

## Lesson - 9

# The Maratha Resurrection

**By Abhyudaya Kelkar**

# Madhav Rao Peshwa

- He was Nana Saheb's (Balaji Baji Rao) second son.
- He was barely 16 year-old while being made Peshwa.
- He was under the protection of his uncle, Raghunath Rao.
- Raghunath Rao himself wanted to become Peshwa and tried to curb Madhav Rao's power.

# Raghunath Rao

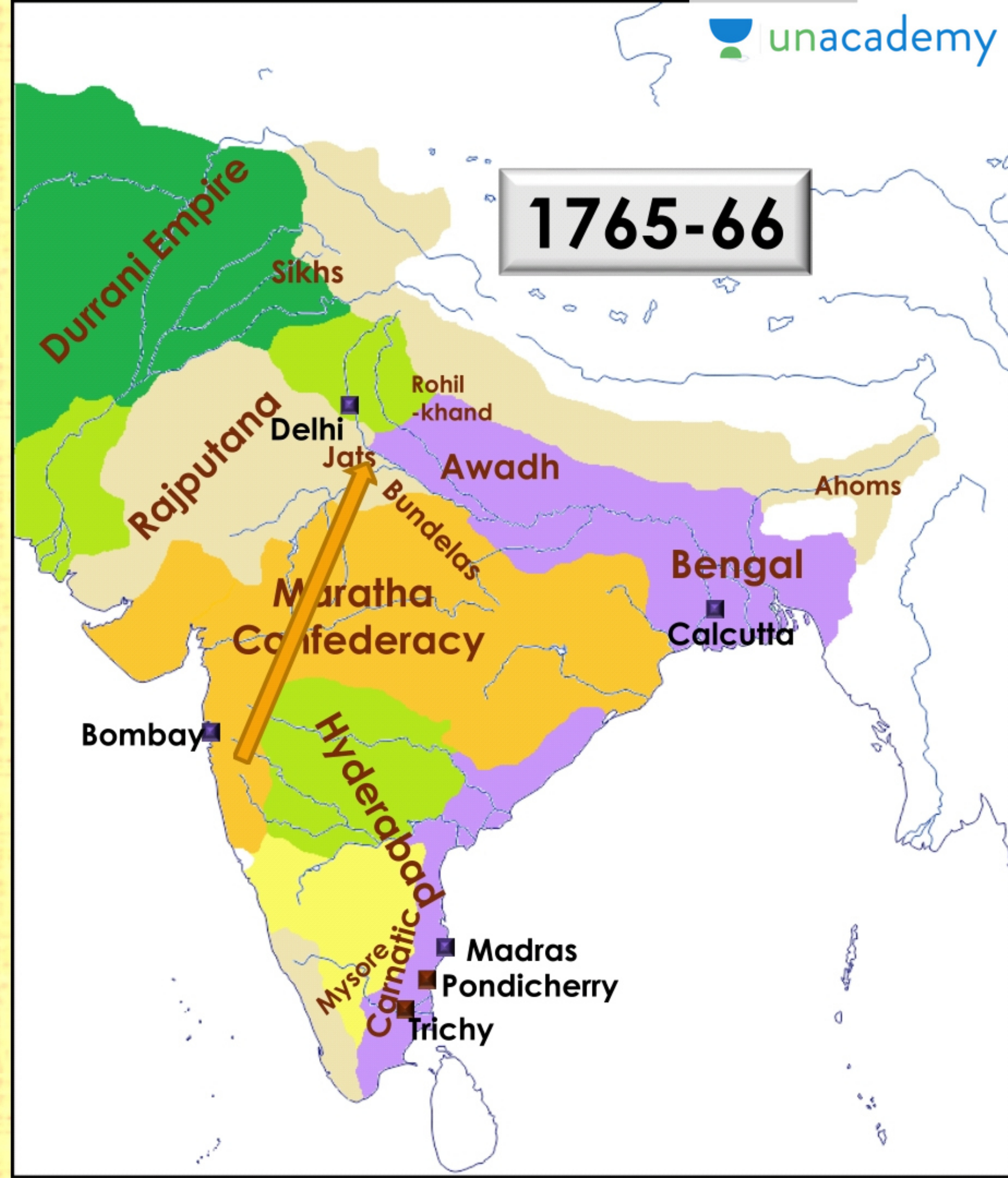
- The Maratha politics between 1761 and 1766 was dominated by Raghunath Rao.
- He prevented many virtuous Marathas from gaining prominent positions which stopped Maratha.
- He also played in the dynastic matters of Shinde and Holkar, who had been sacked by Balaji Baji Rao for the Panipat debacle.
- He prevented Mahadji Shinde (Scindia) to become the Shinde chief of Ujjain and also frustrated Malhar Rao Holkar.

