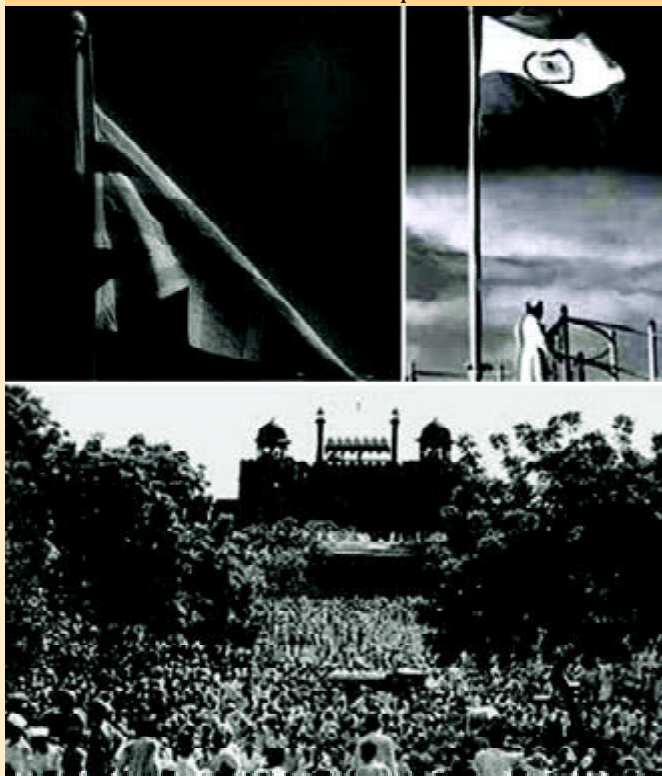


# INDIA TODAY

7

You have learnt about the various streams of the freedom movement in India and the attainment of Independence from British domination which had lasted for almost two centuries. The Indian freedom movement was different from those of other countries. It was the greatest mass movement in the world. It was the history of a people who fought fearlessly against the brutalities imposed by the British rule. The replacement of the Union Jack by the Indian Tricolour on 15th August 1947 proclaimed the demise of the British empire in India and the birth of a new nation.

India becomes independent



In the meeting of the Constituent Assembly which met at the Central Hall of the Parliament, Jawaharlal Nehru, who was sworn in as the first Prime Minister of India, spoke on the midnight of 14th August: "When the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom".

*But the dominant impulse in India under British rule was that of fear, pervasive, oppressing, strangling fear, fear of the army, the police, the widespread secret service; fear of official class; fear of laws meant to suppress and of prison, fear of the land lord's agents, fear of the money lender, fear of unemployment and starvation, which were always on the threshold. It was against this all-pervading fear that Gandhiji's quiet and determined voice was raised: Be not afraid."*

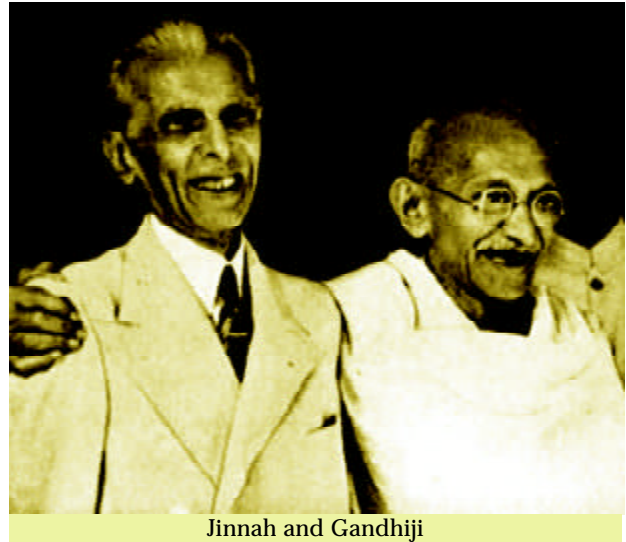
*Jawaharlal Nehru: "Discovery of India"*

## Partition, Riots

The attainment of Indian Independence brought both happiness and sorrow. Happiness, because long years of foreign rule had ended. Sorrow, because it brought partition, bloodshed and massive movements of refugees.

The country was divided into two: India and Pakistan. What was the cause of partition?

During the period of freedom struggle itself differences of opinion broke out in defining nationalism. Hindu Mahasabha claimed that Indian nationalism was Hindu. The All India Muslim League held that there was also Muslim nationalism. Both of them were defining nationalism on the basis of religion. Based on the Two-Nation Theory thus emerged, the League demanded that the country should be divided into two. Its leader Mohammed Ali Jinnah demanded that a separate state of Pakistan should be



Jinnah and Gandhiji

created by dividing India into two. The British policy of 'Divide and Rule' had a key role behind this demand.

The Indian National Congress opposed the Two-Nation Theory. Undivided India was its position.

