1757. It was not the gallantry which won the battle but the treachery of Mir Haffar which had its day. The Nawab was defeated. He was arrested and killed. Mirhaffar got the reward for his treachery. He became the Nawab.

## **Results**

The battle of Plassey was not a great military achievement. But it had far reaching results in the History of India. Mir Jaffar, the new Nawab was a puppet in the hands of the English. Thus the English were able to establish control over Bengal. The English company had territorial and monetary gains too. The territory of Twenty-four Parganas was given to them. The settlement of Calcutta became prosperous. Their trade increased. The prestige of the English company was raised to new heights. The result of the battle had its effect on the developments in the Deccan too. The English got more men and money to be used in the Anglo-French rivalry in the Deccan. Colonel Pordy was sent by Clive to capture the northern forts of the French. Thus the ascendance in Bengal helped the English to ascend in the Deccan also. The conquest of Bengal was only a beginning. The English were able to capture the whole of northern India. The incident of 1757 is also referred to as the First Bengal Revolution.

## **Battle of Buxar**

The Second Revolution in Bengal Mir Jaffar was made the Nawab of Bengal after the battle of Plassey in 1757. This is called the First Revolution in Bengal. He remained on the throne until Clive stayed in India. Later he had to reap what he had sowed. He gave so much of money to the English officers when he ascended the throne. The English officers wanted to put another man on the throne so that they could earn money. Mir Jaffar was also bad in administration. History repeated in the form of a treaty of conspiracy between the Company and Mir Kasim, the son-in-law of Mir Jaffar. According to the terms of the treaty Mir Kasim

agreed to give the districts of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong to the Company. Besides the officers were to be paid handsome reward. The bone pieces were thrown and the English wolf did the Job. Mir Jaffar was pensioned off in 1760 and Mir Kasim was made the Nawab of Bengal.

### **Causes for the Conflict**

Mir Kasim was prompt in keeping up his promises. The districts were given and the officers of the Company were enriched. Later Mir Kasim made certain changes in the administration. He changed the capital from Murshidabad to Monghyr, a place near the border of Bihar. He decided to change the capital for several reasons. He wanted to have his capital in a fortified city. He also wanted to have it away from Calcutta. He thought that by being away from Calcutta, he could avoid interference by the Company. Then the Nawab turned his attention to free trade. The English Company had obtained a firman from the Mughal Emperor in 1717. That firman permitted the company to carry its goods duty free through the provinces of Bengal Orissa and Bihar. But this privilege was misused by the English. The officers carried on private trade and they also claimed exemption. Due to this misuse the Indian merchants were much affected as they had to pay duty while their English counterparts had no need to pay. The Nawab appealed to the Calcutta Council to check the abuse of exemption. But as the Company failed to do it, he abolished duty on all goods. This measure put Indian merchants on par with the English. The Calcutta Council requested the Nawab to reimpose duties on Indian merchants. The Nawab refused to do so. Hence the battle of Buxar broke out.

### **Course**

In 1763 Ellis, the agent of the English Company at Patna suddenly seized the city. The Nawab recovered the city easily. In June 1763 there were encounters between Major Adams and Mir Kasim at places like Katwah, Giria, Suti and

Udaynala. Mir Kasim was not able to bring out a decisive victory over the English. He stayed at Patna for sometime. The forces of the company advanced towards Patna. Mir Kasim threatened to kill the English prisoners under his custody. The Company least cared the threat. Mir Kasim ordered his soldiers to kill English prisoners. The Indian soldiers politely refused to carry out the order. They told their master that they would fight and kill them. They asserted that they were soldiers not executors. Then this job of butchery was given to a German familiarly called Somru. He killed all the English prisoners. Mir Kasim ran to Oudh. Shah Alam II, the Mughal Emperor was also at Oudh. Mir Kasim, Shah Alam and Shuja-ud-Daula the Nawab of Oudh formed a confederacy to oppose the Company. In October 1764 the famous battle of Buxar was fought between the Company and the confederacy. The armies of the confederacy consisted of about 50,000 soldiers while that of the company had about 7000 soldiers. Major Munro commanded the English army. On 22, October 1764, the English won the battle and made yet another step towards the establishment of their colonial empire in India. Shuja-ud-Daula made one more attempt at Kara in May 1765. There also Company won the battle. Mir Kasim ran away and spent the rest of his life as a wanderer. Shuja-ud-Daula and Alam surrendered to the company.