# Nizam's invasion

- Taking advantage, Nizam invaded Pune in 1762.
- With the help of Raghunath Rao, he defeated Madhav Rao at Alegaon in November, 1762.
- Finally, the Nizam was defeated by Madhav Rao in the Battle of Rakshas-bhuwan in August, 1763 and was forced to sign treaty.
- Nizam shifted his capital to Hyderabad from Aurangabad thereafter, in 1763.

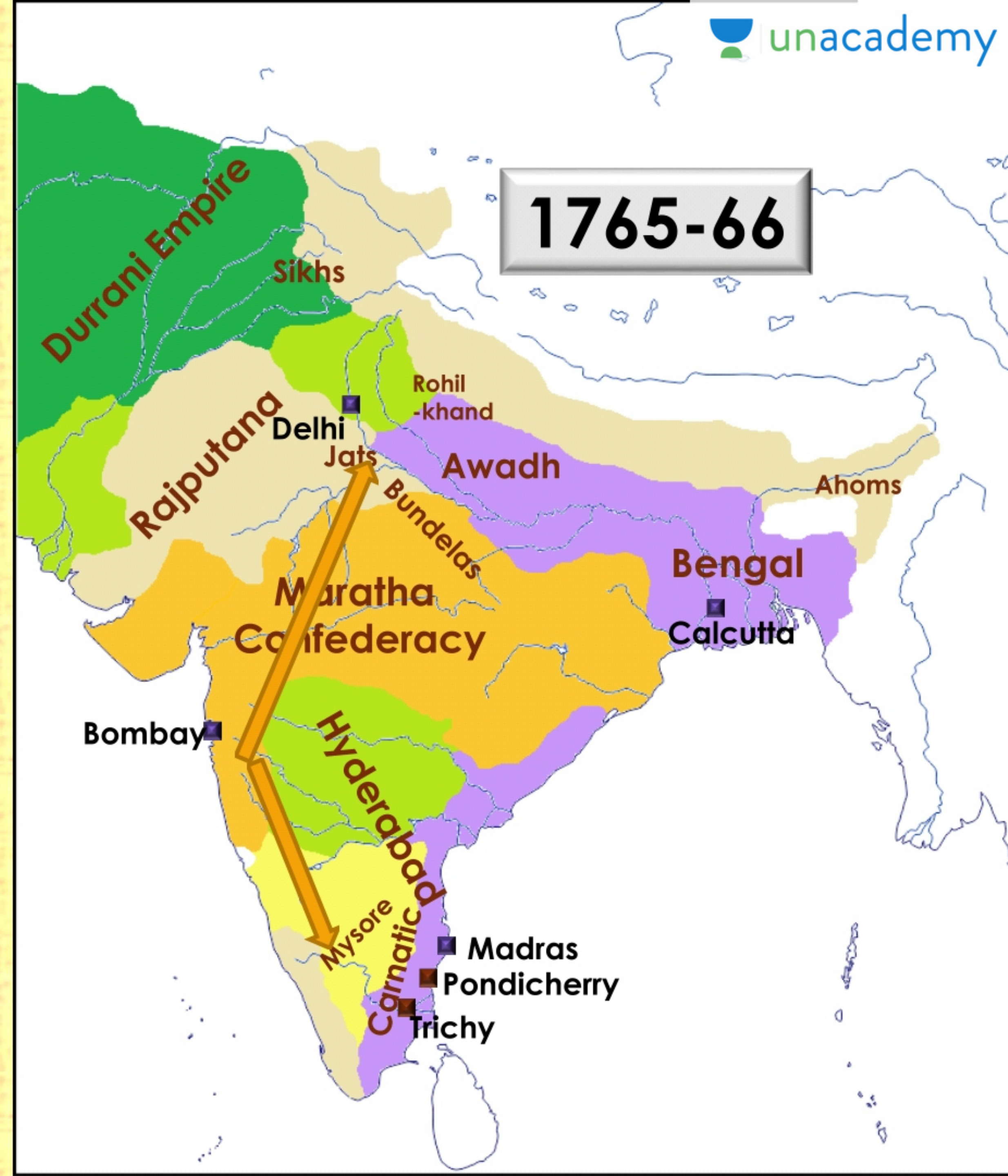
## Raghunath Rao's Northern Campaign

- ▶ Raghunath Rao was sent in 1765 to restore Maratha dominance in the north.
- ▶ His moves resulted in :
  - Stalemate at Gohad
  - Defeat by the British at Kalpi and Manikpur, who had invaded Awadh after Buxar (1764).



