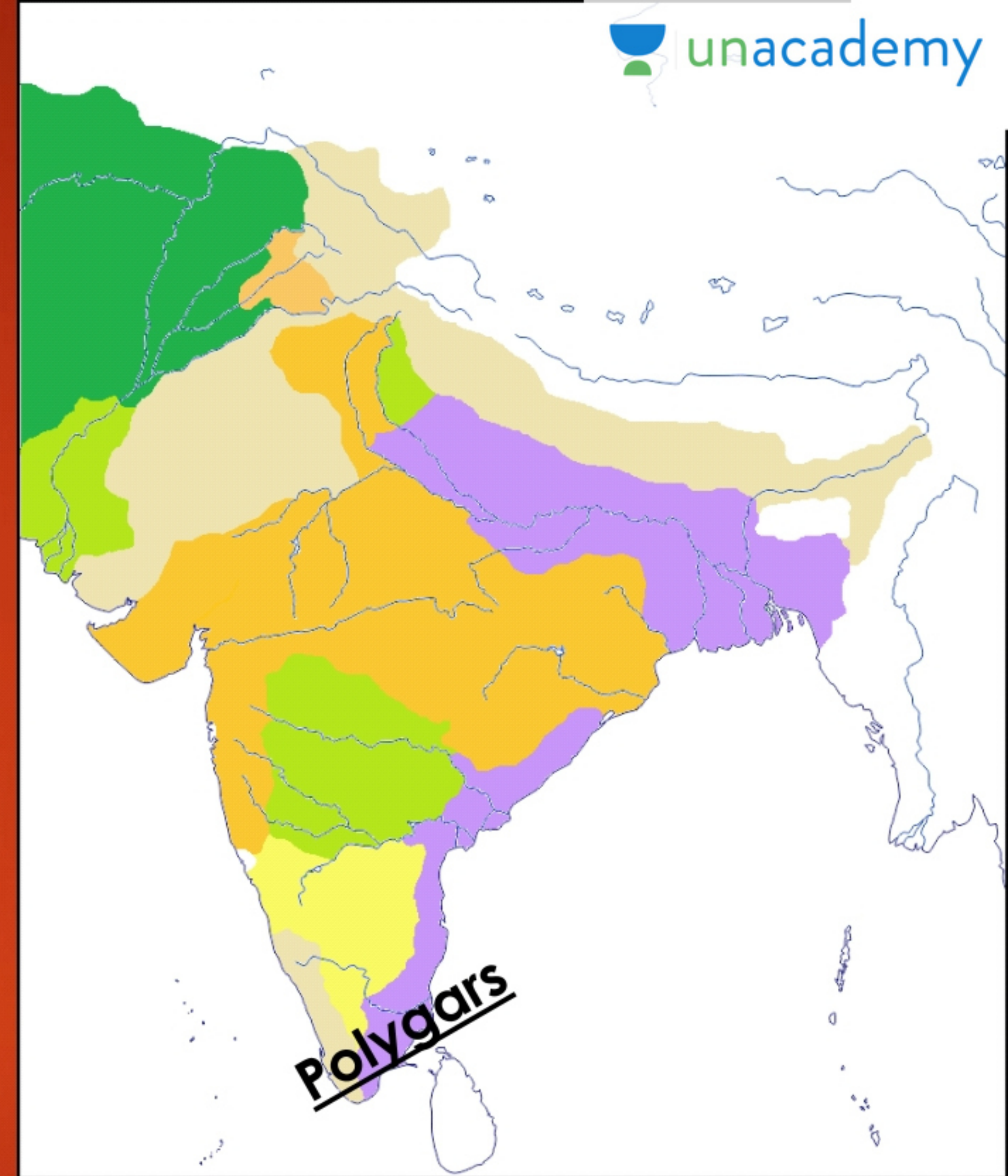


Lesson – 3

THE POLYGARS Part – I

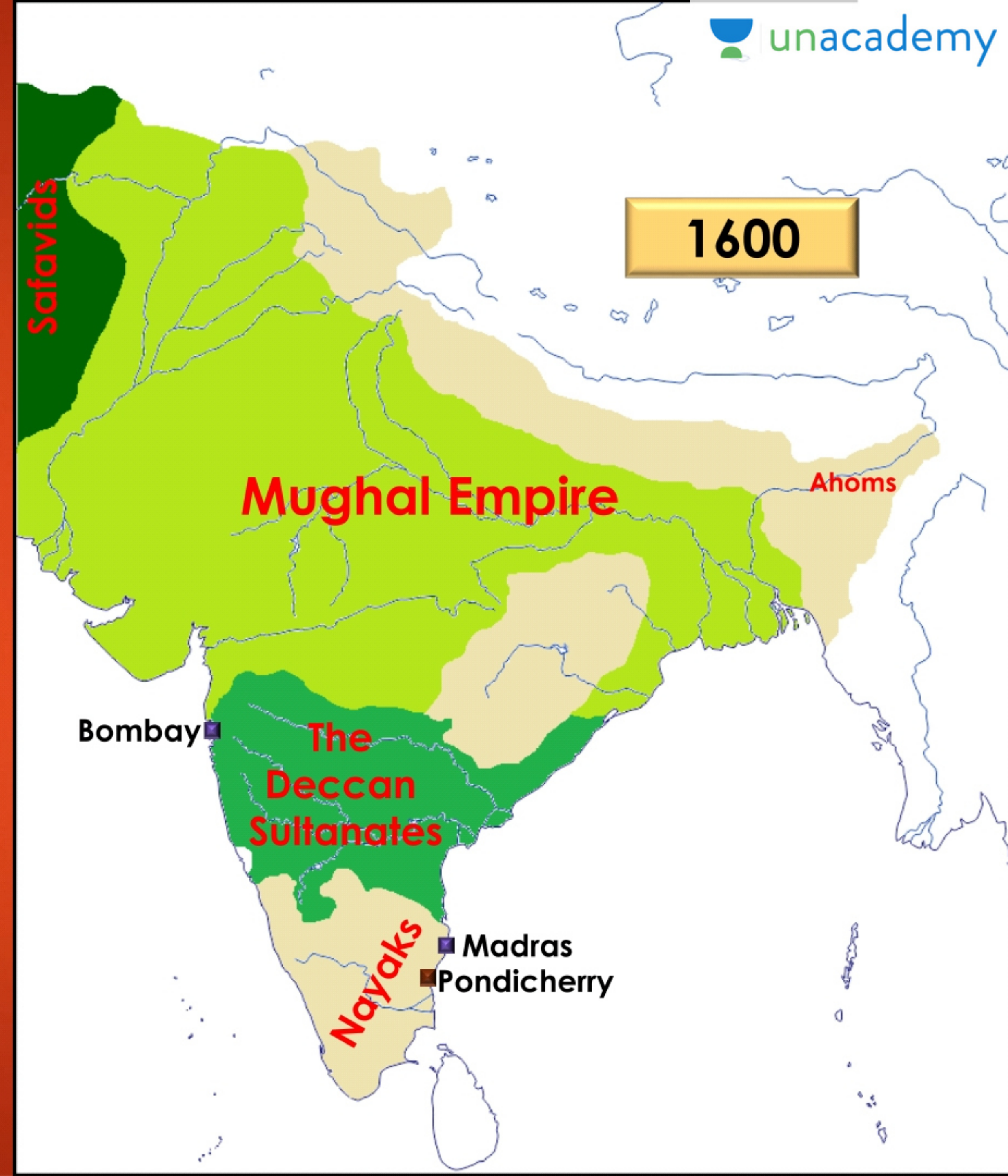
By Abhyudaya Kelkar



The Nayakas

► Many knights and feudal lords, called the 