

HISTORY

- I. **ANCIENT INDIA:** The Earth is nearly 4000 million years old as supported by scientific evidence and the evolution of its crust shows four stages. The fourth stage is called the Quaternary, which is divided into *Pleistocene* (most recent) and the Holocene (the present); the former lasted between 1, 000,000 and 10000 years before the present and the latter began about 10000 years ago.

* Man appeared on the Earth in Africa about 2.6 million years ago.

The Paleolithic Age: The stone-age whose characteristic features were the use of hand-axes, cleavers and choppers, flakes, blades etc. The rock-shelters and caves at Bhimbetka near Bhopal can be cited as major evidences pointing towards it. In the world context, the upper or the last Paleolithic age marks the appearance of the modern man (*Homo sapiens*) on earth.

The Mesolithic Age: The Mesolithic Period is a transitional phase between the Paleolithic and the Neolithic ages. It is marked by warmer climates, hunting, fishing and food gathering and domestication of animals. The peculiar tool of the people was the microlith, evidence of which can be found in Bogor in Rajasthan.

The Neolithic Age: In the world context, the New Stone Age began around 9000 BC. The people of these times used tools made of polished stone. The domestication of animals became a major economic activity. The only neolithic settlement in India is found in Mehargarh in Rajasthan.

The Chalcolithic Cultures: The end of the neolithic phase saw the use of metals, of which copper was the first to be used. Several cultures were based on the use of stone and copper implements. Such a culture is referred to as a Chalcolithic culture, referring to the use of both copper and stone. Technologically, this represents the pre-Harappan phase because the Harappan civilization was based on the use of bronze. They domesticated animals, practiced agriculture (wheat, rice and *bajra*).

1. The Harappan Culture: The Bronze Age:

The Harappan Civilization flourished on the banks of the river Indus. It was discovered first of all in Harappa in Pakistan by DR Sahnay and RD Banerjee in 1921.

Another prominent excavated site is the Mohanjo-daro (which literally means *the mound of the dead people*) in Sindh.

Some other places containing the remains of this civilization include *Kalibangan* (Rajasthan), *Dholavira* and *Lothal* (Gujarat), *Banawali* (Hissar), *Chanhu Daro* (Sindh) and *Sanghol* (Panjab).

The most distinguishing feature is the *town-planning system* and *architecture*. *Burnt bricks* find use on a wide scale for the first time here. The towns are built on scientific lines, with roads cutting each other at right angles and having covered drains.

Two sites stand out --- The Great Bath and the Great Granary of Mohenjo-daro. The Great Granary is the largest building in Mohenjo-daro.

Rice has been found in Lothal (Gujarat), which was used as a port also. The Indus people were the first to produce cotton; that is why the Greeks refer to it as *Sindon* (derived from *Sindh*).

Mercantile activities were most important in those times. Numerous *seals*, *weights* and *measures* attest to it. The Harappans carried on international business in the Persian Gulf region and long-distance trade in *lapis lazuli*, a precious stone.

The *Mother Goddess* was a major object of worship. The worship of the *Pashupati Maharaj* (who later came to be known as Shiva) was also quite prevalent. Of animals and trees, they used to worship the *bull* and the *pipal* the most.

We find many *seals* and *figurines* made of *terracotta*. We also find a metal image of a dancing girl. They represent the biggest artistic achievements of these people.

It existed between 2500 BC and 1800 BC.

2. The Rigvedic Civilization:

We come to know of *Aryans* from the *Rig Veda*, which is the *earliest specimen* of the Indo-European languages. It is a collection of prayers devoted to different gods.

The Rig Veda has ten chapters, which give us valuable information about these people.

The Aryan civilization flourished on the river Sindhu. The Aryans appeared in India a little later than 1500 BC. and the use of *horses* played a significant role in their conquest of West Asia.

The Aryans always led a *nomadic life*. Their major occupation was *pastoral* (animal-rearing) in nature and cow was the chief animal they domesticated. So many references to cow are found in the *Rigveda* that it seems their entire life revolved around it. Mostly the Aryans fought for the sake of cows. A war is referred to as *gavishti* in vedic literature, which means a search for cows.

We find two very important political assemblies: The *Sabha* and The *Samiti*. We find evidence of election of the king (*rajan*) by the *samiti*. The *samitis* were very powerful. The two priests who played a very significant role in these times are Vashishta and Vishwamitra. The tribal chiefs got voluntary offerings from the people called *bali*.

The king did not maintain a standing army and used to muster a militia in times of need. A fighting unit was called a *grama* and its chief as *gramini*.

The Rig Vedic society was an *egalitarian* one, with no sharp discrimination against any particular class or section of people. Women were held in high esteem and could participate in political assemblies.

They worshipped different manifestations of nature. For instance, their chief god was *Indra* (The Rain God), *Agni* (The Fire God), *Varuna* (The Protector of the Universe), *Usha* (The God of The Morning Sun), *Marut* (The Wind God) and *Soma* (The God of Plants).

3. The later Vedic Times (1000 BC – 600 BC):

For singing the Rig Vedic hymns were set to tune, and this collection of musical hymns came to be known as the *Sama Veda*. Besides, the later Vedic period also saw the compilation of the *Yajur Veda* (containing rituals and ceremonies) and the *Atharva Veda* (containing charms and spells).

Iron was used in plenty, which is referred to as *shyama* or *Krishna ayas*. *Rice (vrihi)* and *wheat* became their *chief crops*. *Copper* was used in abundance in making ornaments, implements etc. Agriculture became a primary livelihood and the peasants produced enough to maintain themselves as well as spare something for taxes.

Popular assemblies lost their importance and royal power increased at their cost. The *sabha* and *samiti* did continue, but their character changed a lot. Women's status declined to some extent.

The society became sharply divided into four *varnas* called the *brahmins* (the teachers and preachers), *kshatriyas* or *rajnyas* (warriors and rulers), *vaishyas* (the farming and mercantile class) and the *shudras* (menial servants). Since rituals were a central feature of this age, the *brahmins* gained a lot of social prestige and dominance.

The major tax-paying class was the *vaishyas*, mainly engaged in farming, business and artisanship. The *kshatriyas* generally became warriors and rulers. The *shudras* were generally farmhands and domestic servants.

Prajapati (The Creator) came to be worshipped as the *supreme god*. Some other later Vedic gods include *Rudra* (The God of Animals) and Vishnu who was thought to be the preserver and protector of the universe.

Sacrifices became central to worship, which were accompanied by ritualistic formulae to be pronounced carefully.

The later Vedic period also saw the formation of territorial kingdoms and the famous Mahabharata War is attributed to this period. However, a state system was not yet in place due to the inability of the farmers to pay regular taxes.

4. Jainism:

In the 6th century BC, Buddhism and Jainism emerged as the most important and potent religious reform movements. The *kshatriyas* reacted strongly against *brahminical* dominance and led a movement to dislodge the existing social order dominated by the *brahmins*. The two important religious movements, Buddhism and Jainism were led by Gautam Buddha and Vardhmana Mahavira respectively. Both were *kshatriyas* by caste.

Mahavir Jain, the most important Jain religious teacher was born in 540 BC in Vaishali. He, like Gautam, was connected to a royal family. Mahavira left home at 30 in search of truth and wandered for 12 years. He gained complete knowledge (*kaivalya*) at 42. Because of this conquest, he is known as Mahavira or *jina* (The Great Hero). He passed away in 468 BC at *Pavapuri* near modern Rajgir.

Mahavira had 23 predecessors before him known as *tirthankaras* of which the 1st was Rishabhdev and the 23rd was Parshavnath. Mahavir Jain is thought to be the 24th or the last *tirthankar*. Jainism attached utmost importance to *ahimsa* or non-violence. In later times, Jainism got divided into two sects: *Shwetambara* (wearing white clothes) and *Digambara* (wearing no clothes)

Right knowledge, right belief and right conduct make up the *Three Jewels of Jainism*.

The Jain writings are mostly in Prakrit, a language not used in brahminical texts.

5. **Buddhism:**

Gautam Buddha (563 BC-483 BC) or Siddhartha belonged to the ruling *Shakya kshatriya* family of Kapilvastu in Nepal. He left home at 29 and got complete knowledge under a *pipal* tree in Bodh Gaya. Thence, he came to be known as the Buddha (The Enlightened One).

Gautam Buddha delivered his *first sermon* in *Sarnath* and passed away at 80 at *Kusinara* in modern U.P.

Gautam Buddha recommended an *Eight-fold Path* for the elimination of human miseries. He also taught the *Middle Path*, the avoidance of both luxury and austerity. The major Buddhist books are The *Jataka* (regarding the previous births of Buddha), The *Mahavastu* and The *Vinaya* (Buddha's teachings).

Buddhism advocated a practical path of achieving salvation from worldly miseries. Consequently, it appealed to the common man. Buddhism also *does not talk* of God, a revolution among Indian religions. Further, it *does not* believe in casteism. Consequently, it gained a huge fan following especially among the *shudras* and women, who had been denied all these privileges earlier. It was more liberal and democratic. The use of Pali, the *lingua franca* then, facilitated its spread among them.

Ashoka, the famous Mauryan king adopted it, marking a watershed event in Buddhist history. Through his agents, he spread Buddhism far and wide, in Central Asia, West Asia, Sri Lanka, and thus transformed it into a world religion.

6. The First Magadhan Empire:

The Maurya dynasty was founded by *Chandragupta Maurya*. Chandargupta was a powerful and able ruler.

The Mauryas had an *elaborate administrative machinery* and Magasthenes' *Indica* and Kautilya's *Arthshastra* tell us a lot about it.

