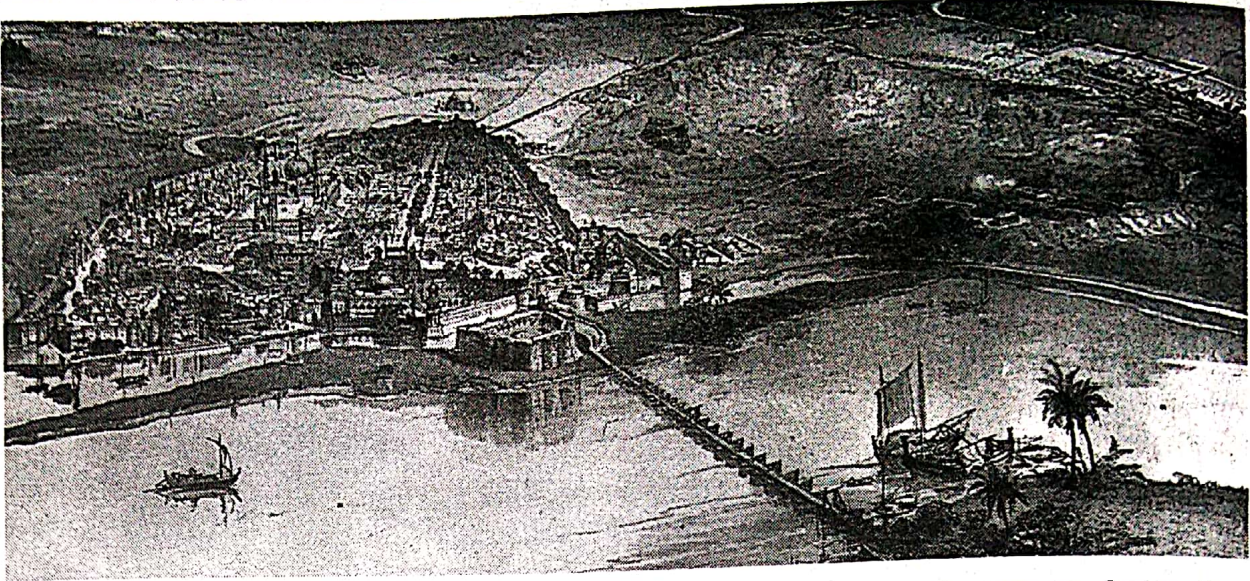


1. TOWNS AND CITIES IN PRE-COLONIAL TIMES

1.1 What gave towns their character?

- Towns came to represent with special economic and cultural activities. In the rural areas people survived by cultivating land, searching of food in forest or bringing up the animals. In contrast, people were artisans, traders, administrators and rulers in town.

- The rural population was commanded by towns, prospering on the excess and taxes obtained from agriculture. Mostly towns and cities were fortified by the walls. It showed their disconnection from the rural areas.
- The disconnection between the town and rural areas was not rigid. Peasants travelled long distance on pilgrimage, passing through towns. Peasants flocked to towns during the famine. A reversed flow of humans as well as goods was present.



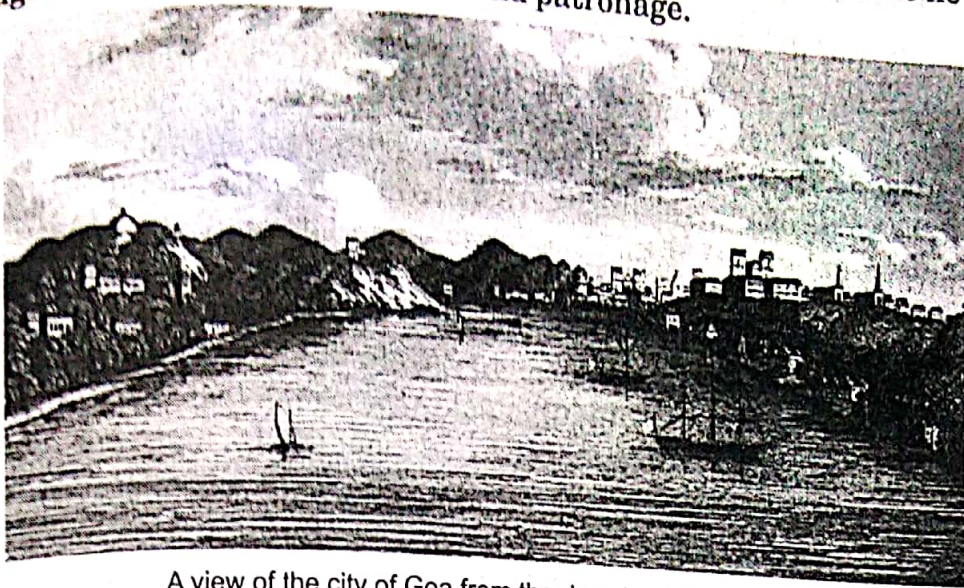
Shahjahanabad in 1857. The walls that surrounded the city were demolished after 1857. The Red Fort is on the river side. At a distance on the ridge to the right, you can see the British settlements and the cantonment.

