

East India Company and Nawabs of Bengal

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise East India Company and Nawabs of Bengal history. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

The Nawabs of Bengal and the Establishment of British Supremacy



1. The Nawabs of Bengal and Mughal Authority

- **Mughal Appointments**
 - Murshid Quli Khan was appointed as the Governor of Bengal by Mughal Emperor Farrukh Siyar in 1717.
 - He was the last Governor of Bengal to be directly appointed by a Mughal Emperor. After this there was a hereditary rule by Nawabs.
 - After his death, his son-in-law, Shujauddin Muhammad Khan (Second Nawab) was appointed by Emperor Muhammad Shah "Rangeela".

- **Successors of Murshid Quli Khan**

- **Line of Succession:**

- Murshid Quli Khan
 - Shujauddin Muhammad Khan (Murshid Quli Khan's son-in-law)
 - Sarfraz Khan (Murshid Quli Khan's son)
 - Alivardi Khan (deposed Sarfraz Khan)
 - Siraj-ud-Daula (Alivardi Khan's grandson)
 - Mir Jafar (betrayed Siraj-ud Daula in Battle of Palasi, first dependent Nawab of Bengal of the British East India Company)
 - Mir Qasim
 - Mir Qasim, son-in-law of Mir Jafar, was considered the most capable ruler.
 - To escape British interference, he moved his capital from Murshidabad to Munger.
 - In Munger, he modernized his army, established a weapons factory, and implemented financial reforms.

2. Key Battles for British Supremacy

- **Chronological Order of 18th Century Battles:**

- **Battle of Ambur (1749)** - first major battle of the Second Carnatic War
 - **Battle of Plassey (1757)**
 - **Battle of Wandiwash (1760)**
 - **Battle of Buxar (1764)**

- **Battle of Plassey (1757)**

- **Date:** June 23, 1757
 - **Location:** Near the Bhagirathi River (or Hooghly River), Nadia district, West Bengal.
 - **Parties:** British East India Company (led by Robert Clive) vs. Nawab of Bengal (Siraj-ud-Daula).

- **Outcome:** British victory, largely due to the betrayal of the Nawab's commanders (Mir Jafar, Yar Latif Khan, Rai Durlabh).
- **Battle of Wandiwash (1760)**
 - **Parties:** British (led by Sir Eyre Coote) vs. French (led by Count de Lally).
 - **Outcome:** Decisive British victory.
 - **Significance:** Effectively ended French political power and ambitions in India.
- **Battle of Buxar (1764)**
 - **Date:** October 22, 1764
 - **Parties:** British East India Company (led by Major Hector Munro) vs. a combined alliance of:
 - Mir Qasim (Nawab of Bengal)
 - Shuja-ud-Daula (Nawab of Awadh)
 - Shah Alam II (The Mughal Emperor)
 - **Outcome:** Decisive British victory.
 - **Significance:**
 - The **most decisive battle** that led to the establishment of British supremacy.
 - Considered the first decisive military success of the English East India Company.
 - Established British control over Banaras and Allahabad.

3. The Grant of Diwani and the Treaty of Allahabad

- **The Grant of Diwani**
 - The Mughal Emperor **Shah Alam II** granted the **Diwani** (revenue collection rights) of **Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa** to the British East India Company.
 - This was a result of the **Second Treaty of Allahabad**, signed in **12 August 1765**.
- **Terms of the Treaty of Allahabad**
 - In return for the Diwani, the Company agreed to pay the Emperor an **annual tribute of Rs. 26 Lakhs**.

- The Company also paid **Rs. 53 Lakhs** for the Nizamat (administrative expenses).
- The Emperor was placed under the Company's protection and given the districts of **Allahabad and Kada**.
- **Key Figures and Aftermath**
 - **Robert Clive** was the Governor of Bengal when the Diwani was granted.
 - As the Company lacked the administrative setup to collect revenue directly, it appointed **Indian deputies**.
 - **Mohammad Raza Khan** was appointed Deputy Diwan of Murshidabad.
 - Shah Alam II and his successors (Akbar II and Bahadur Shah II) became pensioners of the East India Company.

4. Key British Figures

- **Robert Clive**
 - Credited as the **founder of the British Empire in India**.
 - Commander of the British forces at the **Battle of Plassey**.
 - Served as the **Governor of Bengal** twice (1757-1760 and 1765-1767).
 - Forced the Nawab of Oudh to sign the Treaty of Allahabad.
 - Described by British statesman William Pitt as a "**Heaven Born General**".
- **William Jones**
 - An eminent scholar and jurist.
 - Founded the **Asiatic Society of Bengal** in Calcutta in **1784**.

5. Administration and Expansion

- **The Nawabs of Oudh (Awadh)**
 - Hindu officials held high positions in their court.
 - **Raja Tikait Rai** served as the Finance Minister (Artha Mantri) for Nawab Asaf-ud-Daullah.

- **Early Company Presence**
 - The **Western Presidency** of the East India Company was initially situated at **Surat** before being moved to Bombay.
- **Control of Territories**
 - The British established authority over the **fort of Prayagraj (Allahabad)** in **1797 AD**, when it was formally given to them by Nawab Saadat Ali Khan.
- **Contact with Tribal Groups**
 - After gaining control of Bengal (post-1765), the British soon came into contact with the **Khasi** tribe.
 - The Khasi later rebelled against the British under the leadership of **U Tirot Singh**.

6. Miscellaneous Facts

- The **Battle of Chilianwala (1849)** was an inconclusive battle between the British (under Lord Gough) and the Sikhs (under Sher Singh). Lord Dalhousie was the Governor-General.
- The **Battle of Khurda/Kharda (1795)** was fought between the **Marathas and the Nizam of Hyderabad**, resulting in a Maratha victory.
- Among Indian powers, the **Marathas** offered the most vigorous opposition to British expansion in India.

Know More About East India Company and Nawabs of Bengal:

- [East India Company and Nawabs of Bengal– Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [East India Company and Nawabs of Bengal One Liner Questions & Answers](#)