Magasthenes was a Greek ambassador sent to the Mauryan court by Selucus of Greece. He lived in the Mauryan capital of Pataliputra. His writings throw valuable light on the Mauryan society, economy and administration of those days. Even *Arthshastra* written by Kautilya (Chanakya is his more popular name) gives us valuable insights into statecraft and society of those days.

Chandargupta Maurya had a *large army*, which is one of the *most distinguishing features* of his rule.

Chandargupta Maurya was succeeded by *Bindusara*, who in turn was succeeded by and *Ashoka* (273-232 BC), the *greatest Mauryan ruler*. After his accession in 261 BC, he fought only one major battle called the Kalinga War, killing 100000 people. The Kalinga War is found inscribed on the 13th Rock Edict. The king was greatly moved by the suffering it brought to the people, and therefore decided to give up war for good. He converted to Buddhism thereafter and also sponsored the 3rd Buddhist Council.

Ashoka calls himself *priyadasin* in his inscriptions and was the *first ruler* to address his subjects directly. The language used was Prakrit in the Brahmi script.

Pana was a term used for silver coins during this time. Punch –marked silver coins (which do not mention the king's or dynasty's name) were the imperial currency of the Mauryas.

However, the growing weakness of the Mauryas especially after Ashoka's death, caused the Mauryas' decline and ultimate fall. The Maurya empire was finally destroyed by *Pushyamitra Shunga*, a general of Brihadrath, himself a Mauryan ruler in 185 BC.

7. Iranian And Macedonian Invasions:

Alexander of Macedonia, who had set out to conquer the world, invaded India in 326 BC from the Khyber Pass. Ambhi, the ruler of Taxila submitted to him but when Alexander reached the Jhelum, he met with the strongest resistance. Although Alexander defeated Porus, he was impressed with his bravery and courage. Alexander's invasion paved the way for Greek merchants and craftsmen to come to India and opened up distinct land and sea routes between the two countries.

8. The Indo-Greeks:

The *most famous* Indo-Greek ruler was *Menander* (165-145 BC). He is also known by the name Milinda. He was converted to Buddhism by Nagasena. Menander asked him many questions regarding Buddhism before his conversion and his dialogue with him can be found in the *Milinda Panho*.

The Indo-Greeks were the *first rulers* in India to issue *coins* which can be definitely attributed to a king or a dynasty. Further, they were the *first* to issue *gold coins* in India. The Greeks introduced

many features of Hellenistic art in the north-west frontier of India. *Gandhara Art* is the best example of this fusion.

They were followed by the Shakas, of whom the most famous ruler was Rudradaman I (AD 130-150). He was a great lover of Sanskrit and he issued the *first-ever* long inscription in chaste Sanskrit.

Kanishka was the most famous king of the Kushans, who had two capitals, *Mathura* and *Peshawar* (Purushapura). He was a strong champion of Buddhism and held a *Buddhist Council* in Kashmir, where the principles of the Mahayana Buddhism (Hinayana Buddhism is the second sect) were finalized. Kanishka also started a new calendar known as the *Saka Samvat* in 78 AD. Kanishka's empire was quite vast, extending up to parts of the modern-day Afghanistan and even Russia.

He employed the great Sanskrit writer Ashvaghosh, the writer of *Buddhacharita*, in his court. Vatsyayan whose *Kamasutra* is thought to be a classic on matters erotic, also lived during these times. Charak, the founder of ayurvedic medicine and Susruta, the founder of ayurvedic surgery lived at this time and wrote two classic treatises *Charaksamhita* and *Susrutasamhita* respectively.

9. The Satvahanas:

The early Satvahanas appeared in modern Maharashtra and the *most famous king* of this dynasty was *Gautamiputra Satkarni* (AD 106-130).

His immediate successor Vashishtiputra Pulumayi (AD 130-154) issued many coins and inscriptions which are found in Andhra Pradesh.

They issued *lead coins*, which is possibly the only example of its kind.

The Satvahanas were the first rulers to make *land grants* to the Brahmins on a regular scale. We find many examples of land grants made on copper plates. Interestingly, their social system shows traces of the *matrilineal system*, wherein the mother is the chief of the family.

Tamil life and society has been described in *Sangam literature*. A *sangam* was an *assembly of poets* held in *Madurai* under royal patronage.

10. The Gupta Empire:

The Gupta empire had *Prayag* as its capital. The first important king of the Guptas was Chandargupta I. He was a considerably powerful ruler and an era was started by him known as the *Gupta Era* (AD 319-20), which marks the date of his ascension to the throne.

Samudragupta, his son, enlarged the Gupta kingdom considerably. He was a brave warrior and delighted in violence, just the opposite of Ashoka. His court poet *Harisen*, glowingly talks of his military adventures in the *Allahabad Inscription*, which he conducted with the help of his powerful navy. For these reasons, historians call him the "*Napoleon of India*".

The reign of Chandragupta II (AD 380-412) saw the *highest point* of the Gupta empire. He extended the empire by conquests and marital alliances. He made Ujjain his second capital. He adopted the *title of Vikramaditya* and his court in *Ujjain* was adorned by many celebrated scholars including Kalidasa. The Chinese pilgrim Fa-hein visited India during this time and wrote a detailed account of his reign.

The Guptas issued the *largest* number of *gold* coins (*dinara*) in ancient India. The Guptas were staunch brahminists, using Sanskrit as a court language. It had overshadowed the Mahayana Buddhism by the Gupta Age. Idol worship in temples became quite common from this time onwards.

The Gupta period is known as the *Golden Age* of ancient India. Both Samudragupta and Chandragupta were great patrons of art and literature. Samudragupta himself was an accomplished *veena* player and his coins show him with his *veena*.

Beautiful images of the Buddha were made in *Mathura* and *Sarnath* during this time. The *Ajanta* paintings, which depict the *Jataka* stories (earlier life of the Buddha) were made during the Gupta Age, though they did not patronize it. In the field of metallurgy, the Gupta Age is unparalleled. The Iron Pillar in Mehrauli stays unaffected even today despite centuries of its existence.

Kalidasa, Shudrak, Bhavbhuti, *Patanajli* and *Panini* belonged to this period. The Ramayana and the *Mahabharata* were also compiled during this time (4th century AD). Many legendary scientists including Aryabhatta lived at this time whose contributions to mathematics and astronomy remain significant even today.

11. Harshavardhan and his Times:

Harsha's capital was *Kannauj*. Harsha is often called the Last Great Hindu King of North India.

Harsha was stopped on the Narmada river by the Chalukyan king *Pulakesin*.

In his times, land was allocated to the feudatories, who use to contribute their quota of soldiers at the time of war. In fact, the feudal practice of rewarding officers with land grants began under Harsha.

Hsuan Tsang, left China in AD 629. After a long stay in India, he returned to China in 645 AD. He had come here to study the Mahayana Buddhism in Nalanda. Under his influence, Harsha became a great supporter of Buddhism. He convened a grand assembly in *Kannauj* attended by Hsuan Tsang. Harsha is remembered for his authorship of three dramas_ The *Priyadarshika*, The *Ratanavali*, and The *Nagananda*.

12. Scientific Legacy of Ancient India:

Vrahimira, Aryabhatt, Apstamba, Brahamgupta can be prominently mentioned in this context.

The Indians were the first to use the decimal system worldwide. Zero was discovered by the Indians in the 2nd century BC. The international system of numerals is also an Indian contribution.

Aryabhata made important astronomical observations.

Vrahimira was an all-rounder, who wrote an encyclopaedia encompassing virtually all areas of knowledge.

Charak, who founded the science of Ayurveda and Susruta, founder of ayurvedic surgery, made invaluable contribution to the development of Ayurveda.

Major Philosophical Systems in Ancient India

| Philosophical School | Founder | Major Emphasis |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Samkhya | Kapila | Non-Spiritualistic, materialistic thought |
| 2. Yoga | Patnaji | Salvation through meditation |
| 3. Vedanta | Adiguru Shankracharya | Vedas as fountainhead of all knowledge |

Major Terms Used in Ancient Literature

| Term | Meaning |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Nishaka, Satmana | Gold medal/Coin |
| 2. Samudra | Body of water |
| 3. Samhita | Commentary |
| 4. Sabha / Samiti | Political Assemblies |
| 5. Dasa / Dasyu | Indigenous people |
| 6. Vishti | Forced Labour |
| 7. Bali | Tax |
| 8. Bhag | Tax |
| 9. Upnayan | Sacred Thread Ceremony |
| 10. Kaivalya | Complete Knowledge (Jainism) |
| 12. Dharmachakraparivartana | Achievement of nirvana by the Buddha |
| 14. Stupa | Monument housing a relic of the Buddha |
| 15. Yavanpriya | black pepper |
| 16. Uparika | village chief |
| 17. Gandhara Art | Fusion art form combining features of Indian and Hellenistic art |
| 18. Gram | Fighting Unit |
| 19. Gramini | village chief |
| 20. Shyam Ayas | Copper |
| 21. Vrihi | Rice |
| 22. Niravana | Complete Knowledge (Buddhism) |
| 23. Parinirvana | Leaving of home by Buddha |
| 24. Pana | Silver Coin |

Major Monuments in Ancient India

| Monument | Details |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Sanchi Stupa | by Ashoka |
| 2. Borobudur Temple | In Indonesia |
| 3. Iron Pillar, Mehrauli | Samudragupta |
| 4. Allahabad Pillar | Ashoka and Samudragupta |
| 5. Ashoka Pillar | Lauriya Nandangarh |
| 7. Bhimbetka (Bhopal) | Stone-Age Caves |
| 9. Kailashnath Temple | Kanchi |
| 10. Dilwara Jain Temple | Mount Abu |
| 11. Brihadeeshwara Temple | At Thanjavur By Cholas |
| 12. Angkor Vat Temple | In Cambodia, biggest Hindu temple worldwide |

