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What, Where, How and When?

Key Highlights

- ❖ Periodisation of History
- ❖ Time Period of Medieval Age
- ❖ Terms Used for Indian Subcontinent
- ❖ Reliable Sources of History

Let's Start With

Hi Dad!
Would you kindly help
me how to write a
brief biography of
Great-Grandpa?



Of course! I'll explain you
various stages of your
Great- Grandpa like
childhood, youth,
professional life, family life
and post-retirement life, etc.
so that you can write a
biography of him.

HISTORY

PERIODISATION OF HISTORY

History is the story of the people who lived in the past. The events that happened in the past, hundred or thousand years ago. Thus, history is a vast subject that cannot be learnt in one go. So for the sake of convenience, it is divided into three periods—**Ancient, Medieval** and **Modern**. This is called the periodisation of history.

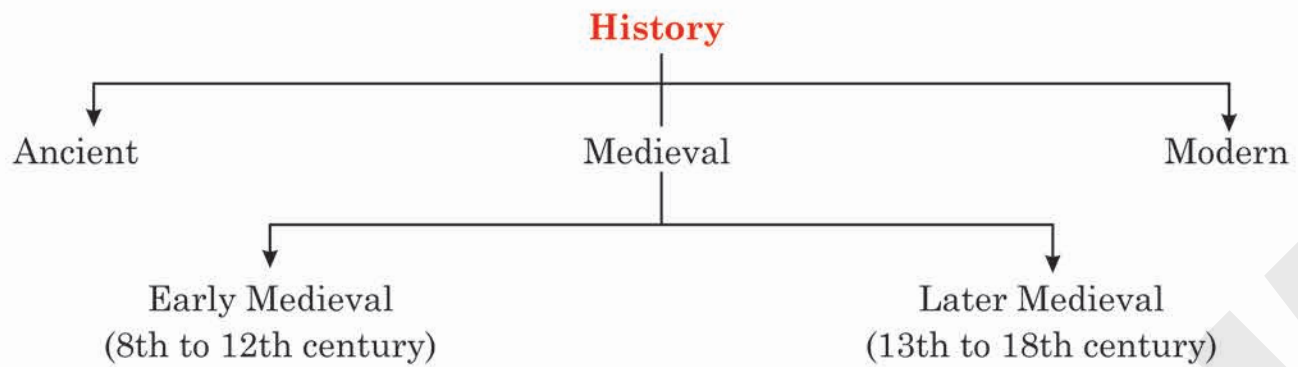
THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD (8TH-18TH CENTURY)

The word 'Medieval' stands for Middle Age. In Europe, the Medieval period is referred to as the Middle Ages by many **historians**. It is considered to begin around 5th century AD and lasted until the 16th century AD. However in India, it covers the period between 8th and 18th centuries AD. It is generally divided into two periods—the **Early Medieval period** (between the 8th and 12th centuries AD) and the **Later Medieval period** (between the 13th and 18th centuries). During this period India witnessed various political, social, economic and cultural changes.



Let's Think

Do we have more information about the Medieval period than the Ancient period?
Why?



The Indian Subcontinent

TERMS USED FOR INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

During the course of time, the name of our country has undergone several changes. Present-day India, together with other countries of the Indian subcontinent such as Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh, has been referred to by various names in the past. Here is a list of some famous names.

- **Jambudvipa** (*the land of the blackberry tree*): This name is mentioned in ancient Buddhist texts.
- **Bharatavarsha**: This name was given after the Bharata tribe, which existed in the Rig Vedic times.
- **Aryavarta** (*the land of the Aryans*): This name was given around 150 BC to the northern part of India.
- **Inde**: The Greeks called it Inde, based on the river Indus.
- **Tien Chu and Yin Tu**: These terms were used by the Chinese.
- **Hindustan**: This term is derived from the Greek word Indus or Indos.
- **Hind**: This name was called by the Arabs.
- **India**: This term was used by the British.



Fact File

- ◆ The word **history** comes from the Greek word history which means finding out.
- ◆ Pre-history is almost 9,50,900 years old.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD IN INDIA

In India, the medieval period was quite eventful. During this period, several changes took place in the country's socio-cultural and political milieus. Let's have a glance on the major features of this period.

- Arrival of the Turks from the northwest and establishment of the Delhi Sultanate.
- Establishment of the Mughal Empire.
- Economic prosperity of India that captured the attention of European powers.
- Independence of several provincial kingdoms in the eastern as well as peninsular India.
- Rise of **feudalism**.
- Emergence of several Rajput kingdoms in northern and western India.
- Rise of the Marathas and Sikhs.
- **Tripartite** struggle between the Palas, Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas.
- Spread of the **Bhakti** and **Sufi** Movements.



SOURCES OF HISTORY

History cannot be written on the basis of knowledge people have in their mind or imagination. It needs various sources, each contributing in its own manner. Source materials provide us with reliable information about the events that have happened in the past. Mainly there are two types of historical source material—**literary** and **archaeological**.

