
JKG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Class 8
Chapter – 03: History Ruling the Countryside
Chapter at Glance

On 12 August 1765, the Mughal emperor appointed the East India Company as the Diwan of Bengal.

As Diwan, the company became the chief financial administrator of the territory under its control.

The company came to colonise the countryside, organize revenue resources, redefine the rights of people and produce the crops it wanted.

Revenue for the Company:

- i. The company got the diwani rights and started extracting more and more revenue out of it and used various measures to get it but still saw itself primarily as a trader.
- ii. Before 1865, the company purchased goods in India by importing gold and silver from Britain. Now the revenue collected in Bengal could finance the purchase of goods for exports.
- iii. Bengal economy was facing a deep crisis. Peasants and craftsmen were not getting the proper amount of their sell.
- iv. In 1770, a terrible famine killed ten million people in Bengal. but no one gave attention to the plight of affected people as revenue was under the control of British and they did not pay heed to any of the matter related to peasants as their main task was to make money by trade.

The Need to Improve Agriculture:

- i. The company introduced Permanent Settlement in 1793 under the reign of Lord Cornwallis.
- ii. Under Permanent Settlement, a fixed revenue was to be given to British and it would not increase in future.
- iii. Zamindars were recognised as the collectors of revenue and it was assumed that they would invest money to improve the crop production and fertility of soil.
- iv. Zamindars did not pay attention to the condition of land and tried to keep more and more money left after collection.
- v. The Rajas and taluqdars were recognized as Zamindars.
- vi. As a result of greed for more revenue they blindly exploited the land resources.

The Problem:

- i. Numerous zamindaris were sold off at auctions organized by the company, as anyone who failed to pay the revenue lost his zamindari.
- ii. The zamindars were not interested in the improvement of land which led to reduced production of crop.
- iii. But with the rise in crop expansion and prices of crops in nineteenth century the income of Britishers was not increasing. this concerned them a lot.
- iv. Because of the less revenue collection, British tried some other new method of revenue generation such as Mahalwari system and Ryotwari system.

A New System is Devised:

- i. By the early nineteenth century many of the company officials were convinced that the system of revenue had to be changed again because to get maximum profit.
- ii. An Englishman, Holt Mackenzie devised the new system which came into effect in 1822. This was introduced in North India and came to be known as Mahalwari settlement.
- iii. Mahalwari system gave the revenue collection work to the village headman (Mahal) instead of zamindar and revenue was not fixed permanently.

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- iv. Under this system the revenue was collected by Mahal and was given to British exchaquire.
 - v. This system was initiated in central part of India.

The Munro System:

- i. In the British territories in the south, a new system was devised which was known as Ryotwar or Ryotwari.
- ii. Ryotwari was initiated by Captain Alexander Read and Thomas Munro. This system was extended all over the south India.
- iii. In this system, ryots were directly involved for the collection of revenue and it was fixed after the proper assessment of individual land.
- iv. British officials were appointed to collect the revenue and used coercive methods for revenue collection.

All was Not Well:

- i. As they desired to increase the income from land, revenue officials fixed the revenue rate very high.
- ii. As peasants were unable to pay, ryots filed the countryside and villages became deserted in many regions.
- iii. Peasants were forcefully evicted from their lands and had to leave their places and clashes happened at different places.

Crops for Europe:

- i. By the late eighteenth century the company was trying to expand the cultivation of opium and indigo, which was highly demanded in Europe.
- ii. The Britishers forced cultivators to produce jute, tea, sugarcane, wheat, cotton and rice in various parts of India.
- iii. Indigo was highly demanded in Europe. To get the Indigo cultivation, the tinkathia system was introduced. Under this system peasants had to cultivate indigo on 3/20th part of their land.
- iv. Because of the production of the cash crops and indigo which had to be grown on the most fertile land, the farmers were left with little fertile region to grow.
- v. These crops reduced the production of food crops.

Does Colour have a History:

- i. The rich blue colour was commonly called as Indigo and it was on a high demand in Europe as it was used for dyeing purpose.
- ii. India was the biggest supplier of indigo in the world in 19th century
- iii. Indigo cultivation was one of the reason for poor condition of farmers and led ryots in various farmers.

