CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

Introduction:
The trade relations between India, Europe, and other Asian countries during ancient and medieval times:

- **Ancient Trade**: India had valuable spices like pepper, cumin, cinnamon, cardamom, and ginger. Europe had a strong demand for these spices.

- **Middle Ages**: Trade continued between India, Europe, and other Asian nations. Arab merchants transported Asian goods to Constantinople (of Eastern Roman empire Byzantium), which served as a major trade hub.

- **Italian Monopoly**: Italian traders bought Asian merchandise in Constantinople and sold it in European countries. They held a monopoly over European trade.

- **Profitable Exchange**: The trade brought substantial profits to Italian merchants.

Fall of Constantinople:

- **Fall of Constantinople (1453)**: Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople, controlling trade routes. Excessive taxes made trade unprofitable.

- **Breaking Italian Monopoly**: European rulers sought alternatives. They encouraged sailors to find a new sea route to India.

- **Innovations**: Compass, astrolabes, and gunpowder fuelled exploration.

In summary, the fall of Constantinople prompted European powers to seek new trade routes, leading to significant maritime exploration.
A New Sea Route to India:

- **Vasco da Gama’s Voyage (1498):** Portuguese sailor Vasco da Gama discovered a new sea route from Lisbon to Kappadu near Calicut on India’s west coast.
- **Trade Continuity:** This route facilitated trade between India and Europe for many years.
- **Portuguese Influence:** The Portuguese were the first to re-establish trade between India and Europe.
- **European Traders:** Inspired by Portuguese success, the Dutch, French, and English also arrived in India for trade, reshaping both Indian and European history.

In summary, Vasco da Gama’s voyage opened up new trade opportunities, connecting continents and shaping the course of history.

**Do you know this?**

In 1869, a huge canal called Suez Canal. It was built in Egypt to connect the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. Until the building of Suez Canal, the sea route discovered by Vasco da Gama was the route used for trade between India and Europe. The ships had to pass the Cape of Good Hope, the southernmost tip of Africa, to reach India.

**The Portuguese:**

- **Portuguese Arrival:** The Portuguese were the first to trade in India and the last to leave via sea routes.
- **Key Figures:**
  - **Francisco de Almeida:** As Viceroy, he implemented the ‘Blue Water Policy’ to dominate the seas.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

- Alfonso de Albuquerque: Considered the true founder of Portuguese power in India. He conquered Goa from Bijapur Sultan in 1510, making it the administrative center.

- Monopoly and Decline: The Portuguese held a century-long monopoly on Indian trade, but their influence waned with the arrival of English and French traders.

In summary, the Portuguese left a lasting impact on India’s history and trade relations.

The Dutch:

- Dutch Arrival (1602): The Dutch East India Company established trading centers in India, including Surat, Broach, Kochin, and others.
- Defeating the Dutch: Marthanda Varma compiled an army, occupied pepper-growing areas, and defeated the Dutch monopoly. He secured trade rights and expanded Travancore’s influence.

Raja Marthanda Varma:

Raja Marthanda Varma of Wynad, also known as Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma, played a significant role in the history of the southern Indian Kingdom of Travancore (previously known as Venadu). Let’s delve into his remarkable achievements:

1. Founding Monarch:
   o Marthanda Varma ascended the throne in 1729 and ruled until his death in 1758.
   o He succeeded his uncle, Rama Varma, who had faced challenges due to weak leadership and external threats.

2. Defeating the Dutch:
   o In 1741, Marthanda Varma achieved a decisive victory over the Dutch East India Company forces at the Battle of Colachel.
   o This victory curtailed Dutch expansionist designs in the region.

3. Consolidation and Expansion:
   o Marthanda Varma adopted a European mode of discipline for his army and expanded the Venad domain northward.
   o He built a standing army of about 50,000 Nair men and fortified the northern boundary of his kingdom (known as Travancore Lines).
   o His alliance with the ruler of Kochi (Cochin) helped Kochi survive against the northern Kingdom of Calicut.