LITERARY SOURCES

Humans learnt to write only about 5,000 years ago. They invented alphabets and put them together to form words and sentences. In the beginning they wrote on stonewalls, palm leaves and the bark of certain trees. Later, when paper was invented, they began to use paper for writing. These are called manuscripts and they are found in many different languages and in different scripts.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES

Archaeology is the study of the past in the light of material remains left behind by our ancestors. Sources of archaeology include remains of buildings, pottery, weapons, ornaments, sculptures, inscriptions (writings on stone surfaces) and coins. These are generally obtained during excavations of various historical sites. Experts who study these remains are called archaeologists. Major archaeological remains that highlight various aspects of life during the Medieval period are briefly described here.

- Forts, temples, mosques, palaces and other such structures tell us about architectural styles, artistic skills and materials normally used in the construction of buildings during those days. A lot of useful information has come down to us from various forts (the Red Fort and Tughlaqabad Fort in Delhi), temples (such as the Brihadeshwara Temple at Tanjore) and palaces (such as those in Jaipur and Jodhpur).

Important Literary Sources

Folklores, dramas and stories	Somadeva's Kathasaritsagar and the Brihatkathakosha
Autobiographies	Babur's Tuzuk-i-Baburi, Jahangir's Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri
Biographies	Barani's Tarikh-i-Firozshahi, Gulbadan Begum's Humayun Nama, Abul Fazl's Ain-i-Akbari and Akbarnama
Accounts of foreign travellers	Ibn Batuta, Abdur Razzaq, Ralph Fitch, Bernier, Marco Polo, etc.
Farmans or royal orders	Issued by different rulers
Paintings	Tutinama or 'Tales from the Parrot', miniatures and illustrated books



- Numerous pieces of writing inscribed on stone surfaces, copper plates and walls of temples tell us about the extent of medieval kingdoms and achievements of different rulers. For example, the Gwalior inscription of Bhoja I gives a detailed account of his predecessors and their achievements. **The study of inscriptions is called epigraphy.**



Inscriptions are valuable sources for reconstructing history

- Archaeological sources like coins tell us the names of rulers and the periods of their reigns. They also give us some idea of the economic conditions of those periods. **The study of coins is called numismatics.**

Let's Think



Do you think we can rely completely on the account left by foreigners? Why?

USE OF SOURCES FOR WRITING HISTORY

Every human society learns from its history. A historian reconstructs the past with the help of clues provided by both literary and archaeological sources. The best way to write an authentic historical account is to compare both the above mentioned types of sources. This helps to ensure an objective historical account, which constitutes a precious heritage and also acts as a guide for the present and future generations.



Word Treasure

<i>convenience</i>	:	ease
<i>excavation</i>	:	to remove earth that is covering very old objects buried under the ground in order to discover things of the past
<i>archaeologist</i>	:	experts who study human history through the excavation of sites
<i>predecessor</i>	:	forerunner
<i>epigraphy</i>	:	the study of inscriptions
<i>numismatics</i>	:	the study of coins



Exercises

1. Answer the questions by choosing the most appropriate alternative from those given below.

- The period which falls in the middle in the periodisation of Indian history is
 i) contemporary ☐ ii) ancient ☐
 iii) medieval ☐ iv) modern ☐
- In India the medieval period began from
 i) 9th century AD ☐ ii) 10th century AD ☐
 iii) 8th century AD ☐ iv) 18th century AD ☐
- The British referred our country as
 i) Inde ☐ ii) Tien Chu ☐
 iii) Hind ☐ iv) India ☐
- The name Aryavarta was given to the part of India.
 i) Southern ☐ ii) Northern ☐
 iii) Eastern ☐ iv) Western ☐
- Archaeology is the study of
 i) music and painting ☐ ii) historical remains ☐
 iii) coins ☐ iv) all of these ☐
- Kathasaritasagar was written by
 i) Babur ☐ ii) Somdev ☐
 iii) Marco Polo ☐ iv) None of these ☐

2. Write short answer for the following questions.

- Define history.
- What is called periodisation of history?
- Name some neighbouring countries of India.
- What do you mean by archaeology?
- From where is the term Hindustan derived?
- Who wrote Tuzuk-i-Baburi?



3. Answer the following questions in detail.

- What is history? What do we learn in history?
- What are two main sources of history? Write a brief note on them.
- Write a short note on salient features of the Medieval period in India.
- Write down the terms used for Indian subcontinents.
- How do coins help us in reconstruction of historical events?



- What is the earliest thing that you can remember when we say '100 years ago'? What does it mean to you? Discuss in class.
- List out the advantages and drawbacks of the archaeological sources and literary sources.

4. Fill in the blanks.

- The period began around 5th century AD and lasted until the 16th century.
- The name Jambudvipa is mentioned in ancient texts.
- Human learnt to write only about years ago.
- Every human society learnt from its
- is the study of inscription.

