



INDIA ON THE PATH OF DEVELOPMENT

We have already seen that India secured an important position among other nations after independence. More efforts were again necessary to lay the foundation of development. Let us examine them.

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

India is an agricultural country. Hence development in agriculture was indispensable for India's development. Even during the period of freedom struggle there were agrarian struggles in various parts of India. Consider the major agrarian struggles that later paved the way for the agricultural development of rural India .

Telangana Peasant Struggle

The peasants in the Telangana region of Hyderabad state suffered extreme feudal oppression at the hands of the Jagirdars and

Deshmukhs. The peasants organised themselves against this. This was the basis of Telangana peasant struggle. By 1947-48 they could establish a firm base in the Nalgonda, Warangal and Khammam districts. Landlords fled to the towns, leaving their field free. The lands seized from landlords and the barren lands of the government were distributed to the peasants . This led to an encounter between the peasants and Indian army.

Patiala Muzara Movement

At the time of India's independence the peasants of Patiala, the largest princely state in Punjab were in the midst of a struggle. After independence Patiala joined the Indian Union. Even after that there was no progress in the condition of peasants. The land lords organized armed gangs against them. The peasants also

organized their own armed wing to counter this move. Finally this led to clashes with the police.

There were such peasant struggles in many parts of India. It was because of the pressure of these struggles that the government tried to introduce land reforms. Moreover the Directive Principles of State Policy of Indian Constitution are against the concentration of wealth and means of production in the hands of a few. What does it indicate ?

- Land in India was owned by a few
- Social justice and development of the country could not be achieved unless distributed among the peasants.

It was on the basis of this that land reforms were initiated after independence.

Land Reform Acts

In 1949 the Central Government abolished the Jagirdari system. In the same year Zamindari abolition bills were introduced in a number of provinces such as U.P, Madhyapradesh, Bihar, Madras, Assam and Bombay. This was challenged in the courts. The Congress government reacted by amending the constitution. The first amendment in 1951 and the 4th Amendment in 1955, were aimed at further strengthening the hands of the state legislatures for implementing Zamindari abolition.

In 1956 Zamindari abolition acts were passed in almost all provinces. The abolition of Zamindari meant that about twenty million erstwhile tenants now became land owners. The upper strata of the tenants who received tenancy directly from the landlords got more benefits. As the tenants had no title-deed, the land owners evicted them from the land.

Tenancy Reforms

Tenancy system continued in various forms eventhough Zamindari system was abolished. Tenancy reforms were introduced to give ownership of land to the tenant who cultivated the land regularly. This benefited some peasants but all tenants did not get the right of ownership of land. The land owners and revenue officers subverted the rights of the tenants in many places.

Land Ceilings

“In order to dispel the uncertainty regarding land reforms and ensure security to the farmer, ceilings should be fixed on the present and future holdings. Legislation to this effect should be completed in all states by the end of 1959”. said the resolution of the Indian National Congress at Nagpur.

The states enacted different laws in order to determine the land ceiling. It was instructed that surplus land must be distributed among the landless people. But the majority of the landlords exploited the short comings of the legislation and dodged its impact.

When the process of land distribution was obstructed, the peasants of Naxalbari in West Bengal and Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh rose in revolt. This led them to an encounter with the state government Eventhough the struggles were suppressed it accelerated the speed of land distribution.

Let us examine the successive efforts to determine land ceiling.

- After 1971 the Central Land Reforms Committee asked the States to go through appropriate legislations to reduce the limit of land in individual possession.

- New laws were introduced in majority of the states. But all these were challenged by the landowners in the court.
- According to the 34th amendment of the constitution in 1974 these new legislations were included in the ninth schedule of the Constitution. Thus land ceiling laws became unquestionable in the courts.

This helped to provide surplus land to many of the landless people

Bhoodan Movement

This movement was launched by Acharya Vinoba Bhave, The renowned Gandhian. Land reform was the objective of the movement. He gave shape to the Sarvodaya Sangh, an organization, to effect land reforms from outside the boundaries of law and to create a society free from violence. Vinobha Bhave went round visiting villages and urging the land owners to donate one sixth of their land to the landless people. During the early years it was a great success. But much land was not distributed under the initiative of the movement after 1956.

Note the features of the land reform legislations implemented in Kerala explained in the chapter on Kerala.