'Nayakas', became independent after the fall of Vijayanagar at Talikota in 1565 :

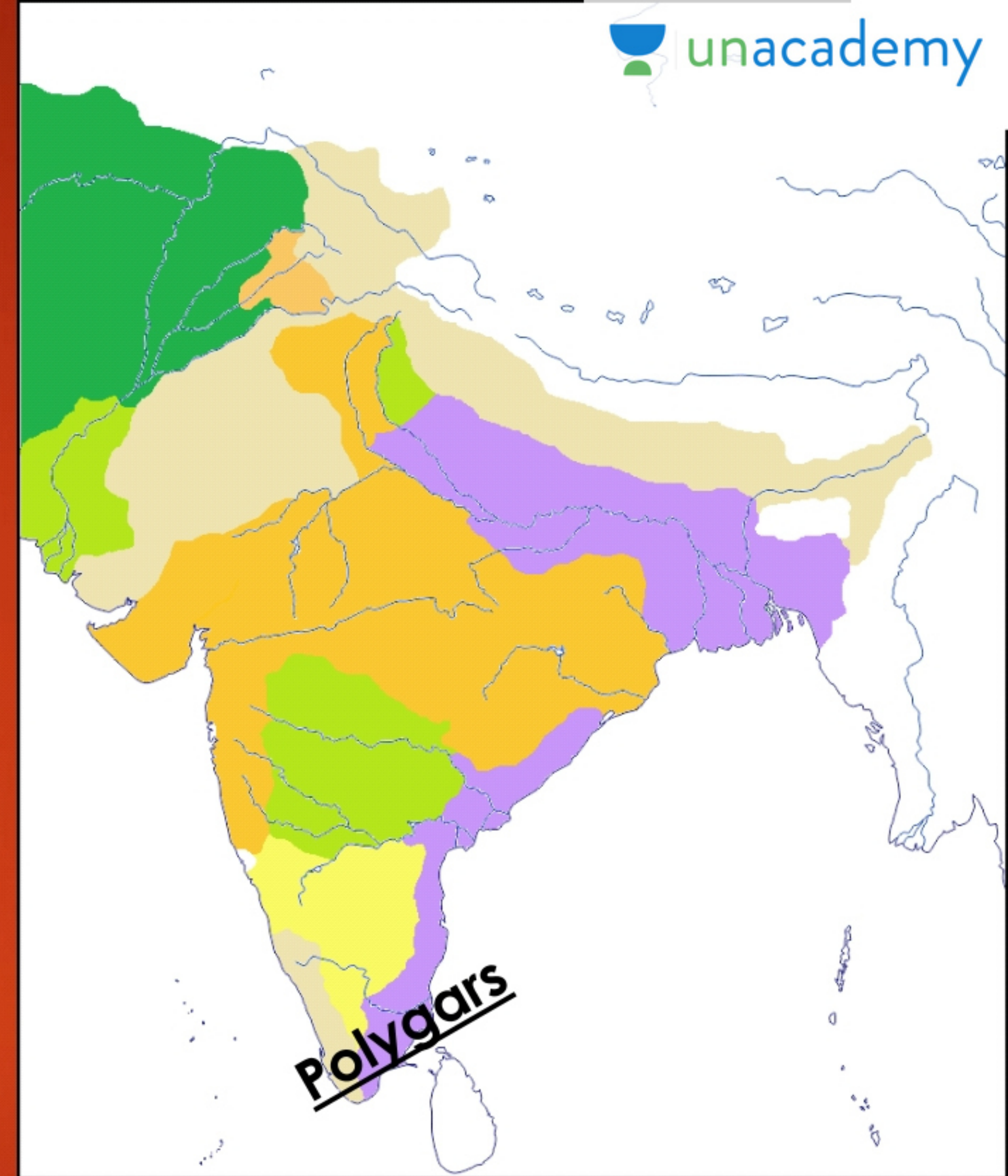
- Keladi
- Chitradurga
- Jinji (Gingee)
- Thanjavur (Tanjore)
- Madurai