5. Write whether the following statements are true or false.

- History is the story of the people who live in the present.
- The name Bharatavarsha was given by the Bharata tribe.
- Experts who study the remains of historical excavation is called archaeologist.
- A historian reconstructs the past only with the help of clues provided by the literary sources.
- Tughlaqabad fort is in Delhi.

6. Match the following.

Column 'A'

- Early Medieval Period
- Later Medieval Period
- Aryavarta
- Jambudvipa
- Somdev

Column 'B'

- Brihatkathakosha
- The land of the Aryans
- The land of the blackberry tree
- 8th to 12th century
- 13th to 18th century

7. Give one word answer.

- A person who studies history.
- This name was given around 150 BC to the northern part of India.
- The study of the past in the light of material remains left behind by our ancestors.
- This is the study of coins.
- This term is derived from the Greek word Indus or Indos.



8. Write the names of these monuments in the space provided below pictures.



Value Based Questions

1. Can you imagine what your city might have looked like 15000 years ago? Draw a picture and share it with the class.
2. Think of some things that happened in the past that still affect us. Share your thoughts with the class.

Activity Zone

1. Prepare a timeline to show the classification of history into various periods.
2. You have to interview an archaeologist. Prepare a list of five questions that you would like to ask him/her.

PERIODISATION OF HISTORY

History is divided into periods—ancient, medieval, modern—to make it convenient to study

Early Medieval period
(8th to 12th century AD)

Medieval

Later Medieval period
(13th to 18th century AD)

Literary Sources

- Folklores, dramas and stories
- Autobiographies
- Biographies
- Accounts of foreign travellers
- Farmans or royal orders issued by different rulers
- Books on music

SOURCES OF HISTORY

Archaeological Sources

- Remains of buildings
- Pottery
- Weapons
- Ornaments
- Sculptures
- Inscriptions
- Coins

Salient Features of the Medieval period in India

- Rise of feudalism
- Rise of several Rajput kingdoms in northern and western India
- Tripartite struggle between the Palas, Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas
- Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate
- Spread of the Bhakti and Sufi movements
- Establishment of the Mughal Empire
- Rise of the Marathas and Sikhs
- Economic prosperity of India that captured the attention of European powers
- Independence of several provincial kingdoms in the eastern as well as peninsular India

Terms Used for Indian Subcontinent

- Jambudvipa
- Bharatavarsha
- Aryavarta
- Sapta-Sindhu
- Inde
- Tien Chu
- Yin Tu
- Hindustan
- Hind
- India





Unit II : Geography

Our Environment



Key Highlights

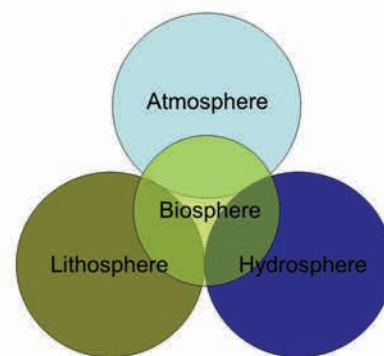
- ❖ Environment and its components
- ❖ Harmful effects of human activities on the environment
- ❖ Our changing environment
- ❖ Sustainable development

ENVIRONMENT & ITS COMPONENTS

Environment means the surroundings that effect and influence all organism or living thing. We see around us a **natural environment** and a **human-made environment**. The human-made environment includes infrastructure like roads, buildings, factories, bridges, canals, parks. It includes the activities, creations, behaviour and relationships among human beings. Things under the non-living category include matter and energy e.g. water, air, soil, rocks as well as temperature, humidity and sunlight. Collectively they are called the **physical** or abiotic components of the environment. The **biological** or the **biotic** components of the environment include plants, animals and micro-organisms.

There is an interdependence of the two components—the biological environment depends on the **physical environment** for its various needs. The physical environment sustains the biological environment. The two interact with one another in the **biosphere**, exchanging matter and energy. Groups of plants and animals depend on each other for shade, support, food requirements. In the biosphere, in a given area, plant life, animal life and their physical environment with their interactions, form an **ecosystem**. The growth and life in an ecosystem could be dependent on physical conditions like sunlight, temperature, rainfall, elevation, soil and slope of the land to name a few. We may use the term biomes for describing the different ecosystems on the basis of their plant and animal life.

Ecology is the science that studies the interrelationships between the various life-forms and their environment. Each organism is suited to a certain habitat or immediate environment. The type of plants and animals found in a region are determined to a great



Four realms of earth

Let's Think

! The word 'environment' is derived from the French word *environner* meaning 'neighbourhood'.



extent, by the physical environment. That is why we find coniferous trees in cold areas and broad-leaved vegetation in areas of heavy rainfall and high temperature. Polar bears and reindeer are found in very cold regions while giraffes and zebras are found in the tropical grasslands.

The Dynamism of our Environment

Due inter-connection between physical & environment and biological environment both effect each-other. The earth's surface and landforms undergo changes continuously. The tall Himalayas, that began forming some 60 million years ago, rose to their present size about two million years ago. They are still rising and are being worn down continuously by rivers and glaciers. Variations in condition in the atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere cause changes in the biosphere.

