

## Quadrant II – Notes

**Programme:** Bachelor of Arts

**Subject:** History

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**Paper Title:** History of Goa: From Earliest Times upto 1961

**Unit:** III

**Module Name:** Pombaline Reforms

**Module No:** 16

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### Notes:

#### Marquis of Pombal

Sebastião José de Carvalho e Melo (1699–1782), was well known by his title, Marquis of Pombal, and is simply referred to as Pombal.

He was the Prime Minister of King José I from 1755 to 1777.

His tenure as Prime Minister is referred to as the Pombaline Period in the history of Portugal and her colonies, and is well known for the reforms.

Pombal was a prominent Prime Minister of Portugal, whose tenure had a deep impact on Portugal and her colonies including Goa.

The Reforms undertaken by Pombal in administrative, educational, economic and ecclesiastical spheres both in Portugal and the colonies are referred to as Pombaline Reforms.

#### Expulsion of Jesuits

Pombal's first bold step was the suppression of Jesuits. He expelled the Jesuits from Portugal and her colonies including Goa in 1759. Jesuit property in the *Estado da Índia* was seized and confiscated to the state.

By ousting the Jesuits, Pombal handed over the ecclesiastical leadership to the locals. Pombal replaced Jesuits with local Oratorians, which was an Indian order founded independently by zealous Christians of Brahmin origin, not by European Portuguese.

#### Pombal's Anti Discriminatory Policy

Expulsion of the Jesuits led to the change in attitudes to local Christians in Goa and Hindus. Discrimination against and disparagement of non-Europeans, were now progressively outlawed by Pombaline legislation.

In July 1759 Viceroy Ega prohibited the use of insulting ethnic terms.

In 1761 Pombal persuaded King José I to issue a decree, declaring that all Christians in the Indian possessions were equal subjects of the crown, with the same legal rights.

He ordered that native Christians should be given preference in appointments to both religious and secular offices and that membership of white religious orders must be opened to all.

### **Annexation of 'New Conquest'**

The Pombaline administration helped in the expansion of Portuguese territories in Goa.

The tolerant religious and cultural policies of Pombal were responsible for the annexation of Ponda in 1763 and Sanguem, Quepem and Canacona in 1764.

The 'New Conquest' being predominantly Hindu, thus the Viceroys issued orders in accordance with the tolerant religious and cultural policies of Pombal, granting the subjects the facility to safeguard their temples, priests, Brahmins, rites, usages and customs.

### **Abolition of Goa Inquisition**

Pombal abolished Goa Inquisition from 1774 to 1778. This marked an important step forward.

However, the office of Inquisition was restored post Pombaline period.

The definitive end of the Inquisition eventually came in 1812.

### **Conclusion**

The tenure of Pombal as the Prime Minister of Portugal was marked progressive reforms which not only affected Portugal but also its colonies including Goa.