Lesson – 3

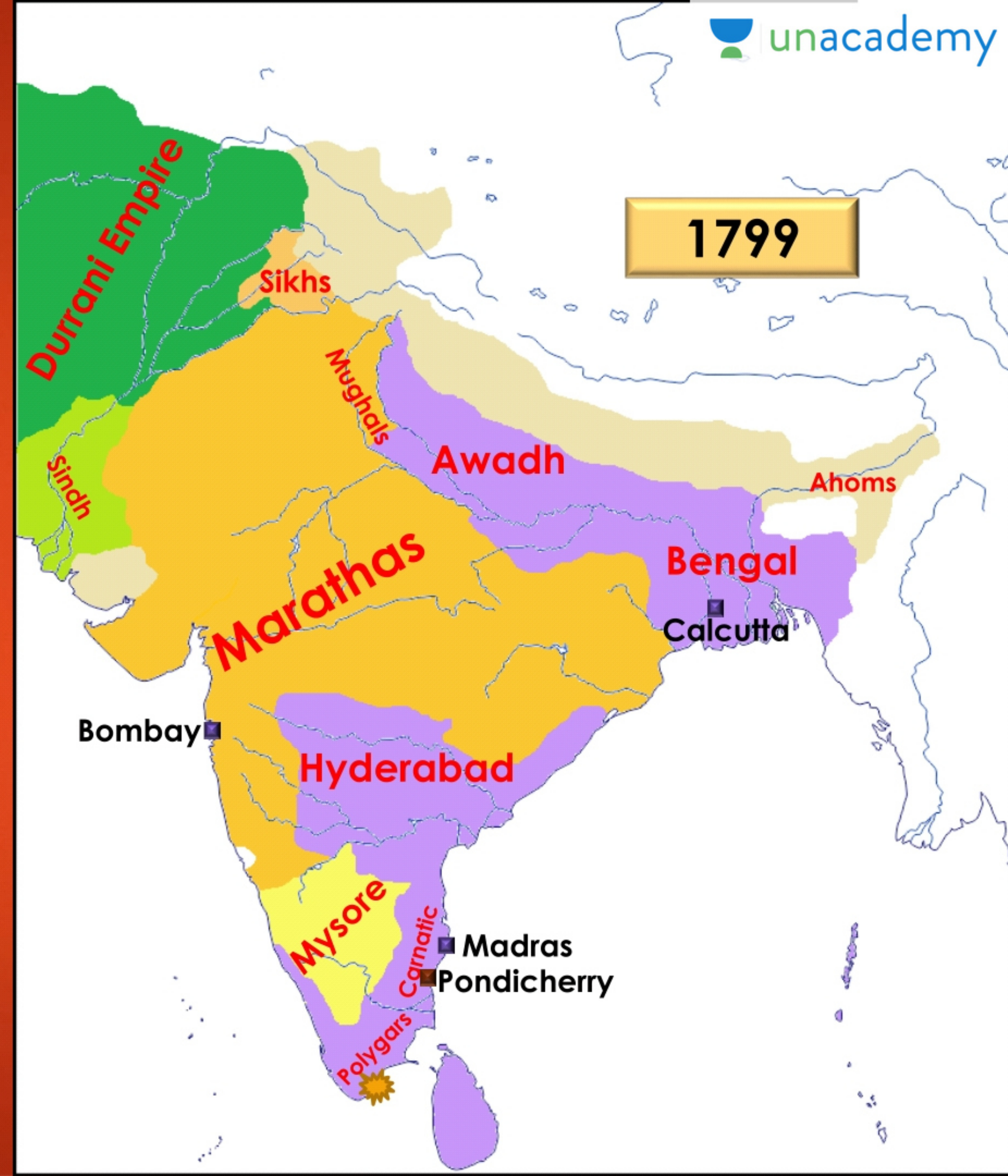
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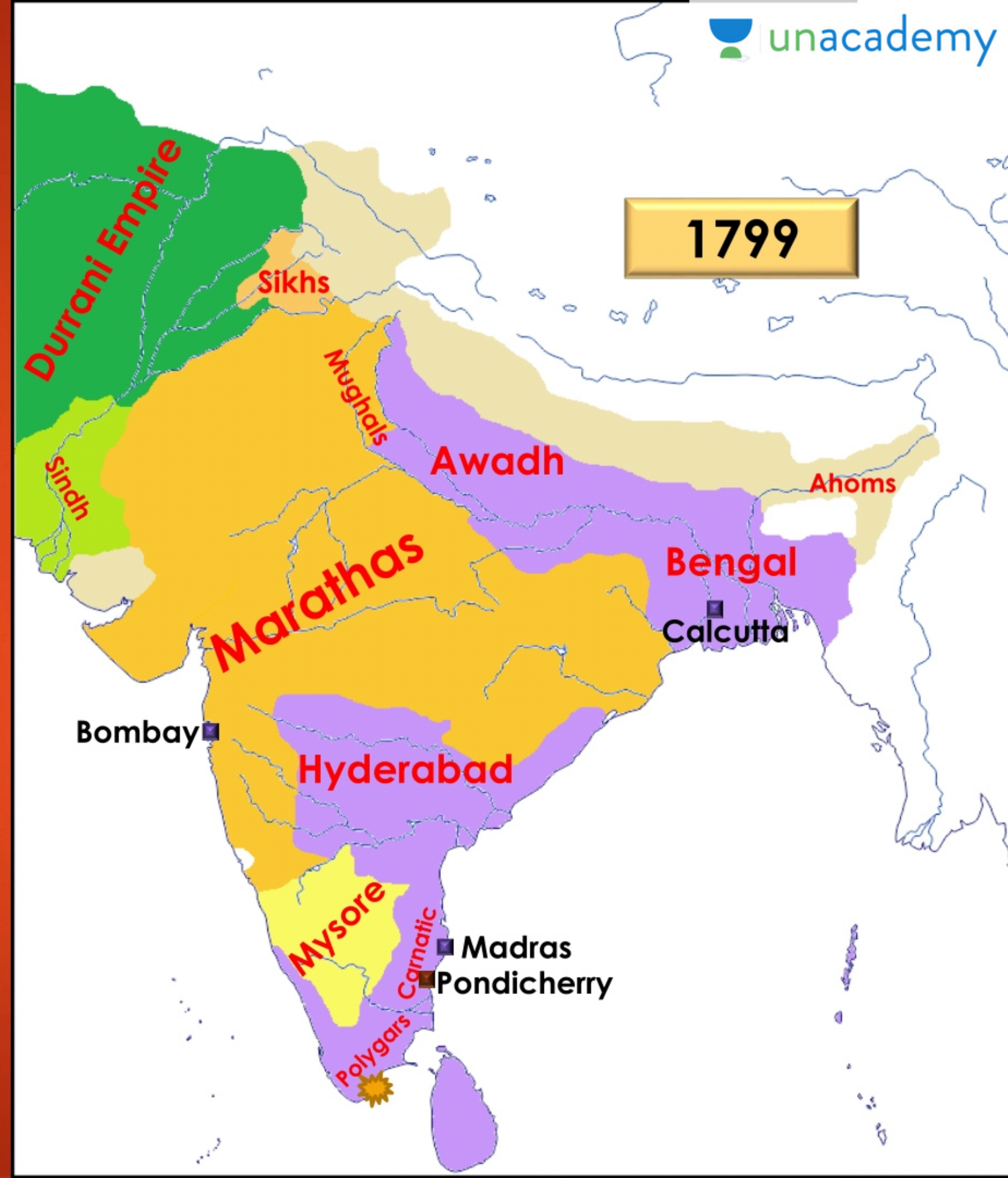
The Polygars