Humans and Environment

Primitive man was vastly dependent on its environment for its need. They were gatherers and hunters. Gradually as population increased, human activities like cultivation of crops, also expanded.

The ever increasing needs has led to uncontrolled cutting of forest for firewood, construction, furniture and paper manufacture. Land was cleared to set up industries, an increase in cultivable land to feed the teeming millions and to provide housing. The destruction of forests deprived animals of their habitat. Humans killed animals in large numbers for food, entertainment and to make various things from their skin, bones, meat and teeth. Depletion of resources harmed the physical and biological environment. Human beings overused the earth's resources indiscriminately, without taking adequate steps to counter the dangers involved in doing so.



Fact File

Resources are gifts of nature used by humans to fulfil their needs. They range from water, soil, plants and animals to metallic and non-metallic minerals and energy fuels. While some resources are **renewable** or reusable others are **nonrenewable**. Important minerals and fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas are nonrenewable. The sun, wind, tides and rain are some of the renewable sources of energy.

Physical environment is disturbed by human interference as well as natural hazards that cause havoc. Calamities like earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, landslides, floods, hurricanes and droughts risk and damage both life and property.

Problems of Environment

Humans did not act in a responsible way while using its environment. Some of the factors responsible for environmental change are:



- Inappropriate disposal of harmful waste were health hazards as they spread disease and destruction through pollution.
- Overuse of chemical fertilisers and pesticides harmed land, animals, birds and humans.
- **Deforestation** (cutting down of trees) and removal of the vegetation cover led to **soil erosion** (removal of the fertile layer of topsoil) and loss of soil fertility.
- Consequently, the amount of rainfall also reduced in many parts of the world.

Let's Think

Do you know what recycling means? Why do we celebrate World Environment Day on 5th of June every year?

Nuclear bomb testing fills the air with radioactive dust leaving many areas uninhabitable for centuries



Aircrafts burn up fuel, add carbon dioxide and other gases to the atmosphere and contribute to the Greenhouse Effect

Factory chimneys emit a range of noxious fumes into the air



Oil spills from supertankers damage seabeds and aquatic creatures

Cars emit poisonous gases leading to global warming

Use of coal in power station causes acid rain and global warming

Nuclear power stations dump radioactive liquid waste straight into the sea

Rivers are polluted by industrial waste and farming chemicals

air pollution



water pollution



Adverse effects of modern way of life to our environment in the name of progress and material development, We need to practice sustainable development.

Several fertile areas were transformed into waste lands and deserts. On the other hand, cultivable land in many places deteriorated due to **over irrigation** and **water logging**. Several streams dried up owing to the diversion of their waters for irrigation and hydel power projects. Scientists estimate that half the pollution on earth has been caused by rapid industrialisation in the 20th century. Water gets polluted due to oil spills. Industries burn a lot of fossil fuels which produce excess amounts of carbon dioxide that disturb the balance of various components in the air. The increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the air caused global warming. This rise in global temperatures results mainly from air pollution.

Sustainable Development

A balance approach needs to be adopted between natural and human environment to minimise environment related problems. We need to follow guidelines for utilizing nature's resources in a sensible manner.

Earth is the only planet known to support life and we need to live on it in a sensible manner, keeping in mind that our resources are limited. Humans have the responsibility to nurture all plant and animal life on earth, in the interest of their own survival. They should not stress the environment or cause irreparable harm. They must check the unprecedented growth of population and the rapid increase in production and consumption, which puts undue stress on the biosphere.



Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Word Treasure

- organism* : an individual animal, plant or microorganism
- physical environment* : abiotic or non living environment including air, water, soil, rocks, temperature, humidity, etc.
- biosphere* : It is the narrow zone where the lithosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere meet and where life exists
- biome* : ecosystem (animal and plant life with their physical conditions and their interactions) in any part of the world identified on the basis of climate and vegetation
- habitat* : the natural abode of an animal or plant
- global warming* : abnormal rise in earth's temperature because of certain gases in the atmosphere trapping excess energy from the sun than normal. Increased greenhouse effect results from air pollution

Exercises

1. Answer the questions by choosing the most appropriate alternative from those given below.

- The two kind of environment around us are
 i) human made ☐ ii) natural environment ☐
 iii) none of these ☐ iv) both of these ☐
- The narrow zone of contact between air, water and land is called
 i) biosphere ☐ ii) hydrosphere ☐
 iii) atmosphere ☐ iv) lithosphere ☐
- The indiscriminate cutting of forests is
 i) Reafforestation ☐ ii) Deforestation ☐
 iii) Afforestation ☐ iv) None of these ☐
- Burning fossil fuels adds large amounts of to the atmosphere
 i) oxygen ☐ ii) nitrogen ☐
 iii) carbon dioxide ☐ iv) ozone ☐

2. Answer the following questions in about 60-80 words.

- Discuss why it is important to study the inter-relationship between physical environment and human environment.
- What is biosphere?
- Explain the term 'Sustainable Environment'.
- Mention any three harmful effects of deforestation. (HOTS)
- List out the different kinds of pollution other than noise and light pollution.
- Give any three examples regarding the harmful impact of human modification of the environment.

