

Indian History

Introduction

The history of India has been broadly divided into three distinct periods, viz.:

1. Ancient India
2. Medieval India
3. India Under British Rule

The history of modern India is further sub-divided into two major periods, viz.:

- (a) The British Period
- (b) The Indian Freedom Struggle and Partition of India

Ancient India

Indus Valley Civilization: The most important period of ancient Indian history is the development of Indus Valley Civilization. This civilization was developed on the banks of river Indus. It extended from Jammu in the north to Ahmednagar in the south, and in various regions of Gujarat. The main sites which have been found in the excavation are: Kalibangan in Rajasthan, Lothal in Gujarat, Banwali in Haryana and Ropar in Punjab. Indus Valley Civilization period lies between 3000 BC and 1500 BC. The main cities associated with it are Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro and Lothal. The main feature of this civilization was the town planning. They had great buildings, well-planned roads, cities and drainage system. Hunting and agriculture were their main sources of livelihood. They were the first to produce cotton.

Indus Valley Civilization: This was the earliest civilization that flourished in India on the banks of the river Indus, from frontiers extending from Manda on the Chenab near Jammu in the north to Daimabad, on the Godavari in Ahmednagar in the South, embracing 200 sites in the Kutch-Saurashtra region of Gujarat out of more than 1000 and above sites all over.

Period: Between 2500 BC and 1800 BC. Early Harappan (C. 3200 - 2600 BC);

Cities: More than 800 sites related to Harappan civilization have been discovered. Some important ones are:

Harappa: Located on the banks of the Ravi in Punjab was the first settlement where the Indus civilization was discovered. In terms of its size and variety of objects discovered, it ranks as the premier city of the Indus Civilization.

Mohenjodaro: Mohenjodaro in Sind on the bank of Indus is the largest known Indus city. Most of the information about the Indus Civilization is derived from the study of town planning, houses, seals and sealings from this place.

Kalibangan: Similar to Mohenjodaro, the site of Kalibangan in Rajasthan excavated in 1960s seems to have been a provincial capital.

Lothal: The site of Lothal in Gujarat was an outpost for sea-trade with the contemporary West Asian Civilizations.

Alamgirpur: Located towards the east in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab

Analysis of Location of Harappan Towns: Most of the Harappan sites were located in the flood-plains of the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra rivers.

Features

Political : It seems that there was a central government, as per the evidence from the existence of assembly hall and citadels.

Socio-economic: The Indus Valley Civilization people sowed seeds in the flood plains in November, when the flood water receded and reaped their harvest of wheat and barley in April, before the advent of the next flood. Wheat, rice, barley, milk, dates, fish, egg and animal flesh formed their staple food. Cotton was first produced by the Indus valley people. Spun and woven cotton and wool dresses were used by them. Agriculture, hunting, fishing and rearing of animals/birds was their main source of livelihood.

Society: The people had a highly developed artistic sense which is reflected in their pottery, and painting on vases.

Town Planning: Great buildings, double-storeyed dwellings, and drainage system were in existence. There were planned cities and roads.

The Vedic Period: The Aryans

Early Vedic age (1500 BC- 1000 BC)

(A) Early Vedic Period:

This is marked by the entry of Aryans, who were originally inhabitants of Central Asia around the Caspian Sea and probably came through Hindukush mountains.

Their period lies between 2500–2000 BC.

The main features of Aryans were:

They were the admirers of nature and worshipped sun, fire and water. *Yagna* was an important part of their religion. They had organized system of living, and were quite matured socially and politically.

They had following religious books:

(i) **Vedas:**

These books were their most sacred books. (These are also the oldest known books of Indus Valley Civilization). They were four in number, viz.

(a) **Rig Veda:** The oldest, and contained prayers of God, Vayu, Varun, Indra and Agni.

(b) **Sam Veda:** It dealt with music.

(c) **Yajur Veda:** It dealt with formulae and rituals.

(d) **Atharva Veda:** It dealt with medicines.

(ii) **The Puranas:** The Puranas were 18 in number and contained details of Aryan civilization, like their rituals, traditions and formulae, etc.

(iii) **The Upanishads:** They are the main source of Indian philosophy and are 300 in number.

The **Brahmanas** and **Aranyakas** are the other important religious books of Aryans.

Who were the Aryans: The Aryans were semi-nomadic pastoral people who originally inhabited the area around the Caspian Sea in Central Asia. The Aryans entered India, probably, through the Khyber Pass (Hindukush Mountains) around 1500 BC in more than two waves in search of new pastures. The holy book of Iran, Zend Avesta, whose language has close resemblance with the Indo-European Languages indicates the possibility of entry of some Aryans to India via Iran. The word 'Aryan' comes from 'ari', which in the Vedic times meant 'foreigners' or 'strangers'. The first reference to the Aryans is found in the Bagharkai Peace Treaty (in Western Asia 1350 BC), concluded between the kingdoms of Mitanni and Hittites in which the Aryan gods, Varuna, Indra, Mitra and Nasatya were invoked as witnesses.