Agricultural Growth and the Green Revolution

After independence India depended on foreign countries for food. Let us examine what we achieved later through various activities in the agricultural sector.

- * *India constructed several huge dams which laid the foundation of agricultural progress. Gather information on them and present in the class.*

Dependence on other countries for food will adversely affect the development of an agricultural country. So, Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Sastri and Indira Gandhi, our former Prime Ministers, took initiative in bringing about basic changes in the agricultural field. Thus a new agricultural policy was framed. Let us examine its salient features.

- Use of high quality seeds
- Use of fertilisers and machines
- Increase of irrigation facilities
- Facilities for soil testing
- Provision for agricultural loans.

The age of Green Revolution comes after the implementation of land reform legislations which gave ownership of land to the peasant. In the absence of agriculture in the public sector the active participation of peasants was unavoidable for increase in production. Land reforms helped to equip them in this regard.

Thus we aimed at Green Revolution, a big leap in the agricultural field. Steps were taken to ensure fixed price for our agricultural products. This led to increase in food production. By 1980 India attained self sufficiency in food with a surplus of about 30 million to. India which imported food items before the Green Revolution began to export it.

What were the transformations in areas like economy and occupation that followed the growth of India from food shortage to food self sufficiency. Gather information and add to Enquiry Note.

Origin of Co-operative Movement

We know about co-operative institutions. Such institutions came into existence as a result of the initiative taken by the national leaders after independence. Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru believed that this will help the poor and the peasants to progress. Let us have a look at the impact of co-operative societies on the development of India.

- Helped the poor peasants to get high quality seeds, modern agricultural machines and low cost fertilisers.
- Helped the peasants to sell their products.
- Played a key role in making the Green Revolution a success
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Operation Flood

Agriculture and animal husbandry are mutually complementary and interdependent. How it paved the way for Operation Flood?

The Kheda District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited was formed in Anand, a small town in Gujarat. It helped the peasants of Gujarat to get a stable income. It was this Union which started the production of Amul, a brand of milk powder which became famous all over India. The success in Gujarat inspired other states to start similar co-operative societies. The National Dairy Development Board was formed in 1965. By 1995 the peasants gained an income of about 3400 crores through co-operative dairies. The poor people were the main beneficiaries. One of the greatest successes in the history of Independent India, this is known as Operation Flood.

- * *Collect information about MILMA, the co-operative organization of milk producers in Kerala.*

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Along with agricultural sector, the industrial sector also plays a major role in the development of a country. Why are the factories called the temples of modern India? Present your conclusions in the class.

During the first few decades after independence there were no industrial magnates in India who were able to invest capital in large scale industries. At that time there were some limitations in receiving foreign capital. Foreigners were not interested in investing money in India as there were some crises that followed independence. So the public sector had to undertake the responsibility of industrial development.

Till 1985 we followed the development model devised by Nehru. It was decided that strategic industrial enterprises should be under the management of the government. It was the socialist idea that the controlling power of the economy should be in the public sector that led to this way of thinking. So large scale industrial enterprises were started under government ownership with the economic and technological assistance of countries like the Soviet Union, Britain, Germany and France. The basic necessities for the industrial development of any country are iron and steel industries and Petrochemicals industries. Prepare a list of such industries founded in India during the early years of independence

Let us examine the achievements of the public sector during the early decades of Indian independence.

- The Public sector made great progress in industries like petroleum, steel, mining, electricity and petrochemicals.
- In agriculture based industries, manufacture of consumer goods and foreign trade the public sector played a remarkable role.
- The tendency of depending on import became minimised.
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- The Secondary Education Commission of 1952 under the chairmanship of Lakshmana Swamy Mudaliar.
- The Education Commission of 1964-66 under the chairmanship of Dr. D. S.Kothari.
- The Yashpal Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Yashpal.
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EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During the period of national movement detailed discussions were held about the future of Indian education system. National leaders including Gandhiji exhorted the people to boycott the educational institutions of the British. A number of national educational institutions were started during that period . The system of education that Gandhiji suggested for the whole of India is known as Wardha Scheme or Scheme of Basic Education. Find out the salient features of this education and present in the class.

Stages of Development

The Constitution amendment of 2001 declared that free and compulsory education of children of 6 to 14 years of age is a fundamental right.

This is not a sudden change. But an example of importance given to education by the governments of independent India.