- ▶ Nayaks, appointed the heads of Paalayam (Tamil) or Palem (Telugu), chiefly for civil works.
- ▶ Therefore the name, Palayakkar or Palaiyakkarar.
- ▶ Polygar is its Anglicized form.
- ▶ Other variants – Palegara and Palegaddu.



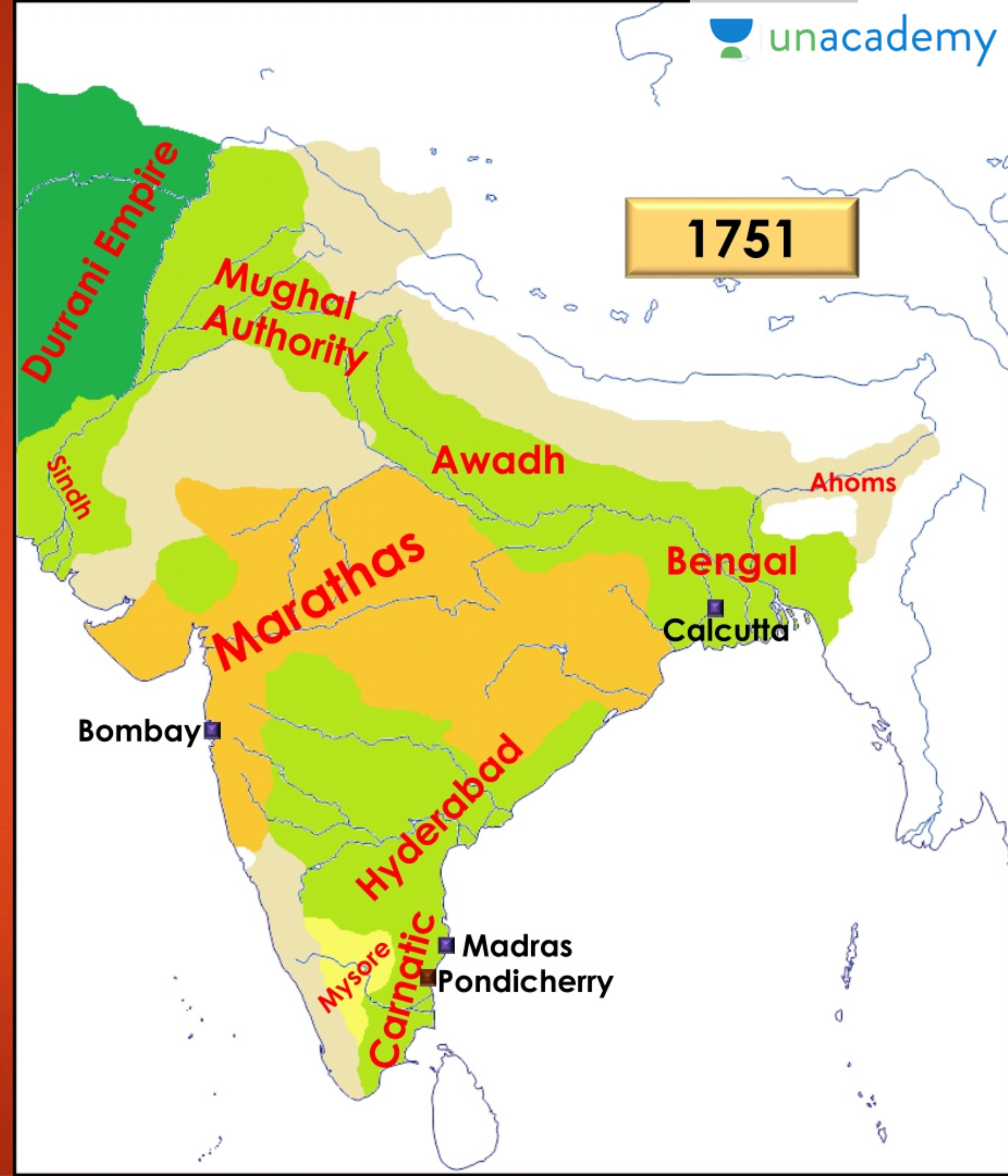
The Role of the Polygars

- ▶ To administer their Palaiyams (territories) from their fortified headquarters.
- ▶ To collect taxes, retain one-fourth and submit the rest to the treasury.
- ▶ To maintain law and order.
- ▶ To maintain the royal army.
- ▶ To look after the civil works.