- Whenever towns were attacked, people took shelter in the rural areas. Traders and pedlars moved towards rural areas from towns with goods to sell.
- The towns which were set up by Mughals during the 16th and 17th centuries, were famous for their coincided population, monumental buildings and imperial grandeur and wealth. Agra, Delhi and Lahore were the significant centres of supreme administration and controls. Mansabdars and Jagirdars maintained the houses in their respective areas.
- Artisans made special handicrafts for the high gentry. Grains were brought from rural areas to the urban market for the city habitats. The treasury was located in the imperial capital. The towns were full of gardens, mosques, temples, tombs, colleges, bazaars and caravan serais. The main focus of the city was oriented towards the palace and the principal mosque.
- Towns which were situated in southern India as Madurai and Kanchipuram. The main focus was the temple. They were important commercial centres. Religious festivals were coincided with fairs and linked with pilgrimage and trade. Usually the king was the supreme authority and main patron of all the religious institutions.
- The social order was dominated by ruling class of medieval towns. It was expected that everyone should know the position. In Northern India, the orders were maintained by the Kotwal. He was the incharge of internal matters and policing of the city.

1.2 Changes in the eighteenth century

- The nature of towns was started to change in the 18th century. Old towns declined and new ones were developed with political and commercial realignments. Towns which were related to mughal rules started to decline with the gradual erosion of mughal power.
- The mughal capitals Delhi and Agra-lost their political ascendancy. New regional powers were emerged. New regional capitals — Hyderabad, Lucknow, Poona, Nagpur, Seringapatam, Baroda, and Tanjore became the centre of various activities.

- People like traders, administrators, artisans and others migrated to the new capitals from the old mughal centres in search of work and patronage.



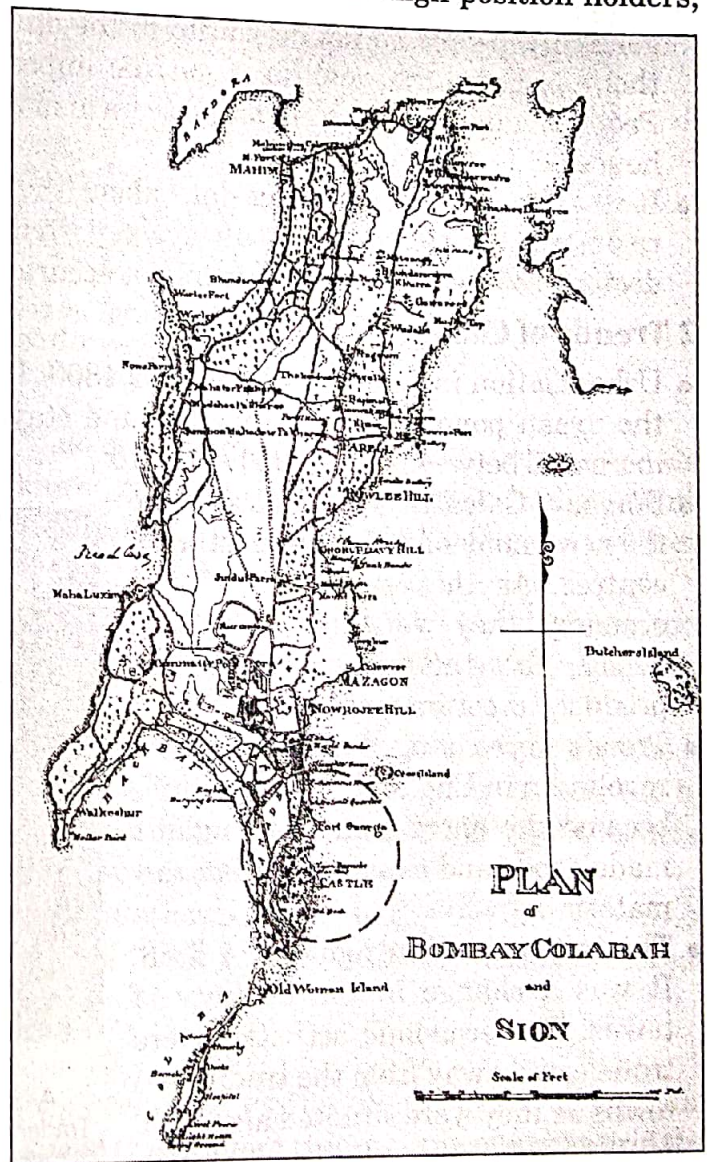
A view of the city of Goa from the river, by J. Greig, 1812.

- New settlements like *gasbah* and *ganj* were created by some local high position holders, who were associated with mughal rule in North India. Economic activities were renewed in some places whereas in others, war, plunder and political stability led the declination in the same.

- The European commercial companies had established their basis in various places during the mughal rule, they were Portuguese in Panji-1510, Dutch in Masulipatnam in 1605, the British in Madras in 1639 and French in Pondicherry in 1673. Towns were grown around there developed centres with the expansion of commercial activities.

- New phase of changes began from the mid 18th century. Commercial centres like, Surat, Masulipatnam and Dhaka were grown in 17th century. Due to declination in trade, it was shifted to other places. The British slowly acquired political control after the battle of Plassey in 1757.

- The trade of East India company started to expand. Madras, Bombay and Calcutta also emerged as colonial parts and new economic capitals. All these became the main centres of colonial political power and administration on people moved towards these cities to get new opportunities.



An old map of Bombay

The encircled area marked "castle" was part of the fortified settlement. The dotted areas show the seven islands that were gradually joined through projects of reclamation.