3. Fill in the blanks.

- The removal of vegetative cover leads to
- The biological environment depends on the environment.
- are an integral part of the environment besides plants, animals and micro-organisms.
- Adding harmful substances to land, water and air is called
- is the term used for rise in global temperatures.

4. Distinguish between the following pairs.

- Physical and biological environment.



- b. Ecology and ecosystem.
- c. Air and water pollution.
- d. Hydrosphere and lithosphere.

5. Give reasons for the following statements.

- a. The diversion of water for hydel power project has led to vanishing of streams.
- b. Any change in the physical environment brings about a change in the biological environment.
- c. The physical and biological environments interact with each other in the biosphere.

6. Here are the names of some disasters that cause great damage to life and property. They are either man made or natural. Mark them as M or N.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| a. Soil pollution | b. Nuclear attack | c. Global warming |
| d. Floods | e. Overirrigation | f. Earthquake |

Please note: A hazard is an event that places people in danger of injury, loss of life or property.



Value Based Questions

All of us are guilty of harming the atmosphere in some way or the other. Think hard and write activities you do during any given day which prove harmful, even in a small measure. Be honest! Share your list with the class to see which activities are common.

Activity Zone

Find out which of the following are **RECYCLABLE** or **NONRECYCLABLE**. Tick **R** or **NR** accordingly.

PAPER:

- ◆ Newsprint
- ◆ Wax or plastic-coated paper
- ◆ Paper egg cartons
- ◆ Diapers
- ◆ Paper laminated with foil or plastic

CARDBOARD:

- ◆ Corrugated (packing boxes)
- ◆ Soiled pizza or frozen food boxes

GLASS:

- ◆ Mirrors
- ◆ Jars
- ◆ Light Bulbs
- ◆ Glassware

METAL:

- ◆ Aerosol spray cans
- ◆ Aluminum cans

PLASTICS:

- ◆ Plastic soda and juice bottles
- ◆ Plastic bags

BATTERIES:

- ◆ Dry cell household batteries

You may speak in favour of or against the topic '**Pollution has no solution**'.



FLOW CHART

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENTS

Biological or biotic

- plants
- animals
- micro-organisms

Physical or abiotic

- water
- soil
- temperature
- sunlight
- air
- rocks
- humidity

Causes of Environmental Pollution

- Rapid industrialization
- Oil spills
- Overuse of chemical fertilisers and pesticides
- Incorrect disposal of harmful industrial waste
- Cutting down of trees Removal of vegetation cover
- Burning of fossil fuels
- Natural hazards such as volcanic eruptions

Lithosphere

Outer layer of the solid part of the earth consisting of the crust and upper mantle

Atmosphere

Layer of gases surrounding the earth

Hydrosphere

Part of the earth composed of water

Biosphere

- In a given area, plant life, animal life and their physical environment with their interactions, form an **ecosystem**.
- Type of plants and animals found in a region are determined to a great extent, by the physical environment



Why Democracy?

Key Highlights

- ❖ Defining democracy
 - ❖ Reasons for popularity of democracy in the contemporary world
 - ❖ Different forms of inequality
 - ❖ Issue of inequality addressed in our Constitution
 - ❖ Measures taken by the government to do away with inequality
- ❖ Main thrusts of democracy

Let's Start With

Sir on getting independence why did India opt for democratic form of government?



Because people are the most important element in a democracy.

CIVICS

EVOLUTION OF MODERN DEMOCRACY

What does Democracy mean?

The term democracy is mixture of two Greek words — *demos* meaning 'people' and *kratos* meaning 'rule or government'. Thus, the true essence of democracy is rule of the people or their representatives. In a democracy, people have the power to elect their leaders. They participate in the process of governance directly, or through their elected representatives.

Tracing the Routes of Democracy

The history of democracy dates back to ancient Greece. The earliest democratic system emerged in the Greek city state of Athens where all the adult male population of the city formed a body called the **Assembly** and participated in the decision-making process directly.

Mahajanapadas were seen around 600 BC in India that were princely states. While most of



these states were ruled by a king, some states were ruled by representatives. The Vajji kingdom had this kind of a political system.



Fact File

Abraham Lincoln, the famous US President, has aptly described democracy as a 'government of the people, by the people and for the people.'

Three events shaped the story of modern democracy:

- In Britain, the nobles who assisted the king brought out a document called the Magna Carta, limiting the power of the royal families. It was written by a group of 13th-century nobles to protect their rights and property against a cruel king.
- The British colonies in **North America** declared themselves independent from Britain in 1776 and adopted a democratic constitution in 1787. The new government of USA adopted the **Bill of Rights** which granted certain rights to its citizens.
- The feeling of liberation was felt world wide, a revolution in France. This led to the establishment of the French Republic based on the principles of **liberty, fraternity and equality**.



