

Lecture-1



Foundation of the British Rule in Bengal

Bengal was the first kingdom to be occupied by the British in India. It was the most fertile and the richest of India's provinces. The province was also well-known for its textiles, silk and saltpetre. The East India Company carried on profitable trade with this province. The enormous resources of Bengal came in handy for financing the British expansion.

In 1717, the Company had secured from the Mughal Emperor Farrukhsiyar a farman granting it the right to carry on trade in Bengal without paying any duty to the government. The employees of the Company, though permitted to carry on private trade, would have to pay taxes like the Indian merchants.

The farman was a perpetual source of conflict between the Company and the Nawab of Bengal. The Nawab lost revenue from trade. More importantly, he protested against the misuse of the dastak or permit by Company's servants who carried on private trade.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Who among the following influence British to come to India?

- A. Portuguese
- B. Danes
- C. Dutch
- D. French

Ans: A

2. Who authorise British East India Company to trade in the East?

- A. Queen Elizabeth IV
- B. Queen Elizabeth I
- C. Queen Elizabeth III

D. Queen Elizabeth II

Ans: B

3. Who among the following sent by East India Company to the court of the Mughal emperor to secure royal patronage?

A. Thomas Munro

B. Thomas Roe

C. Captain William Hawkins

D. None of the above

Ans: C

4. Who was the Mughal Emperor when first British enter into the Mughal Court to secure royal patronage?

A. Akbar I

B. Aurangzeb

C. Babar

D. Jahangir

Ans: D

5. Who among the following British diplomate sent by Emperor James I of England to Jahangir's court, with a plea for more concession for the Company?

A. Thomas Munro

B. Thomas Roe

C. Captain William Hawkins

D. None of the above

Ans: B

