

Advent of Europeans in India

Modern Indian History – From Portuguese (1498) to the Battle of Wandiwash (1760)

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BPSG

SSC CGL

SSC CHSL

RRB NTPC

State PSC

Police SI

★★★★★ High-Yield Topic – 3–5 questions per exam

1. Introduction & Exam Relevance (यूरोपीयों का आगमन)

Why This Topic Is High-Yield

The **Advent of Europeans** covers how five European powers—Portuguese, Dutch, English, French and Danish—came to India between 1498 and 1664 for trade and ended up shaping its political future. SSC CGL, BPSC & RRB NTPC ask **3–5 questions per exam**.

Key themes: Sea routes · Companies & their dates · Key battles · Governor-Generals · Treaties

1498

Portuguese Arrive

1600

EIC Founded

1664

French EIC

5

European Powers

1612

Battle of Swally

1760

Battle of Wandiwash

1763

Treaty of Paris

1845

Danish Exit

★ Key European Leaders at a Glance



Vasco da Gama
Portuguese
Explorer



Francisco de Almeida
1st Portuguese
Viceroy



Afonso de Albuquerque
Portuguese
Governor



Sir Thomas Roe
English
Ambassador



J.F. Dupleix
French
Governor-General



Robert Clive
Defeated French
in India

Order of Arrival in India (Mnemonic): "Pretty Dogs Eat Fresh Dates"

Portuguese (1498) → Dutch (1605) → English (1608/1613) → French (1668) → Danish (Tranquebar 1620)

Note: Order of company FORMATION: English (1600) → Dutch (1602) → Danish (1616) → French (1664)

Why Did Europeans Come to India?

- **Spice trade:** Black pepper, cardamom, cinnamon – worth gold in Europe; Arab middlemen drove prices sky-high
- **Fall of Constantinople (1453):** Ottoman Turks blocked the traditional overland silk/spice route
- **Renaissance spirit:** Age of exploration & geographical discoveries
- **Crusading spirit:** Find Prester John (legendary Christian king) to outflank Islam
- **New sea route (1488–98):** Bartolomeu Dias rounded Cape of Good Hope (1488); Vasco da Gama reached India (1498)
- **Mercantilism:** European monarchies wanted direct control of profitable Eastern trade

2. Portuguese in India (1498–1663) (पुर्तगाली)

Background: The Portuguese were the **FIRST European power** to establish trade with India via the sea route. Their Estado da India (State of India) was a maritime empire based on controlling sea lanes with the *Cartaz* (pass/license) system. Their capital in India was **Goa**, called "Golden Goa" or "Rome of the East."

Key Voyages & Arrivals

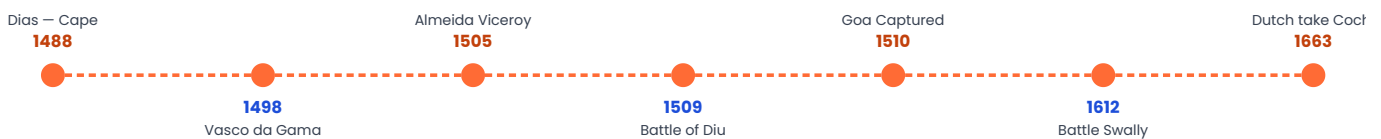
- **1488:** Bartolomeu Dias rounds Cape of Good Hope (southern tip of Africa)
- **1498: Vasco da Gama** reaches **Calicut (Kozhikode)** – 20 May 1498; welcomed by Zamorin (king)
- **1500:** Pedro Álvares Cabral – 2nd Portuguese expedition; discovers Brazil en route
- **1505: Francisco de Almeida** – First Portuguese Viceroy of India; introduced *Blue Water Policy* (control seas, not land)
- **1509: Battle of Diu** – Portuguese fleet defeats combined Arab-Egyptian-Gujarati fleet; Portuguese dominate Indian Ocean
- **1510: Afonso de Albuquerque** captures **Goa** from Bijapur (Feb 1510) – becomes Portuguese HQ
- **1511:** Albuquerque captures Malacca (controls spice route chokepoint)
- **1515:** Albuquerque captures Hormuz (Persian Gulf) – controls entire Indian Ocean trade

Portuguese Settlements & Policies

- **Goa** (1510) – Capital; "Golden Goa" or "Rome of the East"; Portuguese HQ in Asia
- **Daman & Diu** (1535) – Captured from Gujarat Sultanate (Sultan Bahadur Shah)
- **Bombay** – Portuguese possession; gifted to England as marriage dowry of Catherine of Braganza (1661)
- **Cartaz System:** All ships in Indian Ocean must buy a Portuguese license; taxed Asian trade
- **Doctrine of Mare Clausum:** "Closed seas" – Portuguese claimed monopoly over Indian Ocean
- **Estado da India:** Portuguese maritime empire in Asia – not a single territory but a network

