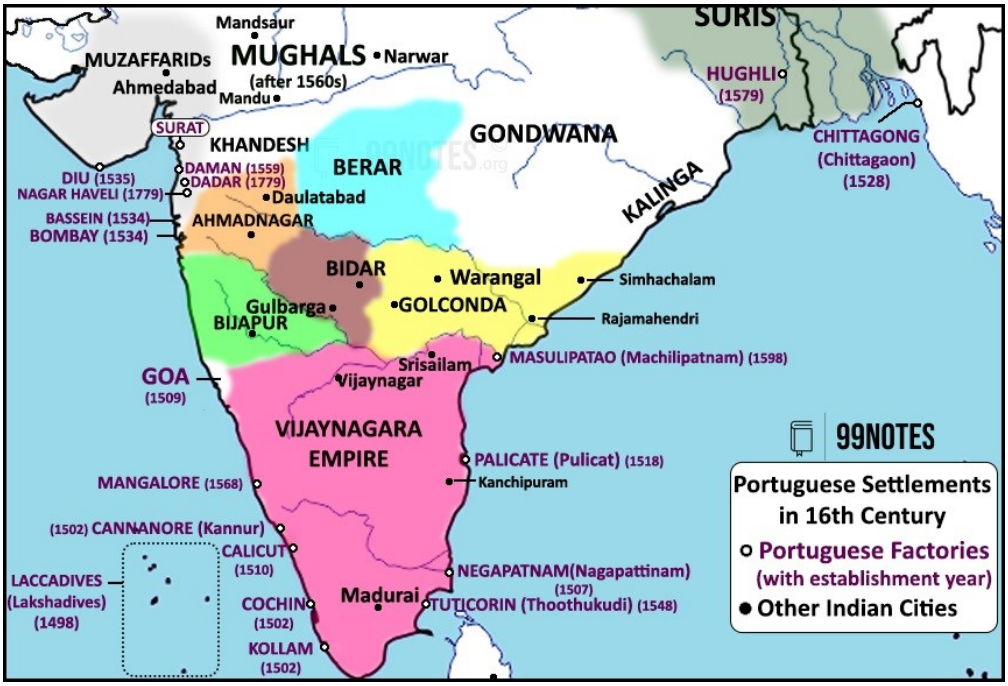
Portuguese in India

Why in news?

A closer study of Bengali cuisine, language, and culture shows a greater influence of Portuguese in the Bengali culture.

How did Portuguese invaded India?

- **Portuguese interests in India** – They had multipronged interests in India.
  - Spices from Malabar
  - Indigo from Gujarat
  - Textiles from both Gujarat and Tamil ports.
- **Arrival** – The Portuguese, under King Manuel I, sought a direct sea route to India to bypass Arab and Venetian merchants dominating the lucrative spice trade.
- V*asco da Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope*, and reached the Indian coast at Calicut (Kozhikode) in 1498.
- **Reaction of natives** - The arrival of the Portuguese was met with mixed reactions from the local population.
- He met the *Zamorin ruler of Calicut* and despite objections from the Arab raiders, obtained permission from the Zamorin to trade in Calicut.
- But Vasco da Gama was *unable to pay the custom duties* and price of his goods.
- He realized that the only way to establish a foothold in India was through force which began the rise of Portuguese rule in India.
- **Conquests in India** – In 1509, they defeated the combined fleet of Egyptians, Arab and Zamorin at the battle of Diu.
- In *1510, Alfonso de Albuquerque captured Goa*, which became the administrative and commercial center of Portuguese India.
- *Nino Da Cunha occupied Bassein and Diu* in 1534 and 1537 respectively.
- In 1539, they defeated a combined fleet of Ottomans, Mamluks of Egypt, the Gujarat Sultanate and the Zaomorin of Calicut at Diu.
- By the end of the 16th century, they had about fifty forts and a powerful naval fleet of 100 ships.
- **Settlements** – Initially, forts and trading posts were established *Cochin and Cannanore* in Malabar region.
- *Diu, Daman, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Bassein and Goa* were the important settlements in India.



Albuquerque (1509- 1515), the successor of Almeida, was the real founder of the Portuguese empire in India.

What are impacts of Portuguese rule in India?

Positive Impacts

- **Discovered alternate sea route to India** – A new sea route from Europe to India bypassing the Ottoman Empire was found.
- **Contained monopolistic trade of Arabs** – Bypassing Arabs helped in increased trade relations between Europeans and India.
- **Introduced new military tactics** – They used *gun powder and superior artillery* against the native rulers.
- Francisco d' Almeida followed '*Blue Water Policy*,' and accordingly, he added more ships to strengthen the navy.
- **Created new ethnic groups** – Alfonso de Albuquerque introduced the policies of *intermarriage between Portuguese men and Indian women*.
- **Social Justice** – Alfonso de Albuquerque *tried to ban the practice of sati,* the ritual of burning the widows on their husbands' funeral pyre.
- **Facilitated human development** – Christian missionaries helped in improving the living conditions of natives by establishing education institutions and health care facilities.
- **Developed printing press** – They brought the first printing press to India.
- *St. Paul's College in Goa* had its first printing press in 1556.
- **Introduced western education** – Establishment of early Western-style educational institutions, promoting European knowledge and science.