Fact File

Myanmar, previously known as Burma, had been a democracy after gaining freedom in 1948. After a military coup in 1962, the country was under the rule of military leaders. Though elections were held in 1990, the military leaders did not accept the results. The people of Myanmar, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, struggled to establish democracy. Suu Kyi was kept under house arrest in Myanmar for 15 years. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

Freedom and Democracy

Some countries were made colony by other country. The people of these colonies waged long struggles for freedom from foreign rule. After the end of the Second World War in 1945, many countries gained independence from colonial rule. Various factors such as end of supremacy of the European nations, emergence of USSR as a major power and the formation of the United Nations, helped colonial countries to break the shackles of foreign rule.

After achieving independence, most of these Asian and African countries adopted a democratic form of government. India became free from British rule in 1947. She chose to be a democracy and continues to be the largest democracy in the world.

Not all countries, however, have a democratic form of government or could continue with a democratic government for very long after gaining freedom.

In 1991, the Soviet Union disintegrated into 15 republics. Many of the communist countries in Eastern Europe became free from Soviet control and became democracies.



India's neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar have had a mixed record. These countries had adopted democracy after freedom. However, they have experienced army rule following a military coup or uprising. Bangladesh and Myanmar have made a transition from army rule to democracy.

OTHER FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

Absolute Monarchy

The power totally rest in the monarch itself in absolute monarch system of governance. There are no rules that he has to follow. He or she is not restricted by a constitution or any kind of laws. A monarchy is generally hereditary and the monarch's children inherit his position. The welfare of the people depends on the kind of monarch ruling them.

Constitutional Monarchy

In this system law defines the power and authority of the monarch. Britain has a system of constitutional monarchy. Here the king or queen is a nominal head and the administration is carried on by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet. The people elect the Prime Minister and other representatives.

Dictatorship

Dictatorship is yet another form of governance. In a dictatorship the citizens are ruled by force and the government does not have to explain its policies to the people. Germany was under the dictatorship of Adolf Hitler for more than a decade during the Second World War. Similarly, Italy was under Benito Mussolini's rule. In a dictatorship, there is absolute rule by a single person who is known as the **dictator**.

Military dictatorship

Military is responsible in running all matters in country. This form of government is generally headed by a dictator. The dictator seizes power from the ruling party or leader in a military coup. A dictator does not allow elections to take place and bans all opposition parties.

Communist Governments

A communist government is a system of government which is ruled by a single party. This political party follows communist ideas as the guiding principle of the state. A communist state believes that the poor and the working class have been exploited for years by the ruling class. They, therefore, want to create a classless society in which the production and distribution of goods would be equal for everyone. They do not believe in rich or poor. China is the biggest communist country.



The leader of National League for Democracy in Myanmar—Aung San Suu Kyi



Adolf Hitler



Present Scenario

A major part of world now comes under the democratic form of government. However, the change from one form of government to a democracy has not been easy. Earlier, there was direct participation of the people in the management of public affairs and making decisions. This was possible because the units of administration were small in size and had small populations. In the present-day scenario, **direct democracy** is followed in very few places, for example, in some provinces of Switzerland.

The large size of geographical expanse and population led to representative system of democracy. In these countries, the people elect their representatives. These elected representatives make decisions for the entire population. This is called **indirect democracy**.

MAIN THRUSTS OF DEMOCRACY

Constitution

The difference from democracy and other form of governments is that in a democracy, the rulers are not free to do what they like. The citizens and the government have to follow certain basic rules. These rules and laws are written down, according to which a country is governed. This written document is called a **Constitution**. A Constitution is above all the laws of a country.

The importance of a Constitution is more significant in a democratic country like India. The Constitution gives the citizens certain rights because of which the government cannot misuse its power.

Let's Think



How are the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity included in the Indian political system?

Vital Role of People in Decision-making

Democracy is based on consent and participation of the people who are governed. It involves many people, and many discussions and meetings. Since the people have the right to express their opinions and have a say in it, democracy brings about better decisions. Hence, in a democracy, a decision involves the consent and consult of the people who are affected by the decision. Though it might take some time to arrive at a decision acceptable to a majority of the people, yet the chances of irresponsible decisions are reduced.

Let's Think



If India was not a democracy, what form of government would you prefer and why?

Equality and the Rule of Law

One of the important pillar of democracy is equality. Equal status and equal opportunities



for all. The Indian Constitution states that the government shall not deny to any citizen, equality before the law. All citizens will be equally protected by the laws of the country. This implies that the law shall apply equally to all in the same manner, irrespective of caste, sex, race or religion.

In a democracy, irrespective of whichever party comes to power or whoever heads the administration, rules have to be made in accordance with the laws written in the Constitution. These are also called **basic laws**.



