

Chapter 1: Rise of Autonomous States

Short Answers

CSM 02: History of India and Indian National Movement

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This chapter contains:

- Ahmed Shah Abdali
- Jagirdari Crisis
- Rise of Autonomous States
- Murshid Quli
- Siraj ud Daula
- Bengal
- Awadh
- Hyderabad
- Carnatic

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1. Ahmed Shah Abdali

Ahmad Shah Durrani, also known as Ahmad Shah Abdali or Ahmad Khan Abdali, was the founder of the **Durrani Empire** and the contemporary state of Afghanistan. Between 1748 and 1767, **Ahmad Shah Abdali** (or Ahmad Shah Durrani), who was elected as Nadir Shah's successor following the latter's death in 1747, invaded India many times. This article will explain to you about **Ahmed Shah Abdali** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

1.1 Early Life

- **Abdali was born in Multan** (then Mughal Empire, now Pakistan) in 1722 to **Mohammad Zaman Khan**, governor of Herat and leader of the **Abdali clan**.
- Durrani's forebears were Sadozais, while his mother was Alakozai.
- The **Abdali soldiers** led by **Zulfiqar** surrendered to **Nader Shah Afshar**, the emerging new ruler of Persia, in June 1729. However, they soon started a rebellion and took over **Herat and Mashhad**.
- He defeated **Ibrahim Khan**, a military leader, and Nader Shah's brother, in July 1730.
- Since roughly 1729, Nader Shah had been enrolling the Abdalis in his army. Durrani and his brother Zulfiqar were liberated and given prominent positions in Nader Shah's government after the conquest of Kandahar in 1738.
- **Durrani continued** as Nader Shah's personal attendant, while Zulfiqar was appointed Governor of Mazandaran.
- **Durrani distinguished** himself in Nader Shah's service, rising from the rank of a personal attendant (yaswal) to head the Abdali Regiment, a cavalry of 4,000 troops and commanders.
- During **Nader Shah's invasion** of the Mughal Empire in 1738, the **Abdali Regiment** formed part of his troops.

1.2 Durrani Empire

- The **Durrani Kingdom**, also known as the **Sadozai Kingdom** and the **Afghan Empire**, was a **Central Asian, Middle Eastern, and South Asian empire** created and constructed by **Ahmad Shah Abdali**.
- The empire reigned over modern-day **Afghanistan and Pakistan**, as well as areas of northeastern and southeastern Iran, eastern Turkmenistan, and northern India at its peak.
- The **Durrani Empire** was the strongest Muslim empire of the second part of the eighteenth century, second only to the **Ottoman Empire**.
- **Ahmad Shah Abdali** unified the many **Pashtun tribes** and established the **Durrani Empire with his Baloch allies**, which comprised modern-day Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as sections of northeastern **Iran, eastern Turkmenistan, and northwestern India, including the Kashmir area**, at its zenith.
- During the early half of the nineteenth century, the Durrani were succeeded by the **Barakzai dynasty**.

- **Ahmad Shah** and his descendants descended from the **Durrani Popalzai** line (formerly known as the Abdalis), making them the second Pashtun kings of Kandahar after the **Hotak dynasty**.
- **The Durrani**s rose to prominence in the second part of the 18th century, owing mostly to the leadership of **Ahmad Shah Durrani**.

1.3 Ahmed Shah Abdali - Indian Invasion

- Between 1748 and 1767, **Ahmad Shah Durrani** invaded India eight times.
- Following **Nadir Shah's demise**, Ahmad Shah Durrani ascended to the **Afghan throne** and began pillaging wealth from neighbouring territories.
- Abdali ambushed many people in the **Chota Ghalughara and Vada Ghalughara**, but he eventually fled when he met the Sikhs on the banks of the Chenab on his route to India.
- Following Durrani's return to Afghanistan, the Sikhs revolted and conquered a number of towns in the Punjab area.
- His repeated raids decimated the **Mughal empire** and, at **Panipat**, delivered a significant blow to Maratha pretensions in the north, creating a power vacuum.
- His "tireless energy, ambition, and purpose" were mirrored in the frequency of his repeated invasions.
- Afghanistan, being a poor and "backward" country, was unable to provide **nutrition** for its people or financial support for the government.
- So Abdali felt it was "essential" to **invade India**, a "**rich but poorly guarded neighbouring nation**," to loot and exploit its riches.
- In addition, he intended to create "**political hegemony**" in India.
- The Mughal empire was collapsing during his reign, and he was "ready to step into the shoes of the **decadent Mughal power**" to fill the "political vacuum without any waste of time."
- In 1757, **Abdali seized Delhi** and left an Afghan caretaker to keep an eye on the Mughal emperor.
- Before his return, **Abdali** had recognized **Alamgir II** as the **Mughal emperor and the Rohilla ruler, Najib-ud-Daula**, as the empire's Mir Bakhshi, who was to operate as Abdali's personal supreme agent.'
- **Raghunath Rao**, the Maratha leader who also seized Punjab, evicted **Najib-ud-Daula** from Delhi in 1758.
- **Ahmad Shah Abdali** returned to India in 1759 to exact vengeance on the Marathas.
- In the **Third Battle of Panipat** in 1761, **Abdali defeated the Marathas**. The final of Abdali's invasions occurred in 1767.

1.4 Third Battle of Panipat

- On 14 January 1761, a northern invading army of the **Maratha Empire** and the **King of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Durrani**, with two Indian Muslim allies - the **Rohilla Afghans** of the **Doab and Shuja-ud-Daula**, the Nawab of Oudh - fought at Panipat.
- The fight is regarded as one of the largest fought in the **18th century**, with the most casualties known in a single day in a typical formation combat between two armies.

- With no supplies and dying warriors, the **Maratha leaders** pleaded with their commander, **Sadashiv Rao Bhau**, to let them die in combat rather than starve to death.
- The **Marathas left** their camp to march towards the **Afghan camp** in a desperate bid to break the siege.
- Over 125,000 men were involved in the conflict, which lasted many days.
- Prolonged clashes erupted, with both forces suffering losses and gaining ground.
- After defeating many **Maratha flanks**, the armies headed by **Ahmad Shah Durrani** emerged triumphant.
- The magnitude of both sides' casualties is estimated to be **between 60,000–70,000** dead in battle, with the number of injured and captives taken varying greatly. The day following the fight, around 40,000 Maratha captives were killed in cold blood.
- The fight halted future **Maratha advances** in the north and destabilised their territory for almost ten years.
- In 1771, ten years after **Panipat**, **Peshwa Madhavrao** led a huge Maratha force into North India in an attempt to re-establish **Maratha dominance** in the region.
- Punish obstinate powers that had either joined with the Afghans, like as the **Rohillas**, or had shrugged from **Maratha dominance** following Panipat.
- This campaign's triumph might be viewed as the final chapter in the protracted **narrative of Panipat**.

1.5 Conclusion

Ahamad Shah Abdali, also known as Ahamad Shah Durrani, was an Afghan leader of the Durrani tribe. After the killing of Nadir Shah, he ascended to the Afghan throne in 1747. From 1747 until his death in 1773, he governed. During this reign, he invaded India eight times, captured Punjab, and defeated the Marathas in the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761.