Negative Impacts

- **Paved way for European colonialism** – For the first time in the political history of India the *Europeans conquered and seized territories* from the Indian rulers.
- **Followed divide and rule policy** – Initially, Vasco da Gama *used the enmity between the two Hindu rulers* of Cochin and Calicut for establishing their power in India.
- **Exploited traders** - Under the ***cartaz system***, they exacted money from the traders as price for protection against what they termed as piracy.
- **Social disruption** - Their involvement in *capturing and trading slaves*, caused social disruption.
- **Religious conflicts** – Their introduction of Christian missionaries which involved in *religious conversion lead to conflict* with other native religious people.

Mughal-Portuguese Relation
• **Battle of Diu (1509)** – A significant naval battle where the Portuguese *defeated a coalition* that included the Sultan of Gujarat, *an ally of the Mughals*, asserting their dominance in the Indian Ocean. • **Embassy to Akbar (1572)** - The Portuguese sent an embassy to Mughal Emperor Akbar's court, aiming to secure trading privileges and political alliances. • **Jesuit missions in Mughal court** - Portuguese Jesuit missionaries, such as those led by Father Antonio Monserrate, were active *in Akbar's court,* promoting Christianity and cultural exchange. • **Capture of Hugli (1632)** - Mughal forces under *Shah Jahan captured the Portuguese settlement at Hugli* in Bengal, citing the Portuguese's illegal activities, including slave trading.

What led to the downfall of Portuguese in India?

- **Resistance from local rulers** - The Portuguese faced strong resistance from local Indian rulers and kingdoms, such as the *Vijayanagara Empire and the Mughal Empire*.
- **Competition with other European powers** - The arrival of other European powers like the *Dutch, British, and French* intensified competition for control of trade routes and territories, diminishing Portuguese influence and economic dominance.
- The Portuguese suffered significant *defeats, such as the Battle of Swally (1612)* against the British, weakening their control over key territories.
    - In 1612, they lost *Surat to English*
    - In 1661, *Bombay was handed over to English* over matrimonial alliance.
    - In *1663, they lost all their forts to Dutch* on the Malabar Coast.
- **Technological and naval superiority of rivals** - Advanced ships and navigational techniques of rival European powers gave them a strategic advantage over the Portuguese fleet.
- **Limited resources and manpower** - Portugal's small population and limited resources made it difficult to maintain extensive colonization and military operations.
- **Internal conflicts and corruption** - Internal conflicts and rampant corruption among officials w*eakened their governance and operational efficienc*y in India.
- **Economic challenges** - The *high costs of maintaining and defending* their coastal forts and trade routes strained the Portuguese economy lead to financial difficulties.
- **Cultural and religious factors** - Portuguese efforts to spread Christianity often led to conflicts with local populations, further undermining their influence and control.

How Indo-Portugal relations evolved after India's Independence?

- **Diplomatic relations** – Relations between India and Portugal began amicably in 1947 after India's independence and diplomatic relations were established in 1949.
- **Sovereignty issues** – Bilateral relations declined after 1950 as Portugal refused to surrender Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nager Haveli on India's West Coast.
- By 1955, diplomatic relations were cutoff between the two nations.
- **End of Portuguese colonialism** – Indian military forces ***liberated Goa in 1961 by Operation Vijay***.
- The Governor of Portuguese India signed the Instrument of Surrender in 1961, Liberating Goa after 450 years of Portuguese rule in India.
- **Recognition of India's Sovereignty** – India and Portugal finally signed *a treaty in 1974* on recognition of India's sovereignty over Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and related matters.
- This treaty came into force in 1975.

Under Portuguese law, individuals born in Goa before December 19, 1961, and two subsequent generations have the option to register as Portuguese citizens.

- **Indian community in Portugal** – The Indian origin diaspora in Portugal is estimated to number around 1,25,000.
- **Political relations** - Portugal has consistently supported India's permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
- **Economic ties** - As per Government of India's data, India-Portugal trade in *FY 2022-23 amounted to US$1,201.41 million*.
- Indian exports stood at US$1,005.41 million and Portuguese exports at US$196 million.
- **Defence cooperation** - India and Portugal signed an MoU in defence cooperation in 2017.
- Both sides have regularly exchanged delegations and participated in the defence expos.
- **Academic and youth exchanges** - Regular academic exchanges were being held until the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions.
- Indian diaspora youth from Portugal have so far participated in the 'Know India' Programme(KIP) and in the *'Know Goa' Programme(KGP)*.

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