In the Cabinet Mission Plan, Britain made it clear that as a prelude to the transfer of power an Interim Government should be formed and a Constituent Assembly should be established. Accordingly, an Interim Government was formed in 1946 under the Prime Ministership of Jawaharlal Nehru. Muslim League refused to join the ministry and called for Direct Action. This was followed by the outbreak of communal riots in many parts of India. Muslim League later joined the ministry, but did not give up the demand for Pakistan. The Congress insisted on undivided India. The Hindu Mahasabha demanded that India should be made a Hindu state after granting Pakistan to the League. These arguments inflamed the communal riots. Congress feared that freedom which was at the doorsteps would be lost because of the bickerings. It was of the opinion that the demand for a separate Pakistan should never stand in the way of

freedom and hence agreed to partition. But Gandhiji did not endorse this view. His was a lone voice.

Lord Mountbatten reached India in February 1947 as the new Viceroy. He finalised the scheme of partition after holding discussions with the leaders of various political parties. This was known as the Mountbatten Plan. He submitted his proposals to the British government. Accordingly a bill was presented in the British Parliament and was passed in June 1947. This was the Indian

Independence Act. The colonial relationship between Britain and India which lasted for about two centuries thus came to an end.

Sir Cyril Radcliff, a leading lawyer of the London Bar, was entrusted with the task of preparing a detailed map in accordance with the partition plan. Provinces, districts and villages were divided. The prosperous provinces of Punjab and Bengal were divided. East Bengal and West Punjab became parts of Pakistan.



*Pakistan was formed as two parts on the east and west of India. Find out the position of Pakistan in the Indian map of 1947. Which were the other provinces of Pakistan?*

Transfer of Power and Partition took place at the same time. Mohammadali Jinnah was sworn in as the new head of state of Pakistan on 14th August, 1947.

*What are the things to be shared when a nation is divided into two?*

- Military
- -
- -
- -

## August 15

*Louis Mountbatten, a member of the British royal family and an admiral of the Royal Navy, was the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces constituted by Britain, France and America in the East against Japan at the end of Second World War. Japan controlled the entire area from the Hawaii island in the East to the Bay of Bengal in the West. It was on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1945 that Japan surrendered before Mountbatten. It was a memorable day in his life. Hence he chose 15<sup>th</sup> August as the Independence Day for India.*

## Moth-Eaten Pakistan

*Jinnah and Muslim League demanded that the provinces of Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan, Afghan Province, Kashmir and Bengal should be included in the newly created state of Pakistan. But they got only half each of Punjab and Bengal. Kashmir was not given. A dissatisfied Jinnah quipped that what he got was a 'Moth-Eaten Pakistan'.*

The Partition had created a division among the Indians who were living so far peacefully and with a sense of unity. The people were divided into Hindus and Muslims. Their leaders incited religious feelings and provoked communal riots. Tens of thousands of people were slaughtered. Hindus and Sikhs fled from Pakistan and Muslims fled from India. Lakhs of refugees crossed the borders of India and Pakistan. It



Refugee Migration during Partition

was the greatest refugee migration in the history of the world. Lahore, Delhi and Calcutta reeled under communal riots. Insecurity and anarchy prevailed everywhere. A freedom won by non-violence and tolerance ended up in violence and crime.

You know the story of Mahatma Gandhi who toured the riot-ridden area to change the hearts of the rioting people and to assure people of peace. Gandhiji appealed to the rioters not to murder any Muslim within India. He went on to a fast unto death urging the Government to abide by conditions of the partition. The Hindu fundamentalists saw him as an enemy because, when the Hindus in Pakistan were being murdered, Gandhiji became the protector of the Muslims in India. These were the reasons for their murdering him.

### Integration of States

When the British left the country, there were more than six hundred princely states in India. These states had surrendered their sovereignty to the paramount power through the treaties and agreements signed with the East India Company and the British government. As per the provisions of the Indian Independence Act, the treaties became null and void and the native states regained their sovereignty. The Independence Act offered two options before them - either to join India or Pakistan or to remain independent. After the Partition there were 555 states within the Indian union. In all these states agitations were going on for the establishment of responsible government. It became inevitable for the Government to integrate these states with India. It was with this purpose that the States



