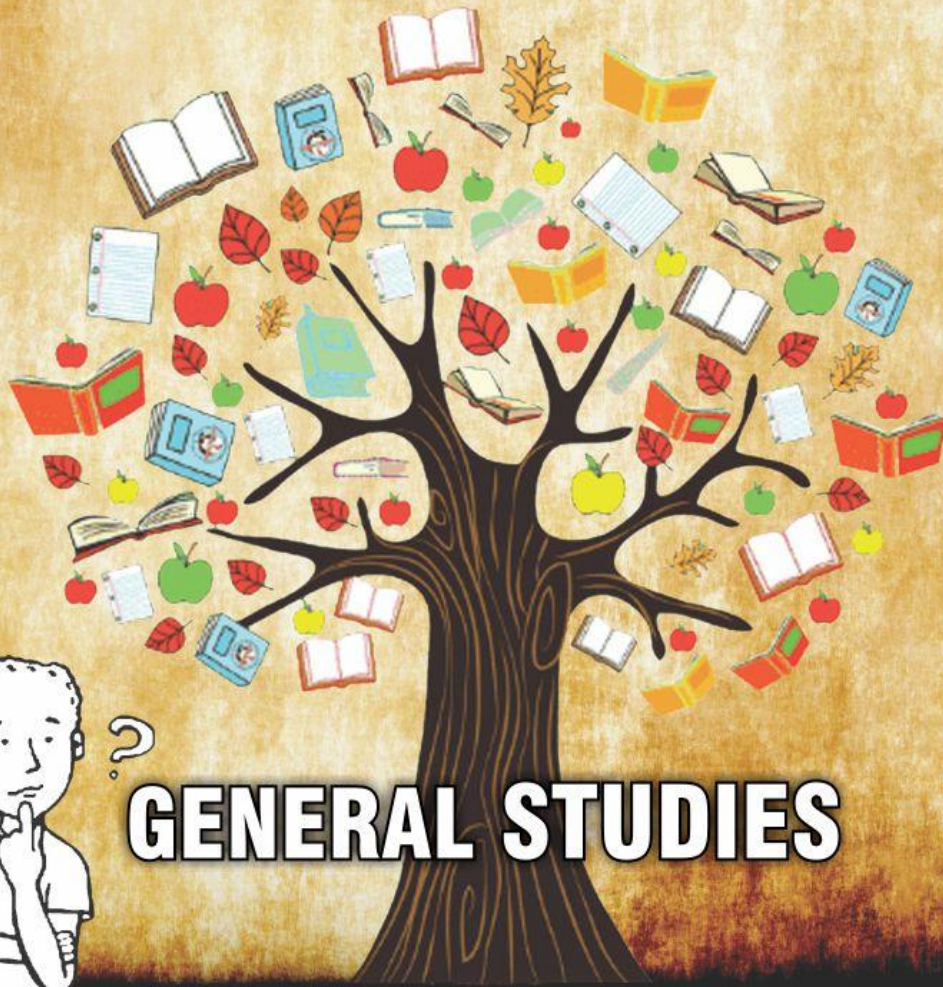


# CGPSC - Prelims

शर्मा एकेडमी®

An Institute for IAS/IPS, MPPSC



**GENERAL STUDIES**

## Paper- 1 General Studies

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## The Coming of the Europeans

Europeans reached the Indian shores in search of wealth and power.

In 1498, Portuguese traders became the first to discover the sea route to India when a Portuguese The Dutch followed them in 1595, the English in 1600 and at last, the French in 1664.

voyager arrived at Calicut on the western coast of India. All these Europeans came to India for free trade.

The European nations established various commercial companies, such as the East India Company in England founded in 1600 and Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie—the United East India Company in the Netherlands –founded in 1602. These companies were formed to capture the spice trade by breaking the monopoly of Portuguese in Asia.

### The Portuguese

In 1498, Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese voyager, became the first European to discover the sea route to India. He arrived at Calicut on 27 May, 1498.



To secure the trade of spices and to look for probable Christian converts, the Portuguese challenged Arab supremacy in the Indian Ocean. They fitted their galleons with powerful cannons and established a network of strategic trading posts along the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf. They soon set up political supremacy along the west coast of India. After Vasco da Gama, Captain General Alfonso de Albuquerque captured Goa in 1510 and made Goa as the centre of their commercial and political power. Goa was under their control for about four and a half centuries.

## The Dutch

The first Dutch fleet reached India in the year 1595. They formed Dutch East India Company in 1602, but they could not maintain their influence for very long period.