2. Jagirdari Crisis

The **Jagirdari Crisis** was a financial scenario in which there was a scarcity of lands, or jagirs. This reduced the **expense of administration**, and the imperial crown was unable to fund wars or maintain the nobility's quality of living. As a result, the Mughal crown was forced to give up its own territory in order to pay its officials. This article will explain to you about the **Jagirdari Crisis** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

2.1 Jagirdari System

- The practice of allocating money from a certain province to nobles in exchange for services to the state was maintained by the **Mughals as well**.
- Under the **Mughals**, the lands allotted were **known as Jagirs**, and the people who held them were known as Jagirdars.
- The **Jagirdari system** was a vital aspect of the mansabdari system that emerged under Akbar and underwent adjustments during his successors' reigns.
- During Akbar's reign, the country was divided into two parts:
 - **Khalisa**.
 - **Jagir**.
- The revenue from the first went to the imperial treasury, while the revenue from Jagir was given to Jagirdars in place of a cash stipend.
- Mansabdars' salary entitlements were computed based on their **Zat and Sawar** grades.
- The wage was paid either in cash (in which case it was referred to as Naqdi) or through the assignment of a **Jagir**, with the latter being the preferred method.
- At any moment, the Emperor might move a portion or the full Jagir from one section of the imperial empire to another.
- **During the Mughal era**, the ratio of **Jagir to Khalisa** fluctuated.
- During Akbar's reign, Khalisa accounted for barely 5% of overall revenue; under Jahangir, it was 10%, and during Shahjahan, it ranged between 9 and 15%.
- There was a lot of strain on the Khalisa in the later half of Aurangzeb's reign since the number of claims for Jagir rose with the number of mansabdars.
- **Jagirdars** were also moved from one Jagir to another (but in certain cases they were allowed to keep their Jagir in one locality for a longer period of time).
- The **transfer mechanism** prevented the Jagirdars from establishing local roots. At the same time, it had the problem of discouraging Jagirdars from pursuing long-term steps to improve their districts.
- Jagirs came in a variety of shapes and sizes.
 - **Tankha Jagirs** were awarded in place of salary.
 - **Mashrut Jagirs** were given under particular conditions.
 - **Watan Jagirs** were allotted to Zamindars or Rajas in their respective dominions.
 - **Altamgha Jagirs** were bestowed to Muslim nobility at their home cities or birthplaces.

2.2 Jagirdari Crisis

- The **Jagirdari Crisis** was a financial scenario in which there was a scarcity of lands, or jagirs.
- This reduced the expense of administration, and the imperial crown was unable to fund wars or maintain the nobility's quality of living.
- As a result, the **Mughal crown** was forced to give up its own territory in order to pay its officials.
- This reduced the **Mughal Emperor's** territory and, as a result, his influence.
- About four-fifths of the land revenue of the **Mughal Empires** was under the hands of mansabdars and jagirdars
- Yet, this income was unevenly divided among them, fostering jealousies among the nobility, especially at a time when the Empire's resources were declining.
- 18th century **jagirdari crisis**' as "the available **societal surplus** was insufficient to defray the **expense of administration**, pay for Wars of one kind or another, and to offer the ruling classes a level of life in conformity with their expectations."
- In this case, real revenue collection was substantially lower than anticipated, lowering the predicted income of the jagirdars.
- The **Deccan war** necessitated a larger number of mansabdars, and the resulting political turbulence made income collection more difficult.
- The jagirdari crisis resulted in an ugly rivalry for control of the fertile jagir.
- This exacerbated the already-existing factionalism at Court following the death of **Bahadur Shah** in 1712A.D., since low-ranking officials found it impossible to sustain their lifestyles with the paltry amounts they received from the jagirs.
- The **jagirdari crisis** worsened as **agricultural revenue** fell and the number of contestants seeking a piece of the surplus increased.
- Though commerce, both **domestic and foreign**, continued unaffected and even thrived, the rest of the **economy stagnated**.

2.3 Conclusion

As a consequence of a number of disparate but interconnected reasons, the Mughal Empire declined dramatically within a few decades of Aurangzeb's death. The age of the great Mughals, a brilliant era in mediaeval Indian history, ended in this fashion, paving the way for the foundation of several autonomous regional Kingdoms in its aftermath.

3. Rise of Autonomous States - Causes of Decline of Mughal Empire

The Rise of Autonomous states like the Jats, Sikhs, and Marathas revolted under Aurangzeb's rule. They challenged the Mughal state's authority in order to establish their own kingdoms. They did not succeed, but they had an impact on the future course of political events in their respective regions. Their constant fight for political dominance against the empire damaged the empire significantly. This article will explain to you about the **Rise of Autonomous States** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

3.1 Rise of Autonomous States

- The states that arose as a result of the Mughal Empire's fall may be divided into three basic categories:
 - Successor States
 - Independent Kingdoms
 - The New States
- **Successor States** - These were the Mughal provinces that became states after seceding from the empire.
- Though they did not dispute the **Mughal ruler's sovereignty**, their governors' installation of essentially independent and hereditary power demonstrated the rise of autonomous polity in these provinces. Awadh, Bengal, and Hyderabad are a few instances.
- **Independent Kingdoms** - These nations arose mostly as a result of the destabilisation of Mughal sovereignty over the provinces, with Mysore and the Rajput states serving as examples.
- **The New States** - These were the states established by rebels against the Mughal empire, such as the Maratha, Sikh, and Jat states.

3.2 Autonomous States

| State | Dynasty/Founder/ Leader | Significance |
|-----------|---|---|
| Hyderabad | Nizam-ul-Mulk, was the founder of the Hyderabad Asaf-Jah dynasty. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disgusted with the Mughal emperor for appointing Mubariz Khan as a full-fledged viceroy of the Deccan, Nizam-ul-Mulk determined to confront Mubariz Khan.• In the Battle of Shaker-Kheda, he defeated and later killed Mubariz Khan (1724).• He was now in command of the Deccan.• In 1725, he was appointed viceroy and given the title Asaf-Jah. |

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| Awadh | Saadat Khan, also known as Burhan-ul-Mulk, founded the autonomous principality of Awadh. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saadat Khan had participated in a plot against the Sayyid brothers, which resulted in his receiving an enhanced mansab. • After being pushed out of the court, he was inspired to establish a new independent state. • Saadat Khan committed himself as a result of pressure from Nadir Shah, who demanded a large bounty from him. • Safdar Jang succeeded him as Nawab of Awadh. |
| Bengal | Murshid Kuli Khan established the independent state of Bengal. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murshid Kuli Khan was a skilled monarch who led Bengal to prosperity. • In 1727, he was succeeded by his son Shujaud-din. • Sarfaraz Khan, his successor, was assassinated in 1740 by Alivardi Khan, the deputy governor of Bihar at Gheria, who seized control and declared independence from the Mughal emperor by paying yearly tribute. |
| The Rajputs | Ajit Singh attempted to re-establish Rajput independence in the 18th century. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This compelled Bahadur Shah I, the Mughal emperor, to march against Ajit Singh (1708), who had forged an alliance with Jai Singh II and Durgadas Rathor. • The agreement, however, was shattered, and the situation was salvaged for the Mughals. • The Rajputs formerly ruled the whole country stretching from the south of Delhi to the western shore. |
| Mysore | Ruled by the Wodeyars | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various powers, all of which were interested in this land, transformed the area into a perpetual battleground. • Finally, the Mysore state was placed under the leadership of Haider Ali, who administered the state with difficulty. • He and his son Tipu Sultan were often at odds with the British. |
| Kerala | Martanda Varma established Kerala | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala as an autonomous state, with Travancore as its capital. • Martanda Varma expanded his state's |

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| | | <p>borders from Kanyakumari to Cochin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He worked hard to organise his army following Western lines and implemented a variety of policies to help his country grow. |
| The Jats | Churaman and Badan Singh were successful in establishing the Jat kingdom of Bharatpur. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agriculturist Jat settlers of Delhi, Mathura, and Agra revolted against Aurangzeb's repressive policies. • Suraj Mal's reign was the pinnacle of Jat power. • He not only established an effective administrative structure, but he also considerably expanded the state's area. • His kingdom stretched from the Ganga in the east to the Chambal in the south, and it comprised the Subahs of Agra, Mathura, Meerut, and Aligarh. • However, with the death of Suraj Mal in 1763, the Jat kingdom began to crumble. |
| The Sikhs | Banda Bahadur, who subsequently became the Sikhs' leader in 1708, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali, the Sikhs asserted their dominance once more. • At this point, they had organised themselves into 12 misls or confederacies that controlled different portions of the country. • Ranjit Singh is credited with founding a powerful Punjab empire. • Ranjit Singh took control of the territory stretching from the Sutlej to the Jhelum. • In 1799, he captured Lahore, and in 1802, he seized Amritsar. • Ranjit Singh recognised the British claim over the Cis-Sutlej provinces in the Treaty of Amritsar with the British. |
| The Marathas | Under the skillful leadership of the Peshwas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marathas drove the Mughals out of Malwa and Gujarat and established their own dominion. • They formerly claimed to be the sole heirs of the Mughal empire, but their power was challenged by Ahmad Shah Abdali at the Third Battle of Panipat (1761). |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Marathas soon rebounded from defeat and posed the most dangerous opposition to the English East India Company in India's quest for political power. |
| Rohilkhand and Farrukhabad | The Bangash Pathans' kingdom | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ali Muhammad Khan used the collapse of authority in North India after Nadir Shah's invasion to establish a tiny kingdom, Rohilkhand. This was the Himalayan foothills region between Kumaon in the north and the Ganga in the south. The Rohillas, as the people of Rohilkhand were known, suffered much at the hands of the area's other powers, the Jats and Awadh monarchs, and subsequently, the Marathas and the British. During the reigns of Farrukhsiyar and Muhammad Shah, Afghan Mohammad Khan Bangash established an autonomous kingdom to the east of Delhi in the territory surrounding Farrukhabad. |