Some Major Ancient Classics

| Name | j | t | Author/Topic |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Rigveda | | | Different Poets/Prayers and Hymns |
| 2. Samveda | | | Musical Hymns |
| 3. Yajurveda | | | Rituals & Ceremonies |
| 4. Atharvaveda | | | Charms & Spells |
| 5. Upanishads | | | Philosophical commentaries on Vedas |
| 6. Jataka | | | Stories on previous life of Buddha |
| 7. Mahavastu | | | Buddhist Teachings |
| 8. Indica | | | Magasthenes |
| 9. Arthshastra | | | Kautilya/Statecraft |
| 10. Vishakhadutta | | | Mudrarakshasa |
| 11. Ashtadhyayi | | | Panini |
| 12. Mahabhashya | | | Patanjali |
| 13. Buddhcharita | | | Ashavghosh |
| 14. Charaksamhita | | | Charak/ayurvedic medicine |
| 15. Susrutasamhita | | | Susruta/surgery |
| 16. Sangam | | | Different Poets |
| 17. Amarkosh | | | Amarsimha |
| 18. Harshcharita | | | Banbhata |
| 19. Brihattsamhita | | | Vrahimira/Encyclopaedia |
| 20. Raghuvansham, Abhijan Shakuntalam, Raghuvansham, Meghdootam | | | Kalidasa |

II. MEDIEVAL INDIA:

1. The Chola Empire:

The greatest Chola rulers were *Rajaraja Chola* (985-1014 AD) and his son *Rajendra Chola I*.

The latter assumed the title Gangaikondchola (The Chola Conqueror of the Ganga).

The remarkable features of the Chola rule include a strong navy, village self-government and construction of beautiful temples to commemorate victories. *Temple architecture* reached a climax in the South under the Cholas. The main feature of this style called the *Dravida*, was the building of storey upon storey above the chief deity room (*garbhagriha*). A fine example of this style is the Brihdeeshwara Temple at Tanjore built by Rajaraja I.

Sculpture attained a high standard during this phase. One befitting example is the Gomteshwara Statue at Shravanbelgola in Karnataka, the highest statue in India. Another aspect was image-making, which peaked a new high in the dancing figure of the Shiva, called the *Natraja*.

2. The Circa 1000-1200 AD:

Mahmud of Ghazni conducted *17 raids* into India. The Indian temples were well-known for their fabulous wealth, which prompted him to conduct his subsequent raids in India.

Mahmud called himself a *butshikan* or a breaker of images for the glory of Islam. His most daring raid was against Somnath in Gujarat in *1025, the last in India*.

Later *Mohammed Ghauri* ascended the throne in Ghazni. In Ajmer, Prithviraja Chauhan had just taken over. When he tried to turn his eyes towards Punjab, this brought him in direct conflict with Mohammed Ghauri. Thus, there was the *First Battle of Tarain in 1191* in which the Ghauri forces were completely routed.

Ghuri had made careful preparations for the *The Second Battle of Tarain (1192)*. As soon as Prithviraja awoke to the danger, he made a fervent appeal to all the other rajas of northern India for help. In the fiercely contested battle, the Chauhan forces were routed. Prithviraja managed to escape, but was captured near Saraswati. He was allowed to rule over Ajmer for a short time.

Soon after, Prithviraja was executed on a conspiracy charge. After Tarain, Ghauri left for Ghazni, leaving India in the hands of his trusted slave *Qutbuddin Aibak*.

In 1194, Ghauri returned to India, defeating Jaichand of Kannauj and looting and destroying Hindu temples in Benares. Thus the battles of Tarain and Chandawar laid the foundations of the Turkish rule in India.

3. The Delhi Sultanate:

Qutbuddin Aibak, a trusted slave of Ghauri, who ruled for close to 4 years, died while playing *chaugan* (polo). He built the Qutub Minar in Delhi.

He was succeeded by Illutmish in 1210, who is regarded as the *real consolidator* of the Turkish conquests in north India. Illutmish (1210-36) is also regarded as the *builder* of the *Qutub Minar* in Delhi, which had been started by Aibak. It was during his time that the Mongol invasions appeared *first* in India.

In the matter of succession, Illutmish finally decided in favour of Razia, his daughter, who became the *first woman* to sit on the throne of Delhi. Later Balban gradually arrogated all power and ascended the throne in 1265. He gave a *stable* government in the Delhi Sultanate. Balban is quite famous for his ruthless "*blood and iron policy*".

He reorganized the military department (*diwan-I-arz*) He started two important royal ceremonies called the *sjada* (prostration) and *paibos* (kissing the king's feet).

Balban was undoubtedly one of the *main architects* of the Delhi Sultanate.

Jalaluddin Khalji overthrew the incompetent successors of Balban in 1290.

Allauddin, his successor, ascended the throne by treacherously murdering him. He won many wars in deep South with the help of *Malik Kaifur*, his favourite general.

Allauddin has many positive achievements to his credit, including the start of price reforms, organizing the first and the largest standing army, patronage of arts and culture etc.

Alauddin had a big standing army in the light of repeated Mongol invasions. Since he used to pay them fully in cash, prices had to be kept low to feed such a large army. Consequently, he regulated markets and fixed prices. Besides, Alauddin took important steps in the field of revenue administration. In matters military, he introduced the *dagh* or the branding system for horses.

Alauddin patronized *Amir Khusro*, a well-known Hindi scholar, who is credited with the invention of the *Khari Boli* (which later evolved into Hindi), the *sitar*, and the *tabla*. Khusro wrote memorable *quawallis*, of which he was the inventor. Historians call him the *Tooti-i-Hind* (The Parrot of India). Alauddin also built a new capital near Delhi, known as *Siri*.

In 1320, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq killed the incompetent successor of Alauddin Khalji. The Tughlaqs produced three competent rulers Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, Mohammed bin Tughlaq (1324-1351) and Firuz Tughlaq (1351-1388).

Mohammed Tughlaq is remembered for *bold experiments* and a keen interest in the improvement of agriculture. Unfortunately, he was hasty and impatient. Many of his experiments failed and he is often dubbed The "Wise Fool In Indian History" or "The Ill-Starred Genius".

The most controversial step, which he undertook was the shifting of capital from *Delhi* to *Deogir* (Daultabad), which was a great failure. Tughlaq started a token currency, which failed miserably. He had a *Court of Thousand Pillars* where he used to hold his public court. *Ibn - Battuta*, the Moroccan traveller who came to Delhi in those days, writes in detail about these experiments.

It was during Firuz that the *jaziya* became a *separate tax*. Firuz was the first ruler during whose time important Hindu religious works were translated from Sanskrit into Persian.

Apart from canals for irrigation, he built two new cities Hissar-Firuz or Hissar and Firuzabad. He also set up a separate *department of slaves*. The invasion of Timur may be said to mark the end of the strong rule by the Delhi sultans.

4. Vijayanagara Kingdom and The Portuguese:

The Vijayanagara and the Bahmani kingdoms are best remembered for the beautiful cities and magnificent buildings they built, the patronage they gave to the arts and the stability they provided.

The Vijayanagara Empire was founded by Harihar and Bukka. Harihar's coronation is placed in 1336. Dev Raya II (1422-1446) is considered to be the *greatest ruler* of the Vijayanagara kingdom. *Nuniz*, the Portuguese traveller and *Nicolo Conti*, the Italian traveller who stayed in the kingdom, tell us a lot about the Vijayanagara times. Under Krishna Deva, Dev Raya's successor, Vijayanagara emerged as the strongest military power in the south.

At last, the rivals of the Vijayanagara kingdom combined to give a crushing defeat to it at *Bannihati* near *Talikota* in 1565. Several remains of the dynasty can be found today in *Hampi*, Karnataka.

Vasco da Gama landed at Calicut in 1498. Albuquerque became the *governor* of the Portuguese possessions in India in 1510 AD. He *captured* Goa from Bijapur in 1510 AD. Thus, the Portuguese remained masters of the Indian seas and of the Deccan coast.

In Delhi, a new Afghan dynasty arose. Behlul Lodi crowned himself in 1451. However, the most important Lodi ruler was Sikandar Lodi (1489-1517). He was able to establish effective administration in his kingdom and was quite famous for his sense of justice. He selected the site for the city of Agra. In course of time, it became the second capital of the Lodis.

5. The Sufi and the bhakti movements:

These times saw the rise of the Sufi mystic orders. Most of them had deep devotion who were disgusted by the vulgar display of wealth. Some Sufis like Mansur bin Hallaj laid great stress on love as the bond between God and the individual soul. But this led him to trouble with the orthodox elements who got him executed.

The *Chishti* order was set up in India by Khwaja Moinudin Chisti in Ajmer. Among his celebrated disciples were Bakhtiyar Kaki and Farid-ud-Din Ganj-I-Shakar.

The most famous Chishti saint, however, were Nizamuddin Auliya and Nasiruddin Chiragh-i-Delhi.

The *Bhakti* movement stressed mystical union of the individual with God. Among the prominent *Bhakti* scholars of north India, mention may be made of the Maharashtrian saint, Namdev, Ramanuj and Kabir from UP, Ravidas from UP, Guru Nanak Dev from Punjab, Mirabai from Rajasthan, Chaitnya Mahaprabhu from Bengal and Jaidev. They broadly worked against sectarian discrimination and promoted universal brotherhood and equality.