Portuguese Contributions & Decline

- **Introduced to India:** Printing press, tobacco, potato, cashew, chilli, pineapple, papaya, guava
- **Introduced Christianity:** St. Francis Xavier came to Goa (1542); Goa Inquisition (1560)
- **Battle of Swally (1612):** English EIC (Captain Thomas Best) defeats Portuguese – marks Portuguese decline
- **1663:** Dutch capture Cochin from Portuguese; Portuguese lose South India
- **1961:** Indian Army Operation Vijay annexes Goa, Daman & Diu from Portugal



2. Portuguese — Continued

Governor / Viceroy	Term	Key Achievement
Francisco de Almeida	1505–09	1st Viceroy; Blue Water Policy; Battle of Diu (1509)
Afonso de Albuquerque	1509–15	Captured Goa (1510), Malacca (1511), Hormuz (1515)
Nino da Cunha	1529–38	Transferred capital from Cochin to Goa; got Diu & Bassein
Francisco Barreto	1555–58	Repelled Mughal advances; consolidated Goa

⚡ Albuquerque's Policy

- Policy of **intermarriage** with Indian women to create a loyal mixed community
- Built strong fortifications at key ports (Goa, Hormuz, Malacca)
- Treated with firm hand: "If I take Goa, all India trembles"

🧠 Memory Trick

Viceroy's Trick: "AMC"

Almeida (1st Viceroy, 1505) → Albuquerque (Governor, 1509) → Nino da Cunha (capital shift to Goa)

All Portuguese rulers had key battles associated — link each name to their battle

"Goa remained a Portuguese territory until 1961 — 451 years! No other European power held any Indian territory this long."

🔔 PYQ Alert — Previous Year Questions

1	Who was the first Portuguese Viceroy of India?	SSC CGL 2019 Easy
2	Battle of Diu (1509) was fought between Portuguese and?	RRB NTPC 2020 Med
3	Which Portuguese governor captured Goa from the Bijapur Sultanate?	BPSC 2018 Med
4	The Cartaz system was introduced by which European power?	SSC CHSL 2021 Easy

Answers: 1-(B) Francisco de Almeida | 2-(C) Arab-Egyptian-Gujarati fleet | 3-(A) Albuquerque (1510) | 4-(A) Portuguese

3. Dutch in India (1602–1759) (डच)

Background: The Dutch (from the Netherlands/Holland) formed the **VOC (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie)** – the Dutch East India Company – in 1602. They were more interested in the **East Indies (spice islands / Indonesia)** than in India. In India, they primarily traded at **Pulicat** (their HQ) and **Chinsurah**. Their power in India ended after the **Battle of Bedara/Biderra (1759)** when the English EIC defeated them.

Key Dates & Settlements

- **1602:** VOC formed – world's first multinational corporation & first company to issue stock
- **1605:** First Dutch factory at **Masulipatnam** (Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh)
- **1610:** Factory at **Pulicat** (near Madras) – became Dutch HQ in India; built Fort Geldria
- **1616:** Dutch factory at Surat
- **1636:** Factory at Kasimbazar (Bengal)
- **1658:** Dutch capture Ceylon (Sri Lanka) from Portuguese
- **1663:** Dutch capture **Cochin** from Portuguese – weakens Portuguese hold on India
- **1667:** Treaty of Breda – Dutch give New Amsterdam (New York) to English; English give Surinam to Dutch
- **1690:** Dutch settle at Chinsurah (Bengal) – became important Bengal factory

Dutch Decline in India

- **Battle of Colachel (1741):** Dutch fleet defeated by **Travancore king Marthanda Varma** in Kerala – European power defeated by Indian ruler; Dutch never recovered influence in South India
- **Battle of Biderra/Bedara (1759):** English EIC (Clive's forces under Colonel Forde) defeats Dutch near Calcutta; Dutch power in India effectively ends
- Dutch focused on East Indies (nutmeg, cloves, mace from Maluku/Banda Islands) – India was secondary

Dutch Settlement	Location	Significance
Masulipatnam	Andhra Pradesh	First Dutch factory in India (1605)
Pulicat	Tamil Nadu	Dutch HQ in India; Fort Geldria
Chinsurah	West Bengal	Key Bengal factory; ceded to British (1825)
Nagapatnam	Tamil Nadu	Major Coromandel Coast port; ceded 1781
Surat	Gujarat	Trading post; lost to English influence
Cochin	Kerala	Captured from Portuguese (1663); lost 1795



3. Dutch — Continued

⚡ VOC — World's First Modern Corporation

- Full name: **Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie** (United East India Company)
- Formed: 20 March 1602, by Dutch Parliament (States-General)
- Capital: Amsterdam; granted monopoly on Asian trade for 21 years
- First company to issue **negotiable shares** and pay regular dividends
- At peak (1640s): 50,000 employees, 200 ships — largest commercial enterprise in history

🧠 Memory Trick

"Dutch MPC" — Dutch Key Settlements

Masulipatnam (first factory, 1605) → Pulicat (HQ, 1610) → Chinsurah (Bengal)

Battle of **Colachel** (1741) = Dutch defeated by **TRAVANCORE** (Indian ruler)

Battle of **Biderra** (1759) = Dutch defeated by **ENGLISH** (Colonel Forde)

"The Battle of Colachel (1741) is the only instance in Indian history where a European power was defeated by an Indian ruler in a naval battle."

