

8th Social Science Lesson 1 Notes in English

1. Advent of the Europeans

Introduction

- Many of the foreign travelers, traders, missionaries and civil servants who came to India in the **18th and 19th** centuries have left accounts of their experiences and their impressions of various parts of the country.
- To know the events of modern period, we have abundant sources at the international, national, and regional level.

Sources of Modern India

- The sources for the history of modern India help us to **know the political, socio-economic and cultural developments** in the country.
- From the very beginning, **the Portuguese, the Dutch, the French, the Danes, and the English** recorded their official transactions in India on state papers.
- Well preserved records are very valuable to know about their relations in India.
- The archives at **Lisbon, Goa, Pondicherry and Madras** were literally store houses of precious historical informations.
- All these sources must, however, be critically evaluated before they are used for historical writing.

Kinds of Sources

We can write history with the help of sources like written sources and material sources.

Written Sources

- After the advent of the **printing press, numerous books** were published in different languages.
- Hence, people began to acquire knowledge easily in the fields **like art, literature, history and science**.
- The Europeans came to know about the **immense Wealth of India** from the accounts of **Marco Polo** and similar sources.
- The wealth of India attracted Europeans to this country. **AnandaRangam** is a name to conjure with in the annals of Tamil history.
- He was a **Dubash (Translator)** in Pondicherry to assist French trade in India.
- He recorded the events that took place in French India. His diaries contain the daily events from **1736 to 1760**, which are the only written secular record available during that period.
- His diaries reveal his profound capacity for political judgment, and is a most valuable source of history.

- Written sources include Literatures, Travel Accounts, Diaries, Auto Biographies, Pamphlets, Government Documents and Manuscripts.

Archives

- This is the place where historical documents are preserved. The National Archives of India (NAI) is located in **New Delhi**.
- It is the chief storehouse of the records of the government of India.
- It has main source of information for understanding past administrative machinery as well as a guide to the present and future generations related to all matters.
- It contains authentic evidence for knowing the political, social, economic, cultural and scientific life and activities of the people of India.
- It is one of the **largest Archives in Asia**.

Tamil Nadu Archives



Tamil Nadu Archives

- The Madras Record Office, presently known as Tamil Nadu Archives (TNA) is located **in Chennai**.
- It is one of the oldest and largest document repositories in Southern India. The most of the records in the Tamil Nadu archives are in English.
- The collections include series of administrative records in **Dutch, Danish, Persian and Marathi**. Few documents are in **French, Portuguese, Tamil and Urdu**.
- Tamil Nadu Archives has **1642** volumes of **Dutch** records which relate to Cochin and Coromandal coast.
- These records cover the period from **1657 – 1845**. The Danian records cover the period from **1777 – 1845**.
- **Dodwell** prepared with great effort and the first issue of the calendar of Madras records was published in **1917**.
- He was highly interested in encouraging historical researches. He opened a new chapter in the History of Tamil Nadu Archives.

Material Sources



St. David Fort (Cuddalore)

- Many paintings and statues are the main sources of modern Indian history.
- They give us a lot of information and the achievement of national leaders and historical personalities.
- Historical buildings like **St. Francis Church at Cochin, St. Louis Fort at Pondicherry, St. George Fort in Madras, St. David fort in Cuddalore**, India Gate, Parliament House, President House in New Delhi, etc are different styles and techniques of Indian architecture.
- Other objects and materials of religious, cultural and historical value are collected and preserved in Museums.
- These museums help to preserve and promote our cultural heritage. The national museum in Delhi is the largest museum in India which was established in **1949**.
- Coins are a good source to know about administrative history. The first coinage in modern India under the crown was issued in **1862**.
- **Edward VII** ascended after Queen Victoria and the coins issued by him bore his model.
- The Reserve Bank of India was formally set up in **1935** and was empowered to issue Government of India notes.
- The first paper currency issued by RBI in **January 1938** was **5 rupee notes bearing the portrait of King George VI**.