6. The Mughals and the Afghans:

Babur succeeded to Farghana, a small state in Trans-Oxiana. Thereafter, he moved to Kabul, which he conquered in 1504. Some other political developments later forced Babur to look towards India.

The political situation in India was suitable in 1517 for his political designs. Sikandar Lodi had died in 1517, and Ibrahim Lodi had succeeded him. It was about this time that Babur received an embassy from Daulat Khan Lodi. He invited Babur to attack India and suggested that he displace Ibrahim Lodi. At Babur's approach, Daulat Khan's army melted away and he submitted and was pardoned. Thus within three weeks of crossing the Indus, Babur became the master of Punjab.

Babur met Ibrahim Lodi at Panipat. Gunpowder was used here for the *first time* in India by Babur. Ibrahim Lodi could not hold his own against Babur and was killed. After some time, Mahmud Lodi, a brother of Ibrahim Lodi, posed a grave challenge to his authority in Bihar.

Despite military superiority, Babur could not win a decisive victory. He returned to Agra. Shortly afterwards, Babur died near Lahore while on his way to Kabul.

Humayun succeeded Babur in 1530 at the age of 23. He fought a fierce battle at Chausa (1539) with Sher Khan, a powerful Afghan sardar, who was the unquestioned master of Bihar. Defeated, Humayun's forces managed to escape with Humayun's military skill. He died from a fall off the first floor of his library building.

Shershah (1540-55) ascended the throne of Delhi at the age of 67. He re-established law and order and restored the *Grand Trunk Road* from Peshawar to Sonargaon in Bengal. For travellers, he built many roadside *sarais*. Sher Shah died at *Sasaram* where a *fine mausoleum* to his memory stands.

7. The Great Mughals:

Akbar, the greatest of the Mughal rulers was born at Amarkot in 1542. He was *crowned* in 1556 at the young age of 13 years and 4 months.

Bairam Khan, who was his regent (caretaker) rose to the task and under his tutelage, Akbar contested a battle with Hemu, the Afghan king near Delhi. The two met at Panipat in battle, which saw the killing of Hemu after being defeated.

He won a fierce battle against Rana Udai Singh of Chittor. It was followed by the conquest of Ranthambore, the most powerful fortress in Rajasthan. Consequently, most Rajput states including Bikaner and Jaisalmer, submitted to him. Only Mewar continued to resist. In 1572, Rana Pratap succeeded to the throne in Mewar. Akbar won the furious battle between the two sides at Haldighati.

Akbar's *land revenue system* was a major administrative achievement. Akbar also instituted a new system called the *dahsala*, under which, revenue settlement was done for 10 years on the basis of actual cultivated land. Though *Todar Mal* played major role in this, it was borrowed from Sher Shah. The *mansabdari system* started by Akbar remained the basis of the Mughal rule till the end. Under this system, every officer was assigned a rank (*mansab*). Every *mansabdar* was assigned these two ranks indicating his status and responsibilities.

Akbar had a friendly policy towards the *rajputs* and even had a *rajput* queen as his real wife. This was coupled with a policy of broad religious tolerance. In 1564, he *abolished* the hated *jaziya* and the pilgrim-tax.

Most notably, Akbar was an ardent patron of the arts and learning.

He had nine gems or *navratnas* in his court, the maestros of different art forms and areas of knowledge. Notable among them include Abul Fazl (his biographer and historian), Fiazi, Man Singh, Birbal, Tansen, Baijubarwa, Todar Mal and Do Piaji. The noted Hindi poet Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khana, wrote fine poetry on *Krishna bhakti*.

Goswami Tulsidas, the author of *The Ramcharitmanas*, was a *contemporary* of Akbar.

He made a few buildings like the Fatehpur Sikri City, The Buland Darwaza (to celebrate the Gujarat victory) and the Panch Mahal in Agra.

Akbar also started the ceremony of *Jharokha Darshan* hear public complaints.

Akbar was intensely secular, he set up a new religious sect called the Din-I-Illahi in 1584. Its major theme was *Tauhid-i-Wajudi* (The Unity of Being) and its goal *Sulah-i-Kul* (Peace To All). Despite being unsuccessful, it is a reflection of the broad humane and secular outlook Akbar had. That's why historians call him the *Ashoka of Medieval India* or *Akbar The Great*.

After the Portuguese' entry, during the 17th century, many other European traders, especially the Dutch, the English and later the French came to India for business. The Dutch established themselves at Masulipatnam, after obtaining a *farman* from the ruler of Golconda in 1606.

The English also came to the East for spice trade, but the Dutch hostility in the Spice Islands compelled them to focus on India. They were able to set up their first factory in Surat in 1512. This was confirmed by a *farman* from Jahangir in 1618, obtained with the help of *Sir Thomas Roe*, their *ambassador* to Jahangir's court.

8. Climax And Disintegration of The Mughal Empire-I:

Jahangir (Salim-Anarkali fame), who followed Akbar, is most noted for his patronage of painting. Mughal painting reached its *climax* under Jahangir. Mansur, the great painter, lived at his court.

Shahjehan, who succeeded Jahangir, was quite famous for his beautiful monuments. Most memorable Mughal monuments belong to his reign. The immortal Taj Mahal, The Red Fort, The Jama Masjid and the Moti Masjid are four of the most prominent examples. In reality, the Mughal architecture is a take-over on the Persian art, but is distinguished by buildings in marble decorated with floral designs made of semi-precious stones. This method of decoration is known as *pietre dura* and it was widely used by Shahjehan in his buildings. In fact, the Taj Mahal is modelled on *Humayun's Tomb* in Delhi.

Ultimately, Aurangzeb was able to capture the throne after much effort and many battles later. Aurangzeb forced Shah Jahan to surrender and he was confined to a fort in Agra. There he lived for eight long years under the loving care of his daughter.

Aurangzeb ruled for almost 50 years during which the Mughals reached their territorial climax. In course of time, he came to be called a *Zinda Pir* or "a living saint".

Aurangzeb discontinued *Jharokha Darshan* and re-imposed the *Jaziya* on non-Muslims.

Aurangzeb *banned* the royal orchestra, thinking that it was un-Islamic. The demolition of temples continued in his reign also, as before. Aurangzeb also came into conflict with the Sikh Gurus. Aurangzeb in 1675 arrested Guru Teg Bahadur with five of his followers. He brought them to Delhi and got them executed. His execution forced the Sikhs to go back to Punjab and organized an armed military brotherhood called the *Khalsa* under the leadership of Guru Gobind Singh.

9. Climax And Disintegration of The Mughal Empire-II:

Shivaji crowned himself formally in 1674 at *Rajgarh*. He was the most powerful Maratha chief and was quite well-known for his guerilla warfare tactics.

He had designated eight ministers called *The Ashtpradhan*. The most important minister was the Peshwa, who looked after the finances and general administration. He levied a contribution on neighbouring Mughal territories called the *chauth* (one-fourth of land revenue).

The Mughal empire declined rapidly after the death of Aurangzeb. The weakness of the empire was proclaimed to the world when Nadir Shah imprisoned the Mughal emperor and looted Delhi in 1739. With no credible leadership in sight, the British were able to conquer India and convert it into a colony, supplying raw materials in place of being the manufactory it was before.

Important Classics Written During Medieval Times

| <u>Name of the Book</u> | <u>Author</u> | <u>Reign/Time</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Rajtarangini (Sanskrit) | Kalahana (Kashmir) | Zianul Abidin |
| 2. Akbarnama | Abul Fazl | Akbar |
| 3. Ain-I-Akbari | Abul Fazl | Akbar |
| 4. Shahnama | Firdausi | Mahmud Ghazni |
| 5. Prithviraja Raso | Chand Bardai | Prithviraja Raso |
| 6. Tazuk-I-Babari (Turkish) | Babar | Autobiography |
| 7. Tazuk-I-Jahangiri | Jahangir | Autobiography |
| 8. Geet Govind | Jaidev | Bhakti Poetry |
| 9. Padmavat | Malik Mohammed Jaisi | Shringar Ras Poetry |
| 10. Kitab-ul-Hind | Al-Biruni | Treatise On Law |
| 11. Manu Smriti | Manu | |

Some Famous Bhakti Poets

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Area of Operation</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Ramanuj | UP |
| 2. Ramanand | UP |
| 3. Kabir | UP |
| 4. Guru Nanak Dev | Punjab |
| 5. Namdev | Maharashtra |
| 6. Ravidas | UP |
| 7. Chaitnya Mahaprabhu Nadia | (Bengal) |
| 8. Meera Bai | Rajasthan |

Important Titles and Holders Thereof

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Given To</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Butshikan | Mahmud of Ghazni |
| 3. Lakhbaksh | Qutbuddin Aibak |
| 4. Architect of Delhi Sultanate | Balban |
| 5. Zinda Pir | Aurangzeb |
| 6. Wisest Fool in Indian History | Mohd. Tughlaq |
| 7. The Ashoka of Medieval India | Akbar The Great |

Important Terms and Meanings Thereof

| <u>Term</u> | <u>Meaning</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Dravida | Southern Temple Style |
| 2. Deewan-i-Arz | Military Department |
| 3. Tanka | Copper Coin |
| 4. Pana | Silver Coin |
| 5. Wazir | Revenue Minister |
| 6. Ariz-I-Mumalik | Head of Military Dept |
| 7. Vakil-I-Dar | Protocol Officer |
| 8. Nauroz | Persian New Year |
| 9. Dagh | Branding of Horses |
| 10. Farman | Royal Order |
| 11. Khalisa | Cultivated Land |
| 12. Mir Bakshi | Chief of Military Dept. |
| 13. Sardeshmukhi | Revenue Rights |
| 14. Chahalgani | Forty Nobles |
| 15. Jauhar | Suicide by Rajput Women |
| 16. Dinara | Gold Coin |
| 17. Pargana | District |
| 18. Jihad | Religious Fight |
| 19. Chaugan | Polo |
| 20. Bandobast | Todar Mal's Revenue Settlement |
| 21. Mir-i-Saman | Incharge of Royal Household |

Important Foreign Visitors

| <u>Visitor</u> | <u>Country of Origin</u> | <u>Reign/Time</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Nicolo Conti | Italy | Vijaynagara Empire |
| 2. Nuniz | Italy | Vijayanagara Empire |
| 3. Barbosa, Paes | Portugal | Vijaynagar Empire |
| 4. Al-Bairuni | Arab | Early Medieval Times |
| 5. Captain Hawkins & Thomas Roe | England | Jahangir |
| 6. Marco Polo | Italy | Kublai Khan in China, Malabar |

III. Modern India:

The Great Mughal Empire declined and disintegrated in the first half of the 18th century. Aurangzeb's sons fought among themselves for the throne after his death. The 65-year old Bahadur Shah emerged victorious.