🔔 PYQ Alert — Previous Year Questions

1	The first Dutch factory in India was established at?	SSC CGL 2020 Easy
2	Which was the headquarters of the Dutch in India?	RRB NTPC 2021 Easy
3	The Battle of Colachel (1741) was fought between Dutch and?	BPSC 2019 Med
4	VOC stands for which country's East India Company?	SSC CHSL 2022 Easy

Answers: 1-(B) Masulipatnam (1605) | 2-(C) Pulicat | 3-(A) Travancore (Marthanda Varma) | 4-(B) Dutch

4. English East India Company (1600–1757) (इंग्लिश उउसी)

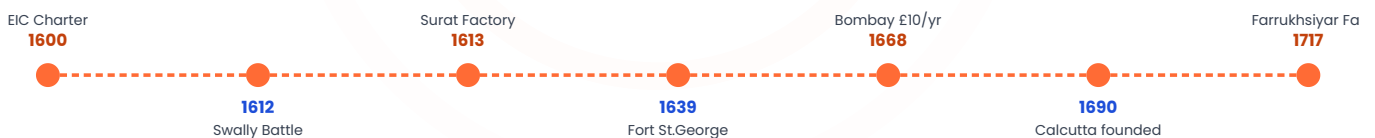
Background: The English East India Company was formed on **31 December 1600** by Queen Elizabeth I's Royal Charter. Initially a trading company, it slowly acquired political power through key battles, treaties and forts. By 1757 (Battle of Plassey), EIC became the dominant power in Bengal and eventually all of India.

Early Phase: Trade & First Contacts (1600–1612)

- **31 Dec 1600:** EIC formed; **125 shareholders**; Queen Elizabeth I grants Royal Charter
- **1608:** Captain **William Hawkins** – first Englishman to reach Mughal court (Jahangir's); failed to get trading rights
- **1611:** First English factory at **Masulipatnam** (briefly)
- **1612: Battle of Swally (Suvali)** – English Captain **Thomas Best** defeats Portuguese fleet near Surat; marks end of Portuguese sea dominance
- **1613:** After Swally victory, Jahangir grants **first English factory at Surat**
- **1615:** Sir **Thomas Roe** – English ambassador visits Jahangir's court; secures formal trading rights in all Mughal territories

Expansion: Three Presidencies (1639–1698)

- **1639: Francis Day** – acquires land at Madraspatnam; builds **Fort St. George** (Madras) – First EIC fortress in India
- **1661: Bombay** gifted to England's King Charles II as marriage dowry of **Catherine of Braganza** (Portuguese princess)
- **1668:** Charles II leases Bombay to EIC for **£10 per year**
- **1686:** EIC shifts western HQ from Surat to **Bombay**
- **1690: Job Charnock** founds **Calcutta** (Sutanuti village)
- **1698: Fort William** built at Calcutta; EIC buys zamindari of three villages
- **1717: Farrukhsiyar Farman** – EIC gets duty-free trade rights in Bengal for ₹3,000/year payment; called "**Magna Carta of EIC**"



4. English EIC — Continued

Presidency	HQ City	Fort	Founded
Bengal Presidency	Calcutta	Fort William (1698)	1690 (Job Charnock)
Bombay Presidency	Bombay	Bombay Fort	1668 (Charles II lease)
Madras Presidency	Madras	Fort St. George (1639)	1639 (Francis Day)

⚡ Thomas Roe's Mission (1615–19)

- Sir Thomas Roe was sent by James I (not Elizabeth I) as official ambassador to Mughal Emperor **Jahangir**
- Roe advised EIC: "seek trade, not territory" — avoid land wars, focus on sea trade
- Secured farmans (imperial edicts) allowing EIC to trade freely in all Mughal ports
- This mission transformed EIC from isolated traders to officially recognized trading partners

🧠 Memory Trick

"Every Fort Builds Capital"

Madras (**Fort St. George**, 1639) → Bombay (no major fort name tested) → Calcutta (**Fort William**, 1698)

*Battle of Swally 1612 = Thomas **Best** (Best defeated Portuguese)*

Farrukhsiyar Farman 1717 = Magna Carta of EIC; ₹3,000/year duty-free Bengal trade

"Battle of Swally (1612) marks the decisive shift in Indian Ocean power — the Portuguese era ended, the English era began."

