

CLASS VIII
SOCIAL SCIENCE

Battles of Plassey & Buxar



TAGORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
VASANT VIHAR , NEW DELHI
(Affiliated to C.B.S.E)

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PREFACE

This graphic novel is based on two very important events that changed the course of modern Indian history-the Battle of Plassey(1757) and the Battle of Buxar(1764). Though the events occurred in the Bengal province, they had a far-reaching impact on the political system of entire India.

Since early 18th century the province of Bengal was being ruled over by independent hereditary Nawabs. In 1756 Siraj ud Daulah succeeded his grandfather as the Nawab of Bengal.

On the other hand, English East India Company which was granted Royal Charter to trade with India, slowly started interfering in the internal politics of native Indian rulers.

In June 1757 and October 1764 the forces of English East India Company and the Nawab of Bengal clashed with each other, leading to the Battle of Plassey(1757) and Battle of Buxar(1764).The British forces emerged victorious in these battles and established their rule over Bengal, one of the largest provinces of India.

STORY BOARD

Battle of Plassey

23 June 1757

**Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah of
Bengal and his French
allies**

**English East India
Company forces under
Robert Clive**

Battle of Buxar

22-23 October 1764

**Mir Qasim -Nawab of
Bengal, Shuja-ud-Daula-
Nawab of Awadh and Shah
Alam II- Mughal Emperor**

**English East India
Company forces under
Hector Munro**



Learning Outcomes

Readers will be able to -

- **identify the nature of Indian politics in the second half of 18th century.**
- **analyse the factors leading to establishment of foreign rule in India.**
- **summarize the reasons for the defeat of Indian rulers against the foreign trading companies.**
- **state the consequences of British rule in India.**

CHARACTERS



Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah

He succeeded his grandfather as the new Nawab of Bengal in April 1756 with his capital at Murshidabad. He fought against English East India company in the Battle of Plassey, June 1757, but due to betrayal of his military general Mir Jafar, he lost the war and escaped to his capital. However, soon he was captured and executed on 2nd July 1757 on the orders of Mir Jafar.

Robert Clive

A courageous and able military commander under English East India Company, he was sent from Madras to Calcutta to fight a battle against the Nawab of Bengal- the Battle of Plassey. With his clever plans, he became the king maker in Bengal and later the Governor of Bengal Presidency.



Mir Jafar

An able military general under Nawab of Bengal, Siraj ud Daulah. In 1757, after the Battle of Plassey, he became the Nawab of Bengal with the help of English East India Company. In October 1760, the company forced him to abdicate the throne in favour of his son-in law Mir Qasim, but was replaced in 1763 where he ruled until his death in 1765.

Mir Qasim

He was the son-in-law of Mir Jafar . With the support of East India Company, he became the Nawab of Bengal in 1760 and served till 1763. Then he ran into dispute with EIC over trade issues and was, thus, deposed. He joined hands with Nawab of Awadh and Mughal Emperor and fought Battle of Buxar in 1764 in which the trio were defeated by the company forces.



Major Hector Munro

He led the company's forces in the Battle of Buxar, 1764, and defeated the combined forces of Nawab of Bengal Mir Qasim, Mughal emperor Shah Alam II and Nawab of Awadh Shuja ud Daulah.



A minister in the court of Nawab of Bengal .



April 1756

Congratulations
Siraj-ud-Daulah!
You are the new
Nawab of Bengal.

Thank you so much.
But there is no time to
enjoy and relax. We
have to do something
against the East India
Company.



The East India Company is
misusing the trade privileges
given to them by us. We need
to stop this!



But how ??

Send a message to the
company head to be
present in my court
tomorrow.



Next Day

Sir, I have called you here for a
very important reason. You must
immediately stop extending your
fortifications at Calcutta and pay
the long due revenue.



but...but...
that's
absurd.

My decision is final. If you
want to trade through
Bengal, you will have to
obey my orders.



Nawab sahib, the company
officials are not following your
orders. They are extending their
fortifications.



What? Organize the army. We will march to Calcutta and teach them a lesson.



Next day the Nawab's forces raided Fort William and captured about 146 soldiers. They were locked in a very small room.

Next morning



Come out everyone, you have been called by our Nawab. Why are you not coming out?

They are all dead. We kept begging for water and air, but nobody heard our cries.



You will pay a heavy price for these lost lives. The company will not forgive you.