Why the Demand for Indian Indigo:

- i. By the thirteenth century Indian Indigo was being used by cloth manufacturers in Italy, France and Britain to dye cloth.
- ii. Indigo produce a rich blue colour whereas the dye from woad another plant was pale and dull.
- iii. Indigo plantations came up in many parts of North America and Mexico, but during the wars in these regions and abolition of slavery in French colonies, British started depending on India for the cultivation expansion of Indigo.
- iv. Increased demand of indigo also came because of the heavy industrialisation in Britain.
- v. To fulfill the demand of Indigo British used their colonies in tropical region and mainly in Africa and India as the availability of land and cheap labour were available.

Britain turns to India:

- i. The company in India expanded the area under the indigo cultivation to meet the rising demand for indigo in Europe.
- ii. As the indigo trade grew commercial agents and officials of the company began investing in indigo production.

How was Indigo Cultivated:

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- iii. There were two main system of Indigo cultivation: Nij and Ryoti.
 - iv. In Nij system, the planter produced indigo in lands that he directly controlled or rented from zamindars.

The Problem with Nij Cultivation:

- i. This cultivation needed fertile and big lands and it was difficult to get big areas as they were already highly populated. for this they had to evict population which led to conflicts.
- ii. Nij cultivation on a large scale required many ploughs and bullocks, investing on purchase and maintenance of ploughs was a big problem. At the same time of its cultivation the cultivation of rice also took place, that is why ploughs were not available on rent too.
- iii. Availability of labour was also a problem as peasants were engaged in rice cultivation at the same time.

Indigo on the Land of Ryots:

- i. In Ryoti system, the planters forced the ryots to sign a contract an agreement (satta).
- ii. Those who signed the contract got cash advances from planters at low rates of interest to produce indigo.
- iii. The peasants got very low price for the indigo they produced and the cycle of loans never ended.
- iv. After an indigo harvest the land could not be sown with rice which the peasants preferred as Indigo production reduced the fertility of soil.

The 'Blue Rebellion' and after:

- i. In March 1859 thousands of ryots in Bengal refused to grow indigo.
- ii. As the rebellion spread, ryots refused to pay rents to the planters and attacked indigo factories.
- iii. Ryots swore they would no longer take advances to sow indigo nor be bullied by the planters' lathiyals.
- iv. The government set up the indigo commission to enquire into the system of indigo production.
- v. It declared that indigo cultivation was not profitable for ryots. Hence they could refuse to produce indigo in future.
- vi. After the revolt, indigo production collapsed in Bengal. The planters now shifted their operations to Bihar.
- vii. In Bihar, the Champaran movement led by Gandhi ji in 1917, ended the Indigo production through tinkathia system.

Assignment Questions

1. What did the Permanent Settlement actually mean?
2. What is Indigo?
3. What did nij cultivation require?
4. What role did women play in the cultivation of indigo?
5. Who were the gomasthas?
6. What were the consequences of the economic crisis that gripped Bengal?
7. What was the Munro System? Or What was ryotwari system.
8. Why did the indigo cultivators decide to rebel? How did they show their anger?

Chapter – 02 Political Science

Understanding Secularism

Chapter at Glance

In history, there are various instances of discrimination, exclusion, persecution and torture on the grounds of religion and in a civilized world no one wishes for such discrimination based on the religion.

Hence Indian constitution speaks about values like Secularism.

Secularism Refers to Separation of Religion from the state:

- (i) The Indian Constitution allows individuals the freedom to live by their religious beliefs and practices.
- (ii) India adopted a strategy of separating the power of religion and the power of the state.

Why is it important to Separate Religion from the State:

- i) For proper functioning of democracy.
- (ii) It prohibits the domination of one religion over another.
- (iii) To protect the freedom of individuals to exit from their religion, embrace another religion or have the freedom to interpret religious teachings differently.

What is Indian Secularism:

- (i) The Indian Constitution mandates that the Indian state be secular state. (ii) One religious community does not dominate another in a secular state.
- (iii) In a secular state, some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community.
- (iv) The state does not enforce any particular religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals.

(v) The government schools can not promote any one religion.

(vi) In order to respect the sentiments of all religions and not interfere with religious practices, the state makes certain exceptions for particular religious communities.

For Eg. Sikhs wear 'pugri' (turban) as a religious practice. Hence they need not to wear helmet while riding two wheeler.

(vii) The Indian secularism works to prevent the domination of majority religion over minority.

(viii) In order to prevent this religion-based exclusion and discrimination of lower castes, the Indian Constitution bans untouchability.

(ix) In order to end social practices, the state may have to intervene in the religion based orders.