🔔 PYQ Alert — Previous Year Questions

1	The English East India Company was founded in which year?	SSC CGL 2018 Easy
2	Battle of Swally (1612) was fought between English EIC and?	RRB NTPC 2019 Med
3	Sir Thomas Roe visited the court of which Mughal emperor?	BPSC 2020 Easy
4	Who founded Calcutta (1690)?	SSC CHSL 2021 Easy

Answers: 1-(A) 1600 (31 Dec) | 2-(C) Portuguese | 3-(B) Jahangir | 4-(C) Job Charnock

5. French in India (1664–1761) फ्रांसीसी

Background: The French East India Company was formed in 1664 by Finance Minister Jean-Baptiste Colbert under King Louis XIV. The French became main rivals of EIC through the three **Carnatic Wars (1746–1763)**.

French Settlements

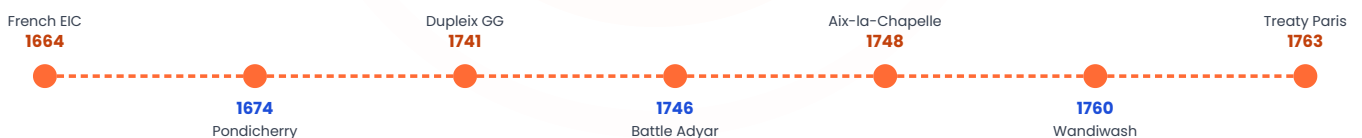
- **1664:** French EIC formed by Colbert
- **1668:** First French factory at Surat
- **1672:** Francois Martin founds Pondicherry
- **1674:** Pondicherry officially founded – French capital
- **1693:** Dutch capture Pondicherry temporarily
- **1697:** French regain via Treaty of Ryswick
- **1706:** French factory at Chandernagore (Bengal)

Dupleix Era – The French Golden Age (1741–1754)

- **1741:** Dupleix appointed Governor-General of all French India
- Dupleix genius: Alliance with Indian princes + trained Indian soldiers (sepoys)
- **1746:** First Carnatic War; Battle of Adyar – French defeat combined British–Nawab force
- French capture Madras (1746) briefly
- **1748:** First Carnatic War ends – Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle; Madras returned to British
- **1749–54:** Second Carnatic War; Dupleix installs Muzaffar Jung as Nizam of Hyderabad
- **1754:** French recall Dupleix to France – fatal mistake

French Decline – Third Carnatic War (1757–1763)

- **1757:** Battle of Plassey – Robert Clive defeats Siraj-ud-Daulah; French ally eliminated
- **1760:** Battle of Wandiwash – English (Sir Eyre Coote) defeats French (Count de Lally)
- **1761:** French surrender Pondicherry to English (16 Jan 1761)
- **1763:** Treaty of Paris – French get Pondicherry back but CANNOT fortify it
- French Pondicherry remained French until 1954 (merged with India)



5. French – Continued

Carnatic War	Period	Key Battle	Treaty / Outcome
1st Carnatic War	1746–48	Battle of Adyar (1746) – French win	Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle; Status quo; Madras returned to British
2nd Carnatic War	1749–54	Dupleix installs Muzaffar Jung as Nizam	Dupleix recalled (1754); French lost momentum
3rd Carnatic War	1757–63	Battle of Wandiwash (1760) – British win	Treaty of Paris (1763); French finished in India

⚡ Dupleix – Why He Was a Genius

- First European to train **Indian sepoys** in European military discipline
- Principle: Control the Indian princes, not the territory directly
- Installed Muzaffar Jung (Nizam of Hyderabad) and Chanda Sahib (Nawab of Carnatic) – French puppets
- British copied Dupleix system; Robert Clive called him the greatest general Europe sent to India

🧠 Memory Trick

Carnatic Wars – ABC of Treaties:

1st War (1746–48) = **A**ix-la-Chapelle (1748)

2nd War (1749–54) = No formal treaty; Dupleix recalled

3rd War (1757–63) = **P**aris (1763)

Battle of Wandiwash 1760 = English (Coote) vs French (Lally) – British decisive victory

“Dupleix recall in 1754 was the single greatest blunder by France – he was winning, but Paris gave up.”

🔔 PYQ Alert – Previous Year Questions

- | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|
| 1 | The French East India Company was formed in which year? | SSC CGL 2019 Easy |
| 2 | Battle of Wandiwash (1760) was fought between? | BPSC 2021 Med |
| 3 | Which treaty ended the First Carnatic War? | RRB NTPC 2022 Hard |
| 4 | Who was the French Governor-General recalled from India in 1754? | SSC CHSL 2020 Med |

Answers: 1-(C) 1664 | 2-(A) English (Coote) vs French (Lally) | 3-(B) Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) | 4-(B) Dupleix

6. Danish & Other Europeans in India (डेनिश व अन्य)

The Danish East India Company (Dansk Ostindisk Kompagni) was formed in 1616. Their key settlements were **Tranquebar** (Tamil Nadu, 1620) and **Serampore/Frederiksnagore** (Bengal, 1755). They sold all Indian possessions to the British in **1845**.