The Saiyad brothers, *Abdullah Khan* and *Jusain Ali Khan Barahow* are widely known as the "*King-Makers*".

Nizam-Ul-Mulk in 1724 marched southwards to *found Hyderabad*. Then in 1738, *Nadir Shah* from Persia descended on India, and the Empire lay on its feet.

He was attracted to India by its fabulous wealth. He fought an easy battle with the Mughal army at Karnal in 1739 and inflicted a crushing defeat on it. The Emperor Mohammed Shah was taken prisoner and Nadir Shah marched on to Delhi. Nadir Shah also took away the famed *Koh-I-Noor* Diamond and the *Peacock Throne of Shahjahan* with him.

Further, the Empire was devastated by the repeated invasions of Ahmed Shah Abdali. Consequently, the Mughal Empire had ceased to exist in practice as an all-India empire by 1761.

In 1764, Shah Alam II, the Mughal Emperor joined Mir Qasim of Bengal and Shuja-ud-Daula of Awadh in declaring a war upon the East India Company.

Defeated by the British at the *Battle of Buxar*, he lived as a British pensioner for several years.

The British occupied Delhi in 1803.

Many powerful states emerged including Hyderabad under Nizam-ul-Mulk, Bengal under Murshid Quli Khan and Alivardi Khan, Mysore under *Hyder Ali* and *Tipu Sultan*. In fact, Tipu Sultan was the *most dreaded rival* of the British in India those days. He was fond of saying, "It is better to live a single day as a lion rather than live a lifetime as a sheep."

Tipu Sultan was a remarkably modern man. He even *collaborated with the French* for military training of his troops. He died fighting the British in the Third Anglo-Carnatic War at Serigapatnam, his capital in 1799.

Raja Sawai Jai Singh was the most outstanding Rajput ruler of the 18th century. He built five astronomical observatories in Jaipur, Ujjain, Varansi, Delhi and Mathura. He also built the city of Jaipur.

Under Suraj Mal, known as the *Plato of The Jat Tribe*, the Jat state of Bharatpur had its *zenith*.

End -18th century, Ranjit Singh, chief of the *Sukerchakia Misl*, rose to prominence. He captured Lahore in 1799 and Amritsar in 1802. He had built up a powerful army with the help of European instructors.

The *most important challenge* to the decaying Mughal power came from the Maratha kingdom, which was the most powerful succession state.

1. The East India Company-1600-1714:

By 1623, it had established factories in Surat, Broach, Ahmedabad, Agra and Masulipatnam.

The French East India Company was founded in 1664. It was firmly established at Chandernagore near Calcutta and Pondicherry. Dupleix was the French Governor at this time. In course of time, the English were able to drive out the French.

The beginning of the British political sway in India can be traced to the *Battle of Plassey in 1757*, when the English East India Co.' defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal. The British proclaimed Mir Jafar the Nawab of Bengal. The Battle of Plassey paved the way for the British mastery of Bengal and eventually the whole of India.

In 1760, the Company forced him to abdicate the throne in favour of his son-in-law Mir Qasim. Mir Qasim was defeated in a series of battles in 1763 and fled to Awadh where he joined hands with Shuja-ud-Daula, the Awadh Nawab and Shah Alam II, the fugitive Mughal Emperor. The three clashed

with the British in the Battle of Buxar in 1764 and were thoroughly defeated. This was one of the most decisive battles.

The East India Company became the *real master* of Bengal from 1765. A large-scale expansion of the British rule in India began under Lord Wellesley (1798-1805). He put forth the policy of *Subsidiary Alliance*. Under this, the ruler of the allying state was compelled to accept the permanent stationing of a British force and to pay an annual fee for its maintenance. All this was done allegedly for the ruler's protection, but in reality, many times, the ruler was forced to cede his kingdom for non-payment of fee. The promise of non-interference in the ruler's internal affairs was the one they never kept. Such treaties were signed by the Nizam of Hyderabad in 1798 and 1800. Tipu, of course, never agreed to such a treaty.

2. The Period 1765-1856:

Lord Dalhousie came to India as Governor-General in 1848. He was determined to extend the boundaries of the British rule by applying his *Doctrine of Lapse*.

Initially, the East India Co. brought goods/precious metals in India and exchanged them for Indian goods like textiles and spices, which it sold abroad. Its profits came primarily from the sale of Indian goods abroad.

In 1765, the Company acquired the *Diwani* rights of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The Company decided to introduce a Permanent Settlement of Land, under which the Company's income from the revenue collected would remain fixed. The Permanent Settlement or the *Zamindari* System was introduced in 1793 by *Lord Cornwallis*.

The same system was introduced in Punjab under the name *Mahalwari System* and in South under the name *Ryotwari Settlement*.

The Company decided in 1835 to introduce English as a *medium of education* in India on the recommendations of *Lord Macaulay (Macaulay's Minutes)*.

The Woods' Dispatch was another important step in the development of education in India.

In 1853, the British decided to *open recruitment* to ICS for Indians and it was also decided to make the recruitment through a competitive test in London. The same year witnessed the opening of the Indian Railways from Bombay to Thane.

The 19th century India was characterized by immense intellectual and cultural stirrings. The central figure in this awakening was Raja Rammohan Roy, regarded as the *First Scientific Man of India or the Renaissance Man of India*.

In 1829, he founded a religious society called the Brahma Samaj. The best example of his crusade for social reforms was the historic agitation he launched against the *sati*. He set out to rouse public opinion against it. Ultimately, his efforts resulted in the passing of an act by William Bentinck banning the practice of the *sati*.

It was Roy whose insistence brought English education to India, and helped spread modern political and scientific ideas. He had many distinguished associates including Ishwar Chandar Vidyasagar whose work regarding widow remarriage is legendary, Jyotiba Phule, a prominent low-caste reformer from Maharashtra, Justice MG Ranade in Poona, Swami Dyanand Saraswati who founded the *Arya Samaj* in 1875 for purifying Hinduism and spreading modern ideas, Swami Vivekanand who set up the Rama Krishan Mission in 1896, and Henry Dorazio of Bengal.

3. The Revolt of 1857:

Some *sepoys* from Meerut, who had killed a superior officer the previous day, marched to the Red Fort.

Mangal Pande, a young *sepy* became the first martyr of the Revolt.

The Revolt spread to Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Benares, Bareilly, Jagdishpur and Jhansi. The most outstanding rebel leader was the Rani of Jhansi, Rani Lakshmibai, whose state had been annexed by the British applying the Doctrine of Lapse. She joined the *sepoys* and became a most formidable rival the British had to contend with in India.

Apart from the immediate triggering-point of the Enfield Rifle cartridges rumours of religious conversions of all *sepoys*, discriminatory treatment in the army, oppressive revenue systems and poverty all contributed in equal measure to the *sepoys'* discontentment and the consequent Revolt.

Bahadur Shah Zafar was proclaimed the Emperor and a semblance of government was sought to be established in Delhi. For more than a year, the rebels struggled against heavy odds to sustain the movement. Poorly equipped in terms of arms and ammunition, without any means of communication and co-ordination, they seemed to be fighting a losing battle against a much better-equipped enemy.

Yet, the rebels showed exemplary courage, dedication and commitment. Delhi fell to the British on September 20, 1857 and Bahadur Shah Zafar was deported to Rangoon (today's Yangon), where he ultimately died. The Rani of Jhansi died fighting on June 17, 1858.

4. The Post-1857 Scenario:

To counter the recurrence of such events, the control of India was shifted from the East India Co. to the British Empire. From now onwards, the Governor-General came to be called the Viceroy signifying the fact that the formal control of Indian affairs was now in the hands of the British Queen or the royalty.

The most outstanding economic critique of the British rule was made by Dada Bhai Noroji, the Grand Old Man of India. Noroji was a successful Parsi businessman, but left his business to work for the national cause, staying in London and used virtually every public platform to drive home the meaning of his drain theory. The focal point of the campaign was Noroji's Theory of *Drain of Wealth*, which he had propounded in his 1867 classic *Poverty And Un-British Rule In India*. This was possibly the *first*

book that gave estimates of national income for India and convincingly proved that after the arrival of the British, the economic standards of India had fallen in every respect.

The Drain Theory talked of the drain of wealth of India or the bleeding of India by the British by different means like using India as a supplier of raw goods and as a market for finished goods, exploitative revenue systems, ruin of Indian handicrafts, remittances to England etc.