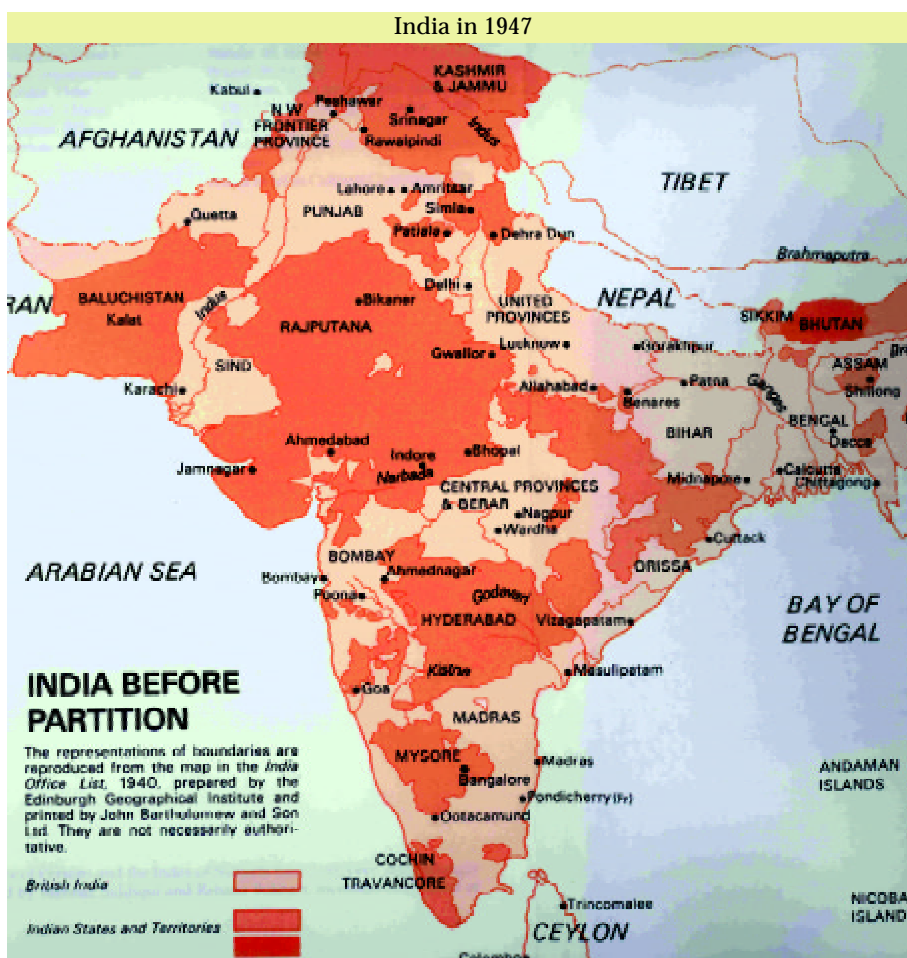
Sardar Vallabhai Patel

Department was created. It was under the Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, that this department was organised of which V.P Menon, a Malayali, was the Secretary. Menon proposed a plan for the

integration of the native states. This was known as the 'V.P. Menon Plan'. According to this, geographically contiguous states were merged with the former British provinces. Geographically vast states were recognised as such, e.g. Mysore, Hyderabad, Kashmir, etc. States which were geographically small and where the people spoke the same language were merged together to form union of states. Five such unions were formed. They were Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) and Travancore-Cochin. Strategically important states were brought under the direct control of the Central Government.



*Locate the princely states from the Map.*



All the princely states except three joined the Indian Union just before and after the Transfer of Power as a result of the popular agitations and the persuasion of Government of India. Each prince had to sign an Instrument of Accession. The chief provisions of the Instrument were that the native state had to surrender foreign affairs, defence and communication to the Government of India.

But the states of Junagarh, Hyderabad and Kashmir refused to accede to the Indian Union which led to military action.

*Junagarh was a petty native state in the Saurashtra coast. The Nawab declared his decision to accede the state to Pakistan. Junagarh was situated deep inside the Indian territory, far away from Pakistan. The decision of the Nawab provoked the people who wanted the state to be merged with India. Pakistan declared her readiness to accept Junagarh. This led to public agitation. Fearing people's protest, the Nawab fled the country. A provisional government was organised by the people. Shah Nawaz Bhutto, the Diwan, appealed to India for assistance. The Indian army moved to Junagarh. A plebiscite was held in February 1948, according to which the state was merged with Indian Union. The Dewan's son Zulfikar Ali Bhutto later became the Prime Minister of Pakistan.*

*Hyderabad was a wealthy state which was bigger in size than great Britain. The Nizam declared Hyderabad an independent state. The people revolted against this demanding responsible government. From 1946 onwards the peasants under the leadership of the Communist Party had begun to seize land from their lords. The regime of Nizam depended upon the landlords, Muslim nobility and the armed constabulary called Razakars. Upon the Nizam declaring Hyderabad an independent state, the*

*Razakars began suppressing the popular agitation brutally. Under this circumstance the Indian Army marched to Hyderabad and an intimidated Nizam signed the Instrument of Accession.*

*Kashmir was a native state which Jinnah had desired to be part of Pakistan. The ruler, Raja Hari Singh Bahadur, declared that Kashmir should be an independent state. The National Conference was an organisation led by Sheik Abdullah which had been agitating for the establishment of responsible government. As Pakistan was dissatisfied at not getting Kashmir and as the King proclaimed independence, the Pathan tribes began to attack Jammu-Kashmir with the connivance of Pakistan. Srinagar, the capital city, was also under threat. Pushed to a corner, the Raja appealed to India for help and agreed to accede Kashmir to India. The Indian army reached Srinagar and the Pathan raiders were repulsed. By that time a portion of Kashmir had already been occupied by Pakistan. Kashmir was acceded to India and a popular government was formed by Sheik Abdullah. India raised the Kashmir issue in the UN Security Council. On the advice of the U.N.O ceasefire was declared. The area conquered by Pakistan is known in India as Pak-Occupied Kashmir.*

You have studied the story of Travancore in Kerala history which declared that she would remain independent with an American model constitution. Travancore

was forced to accede to the Indian union as a result of strong public agitation and without the interference of the central government.



*"--- our hard earned freedom might disappear through the states' door." Explain the significance of this statement of Sardar Vallabhai Patel on the integration of the princely states.*

## Pondicherry and Goa

Britain, France, Portugal and Holland were the main European countries which had colonies in India. By the beginning of the 19th century the Dutch had transferred their Indian territories to Britain. Britain left the country in 1947. But Pondicherry and Mahe held by France and Goa, Dadra and Nagar haveli held by Portugal continued to be retained by those countries even after 1947.