Danish in India

- **1616:** Danish East India Company (DEIC) formed
- **1620:** Danish settle at **Tranquebar** (Tharangambadi, Tamil Nadu) - main settlement
- **1755:** Danish establish **Serampore** (Frederiksnagore) in Bengal
- **1800: Serampore Mission** - William Carey establishes printing press and Bible translation
- **1845:** Denmark sells Tranquebar and Serampore to the British East India Company
- Danish never had military ambitions; focused on trade and later missions

Other European Attempts

Country	Company	Key Settlement	Fate
Denmark	DEIC (1616)	Tranquebar (1620), Serampore	Sold to British (1845)
Brandenburg-Prussia	Brandenburg African Company (1682)	Attempted factory at Banquibazar, Bengal	Failed; merged into Prussia
Ostend Company	Austria-Ostend (1722)	Banquibazar; Coblon (Coromandel)	Dissolved 1731 (British/Dutch pressure)
Swedish EIC	SOIC (1731)	No permanent India settlement	Traded via intermediaries

Comparison: Why Some Succeeded, Others Failed

Factors for Success in India:

- **Military strength:** Portuguese (naval), English (land + sea) succeeded; Danish (weak military) failed
- **Home government support:** French and English had strong state backing; Ostend Company dissolved due to international pressure
- **Focus on India:** Dutch more interested in East Indies; English focused specifically on India
- **Adaptability:** English adopted Indian practices, allied with princes; Portuguese remained aloof
- **Trade base:** English built 3 strong presidency towns; others had scattered factories

Memory Trick

Order of Company Formation: Every Duck Does Fly

English EIC (1600) → Dutch VOC (1602) → Danish DEIC (1616) → French Compagnie (1664)

First ARRIVAL in India: Portuguese (1498) → Dutch (1605) → English (1612/13) → Danish (1620) → French (1668)

6. Danish – Continued

⚡ Serampore Mission – Exam Angle

- **William Carey** (English Baptist missionary) came to Serampore (Danish colony) in 1800
- Why Danish colony? He could NOT work freely in British India (EIC banned missionaries until 1813)
- At Serampore: translated Bible into Bengali, Sanskrit and 40+ other Indian languages
- Established **Serampore College** (1818) – oldest degree-granting college in Asia
- After 1813 Charter Act, missionaries allowed in British India

“Denmark greatest legacy in India is not trade but the Serampore Mission – William Carey Bible translations helped develop modern Bengali and Sanskrit printing.”

