**East India Company (EIC)**

This British convoy first landed in Surat, India in 1608 during Shah Jehan’s reign. They came to India with the intention of doing spice trade, competing with their rivals the Portuguese and French traders already established in the sub-continent.

By 1664 they had established their first headquarters in Bombay, and later in Calcutta and Madras which they referred to as the ‘precidencies’. The EIC purchased spices, cotton and silks from India and traded them.

At first, the EIC benefitted the Mughals too by buying goods from them and getting paid in silver. To dominate this trade monopoly, the EIC fought with the French and dragged them out of India.