Strong agitations were going on against the French and Portuguese in their Indian possessions. There was strong public resentment against those countries because they had retained the Indian provinces even after the British left the country. Hence agitations became intense after 1947. The Government of India interfered and requested France and Portugal to leave India. France obliged and left the country in 1954. Thus Pondicherry, Mahe, Yanam and Karaikal came under the direct administration of the central government.

But Portugal refused to leave. When polite requests became futile, the Government of India sent the army to Goa. Portugal raised the issue in the U.N.O. Britain and America supported Portugal. Russia exercised veto in favour of India in the Security Council. Portugal sent its army to Goa. But the Portuguese ships were denied entry through the Suez Canal by Egypt, which was friendly to India. Left with no other option, the Portuguese left the country in 1961. Goa and other territories were taken over by the Indian Government.

## Constitution and Republic

You have already learnt about the Constituent Assembly. The Indian Constitution was unanimously adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th

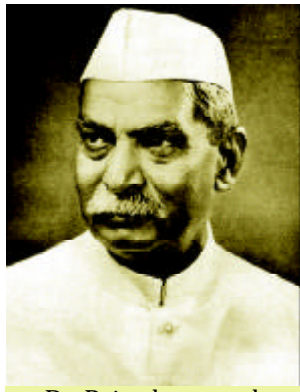


Constituent Assembly

November 1949. India was declared a Republic on 26th January, 1950.

*According to the Indian Independence Act Jawaharlal Nehru was sworn in as the first Prime Minister of independent India on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947. In response to the request of Jawaharlal Nehru, Lord Mountbatten became the first Governor General of free India. When India was declared a Republic, the office of the Governor General was abolished and in its place the President became the head of the state.*

At the time of Independence, Lord Mountbatten was the Governor General. He was succeeded by C. Rajagopalachary as the Governor General. When the Constitution was adopted and India became a Republic, elections were to be held to the offices of the President, Vice President, the Prime Minister and the members of the Cabinet as well as the Parliament. For this rules and regulations were framed. The first general election was held in 1952. The leader of the majority party was to become the Prime Minister. Accordingly, Jawaharlal Nehru was elected leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party and Prime Minister. The leader of Communist Party of India, A. K. Gopalan, was elected as leader of the group of opposition parties. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected President and Dr. S.Radhakrishnan, the Vice-President.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad



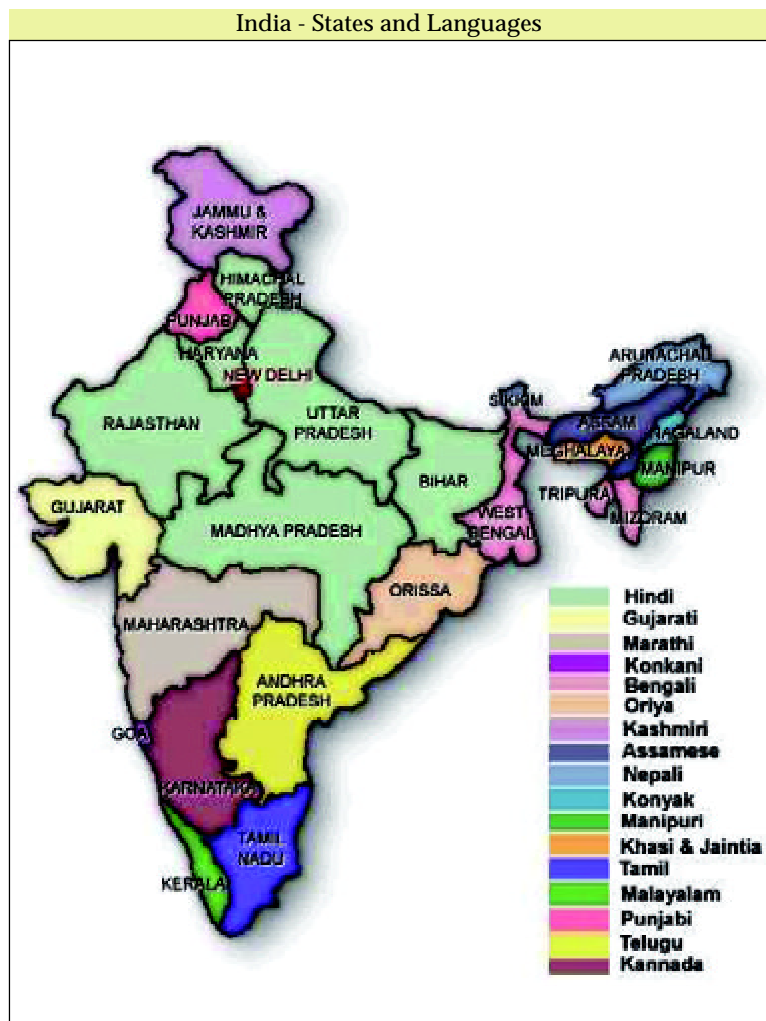
Jawaharlal Nehru

### State Reorganisation

From the very beginning Independent India had to face several problems. War with Pakistan over the Kashmir issue, Hindu-Muslim communal riots, refugee problem, integration of the princely states, food shortage, etc. were the issues which the Government had to face. The interim Government formed in 1946 under Jawaharlal Nehru tried to solve these problems in right earnest.