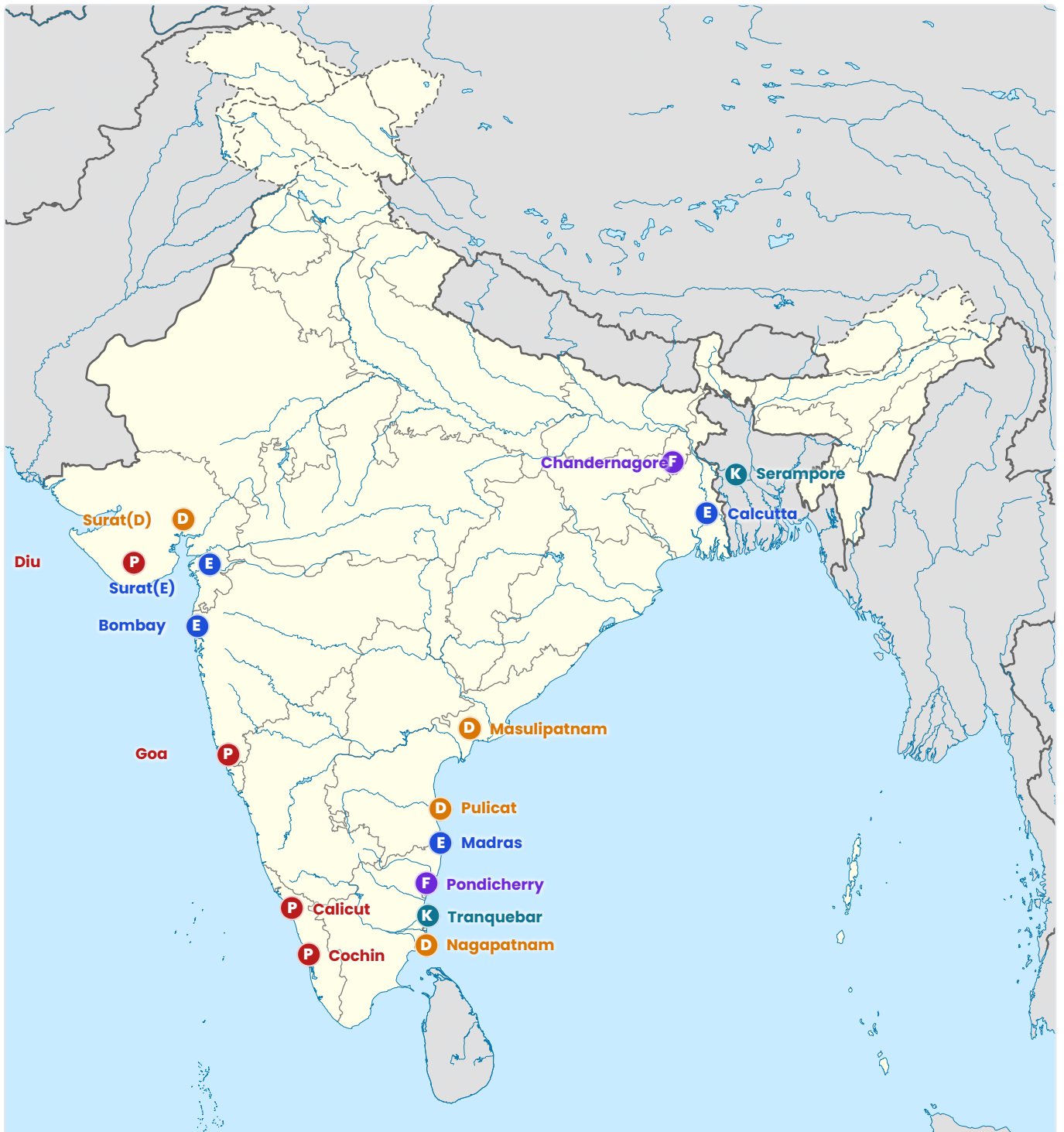
🔔 PYQ Alert – Previous Year Questions

1	Tranquebar (Tharangambadi) was a settlement of which European power?	SSC CGL 2022 Easy
2	Serampore (Frederiksnagore) in Bengal was controlled by which Europeans?	RRB NTPC 2020 Easy
3	The Danish possessions in India were sold to the British in which year?	BPSC 2021 Hard
4	William Carey established his famous mission at Serampore in?	SSC CHSL 2019 Med

Answers: 1-(D) Danish | 2-(B) Danish | 3-(C) 1845 | 4-(A) 1800

European Power	Company Year	1st Factory in India	HQ in India	Last Presence
Portuguese	Estado da India (state-run)	Calicut (1498)	Goa	1961 (Goa liberated)
Dutch	VOC (1602)	Masulipatnam (1605)	Pulicat	1825 (Chinsurah sold)
English	EIC (1600)	Surat (1613)	Calcutta	Still – became Raj
French	Compagnie (1664)	Surat (1668)	Pondicherry	1954 (merger with India)
Danish	DEIC (1616)	Tranquebar (1620)	Tranquebar	1845 (sold to British)

7. European Settlements in India – Map



Legend: **P** Portuguese **D** Dutch **E** English **F** French **K** Danish

* Surat: Dutch & English shared | Bengal cluster: Chandernagore(F), Calcutta(E), Serampore(K)

7. Master Comparison Tables

All European Powers – Quick Reference

Power	Company	Form.	1st India	HQ	Key Battle	End in India
Portuguese	Estado da India	1498*	Calicut (1498)	Goa	Battle of Diu (1509)	Op. Vijay 1961
Dutch	VOC	1602	Masulipatnam (1605)	Pulicat	Biderra (1759)	1825 Chinsurah
English	EIC	1600	Surat (1613)	Calcutta	Plassey (1757)	Became Raj
French	Compagnie	1664	Surat (1668)	Pondicherry	Wandiwash (1760)	1954 merger
Danish	DEIC	1616	Tranquebar (1620)	Tranquebar	Colachel (allies)	1845 sold

* Portuguese were state-run (not a company); 1498 = Vasco da Gama arrival date

Key Battles – Europeans in India

Battle	Year	Between	Winner	Significance
Battle of Diu	1509	Portuguese vs Arabs/Egypt/Gujarat	Portuguese	Portuguese dominate Indian Ocean
Battle of Swally	1612	English vs Portuguese	English (Best)	First English victory; Surat factory gained
Battle of Adyar	1746	French vs English+Nawab	French (Duplex)	1st Carnatic War; French peak
Battle of Colachel	1741	Dutch vs Travancore	Travancore (Marthanda Varma)	Dutch naval decline; Indian ruler defeats Europeans
Battle of Biderra	1759	English vs Dutch	English (Col. Forde)	Dutch finished in India
Battle of Wandiwash	1760	English vs French	English (Coote vs Lally)	French finished in India

Key Forts & Factories

Fort / Factory	Power	City	Year	Significance
Fort St. George	English	Madras	1639	First English fort; Madras Presidency
Fort William	English	Calcutta	1698	Bengal Presidency HQ
Fort Geldria	Dutch	Pulicat	1610	Dutch HQ in India
Pondicherry	French	Pondicherry	1674	French capital; returned 1763, merged 1954
Tranquebar	Danish	Tamil Nadu	1620	Danish main settlement
Goa Fort	Portuguese	Goa	1510	Portuguese capital; liberated 1961