4. Indian Ocean Trade and Pepper Monopoly:
   o Marthanda Varma strategically used Indian Ocean trade to consolidate power.
   o He supported Syrian Christian traders to limit European involvement in ocean trade.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

- **Black pepper** became a royal monopoly item, and Travancore challenged and broke the **Dutch blockade** of the Kerala coast.

5. **Infrastructure and Governance**:
   - Under Marthanda Varma’s rule, **Trivandrum** (Thiruvananthapuram) became a prominent city in Kerala.
   - He undertook **irrigational works**, built roads, canals, and encouraged foreign trade.

In **1741**, the Dutch declared war on Travancore, with the Kottarakara province at the forefront. Local provinces also joined forces with the Dutch. However, Marthanda Varma’s army fiercely repelled their attack. The Dutch retreated to Kochi, but with the assistance of Sinhalese forces, they launched a counterattack against Marthanda Varma. **A four-day intense battle** ensued from **August 10, 1741**, near Colachel.

In this pivotal battle:
- The Travancore army gained the upper hand.
- **Twenty-four Dutch officers** were captured.
- The Dutch suffered significant losses.

Marthanda Varma was not content with this victory alone. He resolved to **expel the Dutch from India** and assert the trade rights of pepper in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. He also reclaimed control of ports that had been under Dutch authority.

During Marthanda Varma’s reign:
- **Cochin** emerged as a center for spice trade.
- Travancore became one of the **richest provinces** in India.

Finally, on **August 15, 1753**, a treaty was signed, and the Dutch forces surrendered their power to the Travancore province. Marthanda Varma’s era remains a significant phase in Indian history.

**The British**:
- **East India Company**: Authorized by Queen Elizabeth in 1600, the English East India Company began formal trade in 1613.
- **Mughal Permission**: Emperor Jahangir allowed the English to establish their first warehouse in Surat.
- **Expansion and Forts**: English factories were set up in Agra, Ahmedabad, and Broach. They captured Madras and built St. George Fort.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

- **Territorial Acquisitions**: Charles II granted Bombay to the East India Company. They purchased villages along the Hooghly River, including Calcutta.
- **Presidencies**: By the 17th century, Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta became key centers. Calcutta eventually became the capital.
- **Legal Codes**: The English implemented their own civil and criminal procedures in their controlled areas.

In summary, the English presence significantly shaped India’s history and governance.

The French:

- **French East India Company**: Founded in 1664, it established factories in Surat, Machalipatinam, Chandernagore, Mahe, Karaikal, Cassimbazar, and Balasore.
- **Puducheri (Pondicherry)**: The French transformed Valikandapuram into Puducheri, their capital in India.
- **Dupleix’s Ambitions**: Governor General Dupleix aimed to make the French a major power in South India, leading to the Carnatic Wars with the English.

In summary, the French played a significant role in India’s history, especially in the southern region.

The Competition between the English and the French:

- **Portuguese and Dutch Withdrawal**: The Portuguese and Dutch withdrew from India due to competition from the French and English by the mid-18th century.
- **French and English Rivalry**: Both powers vied for political supremacy in India, leading to a show of strength.
- **Carnatic Wars**: Political instability in Hyderabad and Carnatic (Eastern Tamil Nadu) fuelled conflict. The English and French exploited the situation, resulting in three Carnatic Wars.

Know This:

- Hyderabad Kingdom was established in 1724 by Asaf Jha.
- Asaf Jha feudatory Dost Ali who was ruling Carnatic region was not loyal to him.
- The Marathas killed Dost Ali in 1740 and looted Carnatic and imprisoned his son-in-law Chandasheb in Satara.
- Asaf Jha named Anwaruddin as the Nawab of Carnatic in the place of Dost Ali.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

The First Carnatic War (1746-48):
- On the request of Dupleix, French military leader from Mauritius, La Bourdonnais captured Madras from the English.
- This forced the helpless British to request the help of Anwaruddin, the Nawab of Carnatic. But, the army sent by Anwaruddin failed to defeat the French at Madras.
- Finally, La Bourdonnais took money from the English and returned Madras and went back to Mauritius.
- This enraged Dupleix and he attempted to take Madras but failed.
- The war concluded with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in Europe.