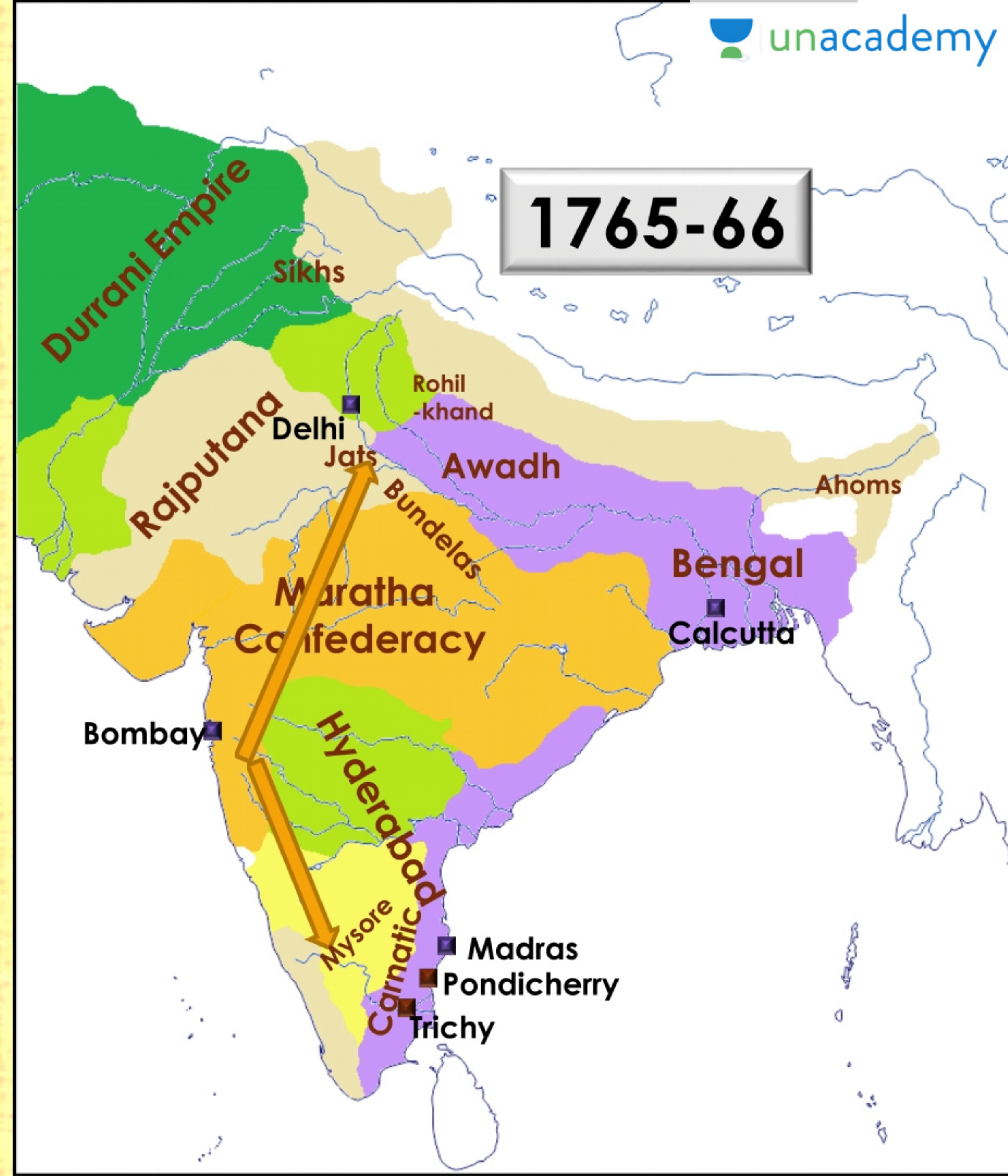
## Madhav Rao's Southern Campaign

- ▶ Hyder Ali usurped the power in Mysore in 1761.
- ▶ He was defeated Madhav Rao numerous times.
- ▶ In 1767, Marathas reached Srirangapatnam and forced Hyder to pay the Chauth and the arrears.
- ▶ The victories against Nizam and Hyder increased Madhav Rao's influence.