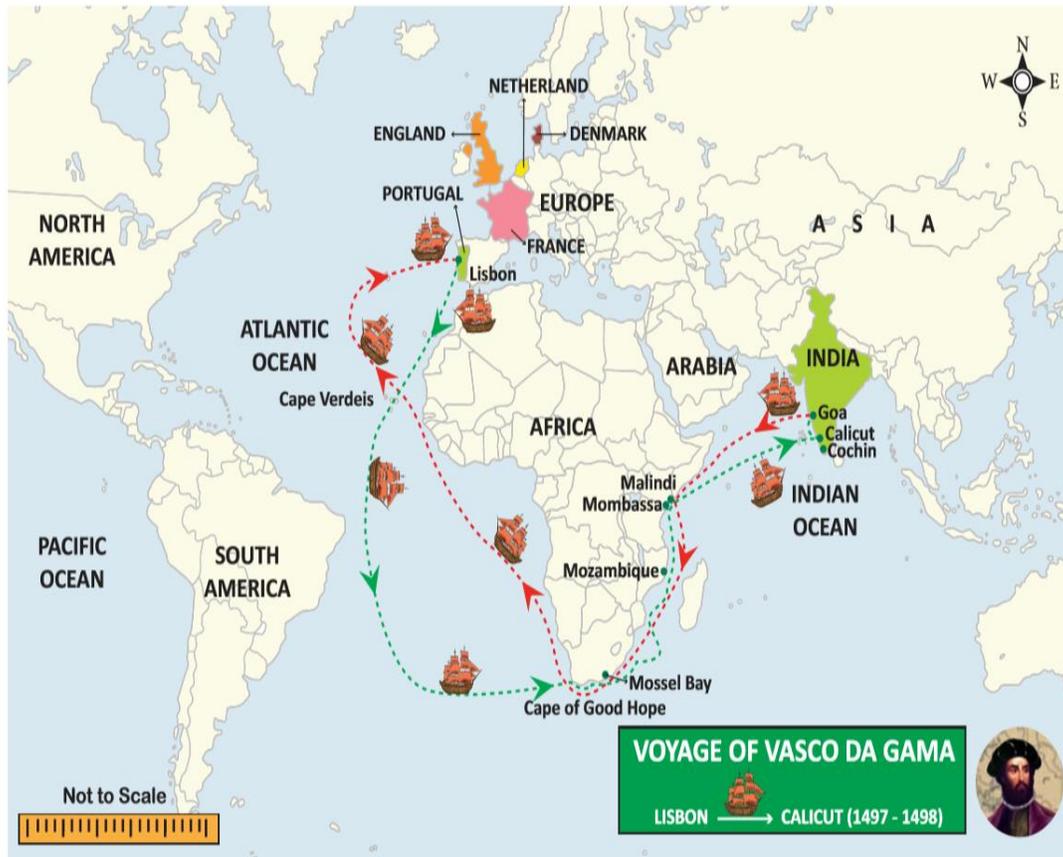
Advent of the Europeans

- After the capture of Constantinople by the **Turks in A.D (CE) 1453**, the land route between India and Europe was closed.
- The Turks penetrated into North Africa and the Balkan Peninsula.
- It became imperative on the part of the European nations to discover new sea routes to the East.

Portugal

- Amongst the entire European nations Portugal was the foremost to make a dynamic attempt to discover a sea route to India.
- **Prince Henry of Portugal**, who is commonly known as the “Navigator”, encouraged his countrymen to take up the adventurous life of exploring the unknown regions of the world.
- **Bartholomew Diaz**, a Portuguese sailor reached the southern-most point of Africa in **1487**.
- He was patronized by the King John II.

Vasco da Gama



- Vasco da Gama, another Portuguese sailor reached the southern-most point of Africa and he continued his journey to Mozambique from where he sailed to India with the help of an Indian pilot.
- In A.D (CE) **1498**, he reached Calicut, where he was cordially received by **King Zamorin**, the ruler of Calicut.
- A second Portuguese navigator, **Pedro Alvares Cabral**, sailed towards India, following the route discovered by **Vasco da Gama with 13 ships** and a few hundred soldiers in **1500**.
- On his arrival at Calicut, there arose conflicts between the Portuguese and king Zamorin.
- Vasco da Gama came to India for the second time in **1501 with 20 ships** and founded a trading centre at **Cannanore**.
- One after another, they established factories at Calicut and Cochin.

- **King Zamorin** attacked the **Portuguese in Cochin**, but was defeated.
- Cochin was the first capital of the Portuguese East India Company. The third voyage of **Vasco da Gama was in 1524**.
- He soon fell ill, and in **December 1524** he died in Cochin.