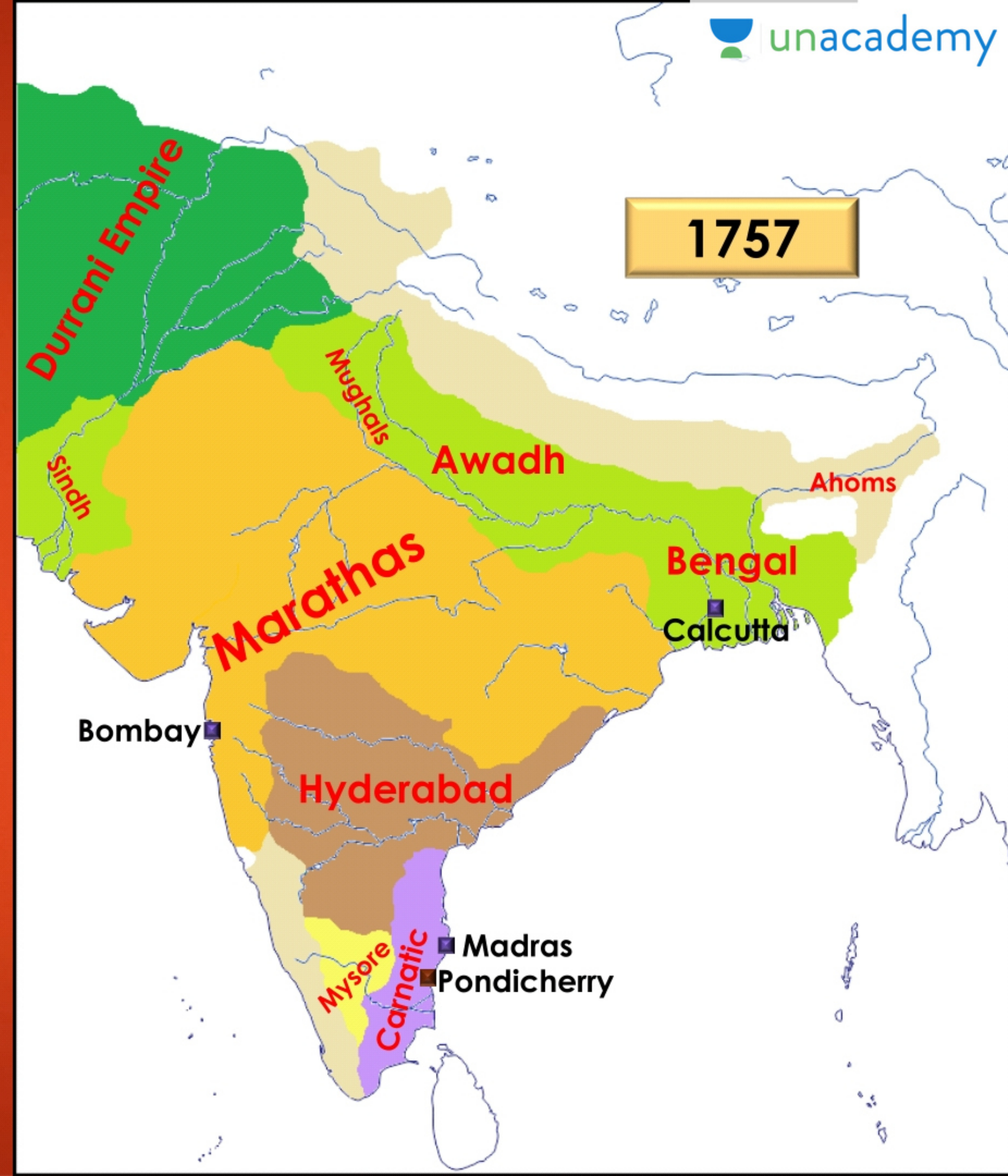
The Polygars of the Madurai Nayaks

- ▶ Madurai Nayaks ruled up to 1736, when their territory was annexed by Carnatic Nawab, Dost Ali Khan.
- ▶ The second Carnatic War (1749 – 54) brought Carnatic under British influence.