3.3 Significance of the Autonomous States

- The territories' distinct political systems maintained relations with the Mughal imperial power and accepted the emperor's status as an umbrella.
- Even rebel chieftains of the **Marathas and Sikhs** acknowledged the Mughal emperor as the supreme power.
- The polity that arose in these nations was regional in nature and functioning, thanks to the combined backing of many local groups such as **zamindars, merchants, local lords, and chieftains**.
- In order to survive, the provincial rulers had to take care of these varied local interests.
- Of course, there were exceptions; for example, monarchs in Mysore did not recognise local chieftains.

3.4 Limitations of the Autonomous States

- Certain limitations applied to the regional states. The provincial rulers were unable to create a system that was based on strong financial, administrative, and military organisation.

- Though some strove to modernise, most **notably Mysore**, they were generally behind in science and technology.
- Another **disadvantage was the incessant** conflict these governments engaged in with neighbouring regional powers - wars in which none could eventually prevail.
- In truth, these republics were powerful enough to threaten **Mughal dominance**, but none were able to replace it with an all-India stable polity.
- The **jagirdari situation** worsened as agricultural revenue fell and the number of contestants seeking a piece of the surplus increased.
- Though commerce, both **domestic and foreign**, continued unaffected and even thrived, the rest of the economy stagnated.

3.5 Conclusion

The disintegration of the Mughal empire was a watershed moment in Indian history, ushering in the establishment of many regional powers as well as British control for nearly 200 years. The strong authority of Aurangzeb may be traced back to the beginning of the dissolution of the Mughal empire. Aurangzeb inherited a big empire, but he pursued a strategy of expanding it to the southernmost geographical boundaries at enormous cost in terms of men and materials.

4. Murshid Quli Khan(1717-27)

Murshid Quli Khan, also known as **Mohammad Hadi** and born **Surya Narayan Mishra**, was Bengal's **first Nawab**, reigning from **1717 until 1727**. Murshid Quli Khan was born as a **Hindu Brahmin** and adopted as a son by **Haji Shafi**, a Persian who had moved to India. **Haji Shafi** renamed the child **Mohammed Hadi** and brought him to Persia, where he grew up. When he returned to India, he served the Mughal empire in many positions and earned a reputation for himself. This article will explain to you about **Murshid Quli Khan(1717-27)** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

4.1 Murshid Quli Khan - Early Life

- **Murshid Quli Khan** was born in Deccan in 1670 as **Surya Narayan Mishra**, a Hindu. This assertion is supported by the book **Ma'asir al-umara**.
- He was sold to a Persian named **Haji Shafi** when he was around eleven years old, and he was circumcised and given the name **Mohammad Hadi**.
- In the early 1690s, **Shafi** fled the Mughal court and returned to Persia with **Murshid Quli Khan**.
- Murshid returned to India about five years after Shafi's death and served for **Abdullah Khurasani**, the **Diwan of Vidarbha** in the Mughal Empire.
- His competence in tax affairs, he was noticed by **Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb** and played an essential part in implementing **Fatawa Alamgiri's sharia-based financial plans**.
- **Murshid Quli Khan** was appointed Dewan of Bengal in 1700 and reigned until his death in 1727.

4.2 Murshid Quli Khan - Diwan of Bengal

- Around the year 1700, Aurangzeb appointed **Quli Khan as Diwan of Bengal**.
- **Azim-us-Shan**, the Mughal emperor's grandson, was the province's subahdar at the time.
- He was dissatisfied with this appointment because he intended to utilise the state money to support his quest to take the Mughal throne following Aurangzeb's death.
- Quli Khan proceeded to **Jahangirnagar (modern-day Dhaka)** immediately after being assigned to the post and moved employees from the services of Azim-us-han's to himself, infuriating **Azim-us-Shan**.
- He attempted to protect his province's interests by stopping the **English East India Company** from collecting taxes.
- His son-in-law, **Shujauddin Khan**, took over the government and conquered Bihar's Suba to become a part of Bengal.
- **Murshid Quli Khan** and his successor Nawabs ruled as autonomous monarchs in **Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha**, yet they continued to provide income to the Mughal emperor on a regular basis.

4.3 Murshid Quli Khan - Reign

- Until **Aurangzeb's death** in 1707, all of the subahdar's powers were vested in Quli Khan.
- In 1717, **Farrukhsiyar** bestowed the title of **Zafar Khan** on **Quli Khan** and appointed him Subahdar of Bengal, making him the first person to hold both the rank of subahdar and diwan at the same time.
- He declared himself **Nawab of Bengal**, becoming the province's first independent nawab.
- **Murshidabad** was designated as the new capital, replacing Dhaka.
- **Quli Khan** established the **Mal Jasmani system**, which was akin to France's generals, in place of the **Mughal jagirdari system**.
- He obtained security bonds from the contractors, known as **Ijaradars**, who would subsequently receive the land revenue.
- Though there were numerous **jagirdars initially**, they were quickly pushed out by the contractors, who were known as zamindars.
- **Quli Khan** maintained his policy of giving a portion of the gathered wealth to the **Mughal Empire**.
- He did so even when the empire was in decline and the emperor had little influence, as power was increasingly consolidated in the **hands of kingmakers**.
- With **Murshidabad** being the capital of Bengal, Quli Khan was obliged to construct buildings and offices in order for work to be carried out from that city.
- He constructed a palace, known as a Diwan khana, in the city's **Dugharia district** ("office of revenue collection", a court of exchequer).
- He also constructed an inn and a **mosque for foreign visitors**.
- In 1720, he built a mint in the city. In 1724, he built the **Katra Masjid mosque** in the city's eastern outskirts, where he was interred following his death.
- **Quli Khan** died on June 30, 1727. Sarfaraz Khan, his grandson, took over as his successor at first.
- Quli Khan is buried under the steps leading to the main floor of **Katra Masjid**, a five-bayed rectangular mosque built by himself in accordance with his intentions.

4.4 Murshidabad - During Murshid Quli Khan

- **Murshidabad residents** used to take part in a variety of celebrations during Quli Khan's rule.
- **The Punyah**, which happened in the last week of the Bengali month of Chaitra, was one among them. It was attended by the **zamindars or their representatives**.
- The event that was **celebrated** with the most pomp and splendor, however, was Mawlid, which commemorated the birth of the **Islamic prophet Muhammad**. People from neighbouring regions travelled to the city to celebrate Mawlid.
- Quli Khan ordered that **chirag, or lights**, be lit in all religious buildings, including mosques and imambararas.
- Quli Khan also followed the **Mughal custom** of conducting a durbar in the city, which was attended by local bankers, foreign visitors, and representatives from European corporations.

- As commerce increased, a new class of businesspeople emerged, who also attended his durbar.
- Due to his **religious disposition**, **Quli Khan** faithfully observed Islam, and guests were fed twice a day according to Islamic standards.