Francisco de Almeida (1505-1509)

- In **1505**, **Francisco de Almeida** was sent as the first Governor for the Portuguese possessions in India.
- Almeida had the aim of developing the naval power of the Portuguese in India. His policy was known as the **"Blue Water Policy"**.
- As Portuguese tried to break the Arab's monopoly on Indian Ocean trade, it negatively impacted on the trade interests of **Egypt and Turkey**.
- Sultans of Bijapur and Gujarat were also apprehensive of the expansion of Portuguese control of ports which led to an alliance between Egypt, Turkey and Gujarat against Portuguese invaders.
- In a **naval battle fought near Chaul**, the combined Muslim fleet won a victory over the Portuguese fleet under Almeida's son who was killed in the battle.
- Almeida defeated the combined Muslim fleet in a naval battle near Diu, and by the year **1509**, Portuguese claimed the naval supremacy in Asia.

Alfonso de Albuquerque (1509-1515)

- The real founder of the Portuguese power in India was Alfonso de Albuquerque. He captured Goa from the **Sultan of Bijapur in November 1510**.
- In **1515**, he established the Portuguese authority over Ormuz in Persian Gulf. He encouraged the marriages of the Portuguese with Indian women.
- He maintained friendly relations with Vijayanagar Empire.

Nino de Cunha (1529-1538)

- Governor Nino de Cunha moved capital from Cochin to Goa in 1530.
- In **1534**, he acquired Bassein from Bahadur Shah of Gujarat. In **1537**, the Portuguese occupied Diu.
- Later, they wrested Daman from the local chiefs of Gujarat. In **1548**, they occupied **Salsette**.
- Thus during the 16th century, Portuguese succeeded in capturing **Goa, Daman, Diu, Salsette, Bassein, Chaul and Bombay on the western coast, Hooghly on the Bengal coast and San Thome on the Madras coast** and enjoyed good trade benefits.
- The Portuguese brought the cultivation of tobacco to India.
- Due to the influence of Portuguese Catholic religion spread in certain regions on India's western and eastern coasts.
- The printing press was set up by the **Portuguese at Goa in 1556**.

- A scientific work on the Indian medicinal plants by a European writer was printed at Goa in **1563**.
- In 17th century, the Portuguese power began to decline to the Dutch and by **1739 the Portuguese pockets became confined to Goa, Diu and Daman.**

The Dutch

- The Dutch followed the Portuguese into India.
- In **1602**, the United East India company of Netherlands was formed and it received the sanction of their government to trade in East India.
- After their arrival in India, the Dutch founded their first factory in Masulipatnam, (**Andhra Pradesh**) in **1605**.
- This company captured **Amboyna from the Portuguese in 1605** and established its supremacy in the Spice Islands.
- They captured Nagapatnam near Madras from the Portuguese and made this place as their strong hold in South India.
- At first, Pulicat was their headquarters. Later, they shifted it to **Nagapatnam in 1690**.
- The most important Indian commodities traded by the Dutch **were silk, cotton, indigo, rice and opium.**
- They monopolized the trade in black pepper and other spices. The important factories in India were **Pulicat, Surat, Chinsura, Kasim bazaar, Patna, Nagapatnam, Balasore and Cochin.**
- The English East India Company remained engaged in rivalry with the Portuguese and the Dutch throughout the 17th century.
- In **1623**, the Dutch cruelly killed ten English traders and nine **Javanese in Amboyna**.
- This incident accelerated the rivalry between the two Europeans companies.
- Their final collapse came with their defeat by the English in **the Battle of Bedera in 1759**.
- The Dutch lost their settlements one by one to the English and was completely wiped out by the year 1795.

Dutch in Tamil Nadu

- The Portuguese who established a control over **Pulicat since 1502** were over thrown by the Dutch.
- In Pulicat, the Dutch built the **fort Geldria in 1613**.
- This fort was once the seat of Dutch power.
- The Dutch established their settlement at **Pulicat in 1610**. Diamonds were exported from Pulicat to the western countries.
- The other Dutch colonial forts and possessions were **Nagapattinam, Punnakayal, Porto Novo, Cuddalore and Devanampatinam.**