Nizam of Hyderabad Succession:
- After the death of Asaf Jha, a power struggle ensued between his son Nasir Jung and grandson Muzaffar Jung.
- Chandasaheb (released from Maratha prison) clashed with Anwaruddin in Carnatic.
- French supported Muzaffar Jung in Hyderabad, while the English backed Nasir Jung and Anwaruddin.
- The combined forces of French, Chandasaheb, and Muzaffar Jung defeated Anwaruddin in the Battle of Ambur.
- Chandasaheb became the ruler of Carnatic.
- Mahammad Ali (Anwaruddin’s son) found refuge in Tiruchanapalli with English support.
- In Hyderabad, Muzaffar Jung became the Nizam by killing Nasir Jung with the help of French and Chandasaheb. But, He was killed after a few days.
- The French made Salabath Jung, another son of Asaf Jha as the Nizam of Hyderabad.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

The Second Carnatic War (1749-54):

- **Nizam of Hyderabad**: The French supported Salabath Jung as Nizam of Hyderabad. An officer named Bussy was appointed in Hyderabad for his protection by the French.
- **Carnatic Situation**: Chandasaheb, aided by the French, became Nawab in Carnatic.
- **English Victory**: Robert Clive attacked Arcot, defeated Chandsaheb, and imprisoned and later killed in the war.
- **Succession**: Mohammad Ali (Anwaruddin’s son) was named Nawab of Carnatic by the English.
- **Treaty and Recall**: The Treaty of Pondicherry ended the war, and the French recalled Dupleix.
- **Outcome**: English gained prestige, while the French faced political setbacks.

The Third Carnatic War (1756-63):

- **Battle of Wandiwash**: The French, led by Count de Lally, attempted to acquire the Fort of Wandiwash in Tamil Nadu. However, British forces, commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir Eyre Coote, foiled this attempt, resulting in the decisive **Battle of Wandiwash**. Coote’s victory led to the imprisonment of Bussy and the surrender of Lally in 1761.
- **French Defeat**: The French lost their Indian possessions, including Pondicherry, Mahe, Gingee, and Karaikal, to the British during the war.
- **Treaty of Paris (1763)**: Despite their losses, the French regained Pondicherry through the **Treaty of Paris**. However, they were barred from fortifying the city or stationing troops there. This marked the decline of French influence in India.
- **British Ascendancy**: The Third Carnatic War established Britain as the paramount European power in India. With their rivals defeated, the English began consolidating their control in Southern India.

**Duplex**:

- Dupleix, appointed as the Governor General of French territories in India in 1742, harbored ambitious dreams of establishing French dominance over the subcontinent. He forged alliances with local rulers and even trained Hyder Ali in the army of indigenous forces he raised.
- The British perceived Dupleix as a formidable adversary, leading to intense conflicts between the French and the British for control over the Carnatic and Deccan Plateau regions. Dupleix’s pivotal role in the First Carnatic War (1746) marked a significant chapter in this rivalry.
- However, by 1754, the French government recalled Dupleix, seeking peace. His legacy remains intertwined with the struggle for supremacy in colonial India.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

Robert Clive:

- **Early Career**: Clive began as a clerk in the East India Company. His journey would lead him to play a crucial role in the Carnatic Wars.
- **Siege of Arcot**: Clive’s leadership during the Siege of Arcot was instrumental in securing a British victory. His strategic acumen helped establish British rule in South India.
- **Bengal Victory**: After the Battle of Plassey in 1757, Clive gained control over the Nawab of Bengal. This victory expanded British influence in the region.
- **Wealth and Influence**: Clive’s endeavors brought immense wealth to both himself and the East India Company. He returned to England as a Member of Parliament.
- **Challenges and Return**: Despite allegations against him, Clive was sent back to India to salvage the company’s fortunes. The British triumphed in the Battle of Buxar, restoring their reputation.
- **Diwani Rights**: Clive secured Diwani rights for the British, granting control over Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha.
- This brought more wealth to Robert Clive and to East India Company as well. In 1767 Robert Clive returned to England.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

British Rule in India during late 18th Century:

- **Bengal’s Prosperity**: The Bengal province experienced remarkable growth in agriculture, commerce, and industry. The East India Company reaped substantial profits from this prosperous region.

- **Dastaks and Misuse**: The Mughal ruler Faruk Siar issued Dastaks (licenses) that allowed the company to conduct transactions. However, some individual company officers abused these licenses, causing significant losses to the Bengal government.

- **Nawabs’ Opposition**: Nawabs, from Murshid Ali Khan to Ali Wardhikhan, opposed this misuse of Dastaks. Tensions escalated between the Nawabs and the East India Company.

- **Decisive Wars**: Two pivotal wars shaped Indian history:
  - **Battle of Plassey (1757)**: The British, led by Robert Clive, defeated the Nawab of Bengal, securing control over the province.
  - **Battle of Buxar (1764)**: The British triumphed again, consolidating their influence in Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha.

Know this: Dastak - a license that could ensure anyone to import and export without paying any tax and transport goods anywhere.

Battle of Plassey (1757):

- **Context**: After the death of Nawab Ali Wardi Khan (1756), his grandson Siraj-ud-Daula ascended to the throne of Bengal.

- **Reasons for the Battle**:
  - **Misuse of Dastaks**: Siraj-ud-Daula was angered by the misuse of Dastaks (licenses) by East India Company officials, causing financial losses to the government.
  - **Fort Repair Dispute**: The British repaired Calcutta’s Fort William without permission and placed cannons there. Siraj-ud-Daula demanded their removal, but the British refused.
  - **Black Hole Tragedy**: Siraj-ud-Daula captured Fort William, imprisoning 146 Englishmen in a small room. Tragically, 123 died in what became known as the Black Hole Tragedy.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

- **Robert Clive’s Role:**
  - British officer Robert Clive rallied local allies, including rich individuals like Manikchand, Nemichand, and Jagath Seth.
  - Clive convinced Mir Jaffar, Siraj-ud-Daula’s military head, to remain neutral by promising him the post of Nawab of Bengal.

- **Battle of Plassey (June 23, 1757):**
  - Clive’s plan unfolded successfully, capturing and killing Siraj-ud-Daula.
  - Mir Jaffar became the new Nawab, and the British gained exclusive trading rights in Bengal.

- **Outcomes:**
  - Revealed immorality, lack of unity among Indians, and greed among Indian businessmen.
  - Mir Jaffar’s rule began, favoring British interests.
  - The East India Company solidified its control over Bengal.
  - Mir Jaffar paid a substantial war indemnity to the British Company.

In a nutshell, Mir Jaffar became a victim of the company and its employees. Even though the treasury went bankrupt due to this greedy nature, the greediness of the company and its officials was never satisfied. The British projected Mir Jaffar as an inefficient Nawab and brought in his nephew Mir Qasim as the new Nawab.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

Battle of Buxar (1764):

- **Mir Qasim’s Rule:**
  - Mir Qasim, an efficient administrator, initially cooperated with the East India Company.
  - He paid two lakh pounds to the company and ceded some territories to the company.
  - However, he later declared himself an independent king.

- **Conflict with the British:**
  - Mir Qasim’s reforms, including duty-free trade for Indians, impacted British commerce.
  - The British, led by Robert Clive, opposed Mir Qasim and reinstated Mir Jaffar as Nawab.