Let us examine the important education commissions appointed in free India for advising on education reforms.

- The University Education Commission of 1948-49 under the chairmanship of Dr.S.Radhakrishnan.

You might have heard of Navodaya schools opened as a part of the New Education Policy introduced in 1986. It was the Kothari Commission report which laid the foundation of this new policy. The Operation Blackboard scheme which provided for increased facilities in primary education and vocational education were started on the basis of new education policy. Media like radio and television began to be used for educational purposes. The State Council of Education Research and Training for promoting research and training in education at the state level and the District Institute of Education and Training in each district were started as a part of the New Education Policy. The commission led by Prof. Yashpal suggested measures for the improvement of the quality of education and simplification of work load.

The Minimum Level of Learning (MLL), District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) and the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) were programmes devised to make basic changes in the field of primary education in India.

There were 27 universities and 578 colleges in India in 1951. Today there are about 250 universities and 11000 colleges in the country. Today we have medical colleges in the health education sector, engineering institutions including IITs and IIMs for management studies.

Many of these institutions are of international standard.

In order to control the various sectors of education and formulate policies, several national agencies are functioning in the state. Let us have a look at them.

- University Grants Commission (UGC)
- National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- All India Medical Council (AIMC)
- All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE)
- National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE)
- All India Bar Council. (AIBC)
- National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)
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Find out the functions of these organizations and add them to Enquiry Notes.

Could we achieve complete literacy in spite of these activities in the educational field?

National Literacy Programme

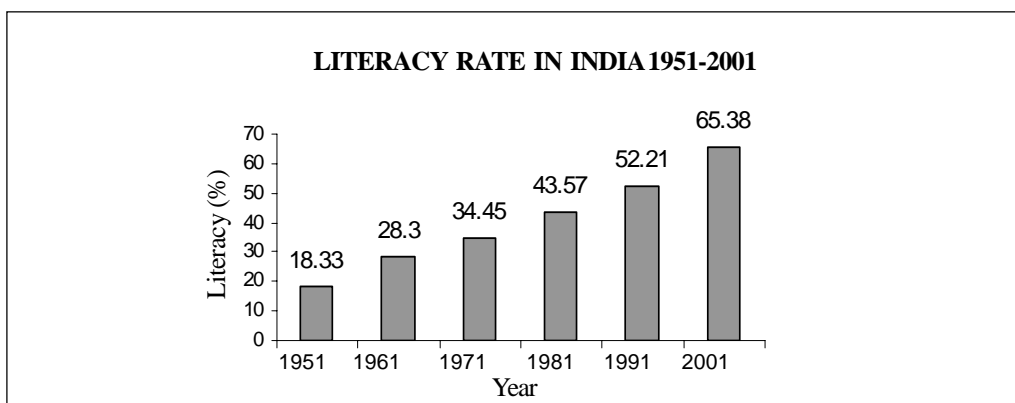
Illiteracy of the people hampers the

development of a country. Almost all the governments in free India attached primary importance to literacy programmes. The scheme of National Adult Education was launched in 1978. The National Literacy Mission was formed in 1988. As a part of this, District Literacy Missions were organised under the leadership of the Collector. Literacy rate which was 18.33 percent in 1951 rose to 65.38 percent in 2001. This is a great achievement as far as a country with such a huge population like India is concerned.

DEVELOPMENT IN SCIENCE

In the beginning of the modern period the position of India in science and technology was not at all satisfactory. But with the beginning of the twentieth century considerable changes began to take place in this field. Jagadish Chandra Bose, Sreenivasa Ramanujan and many others led India to the path of modern science. After independence Indian scientists worked with devotion to attain scientific progress. The Scientific and Industrial Research Council founded in 1942 gained more prominence after independence. Let us examine the names of the scientists who gave leadership to the development of science in Independent India..

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai is regarded as the father of Indian Space Research Programme.



Homi.J.Bhabha gave leadership to research in atomic energy.

A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, our President, is regarded as the father of Indian missile technology.

- * Find out the names of other scientists who offered leadership to the development of science in India and present them in the class.

Space Research in India

The first rocket in India was launched from Thumba Rocket Launching Station, Thiruvananthapuram, on 21st November 1963. It was led by National Space Research Organization (INCOSPAR). Dr.Vikram Sarabhai was its head. The researches at Thumba paved the way for the launching of artificial satellites including INSAT.