However, they had a large supply of capital and support from their government with which they ousted the British from the East Indies (Indonesia). They also managed to establish trading factories along the Indian coast. They established their first factory in Masulipatnam (1605), followed by factories in Pulicat (1610), Surat (1616), Bimlipatnam (1641), Karaikal (1645), Chinsura (1653), Kasimbazar (1658), Baranagore (1658), Patna and Balasore (both 1658) and Cochin (1663). These became the centres of international trade in spices, cotton, sugar, raw silk, calico and indigo.

They were welcomed by the Indian rulers in order to put them against the Portuguese. In 1619, they were granted permission by the Mughal emperor Jahangir to trade at Surat on the west coast and Hoogly in the east. The Dutch supremacy ended with their defeat at the hands of the English in the Battle of Bedera in 1759.

## The English

In 1600, the English East India Company was established through a charter signed by Queen Elizabeth. This is incorrectly and more frequently known as the Charter of 1601 (It was signed on 31st December 1600).



Through this Charter, the management of the East India Company was vested in a governor and 24 committees. The members of these committees were individuals and predecessors of the later directors, elected annually by the Company. The management of the company was to be run on democratic principles and the Company was empowered to make laws and ordinances for its good governance, and that of its officers, and for the better advancement of trade and traffic. The Company was allowed the power to punish the violation of these laws and ordinances by imprisonments of body or by fines or by imposing pains. The Charter stipulated reasonability of these laws and punishments, and they could be not contrary to the laws, statutes or customs of England. The same privileges were granted to the Company by the Royal Charter of 1609, 1661, 1669 and 1683.

The laws there were fairly exhaustive and a hierarchy of Courts was duly established with distinct jurisdictions. But at times, the judicial personnel of these Courts did not have the required qualification. Madras also had the Mayor's Court consisting of the Mayor and Alderman and other officers that had been functioning satisfactorily for a pretty long time. The

The judicial administration of the islands of Bombay was taken over by the East India Company in 1668 under the powers granted by these Charters. The sovereignty of Bombay was vested in the British King at that time (King of Portugal had transferred Bombay to England in 1661).

only British settlement without the constituted court of judicature was Fort William. The next step logical step for the Company was to establishment of the Mayor's Court at Calcutta for dealing with civil cases. Similarly, the President and Council at Fort William were empowered and directed to work as Justices and Commissioners that heard, tried, and punishing in all criminal cases.

The Royal Charter of 1723 was obtained by the Company for receiving more authority. This Charter allowed the Company to introduce many changes, in the administration of justice at Fort William. The Charter of 1726 started the process of reducing the powers of the mayors and finally with the Charter of 1753, the President and Council of Fort William were given authority that marked the end of mayoralty to a large extent, the power to appoint Sheriff and the Registrar

In 1608, Captain Hawkins visited the court of Jahangir, but he was denied any trading rights. However, in 1619, when Sir Thomas Roe visited the court, they were allowed to set up their first factory in Surat.

of the Mayor's Court. The British rule at Fort William played a significant role in accelerating the introduction of the English law and procedures in session court there.

The charter granted the company the permission to trade with India.



Gradually, the company was successful in setting up its factories at other places also such as Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The agents of the English company soon became familiar with Indian customs and languages. They learnt Persian, the official language of the Mughals. The English agents of this period lived like Indians, intermarried Indians, and most of them settled here permanently. All this gave the English an edge over their other European rivals.

The Charter of 1661 was signed by the **British King Charles II** in 1661. This Charter increased the Company's authority and allowed it to exercise power and maintain control over its fortresses in India. The governor and his Council were granted general judicial authority over all the individuals under their control, whether civil or criminal, according to the laws of the United Kingdom and to execute judgment accordingly. The Charter of 1726 is one of the most important Charters from the view point of judicial development, its importance can be seen from the fact that this Charter is also known as the judicial charter, and it marked the beginning of development of Indian law system and judiciary.



The English set up their factories in Masulipatnam (1611), Agra, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Bharuch (1619), Armagaon near Pulicat (1626), Hariharpur and Balasore (1633), Patna, Dhaka, Kasimbazar (1835), Fort St. George in Chennai (1639), Hoogli (1651), settlements in Bihar, Bengal and Orissa (1658), Mumbai (1668) and Sutanuti (1690), Kalikota and Govindpur (1698).

Later, they founded the city of Kolkata which included the regions of Sutanuti, Kalikota and Govindpur. In 1700, they fortified the factory at Sutanati and named it Fort William. In 1686, the English fought war against the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. They lost all their control over the settlements and factories in India to the Mughals. They were pardoned when they surrendered in 1690.

In 1691, they were granted a Farman by the Mughal emperor. They exempted from paying customs duties in Bengal through the Farman. In 1717, the Mughal emperor, Farukhsiyar (1713–1719), granted the British another farman, thus extending the privilege to British in Gujarat and Deccan—who by then had already established themselves in the south and the west—a grant of 38 villages near Kolkata, acknowledging their importance to the continuity of international trade in the Bengal economy.