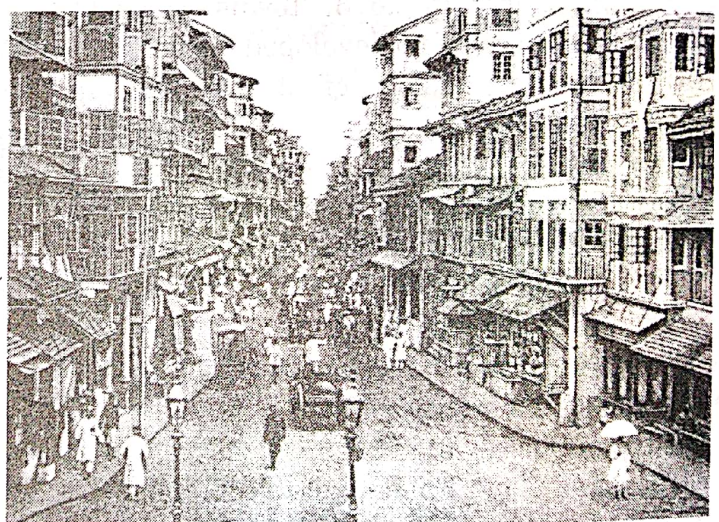
2. FINDING OUT ABOUT COLONIAL CITIES

2.1 Colonial records and urban history

- The British used to keep the records of their trading activities to regulate their commercial matters. They kept the track of life in the growing cities. They further managed the regular surveys and collected statistical data and published different official reports.
- They counted the value of maps as they were more important to get informations in details – landscapes topography, so that they had known and kept control over the region. Maps helped in developing the plan about the growing cities, maps showed the location of ghats density and quality of houses, alignment of roads.
- The British made the efforts to increase money, from the late 19th century, to administer the towns by the annual collection of municipal taxes. Some responsibilities were handed over to the elected Indian representatives to avoid disputes. Its main aim was, to take care of the important services as water supply, sewage, road building and public health.
- Many local causes were carried out in various regions. The first causes was attempted in 1872. From 1881 and onward, after every 10 years census became a regular feature important data to be used for urbanisation in India.
- Various heads to be categorised to mention the data, it look easy but very difficult task generally, people do not cooperate to the officials concerns in this tasks because most of them assumed the new taxes may be imposed after collection of required information. People of upper castes were found to furnish the information regarding the woman of their house hold.
- It was too difficult to collect data about the mortality and disease. All deaths were not registered, illness was not always reported. People were not treated by well trained doctors, so illness and deaths were not accurately calculated.

2.2 Trends of Change

- Urbanisation in India was slow after 1800. In the first two decades of twentieth century the urban population was very low and stayed almost stagnant. Urban population was increased between 1900–1940 about 10%.
- Bombay, Calcutta and Madras were the new commercial and administrative centres. As the centres of colonial economy, they worked as collection depots for the export of Indian products as cotton textiles.
- Trends were changed after industrial revolution in England. All these cities became the entry points of England made goods and export of Indian raw material.
- The railway was introduced in 1853. It was a change in the fortunes of towns. The economic activities were transferred away from the traditional towns as they were situated along old, routes and rivers. Railway station became the main centre of collection of raw material and distribution points of imported goods.



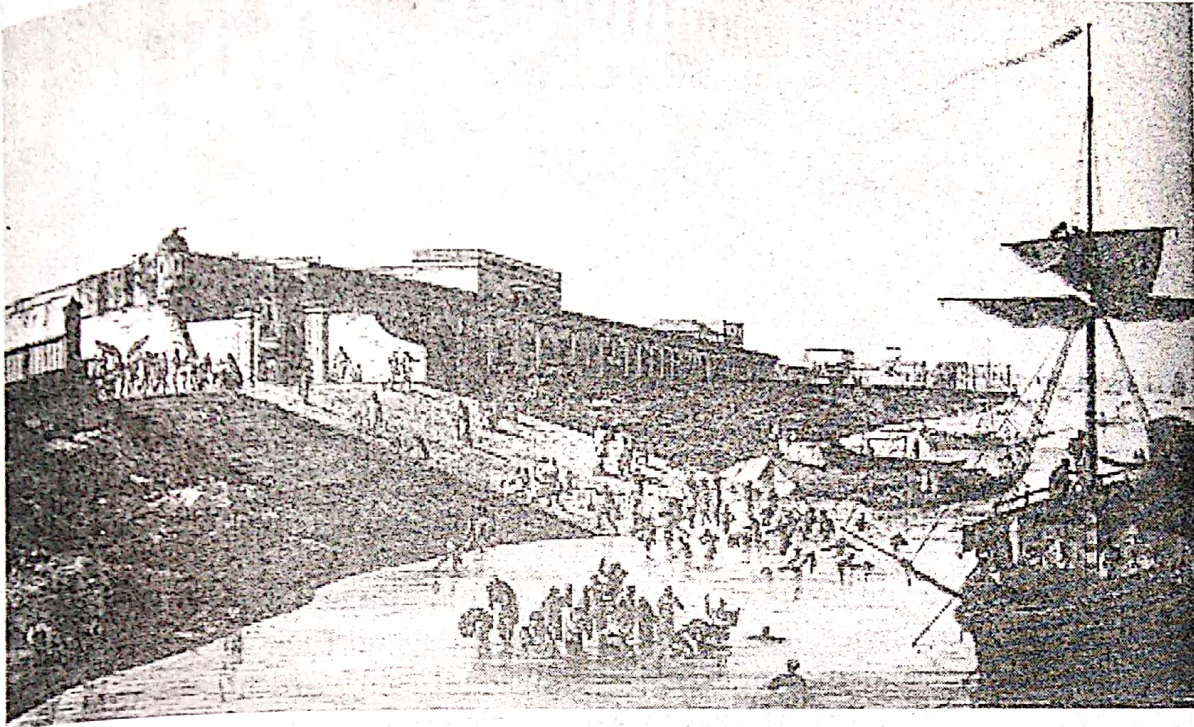
The Borah Bazaar in the Fort area, Bombay, 1885

As Bombay grew, even the fort area became congested. Traders, shopkeepers and service groups flowed into the area, numerous bazaars were established, and lofty structures came up. Worried by the congestion, the British made several attempts to push Indians out of the northern part of the Fort where the local communities had settled.