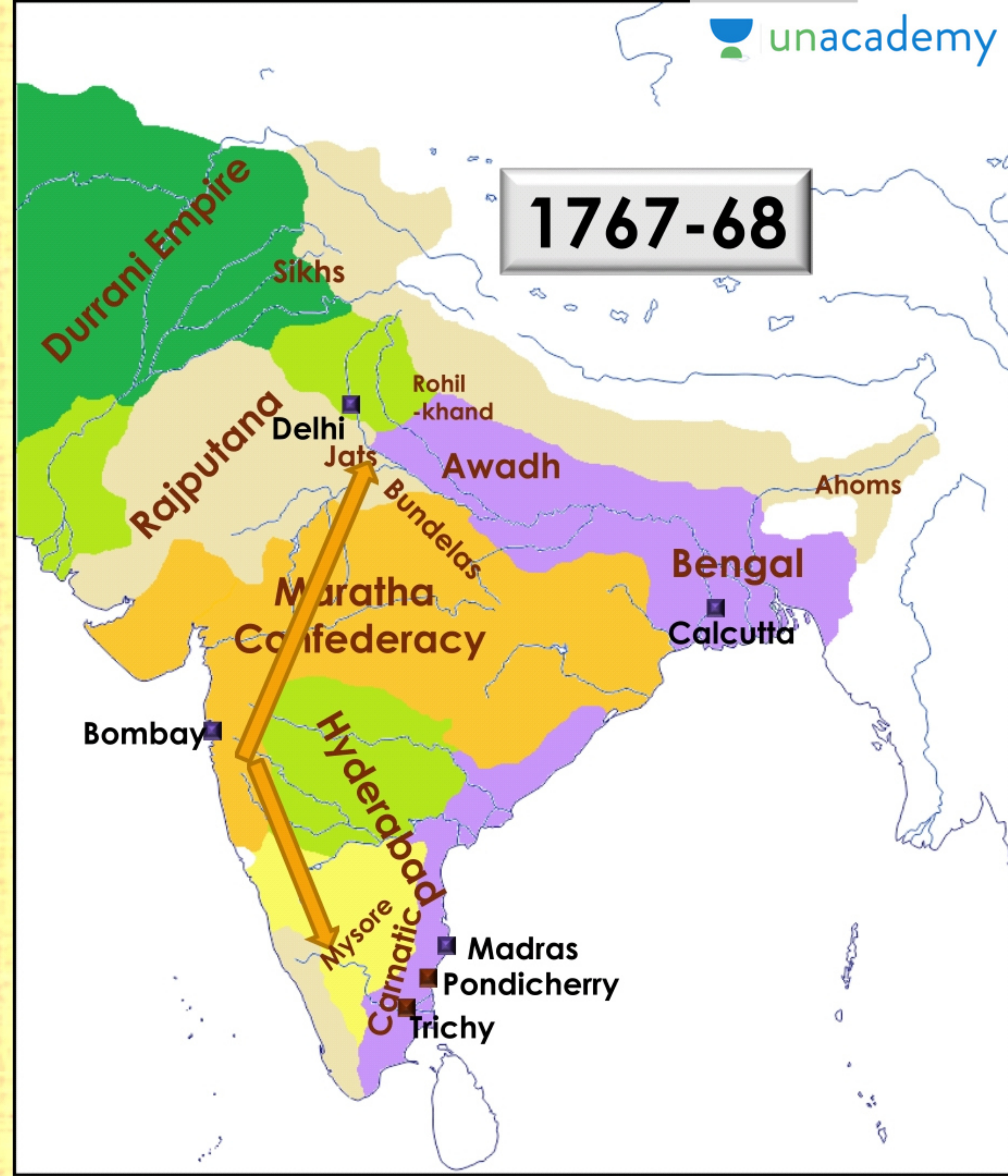
## Raghunath Rao's Northern Campaign

- ▶ Raghunath Rao's influence was much reduced due to the failure in this campaign while Madhav Rao's southern campaigns were successful.
- ▶ Malhar Rao Holkar died in 1765 and Raghunath Rao tried to usurp his domains, which was challenged by Ahilyabai, the widowed daughter-in-law of Malhar Rao.



## Shinde and Holkars

- ▶ Madhav Rao recognized Ahilyabai as the heir to the Holkar's possessions in 1767, adding an important ally.
- ▶ He defeated and imprisoned Raghunath Rao.
- ▶ He recognized the rights of Mahadji Shinde (Scindia) in 1768 and made him the head of the northern affairs.

