CONCLUSION

Despite the political upheaval which Northern India experienced during 18th Century, the economic progress of the region did not hamper too much, though it suffered from the hands of rising smaller nationalities who wanted to carve out their own niches on the vast Northern Indian plains which had dismembered as a result of the Mughal declining in power and prestige. The emerging smaller Kingdoms and the local potentates did manage to have some share in the emerging economy as the matter of custom and toll was not fully resolved, so the passing trading Karvans from one kingdom to another kingdom had to face certain bottleneck and had to pay more tariffs than they previously used to pay. The changing scenario of 18th century northern India make it difficult for researchers to grapple with certain problems and reach to certain conclusion that how the century which one is investigating happened to be different from the previous one. Thus, the political situation in understanding makes it amply clear that the shifting political power to 'cartelisation' of Indian market as propounded by C.A.Bayly in his famous book "Townsmen and Bazaars; North Indian Society in the Age of British Expansion" and K.N. Chaudhary in his work "The Trading Works of Asia and The English East India Company" that there emerged numerous hubs in Northern India and from centralized economic setup to decentralized smaller pockets made it a different kind of setup in which local patronage led to the survival of the economic structure as the craft and the craftsmen found new patronage in Northern India.

The famous Karkhana system which survived from long duration of time gave way to the small workshop system under the patronage of emerging local feudal lords in the forms of talukdar, zamindar and
courts of Nawab, as the changing scenario supported the changed economic structure. The same period is also characterized with the coming of European scenario which already started with the Charter Act of 1600 to East India Company which also established factory in 1600. Not only that we also get other Europeans which included the French, the Dutch, the Portuguese and other smaller nations had mercantile nations initially rather than having political and territorial thrust. Their main aim was to get maximum profits out of their sold manufacture or whatever they could get from India and sale in the European market. So driven by those given profit they also managed to bring European technology with them in order to increase productivity and sale the goods at cheaper rate in comparison to existing handlooms products or other products coming out of Indian craft and technology. In this study we have found that the textiles and its technology, its trade form the basic industry in India and that is why the European companies targeted the textiles industries more than they did to any other industry. A detailed study has been done on this theme involving textiles right from the beginning of thread making, cotton carding, weaving and finally its giving shape with dyeing the cloth. Undoubtedly the technology though not very mechanical it used to produce one of the finest cloth in the world and there was no comparison in that regards but as we got the information regarding the technological revolution in Europe we have analyzed that Indian textiles faced stiff challenges and could not compete with the machine made cheap goods. Ultimately finding difficult to compete, the Indian products gave way to the European products. With the establishment of foothold of East India Company we find that the British managed to have system in which incessant flow of wealth was insured through trading and another benefits as the later historian put it terming it “Drain of Wealth” from India to Britain.
It was that drain which had a system of involving the commodities procured from Indian market on cheaper rates and selling the same on higher prices in British or European market. With the changing mechanism the British had their own industrial goods which were to be sold in Indian market at cheaper rate than the Indian indigenous products. Thus it was the effort of capturing market which had huge population and huge demand. The story from the Battle of Plassy to Battle of Buxar in 1764, we find that the British had acquired the control of not only trading right but also a vast expansion of territory from Bengal to Oudh and a large extent north India. So the existing system of Indian indigenous industry the craft is technology the dependable associated people with that to were going to be effected in more than one way a great transformation was to take place which greatly changed the basic structure of the Indian handicrafts the composition of Indian artisan class their income and there marketization of products. It was by the middle of 18th century that we find things started changing seriously as the British official targeted the Indian industries and the artisan for the sake of extracting more and more profits from the Indian market. The system which was continuing from previous centuries had to be altered, then only the British mechanism could work and we get to know all these changes taking place. First, it was the effort of the British official to lower the wages of the Indian artisans so that their interest in the existing system should be lessened. They reduced the tariffs on British goods from India and goods coming to India. At one point it happened that it was hardly demand for Indian goods and hardly had it remained beneficial for Indian traders to trade.

The declining of Mughal Empire had given way to growth of new commercial centre during 18th century. Though most of the existing towns which were once hubs of all activities like Dacca, Murshidabad,
Banaras, Agra, Lucknow, Ahmdabad and other such towns which once boasted of great commercial centres, were losing their status. Buchanan traveled the township of Dacca, Murshidabad finding them deserted and the jungle grown in place of industries and the colonies of the artisans. The artisan wanted an alternative source of income in most of the cases they fled to rural areas and took up agriculture and sundry jobs for their survival. But despite serious problem the towns emerged in northern India during 18th century as a result of the local patentees having their own capitals in different localities for example towns like Najibabad, Bharatpur, Rampur, Jagdishpur, Faizabad, and Farrukhabad. It had scores of other emerging towns during 18th century as those became the capital towns. Most of the northern Indian local lords who carved out their own local principalities and the emergence of these towns the interest trade artisan class also became attached with those town and we find smaller town having specialized handicrafts during 18th century. For example brass work going to happen in town like Moradabad, glass work in Firozabad, Agra for marble work, town like Banaras having specialization in textiles work and similar kinds of work we find in eastern part of India for example Patna important for Salt Petre and Bhagalpur specializing in silk so it cannot be said that by 18th century there was total disturbance and chaos, but rather shifting old with adjusting new socio-political and economic setup. It was out of compulsion rather than by choice, the circumstances forced by British with the new technology with the political force.

Now coming to the point of the technology itself we find that Indian cottage industry suffered greatly and unfortunately there was no immediate replacement of those with any new industries it took more than hundred years of time for such replacement so the rest of 100 years the India had to adjust existing technology which they had during
Mughal period whether it was textile industries and the technology and it was metallurgy or chemical industries all could now go for more production and all could not be changed to mechanical or any other alternative source for running the industries. We find the existing cottage industries managed to fulfill the demands for both the masses as well as for the elite class, crafts ranging from textiles, silk, copper, Iron, salt making, diamond making and scores of other such homemade goods. We find it continued to work despite serious problems in the societies.

As far as the rural technology is concerned, we find the old Zajmani and Dadani system continued in which a particular class of artisan used to have their own set of people to which they catered their need to. The rural technology in sugar making, oil pressing, leather work and carpentry and other such important aspects of rural life were all depended upon existing rural cottage industries away from what was happening in the town. The village self-sufficiency system remained a great strength for the survival of rural technology despite the shortage of cash, the system continued on the barter system and the rural artisan gave support to the farmer as their existence was depended upon their mutual cooperation but the rural India also suffered in the hands of the greedy eyes of the British who were interested in more and more realization of maximum revenue from the countryside. We find at the outset the British rule itself the Izardari system in rural Bengal greatly damaging the fabric of the rural societies. The absentee landlordism had broken the backbone of the peasantry as well as the artisan class also. Thus it finally made difficult to cope with the British pressure, many villages had deserted look and the problem was graver during 19th century where India experienced recurrent famines, some natural and some as a result of the wrong British policies. Thus, all damages were
done to the handicrafts and the artisans were affected, along with other sections of the society.