Symbol of Equality of Law

The idea of equality is based on the principle of 'rule of law'. The 'rule of law' means that every person in the country, from the president to a farmer, i.e., every citizen is bound by the same laws and given the same treatment.

Accommodation of differences

Diversities and differences exist in every society. In India, in particular, there is an amazing diversity as there are people belonging to different regions and religions, speaking different languages and following a variety of customs and traditions. At times, diversity leads to conflicts which can be resolved by developing a tolerant attitude. Democracy provides a peaceful solution to this problem because it gives equal opportunity to all and shows a way to deal with differences and conflicts.

Let's Think



Can you think of instances when a famous personality has been put behind bars?

Democracy is based on the principle of equality. It strives to achieve social and economic equality along with political equality. It recognises that the poorest and the uneducated have the same scope, opportunity and status as the rich and educated. This system of government works towards eradicating poverty by giving special benefits to the economically and socially backward people to enhance human dignity.

Thus, democracy is a form of governance which works for the all-round development of the people.



Fact File

The Untouchability (offences) Act 1955 declares certain acts as offence. These include

- ❖ Refusing permission to any person to enter public institutions, such as hospitals, dispensaries, educational institutions
- ❖ Preventing any person from worshipping or offering prayers in any place of public worship
- ❖ Denying access to someone to any shop or hotel
- ❖ Preventing any person from using a reservoir, tap or other resources of water, road, etc.

REASONS FOR THE POPULARITY OF DEMOCRACY

- People are the base of and put forward in the democratic system of governance. It is their right to elect their representatives who formulate policies and take important decisions. So, the interests of the people are of greatest importance in an ideal democracy.
- The ability to offer positive solutions to problems arising out of conflicts between different social, cultural and political interest groups. More importantly, decisions concerning different groups of people are taken with the consent of all concerned.

PROBLEM OF INEQUALITY

Different Forms

Despite the equal status granted by our Constitution to every Indian, there are various types of inequalities in our society. There is inequality on the basis of wealth possessed by people, so some people are rich, while others are poor. Some people have more respect or status in society owing to their educational qualification, profession or position in their workplace.

In his story Thakur ka Kuan, Munshi Premchand, one of the greatest writers of our country, describes the plight of the lower castes before independence. We learn from this story that lower caste people were not allowed to draw water from the wells from which people from upper castes drew water. Even today, the caste divide due to untouchability exists in several regions of our country.



Munshi Premchand

One of the common forms of inequality in our country is the **caste system**. Indian society was traditionally based on castes. The lower castes have faced severe discrimination. Any contact with the 'untouchables' was considered to be polluting for the upper castes. Today, they call themselves dalit which means 'broken', in order to convey the message as to how they have been treated and continue to be discriminated against by the other sections of society.



Fact File

In July 2012, there was news regarding discriminatory acts against children in school. One of the schools in Bengaluru was discriminating against children admitted under RTE (Right to Education). The teachers were accused cutting the kids' hair, not giving them homework or marking their attendance, making them sit on the last bench and checking their lunch boxes.

Fight against Inequality before Independence

Mahatma Gandhi led a long struggle against untouchability and worked for the welfare of the so-called lower-castes whom he called '*Harijans*' or 'people of God'. Dr B. R. Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution, belonged to the Dalit caste and made many efforts to secure basic rights such as entry into temples for the Dalits.



Constitutional Provisions

One of the objectives of the Indian Constitution is to bring about equality. It has provisions in order to bring this about. Some of the provisions are:

Article 15 of the Indian Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth. It lays down that

1. The state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
2. No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to
 - (a) Access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment, or
 - (b) The use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort, maintaining wholly or partly, out of state funds or dedicated to the use of the general public.



Fact File

Apartheid is another form of inequality where people face discrimination on the basis of their skin colour. Nelson Mandela led a life-long struggle against this practice in South Africa.



Article 16 of the Constitution provides equality of opportunity in matters relating to public employment, or appointment to any office under the state.

Article 17 of the Constitution declares untouchability and its practice in any form as 'forbidden' and the enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability as 'an offence punishable in accordance with the law'.

The government has also passed laws to ensure that people with disabilities are given equal opportunities. In **1955**, the **Disabilities Act** was passed by the Government of India, which states that persons with disabilities have equal rights.

The government has tried to implement the equality that is guaranteed in the Constitution through many programmes or schemes to help the underprivileged sections. Here are a few of them.

- The mid-day meal scheme is one such programme aimed at promoting greater equality and to ensure that poor children enroll in schools and attend them regularly.
- Some states have cheap housing schemes so that the underprivileged can afford to buy homes.
- The NREGA provides employment to poor people in need of jobs.



Issue of Equality in Other Democratic Countries

Inequalities still exist in various ways in different countries. In the United States of America, the African—Americans were subjected to gross inequalities. After a long struggle and agitation against unequal laws and practices led by leaders such as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964 by which discrimination on the basis of race, religion or nationality was prohibited. Martin Luther King Jr. received the Nobel Peace Prize for leading the **Civil Rights Movement** (agitation against unequal laws and practices that began in the USA in the 1950s).