### **The Treaty of Allahabad**

After the end of the battle of Buxar Clive arrived. He made the Treaty of Allahabad in 1765. Shuja-ud-Daula and Shah Alam II were the parties with whom the treaty was made. Shuja-ud-Daula got back his territories except the districts of Kara and Allahabad. He paid fifty lakhs of rupees to the Company. An English force was stationed at Oudh to protect the frontiers the Nawab agreed to meet the expenses to maintain the force. Shah Alam II was given the district of Kara and Allahabad. The company agreed to pay him 26 lakhs rupees per year. The Mughal Emperor granted the Company the right to collect land revenue in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

## **Results**

The battle of Buxar is described as an important one. According to James Stephen, the battle of Buxar deserves far more credit than the battle of Plassey as the origin of the British power in India. The battle of Buxar confirmed what was achieved by the battle of Plassey. Even before the final defeat of Mir Kasim the Company put Mir Jaffar again on the throne of Bengal. The battle of Plassey was won by conspiracy. But undoubtedly the battle of Buxar was won by gallantry. It proved the military superiority of the English. The Power of the company was extended throughout north India. The English had the road to Delhi open. They had the Afghans and the Marathas who were left to be dealt with. As Ramsay Muir says, "Buxar finally riveted the shackles of the Company's rule upon Bengal".

## **DUPLIEX**

### **Early life**

Joseph Francis Dupliex was born in 1697. His father was the Director-General of Company of the Indies. As Dupliex showed distaste to commercial career, his father sent him on an extensive sea voyage to make his son reconcile to such a life. The expected happened. In 1720, his father got him a high post in the Council of Pondicherry. In 1726, he was unjustly suspended from office. He remained in India and fought out the case. The Directors were soon convinced of the falseness of the charges leveled against him.

### **Director of Chandernagore**

As a mark of their pleasure, Dupliex was appointed Director of the factory at Chandernagore in 1731 and he continued in that office till 1741. Chandernagore presented a desolate appearance with practically no trade when Dupliex arrived. He did not hesitate to shell out money from his own pocket to improve the trade. Within a very short period, Chandernagore bustled with activity and became

prosperous. In 1741 Dupliex married Jeanned" Albert the widow of one of the members of the superior Council of Pondicherry. She was a sagacious consellor and stood with him through thick and thin both during prosperity and adversity. Dupliex was appointed Governor of Pondicherryn and DirectorGeneral of French settlements in India in 1742.

### **Governor of Pondicherry**

Dupliex succeeded Dumas (1735 – 42) as Governor of Pondicherry in 1742. When he assumed office, the position of the French settlements in the south was far from satisfactory. The prosperity of the French settlements was seriously affected by the frequent inroads of the Marathas. Further, Nizam-ul-mulk Asaf Jah was brewing in of an invasion of the Carniatic. Above all, a stom was brewing in Europe giving a clear indication to an Anglo-French conflict. In the light of such development, developments,Dupliex strengthened the fortifications and thoroughly overhauled the administration. He cut down unnecessary public expenditure, forbade the Company"s servants from accepting presents and removed many other abuses. He inherited the office of the Nawab and Mansabdar of 4500 from Dumas. In a colourful ceremony at Chandенagore, he was installed Nawab. Had the Directors of the French East Inida Company given able support to Dupliex"s schemes, he would have developed Pondicherry into a Dupliex"s schemes, he would have developed Pondicherry into a first-class European settlement. But he was systematically discouraged by their policy of economy-drive. In spite of the discouragement, he raised the prestige of the French in the eyes of the native powers.

### **His part in the first two Carnatic Wars (Refer)**

#### **Recall of Dupliex**

Though Dupliex was a success in Hyderabad, he disastrously failed in the Carnaatic. Eversince the capture of Arcot by Robert Clive in 1751, the influence of Dupliex began to wane in the Carnatic. He kept the Court of Directory in the dark



about the latest developments. When they came to know of the debacle of the French in the Second Carnatic War from other sources, they got disgusted with the policy of Dupliex and recalled him in 1754. He was succeeded by Godehenu. He was bent upon belittling and ruining Dupliex. The money which Dupliex sent out of his own pocket for the good of the Company was not paid to him. He returned to France penniless. He tried in vain not to pay back the sums he had spent for the Company. In great distress, he wrote as follows in his Memoirs: "I have sacrificed my youth, my fortune, my life, to enrich my nation in Asia. Unfortunate friends, too weak relations, devoted all their property to the success of my projects. They are now in misery and want.... My services are treated as fables, my demand is denounced as ridiculous. I am treated as the vilest of mankind.... I am compelled to ask for delay in order not to be dragged to prison". If circumstances had not conspired against him, Dupliex would have established the French Empire in India. Such a noble son of France was allowed by her to die „in misery and want“s in 1764.

