

- Diversion of Portuguese colonising ambitions towards the West due to the discovery of Brazil.

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PORTUGUESE:

- Portuguese not only initiated what might be called the **European era**, it marked the **emergence of naval power**.
- **Introduction of cannon** on ship
- The Portuguese were masters of improved techniques at sea. Their multi-decked ships were heavily constructed.
- Missionaries and the Church were also teachers and patrons in India of the arts of the painter, carver, and sculptor.
- The **Portuguese skill at organisation**—as in the creation of royal arsenals and dockyards and the maintenance of a regular system of pilots and mapping and pitting state forces against private merchant shipping—was even more noteworthy.
- **Introduced** European art of warfare
- The art of the **silversmith** and **goldsmith** flourished at Goa.

**Note:** Portuguese were first to come in India and last one to leave India.

#### Why a Sea Route to India?

- Spirit of renaissance in the 15th-century Europe.
- European economy growing rapidly, leading to prosperity and demand for luxury goods; increase in the supply of meat requiring spices for preservation.
- Capture of Constantinople in 1453, and Syria and Egypt later by the Ottoman Turks calling for a new route to reach India without dealing with Arabs and Turks.
- Venice and Genoa too small to stand up to the Turks.
- Spain and Portugal aided with money and men by the North Europeans and by ships and technical knowledge by the Genoese.
- The Portuguese the pioneers followed by the Dutch, English, Danes and the French respectively to reach India.

#### DUTCH (NETHERLANDS)

- Cornelis de Houtman was the first Dutchman to reach Sumatra and Bantam in 1596.
- **United East India Company of the Netherlands**, formed in March 1605 by the Charter of Dutch Parliament, had the powers to wage wars, make treaty and build forts.
- Founded their **first factory in Masaulipatam** in Andhra in 1605.
- Subsequently they won over Portuguese & emerged as most dominant European trade power.
- **Pulicat was their main center** in India, later replaced by **Nagapattinam**.
- Dutch carried **indigo** manufactured in the Yamuna valley and Central India, **textiles and silk** from Bengal, Gujarat and the Coromandel, **saltpetre** from Bihar and **opium** and **rice** from the Ganga valley.
- In 1623, a **treaty between British and Dutch** → Dutch withdrew their claim from India and British from Indonesia
- 1650 (17th century), English began to emerge as big colonial power in India.
- Anglo Dutch rivalry lasted for 70 years, during which Dutch lost their settlements to British one by one.
- The Dutch were **not much interested in empire building in India**; their concerns were trade. In any case, their main commercial interest lay in the **Spice Islands of Indonesia** from where they earned a huge profit through business.
- **Decline in India**- The defeat of the Dutch in the **Anglo-Dutch rivalry** and the shifting of Dutch attention towards the **Malay Archipelago**. In **Battle of Bedara (1759)**, the English defeated the Dutch.
- After prolonged warfare, both the parties compromised by which the British agreed to withdraw all their claims on Indonesia, and the Dutch retired from India.