7. Master Tables – Continued

Key Treaties & Their Significance

Treaty	Year	Parties	Key Terms
Treaty of Tordesillas	1494	Portugal & Spain	Divided world between Portugal (east) and Spain (west)
Treaty of Ryswick	1697	France vs Netherlands	French regained Pondicherry from Dutch
Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle	1748	Britain vs France	Ended 1st Carnatic War; status quo; Madras returned to British
Treaty of Breda	1667	England vs Dutch	Dutch gave New Amsterdam (New York) to English; got Surinam
Treaty of Paris	1763	Britain vs France	Ended 3rd Carnatic War; French got Pondicherry back but cannot fortify
Treaty of Salbai	1782	EIC vs Marathas	Related to Maratha wars (not European rivalry)
Farrukhsiyar Farman	1717	EIC vs Mughal Empire	Duty-free trade rights in Bengal; Magna Carta of EIC

Carnatic Wars – Detailed Comparison

War	Period	Trigger	Key Battles	Result / Treaty
1st Carnatic War	1740–48	Austrian War of Succession (Europe)	Battle of Adyar (1746) – French win	Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle 1748; Status quo
2nd Carnatic War	1749–54	Succession disputes (Hyderabad & Carnatic)	Trichinopoly Siege; Robert Clive Arcot (1751)	Dupleix recalled 1754; French lost political influence
3rd Carnatic War	1757–63	Seven Years War (Europe)	Battle of Wandiwash 1760; Siege of Pondicherry	Treaty of Paris 1763; French eliminated from Indian politics

Memory Trick

Carnatic Wars Mnemonic: ADP

Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) ends 1st | **D**upleix recalled (1754) ends 2nd | **P**aris (1763) ends 3rd
All three wars were TRIGGERED by European conflicts, not Indian conflicts

“The three Carnatic Wars show that Indian history was directly shaped by European politics – when France and Britain went to war in Europe, they fought in India too.”

8. Quick Facts – Last Minute Revision (त्वरित तथ्य)

1498

Vasco da Gama reaches Calicut (20 May 1498) – first European sea route to India

1505

Francisco de Almeida – FIRST Portuguese Viceroy of India; Blue Water Policy

1509

Battle of Diu – Portuguese defeat Arab–Egyptian–Gujarati fleet; dominate Indian Ocean

1510

Albuquerque captures Goa from Bijapur Sultanate (Feb 1510)

1600

English EIC formed: 31 December 1600, Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth I, 125 shareholders

1602

Dutch VOC formed: world first multinational corporation; issued shares

1605

First Dutch factory at Masulipatnam (Andhra Pradesh)

1610

Dutch establish Pulicat as HQ in India; Fort Geldria built

1612

Battle of Swally – English (Thomas Best) defeat Portuguese; end of Portuguese sea power

1613

First permanent English factory at Surat (after Swally victory)

1615

Sir Thomas Roe visits Jahangir; secures trading rights for EIC across all Mughal ports

1639

Francis Day builds Fort St. George at Madras – first EIC fort

1661

Bombay gifted to England as dowry of Catherine of Braganza (Portuguese princess)

1664

French EIC (Compagnie des Indes) formed by Colbert under Louis XIV

1717

Farrukhsiyar Farman – duty-free EIC trade in Bengal; called Magna Carta of EIC

1741

Battle of Colachel – Dutch defeated by Travancore king Marthanda Varma (Indian defeats European)

8. Exam Traps - Common Mistakes (परीक्षा में गलतियाँ)

⊗ Common Trap

Wrong belief: Vasco da Gama reached Calcutta (1498)

Correct fact: Vasco da Gama reached CALICUT (Kozhikode, Kerala) on 20 May 1498

Why it matters: Calcutta (Kolkata) was founded by Job Charnock in 1690 - 192 years later!

⊗ Common Trap

Wrong belief: EIC was formed in 1601 by King James I

Correct fact: EIC was formed on 31 December 1600 by Queen ELIZABETH I (not James I)

Why it matters: James I came to throne in 1603; Thomas Roe went to Jahangir court in 1615 UNDER James I, but EIC formation was Elizabeth I

⊗ Common Trap

Wrong belief: First English factory was at Madras or Calcutta

Correct fact: First permanent English factory was at SURAT (1613), after Battle of Swally

Why it matters: Madras = 1639 (Fort St. George); Calcutta = 1690 (Job Charnock). Surat was first.

⊗ Common Trap

Wrong belief: Battle of Swally was fought between English and French

Correct fact: Battle of Swally (1612) was between ENGLISH EIC and PORTUGUESE

Why it matters: It was English vs Portuguese! English defeated French at Battle of WANDIWASH (1760)

⊗ Common Trap

Wrong belief: Pondicherry was a Danish colony

Correct fact: Pondicherry was a FRENCH colony; TRANQUEBAR was the Danish colony

Why it matters: Both are in Tamil Nadu but different! French = Pondicherry; Danish = Tranquebar

⊗ Common Trap

Wrong belief: Dutch were defeated by English at Battle of Colachel (1741)

Correct fact: Dutch were defeated at Colachel by TRAVANCORE king Marthanda Varma (Indian!)

