

## ***Battle of Plassey (1757)***

### ***Basic Facts***

- **Year:** 23 June 1757
- **Place:** Plassey (Palashi), Bengal (on the banks of the River Bhagirathi)
- **Between:**
  - British East India Company → **Robert Clive**
  - Nawab of Bengal → **Siraj-ud-Daulah**
- **Result:** Decisive victory of the British East India Company

### ***Bengal on the Eve of Plassey***

- Bengal was the **richest province** of Mughal India.
- Major trade hub → nearly **60% of British imports from Asia** came from Bengal.
- Prosperous cities: **Murshidabad, Calcutta, Dacca**
- Stable rule under **Murshid Quli Khan, Shujauddin, Alivardi Khan**
- English resentment due to:
  - **Misuse of trade privileges**
  - **Loss of revenue to the Nawab's treasury**

### ***Causes of the Battle of Plassey***

#### ***1. Economic Causes***

- **Misuse of dastaks (duty-free trade permits)** by Company officials
- **Massive loss to Bengal's exchequer**

#### ***2. Political Causes***

- **Fortification of Fort William (Calcutta)** without the Nawab's permission
- **Granting asylum to Krishna Das, a political fugitive**

#### ***3. French Factor***

- **The British feared Siraj-ud-Daulah's possible alliance with the French**

#### ***4. Internal Conspiracy***

- **Discontented nobles: Mir Jafar, Jagat Seth, Rai Durlabh, Omichand**
- **Secret pact between Robert Clive and Mir Jafar**

#### ***5. Immediate Cause***

- **Capture of Calcutta** by Siraj-ud-Daulah
- **Black Hole of Calcutta (1756) episode** (controversial but cited)

## ***Course of the Battle***

- *Robert Clive arrived from Madras with reinforcements*
- *Secret agreement:*
  - *Mir Jafar to be Nawab*
  - *The company is to receive rewards*
- *Siraj's army (~50,000) did not fight effectively due to betrayal*
- *Siraj-ud-Daulah was defeated, captured, and killed*
- *Battle outcome decided before actual fighting*

## ***Outcome of the Battle***

- *Mir Jafar was installed as Nawab*
- *The British gained access to Bengal's enormous wealth*
- *The company began monopolising the Bengal trade*
- *British interference in the administration increased*

## ***Treaty of 1760 (with Mir Kasim)***

- *Cession of Burdwan, Midnapur, and Chittagong*
- *Payment of the company's dues*
- *Financial contribution to the company wars*
- *Mutual recognition of allies and enemies*
- *Led to the replacement of Mir Jafar by Mir Kasim*

## ***Significance of the Battle of Plassey***

### ***Political***

- *Beginning of British political control in India*
- *Nawabs reduced to puppets*
- *The company interfered in appointments and governance*

### ***Economic***

- *Drain of wealth from Bengal to Britain*
- *The company's monopoly over the Bengal trade*

### ***Military***

- *Showed the power of conspiracy over numbers*
- *Established Company as a military power*

### ***Historical***

- *Foundation of British colonial rule in India*
- *Process completed later by the Battle of Buxar (1764)*

## ***Impact of the Battle of Plassey***

- Shift from **commercial power to territorial power**
- Decline of indigenous rulers
- Bengal became the base for British expansion in India
- Set precedent for:
  - Subsidiary alliances
  - Political manipulation

### **MCQs**

1. The Battle of Plassey (1757) was fought between:

- A. British East India Company and French East India Company
- B. British East India Company and Siraj-ud-Daulah
- C. British Crown and Mughal Emperor
- D. Marathas and Nawab of Bengal

**Correct Answer: B**

2. Which of the following played a key role in the British victory at the Battle of Plassey?

- A. Superior British artillery
- B. Support from Marathas
- C. Secret alliance with Mir Jafar
- D. Naval blockade of Bengal

**Correct Answer: C**