'I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.' —Martin Luther King Jr.

Word Treasure

- dignity* : it refers to thinking of other persons as worthy of respect
dalit : the term used by the so-called lower castes to address themselves

Exercises

1. Answer the questions by choosing the most appropriate alternative from those given below.

- a. The word 'Kratos' means

i) rule of government	☐	ii) people	☐
iii) place	☐	iv) money	☐
- b. The definition of democracy as used today was first given by

i) George Bush	☐	ii) Bill Clinton	☐
iii) Abraham Lincoln	☐	iv) none of these	☐
- c. One of the principles on which the French Republic was based is

i) aggression	☐	ii) fraternity	☐
iii) inequality	☐	iv) none of these	☐
- d. The largest democracy in the world is

i) USA	☐	ii) France	☐
iii) India	☐	iv) none of these	☐
- e. In the dictatorship form of government, the citizens are ruled by

i) a monarch	☐	ii) an assembly	☐
iii) a dictator	☐	iv) none of these	☐

f. One common form of inequality which India faces is the

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| i) caste system | ☐ | ii) sati | ☐ |
| iii) bonded labour | ☐ | iv) none of these | ☐ |

g. The father of the Indian Constitution is

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| i) Mahatma Gandhi | ☐ | ii) Jawaharlal Nehru | ☐ |
| iii) Dr B. R. Ambedkar | ☐ | iv) Lala Lajpat Rai | ☐ |

2. Short answer questions.

- What role does the size of population have in representative democracy?
- What do you understand by 'rule of law'?
- What were the three events that paved the way for modern democracy?
- Why do we need a Constitution?
- Distinguish between a democratic and monarchical form of government.

3. Answer the following questions in about 60-80 words.

- Explain any two events that shaped modern democracy.
- Which are the laws enacted by the government to bring about social and economic equality?
- Write any three features of the Constitution.
- Explain two reasons why democracy is so popular.
- What are some of the provisions made by the Indian Constitution to bring about equality?
- Apart from democracy which are the two other forms of government? Write a little about each.

4. Tell us why.

- Dr Ambedkar was an advocate of equality & right for dalits.
- Elementary schools provide children with cooked lunch.
- The Constitution is superior to all the laws of a country.
- More than half of the independent countries in the world have a democratic form of government.
- Conflicts should be resolved by developing a tolerant attitude.

5. Name the type of government on the basis of the information provided.

- In this country people have the right to vote.
- The king is the nominal head of the state.
- The political parties are banned.
- The monarch exercises absolute authority.

6. Why are the following years important?

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| a. 1776 | b. 1787 | c. 1789 | d. 1990 | e. 1991 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

7. Name the movements associated with the names of the following leaders.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| a. Aung San Suu Kyi | b. Nelson Mandela | c. Abraham Lincoln |
| d. Adolf Hitler | e. Martin Luther King | |





Value Based Questions

- a) Although our Constitution forbids any form of discrimination, it still exists in our society. What are your views on this? What would you do to change this, if you had the power?
- b) Watch the movies: *Arakshan*, *Aakrosh*, *Mississippi*, *Burning*, *Schindler's List*.

Activity Zone

Struggle for equality

Throughout the world people have struggled against inequality and injustice. Let us find out about the struggles of two prominent figures—Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

Write about the following:

- ◆ childhood and place of birth
- ◆ kinds of inequalities they faced
- ◆ early struggle
- ◆ achievements

FLOW CHART

Evolution of Modern Democracy

- The term democracy is derived from the Greek words *demos* meaning 'people' and *kratos* meaning 'rule' or 'government'
- Essence of democracy is rule of the people or their representatives
- People have the power to elect their representatives
- People participate in the process of governance directly, or through their elected representatives
- President Abraham Lincoln of the USA defined democracy as government of the people, by the people and for the people

Main Thrusts of Democracy

- Constitution is the most important document in a democracy; it is the supreme law of the country
- Every rule has to be made in accordance with the laws written in the Constitution
- Democracy is based on consent and participation of the people
- Equality is one of the most important elements of democracy
- It implies equal status and equal opportunities for all, irrespective of caste, creed, race, etc.
- Accommodation of differences and enhancing human dignity

DEMOCRACY

Reasons for the Popularity of Democracy

- Participation of people
- Right of people to elect their representatives
- Based on the principle of equality
- Ability to offer positive and peaceful solutions to complex problems
- Decisions concerning different groups of people are taken with the consent of all
- Oriented towards the all-round development of the people

Problem of Inequality

- Various types of inequalities still exist in our society
- One of the common forms of inequality in our country is the caste system
- The Indian Constitution has made untouchability a punishable offence
- It prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex and place of birth
- Persons with disabilities have also been given equal rights and free education
- The mid-day meal scheme is aimed at promoting greater equality