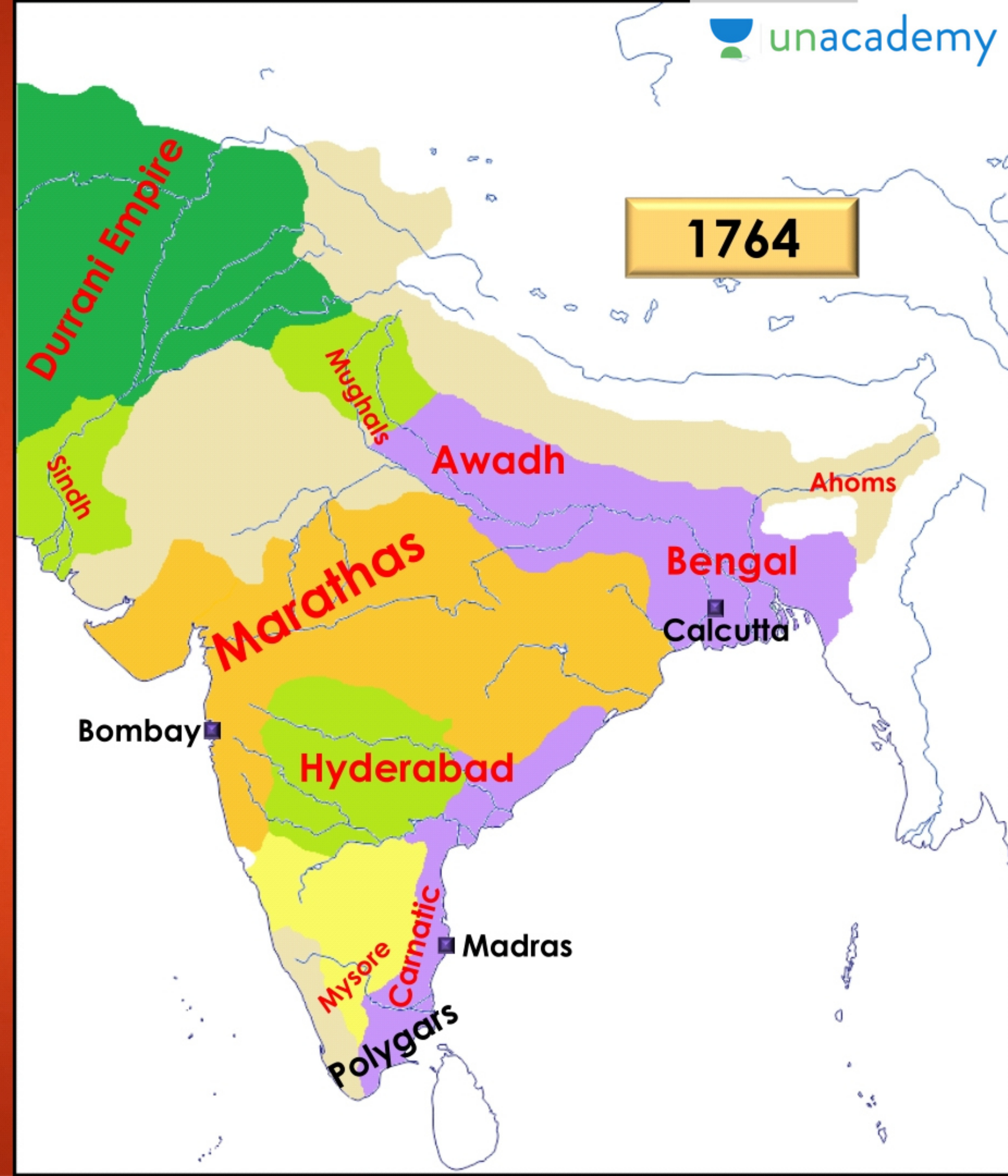
Madurai Region

- ▶ The second Carnatic War (1749 – 54) brought Carnatic under British influence.
- ▶ The Madurai region was handed over to the company in 1751.
- ▶ The Third Carnatic War (1756 – 1763) cemented the Company's dominance over the region.



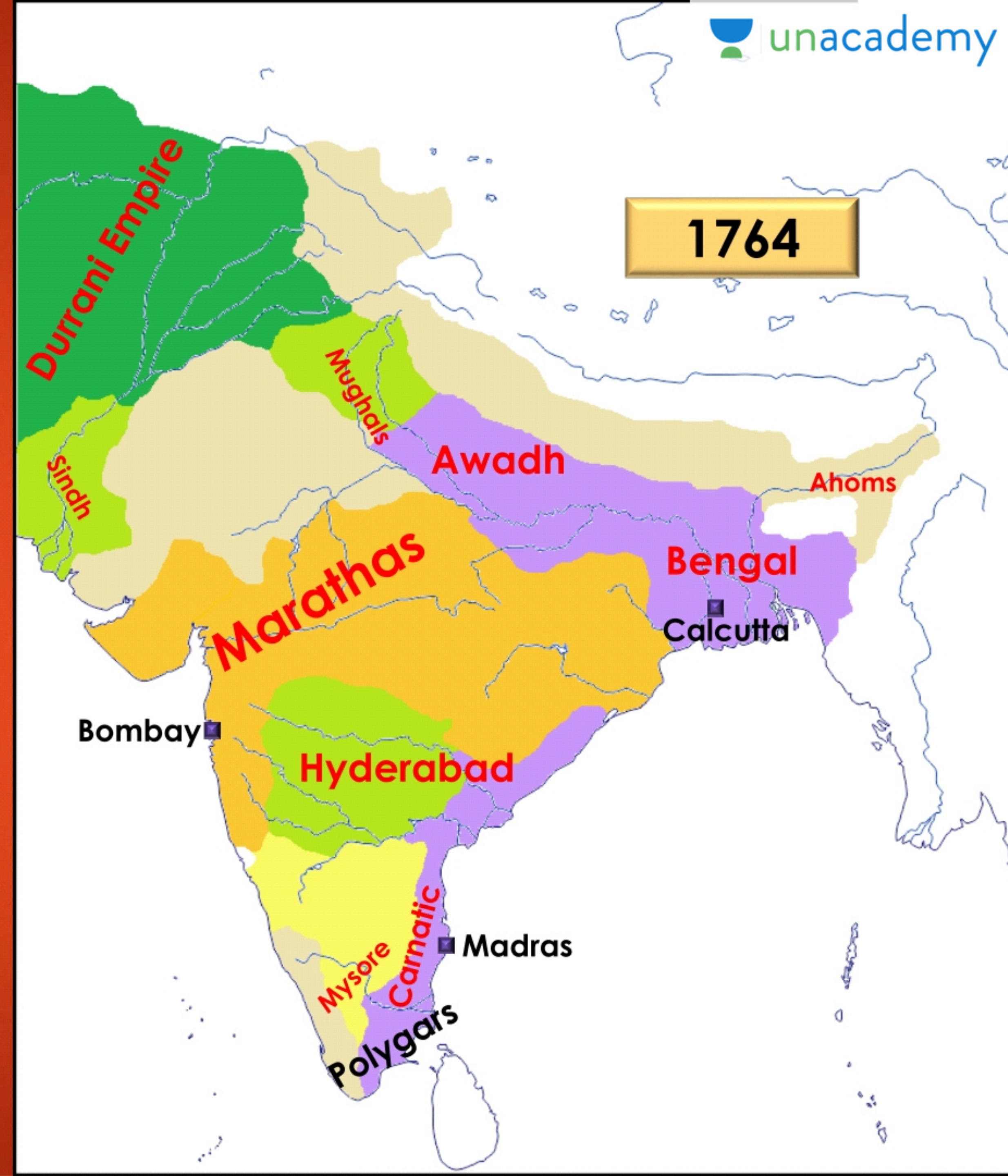
Early Polygar Uprisings

- ▶ Maveeran Alagumuthu Kone in 1759 in Tuticorin District.
- ▶ Puli Thevar showed stubborn resistance against the colonial rule between 1755 and 1760 in Tuticorin and Tirunelveli districts.
- ▶ It had politico-religious background.