You have already seen the integration of princely states of different sizes into the Indian union. What were the problems faced by the people of these princely states? People speaking the same language and following the same way of life happened to be in different states administratively. Take the case of Malayalis as an example. The people of Travancore and Cochin were under one rule while the people of Malabar were under the Government of Madras. But the people were speaking their mother tongue, Malayalam.

This was a problem to be solved by the government of Nehru. What should be the criteria for state reorganisation? The Government considered several factors such as geographical extent, population, etc. This issue was a subject of discussion even before the attainment of Independence. When nationalism was defined on the basis of religion, linguistic identity was raised as a counter-argument. The people who follow a particular religion might be speaking different languages. The people who speak the same language might be following different religions. Since language was a strong unifying force as an instrument of communication and cultural formation, the argument was vehemently put forward even before Independence that language should be the criterion for state reorganisation. But





this argument was not accepted by political leaders like Jinnah. However, this argument gained currency after Independence. Potti Sriramalu, a veteran freedom fighter, became a martyr by observing fast for the realisation of Andhra Pradesh as the state of the Telugu speaking people. Thus the Central Government was forced to reorganise the state of Andhra Pradesh. The State Reorganisation Commission was constituted by the Central Government to find out a solution to this problem. Justice Fazl Ali, Sardar K.M. Panikkar and Hridayanath Kunsru were the members of the Commission. The Commission which began its function in 1953 submitted its report to the Government in 1955 after collecting evidence and its detailed study. The Bill framed on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission was passed by the Parliament in 1956 and it came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Fourteen linguistic states and six centrally administered Union Territories were formed accordingly. The Commission

recommended that the state of Bombay where people speak both Marathi and Gujarati, and Punjab where the people speak Punjabi and Haryanvi need not be divided. But consequent to popular agitation Bombay was divided into Maharashtra and Gujarat respectively in 1961. Punjab and Haryana were separated in 1969. There were several tribal states in northeastern part of India. These states shared boundary with China and Myanmar. They were reorganised as the North Eastern Frontier Agency (NEFA) and placed under the direct control of the Central Government. Manipur and Nagaland were also declared as Union Territories. Assam was the only territory which enjoyed the status of statehood. The peoples of the North-East started their agitation for statehood.

Even while the linguistic principle of state reorganisation was in force, some more states like Utharanchal, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh were formed under regional pressures.



*Prepare a table showing the present states in India and the languages spoken in them.*

On the foothills of Himalayas in the north there were three independent states. They were Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim. Their foreign policy was regulated by India.

Honouring the desire of the people of Sikkim, their Parliament passed a resolution by which the state merged with India in 1976.

*While the concept of religious nationalism was strongly raised in the 1940's, three books formulating the linguistic concept was published during this time. Nutan Bengal by Bhavani Sen put forward the idea that the province of Bengal inhabited by the people speaking Bengali, Bihari, Oriya, Assamia, etc. was to be reorganised on the basis of language. That the Telugu-speaking people, spread over Madras, Bombay, Hyderabad and Orissa, were*

*to be organised under a separate state, was the demand raised by P. Sundarayya in his book Visalandhra. The demand in the book by E.M.S Namboodirippad, Onnekalkodi Malyilikal, was that the Malayalam-speaking people of the princely states of Travancore and Cochin and the District of Malabar which was part of the Madras Presidency should be part of a separate state.*

## Economy

Even while the freedom struggle was going on, discussions were held to decide the future economic structure of India. Nehru was very much attracted by the amazing achievements of Soviet Union following a planned economy and Five Year Plans. You know about the formation of the Congress Socialist Party by Nehru and his friends who were attracted towards socialism. Nehru stood for a planned economy on the Soviet model. The meeting of the Congress at Karachi in 1931 adopted such a resolution. It gave emphasis on the development of industry and agriculture. However, Gandhiji stood for the development of rural economy.

Private entrepreneurs had started industries from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These industries were started at a time when the Swadeshi Movement raised the slogan of boycott of foreign goods. Economic sectors like iron and steel industry, textile industry, coal mining, commerce, banking, etc. began to develop under private entrepreneurship. Industrialists like Tata, Birla, Singhania and Dalmia had become financially strong even before Independence. They were strong enough to compete with foreign monopolists. They were the advocates of free trade. But the economic crisis of 1929 convinced them that public sector should be strengthened. They declared that the age of free trade was over. They published their scheme for the future economic

development of India known as the 'Bombay Plan' in the 1940's. M. N. Roy, the founder of Radical Humanism, put forward the 'People's Plan'.

The Government of free India had formulated its economic plan by taking into consideration all the above mentioned proposals. The Planning Commission was constituted with the Prime Minister as the Chairman. Eminent economists and scientists working in foreign countries were invited to India to participate in the process of development.