Why it matters: Dutch were defeated by English at BATTLE OF BIDERRA (1759) - two different battles!

⊗ Common Trap

Wrong belief: Dutch VOC was formed before EIC

Correct fact: English EIC was formed in 1600; Dutch VOC was formed in 1602 (2 years LATER)

Why it matters: Though Dutch arrived in India first (1605 factory), their company was formed AFTER EIC (1600)

9. MCQ Practice – 12 Questions

1. Vasco da Gama reached the port of Calicut in which year?

- (A) 1488 (B) 1498
(C) 1510 (D) 1526

SSC CGL 2019 | Easy | Easy ●○○

2. Which was the FIRST European power to establish a trading post in India?

- (A) Dutch (B) English
(C) Portuguese (D) French

RRB NTPC 2020 | Easy | Easy ●○○

3. The English East India Company was granted a Royal Charter by:

- (A) King James I in 1601 (B) Queen Elizabeth I in 1600
(C) King Charles II in 1661 (D) Queen Victoria in 1858

BPSC 2021 | Easy | Easy ●○○

4. The French East India Company was established in:

- (A) 1602 (B) 1616
(C) 1664 (D) 1668

SSC CHSL 2020 | Easy | Easy ●○○

5. Battle of Swally (1612) was fought between:

- (A) English and French (B) English and Dutch
(C) English and Portuguese (D) English and Marathas

SSC CGL 2022 | Med | Med ●●○

6. Which Dutch settlement served as their headquarters in India?

- (A) Masulipatnam (B) Chinsurah
(C) Pulicat (D) Nagapatnam

RRB NTPC 2021 | Med | Med ●●○

9. MCQ Practice – Continued

7. Sir Thomas Roe visited the Mughal court to get trading rights for EIC. Whose court did he visit?

- (A) Akbar (B) Aurangzeb
(C) Jahangir (D) Shah Jahan

BPSC 2020 | Med | Med ●●○

8. Pondicherry was founded by which French official?

- (A) Dupleix (B) Jean-Baptiste Colbert
(C) Francois Martin (D) Count de Lally

SSC CGL 2021 | Med | Med ●●○

9. The Battle of Colachel (1741) resulted in the defeat of which European power by Travancore?

- (A) Portuguese (B) French
(C) English (D) Dutch

RRB Group D 2022 | Hard | Hard ●●●

10. Which treaty ended the First Carnatic War (1746-1748)?

- (A) Treaty of Paris (B) Treaty of Ryswick
(C) Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (D) Treaty of Salbai

BPSC 2022 | Hard | Hard ●●●

11. Tranquebar (Tharangambadi) was the main settlement of which European power in India?

- (A) Portuguese (B) Dutch
(C) Danish (D) Austrian

SSC CHSL 2023 | Hard | Hard ●●●

12. The Farrukhsiyar Farman (1717) is called the Magna Carta of the EIC because:

- (A) It gave EIC political rights in India (B) It granted duty-free trade rights in Bengal for Rs.3000/year
(C) It allowed EIC to mint coins (D) It made EIC equal to the Mughal Emperor

SSC CGL 2023 | Hard | Hard ●●●

9. Answer Key with Explanations


✔ Answer Key with Explanations


- Q1. (B)** 1498 - Vasco da Gama reached Calicut on 20 May 1498; Bartolomeu Dias rounded Cape of Good Hope in 1488
- Q2. (C)** Portuguese - Vasco da Gama arrived 1498; first factory at Calicut, then Goa (1510)
- Q3. (B)** Queen Elizabeth I on 31 December 1600; James I only came to throne in 1603
- Q4. (C)** 1664 - French EIC formed by Colbert under Louis XIV; first factory at Surat 1668
- Q5. (C)** English (Captain Thomas Best) defeated Portuguese near Surat; led to first English factory 1613
- Q6. (C)** Pulicat - Fort Geldria built here; first factory was Masulipatnam (1605) but HQ = Pulicat
- Q7. (C)** Jahangir - Sir Thomas Roe (1615-19) was sent by James I; secured formal trading rights
- Q8. (C)** Francois Martin founded Pondicherry (1672-74); Dupleix was later Governor-General (1741)
- Q9. (D)** Dutch - Battle of Colachel 1741; Travancore king Marthanda Varma defeated Dutch fleet
- Q10. (C)** Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) - status quo restored; Madras returned to British
- Q11. (C)** Danish - Tranquebar (1620); Serampore (1755); sold to British in 1845
- Q12. (B)** Farrukhsiyar gave EIC duty-free trade rights in Bengal paying only Rs.3,000/year - hugely profitable




Thank You for Studying with Us!

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