

**THE CHARTER OF 1600
OR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EAST INDIA
COMPANY**







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William Hawkins (governor) -

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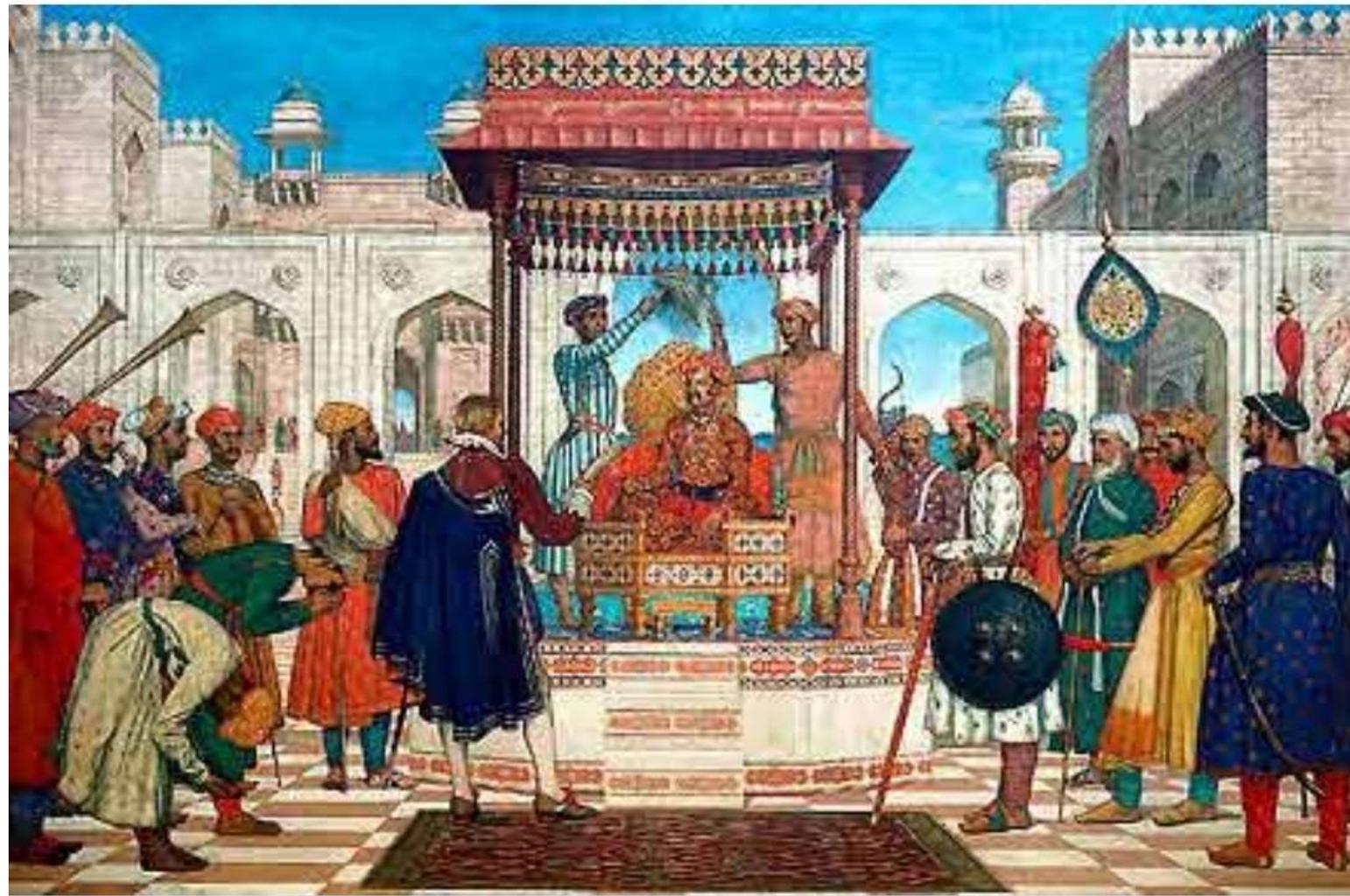




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Sir Thomas Roe stood before Jahangir