India decided to be a mixed economy. It was a synthesis of Capitalism and Socialism. It gave preference to the development of the public sector. Heavy industries, mining of minerals and oil, railways and airways, manufacture of military equipments, etc. were brought under public sector. Foreign aid was accepted in heavy industry sector. Iron and steel industries were started at Bhilai with Soviet aid, at Rourkela with British aid, at Bokaro with German aid. Private investors were encouraged. Before Independence there were only a handful of private entrepreneurs. They were facing stiff competition with British industrialists. But these private investors were given all encouragement by the Government of free India. Their number increased and their activities were extended to other sectors also.



*Is the industrial growth of India satisfactory? Discuss.*

## Five Year Plans

It was in 1951 that Five Year Plans were started in India. Agriculture was given priority in the First Five Year Plan and, in the Second Plan which began in 1956, industrial development was given priority. Agricultural development was necessary in solving the problem of food shortage. The only way to achieve it was that more land should be brought under cultivation. The first step towards this direction was the introduction of land legislations. Peasants should be provided with land. Different types of land lordism such as Zamindari, Jagirdari, Jotedari, Mahalwari, etc. were prevailing in many states. Though Zamindari was abolished by the Central Government in 1948 itself, the state

governments were not ready to implement it. The landlords who were not interested in cultivating the land left their land waste. Food production could not be increased because of the failure in implementing comprehensive land legislation.

The other methods adopted to improve food production were the mechanisation of agriculture, use of high-yielding hybrid seeds, chemical fertilisers, pesticides, etc. Mechanical ploughs, harvesters and threshers were also introduced. Agricultural research institutes were established for the development of high-yielding varieties of seeds. Agricultural colleges were established to produce agricultural scientists.



*Prepare a chart showing the year of commencement of each Five Year Plan and the priority given to various sectors of economy.*

## Bhoodan

*The landlords, who owned thousands of acres of land, were not ready to distribute land among the peasants. This led to a series of peasant revolts in many states. About three thousand villages were liberated and distributed among landless cultivators through armed struggle in the Telengana region of Hyderabad. Acharya Vinoba Bhave, a follower of Gandhiji, stated that there was no need for armed struggle and appealed to the landlords to donate land voluntarily. He obtained land as donation from the landlords of Andhra Pradesh. This was known as the Bhoodan movement. In other states also the landlords similarly surrendered their land.*

Even before Independence, fertilizer factories had been started by the Government of India and by some princely states. You know about the FACT started by the Government of Travancore to produce the

fertilizer, ammonium sulphate. The Central Government had started a fertilizer factory at Sindri in Bihar.

Agriculture in India depended mainly on rain. During drought years the land had to be laid fallow. Food production could be improved only if dams were constructed across rivers. Huge reservoirs were constructed in many states. The Bhakra Nangal across the Sutlej in Punjab, the Hirakud across Mahanadi and Damodar Valley Project in the river Damodar in Orissa, etc. were the important irrigation projects.

As a result of the investment of huge amount of capital in agricultural sector for irrigation, agricultural machines, fertilizers, pesticides, hybrid of seeds, etc., agricultural production increased. This came to be known as Green Revolution.

You know about the White Revolution which improved animal husbandry and milk production.



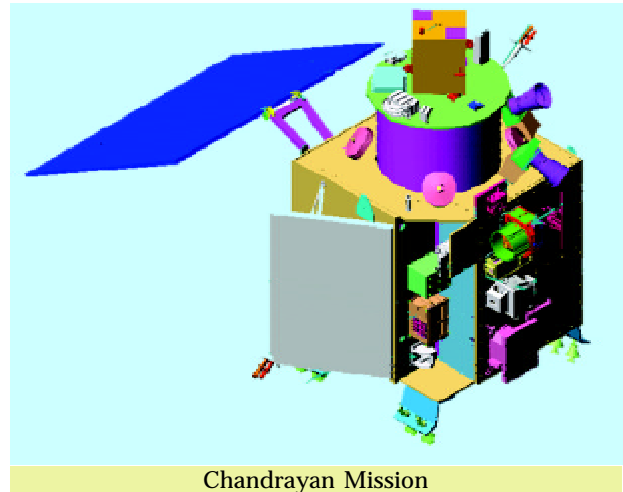
*Organise a discussion on the changes introduced in the agricultural sector through Green Revolution and White Revolution.*

## Scientific Research

Progress of scientific research is a precondition of agricultural and industrial development. The research institutions started during the British period were modernised and several new institutes were started. The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research was founded in Bombay in 1945 to conduct research in basic sciences. Later it was enlarged.

Under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was constituted to advise and fund scientific research. In 1947 the first National Physical Laboratory was founded. Later seventeen more laboratories were founded to carry on research in science.

The Atomic Energy Commission was started in 1948 with a view to utilising atomic energy for purposes of development. The eminent atomic scientist, Homi J. Bhabha, was appointed as the Chairman of the Commission. The atomic energy generation centre was founded at Trombay in 1956. It was the first in Asia. It was followed by the starting of several nuclear power stations in different parts of the country. Atomic energy was used solely for peaceful purposes during the time of Nehru. But in 1974, when Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, a



Chandrayan Mission

Nuclear device was exploded at Pokhran in Rajasthan. India thus acquired the potential to manufacture nuclear weapons.