The resolution relating to the science policy of 1958 characterised science as the “Key to National Development”. Is it not necessary to evaluate how far science has helped in the development of the nation? India’s achievements in space research and missile technology are comparable to those of the developed nations. With the founding of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on 15th August, 1969, India geared up for a big leap.

The Space Commission came into existence in 1972. Which is the first artificial satellite launched by India?. When was it launched? Which was the satellite launched last? Find out facts and present in the class.



Launching of P.S.L.V

Buddha Smiles

India established its nuclear potential with the atomic explosion at Pokhran in Rajasthan in 1974. ‘Buddha smiles’ was the code name given to it. With another atomic explosion at Pokhran in 1998 India declared herself an atomic nation.

- * The uses of artificial satellite have already been discussed in previous classes. Prepare a note about the crises that India may have to face in the case of failure of our satellites and present it in the class.

Rocket and Missile

India's achievements in the field of rocket launching have reached the level of the development of cryogenic engine. Rockets with cryogenic engines were necessary to amplify the thrust force so that the comparatively heavier communication satellites could be carried to the orbit. India is the sixth country in the world that possesses such satellite launching vehicles.

In missile technology India made achievements comparable to those of the developed countries. India had developed missiles for defending itself against the frequent foreign invasions what it had to face since independence. From missiles with short ranges to the ones with a long reach of 3000 Kms, India possesses missiles of all ranges.

Other Achievements

Almost all the facilities acquired by developed countries are available in India also. In India there is facility to manufacture super computers, to give birth to test tube babies and to do complicated surgeries. We could manufacture new medicines through researches without depending on foreign countries. Research in the agricultural field helped to produce high quality seeds, fertilisers and machines. Our success in giving birth to cross-breed cows helped operation flood. Submarine researches help India to exploit the resources of the sea on a commercial basis moreover. This helped to form marine archaeology, a new branch of science which helps the study of history. Collect more facts about this from different reading materials.

Prepare a bulletin, 'The Scientific Achievements of India' by incorporating all the facts thus collected. The defects of scientific progress if any may also be exposed.

PLANNING IN INDIA

Read the blueprint prepared by the Planning Commission in July 1951. Planning in a democratic state is a social process in which, every citizen should have opportunity to participate. To set the patterns of future development is a task of such magnitude and significance that it should embody the impact of public opinion and the needs of the community.

Planning and five year plans have already been referred in the previous classes. We began to think of planning not after independence. The five year plans of the Soviet Union captured the attention of the leaders of India. Through the famous Karachi resolution of 1931 the Indian National Congress demanded that industries and service areas such as railway and water transport were to be in the public sector. In 1938 the National Planning Committee was formed under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru. This Committee prepared a plan outline for the all round development of India. In 1945 the famous Bombay plan, India's economic development scheme was drafted. This stressed the significance of the Public sector. It was in this background that the new Planning Commission came into existence in independent India.

The Planning Commission aimed at a mixed economy. Find out its special features.

Five Year Plans

India entered into the path of development through Five Year Plans. Let us examine the main achievements of the first three five year plans.

- National annual production increased 4 times in half a century.
- Growth in the agricultural sector increased by 7.5% from the pre-independent rates.

- In the industrial sector also there was 7.5% growth during the period.
- There was tremendous development in the fields of education, health and science and technology.