4.5 Mal Jasmani system

- **Mal Jasmani system** is also known as Murshid Quli Khan's **Malzamini revenue settlement**.
- The terms **malzamini**, a derivative from the **Persian mal**, meaning the property of any **sort, and zamin**, meaning a **guarantor or bondsman** for the payment of rent or obligation, were used in the Bengali revenue procedure.
- It initially arose in 18th-century Bengali lexicon in conjunction with Murshid Quli Khan's **income settlement**.
- **Murshid Quli Khan**, the **Diwan-Subahdar (1700-1727)** of the Subah of Bengal, is believed to have insisted on new ijaradars (leaseholders) supplying security bonds, i.e., **pre-guarantee**, while entering yearly contracts for the collection and payment of the prescribed revenue on time.

4.6 Conclusion

With the collapse of the Mughal Empire following the death of Aurangzeb, Bengal became an autonomous viceroyalty for all practical purposes under Murshid Quli Khan, who justified the trust placed in him with competent administration that brought Bengal to the pinnacle of wealth. Murshid Quli Khan is referred to as Jafar Khan in some British records. He was born a Brahmin but was raised as a slave in Persia. He became a zealous Muslim and demolished several temples.

5. Siraj ud Daula (1756-57)

Mirza Muhammad Siraj-ud-Daulah, also known as **Siraj-ud-Daulah** or **Siraj ud-Daula**, was Bengal's last independent Nawab. In 1740, he established Nizamat Imambara in **Murshidabad, West Bengal**. The end of his reign signalled the beginning of the **East India Company's** dominion over Bengal and, ultimately, practically the whole Indian subcontinent. At the **age of 23**, Siraj succeeded his maternal grandfather, **Alivardi Khan**, as **Nawab of Bengal** in April 1756. This article will explain to you about **Siraj ud Daula (1756-57)** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

5.1 Early Life

- Siraj was born in 1733 to **Mirza Muhammad** Hashim and Amina Begum.
- Siraj's maternal grandfather, **Alivardi Khan**, was appointed Deputy Governor of Bihar shortly after his birth.
- Siraj was known as the family's "**lucky kid**." He got his grandfather's special care and was nurtured at the **Nawab's palace** with all the required education and training for a future Nawab.
- In 1746, young **Siraj** accompanied Alivardi on his military expeditions against the Marathas.
- **Siraj rose** against his grandpa and captured Patna in 1750, but shortly submitted and was pardoned.
- **Alivardi named Siraj** as his successor in May 1752. The former died on April 9, 1756, at the age of eighty.
- At the age of 23, Siraj succeeded his maternal grandfather, **Alivardi Khan**, as Nawab of Bengal in April 1756.
- Siraj was betrayed by **Mir Jafar**, the leader of the Nawab's army, and lost the Battle of Plassey on June 23, 1757.

5.2 Reign

- During this time, the **British East India Company** was expanding its power in the **Indian subcontinent**, notably in Bengal; Siraj quickly began to detest the **East India Company's politico-military** presence in Bengal.
- He was particularly enraged by the Company's apparent involvement in, and sponsorship of, a coup plot against him by some members of his own court.
- His allegations against the firm were essentially threefold.
- First, they strengthened the fortifications around **Fort William** without any intimation or approval;
- Second, they grossly abused trade privileges granted to them by **Mughal rulers** – resulting in heavy losses of customs duties for the government;
- Third, they provided shelter to some of his officers, such as Krishnadas, son of Rajballav, who fled **Dhaka** after misappropriating government funds.

- The British success in the **Carnatic wars** has made Siraj-Ud-Daula fearful about the British increasing influence in India.
- The Company's officials abused their trading rights in a way that harmed the nawab's finances.
- The British strengthened **Fort Williams** without Nawab's approval, infuriating him even more.
- When the **East India Company** began bolstering military power at **Fort William in Calcutta**, **Siraj ud-Daulah** ordered a halt. Because the Company disobeyed his orders, Siraj responded by seizing Calcutta (for a short time renamed Alinagar) from the British in June 1756.
- He marched to **Fort Williams**, grabbed 146 Britishers, and imprisoned them in a cramped chamber, resulting in the deaths of 123 Britishers.
- This is known as the "**Black Hole Tragedy of Calcutta.**"
- Siraj ud-Daulah was betrayed by Mir Jafar, the leader of the Nawab's army, and lost the **Battle of Plassey on June 23, 1757.**
- The **East India Company's** soldiers, led by **Robert Clive**, invaded Bengal, seizing control of the administration.
- Mohammad Ali Beg executed Siraj-ud-Daulah on 2 July 1757 on instructions from Mir Miran, son of Mir Jafar, at Namak Haram Deorhi as part of the agreement between **Mir Jafar** and the British East India Company.
- The grave of Siraj-ud-Daulah is located in Khushbagh, Murshidabad.
- The end of Siraj ud-rule Daulah's also signified the end of Bengali autonomy and the establishment of British control in India.

5.3 Battle of Plassey

- The Battle of Plassey took place on June 23, 1757, in the Plassey district of West Bengal.
- The **British East India Company**, led by **Robert Clive**, fought this battle against the Nawab of Bengal, **Siraj-ud-daula**.
- The French forces took part in this battle as well, fighting with Siraj-ud-daula against Robert Clive.
- The **Nawab of Bengal's** army of 50,000 warriors, with French forces on their side, vastly overpowered the British army of roughly 3000 soldiers.
- However, **Robert Clive's** conspiracy and subsequent betrayal by Mir Jafar, Rai Durlabh, and others led to the downfall of Nawab of Bengal Siraj-ud-daula in the **Battle of Plassey**.
- The Fight of Plassey is seen as a momentous battle for the British and a turning point in Indian history in their favour.
- It established the **British military** and political dominance in Bengal.
- The **battle of Plassey** is regarded by most historians as the crucial event, with origins in **British control** and governance over India.

5.4 Robert Clive

- He was born in England in 1725.

- He arrived at **Fort St. George (Madras)** in 1744 to serve as a 'factor,' or company agent, for the **East India Company**.
- He joined the company army and was able to demonstrate his abilities.
- He achieved renown and acclaim for his involvement in the Siege of Arcot, which resulted in a British triumph over the superior troops of Chanda Sahib, the Nawab of Carnatic, and the **French East India Company**.
- Despite possessing a greater army, the Nawab was beaten by the British at the **Battle of Plassey**.
- By inducing the Nawab's army Commander Mir Jaffar, who was appointed as Bengal's Nawab after the fight, Clive secured a decisive English victory.
- The British fought the **Battle of Buxar** against the united troops of Mir Qasim, Shuja Ud Daulah (the Nawab of Awadh), and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II. This battle was won by the British.
- As a result of this fight, the **Mughal Emperor** granted the British the Diwani (right to collect income) of **Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha** in exchange for an annual sum of money and the Allahabad and Kora districts.
- **Robert Clive**, who could have annexed **Awadh** as well, chose not to do so. He hoped to utilise it as a "buffer" state between the British and the Marathas.
- Clive was also successful in capturing certain **French forts in Bengal**.
- As a result of those struggles, the **British established** themselves as the dominant force in the Indian subcontinent.
- Bengal became theirs, considerably improving the company's profits. (At the time, Bengal was wealthier than Britain.)
- This also allowed the British to expand into other sections of India, eventually leading to the creation of the **British Raj in India**.
- As a result, **Robert Clive** is also regarded as the "Conqueror of India."

5.5 Conclusion

Sirajuddaula's limits, as well as his public and private character, should be considered in light of the context in which he worked and the cause for which he fought and died. After he became a nawab, there was a significant shift in his personality. The judgement of history is that, whatever his faults may have been, Sirajuddaula never betrayed his lord or sold his nation. 'The name Sirajuddaula ranks higher on the honour scale than the name Clive. He was the only one of the main characters who didn't try to mislead.'