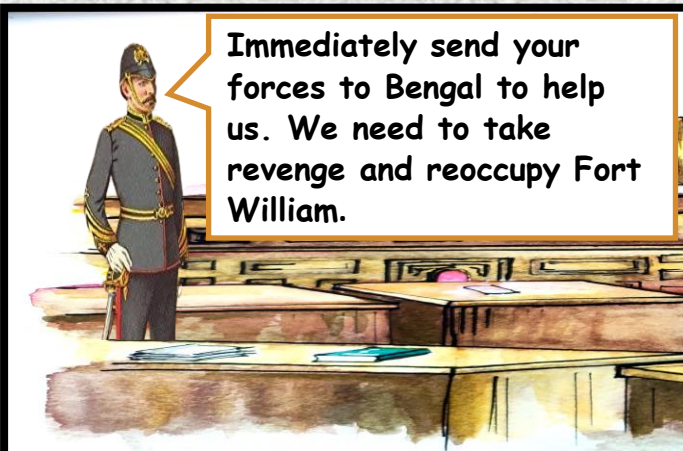


123 out of total 146 company forces locked in the room had died due to suffocation. This incident is famous in History as Black Hole Tragedy .

The news of Black hole tragedy reached Company headquarters in Calcutta.

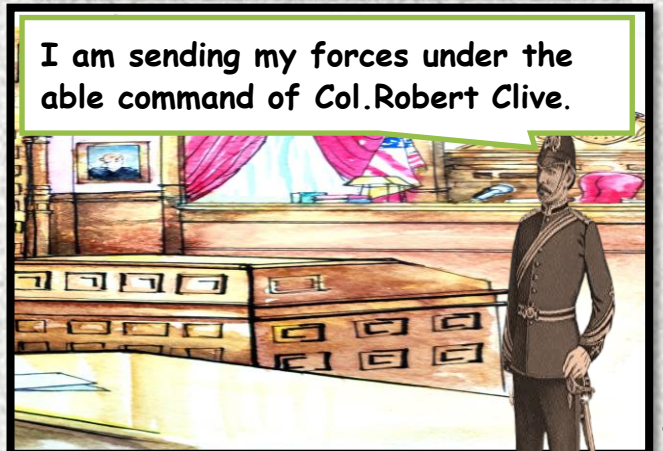
Company Office at Calcutta

Immediately send your forces to Bengal to help us. We need to take revenge and reoccupy Fort William.



Company Office at Madras

I am sending my forces under the able command of Col. Robert Clive.



Clive sails from Madras to Calcutta with his forces

To defeat Siraj ud Daulah's forces will not be an easy task. I need to make some clever plans.

The Nawab has mighty force. We can win only if we divide their forces. Let me do something.



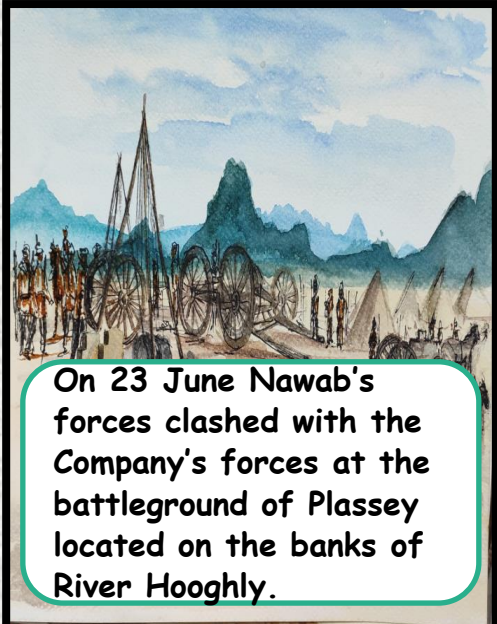
Next day Clive meets Nawab's commander-in-chief Mir Jafar.



A great Commander-in-chief like you deserves much more in life. You can be the next Nawab of Bengal.

But how is that possible ?

I can make it possible if you side with us during our Battle with Nawab Siraj



On 23 June Nawab's forces clashed with the Company's forces at the battleground of Plassey located on the banks of River Hooghly.

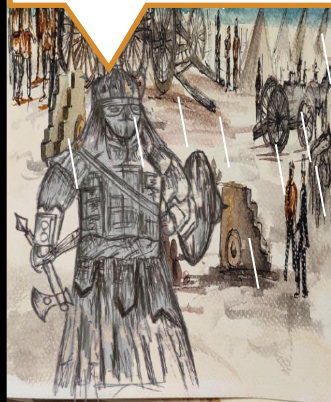
We have an army of 50,000 soldiers and Clive has come with 3000 soldiers only. How long will he survive?