Many new political associations were came into being at this time e.g. the Indian Association founded by Surender Nath Banerjea (1876) and the Bombay Presidency Association by Dinshaw Petit. Alongside, a sign of new political life in the country was the coming in to being of several nationalist newspapers which dominated the Indian scene till 1918 ____ *The Hindu, the Tribune, Bengalee, Mahratta and Kesari*.

The political awakening culminated in 1885 in the formation of the Indian National Congress, the first-ever all-India attempt to create a political platform to resist the British rule. Seventy-two men, mostly journalists, had gathered in Bombay in December, 1885 to form the Congress. A retired British civil servant, *Allen Octavian Hume*, was the brain behind the formation of the INCs and the first President was Womesh Chandar Banerjee.

Very powerful newspapers emerged during these years to accomplish the goal of creating and mobilizing public opinion. Examples include *The Hindu* and *Swadeshmitran* under the editorship of G. Subramaniam Iyer, *Kesari* and *Mahratta* under Bal Gangadhar Tilak, *Bengalee* under Surender Nath Banerjea, *Amrit Bazar Patrika* under Sisir Ghosh and Moti Lal Ghosh, *Sudharak* under GK Gokhale, *Voice of India* under Dada Bhai Noroji and *The Tribune* in Panjab.

Irked by the Press writings, the Government struck at them through a Vernacular Press Act in 1878. It was specifically targeted at Indian language newspapers, barring the English Press. Various public bodies also campaigned against the Act and consequently, it was withdrawn by Lord Ripon in 1881.

Surender Nath Banerjea was the first man to be jailed in performance of his duties as a journalist. But the man *most frequently associated* with freedom of the Press during this movement is Bal Gangadhar Tilak. In 1881, he, along with GG Agrakar, founded the *Kesari* and *The Mahratta*. He started the traditional *Ganpati Festival* and *Shivaji Festival* to propagate nationalist ideas through songs and speeches. In 1896-97, Tilak also organized a No-Tax Campaign in Maharashtra in protest against the government's insistence on collecting land revenue despite the fact that the crops had failed that year. He was accused of spreading disaffection against the government and was tried for it. Overnight, he became an all-India figure and was lovingly given the title of *Lokmanya* (Respected By The People).

Under Lord Curzon, the British decided to partition Bengal into two on the professed assumption that it was quite difficult to govern the large state. The day partition took effect - 16 Oct. 1905 -- was declared a day of mourning throughout Bengal. They proposed to start a Boycott of Foreign Goods, which was to extend later to the boycott of government schools and colleges, courts, titles and government services and even participating in strikes.

The *boycott* of foreign goods was the most successful at the popular level.

5. The Congress Split and the Revolutionary Terrorists-I:

The INC (Indian National Congress) split in December 1907 at its Surat session. Almost at the same time, revolutionary terrorism made its appearance in Bengal.

In 1904, VD Savarkar organized a secret society of revolutionaries called the *Abhinav Bharat*. In 1907, an unsuccessful attempt was made on the life of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. In April 1908 Prafulla Chaki and Khudiram Bose threw a bomb at a carriage, which they believed was carrying Kingsford, the unpopular judge at Muzaffarpur.

Two other notable examples in this regard include Madan Lal Dhingra who killed Curzon-Wylie in London and Ras Behari Bose and Sachindra Nath Sanyal who attempted to kill Lord Hardinge. Some revolutionaries established centres abroad also. Notable among such revolutionaries were Shyamji Krishanverma, VD Savarkar and Hardyal in London and Madame Bhikaji Cama and Ajit Singh in Europe.

6. The Ghadar:

The First World War in 1914 infused new life into the nationalist movement, dormant after the Swadeshi Movement. This opportunity was seized, in different ways, by the *Ghadar* revolutionaries based in North America and by Lokmanya Tilak, Annie Besant and their Home Rule Leagues in India. The *Ghadarites* wanted to overthrow the British rule while the Home Rule Leagues launched a nationwide agitation for securing Home Rule or *Swaraj*.

The crucial role in *Ghadar* was played by Lala Hardayal, who arrived in California in 1911. Among the prominent leaders were Sohan Singh Bhakna, Harnam Singh "Tundilat" and Bhai Parmanand. They started a newspaper and set up an office with the name *Yugantar* in San Francisco.

Three major events influenced the course of Ghadar: the arrest and escape of Hardayal, the *Kamagatamaru* episode and the outbreak of the First World War. Lal Hardayal was arrested in 1914 on grounds of his alleged anarchist activities. Released on bail, he used the opportunity to escape.

But unfortunately, The Ghadar's attempt to incite the Indian Army to revolt was unsuccessful. The CID had penetrated the organization and the British succeeded in aborting the *Ghadar's* attempts. With most of the leaders arrested, the movement was crushed.

7. The Home Rule Movements:

The response to the First World War from India came in the shape of Home Rule Leagues launched by Tilak and Besant. Annie Besant, an Irish missionary, who had come to India in 1893 to work for the Theosophical Society, also thought on similar lines. The two Home Rule Leagues were set up in quick succession, Tilak's in April, 1916 and Besant's in September, 1916. Both focussed on building a movement for limited self-rule.

1917 gave a further fillip to the Home Rule movement. Annie Besant was elected the *first* woman to grace the INC president.

MK Gandhi gave a call for *Satyagraha* in March 1919 to protest against the draconian Rowlatt Act.

8. Gandhiji's Activism - The Early Phase:

Gandhi had been engaged in 1893 to fight a legal case in South Africa. Having encountered the worst kind of racial discrimination, he immediately called a meeting of all Indians there.

He used *Satyagraha* first in South Africa and later in India. During 1917 and 1918, he led three localized struggles--- Champaran (The Indigo or *Tinkathia* Movement), Ahmedabad (The Textile Mills Case) and Khera (No Revenue Payment Case).

His February 1919 call for a nationwide protest against the unpopular Rowlatt Act evoked immense popular response. Events in Punjab took a tragic shape when the Baisakhi Day, 13th April, the army opened fire on innocent unarmed people in the Jallianwala Bagh. General Dyer ordered his troops to fire on the unarmed people. Gandhiji, overwhelmed by the atmosphere of violence withdrew the movement on 18th April.

9. The Non-Cooperation Movement-1920-22:

The NCM was launched on August 1, 1920, after the expiry of the notice Gandhiji had given to the Viceroy. The programme included the surrender of titles and honours, boycott of government schools and colleges, law courts, foreign cloth, spinning of *charkha* and observance of strict non-violence.

But in February, 1922, a mob in Chauri Chaura (UP) set fire to a police station. Consequently, Gandhiji immediately withdrew the movement.

10. The Revolutionary Terrorists-II:

Revolutionaries under Ramprasad Bismil and Sachindranath Sanyal founded the Hindustan Republican Association in 1924. The HRA was founded to organize armed revolution to overthrow colonial rule. The most famous "action" of the HRA was the Kakori Robbery in 1925. HRA held up the 8-Down Train at Kakori near Lucknow, and looted its official railway cash. A large number of men were tried in the famous Kakori Conspiracy Case. Ashfaqullah Khan, Ramprasad Bismil and some others were hanged to death. Chandershekhar remained at large.

Younger men like Bhagat Singh, Bhagwati Charan Vohra and Sukhdev in Punjab reorganized the HRA under Chandershekhar Azad. Finally, they created a new organization by the name of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association in 1928.

Lala Lajpat Rai's death in the police lathicharge during Simon demonstrations, was seen by the HSRA as a direct challenge. And so in December, 1928, Bhagat Singh, Azad and Rajguru assassinated at Lahore, Saunders, a police official involved in the lathicharge. Bhagat Singh and BK Dutt threw a

bomb in the Central Assembly Hall in 1929. Bhagat Singh and BK Dutt were later tried in the Assembly Bomb Case. Bhagat Singh became a household name in the country. He, along with Rajguru and Sukhdev, was hanged to death in the case on 23rd March, 1931.

11. The Civil Disobedience Movement:

The year 1929 witnessed the passing of the *Purna Swaraj* or the Complete Independence Resolution in Lahore INC session. J L Nehru was the man who did the most to popularize the idea of complete independence and it was under his Presidency that the INC passed the Complete Independence Resolution.

On the banks of the river Ravi in Lahore, at midnight on 31 December 1929, the Tricolor was unfurled amidst cheers and jubilation. On 26th January, 1930, Independence Pledges were read out and collectively affirmed at mass meetings.

On April 6, 1930, by picking a handful of salt, Gandhiji inaugurated the Civil Disobedience Movement, a movement that remained unsurpassed in Indian history for the mass participation it unleashed.

After much deliberation, a Round Table Conference was held between the Congress and the British in London. Thereafter, the discussions between Lord Irwin, the Viceroy and Gandhiji resulted in the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. The Congress, in return, agreed to discontinue the CDM.

12. The Years After:

Gandhiji went to UK 1931 to attend the 2nd Round Table Conference but the British refused the basic nationalist demand. In 1932, Ramsay McDonald announced the Communal Award, which provoked all Indians and the INC to protest it. The Communal Award was basically aimed at dividing the Indian population along communal lines.

Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1928, joined hands with Bose to form the Independence For India League. In 1935, the British Parliament passed the Government of India Act, 1935. It Act provided for Provincial Autonomy, a Federation of India and transference of some powers to provinces. The Act was thoroughly condemned by all and the Congress demanded, instead, a convening of the Constituent Assembly to frame a Constitution for independent India.

During this decade, a strong wave of communal propoganda unleashed by both the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha, surfaced. The Muslim side was spearheaded by Mohammed Ali Jinnah, who later gave the theory of Pakistan and MS Golwalkar, a prominent RSS leader.