6. Bengal - Rise of Autonomous States during Mughal Empire

After being conquered by the **British East India Company** at the **Battle of Plassey** in 1757, **Mughal Bengal** emerged as an **independent state**, under the Nawabs of Bengal, and already observing proto-industrialization, it made a direct significant contribution to the first **Industrial Revolution** (substantially textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution) but led to its deindustrialization. The Bengal Presidency was afterwards founded from the Subah. The Bengal Subah, often known as Mughal Bengal, was the Mughal Empire's biggest subdivision. This article will explain to you about **Bengal - Rise of Autonomous States during the Mughal Empire** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

6.1 Mughal Bengal

- Between the 16th and 18th centuries, the Bengal Subah, also known as Mughal Bengal, was the biggest subdivision of the **Mughal Empire** and subsequently an independent state under the **Nawab of Bengal**, spanning much of the Bengal area, including current Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal.
- After the fall of the **Bengal Sultanate**, a key trade country in the globe, when the territory was incorporated into one of the gunpowder empires, the state was formed.
- Bengal was the richest area on the **Indian subcontinent**, and its proto-industrial economy was on the verge of launching the **Industrial Revolution**.
- Due to its people's excellent living conditions and genuine wages, Bengal Subah has been dubbed the "**Paradise of Nations**" and the "**Golden Age of Bengal**."
- It accounted for 40% of all **Asian imports into the Netherlands**.
- The eastern section of Bengal was a significant exporter of **silk and cotton textiles, steel, saltpetre, and agricultural and industrial goods**, and it was a global leader in sectors like textile production and shipbuilding.
- The **Anglo-Mughal War** was also fought in this region.
- By the 18th century, **Mughal Bengal** had emerged as an independent state, ruled by the **Nawabs of Bengal**, and had already witnessed proto-industrialization.
- It made a direct significant contribution to the first **Industrial Revolution** (significantly textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution) but was deindustrialized after being conquered by the **British East India Company at the Battle of Plassey in 1757**.
- The Subah was renamed the **Bengal Presidency** later on.

6.2 The Mughal conquest of Bengal

- During the reign of the first **Mughal emperor, Babur**, the Mughal absorption of Bengal started.
- During the **Battle of Ghaghra in 1529**, Babur defeated Bengal Sultan Nasiruddin Nasrat Shah. Parts of Bengal were eventually annexed by Babur.

- **Humayun**, his son and successor, seized the Bengali capital Gaur for six months. Because of Sher Shah Suri's conquests, Humayun was subsequently compelled to seek asylum in Persia.
- **Sher Shah Suri** briefly overthrew both the Mughals and the **Bengal Sultans**.
- The Mughal conquest of Bengal started on 3 March 1575, when Akbar's army defeated Sultan of **Bengal Daud Khan Karrani**, the province's independent ruler, in the **Battle of Tukaroi**.
- Following **Daud Karrani's** fatal defeat at the Battle of Rajmahal the following year, **Mughal Emperor Akbar** established Bengal as one of the original twelve Subahs (top-level provinces), bordering **Bihar and Orissa** subahs as well as Burma.

6.3 Rise of Autonomous State - Bengal

- The last viceroy of Bengal by the **Mughal, Prince Azim-us-Shan**, granted permission for the **British East India Company's** Fort William in Calcutta, the **French East India Company's Fort Orleans in Chandernagore**, and the Dutch East India Company's fort at Chinsurah to be **built**.
- **Murshid Quli Khan**, Azim-us-shan's minister, rose to prominence in Bengal during his presidency. Khan took control of the imperial finances. Azim-us-Shan was relocated to Bihar.
- The **Mughal Court** elevated the prime minister's rank to that of the hereditary **Nawab of Bengal** in 1717.
- **Murshid Kuli Khan** established the independent state of Bengal. He was a skilled monarch who led Bengal to prosperity. In 1727, he was succeeded by his son Shujaud-din.
- The Nawabs reigned over a region that encompassed Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.
- The Nasiri dynasty was founded by his ancestors. In 1740, Alivardi Khan established a new dynasty.
- **Sarfraz Khan**, his successor, was assassinated in 1740 by Alivardi Khan, the deputy governor of Bihar at Gheria, who seized control and declared independence from the Mughal emperor by paying yearly tribute.

6.4 Independent Nawabs of Bengal

- In **Mughal India**, the hereditary ruler of **Bengal Subah** was known as the **Nawab of Bengal**.
- A princely state or autonomous province's Nawab is equivalent to the European title of Grand Duke.
- The **Nawab of Bengal** was the de facto independent ruler of the three territories of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa that included the modern-day sovereign country of Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa in the early 18th century.
- They are also known as the Nawab of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.
- The Nawabs were centred at Murshidabad, which was in the heart of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.

6.5 Murshid Quli Khan

- Around the year 1700, Aurangzeb appointed **Quli Khan as Diwan of Bengal**.
- **Azim-us-Shan**, the Mughal emperor's grandson, was the province's subahdar at the time.
- Quli Khan proceeded to **Jahangirnagar (modern-day Dhaka)** immediately after being assigned to the post and moved employees from the services of Azim-us-han's to himself, infuriating **Azim-us-Shan**.
- He attempted to protect his province's interests by stopping the **English East India Company** from collecting taxes.
- His son-in-law, **Shujauddin Khan**, took over the government and conquered Bihar's Suba to become a part of Bengal.
- **Murshid Quli Khan** and his successor Nawabs ruled as autonomous monarchs in **Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha**, yet they continued to provide income to the Mughal emperor on a regular basis.
- **Murshidabad** was designated as the new capital, replacing Dhaka.
- **Quli Khan** established the **Mal Jasmani system**, which was akin to France's generals, in place of the **Mughal jagirdari system**.
- He obtained security bonds from the contractors, known as **Ijaradars**, who would subsequently receive the land revenue.
- Though there were numerous **jagirdars initially**, they were quickly pushed out by the contractors, who were known as zamindars.
- **Quli Khan** maintained his policy of giving a portion of the gathered wealth to the **Mughal Empire**.

6.6 Aliwardi Khan

- From 1740 until 1756, Alivardi Khan was the **Nawab of Bengal**. He deposed the **Nasiri dynasty** of Nawabs and established himself as ruler.
- During the Maratha invasions of Bengal, he is well remembered for his victory in the Battle of Burdwan against the Maratha Empire.
- Immediately following his conquest of power, **Alivardi** had his takeover legitimised by Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah and continued Murshid Quli Khan's policies.
- He also picked Faujdars from several states, including **Patna, Dacca, and Orissa**. Since 1742, the Maratha Empire has periodically attacked Bengal, devastating its lands.
- Alivardi had a lengthy trench, known as the Maratha ditch, constructed around Calcutta almost immediately.
- Alivardi was a skilled artillery strategist, but his soldiers were overrun by a strong force of **Marathas from Berar led by Raghoji I Bhonsle**, who had come to ravage and destroy the provinces of Bengal.
- In 1750, Alivardi faced a mutiny from his daughter's son, **Siraj ud-Daulah**, who captured Patna but shortly submitted and was pardoned.
- **Alivardi** also put down a mutiny by a few militant Afghans who were attempting to break Bihar away from his dominion.

6.7 Siraj Ud Daula

- During this time, the **British East India Company** was expanding its power in the **Indian subcontinent**, notably in Bengal; Siraj quickly began to detest the **East India Company's politico-military** presence in Bengal.
- He was particularly enraged by the Company's apparent involvement in, and sponsorship of, a coup plot against him by some members of his own court.
- His allegations against the firm were essentially threefold.
- The British success in the **Carnatic wars** has made Siraj-Ud-Daula fearful about the British increasing influence in India.
- The Company's officials abused their trading rights in a way that harmed the nawab's finances.
- The British strengthened **Fort Williams** without Nawab's approval, infuriating him even more.
- When the **East India Company** began bolstering military power at **Fort William in Calcutta**, **Siraj ud-Daulah** ordered a halt. Because the Company disobeyed his orders, Siraj responded by seizing Calcutta (for a short time renamed Alinagar) from the British in June 1756.
- He marched to **Fort Williams**, grabbed 146 Britishers, and imprisoned them in a cramped chamber, resulting in the deaths of 123 Britishers.
- This is known as the "**Black Hole Tragedy of Calcutta.**"
- Siraj ud-Daulah was betrayed by Mir Jafar, the leader of the Nawab's army, and lost the **Battle of Plassey on June 23, 1757.**