The British

- On **31st December 1600**, Elizabeth, the Queen of England granted a charter to the governor and company of Merchants of London to trade with East Indies.
- The Company was headed by a Governor and a court of **24 directors**.
- **Captain Hawkins visited Jahangir's court in 1608** to get certain concessions for the company.
- He secured permission to raise a settlement at Surat. However, the Emperor cancelled the permission under pressure from the Portuguese.
- **In 1612, the English Captain Thomas Best**, inflicted a severe defeat over the Portuguese in a naval battle near **Surat**.
- The Mughal Emperor Jahangir permitted the **English to establish their factory in 1613** at Surat, which initially became the headquarters of the English in western India.
- **Captain Nicholas Downton** won another decisive victory over the Portuguese in 1614. These events enhanced the British prestige at the Mughal court.
- **In 1615, Sir Thomas Roe was sent to Jahangir's court by King James I of England.**
- He remained at Agra for three years and succeeded in concluding a commercial treaty with the emperor.
- Before the departure of Sir Thomas Roe, the English had established their trading centres at **Surat, Agra, Ahmadabad and Broach**.
- On the coastline of the Bay of Bengal, the English established their **first factory in 1611 at Masulipatam**, an important port in the territory of the kingdom of Golconda.
- In **1639**, the English merchant, Francis Day, obtained **Madras** as a lease from **Chennappa Nayaka, the ruler of Chandragiri**.
- The East India Company built its famous factory known as **Fort St. George in Madras**, which became their headquarters for the whole of the eastern belt and first fort built by British.
- King Charles II of England received the island of Bombay as a part of his dowry from the Portuguese King, on the occasion of his marriage with Catherine.
- In **1668**, the East India Company acquired the island at an annual rent of £ (pounds) 10 from **Charles II**.
- In **1690** a factory was established at **Sutanuti by Job Charnock**.
- The Zamindari of the three villages of Sutanuti, Kalikata and Govindpur was acquired by the British in 1698.
- These villages later grew into the city of Calcutta.
- The factory at **Sutanuti was fortified in 1696** and this new fortified settlement was named as '**Fort William**' in 1700.

Danish

- On **March 17, 1616 the King of Denmark, Christian IV**, issued a charter and created a Danish East India company.
- They established settlement at **Tranqueber (Tamilnadu) in 1620** and **Serampore (Bengal) in 1676**.

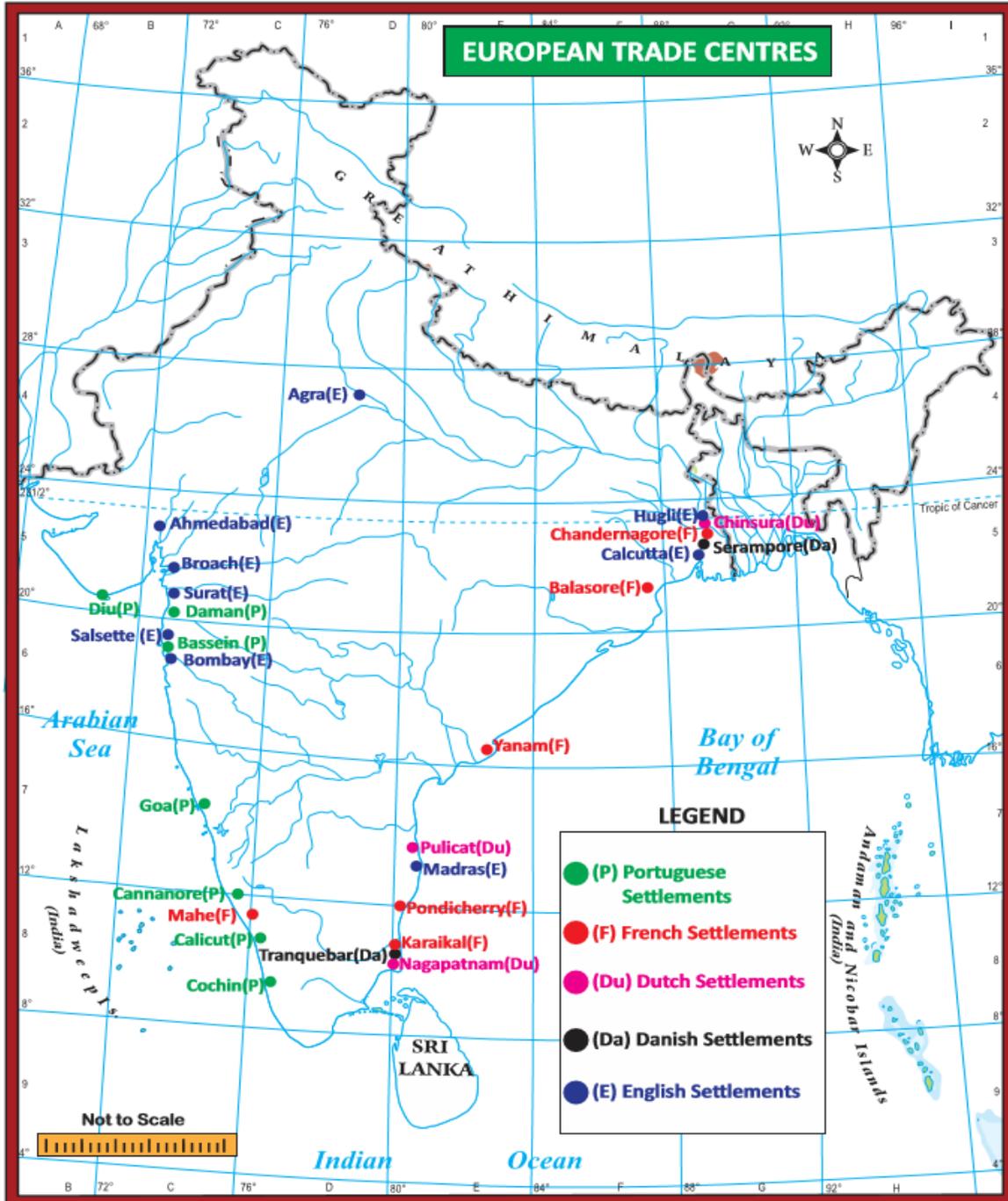
- Serampore was their headquarters in India.
- They failed to strengthen themselves in India and they sold all their settlement in India to the British in 1845.

