

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### Topic: First Anglo-Maratha War - Background & Significance [Modern Indian History Notes for UPSC]

NCERT notes on important topics for the UPSC [Civil Services Exam](#). These notes will also be useful for other competitive exams like banking PO, SSC, state civil service exams and so on. This article talks about the First Anglo-Maratha War.

There were three Anglo-Maratha wars (or Maratha Wars) fought between the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century between the British and the Marathas. In the end, the Maratha power was destroyed and British supremacy established.

#### First Anglo-Maratha War (1775 – 1782)

##### Background and course

- The third Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao died in 1761 due to shock after his defeat at the Third Battle of Panipat.
- His son Madhavrao succeeded him. Madhavrao was able to recover some of the Maratha power and territories which they had lost in the Battle of Panipat.
- The English were aware of the growing Maratha power.
- When Madhavrao died, there was a tussle for power in the Maratha camp.
- His brother Narayanrao became the Peshwa but his uncle Raghunathrao wanted to become the Peshwa.
- For this, he sought the help of the English.
- So, the Treaty of Surat in 1775 was signed according to which Raghunathrao ceded Salsette and Bassein to the English and in return he was given 2500 soldiers.
- The British and army of Raghunathrao attacked the Peshwa and won.
- The British Calcutta Council under Warren Hastings annulled this treaty and a new treaty, the Treaty of Purandhar was signed in 1776 between the Calcutta Council and Nana Phadnavis, a Maratha minister.
- Accordingly, Raghunathrao was given a pension only and Salsette was retained by the British.
- But the British establishment at Bombay violated this treaty and sheltered Raghunathrao.
- In 1777, Nana Phadnavis went against his treaty with the Calcutta Council and granted a port on the west coast to the French.
- This led the British to advance a force towards Pune. There was a battle at Wadgaon near Pune in which the Marathas under Mahadji Shinde secured a decisive victory over the English.
- The English were forced to sign the Treaty of Wadgaon in 1779.
- There was a series of battles at the end of which the Treaty of Salbai was signed in 1782. This ended the first Anglo-Maratha war.

## Results of the First Anglo-Maratha War:

### Results

- The East India Company retained Salsette and Broach.
- It also obtained a guarantee from the Marathas that they would retake their possessions in the Deccan from Hyder Ali of Mysore.
- The Marathas also promised that they would not grant any more territories to the French.
- Raghunathrao was to receive a pension of Rs.3 lakh every year.
- All territories taken by the British after the Treaty of Purandhar were ceded back to the Marathas.
- The English accepted Madhavrao II (son of Narayanrao) as the Peshwa.