6.8 Mir Jafar

- **Syed Mir Jafar Ali Khan Bahadur** (1691–5 February 1765) was a military officer who served as the British East India Company's first dependent Nawab of Bengal.
- Many historians believe his reign to represent the beginning of the spread of British sovereignty of the Indian subcontinent in Indian history, as well as a critical milestone in the ultimate British dominance of huge regions of modern-day India.
- Jafar initially swore allegiance to Alivardi Khan's successor, **Siraj Ud Daulah**, but deserted him at the **Battle of Plassey.**
- After **Siraj Ud Daulah's** defeat and subsequent execution, Jafar realised his long-held aim of seizing the throne, and was propped up as a puppet Nawab by the East India Company.
- After taking control of **Bihar, Odisha**, and portions of Bengal in 1760, Mughal **Crown Prince Ali Gauhar** and his Mughal Army of 30,000 planned to depose **Jafar, Imad-ul-Mulk**, whom they had attempted to capture or murder by pushing into Awadh and Patna in 1759.
- However, the battle quickly engulfed the more forceful East India Company.
- **Prince Ali Gauhar** led the Mughals, who were assisted by **Muhammad Quli Khan, Hidayat Ali, Mir Afzal, and Ghulam Husain Tabatabai.**
- Their soldiers were reinforced by Shuja-ud-Daula and Najib-ud-men.
- During the Seven Years' War, the Mughals were joined by Jean Law and 200 Frenchmen and fought a campaign against the British.

6.9 Mir Qasim

- From 1760 until 1763, Mir Qasim was the Nawab of Bengal.
- He was established as **Nawab with the backing of the British East India Company**, replacing **Mir Jafar**, his father-in-law, who had previously been backed by the **East India Company** for his involvement in the British victory at the Battle of Plassey.
- **Mir Jafar**, however, eventually fell out with the **East India Company** and sought to forge an alliance with the **Dutch East India Company** instead.
- The British finally overcame the Dutch at Chinsurah and deposed Mir Jafar, who was replaced by **Mir Qasim**.
- Qasim later clashed with the British and battled them in Buxar.
- His defeat has been seen as a major factor for the British gaining control of wide swaths of **North and East India**.
- **Mir Qasim**, like **Siraj-ud-Daulah** before him, was an effective and popular ruler.
- Their **triumph at Buxar** established the East India Company as a formidable force in the Bengal province in a far more tangible way than their victories at Plassey seven years earlier and Bedara five years earlier.
- By 1793, the **East India Company** had abolished the Nizamat (Mughal suzerainty) and taken entire control of the old Mughal region.

6.10 British Colonisation

- By the late 18th century, the **British East India Company** had established itself as the region's dominant military force, defeating the French-allied **Siraj-ud-Daulah** in the **Battle of Plassey in 1757**, which was primarily caused by the defection of the Nawab's previously trusted commander Mir Jafar.
- The corporation took administrative control of the Nawab's domains, which included **Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa**.
- Following the **Battle of Buxar in 1765**, it was granted the authority to collect taxes on behalf of the Mughal Court.
- In 1793, Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa were incorporated into the Bengal Presidency and annexed into the British colonial empire.
- When the British Raj superseded Company control in India, the Indian revolt of 1857 legally abolished the authority of the Mughal court.

6.11 Conclusion

Due to its people's high living conditions and genuine wages, Bengal Subah has been dubbed the "Paradise of Nations" and the "Golden Age of Bengal." It accounted for 40% of all Asian imports into the Netherlands. The eastern section of Bengal was a significant exporter of silk and cotton textiles, steel, saltpetre, and agricultural and industrial goods, and it was a global leader in sectors like textile production and shipbuilding. The Anglo-Mughal War was also fought in this region.

7. Awadh - Rise of Autonomous States during Mughal Empire

Awadh, sometimes known as **Avadh or Oudh** in British history books, is a territory and proposed state in the present Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, which was previously known as the **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh before independence**. It was founded as one of the twelve original Subhas under **Mughal emperor Akbar** in the 16th century, and it became a hereditary tributary polity around 1722, with Faizabad as its initial capital and **Saadat Ali Khan** as its first Subadar Nawab and progenitor of the Nawabs of Awadh dynasty. This article will explain to you about **Awadh - Rise of Autonomous States during Mughal Empire** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

7.1 Awadh

- **Awadh**, also known as **Avadh or Oudh** in **British historical texts**, is a region and proposed state in the modern Indian state of **Uttar Pradesh**, which was previously known as the **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh** before independence.
- Awadh is bordered on the southwest by the **Ganges Doab**, on the northwest by **Rohilkhand**, on the north by Nepal, and the east by **Bhojpur-Purvanchal**.
- The people who live there are **known as Awadhis**.
- The emergence of Awadh as a self-governing state in the eighteenth century was not an isolated event.
- The **Mughal imperial system** included Awadh as a key component.
- The **Mughal emperors** directly recruited higher officials such as the Nazim and the Diwan in both provinces.
- The **rise of Awadh** as a regional political system in the eighteenth century was aided by both economic and geographical factors.

7.2 Rise of Autonomous State - Awadh

- **Saadat Khan**, also known as **Burhan-ul-Mulk**, was the founder of the autonomous principality of Awadh. **Saadat Khan** belonged to the **Shia sect**.
- He was awarded an additional mansab as a result of his involvement in a plot against the **Sayyid brothers**.
- After being thrown out of court, he felt compelled to form a new sovereign state. Due to pressure from Nadir Shah, who demanded a large bounty from him, Saadat Khan committed himself.
- As **Nawab of Awadh**, he was replaced by **Safdar Jang**.
- The combined forces of the Nawab of Bengal, **Shuja-ud-daula**, and the **Mughal emperor's failure** to defeat the English forces at Buxar severely weakened the Nawab of Awadh's authority and prestige.
- The **Treaty of Allahabad** brought Awadh into the British dragnet. **Shuja-ud-daula** was allowed to keep Awadh proper under this treaty, but Kora and Allahabad were given to the Mughal emperor.
- The vulnerability of the Nawabi was brought into sharp focus in and after 1775.

- Ironically, it was during these years that the emergence of a **provincial cultural identity** centered around the new court and capital at Lucknow (the capital had been shifted from Fyzabad) became more visible than before.
- Despite the hostility of some of Shja's courtiers and the opposition faction of his brother Saadat Ali, the governor of Rohil Khand, Asaf-ud-succession daula's to the throne in 1775 went off without a hitch.
- **Lord Wellesley**, who arrived in 1798 but rejected the Awadh system, started a more forward policy.
- Wellesley used the Nawab's declaration of inability to pay the company's increased financial demands as a pretext to consider annexation.

7.3 Saadat Khan

- **Saadat Ali Khan** (1680–19 March 1739) was the son of Muhammad Nasir and the **Subahdar Nawab of Awadh** (Oudh) from 26 January 1722 until 1739.
- At the age of 25, he accompanied his father on the **Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's** final expedition against the Maratha in the Deccan, for which the emperor bestowed the title of Khan Bahadur.
- Burhan-ul-Mulk In 1722, Sa'adat Khan was named subadar of Awadh, and he established one of the most important states to emerge from the Mughal Empire's disintegration.
- The lush alluvial **Ganga plain** and the primary commerce route between north India and Bengal made Awadh an affluent province.
- **Burhan-ul-Mulk** was also in charge of the subadari, Diwani, and faujdari offices.
- In other words, he was in charge of the province of Awadh's political, financial, and military affairs.
- **Burhan-ul-Mulk** attempted to reduce **Mughal power** in the Awadh area by limiting the number of Mughal office holders (jagirdars).
- He also lowered the size of **jagirs** and filled empty jobs with his devoted slaves.
- In 1739, a Persian monarch named **Nader Shah** attacked India.
- **Saadat Ali Khan** led a force of 3000 cavalries from Awadh to assist **Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah**. At Karnal, he joined Muhammad Shah's army.
- The Persian army battled with Khan's men. **Muhammad Shah** granted Saadat Ali Khan permission to engage the enemy.
- However, the conflict ended in a peace treaty, and Nader Shah was forced to pay **Muhammad Shah** a payment of rupees fifty lakhs.