The French

- The French East India Company was formed in **1664 by Colbert, a Minister of King Louis XIV.**
- **In 1667**, a French expedition came to India under Francois Caron. France was the last European country to come India as traders.
- **Caron founded the first French factory in India at Surat.**
- In 1669, Marcara founded second French factory at Masulipatam by securing a patent from the Sultan of Golkonda.
- In 1673, the settlement of Pondicherry was founded by Martin under a grant from **Sher Khan Lodi, the ruler of Bijapur.**
- Pondicherry became the most important and prosperous French settlement in India. A fort known as **St. Louis was built by Francois Martin in Pondicherry.**
- In 1673, the French obtained permission from **Shaista Khan, the Mughal Subedar (governor) of Bengal to establish a township at Chandranagore, near Calcutta.**
- The French East India Company established factories in different parts of India, particularly in the coastal regions such **Mahe, Karaikal, Balasore and Qasim Bazar.**
- These were a few important trading Centers of the French East India Company.
- The vision of the French power in India was further reinforced by the appointment of **Joseph Francois Dupleix** as the Governor of the **French East India Company in 1742.**
- He succeeded Dumas as the French governor of Pondicherry.

Conclusion

- Since the Portuguese were eliminated by the Dutch and the later extinguished by the English, the French were left to face the English for control over trade and territory.
- The French neglected trade and entangled themselves in wars with Indian and other European powers.
- The three "**Carnatic wars**" ruined the French and rejuvenated the English to embark on a systematic territorial expansion.
- The comparative success of the British over **the Portuguese, the Dutch, the Danish, and the French was largely due to their commercial competitiveness, spirit of supreme sacrifice, government support, naval superiority, national character and their ascendancy in Europe.**



More to Know

The Swedish

- The Swedish East India Company was founded in Gothenburg, **Sweden, in 1731** for the purpose of conducting trade with the Far East.
- The venture was inspired by the success of the Dutch East India Company and the British East India Company.

Danish called Tranqueber as Danesborg. The king of Denmark sent **Ziegenbalg** to India. Ziegenbalg set up a printing press at **Tranqueber (Tarangambadi)**.

In **1690**, **Fort St. David's** was built by the British in **Cuddalore**.

Audiovisual media

- Audio-visual means possessing both a sound and a visual component, such as slide-tape presentations.
- Audio-visual service providers frequently offer web streaming, video conferencing and
- live broadcast services.
- Television, films, internet are called 'Audiovisual media'.

George William Forrest can rightly be called as the **Father of National Archives of India**.