3. WHAT WERE THE NEW TOWNS LIKE

3.1 Ports, forts and centres for services

- By the 18th century Bombay, Madras and Calcutta had become important points. They became a very useful points for collecting goods. In these cities factories were built by the English East India Company. These settlements were fortified, reason being the competitions among the various European companies, and protected.



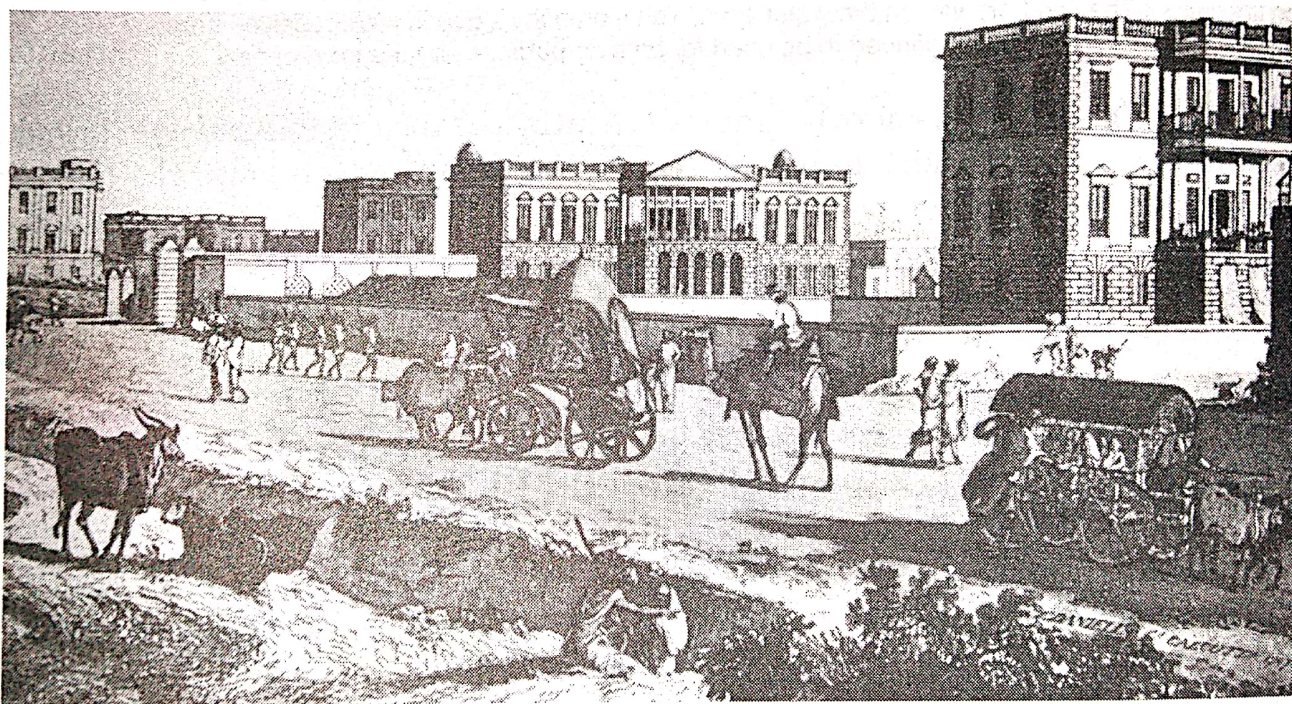
The Old Fort Ghat in Calcutta, engraving by Thomas and William Daniell, 1787
The Old Fort was on the water-front. The Company's goods were received here.
The ghat continued to be used for bathing purposes by the local people.

- Fort St. George in Madras, fort William in Calcutta and the fort in Bombay marked out the areas of British settlement. Indian merchants, artisans and workers who had economic dealing with the European merchants lived outside these forts in the settlements of their aim.
- Towns were divided into two different parts on racial basis. They were black towns where Indian people lived and white towns where white people lived. As British captured political power the racial distinction became sharper.
- These cities were linked with the network of Railways. They became the major centres of export as raw material was transported to them. Cotton mills were set up in Bombay by Indian merchants whereas Europeans set up their jute mills on the outskirts of Calcutta. It was the beginning of modern industrial development in India.
- In Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, working population belonged to the tertiary activities. Kanpur was established in leather, woollen and cotton textiles mainly whereas Jamshedpur was associated with iron and steel.

3.2 A new Urban Milieu

- The mercantile culture of the new rulers was reflected by the colonial cities. The main centres of power and guardianship were changed from Indian rulers to the merchants of the East India company. Economic activities near the river or the sea led to the development of docks and ghats, Godowns, mercantile offices, insurance agencies for shipping transport depots; banking establishments were developed along the shore.