The Bose-Gandhi debate ultimately resulted in the resignation of Bose from the INC Presidency in 1939. Bose left Congress and founded the Forward Bloc, a communist outfit within the INC.

World War II broke out on September 1, 1939 when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Gandhiji decided to start the Individual Satyagraha in 1940. Vinoba Bhave was the first individual *satyagrahi*.

The demand for Pakistan was first made by the Muslim League in 1940 in Lahore. Negotiations between the INC and the Cripps Mission soon broke down because the INC wanted complete independence in place of the Dominion Status. The Cripps failure in 1942 made it clear that Britain was unwilling to offer an honourable settlement.

The historic August 8 meeting was marked by Gandhiji's speech, delivered in his usual unrheterical style. It had an electrifying impact. The famous slogan of "Do Or Die" was given by Gandhiji and it became a rallying cry for the Quit India Movement.

It included all forms of civil disobedience and non-cooperation. The sudden attack by the government produced an instantaneous reaction among the people. Major towns observed *hartals*, had public demonstrations and processions in defiance of the Revolutionary Movements Act introduced by the government to crush the movement.

The INA was an army commanded by Subhas Bose in 1943 in Singapore. He set up the Provisional Government of Free India in October, 1943 there. In 1944, the INA decided to wage an open war on the British in India with the help of the Japanese army. But the subsequent capture of their commanders Prem Kumar Sehgal, Shah Nawaz and Gurdial Dhillon, quashed all hopes of liberating India. All three were later tried in the famous INA Red Fort Trials in 1945.

The growing nationalist upsurge and a demoralized army, bureaucracy and police and growing international pressure compelled the British to announce the Cabinet Mission for India in 1946, which was to evolve a scheme for transfer of power to India. The scheme given made no mention of a separate Pakistan, but it was misinterpreted by both the Congress and the Muslim League.

The Muslim communal groups provoked communal frenzy in Calcutta on 16th August, 1946. The Hindu communal groups retaliated in equal measure and the toll was 5000 lives.

The League never joined the Interim Government headed by J.L. Nehru, as per the mission plan. The British Premier Clement Attlee sought to defuse the crisis by announcing in the British Parliament that the British had decided to withdraw from India on 3rd June, 1948. Lord Mountbatten was appointed the new Viceroy, to wind up the British Raj and transfer power.

The Mountbatten Plan, as the 3rd June, 1948 Plan came to be known, sought to make an early transfer of power on the basis of Dominion Status to two successor states India and Pakistan. However, India woke up to the dawn of freedom much earlier on 15th August, 1947 and Pakistan a day earlier. Despite the tragedy of partition, at last India had won its freedom from the clutches of a tyrannical ruler and the people listened to Nehru's still-electrifying *Tryst With Destiny* speech on the intervening night of 14th and 15th August, "Long, long ago, we had made a tryst with destiny....."

SOCIAL REFORM AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Organization

1. Brahm Samaj
2. Prathna Samaj
3. Satya Shodhak Samaj
4. Arya Samaj
5. Ramakrishna Mission
6. Temple Entry Movement
7. Theosophical Society
8. Young Bengal Movement
9. Widow Remarriage Association
10. Aligarh Movement
11. Abhinav Bharat
12. Hindu Mahasabha
13. Congress Swaraj Party
14. All-India Depressed Classes Federation
15. All-India Harijan Sewak Sangh

Founder

- Raja Rammohan Roy (1829)
Mahadev Gobind Ranade
Jyotiba Phule
Swami Dayanand
Swami Vivekanand
E. Ramaswamy Naicker
Annie Besant
Henry Dorazio
MG Ranade
Sir Siayad Ahmed Khna
VD Savrkar
VD Savarkar
ML Nehru, CR Dass
Dr. BR Ambedkar
MK Gandhi

Governor-General

1. Lord Cornawallis
2. Lord Macaulay
3. Lord Dalhousie
4. William Bentick
5. Lord Canning
6. Lord Rippon
7. Lord Dufferin
8. Lord Wavell
9. Lord Wellsley

Step/Initiative

- Permanent Settlement
English Introduced
Railways, Indians' Entry to ICS opened, Lapse Theory
Abolition of Sati, Thugee & Female Infanticide
1857 Revolt
Local Self-Government
INC Formed
Shimla Plan
Subsidiary Alliance

Regional & Tribal Uprisings and Locations

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Sanyasi Rebellion | Bengal |
| 2. Mopilla's Struggle | Malabar (Kerala) |
| 3. Munda's Struggle | Bihar |
| 4. Santhals Movement | Bihar |
| 5. Kukas Movement | Punjab |

IMPORTANT INC PRESIDENTS

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. Mahatma Gandhi | 1924 |
| 2. JL Nehru | 1929, 36, 37 |
| 3. Subhas Bose | 1938, 39 |
| 4. Annie Besant | 1917 |

Important Titles and Holders Thereof

- | <u>Title</u> | <u>Real Name</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Lokmanya | BG Tilak |
| 2. Mahatma | MK Gandhi (By Tagore) |
| 3. Bapu | MK Gandhi (By Subash Bose) |
| 4. Chaacha | JL Nehru |
| 5. Bharat Kokila | Sarojini Naidu |
| 6. Plato of Jat Tribe | Suraj Mal |
| 7. The Best Parliamentarian | GK Gokhale |
| 8. Gandhi's Political Guru | GK Gokhale |
| 9. Sardar | VB Patel |
| 10. Sher-I-Punjab | Lajpat Rai |
| 11. Friend of the Indian People | Lord Rippon |
| 12. Deenbandhu | CF Andrews |
| 13. Deshbandhu | CR Dass |
| 14. Chakravarti | C. Rajgopalchari |

MISCELLANEOUS

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. First Martyr of 1857 Revolt | Mangal Pande |
| 2. First Muslim INC President | Badruddin Tyabji |
| 3. First Female INC President | Annie Besant |
| 4. First Jailed Journalist | SN Banerjea |
| 5. INC President in 1947 | JB Kriplani |
| 6. British Premier In 1947 | Clement Attlee |
| 7. First Woman Chief Minister in Independent India | Sucheta Kriplani |
| 8. First Woman Cabinet Minister | Rajkumari Amrit Kaur |
| 9. Revolutionary Who Died In Jail after 64 Days of Fasting | Jatin Dass |

V. Chronology of Events:

HISTORICAL EVENTS

B.C

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 2500-1800 | Indus valley civilization. |
| 599 | Birth of Mahavir; Nirvana in 523. B.C. |
| 563 | Birth of Gautam Buddha; Nirvana in 483 B.C. |
| 327-26 | Alexander's invasion of India and the opening of land route between India and Europe. |
| 269-232 | Ashoka's reign. |
| 261 | Battle of Kalinga. |
| 57 | Beginning of Vikrama era. |
| 30 | Satvahana dynasty in Deoan. Pandyan empire in for south. |
| 326 | Alexander defeated Poras in the Battle of Hydaspas |
| 261 | Ashoka defeated Kalinga in the Kalinga War |

A.D

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 78 | Beginning of Saka era. |
| 320 | Beginning of Gupta era. |
| 360 | Samudragupta conquers the whole of N. India and much of the Deccan. |
| 380-413 | Rule of Chandragupta Vikramaditya, age of Kalidasa, renewal of induism. |
| 606-647 | Rule of Harshavardhana. |
| 629-645 | Hieun Tsang's visit in India. |
| 622 | Beginning of Hijra era. |
| 712 | Arab invasion of Sind by Mohd. bin Qasim. |
| 1001-27 | Repeated attacks of Mehmud Ghazni. |
| 1025 | Sacking of Somnath temple by Mehmud. |
| 1191 | First battle of Tarain in which Prithviraj Chauhan defeated Mohd. Ghori. |
| 1192 | Second battle of Tarain in which Mohd. Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan. |
| 1206 | Qutubuddin Aibak founded the Ilbari/Slave dynasty. |
| 1290 | Jalaluddin Firuz Khilji established Khilji dynasty. |
| 1290 | Marco Polo visited India. |
| 1320 | Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq founded the Tughlaq dynasty. |
| 1333 | Ibn Batuta arrived in India. |
| 1336 | Harihara and Bukka founded the Vijaynagar empire. |
| 1347 | Bahmani kingdom founded. |
| 1398 | Timur invades India. |