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Fort William, Bengal



Fort St. George, Madras

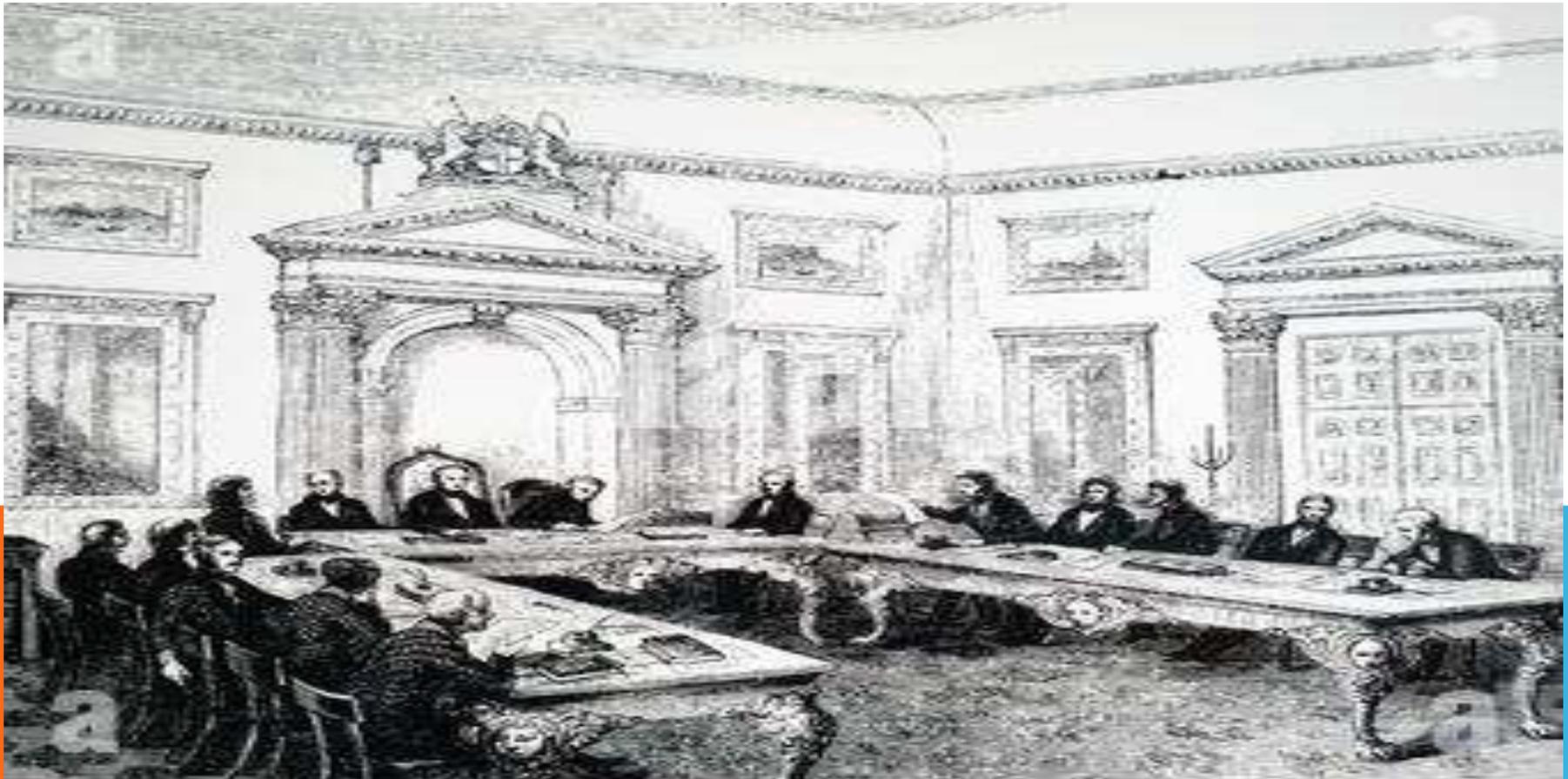


Bombay Castle, Bombay

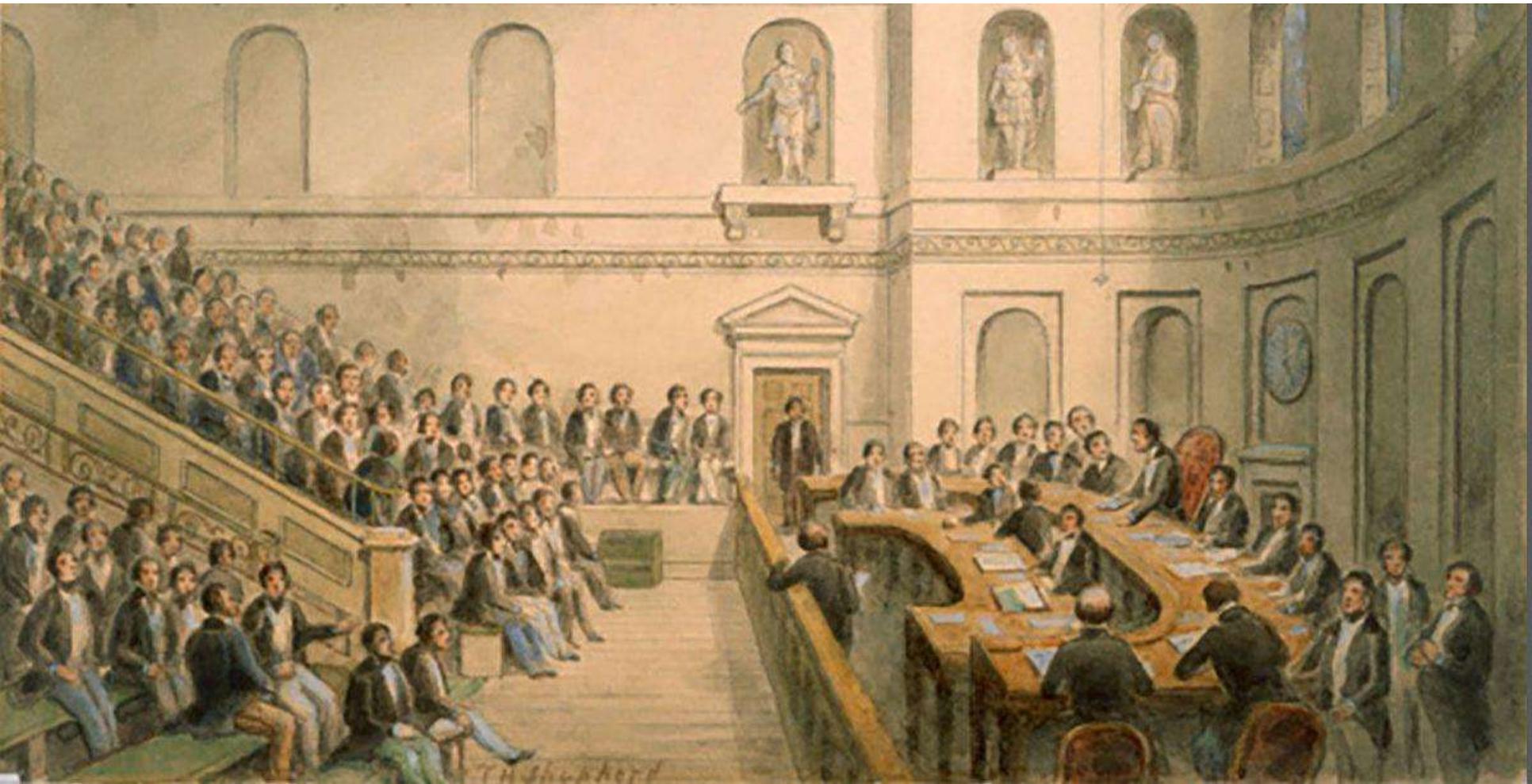
ESTABLISHMENT OF EAST INDIA COMPANY

1) MANAGEMENT :- The management of the company was vested in

Governor and a committee of 24 directors



- **They were to hold office for 1 year & eligible for re-election.**
- **All the members (shareholders) of the company formed as “General Court”.**
- **The general court could remove any one of them before the expiry of 1 year and could fill the vacancy for the remaining period by electing a new person.**



2) Legislative Power :-

- **It means Law making power.**
 - **The Charter of 1600 conferred limited legislative power on the company to make laws, ordinances, etc.**
 - **These laws were to be reasonable and should not be contrary to the laws, statutes or customs of England.**
 - **The company could try petty cases and could impose fines and imprisonment.**
 - **It had no power to deal with capital offences and to award capital punishments (death sentence and life imprisonment)**
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3) King's Committee :-

- **With the limited legislative power, the company could not control capital offences on high seas and could not maintain discipline among its servants.**
 - **To maintain discipline, the crown issued Royal Commission to execute martial law. Such Commission was issued to the Chief of the ship on voyage empowering him to try and punish in respect of crimes committed against the ship on high seas.**
 - **Trial under Royal Commission involved excessive delay in disposal of cases.**
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- **Appointment of Royal Commission was found impracticable.**
 - **To obviate this practice, King James I on December 14, 1615 delegated to the company, appointment of such commissions.**
 - **In case of capital offences, the verdict should be given by a jury of 12 company's servants.**
 - **King James I on February 4, 1623 conferred on the power to issue Royal Commission in respect of crimes committed on land.**
 - **President or chief officers were empowered to try and punish in respect of capital offences with the help of jury.**
 - **Thus the charters of 1615 and 1623 empowered the company to establish discipline amongst its servants both on the high seas and on the land.**
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