Commanders, take your positions. We will finish them in no time.



Nawab's side

Oh! its raining hard How do we protect our arms and ammunition?



Company's side

Cover the guns and ammunition and keep firing.



Mir Jafar, the rain has stopped, march with your forces.

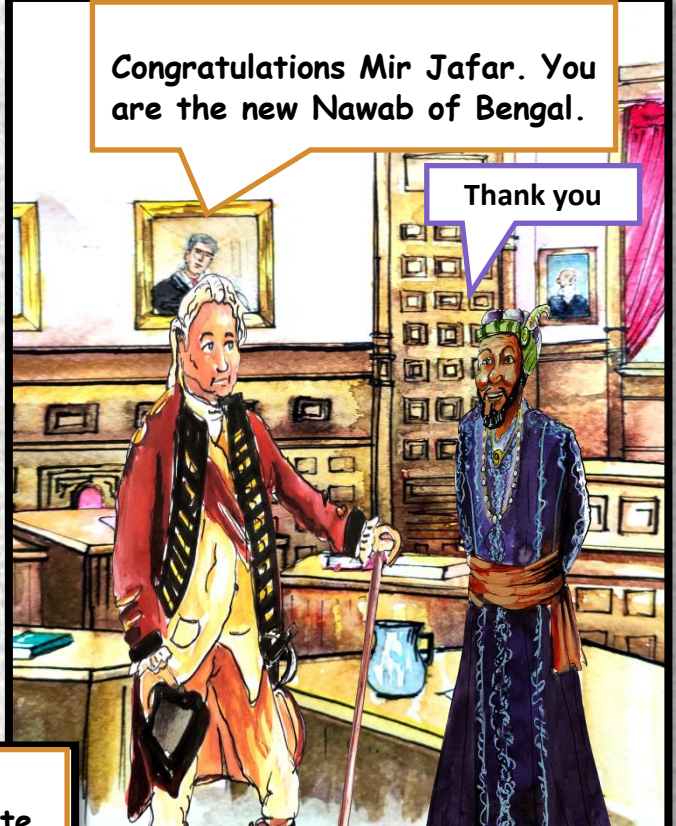
Forgive me your Majesty ! I am on Clive's side now.



In 11 hours the Battle ends with the victory of Company's forces. Siraj escapes and returns to his capital Murshidabad.

Congratulations Mir Jafar. You are the new Nawab of Bengal.

Thank you



Greetings your Majesty! We fulfilled our promise. Now its time for you to compensate us. You have to pay Rs. 2,20,00,000 to the Company for their losses in the battle and I also want something special for me.



Two years later.....

The Company's demands are forever increasing. I need to do something about it. Maybe Dutch East India Company can help.



Mir Jafar meets Dutch Officer

Good morning officer. If you help me come out of the clutches of English EIC, I will grant special trading rights to your company in Bengal.

Why not? Let's join hands against the British.



Dutch forces clashed with the forces of English EIC and are defeated at the Battle of Chinsurah on 25th November 1759.

Clive approaches Mir Jafar's son-in-law Mir Qasim

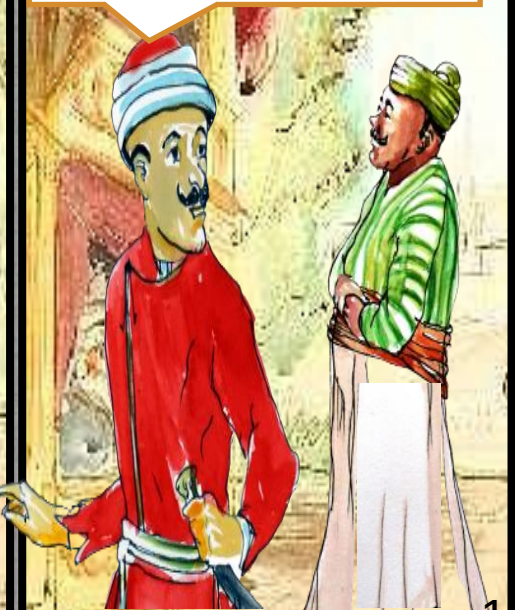
Mir Jafar is of no use now. He is not able to meet our demands anymore.

If you depose my father-in-law and make me the new nawab, I will ensure all your demands are met.



Mir Qasim is made the new Nawab of Bengal by the Company.