### **Estimate**

The chance for laying the foundation of a French Empire in India slipped out of the hands of Dupliex not because he failed but the French Government failed him. Subsequent events in the history of India revealed the fact that the Marathas, the de facto rulers among the native powers in India, were more prone towards an alliance with the French than with the British. The French Government given an able support to the schemes of Dupliex, and his general an able stand, he would have definitely become the founder of the French Empire in India. But fortune befriended the English. Historians widely differ on the character and achievements of Dupliex. Malleson points out that Dupliex was a great administrator and diplomat with a wonderful capacity for organization. Thorton says that his character was to a large extent made up of vanity, ambition and duplicity. Biddulph points out that Dupliex built nothing and consolidated nothing.

Though Dupliex was a failure, there is no denying the fact that he was undoubtedly the greatest of the Frenchmen sent out to India by the French East India Company. He paved the way for the rise of the British power in India.

## **ROBERT CLIVE**

### **Early Career**

Robert Clive was born in 1725 in the family of a clergyman. He was a troublesome boy in the school. He joined the East India Company as a clerk in 1743 and reached Madras in 1744. At one stage he became dejected and tried to commit suicide. But his attempt to school himself failed. He thought that he could shoot others correctly. Hence he joined the army and participated in the First Carnatic War. He was arrested by the French and was released in 1748. Clive proved his strategic ability in the Second Carnatic War. The French and the English Governors were at a stalemate in the war. Clive gave a better idea to attack Arcot and divert the attention of Chanda Saheb. He carried out the plan successfully and turned the things in favour of the English. Clive returned to England in 1753. He came back to India in 1755 and became a Lt. Colonel at Fort. St. David. When Siraj-ud-Daula the Nawab of Bengal occupied Calcutta Clive was sent along with Admiral Watson to recover it. Clive was able to recover Calcutta very easily. Later Clive designed the conspiracy and effected the First Revolution in Bengal. Mir Jaffar the new Nawab gave a huge amount to Clive.

### **Clive's Governorship of Bengal**

Clive was the Governor of Bengal from 1757 to 1760. This is called his first Governorship. During his first Governorship he captured the northern circars which belonged to the French. When Lally committed the mistake of calling Bussy from Hyderabad Clive carried out this task by sending Colonel Forde from Bengal. In 1759 he defeated a fleet of the Dutch. From 1760 to 1765 he was away from

India. He came back in 1765 and became the Governor and Commander-in Chief of Bengal. He held this position upto 1767. This is called his second Governorship. Immediately on his arrival Clive made the Treaty of Allahabad to consolidate the gains of the battle of Buxar. In fact the treaty brought much gain to the Company.

### **Clive's Reforms**

Clive made certain reforms in the administration. Corruption was rampant in the Company's administration. In order to clean it Clive took some measures. He forced the servants of the Company to sign covenants against the receipt of presents from Indians. The servants agreed to the receipt of presents from Indians. The servants of the Company were doing private trade on a large scale. Clive ordered them not to carry on private trade. As Clive felt that the servants of the Company were paid low. He recommended to the directors of the Company to increase their salaries. The directors refused to revise the salary. Clive granted monopoly of salt trade and began to distribute its profits among the servants of the Company. But he had to stop this also as the directors were against the practice. Clive introduced certain military reforms also. He abolished double allowance of the military officers. This reform was objected by the military officers. But Clive was stubborn on his measure. He was ready to send back those officers to England.

## **CLIVE AND THE DUAL GOVERNMENT IN BENGAL**

### **Establishment of Dual Government**

When the Mughal Empire was glorious there were two central officers in each province. They were Subadar and the Diwan. The Subadar looked after Nizamat functions like defence, police and criminal justice while the Diwan was the chief financial officer in charge of the financial affairs. He was also responsible for civil justice. This system was working well in the hey days of the Mughal

Empire. But when the Mughal authority weakened after the death of Aurangzeb Murshid Kuli Khan the Nawab of Bengal started to exercise both Nizamat and Diwani functions. In August 1765 Shah Alam, the Mughal emperor granted the Diwani right to the Company. In return the Company agreed to pay Rupees 26 lakhs per annum. Earlier in February 1765 when Najm-ud-Daula succeeded as Nawab of Bengal at the death of Mir Jaffar, his father, the English Company forced him to give the Nizamat right to the Company. This Company got the Diwani and the Nizamat powers in Bengal. However, the Company was not in a position to undertake direct responsibilities. For the exercise of Diwani functions the Company appointed two Deputy Diwans. The deputy Nizam of Bengal acted as Deputy Diwan also. They were appointed by the Nawab on the advice of the Company. They could be removed only with the consent of the Company. Thus, the Nawab was a mere shadow. The real Diwani and Nizamat powers were in the hands of the Company. The Company did not take direct responsibility. It had Indian agencies to perform these functions. Thus, the functioning of two different authorities is called the Dual Government.