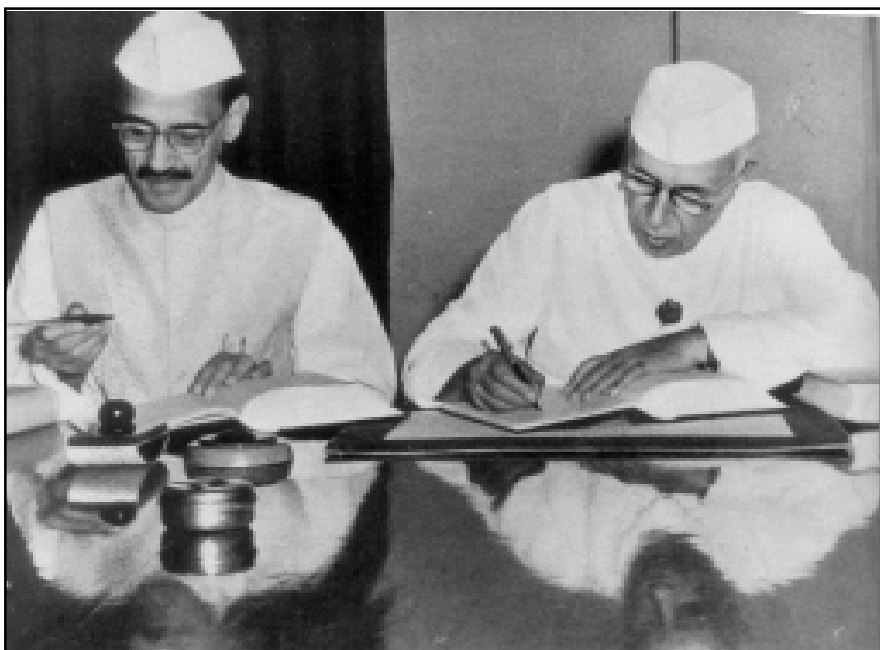
India made these achievements at a time when foreign aid and private capital were meagre. This laid the foundation of India's development.

The continuity of India's Five Year Plans was interrupted several times between 1965 and 1991. The reasons for this were annual plans, wars with Pakistan, changes in government and financial crises. That is why the Five Year Plans failed to achieve the expected target. Though the growth rate in the total domestic production and industries increased it fell far short of the expected level. The most important achievement of the period was the attainment of self sufficiency in food through Green Revolution.

Decentralisation of Power

We have been discussing centralised planning so far. Aren't there some drawbacks? The benefit of planning that takes place in New Delhi should reach the people of all villages in India. Decentralisation in administrative power, planning and development schemes has become necessary. Local self governing institutions were needed to plan and implement development schemes and to exercise power locally.

You have already discussed the activities of the Gramasabha in previous classes. It is the three tier Panchayatiraj system which gives leadership to decentralised planning. They obtained constitutional status under the 'Panchayati Raj' system in 1993 following a constitutional amendment. Eventhough there existed Panchayat administrative system in India in various forms, elections were not held systematically and punctually. They were not free to exercise authority. It was Rajiv Gandhi who



Jawaharlal Nehru, the chairman of planning commission and Gulsarilal Nanda, deputy chairman sign the draft of the third Five Year Plan.

started this system in its present form in 1989. The local self governing institutions implement local development schemes from its own income and the plan fund (grant) from central and state governments.

Policy Changes

We often hear a lot about globalization. Let us examine the beginning of globalization in India.

There are arguments that India's self sufficient economy is not suitable to the new age and development is impossible without foreign capital. As the production capacity of Indian industries was low, modern technology was necessary. As the government could not invest money in public sector, privatisation was found necessary. It was on these grounds that the New Economic Policy was accepted in 1991. The government declared that this change of policy is to exploit the benefits of globalisation. Let us examine its main features.

- Commercial and Industrial regulations were liberalised.
- Import regulations were dropped
- Aimed at the gradual privatisation of public sector.
- Industrial license policy was given up
- The restrictions on multinationals were lifted. Foreign investment was encouraged

How does the New Economic Policy affect India? Organise a discussion with special reference to Agriculture, Industry, Education and Health. Record your findings in the discussion note.

Summary

- The formation of the planning commission and the launching of the Five Year Plans formed the basis of development in Independent India.
- The Planning Commission aimed at mixed economy promoting the public sector and at the same time providing for the private sector
- Great progress was achieved in agricultural and industrial sectors and self sufficiency in food was attained as a result of various five year plans.
- From 1991 onwards significant changes took place in the economy of India giving importance to globalisation and liberalisation.
- As a part of ensuring social justice various governments of independent India tried to abolish Zamindari system, implemented tenancy laws and fixed the limit to possess land.
- Several agrarian struggles were organized in various parts of India to provide land to the landless people.
- The implementation of Panchayati Raj law was a notable achievement in the process of administrative decentralisation.
- Several commission reports and agencies like U.G.C, NCERT and Literacy Mission helped the development of education in free India.
- Independent India has won creditable achievements in the field of science and technology.

Questions

- Examine the features of the of Indian Economy during the early stage of planning.
- Assess how the peasant movements and land reformacts contributed to the Green Revolution.
- What are the basic changes brought about by the Panchayati Raj Act in the administrative field?
- Examine how achievements in the field of science help national development.