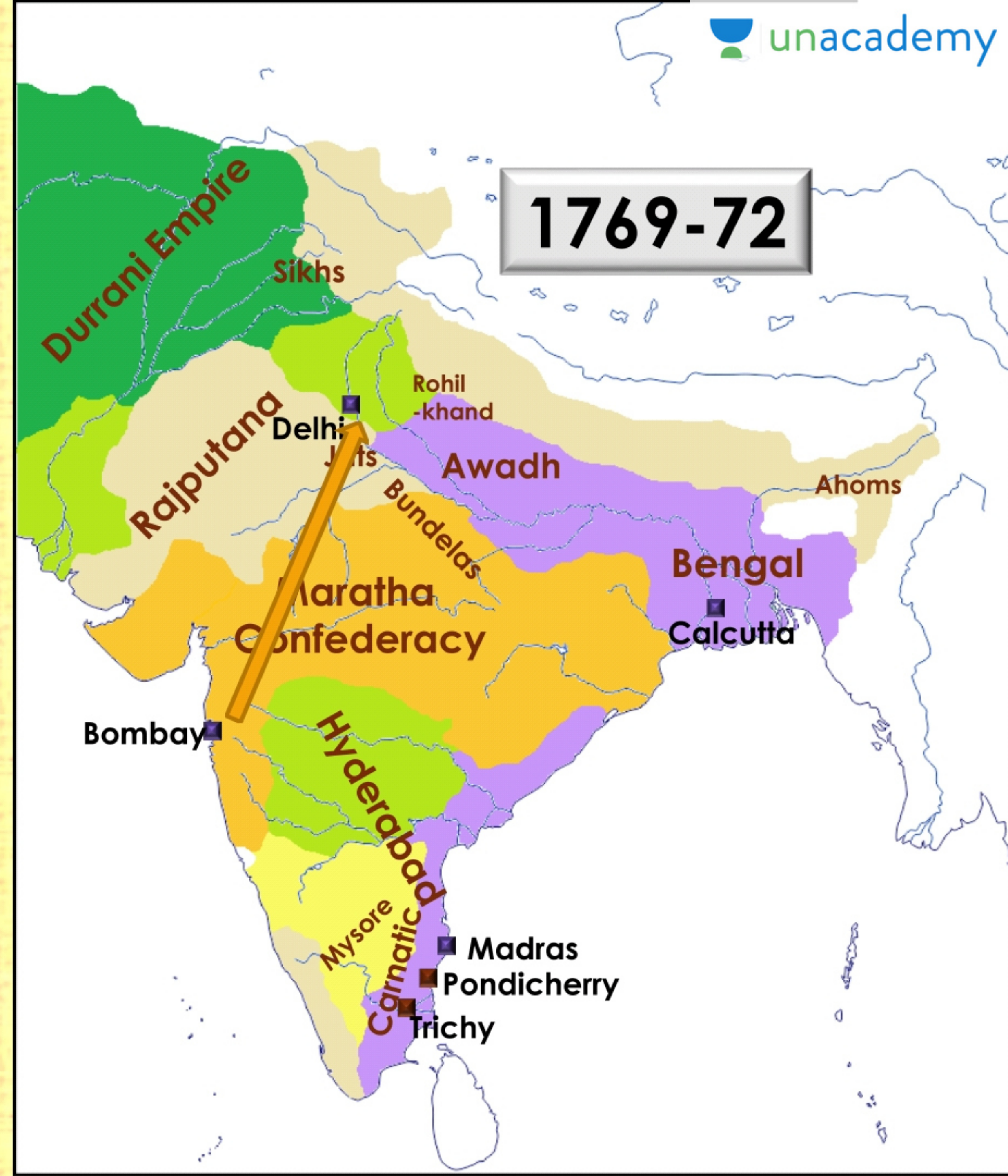


# Madhav Rao's Patronage

- He was a man of vision and had fine judgement of skills, merits and virtues.
- He was an excellent administrator and a considerable military leader.
- He strengthened the position of Mahadji Shinde (Scindia), Ahilyabai Holkar, Nana Fadnavis and Ram Shastri.
- He recruited many meritorious people who kept the Empire and the Confederacy fairly stable after his untimely death.