### **Justification**

The Dual Government had many defects. Robert Clive had many reasons to justify it. If the Company assumed authority openly that might have made the princes unite against the Company, leading to a war. It was also doubtful whether the French, the Dutch and the Danes would pay duties to the servants of the Company. Open assumption of power would also create diplomatic problems for Britain in her relations with France, Holland and Portugal. Perhaps that would lead to the formation of the front of these nations. The Company did not have at its disposal enough trained servants to take over the administration. The few servants who could be assigned work were not familiar with Indian practices, languages and customs. The Court of Directors at London did not aspire to acquire territories. The directors were more interested in achieving

commercial gains. Besides, Clive understood that open assumption of political power of Bengal might enable the British Parliament to interfere into the affairs of the Company. For these reasons Clive introduced the system of Dual Government. The question whether it was good or bad did not seem to be important to him. It suited the situation.

### **Defects of the Dual Government**

The Dual Government devised by Clive was ineffective and unworkable. It created chaos and confusion. The impotence of the Nizamat led to the breakdown of law and order. The administration of Justice became a farce. The Company disowned the responsibility of administration while the Nawab was disowned the power of administration. In the countryside dacoits roamed freely. Corruption was rampant everywhere. The Indian servants of the Company followed the bad example of their English masters. Ultimately the people of Bengal suffered a lot. The Dual Government affected the economic system also. The Bengali peasants suffered due to the evils of over-assessment, harshness, in methods of collection etc. Many cultivators ran away to jungles. In order to escape the merciless officers many peasants became robbers. In 1770 a famine came which took away many lives. Agricultural depression adversely affected the trade and commerce. The exemption from duty helped the English traders much. The Indian traders suffered a lot. The system of Dual Government had its ill effect on industry and skill too. The weaving industry of Bengal was very much affected. The Company used its political power to crush the silk industry. The silk-winders were compelled to work in the factories of the English Company. By monopolizing the internal trade of India, the Company's servants force up the prices of raw materials like cotton and silk. This also affected the Indian traders. The artisans too had to quit their profession as their profession was unprofitable. Thus the system of government in Bengal enabled the English to exploit the Indian Economy and trade. The Dual Government in Bengal caused moral degradation

also. The weavers and the farmers felt that their hard work would not pay them anything. Hence they lost incentive. The society became static.

### **Estimate of Clive Robert**

Clive is said to be the true founder of British political power in India. He made a right assessment of the political situation in India and took steps in the right direction. He proved his caliber by successfully capturing Arcot in 1751 and turning the table against the French. The battle of Plassey and the subsequent events in Bengal laid the foundation for the British political power there. It was achieved by the calculated diplomacy of Clive. The character of the English East India Company was changed by him. From the status of a mere trading company it rose to the position of a political power. It became the king maker in Bengal. Burke says that he settled great ground. Percival Spear hesitates to call Clive, the founder of British power in India. He simply calls him a harbinger of the future. According to him Clive was the fore runner of the British Indian Empire.

Robert Clive was greedy. He was corruptible. He did not hesitate to adopt Machiavellian methods to achieve his goals. He was charge sheeted in the English Parliament. He did not hesitate to receive valuable presents from Indians. He designed conspiracies and cheated Indian chiefs. His methods were cheap and immoral. As remarked by Sardar K.M. Panikkar the state established in Bengal was only a „ropper state“. Pitt described Clive as a heaven born soldier. But this description is described to be hardly appropriate by P.E. Roberts. Clive failed as an administrator. His system of Dual Government in Bengal had many defects. His reforms also had no greater effects. Nandalal Chatterji says that his administrative incapacity prevented him from rising to the status of a statesman.

Robert Clive had many defects. In spite of some faults there is the stamp of grandeur on all Clive's words and deeds. When the parliament decided to acquit him after a discussion on charges of assassination, forgery, treachery and

plunder he was unhappy. In spite of acquittal he felt that his honour was at stake. Hence he committed suicide on November 2, 1774 in his fiftieth year of age. By his last sad act he proved to the world that he valued honour more than material things. Robert Clive was unkind and cunning towards many in India. In England his countrymen proved themselves better in being unkind and cunning towards him. Perhaps Clive reaped what he had sowed in India.