HISTORICAL EVENTS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 1451 | Lodi dynasty comes in power in Delhi Sultanate. |
| 1469 | Birth of Guru Nanak Dev. |
| 1498 | Vasco da Gama lands at Calicut. |
| 1510 | Portuguese capture Goa-Albuquerque Governor. |
| 1526 | First Battle of Panipat in which Babar defeated Ibrahim Lodhi and established the Mughal dynasty. |
| 1556 | Second battle of Panipat in which Akbar defeated Hemu. |
| 1565 | Battle of Talikota in which Vijaynagar empire is defeated. |
| 1571 | Foundation of Fatehpur Sikri by Akbar. |
| 1576 | Battle of Haldighati in which Akbar defeated Maharana Pratap. |
| 1582 | Akbar started Din-i-Ilahi. |
| 1600 | English East India Company established. |
| 1604 | Compilation of Adi Granth. |
| 1605 | Death of Akbar. |
| 1611 | The English built a factory at Masulipatnam. |
| 1627 | Birth of Shivaji |
| 1631 | Death of Shah Jahan's wife Mumtaz Mahal. The building of Taj Mahal. |
| 1658 | Aurangzeb became Emperor of Delhi. |
| 1666 | Birth of Guru Gobind Singh. |
| 1699 | Guru Gobind Singh creates 'Khalsa'. |
| 1707 | Death of Aurangzeb, fall of Mughal empire begins. |
| 1739 | Nadir Shah invaded India; the peacock throne and the Kohinoor Diamond taken away from India. |
| 1757 | Battle of Plassey in which the English defeated Siraj-ud- daula, Nawab of Bengal. |
| 1760 | Battle of Wandiwash, end of French power in India, |
| 1761 | Third Battle of Panipat in which Ahmed Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas. |
| 1764 | Battle of Buxar in which the English defeated the triple alliance of Nawab Mir Qasim of Bengal, Nawab Shuja-ud-daula of Awadh and Mughal emperor Shah Alam. |
| 1793 | Permanent settlement in Bengal. |
| 1799 | Fourth Anglo Mysore War, death of Tipu Sultan, Ranjit Singh occupied Lahore and made it his capital. |
| 1817-19 | Marathas finally crushed. |
| 1828 | Lord William Bentick becomes Governor General; Era of social reforms; Prohibition of Sati (1829), Suppression of thugs (1830). |
| 1835 | Introduction of English as medium of instruction. |
| A.D | |
| 1853 | First Indian railway from Bombay to Thane. |
| 1857-58 | First war of Indian Independence. |
| 1858 | British crown takes over the Indian Government; End of East India Company's rule. |
| 1861 | Birth of Rabindra Nath Tagore. |
| 1869 | Birth of M.K. Gandhi. |
| 1885 | Formation of Indian National Congress. |
| 1905 | Partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon. |
| 1906 | Formation of All India Muslim League. |

HISTORICAL EVENTS

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 1909 | Minto-Morley Reforms. |
| 1911 | Delhi durbar held, partition of Bengal cancelled, capital shifted from Calcutta to Delhi. |
| 1914 | World War I started. |
| 1918 | End of World War I. |
| 1919 | Rowlatt Act, Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Montague- Chelmsford reforms. |
| 1920 | Non-cooperation Movement launched, |
| 1921 | Moplah rebellian in Malabar; visit of Prince of Wales. |
| 1922 | Chauri-Chaura incidence. |
| 1923 | Swaraj party formed. |
| 1927 | Simon Commission appointed. |
| 1928 | Visit of Simon Commission to India, death of Lala Lajpat Rai. |
| 1929 | Congress demanded 'Poorna Swaraj' in Lahore session. |
| 1930 | January 26 celebrated as Independence Day throughout India, Dandi Salt Satyagraha, First Round Table conference. |
| 1931 | Gandhi-Irvin Pact, Second Round Table Conference. |
| 1932 | Suppression of Congress Movement, Third Round Table Conference, Communal Award, Poona Pact. |
| 1935 | Government of India Act. |
| 1937 | Inauguration of Provincial Autonomy. Congress ministries formed in 8 out of 11 provinces. |
| 1939 | Resignation of Congress ministries, beginning of World War II. |
| 1942 | Cripps Mission Plan, Quit India Movement, Formation of Indian National Army by S.C. Bose. |
| 1945 | Simla conference held and the failure of Wavell Plan, INA trials at Red Fort, Delhi. |
| 1946 | Cabinet Mission Plan, Formation of Interim Government, Direct Action Resolution by Muslim League. |
| 1947 | Mountbatten Plan of June 3 in which partition of India resolution is proposed, India divided, Pakistan created, both achieve independence, Jawarhar Lai Nehru becomes the I Prime Minister of India. |
| 1948 | Assassination of Mahatma Gandhi (Jan. 30). |
| 1950 | India became republic (Jan. 26). |
| 1951 | First Five Year Plan implemented. |
| 1952 | First General Elections held. |
| 1953 | Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary conquer Mt. Everest (May 29). |
| 1954 | Panchsheel agreement between India and China. |
| 1956 | Life insurance nationalized, State Reorganising Act comes into force. |
| 1957 | Second General Elections. |
| 1958 | Metric system of weights and measures introduced. |
| 1959 | Dalai Lama exiled; enters India. |
| 1961 | Liberation of Goa. |
| 1962 | Chinese attack on India. (Oct 20). |
| 1964 | Jawaharlal Nehru dies; Lai Bahadur Shastri becomes PM. |
| 1965 | Indo-Pak war. |
| 1966 | Tashkent Agreement reached, Death of Lai Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi became PM. |
| 1967 | Dr. Zakir Hussain elected President. |
| 1968 | Hargovind Khurana shares the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology. |

HISTORICAL EVENTS

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 1969 | Death of. President Zakir Hussain (May 3). V. V. Giri elected President, Nationalization of 14 leading banks, Split in Indian National Congress. |
| 1970 | Former Indian ruler's privy purses abolished. Dr. C. V. Raman died (Nov. 2). |
| 1971 | Indo-Pak War over Bangladesh. |
| 1972 | Shimla Agreement signed. |
| 1973 | Manekshaw named India's first Field Marshal |
| 1974 | Nuclear explosion at Pokhran (May 18). |
| 1975 | Indian satellite 'Aryabhata' launched, National emergency declared. |
| 1976 | The four Indian News agencies merged into a single News Agency known as 'Samachar', life of Lok Sabha extended by an year. |
| 1977 | Defeat of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in the election, Morarji Desai takes over as PM, emergency withdrawn. |
| 1978 | India launches world's biggest adult literacy plan (Oct. 2). |
| 1979 | Charan Singh became PM., Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize. |
| 1980 | Indira Gandhi returns to power at centre, India launches first satellite using its own satellite launching vehicle (July. 18). |
| 1981 | India launched APPLE, Khalistan activists hijack Indian Airlines Boeing 737 to Lahore. |
| 1982 | Zail Singh sworn in as President, the 21-member Indian scientific expedition headed by Dr. S. Z. Qasim lands on Antarctica (Jan. 9), INSAT1 A launched, Ninth Asian Games held in New Delhi. |
| 1983 | The 7th Non Aligned Summit in New Delhi, Kalpakkam Atomic Energy plant goes critical (July 2), INSAT-1 B launched (Aug. 30), Richard Attenborough's "Gandhi" wins 8 Oscars. |
| 1984 | Rakesh Sharma becomes India's first spaceman (Apr. 5), Bachendri Pal become the first Indian woman to scale Mt. Everest (May 23), Operation Blue Star, Assassination of Indira Gandhi (Oct 31), Rajiv Gandhi becomes PM, Bhopal Gas tragedy (Dec. 3). |
| 1985 | Anti-defection Bill passed (Jan. 3), Azharuddin hits 3 centuries in 3 tests. |
| 1986 | The first wholly Indian test-tube baby bom at KEM Hospital, Bombay (Aug. 7). |
| 1987 | Sunil Gavaskar becomes the first batsman to score 10,000 runs in tests (Mar. 7), Goa becomes the 25th state of India (May 30). |
| 1988 | India's first remote sensing satellite IRS 1 -A launched from Russia (Mar. 17), INSAT 1-C launched from French Guyana (July 22). |
| 1989 | Successful test of Agni (May 22), laying of the foundation stone for the Ram Janmabhoomi temple of Ayodhya (Nov 10). V.P. Singh becomes the PM. |
| 1990 | Successful launching of INSAT 1-D (June 12), Mandal Commission recommendation implemented (Aug. 7), V.P. Singh tenders resignation (Nov. 7), S. Chandrashekar becomes PM. (Nov. 10). |
| 1991 | Rajiv Gandhi killed in a bomb blast (May 21), P. V. Narsimha Rao became PM. (June 21), Earthquake in Uttarkashi region (Oct. 20), Satyajit Ray got special Oscar award. (Dec.16). |
| 1992 | Prithvi test fired (May 5), INSAT-2 A launched (July 10), Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma became President (July 25), the domes of Babri Masjid demolished (Dec 6). |
| 1993 | Panchayati Raj Act effective (Apr. 24), INSAT-2 B launched from French Guyana (July 23), Earthquake in Latur region (Sept. 30). |
| 1994 | First heart transplant in the country (Aug. 3), PSLV D-2 launched (Oct. 15). |
| 1995 | Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh assassinated (Agu. 31), INSAT-2 C launched (Dec. 7) |

HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 1996** A.B. Vajpayee became PM. (May 16), H.D. Deve Gowda became PM. (June 1), India-Bangladesh sign Ganga Water Pact (Dec. 12)
- 1997** I. K. Gujral became PM. (Apr. 21), K. R. Narayanan sworn in as President (July 25), Mother Teresa passes away (Sept. 5), Arundhati Roy wins Booker Prize (Oct. 14), I. K. Gujral resigns as PM. (Nov. 28)
- 1998** Konkan railway commissioned (Jan. 26), A. B. Vajpayee became PM. (Mar. 19), India conducted total 5 nuclear tests (May 11 and May 13), Severe cyclone in Gujarat (June 9), Amartya Sen won the Noble Prize in Economics (Oct. 14)
- 1999** P.M. Vajpayee arrived in Pakistan by Delhi-Lahore bus (Feb. 20), India successfully launched its first commercial telecom satellite INSAT-2 E from Kourou (Apr. 3), Intense fighting in Kargil (June-July), Devastating cyclone in Orissa and A. P. (Oct.)
- 2000** U. S. President Bill Clinton visited India (Mar.) INSAT-3 B launched from Kourou (Mar. 22), Successful test firing of 'Dhanush', the naval version of 'Prithvi' missile (Apr. 11), Karnam Malleshwari wins a bronze at Olympics, Chattisgarh formed (Nov. 1), Uttaranchal formed (Nov. 9), Jharkhand formed (Nov. 15)