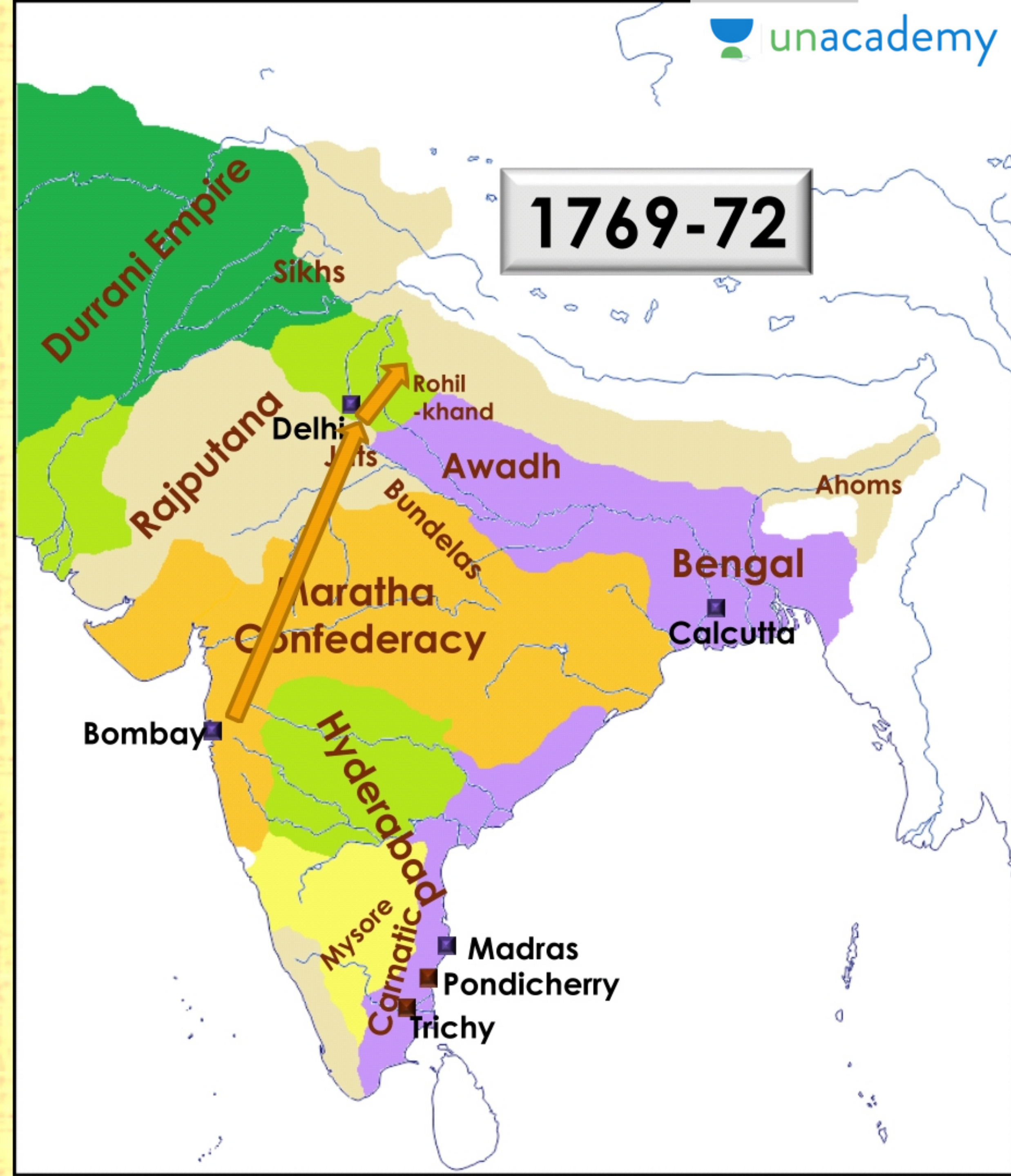
## Mahadji's Northern Campaign, 1769-72

- ▶ The combined armies of Peshwa, Shinde and Holkar headed by Mahadji crossed the Chambal after 10 years in 1770.
- ▶ Mahadji defeated Jats in 1770.
- ▶ Najib-ud-Daulah Rohilla died in 1770 and was succeeded by Zabeta Khan.