- In Calcutta, around the periphery of the fort merchants and their agents made palatial houses in European styles. The ruling elites could spend their leisure time in exclusive clubs, race courses and theaters. Large traditional courtyard houses were built in the Black Town, in the vicinity of the bazaars by the rich Indian agents.



The New Buildings at Chourangee (Chowringhee), engraving by Thomas and William Daniell, 1787
 Along the eastern side of the Maidan private houses of the British began coming up in the late eighteenth century. Most were in a Palladian style with pillared verandas that were meant to keep off the summer heat.

- In the mid-19th century, the nature of the colonial city was changed. Constant fear of rebellion compelled the British to give new shape to their attitude regarding the settlements of whites, they had to live in more secure and separated enclaves. New spaces were called as civil lines. They were well planned; big roads, streets, bungalows, gardens,

barracks, parade ground and church were known as haven for Europeans.

- British for a long time were only interested in the cleanliness and hygiene of the white areas. But epidemics like cholera and plague spread and thousands of people died then colonial officials felt the need for more strict measures of sanitation and public health. From 1860s and 1870s strict measures were implemented for sanitation.

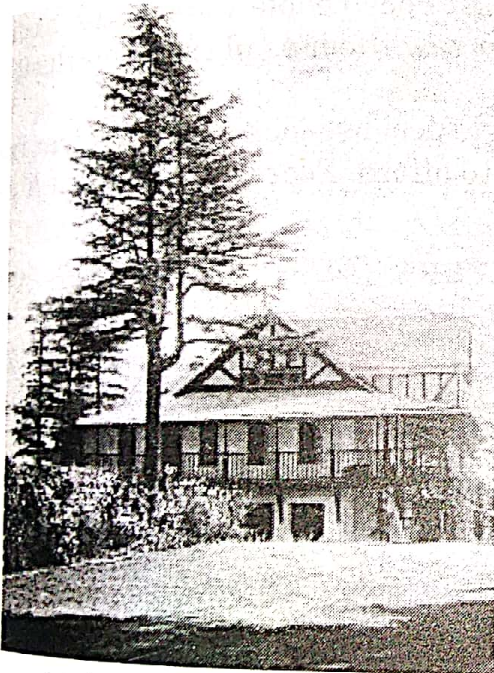
3.3 The first hill station

In the same way as cantonments, hill stations were special feature of colonial urban development. The base and setting of the hill stations was basically connected with the needs of the British army. Simla (Shimla) was founded during the Gurkha war (1815-16). During the Anglo-Maratha war of 1818, led to British interest in Mount Abu and Darjeeling was taken from the rulers of Sikkim in 1835.



The Marble Palace, Calcutta
This is one of the most elaborate structures built by an Indian family belonging to the new urban elite.

Gurkha War
Anglo-Maratha War



A typical colonial house in Simla, an early-twentieth-century photograph
Most probably it was the residence of Sir John Marshall.



A village near Manali, Himachal Pradesh
While the British introduced colonial architectural styles in the hill stations, the local population often continued to live as before.

- Hill stations became strategic places for billeting troops, guarding frontiers and launching campaigns against enemy rulers. These hill stations were developed as sanitoriums. Soldiers were sent to these places for rest and recovery from illnesses.
- The climate of these hill station was cold like Europe. They had become more attractive places for the new rulers. Generally, Viceroys moved to hill stations during the summer seasons. In 1864, the Viceroy John Lawrence move with his council to Simla and it became the official residence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.
- Social calls, teas, picnics, fetes, races, and visits to the theatre had become common among colonial officials in the hill stations. Upper and middle-class Indians like-Maharajas, lawyers and merchants were drawn to these stations as they were able to afford them as closeness to the ruling British elite.

- Tea and coffee plantations in the adjoining areas, large number of people were arrived from the plains as labour. There stations were not stayed exclusive racial enclaves for Europeans in India.

3.4 Social Life in the New Cities

- New transport facilities like horse-drawn carriages, trams and buses provided an easy moving facilities to the people who lived at a distance of the city centre. Over, the time, the place of work was separated from the place of residence. Travelling from home to office or to factory was new kind of experience.
- People of all classes were migrated to the big cities as demand was increased for clerks, teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers and accountants. In result, the middle classes was increased, they were able to get accessibility to new educational institutions — as schools, colleges and libraries.
- Social changes were not happened in an easy way. There were new opportunities available for women in cities. Middle women were trying to express themselves with the help of journals, autobiographies and books.
- After along time, a change was noticed — the presence of women at public places increased. They started to enter into new profession in the cities like domestic and factory workers, teachers and theatre and film actresses. But for a long time, women who had moved out of the house hold into public spaces remained the objects of social censure.
- The working class was emerged in cities as new class. Poor people were moved to cities from the rural areas in search of work. Some of them saw them as place of opportunities whereas some attracted with its outer glitterings.
- Life in the cities was not an easy task. It was a struggle because jobs were not secure, food was costly. To inhabitate in urban areas was difficult to afford. Poor people created a lively urban culture of their own.

4. SEGREGATION, TOWN PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE (MADRAS, CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY)

4.1 Settlement and Segregation in Madras

- On the west coast, Surat was a well set up port where East India company established its trading activities. In 1639, Madraspatam was constructed as a trading post. Locally it was known as Chenapattanam. The rights of settlement were bought from the local Telugu lords, the Nayakas of Kalahasti.