I can meet Company's monetary demands only if I levy import and export tariffs on their goods.



But company will not approve of it.

They do not have a choice. If they refuse to pay, I will cancel their trading rights.

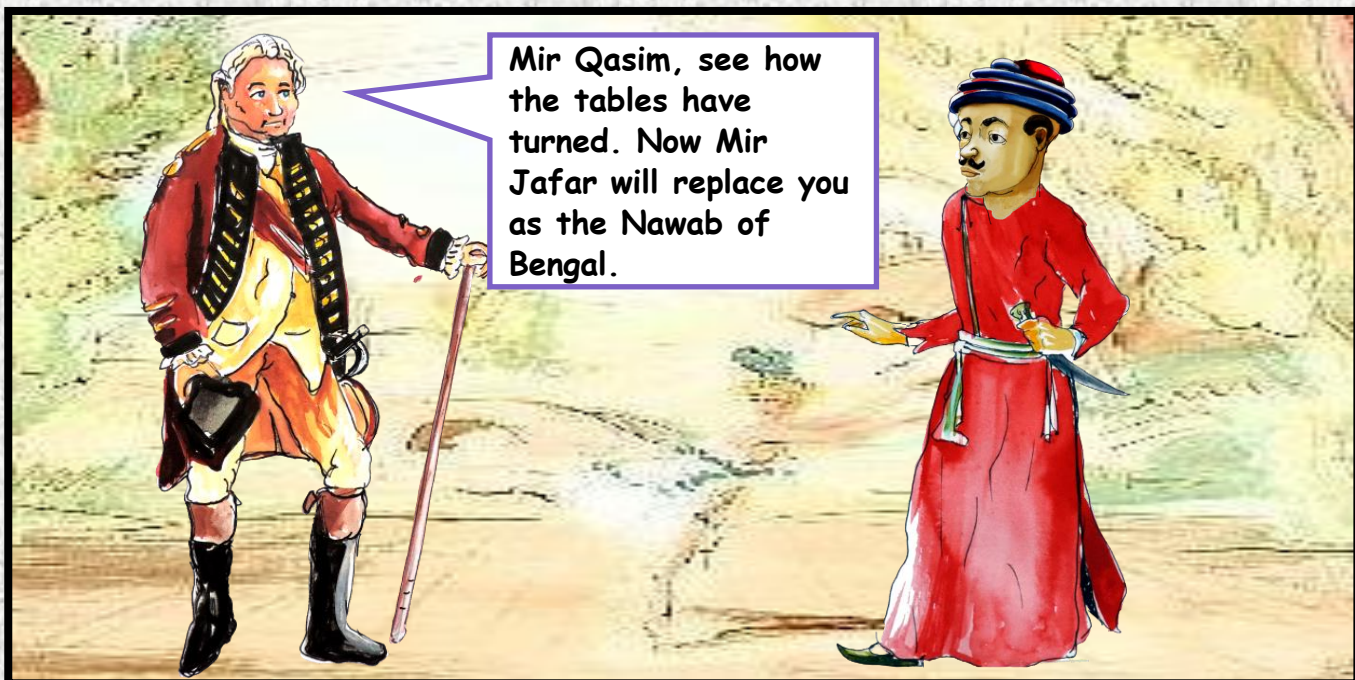


I cannot rule under EIC forever. Let's shift the capital to Munger (Bihar) where I raise my army and streamline tax collection.



Mir Qasim attacks company officials in Patna and this leads to Battle of Katwa in June 1763. Mir Qasim is defeated and the Company decides to depose him.

Mir Qasim, see how the tables have turned. Now Mir Jafar will replace you as the Nawab of Bengal.



Mir Qasim joins hands with the Nawab of Awadh Shuja-ud-Daulah and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II and declares war upon Company's forces.

Three kings joining hands



Battle of Buxar (22 Oct 1764)

Major Hector Munro leads the Company forces.

With 40,000 soldiers they are much stronger than us. How can we fight against them with only 10,000 men? I don't see any hope.