- **Organized War at Buxar (1764):**
  - Mir Qasim formed alliances with Shah Alam-II (Mughal ruler) and Nawab Shuj-ud-daula of Awadh.
  - Their combined forces faced the British army led by Hector Munro at Buxar.
  - Mir Qasim’s defeat was decisive, and Shah Alam-II surrendered.

- **Outcomes:**
  - Shah Alam-II granted Diwani rights over Bengal to the British.
  - The British obtained full control over Bengal for an annual fee of Rupees 26 lakhs.
  - Nawab Shuj-ud-daula paid war indemnity of Rupees 50 lakhs for waging a war against the company.
  - With the death of Mir Jaffar, the company paid pension to his son and took over the entire administration of Bengal.

**Dual Government in Bengal:**

- In 1765, Robert Clive introduced the **Dual Government:**
  - British collected land taxes.
  - Nawab handled administrative matters like justice.

In summary, the Battle of Buxar solidified British political control over Bihar, Bengal, Odisha, and Awadh, safeguarding their business interests in India.

**Know this:**

- 1600 – The East India Company was established in England.
- 1602 – Dutch East India Company was established.
- 1617 – The Mughal emperor Jahangir issued a royal charter allowing the British to conduct trade in Surat, on the west coast and in Hooghly on the east coast.
- 1639 – The English established their first warehouse in Surat.
- 1664 – The French East India Company was established.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

EXERCISES

I. Complete the following blanks with suitable answers:

1. In 1453, the Ottoman Turks occupied Constantinople.
2. The sea route between India and Europe was discovered by Vasco da Gama.
3. In 1741 Dutch declared war on Marthanda Varma of Travancore.
4. The capital of the French in India was Pondicherry.
5. In 1757, Robert Clive declared Battle of Plassey over Siraja -ud-Daulah.
6. The Diwani rights over Bengal were handed over to the British by Mughal ruler Shah Alam-II.
7. The Dual government policy was implemented by Robert Clive in Bengal.

II. Discuss in groups and answer the following questions:

1. How did trade take place between India and Europe during Middle Ages?

The trade relations between India, Europe, and other Asian countries during ancient and medieval times:

- **Ancient Trade**: India had valuable spices like pepper, cumin, cinnamon, cardamom, and ginger. Europe had a strong demand for these spices.
- **Middle Ages**: Trade continued between India, Europe, and other Asian nations. Arab merchants transported Asian goods to Constantinople (of Eastern Roman empire Byzantium), which served as a major trade hub.
- **Italian Monopoly**: Italian traders bought Asian merchandise in Constantinople and sold it in European countries. They held a monopoly over European trade.
- **Profitable Exchange**: The trade brought substantial profits to Italian merchants.

Arab merchants played a crucial role by carrying Indian trading goods to Constantinople. From there, Italian merchants would purchase these goods and sell them in European countries. Constantinople, known as the “Gate of European Trade,” became the center of international trade between the East and the West during this period.
2. State the causes that resulted in the discovery of a new sea route to India.

The discovery of a new sea route to India was driven by several causes:

- **Ottoman Empire’s Control**: The Ottoman Empire controlled the land routes to India, making overland trade difficult and expensive. European merchants sought alternative routes to bypass Ottoman-controlled territories.

- **Desire for Spices and Luxury Goods**: European demand for Indian spices (such as pepper, cinnamon, and cloves) and luxury goods (like silk and gemstones) was insatiable. These commodities were highly valued and profitable.

- **Technological Advances**: Advances in shipbuilding and navigation techniques allowed for longer sea voyages. The development of caravels (small, fast ships) and the use of astrolabes and compasses improved maritime exploration.

- **Competition Among European Nations**: European powers, including Portugal, Spain, and later England, vied for dominance in global trade. Finding a direct sea route to India would give them a competitive edge.