(x) The first amendment of the US constitution prohibits the legislature from making laws “respecting an establishment of religion” or that prohibits the free exercise of religion. It means the legislature cannot declare any religion as an official religion. In the USA, separation between the State and religion means neither the state nor religion can interfere in the affairs of each other.

(xi) The Indian state is secular and works in various ways to prevent religious domination.

(xii) Unlike USA, in India, the state can interfere in religion on the ideal laid down in the constitution. For example; Untouchability is banned by the law.

Assignment Questions:

1. What are the three objectives of a Secular state?
2. What is secularism?
3. How did non-Muslim treated in Saudi Arabia?
4. What do you mean by freedom of Interpret?
5. What is the most important aspect of Secularism?
6. Why cannot government schools celebrate religious festivals?
7. Why is it important to separate religion from the state? Explain with examples.

Chapter – 03 Political Science
Why Do We Need a Parliament?
Chapter at Glance

Parliament enables citizens of India to participate in decision making and control the government, thus making it the most important symbol of Indian democracy and a key feature of the Constitution.

Why Should People Decide:

- (i) Independence was long and difficult struggle, they got inspired by the ideas of freedom, equality and participation in decision-making.
- (ii) Under the colonial rule, the people did not criticise British government but the freedom movement changed this situation. The nationalist began to oppose the British government and make demands.
- (iii) The Constitution in independent India laid down the principle of universal adult franchise i.e., that all adult citizens of the country have the right to vote.

People and their Representatives:

- (i) A democracy is the idea of consent, i.e., the desire, approval and participation of people.
- (ii) It is the decision of the people that creates a democratic government and decides about its functioning.
- (iii) The basic idea in democracy is that the individual or the citizen is the most important person and that in principle the government as well as other public institutions need to have the trust of these citizens.
- (iv) The Parliament, which is made up of all representatives together, controls and guides the government.

The Role of the Parliament:

- (i) The Indian Parliament is an expression of the faith that the people of India have in the principles of democracy.
- (ii) The Parliament in our system has immense powers because it is the representative of the people.
- (iii) The Lok Sabha is elected once every five years. The country is divided into a number of these constituencies. Each of these constituencies elect one person to the parliament.
- (iv) Once elected, the candidates become **members of parliament or MPs**. These MPs together make up the Parliament.

Parliament Performs the Following Functions:

- Some of the major functions of the parliament are as follows:

1. Legislative Functions:

- The Parliament makes laws on all subjects listed in the Union List. It can also make laws on subjects listed under the Concurrent List.
- In case there is any conflict or overlapping in the provisions existing in the Union and State enactment, the Union law prevails.
- In cases when an emergency has been declared, the Union Parliament can also make laws on subjects that fall within the State List.

2. Financial Control:

- Union Parliament has exclusive powers to provide ways and means through which revenue has to be raised for public services. To that end it imposes taxes and also ensures that the money sanctioned for expenditure to various departments of the government has been spent for the authorized purposes.

3. Providing and exercising control over Cabinet:

- Our Parliamentary system blends the legislative and the executive organs of the State in as much as the executive power is wielded by a group of Members of the Legislature who command majority in the Lok Sabha.

4. Critical Assessment of the Work of the Cabinet:

- The Parliament provides the forum through which is ensured that the Cabinet remains in power only as long as it commands majority support in the Lok Sabha which comprises elected representatives of the people.
- It is one of the most important functions of the Parliament to bring about discussions and critical assessments of the performance of the government departments.

5. Role of opposition:

- The existence of opposition also ensures that the nation gets to know about the alternative points of view.

6. An organ of information:

- Parliament is the most powerful organ so far information about the functioning of the government is concerned.
- The information provided in the Houses is authoritative and Ministers are bound to provide information on matters of government when so desired by the members.

7. Constitutional Functions:

- The power to amend the Constitution vests with the Parliament.
- Constitutional amendments have to be passed by each house by a majority of total membership as well as by two-third majority of members present in voting.

8. Judicial Functions:

- Parliament has the exclusive powers to impeach the President and remove judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court's through a prescribed procedure.

Assignment Questions

1. Give one reason why you think there should be universal adult franchise.
2. Why do you think there are so few women in Parliament?
3. What makes the Indian Parliament powerful?
4. What do you mean by the executive?
5. Who is the leader of the ruling party in the lok sabha?
6. Who nominates the 12 members of the Rajya Sabha?
7. Write a note on the Coalition Government..
8. What is meant by the opposition parties? What role do they play in the government?