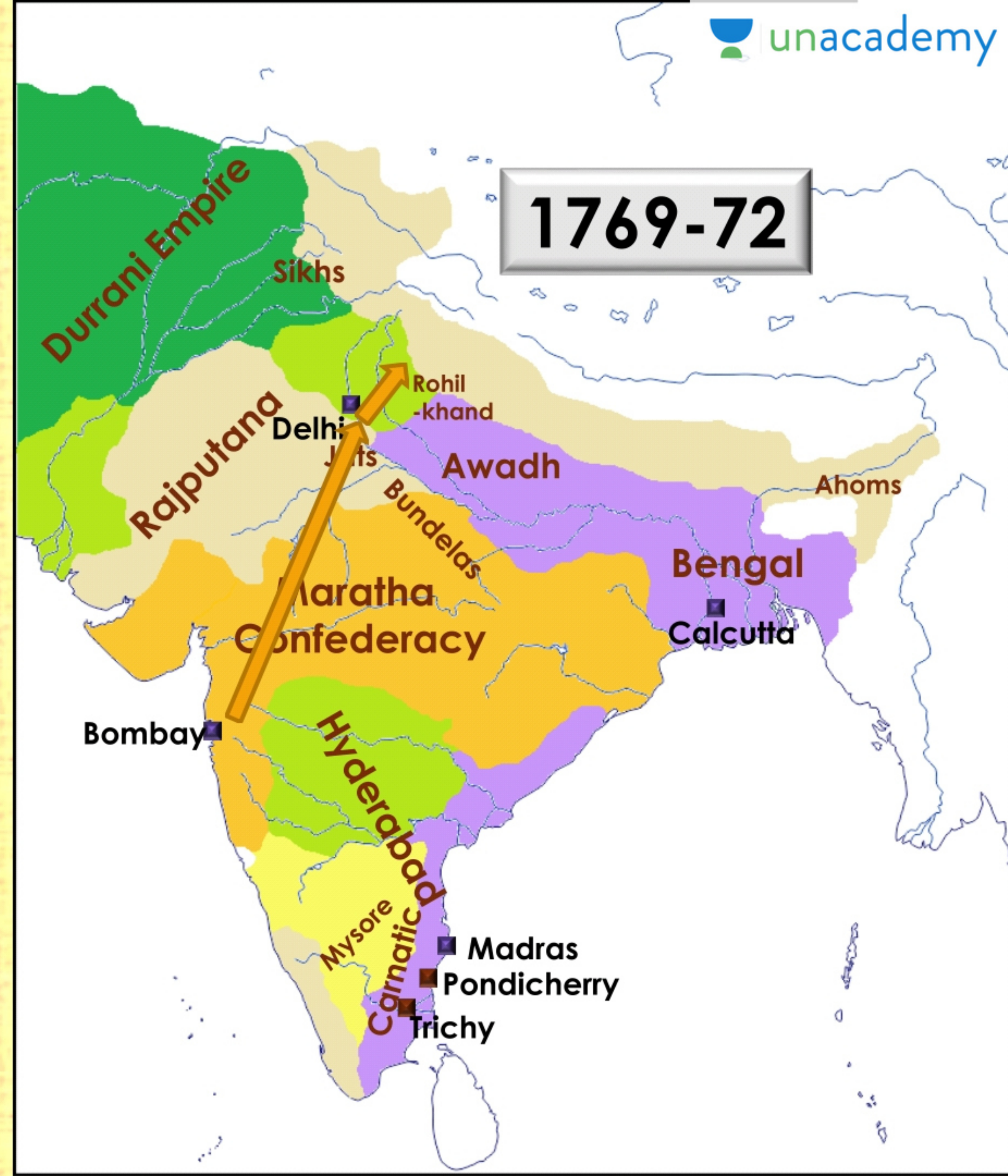
## Mahadji's Northern Campaign, 1769-72

- ▶ Mahadji defeated the Rohillas in 1771 and occupied Delhi.
- ▶ Mahadji brought back Shah Alam II from British confinement at Allahabad and reinstalled him on the throne of Delhi in 1772.
- ▶ Marathas moved on to plunder Rohilkhand and avenge Panipat.



## Mahadji's Northern Campaign, 1769-72

- ▶ Zabeta Khan Rohilla fled towards the hills never to return.
- ▶ With this, Marathas recovered Delhi and the loss at Panipat to a large extent.
- ▶ Marathas retreated from Rohilkhand in 1773 due to crisis in Pune.



# Madhav Rao's Death

- Before Madhav Rao could consolidate the gains, he died of tuberculosis near Pune in November, 1772, at the age of 27.
- He had entrusted his younger brother, Narayan Rao, to Raghunath Rao.
- In the words of the British historian Grantt Duff –  
“...the plains of Panipat were not more fatal to the Maratha Empire than the early end of this excellent prince”.

## Lesson – 10

# The Confederacy Era - I

**By Abhyudaya Kelkar**