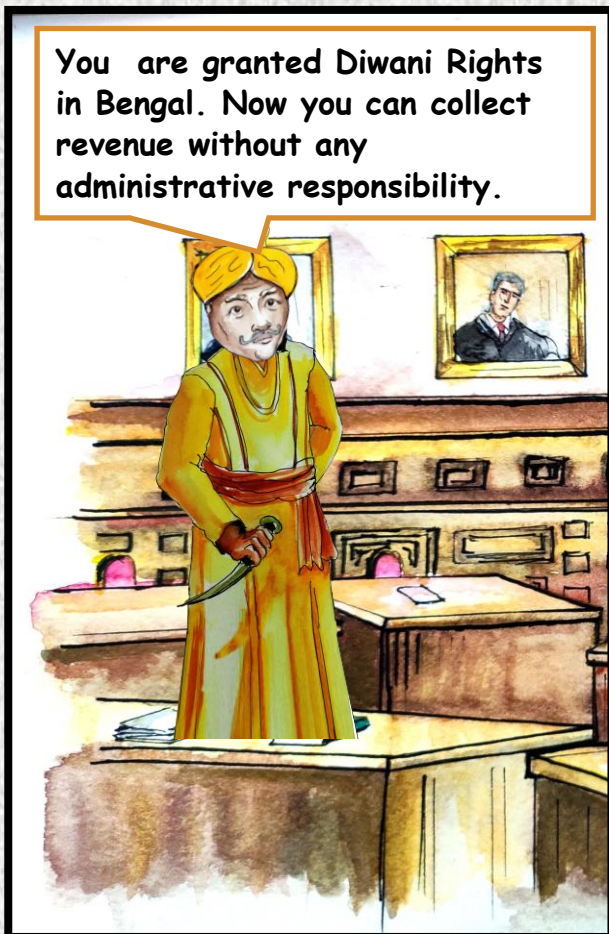
Don't worry sir! These Indians lack planning and co-ordination. We will have an easy win.



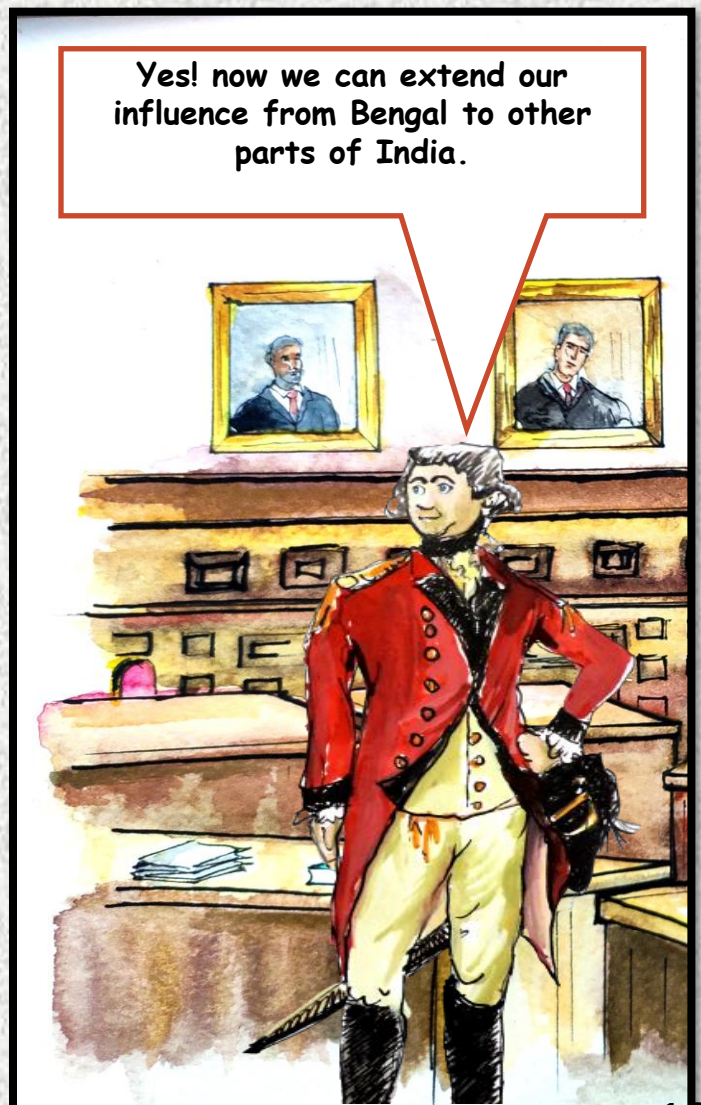
The Company forces defeated the joint forces in this Battle of Buxar. Mir Qasim and Shuja-ud-Daulah flee.

Shah Alam II signing the Treaty of Allahabad with English EIC.

You are granted Diwani Rights in Bengal. Now you can collect revenue without any administrative responsibility.



Yes! now we can extend our influence from Bengal to other parts of India.



British officials celebrating with champagne.