It was during the time of Nehru that India started research in space science. In 1962 Indian Space Research Organisation was founded. The first rocket launching centre was founded at Thumba near Trivandrum (Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station-TERLS). India has at present the capacity to conduct advanced space research and launch satellites. The ISRO is doing commendable work in this direction. You are already aware of the Chandrayan Mission. Space research has now acquired the ability to explore oil resources, telecommunication and meteorological exploration.



*List the major satellites launched by India.*

## Progress of Education

The British in India had started educational institutions from primary to university level but did not take any steps for their development. Several education commissions were appointed to recommend reforms with regard to various stages of education and the subjects to be taught at each stage. The most important of them was the Sargeant Commission of 1945. Sir John Sargeant, who was the Chairman of Central Advisory Board of Education, was the Chairman of the Commission. The main recommendations of the commission were accepted by the Government of India after Independence.

The higher education commission was the first of its kind appointed by the Government of India in 1948. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was the Chairman of this Commission. It was on the advice of this Commission that the University Grants Commission was founded later.

In 1952 the Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar Commission was appointed to study about the secondary education. But a comprehensive study of the education sector was made by the Kothari Commission of 1964.

There is tremendous increase in the number of schools, colleges and universities. However, all children under a particular age group could not be given education by the governments of various states. You know about the Right to Education to children between ages of six and fourteen. It is included as part of the Fundamental Rights.

The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the agency founded with a view to universalise primary education. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is the agency founded to universalise secondary and higher secondary education.



*There are several agencies like the NCERT, NCTE and the UGC at the central level to supervise and implement educational reforms. Prepare a chart on the educational agencies functioning in Kerala.*

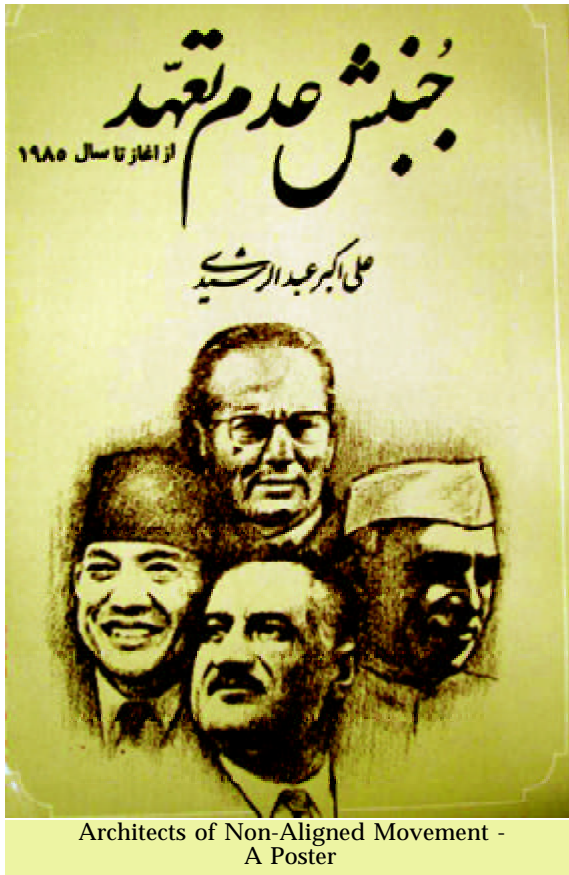
## Foreign Policy

You know about India's foreign policy and about the Non-Alignment Movement. Jawaharlal Nehru played a key role in shaping India's foreign policy. He was one of the founding leaders of the Non-Alignment Movement.

The Panchasheel principles were developed as the basis of the bilateral relations between India and China. But later it was recognised as a guiding principle by the world at large. You know about the war that India waged

in 1948 with Pakistan over the Kashmir issue. But still no solution to this problem has been found. India had to wage another war with Pakistan in 1965 over a boundary dispute. That problem ended with the signing of the Tashkent Treaty under the mediation of Soviet Union.

In Pakistan, where military rule was in force, agitations were going on for the protection of democracy. As a result, East Pakistan became a separate state known as Bangladesh. This led to another war between



India and Pakistan. The war broke out in December 1971 and the two nations signed an agreement at Simla. Accordingly Pakistan was forced to recognise Bangladesh as an independent nation.

Kashmir still remains as a burning issue between India and Pakistan. In 1998 the armies of the two countries waged a war at Kargil.

Though the principles of Panchasheel were adopted by India and China, border dispute arose between the two countries. For a long time the relation between the two countries remained strained. It led to war a between the countries (1962). But the two countries have been successful in establishing cordial relations over the last one decade.

India has always tried to maintain good relations with her neighbours. India initiated measures for solving the Tamil ethnic issue in Sri Lanka. The policy of India is that a solution to the Tamil problem should be found out within the framework of the Sri Lankan constitution.



*What changes can you see in the foreign policy of India today compared to the early years after Independence?*

### When Democracy Faced Challenges

Jawaharlal Nehru, who led Independent India for two decades and laid the foundation of her development, passed away on 27th May 1964. He was succeeded by Lal Bahadur Sastri and later Indira Gandhi as Prime Ministers. Differences of opinion broke out within the ruling Congress party. The Congress could score only a thin majority in the Lok Sabha elections in 1967. Besides, in nine states non-Congress ministries were formed. Thus Congress was becoming weak.