7.4 Safdar Jung

- During the decline of the **Mughal empire**, Safdar Jung was a key player at the Mughal court.
- When he succeeded **Saadat Ali Khan I** (his maternal uncle and father-in-law) in 1739, he became the second **Nawab Vazier of Awadh**.
- All successive Nawabs of Oudh descended from Safdar Jung's male line.
- **Safdar Jang** proved to be a capable administrator.
- He was not only successful in maintaining control of Oudh, but he also managed to provide crucial support to the **Emperor Muhammad Shah**, who was debilitated.

- He was soon appointed governor of Kashmir as well, and he rose to prominence in the Delhi court.
- During **Muhammad Shah's** final years, he obtained entire control of the Mughal Empire's government.
- **Safdar Jung** became **Ahmad Shah Bahadur's Wazir-ul-Mumalik-i-Hindustan**, or Prime Minister of Hindustan after he ascended the throne in Delhi in 1748.
- He was also appointed governor of Ajmer and "**Faujdar**" of Narnaul.

7.5 Conclusion

The ancient Hindu kingdom of Kosala, with Ayodhya as its capital, is responsible for Awadh's political unity. Modern Awadh is only mentioned in history during the Mughal era of Akbar, in the late 16th century. The boundaries of the subah (imperial top-level province) and its internal divisions appear to have changed often from prehistory until Akbar's reign, and the term Oudh, or Awadh, appears to have been used to just one of the ancient divisions or Sarkars, roughly equivalent to old Pachhimrath. It appears to have been around the same size as the Province of Oudh at the time of British India's annexation in 1858.

8. Hyderabad - Rise of Autonomous States during Mughal Empire

In 1591 CE, the Qutb Shahi ruler Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah created the city of Hyderabad. The Hyderabad Kingdom, also known as Hyderabad Deccan, was an autonomous state in India's south-central Deccan region. Kilich Khan, also known as **Nizam-ul-Mulk**, was the founder of Hyderabad's **Asaf-Jah dynasty**. **Zulfikar Khan** was the first to propose the notion of establishing an independent kingdom in the Deccan. This article will explain to you about **Hyderabad - Rise of Autonomous States during Mughal Empire** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

8.1 The Mughal conquest of Hyderabad

- By the **mid-seventeenth century**, politics in the **Deccan** were poised for another seismic transformation.
- **Aurangzeb, the Mughal ruler**, spent most of his time in the **Deccan battling local Hindu and Muslim kingdoms** to establish and impose Mughal supremacy.
- Following **Shah Jahan's death** in 1666, Aurangzeb solidified his position in Delhi as Emperor and returned to the south.
- He spent most of his imperial rule in **military camps in the Deccan**, waging a nearly desperate battle to extend the empire beyond its greatest extent under Akbar.
- In his view, the most **valuable prize** was the **wealthy city of Hyderabad**, which was guarded by the reputedly invincible fortress of Golconda.
- In 1686, **Aurangzeb laid siege to Golconda** alongside his commanders **Khwaja Abid Siddiqi** (Qulich Khan) and the latter's son Ghazi-ud-Din Feroze Jung.
- **Aurangzeb was forced** to retreat in disgust after **Golconda** resisted for months. Aurangzeb returned in 1687 and laid siege to Fateh Maidan for 9 months.
- **Khwaja Abid Siddiqi** was killed in the conflict and buried in Kismatpur, near Attapur, Hyderabad.
- According to local folklore, the castle held out until the gates were opened at night by a **saboteur bribed by Aurangzeb, Abdullah Khan Pani**. Hyderabad's independence was overshadowed.

8.2 Rise of Autonomous State - Hyderabad

- The **decline of Mughal authority** and the development of the **Asaf Jahi dynasty** are closely intertwined.
- The **Asaf Jahis** came to Hyderabad and made it their own, just like the Mughals did with Delhi, refusing to be happy with being mere subedars of a greater country.
- The **Nizams ruled over the Deccan** as a consequence of a series of political changes.
- Following **Qalich Khan's death** in 1687, Aurangzeb's attention was drawn to his grandson Qamaruddin, who showed remarkable prowess as a fighter.

- At the age of 19, Aurangzeb bestowed upon him the title **Chin Qalich Khan** (Boy Swordsman).
- **Farukh Siyar**, the grandson of Aurangzeb, bestowed the higher **title of Nizam-ul-Mulk Fateh Jung** on Qamaruddin in 1713 and named him subedar of six provinces and **Faujdar of Karnataka**.
- Qamaruddin has shown to be a good administrator. However, the **Sayyid brothers**, two formidable generals, plotted to depose him as ruler of the Deccan.
- During the reign of **Muhammad Shah** (Mughal Ruler), the Sayyids deposed **Qamaruddin** as Faujdar of Muradabad and sent him to Malwa.
- The Sayyids, alarmed by his success, asked him to quit and relocate to another region.
- When the Sayyids perished, the new emperor, **Muhammad Shah**, promoted him to the prestigious **position of Vazir**.
- He later simplified Deccan's administrative apparatus and budget. Muhammed Shah eventually realized that fighting was futile and bestowed upon Qamaruddin the title of **Asaf Jah, or equal to Asaf**, who was the **Grand Vizier** or Prime Minister in King Solomon's court.
- **Asaf Jah** was the highest title that could be bestowed upon a Mughal Empire subject.
- Although **Qamaruddin became** an independent monarch for all practical reasons after that, he never formally declared independence from Delhi.
- As a result, the **Asaf Jahi dynasty**, which governed Hyderabad until 1948, was born.

8.3 Nizam-ul-Mulk (1724-48)

- Qilich Qamaruddin Khan, also known as Nizam-ul-Mulk, Asaf Jah, and Nizam I, was the first Nizam of Hyderabad.
- He was a loyal nobleman and **General of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb**.
- Following Aurangzeb's death in 1707, the Mughal princes engaged in an accession war, during which **Asaf Jah** maintained a neutral posture, supporting none of **Aurangzeb's sons**.
- When **Bahadur Shah I** was victorious, Asaf Jah was assigned the governorship of Subah-(provinces), which changed until 1714 AD, when **Emperor Farrukhsiyar** assigned him the **Mughal Viceroy** of the Deccan administrator of six Mughal governorates in South India
- From 1719 to 1722 AD, he was engaged in establishing his authority over different Mughal governorates and resolving the ruckus created by the **Sayyid brothers**.
- Nizam-ul- Mulk's most notable achievement was the establishment of the princely state of Hyderabad.
- As **Viceroy of the Deccan**, the Nizam was in charge of the administrative and judicial departments, as well as the source of all civil and military power in the Deccan for the **Mughal empire**.
- All officials were appointed directly by him or in his name.
- He made his laws, created his army, flew his own flag, and established his own government.
- The **Nizam died in 1748**, at the age of 76, after a reign of 24 years. His cemetery is located at the mazaar of Shaikh Burhan-ud-din Gharib Chisti in Khuldabad, near **Aurangabad**.

- Once again, with the Nizam's death, the Deccan became the center of a power struggle between the British, French, Marathas, and the Nizam's own sons and grandchildren.
- **Nasir Jung, Muzaffar Jung, and Salabat Jung** all held the Subhedari of the Deccan for more than 14 years at a time.
- The **Mughal emperor** recognized them as **Subhedars**, but for unclear reasons, they were never awarded the titles of **Asaf Jah**, and therefore they are not referred to as Nizams.

8.4 Nizams of Hyderabad

- From the 18th through the 20th centuries, the Nizams ruled Hyderabad.
- The Nizam of Hyderabad (Nizam ul-Mulk, sometimes known as Asaf Jah) was the name of the state's king. Asaf Jah I inherited the title Nizam, which was abbreviated from **Nizam-ul-Mulk**, which meant Administrator of the Realm.
- In 1724, he was the viceroy of the Great Mughal in the Deccan, the most powerful courtier in **Mughal India**, and the founder of the "**Nizam of Hyderabad.**"
- **Mir Qamar-ud-Din Siddiqi (Asaf Jah I)**, a viceroy of the Deccan under the Mughal Empire from 1713 until 1721, created the Asaf Jahi dynasty.
- After Emperor Aurangzeb's death in 1707, he ruled the territory on an ad hoc basis. Asaf Jah became essentially independent of the **Mughal Empire in 1724.**
- And Hyderabad became a vassal of the **Maratha Empire**, losing a series of conflicts throughout the 18th century.
- The **Nizams** were allowed to rule their princely states as client kings after the **East India Company** gained supremacy over the Indian subcontinent.
- The Nizams held internal control in Hyderabad until September 17, 1948, when the state was admitted to the nascent Indian Union.
- Hyderabad prospered under the Nizams' control, due to the Golconda mines, which were the "sole supply of diamonds in the international market at the time," making the 7th Nizam the world's richest man.