- French were defeated in 1761, Madras became more secure and started to grow as an important commercial town. Fort St. George became the centre of the white town. Mostly Europeans lived there.
- Permission was granted to live there on the behalf of colour and religion. Further, marriages were not allowed with Indians, company allowed to set marriages other than English were – the Dutch, Portuguese as they were European and Christian.
- New Black Town was like the traditional Indian Towns. Living quarters were built around its own temple and bazaar. People from different castes lived there in the narrow streets that criss-crossed the township. Chintadripet was an area meant for weavers, washerman, pet, was a colony of dyers and bleachers of cloth. Royapuram was a settlement for Christian boatmen. They worked for the company.
- Madras was developed by incorporating many surrounding villages. Many different communities came and settled in Madras. They performed a number of economic activities. The dubashes were Indians who could speak two languages – local as well as English.
- They worked as agents and merchants and also man for their intermediaries between Indian society and the British. Vellalars got the benefits of the new opportunities which were provided by the British rule.
- In the 19th century, with the extension of English education, Brahmins began to compete for the same positions in the administration. Telugu Komatis controlled the grain trade in city. Gujarati were known for their banking services. Paraiyars and Vanniyars formed the labouring poor.
- Triplicane became the centre of substantial Muslim settlement. Mylapore and Triplicane were earlier Hindus religions centres. All these settlements became the part of Madras city.
- Resident European started to move out of the fort as the British consolidated their poor. Garden houses first of all strated to come with Mount Road and Poonamalee Road. They were leading from the fort to the cantonment. Rich Indians also began to live like the English. The poor were settled in villages as they were close to their workplace.

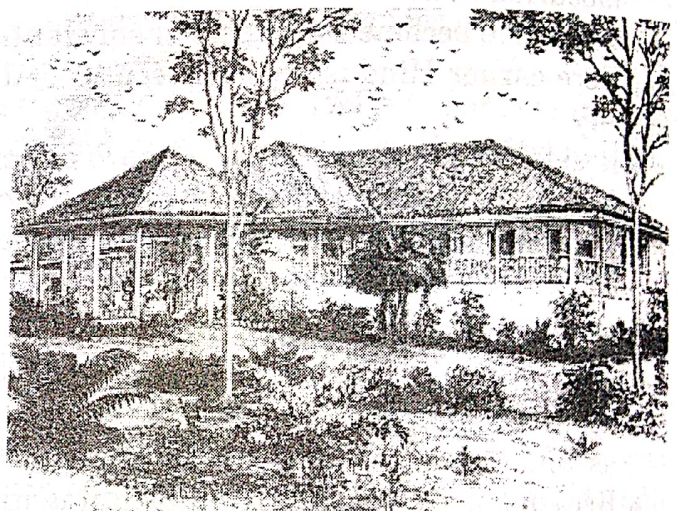
4.2 Town Planning in Calcutta

- Modern town planning was started in the colonial cities. Layout of the whole urban space was prepared and proper management of land use. Planning was influenced by the assumption that what type of city should be viewed and liked.
- British took the task of town planning in their hands from the early years of their rule in Bengal. Its short term cause was defence or security. In 1756, Calcutta was attacked by the Nawab of Bengal, Sirajudaula and captured small fort. It was built by the British Traders as their goods depot. East India Company decided to build a new fort that could not be easily attacked.
- There were three villages—Sutanati, Kolkata and Govindapur. Calcutta had grown from them. Company cleared a site in the southern most village of Govindapur and traders and weavers were asked to vacate.
- Around newly built Fort William, a vast open space was left which came to be locally known as Maidan or *garer-math* this vast open space around the fort became the land mark and Calcutta was the first important city in the regard of planning measures.
- A massive palace 'Government House' was built by Lord Wellesley who became the Governor General in 1798. This building was for him and symbol of the authority of the British. He was much more concerned with the condition of Indian cities their crowd, excessive vegetation, dirty tanks, the drainage with foul smells.
- British believed that the poisonous gases from the marsh lands, pools of stagnant water were the main cause of most diseases. Tropical climate was also unhealthy. Open places were created in the city to make the city healthier.

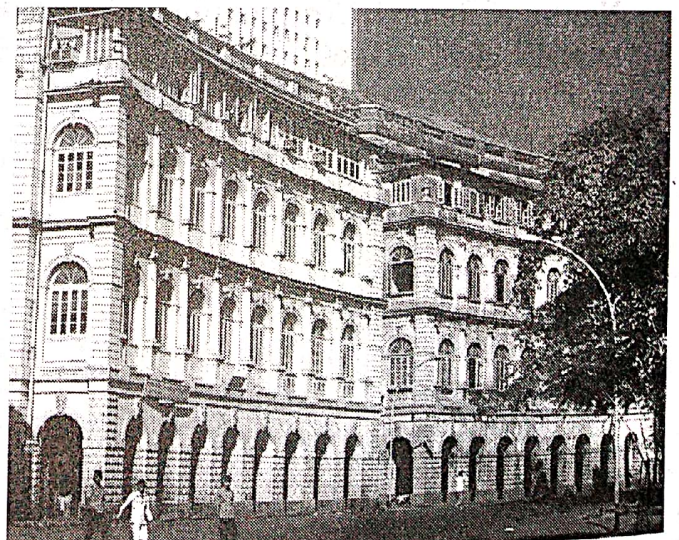
- The work of town planning was taken over by the Lottery Committee in 1817 after the departure of Lord Wellesley's with the help of government. The committee was named as Lottery Committee because funds for town improvement to be raised through public lotteries. The committee issued a new map of the city to get a guided picture of Calcutta.
- The threat of epidemics gave a rapid mode to town planning in Calcutta. Cholera was started to spread from 1817 and plague made its presence in 1896. Medical science could not break the causes of these diseases firmly.
- Densely populated areas were mentioned as insanitary because these areas became the obstruction for direct sunlight and circulation of air. So, the 'bustis' or huts of working people were demolished. The poor people in the city were workers, hawkers, artisans, porters and the unemployed, forced to move to distant parts of the city.
- Due to regular fire accidents strict building regulations were made and imposed. In 1896 thatched huts were banned and tiled roofs made compulsory. 'White town' and 'Black town' was reinforced by the new divide of 'healthy' and 'unhealthy'. Indian delegates in the local body. Opposed this biased move toward the development of the European parts of Town.
- With the growth of their empire, the British made their efforts to make cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras into affective imperial capital. It was because the splendour of the cities was reflecting the authority of imperial power. Town planning had to represent everything that the British asserted to stand for extreme execution, and western aesthetic ideals. Cities must be cleaned.