We had come as traders and now
we are masters of this territory !

All-Cheers!



**THE
END**

Activity

Find the following words in the grid given below:

BATTLE

BUXAR

CLIVE

COMPANY

MIRJAFAR

MIRQASIM

NAWAB

PLASSEY

X B H Y B M X M R A X U B R G
O E K G G A C W I R A D A A O
Q R M I Y C T N R S Z A V F N
Q R M Y A R L T O A A I N A G
F E D M O H Y Q L T V Q W J J
C V B J Q E W R S E G A R R C
L Y C V S N Q N H C B I P I Z
I P C S H Y U P E O J Z V M M
V G A S T C O M P A N Y H T Q
E L C H F H A Z A O O Q J L D
P G P Z K G H A C W Z W E G Z
I L M K Y D D O Q Y M L D C D
Q P Y H J C P X U Y X V S Q R
Z F T B E V H H A Y C Q Z H U
R T S N P Y L P A B F N Y K X

Glossary

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|--|
| 1. | Trade privileges | - exclusive rights to trade |
| 2. | Fortifications | - building high walls around settlements for protection. |
| 3. | Revenue | - tax collected by the rulers from the people on land |
| 4. | Suffocation | - killed due to lack of oxygen |
| 5. | Absurd | - not logical |
| 6. | Revenge | - something that you do to punish somebody who has hurt you |
| 7. | Ammunition | - shots/shells used in firearms. |
| 8. | Treaty | - a written agreement |
| 9. | Clutches | - held tightly |
| 10. | Depose | - to remove from position of power |
| 11. | Monetary | - related to money |
| 12. | Levy | - charge/ demand |
| 13. | Tariff | - a tax that has to be paid on the goods coming into a country |
| 14. | Abolish | - to end a law officially |
| 15. | Streamline | - to make a process simpler |
| 16. | Persuade | - to make somebody do something by giving him/her good reasons |

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Disclaimer

This graphic novel has been created as a supplementary reading material for the students. It offers an alternative approach that is captivating and adds fun element to the learning process without compromising the core concept.

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Advisory Body

Ms. Shefalee Gupta
(Principal , TIS, VV)
Ms . N Saroj
(Dean Academics , TIS ,VV)
Ms .Mallika Preman
(Principal , TIS, EOK)

Concept , Script and Dialogue

Ms. Navita Golaya
(TGT Social Science)

IT Support

Ms. Swati Gupta

Art Department

Ms . Meena Nagpal ,
Mr . Anjon Bose
Ms. Anju Jetly ,
Ms . Kavita Chopra

Training and Ideation

Mr . Sandeep Sethi
(Director Education
M.S.M.S II Museum Trust)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear readers,

‘Change is the only constant’, so said a wise man from the past. And so true indeed! With the coming of the National Education Policy 2020, the focus of education is shifting to more student centric education, and thus the need to produce the content in a way which can be easily understood by the students.

The Central Board of Secondary Education has also brought in alterations in the way education was being imparted in the classrooms of the nation. Art Integration with the curriculum, competency based education, stress on Physical Fitness are all endeavours to prepare the students for the necessities of the future. One such endeavour is also changing the curriculum to graphic novels.

Conceived and directed by Mr. Sandeep Sethi, his passion rubbed on to the teachers as well. He lent support through constant guidance.

I am also grateful to Ms. Anita Karwal, Secretary, Department of School Education, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, whose valuable inputs and constant motivation has encouraged teachers to curate the concepts in the form of interesting graphics. I am very sure that this will change the way topics are taught in the classrooms. Using comic strip as a tool, concepts will be explained in a simple way, more relatable to the students.

Our sincere thanks to the worthy team of Ms. Anita Karwal, Secretary, Department of School Education, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Mr. Manoj Ahuja, Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education and Mr. Sandeep Sethi, the pilot of the project .

My sincere thanks are also due to the team of gifted teachers and students who in a timebound frame produced creatively endowed content which will be a visual extravaganza for the students.

Enjoy reading!

Shafalee Gupta
Principal

Summary

The victory of English East India Company in the Battle of Plassey and the Battle of Buxar marks the beginning of a new era in the history of modern India. It placed the British at the helm of all political activities in India for the next 200 years. It left some important lessons to be learnt by the generations to come. Greed for power, selfish attitude, and lack of foresight can bring down mighty empires. So, one must exhibit caution and analyse the far-reaching consequences of every action and decision taken in the present, and should never forget the universal truth that 'together we stand and divided we fall.'

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