It was in this context that two important bills were presented in Parliament by Indira Gandhi in 1969. The first bill was related to the abolition of Privy Purse given to the former rulers of the princely states. The second bill proposed the nationalisation of Scheduled Banks. Both these bills were opposed by a section of the Congress. All the opposition parties except the Left opposed the bills. The bills could not be passed.

Difference of opinion became grave within the Congress and it came to be split into two. The faction which quarrelled with Indira Gandhi came to be known as Organisation

Congress. Parliament was dissolved before the expiry of its term in 1971 February and fresh elections were declared. The Congress under Indira Gandhi came back with a thumping majority. The Privy Purse Abolition Bill and the Bank Nationalism Bill were again presented in the Parliament and passed. Insurance companies and mines were also nationalised. The Constitution was amended and right to property was removed from the list of Fundamental Rights. All these measures enhanced the image of Government among people. In the elections held to certain states the Congress came out victorious. Thus both at the Centre and in the states the same party came to power.

But very soon the people became disenchanted. The country was affected by soaring prices and food shortage. Fuel price increased. Strikes and labour unrest became widespread. In 1974 the railway employees struck work for long days demanding wage hike. The police in Uttar Pradesh struck work. Several persons died in the confrontation with the army which was sent to suppress the strike. Labour strikes were organised against the Congress-led Governments of Gujarat and Bihar. These agitations were given leadership by JayaPrakash Narayan, who was a colleague of Nehru and a socialist leader. He appealed to the people to revolt against the prevailing order. This was known as Total Revolution.

It was in this context that the Allahabad High Court set aside the election of Indira Gandhi. The opposition demanded her resignation. Students and workers joined the strike. In order to face this situation, Emergency was declared by the President on 26th June 1975.



JayaPrakash Narayan

People were denied the right to organise and conduct meetings. Strict censorship was imposed on the press. Leaders of opposition parties and political workers were imprisoned. A new enactment was made for this purpose. This was the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). All democratic rights were denied. Elections were not held even after the expiry of the term of the Lok Sabha and state legislatures. It was a time when Indian democracy faced the greatest challenge in its history.

In 1977 Emergency was relaxed and the political prisoners were released. Following this, elections were held to the Lok Sabha and to seven state legislatures. Some opposition parties merged together and formed a new political party titled Janata Party and contested elections against the Congress. Congress lost the elections. A new ministry was formed under the Prime Ministership of Morarji Desai, the leader of the Janata Party. Thus democracy was restored. This was the first experiment in coalition government at the Centre. But very soon this ministry resigned. The federating political parties seceded from Janata Party.



*What was the circumstance which led to the formation of coalition ministries in India ?*

## Policy Deviation

You have understood about the various policies adopted by Nehru to strengthen the Indian economy. When Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, banks, insurance companies and mines were nationalised. But after 1991 there was a deviation from these policies. The collapse of Soviet Union at the international level and the disappearance of the Socialist bloc influenced India's domestic and foreign policies. When the blocs disappeared, the Non-Aligned Movement became weak. India began to cooperate with

the imperialist bloc headed by America. India did not get assistance from Russia as in the previous years.

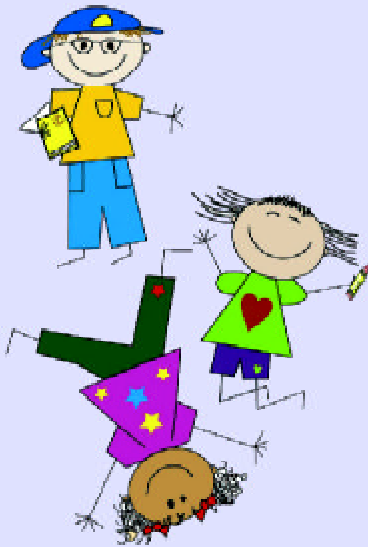
Investment of private capital increased in the public sector undertakings. Many were sold to the private sector. Foreign capital was welcomed to India. The previous restrictions were abolished.

These policies came to be known as Liberalisation. It is part of the policy of globalisation which stood for the free exchange of capital, commodities and services.



*Discuss how the liberalisation policies differ from the economic policies adopted by India during the early years of Independence.*

## Activities



- Was Independent India able to overcome the challenges faced by her in the initial years? Prepare a seminar paper.
- How many of the ideas raised in the slogans of the freedom struggle could be implemented by Independent India? Prepare a report.
- Agitations are going on in various parts of the country for the formation of the new states. Prepare a report enquiring whether formation of new states is inevitable by collecting and analysing the news and pictures of such agitations.
- Compare the political maps of 1956 and of the present and identify the position of present states in the map of 1956. Mark also the languages of the states.
- Prepare a pictorial representation of the achievements made by India in the following sectors.
  1. Agriculture
  2. Industry
  3. Science & technology
  4. Education
- Prepare a note on why January 26th is being celebrated as Republic Day.
- Prepare a Table showing in which all states were people speaking Tamil, Telugu and Kannada spread.
- Prepare a chart on the agricultural research institutes functioning in Kerala under the ownership of central and state governments.
- Did India experiment any nuclear device after 1974? Prepare a report.