4.3 Architecture in Bombay

- Initially, Bombay was an area of seven islands with the population growth, these islands were joined to create more space. Gradually, they fused into a big city. On the western coast, it became an important port as well as the centre of international trade. About half of imports and exports passed through this port by the end of the 19th century. Opium was the main item of the trade.
- Opium was grown in Malwa, Rajasthan and Sind. Collaboration with the company was profitable and led to the growth of an Indian capitalist class. Different communities were involved as the capitalists like —Parsi, Marwari, Konkani Muslim, Gujarati Bania, Bohra, Jew and Armenian.
- As the Suez Canal came in operational mode in 1869, Bombay established its links with the world economy. Indian merchants declared Bombay as the most important city of India.
- Indian merchants in Bombay invested their wealth in new ventures like – cotton mills. Building activity in the city was patronised by the Indian merchants. As its economy grown from the mid 19th century need to expand railways, shipping and administrative structure was counted. New buildings were constructed.

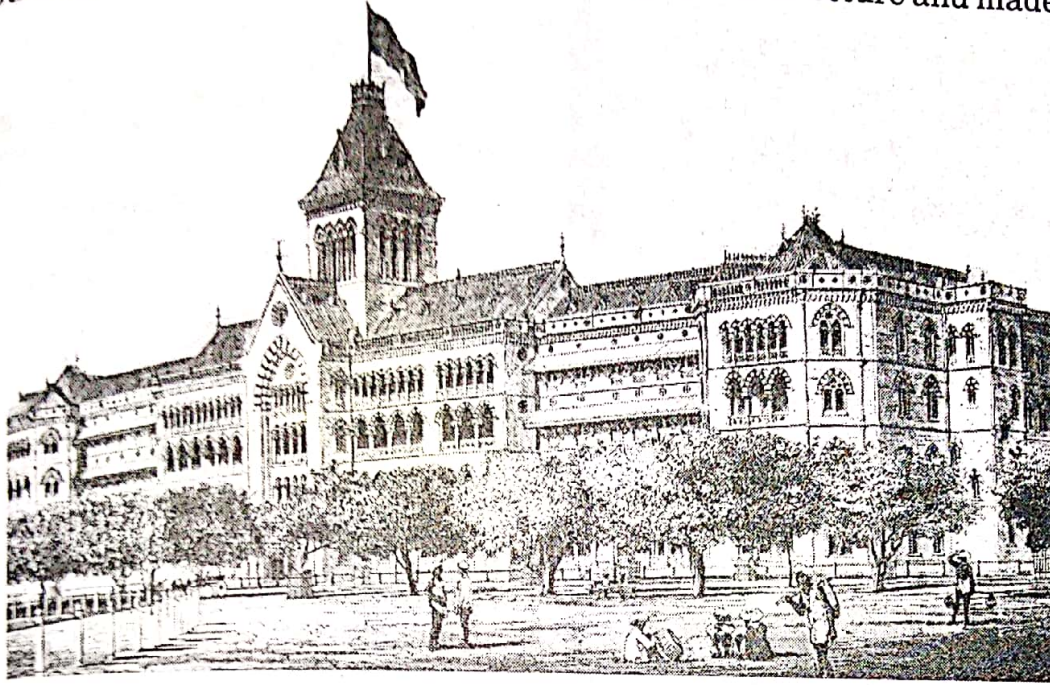


A bungalow in Bombay, nineteenth century



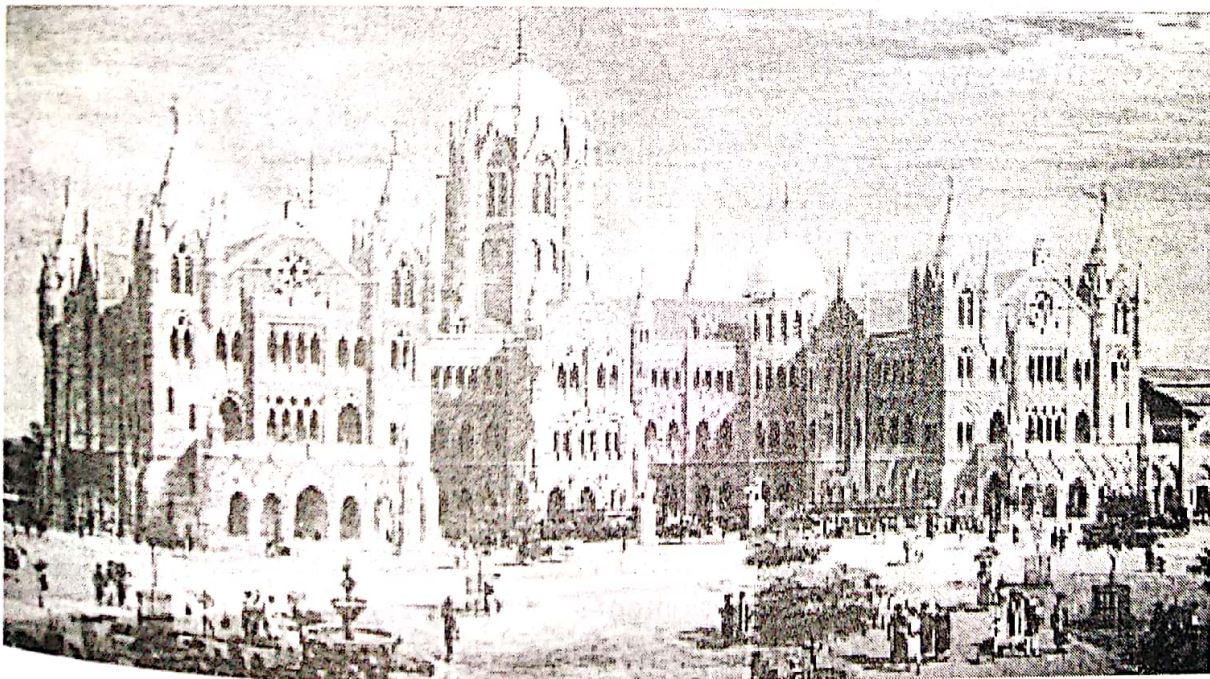
The Elphinstone Circle
Note the pillars and arches,
derived from Graeco-Roman architecture.

- New buildings expressed the culture and confidence of the rulers, their style was generally European which elaborated the imperial attitude in many ways. First, they wanted to create a familiar landscapes in the alien country. Second, by the styles, their superiority, authority and power will stand for long time.
- Third, they thought that buildings which had European style would mark out the difference and distance between the colonial masters and their Indian subjects. Later, Indian buildings were under the influence of European architecture and made it their own.



Bombay Secretariat, designed by H. St Clair Wilkins Drawing from The Builder, 20 November 1875