- **Vasco da Gama’s Expedition (1497-1499)**: Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama successfully sailed around the southern tip of Africa (the Cape of Good Hope) and reached Calicut (in present-day Kerala, India). His voyage opened the direct sea route to India, bypassing the Ottomans.

In summary, a combination of economic interests, technological advancements, and competition among European nations led to the discovery of the new sea route to India during the Age of Exploration.

3. List the Europeans who came to India for trade.

During the Middle Ages, several European powers established trade connections with India. Here are some of the key European players who ventured to India for trade:

- **Portuguese**: The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in India. In 1498 CE, Vasco da Gama discovered a new sea route from Europe to India by sailing around Africa via the Cape of Good Hope. He reached Calicut and established trading settlements there. The Portuguese ruled parts of India for over 450 years, with Goa as their center of trade.

- **Dutch**: Following the Portuguese, the Dutch (The Netherlands or Holland) arrived in India. They established trading posts in various regions during the early 17th century.

- **British**: The British East India Company played a significant role in India’s history. They gradually expanded their influence through trade and eventually became political masters of India. British traders and merchants were active in Indian ports.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

- **French**: The French also established trading posts in India, particularly in Pondicherry (now Puducherry) and other coastal areas. Their presence contributed to the European rivalry for dominance in India.

4. **Explain how Marthanda Varma checked the Dutch?**

Marthanda Varma, the visionary monarch of the southern Indian Kingdom of Travancore, demonstrated remarkable strategic prowess in dealing with the Dutch East India Company.

- **Battle of Colachel (1741)**: In a pivotal moment, Marthanda Varma led the Travancore army against the Dutch forces at the Battle of Colachel. This historic battle marked the first instance of an Asian kingdom defeating a European power. Marthanda Varma’s forces emerged victorious, effectively halting Dutch colonial ambitions in India.

- **Peace Treaty and Spice Trade**: After their defeat, Marthanda Varma compelled the Dutch to sign a peace treaty. As a result, he took over most of the Dutch forts in the Malabar region of India. This move ended the Dutch monopoly in the Spice Trade with India.

- **Consolidation of Power**: Marthanda Varma not only defeated the Dutch militarily but also consolidated his authority within Travancore. He put an end to the Ettuveetil Pillamars and the Ettara Yogam council, asserting full royal power. His adoption of a European mode of discipline for his army and expansion of the kingdom northward strengthened Travancore.

- **Indian Ocean Trade**: Marthanda Varma strategically used Indian Ocean trade to consolidate Travancore’s power. He offered assistance to Syrian Christian traders, limiting European involvement in ocean trade. Black pepper became a principal merchandise, and other goods were defined as royal monopoly items. Eventually, Travancore even challenged and broke the Dutch blockade of the Kerala coast.

- **Infrastructure and Foreign Trade**: Marthanda Varma transformed Trivandrum into a prominent city in Kerala. He undertook irrigational works, built roads and canals, and actively encouraged foreign trade. His policies laid the foundation for Travancore’s prosperity and stability.

Marthanda Varma’s strategic acumen and vision left an indelible mark on Travancore’s history and its relations with European powers.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

5. Explain the Second Carnatic War.

The Second Carnatic War, fought between 1749 and 1754, was a pivotal conflict in the history of colonial India.

- **Nizam of Hyderabad:** The French supported Salabath Jung as Nizam of Hyderabad. An officer named Bussy was appointed in Hyderabad for his protection by the French.
- **Carnatic Situation:** Chandasaheb, aided by the French, became Nawab in Carnatic.
- **English Victory:** Robert Clive attacked Arcot, defeated Chandsaheb, and imprisoned and later killed in the war.
- **Succession:** Mohammad Ali (Anwaruddin’s son) was named Nawab of Carnatic by the English.
- **Treaty and Recall:** The Treaty of Pondicherry ended the war, and the French recalled Dupleix.
- **Outcome:** English gained prestige, while the French faced political setbacks.