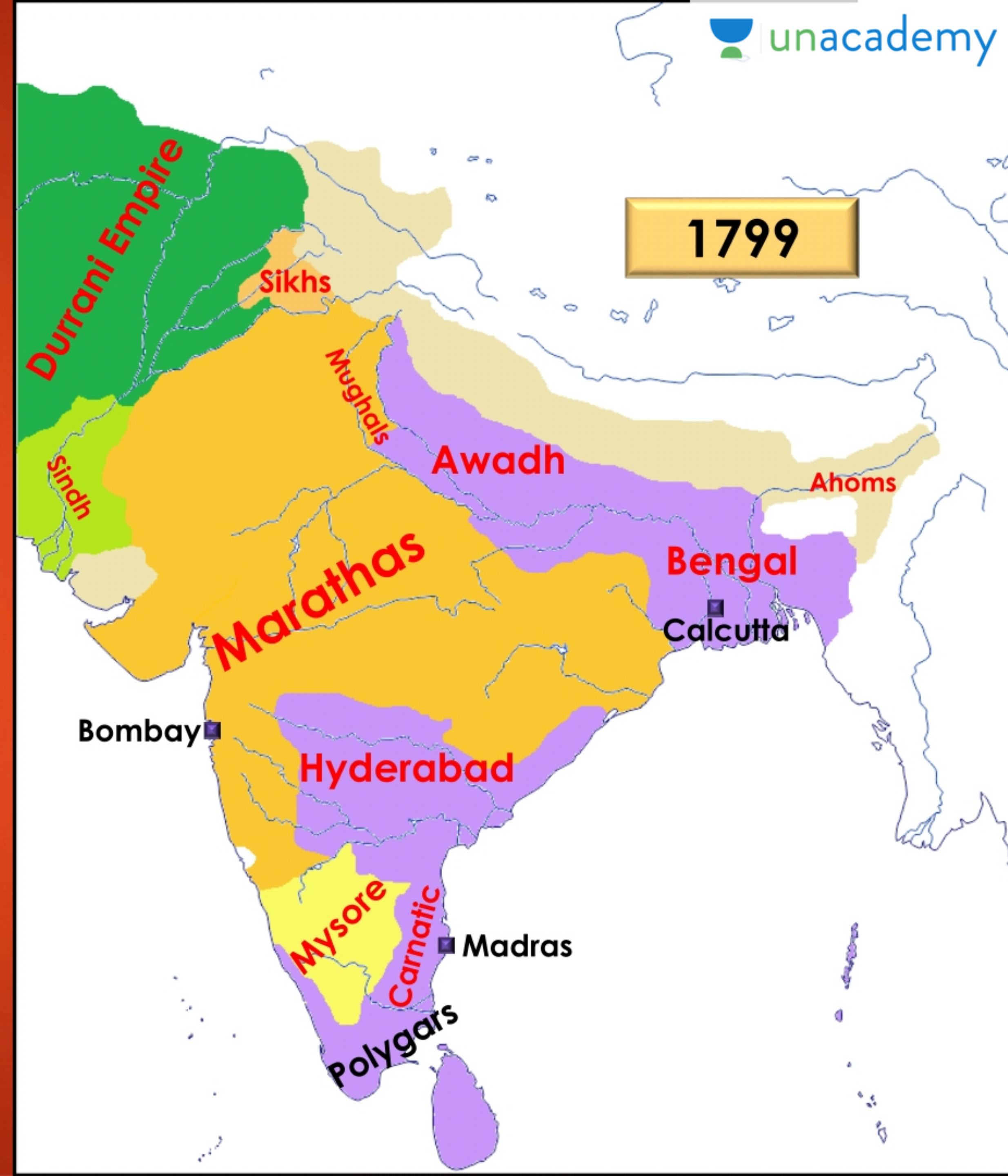
Muhammad Yusuf Khan

- ▶ Born Maruta Nayakam Pillai, converted to Islam during the Second Carnatic Wars.
- ▶ Helped the British and Carnatic Nawabs in suppressing the Polygars.
- ▶ Later resisted the Company and Arcot Nawab's rule.
- ▶ Executed in 1764 near Madurai.



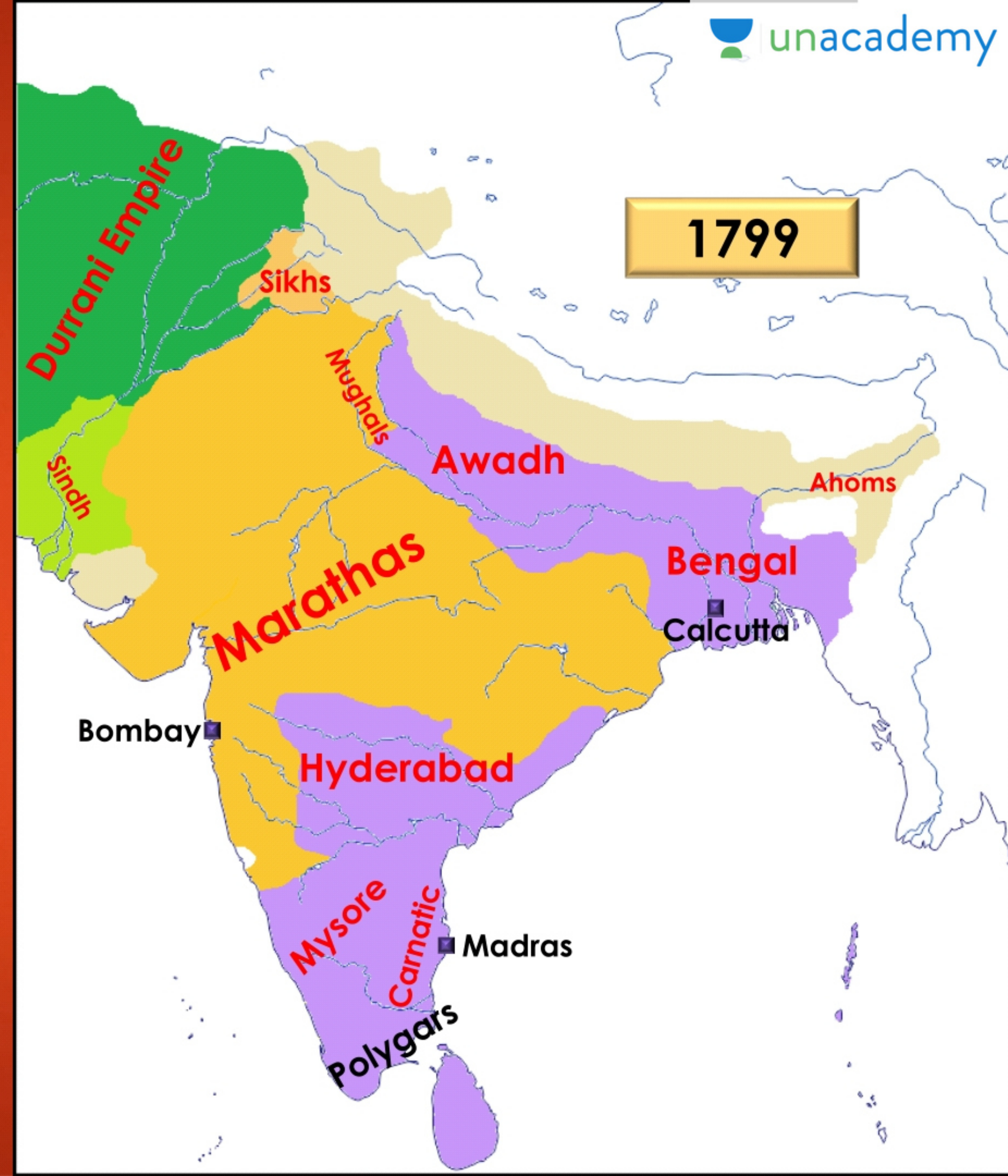
Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799)