- The name of bungalow got from the bangla that was traditionally thatched Bengali hut. The bungalow was set on extensive grounds which ensured privacy and marked a distance from the Indian world around. The pitched roof and surrounding Verandah kept the bungalow cool in the summer duration. Separated quarters were there for domestic servants.
- The British assumed that a style that included the eminence of imperial Rome, this time was to express the glory of imperial India. The Mediterranean origins of this architecture were also thought to be suitable for tropical weather.

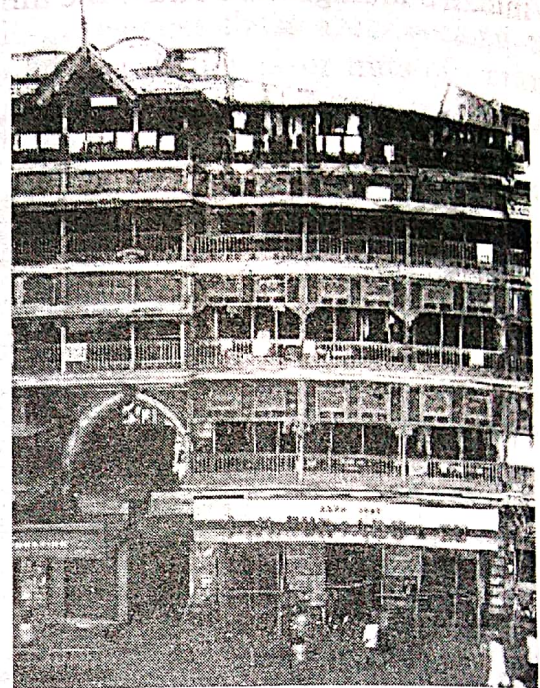


Victoria Terminus Railway Station, designed by F.W. Stevens

- The style was used in the town hall in Bombay during its construction in 1833. Another group of commercial buildings were built during the cotton boom of the 1860s. It was the Elphinstone circle, that was known as Horniman Circle. An effective group of buildings were the sea facing like secretariat, University of Bombay and High court. Public buildings were build in three brand architectural styles—neo-classical style, new-Gothic style and Indo-Saracenic style.



The Municipal Corporation Building, Bombay, designed by F. W. Stevens in 1888
Notice the fusion of Oriental and Gothic designs.



A Bombay chawl

- Main example of the new Gothic style is the Victoria Terminus, headquarters of Great-Indian Peninsular Railway Company. Central Bombay skyline and their uniform new-Gothic style provided a unique character to the city.
- The Gateway of India was built in the traditional Gujarati style to welcome king George V. and Queen Mary to India in 1911. Tajmahal Hotel is also an example of this style. The multi-storeyed single-room apartments with long open corridors were built around a courtyard known as chawl.

5. WHAT BUILDING AND ARCHITECTURAL STYLES TELL US

- Power was expressed by the rulers through the buildings. By the architecture of the particular time, it could be understood how the power was conceived.
- It was expressed through structures and their attributes—bricks and stones, pillars and arches, soaring domes or vaulted roofs.