6. State the causes and results of the battle of Plassey.

**Causes of the Battle of Plassey:**

The Battle of Plassey, fought on June 23, 1757, had several underlying causes:

- **Misuse of Trade Privileges:** The British East India Company (EIC) officials rampantly misused the trade privileges granted to them by the Nawab of Bengal. This led to growing tensions and resentment.
- **Non-Payment of Taxes:** The British failed to pay taxes and duties, further straining relations between the Nawab and the British.
- **Fortification of Calcutta:** The British fortified Calcutta without seeking the Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah’s permission. This move angered the Nawab, who saw it as a breach of trust.
- **Calcutta Black Hole Tragedy:** In 1756, Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah captured Calcutta, leading to the infamous Black Hole Tragedy where 146 English prisoners were confined in a small room, and 123 of them perished.

**Results of the Battle of Plassey:**

The Battle of Plassey had significant consequences:

- **British Victory:** The British East India Company, led by Robert Clive, emerged victorious. Mir Jafar, the Nawab’s commander-in-chief, defected to the British side during the battle.
- **Control of Bengal:** The victory allowed the British to take control of Bengal in 1772. This marked a turning point in British Indian history.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

- **Territorial Expansion:** Over the next century, the British continued to expand their influence over vast territories in the Indian subcontinent, including Burma.

- **Beginning of British Rule:** The Battle of Plassey is often cited as the beginning of British rule in India. It solidified British dominance and sovereignty over the region.

In summary, the Battle of Plassey shifted the balance of power and laid the groundwork for British colonial rule in India.

7. **What were the results of the Battle of Buxar?**

The Battle of Buxar, fought in 1764, had profound consequences for colonial India.

- **British Victory:** The British East India Company, led by Major Hector Munro (with a significant role played by Robert Clive), emerged victorious. They defeated a joint army consisting of the Nawab of Bengal, the Nawab of Awadh (Oudh), and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.

- **Surrender and Defeat:** As a result of the battle:
  - Mir Qasim, the Nawab of Bengal, abandoned his troops and escaped.
  - Shah Alam II and Shuja-Ud-Daula (the Nawab of Awadh) surrendered to the British forces.

- **British Dominance:** The Battle of Buxar solidified British dominance in the region. The English became the uncontested rulers of Northern India and positioned themselves as contenders for power and supremacy throughout India.

- **Treaty of Allahabad (1765):** Following the battle, the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II was compelled to sign the Treaty of Allahabad. In this treaty, he surrendered sovereignty over Bengal to the British. Lord Robert Clive, the victor at Plassey, became the first governor of Bengal.

- **Seeds of Future Rebellions:** The battle and its aftermath sowed the seeds for future rebellions and played a pivotal role in shaping the course of Indian history. It set the stage for nearly two centuries of British rule in India.

In summary, the Battle of Buxar marked a turning point, firmly establishing British authority and influence in India.
CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA

III. Activity:

Collect information on the Presidency cities built by the British.

During the British colonial rule in India, several Presidency cities were established. These cities served as multifunctional centers, combining ports, military camps, educational institutions, museums, and more. Here are the key Presidency cities built by the British:

Bombay (Mumbai):
- Established in 1687, Bombay (now Mumbai) was part of the Bombay Presidency.
- It grew from a small trading settlement to a bustling city over the seven islands of Bombay.
- Bombay became a major hub for trade, commerce, and administration.

Calcutta (Kolkata):
- Established in 1690, Calcutta (now Kolkata) was the capital of the Bengal Presidency.
- It played a crucial role in British India’s administration, trade, and cultural exchange.
- Calcutta housed educational institutions, libraries, and government offices.

Madras (Chennai):
- Established in 1640, Madras (now Chennai) was the capital of the Madras Presidency.
- It served as a significant port city, connecting India with Europe and other parts of the world.
- Madras had educational institutions, military establishments, and administrative offices.
- These Presidency cities were pivotal in shaping British India’s history, culture, and governance.