- ▶ Tipu tried to befriend the Durranis of Afghanistan and the First French Republic.
- ▶ With this pretext, EIC and Nizam Hyderabad invaded Mysore.
- ▶ Tipu was killed.
- ▶ Mysore entered the subsidiary alliance



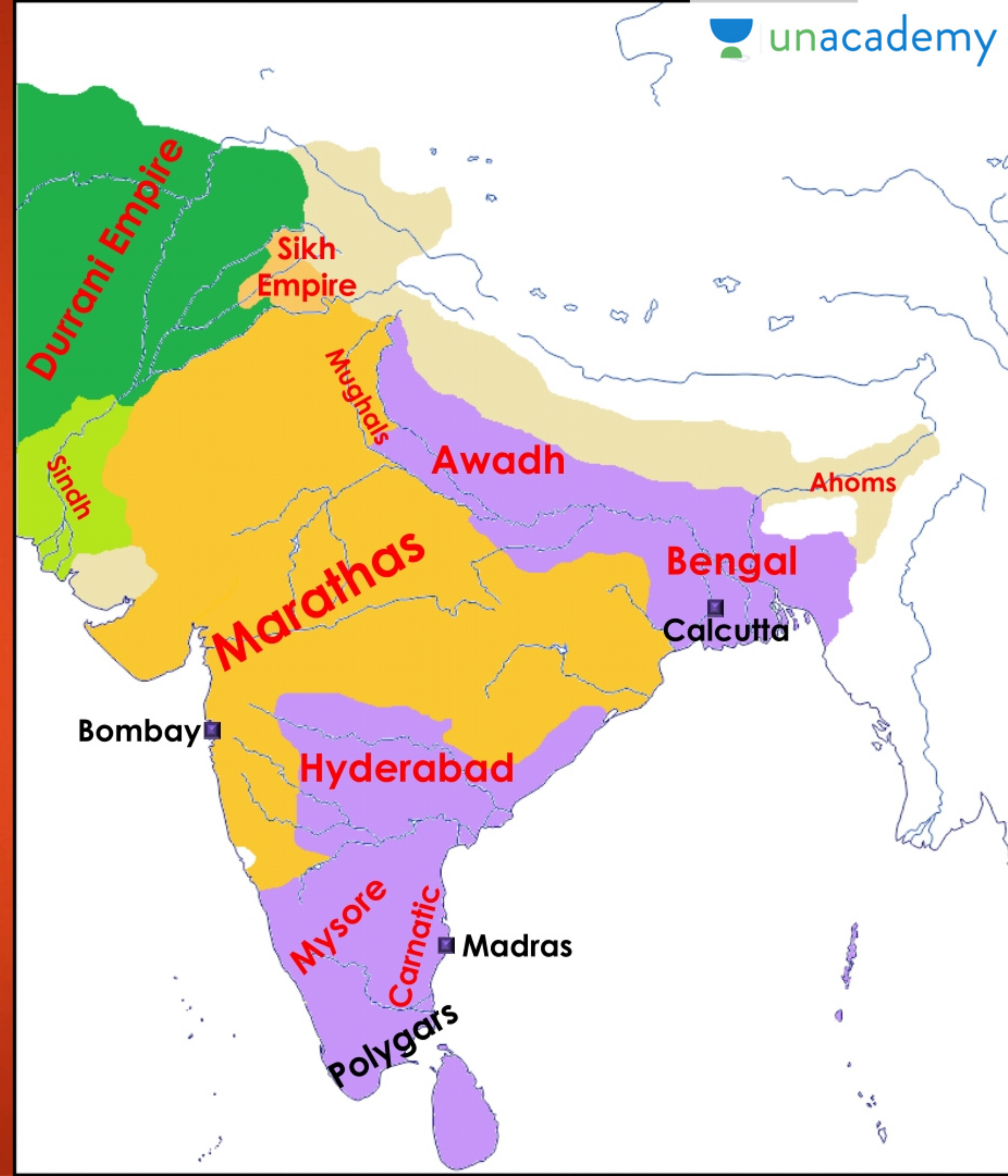
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Subsidiary Alliance up to 1802 :

- ▶ Hyderabad, 1798
- ▶ Mysore, 1799
- ▶ Tanjore, 1799



Next :
Lesson – 4

THE POLYGARS Part – II

By **Abhyudaya Kelkar**