8.5 Hyderabad - Post Independence

- The Hyderabad "**police operation**" in September 1948 was code-named **Operation Polo** by the then-independent Dominion of India against Hyderabad State.
- It was a **military operation** in which the **Indian Armed Forces** attacked the princely state governed by Nizam and incorporated it into the Indian Union.
- The **princely states of India**, while in theory enjoyed self-government inside their own borders, were subject to subsidiary alliances with the British at the time of **Partition in 1947**, granting them authority over their exterior ties.
- The British abandoned all such partnerships with the **Indian Independence Act of 1947**, leaving the states with the choice of complete independence.
- **Hyderabad signed** a standstill agreement with the Dominion of India in November 1947, which kept all existing agreements in place except for the stationing of Indian soldiers in the state.

8.6 Conclusion

Hyderabad saw tremendous cultural and economic expansion from 1724 to 1948. The Nizams were well-known patrons of literature, art, architecture, and cuisine, and were among the world's wealthiest people. In fact, Asaf Jah VII was ranked as the world's fifth wealthiest person in history. After India gained independence in August 1947, the Nizam chose not to join the Indian Union. His reign came to an end in September 1948, when the Indian Army, led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, then Minister of Home Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of India launched Operation Polo.

9. Carnatic - Rise of Autonomous States during Mughal Empire

The historic **Carnatic province**, in which **Madras (Chennai)** was located, stretched from the **Krishna to the Kaveri river**. The '**Mughal Carnatic**' was in the north, while the '**Maratha Carnatic**' was in the south, with the Maratha fortifications of Gingee and Ranjankudi. Their reign was a turning point in the history of the Carnatic and Coromandel Coast areas, as the Mughal Empire gave way to the Maratha Empire's increasing power and, eventually, the British Raj. This article will explain to you about **Carnatic - Rise of Autonomous States during the Mughal Empire** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

9.1 Carnatic Under Mughals

- The Carnatic was one of the Mughal Deccan's subah (provinces), and as such, it was ruled by the **Nizam of Hyderabad**.
- However, just as the Nizam had been independent of Delhi in actuality, the **Deputy Governor of the Carnatic**, known as the **Nawab of Carnatic**, had liberated himself from the Viceroy of the Deccan's jurisdiction and **made his position hereditary**.
- Thus, without the agreement of his superior, the Nizam, **Nawab Saadutullah Khan** of Carnatic appointed his nephew **Dost Ali** as his successor.
- The forces of Aurangzeb reduced the northernmost portion of the Carnatic area towards the end of the 17th century, and **Zulfikar Ali**, Nawab of the Carnatic, was appointed with his seat at Arcot in **1692**.
- Meanwhile, the Marathas' strength was growing; in 1677, **Shivaji** subdued the final remains of the Vijayanagar authority in Vellore, Gingee, and Kurnool, while his brother **Venkoji**, who overthrew the Nayaks of Thanjavur in 1674, founded a dynasty that lasted for a century in that city.
- The fall of Delhi's supremacy following Aurangzeb's death resulted in more changes.

9.2 Rise of Autonomous State - Carnatic

- The Carnatic's Nawabs were the Rowthers. As a reward for his victory over the Marathas headed by Rajaram, Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb installed Zulfikhar Ali Khan as the first Nawab of the Carnatic with his seat at Arcot in 1692.
- When the Vijayanagara Empire fell apart in 1646, the **Hindu viceroys Nayaks**, who had established themselves in Madurai, Tanjore, and Kanchi, were independent, only to become tributaries to the rulers of **Golconda and Bijapur**, who split the Carnatic between them.
- South of the Krishna River, the Carnatic Sultanate ruled over a huge area.
- From **Gingee to Arcot**, the **Nawab Saadatullah Khan I (1710–1722)** relocated his court.
- In 1736, **Dost Ali (1732–1740)**, his successor, invaded and seized Madurai.
- After the Nizam of Hyderabad established his power in South-Central India, the Nawab Saadet-Allah of Arcot declared independence
- The Maratha army descended on Arcot in 1740. In the **Damalcherry Pass**, they assaulted the Nawab, Dost Ali Khan.

- Dost Ali, one of his sons, Hasan Ali, and a number of significant figures perished in the ensuing conflict.
- This early accomplishment immediately raised the Maratha's status in the south.
- The Marathas marched from Damalcherry to Arcot, which surrendered without much fight.
- **Chanda Sahib** and his son were taken into custody and sent to Nagpur.
- In 1765, **Muhammad Ali Khan Wallajah (1749–1795)** took over as king.
- The French and English, who were fighting for dominance in the Carnatic at the time, took opposing sides in this conflict.
- Muhammed Ali ruled northern Carnatic until his death in 1795, thanks to the British triumph.
- However, the region has been exposed to additional problems in the meanwhile.

9.3 Annexation of Carnatic

- The Carnatic was greatly influenced by the expanding influence of the English and French, as well as their colonial conflicts.
- **Wallajah was significantly in debt** as a result of his backing for the English against the French and Hyder Ali.
- As a result, he was forced to hand over a large portion of his domain to the **East India Company**.
- **Paul Benfield**, an English businessman, gave one of his largest loans to the Nawab in order to enable him to attack and conquer the Maratha state of Tanjore with the help of the English.
- **Ghulam Muhammad Ghouse Khan (1825–1855)**, the thirteenth Nawab, died without issue, and the British acquired the Carnatic Nawabdom on the theory of lapse.
- Queen Victoria made **Azim Jah the first Prince of Arcot (Amir-e-Arcot) in 1867**, and he was awarded an indefinite tax-free pension.

9.4 Carnatic Sultanate

- The Carnatic Sultanate was a South Indian state that existed between around 1690 and 1855 and was ruled by the Nizam of Hyderabad until its extinction.
- Their first capital was in Arcot, which is now part of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
- Europeans coined the term "carnatic" to describe southern India between the Eastern Ghats and the Coromandel coast of Madras presidency, which is now Tamil Nadu state.
- The reign of Arcot may be split into two phases: **Nawayat (1710–1744) and Wallajah (1744- 1855)**.
- **Zulfikhar Ali Khan** was the son of **Nawab Azad Khan**, the Mughal Empire's wazir, and his forebears also served the Mughal Empire.
 - Aurangzeb, the Mughal Emperor, dispatched Commissioner-in-Chief Zulfikhar Ali Khan and his son Kam Baksh to combat the Marathas.
 - Zulfikhar was awarded the Nawabship of Carnatic as a prize for defeating the Marathas. With the East India Company, he enjoyed a cordial connection.
- **Safdar Ali Khan**, the son of Ali Dost Khan, was known as the Nawab of Carnatic.

- He escaped to Vellore when he was assassinated. Because the region was in anarchy, he evacuated his family to Madras, where they were protected by the British.
- Murtuza Ali, his brother-in-law, took advantage of the chaos and assassinated Safdar Ali.

9.5 Conclusion

The Carnatic was a subah of the Mughal Deccan and thus came under the control of the Nizam of Hyderabad. Nawab Saadutullah Khan of Carnatic appointed his nephew Dost Ali as his successor without consulting his superior, the Nizam. Later, after 1740, the Carnatic's affairs deteriorated due to repeated struggles for its nawabship, providing an opportunity for European trading companies to directly intervene in Indian politics. Eventually, the Mughal Empire gave way to the growing dominance of the Maratha Empire and, finally, the British Raj.
