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Modern Period

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ An overview of the Modern Period covering the period from 1707 to 1947
- ▶ Understanding the timeline and the significant changes and milestones that marked the Modern Period up to the time India became independent in 1947

Objectives

- ▶ To understand the timeline of Indian history's important events of the period from 1707-1947
- ▶ To learn about the events and landmark changes indicative of the Modern Period
- ▶ To know about the broad picture of the subcontinent as the Mughals and the other kingdoms of India were replaced by British rule
- ▶ To appreciate the significant sources of information, the milestones that mark the Modern Period

■ Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Globe
- ▶ Pictures, charts, atlas and wall maps
- ▶ Blackboard
- ▶ Internet

■ Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Explain the background, linking what has been learn in Class VII – the later Mughals, the growth of other kingdoms that struggled for power, the cultural changes with the entry of the Marathas, the Sikhs, the Bhakti Movement, the vernaculars gaining wide acceptance.
- ▶ Students should be encouraged to know places, locations and their placement on the maps.

■ Background and Reading

- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and explain, sharing the aids, etc., pausing to examine and explain the data in the timeline, the sources and the milestones of modernity.
- ▶ Particularly focus on the decline of the previous regimes and the entry of new power equations and the changes that marked them.

The Timeline of the Modern Period

- ▶ Brush up on the lessons of the last class and then take this timeline—from 1707 [death of Aurangzeb], through the period of the later Mughals and the rise of the Marathas, the Sikhs, the Ahoms, the kingdom of Mysore, the kingdoms of the Deccan.
- ▶ Simultaneously—the entry of the European trading companies—British, French, Dutch and Portuguese.
- ▶ The establishment of British control—changes of Indian indigenous industries and introduction of new cultural trends.
- ▶ 1857—the First War of Independence—the takeover by the British—the National Freedom Struggle and its various strands—the formation of Indian National Congress, the moderates and the revolutionaries—the Indian National Army—the people and the movements that worked towards India's independence—the Muslim League—demand for a separate country—1947: Partition of the subcontinent into India and Pakistan [West and East—which became an independent country in 1971—Bangladesh].

Sources of Information

- ▶ Literature: Books and articles—authors like Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya, Jyotirao Phule, Rabindranath Tagore, Dinabandhu Mitra, etc., autobiographies of Gandhi, Nehru, etc.—inspired people with national pride.
- ▶ Newspapers and Periodicals: Earliest newspapers published in English: 18th century—Hickey's 'Bengal Gazette'—others: 'Calcutta Gazette', 'Madras Courier', 'The Bombay Herald'. Vernaculars—'Bombay Samachar', 'Kesari', 'Amrita Bazar Patrika'—united people and made them join the freedom struggle.
- ▶ Photographs of the period provide authentic visual account of the times—films, documentaries—in libraries and museums.

Beginning of the Modern Period

- ▶ Ancient, medieval and modern periods vary in different places—timeframe different—India 1707—death of Aurangzeb seen as the end of the Mughal period and beginning of Modern age—European history—Modern Age in 16th century—change in lifestyles.
- ▶ Historians divide periods—features of society, economy, culture and politics of each period.
- ▶ Changes of 16th century in Europe impacted India in 18th century.

Source Materials and Features

- ▶ Abundant sources for Modern Period: Primary Sources—original documents, such as reports, books, paintings, photographs, etc., and archaeological evidence.

- ▶ Secondary Sources: Reports, reviews and conclusions drawn by historians.
- ▶ Modern age–more literary and documented sources than ancient age for which history depended on fossils, cave paintings, coins and pottery.
- ▶ Main features of Modern Age: the Industrial Revolution; growth of urban centres [towns and cities]; growth of democratic institutions; development of Rationalism and Humanism.

New Spirit

- ▶ Renaissance in Europe created a new spirit of enquiry–people attracted to different areas of knowledge–keen to make life easy and comfortable–led to scientific inventions, discoveries and aesthetic interest–growth of music, painting, sculpture, drama, literature.
- ▶ India–trade relations with Europe from early times–discovery of sea routes led to formation of trading companies.

Voyages of Discovery

- ▶ 1453–Turks took control of land routes connecting Europe to the East–Europeans looked for sea routes–progress led to sea voyages and invention of astrolabe, mariner’s compass, use of gun powder and the ship-building industries.
- ▶ Ferdinand Magellan, Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama–discovered new sea routes.
- ▶ Led to imperialism and colonisation–controlling territory and economic life of a less powerful country by rich, more powerful country.
- ▶ Growth of trade in local market–village artisans collected raw material from traders and made goods on a small scale with simple tools–could not meet market demand–therefore new methods of production needed–led to Industrial Revolution.

Industrialisation

- ▶ Industrial Revolution started in England in the middle of the 18th century–led to setting up of factories, installation of new machines, new inventions like the steam engine, power loom, cotton gin.
- ▶ Voyages–led to finding cheap raw material and manpower resources–also potential markets for finished goods.
- ▶ New sea routes–colonisation–large industrial towns.

Modern Period in India

- ▶ Indian subcontinent–weak Mughal rulers after Aurangzeb–unable to hold empire–political disturbance.
 - Other kingdoms came up–Awadh, Bengal, Hyderabad–Rajputs powerful.
 - Maratha popularity increased–after Third Battle of Panipat in 1761 lost power under the Peshwas.
 - Sikhs declared independence.
 - Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan established themselves in Mysore.
 - Invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali–crippled Mughal empire.

- Trade interest brought the English, French, Dutch and Portuguese to India—established trading companies.
- British and French trade rivalry—Carnatic Wars—after the third one British gained strength—established commercial and political power in India.
- Battles of Plassey and Buxar in Bengal—the English established themselves and extended their power into central India.
- The East India Company became a political power.

Rise of Capitalism

- ▶ Industrialisation led to Capitalism—an economic system, in which factory owners controlled the capital/money and were called capitalists.

The American Revolution

- ▶ 1776—Americans asserted their right to rule themselves—started the American War of Independence/American Revolution—political revolutions in England and France too.

Assessment Corner

Oral Assignment

- A. Ask for answers at random from the students. Confirm the right answers. Let them write down the correct answers if they like in their books.

Written Assignment

- B–E. The teacher has two options—(i) Either do these exercises orally first and then ask the students to write them down. OR (ii) Ask the students to write the answers on their own. Then the teacher can announce the correct answers to the students and they can ask their partners to cross-check them.

In either case, the answers can be written as homework and the teacher can check them in the class.

Think Tank

- F. **HOTS question:** Discuss the questions in the class and let the students write the answers to F and G as homework. Teacher should assess individual work.