(B) The later Vedic Period:

This period ranges from 2000–700 BC. The important features of this period are:

(i) It is also known as the period of **Brahmanical Age** which resembles modern-day, Hindu religion.

(ii) Society was divided into four castes: (a) **Brahmins**, (b) **Kshatriyas**, (c) **Vaisyas** and (d) **Sudras**, depending upon the work they did in the mentioned order of preference. Brahmins were the priestly class, Kshatriyas were the fighters, Vaisyas were the business class and Sudras represented the labour class.

(iii) Two great epics were written in this period, namely Mahabharata by Ved Vyas, and Ramayana by Maharishi Valmiki. The shastras basically dealt with Indian philosophy and concepts of birth, death and God.

(C) Rise of religions (other than Hinduism):

(i) **Buddhism:** Initiated by a Kshatriya prince of **Shakya clan**, Siddhartha, (later came to be known as **Buddha**) around 6th century BC, who was born at **Lumbini** (in present day Nepal) near Kapilavastu. He was the son of king Shuddhodhana. He went in search of truth and attained enlightenment under a *pipal* tree at **Bodh Gaya**, and delivered his first sermons at Sarnath in UP. He spread his message for many years and died at **Kusinagar** in present day UP. **There are many sects of Buddhism, out of which three are important viz.**

- **Mahayan** (the higher vehicle): It believes Buddha to be a God.
- **Hinyan** (the lesser vehicle): It does not believe that Buddha was a God. It is a more pristine form of Buddhism.
- **Vajrayan** It is the tantric form of Buddhism. Now prevalent in Ladakh and Bhutan.

Buddhism got divided into Hinyan and Mahayan at the fourth Buddhist council held during the reign of Harshavardhan.

The main Buddhist teachings are: The eight-fold path of right faith, thought, action, livelihood, efforts, speech, remembrance and concentration, **belief in nirvana (freedom from the cycle of birth and death), ahimsa, law of karma.**

- (ii) **Jainism:** Founded by Rishabha (a Kshatriya), Jainism attained peak under Vardhamana Mahavira (the 24th Tirthankara). Mahavira was born at **Kundagrama** in 540 BC in present day Bihar, and attained perfect knowledge, '**Kaivalya**', after he became ascetic at the age of 30. He became a 'Jina' (one who has conquered happiness and misery) and died at **Pawapuri** near Rajgir in present day Bihar. Jainism is also divided into two sects, viz., **digambara** and **shwetambara**. Former is a more pristine form, and remain naked, while latter, wear white clothes.

The main features of Jainism are:

The *tri-ratna* concept, consisting of: (a) right knowledge, (b) right faith, and (c) right conduct. Belief in karma and belief in ahimsa, are the other two great teachings of this religion.

(D) Various important empires and dynasties:

Name of empire/dynasty	Period	Important characteristics
Magadha empire	Around 542 BC	Prominent kings were Bimbisara, Ajatashatru, Shishunaga and Nanda
Mauryan dynasty Ashoka: 273–232 BC Both of Kaling: 261 BC	321–232 BC	Founded by Chandragupta Maurya, Ashoka was the other prominent king of this dynasty
Gupta dynasty (Golden Age)	AD 320–550	Prominent rulers were Chandragupta I, Samudragupta and Chandragupta II
Harshavardhana	AD 606–647	He was the last Hindu king of North India
Rajputs	AD 650–1200	Prominent rulers were Prithvi Raj Chauhan and Jaichand Rathore

Other important dynasties:

(i)	Chalukyas (AD 550–642)	Prominent rulers were Pulkeshin I and II
(ii)	Cholas – Founded by Rajaraja-I	Prominent rulers were Rajendra Chola and Rajendra III
(iii)	Rashtrakutas (AD 753–973)	Prominent rulers were Krishna I, Amogha Varsha
(iv)	Yadavas (AD 1191–1318)	Prominent rulers were Ramachandra and Singhana
(v)	Vijayanagar's empire (AD 1336–1646)	Krishnadevaraya was the only prominent ruler of the empire and ruled in the Deccan part of India

Religious Books

1. **The Vedas:** These are the most sacred books of early Aryans. There were four Vedas and the Brahmanas concerned with these Vedas are:
 - i. Rig Veda (Aitaraya Brahmana and Kaushitika Brahmana) Book of Hymns
 - ii. Sama Veda (Jaminya Brahmana and Tandyamaha Brahmana) Book of Melodies and Chants
 - iii. Yajur Veda (Satpatha Brahmana) book of Sacrifices
 - iv. Atharva Veda (Gopatha Brahmana) Book of magical and Technical formulae

2. **The Brahmanas** : Throw light on the socio-political life of the Aryans and form a sort of explanation of their religion, especially, sacrifice. It also contain ritualistic formulae for the respective Veda and Priests.
3. **The Aranyakas**: These forest books are treatises on mysticism and philosophy and are the concluding portion of the **Brahmanas**. It explains the metaphysics and symbolism of sacrifice.
4. **The Upanishads**: The Upanishads are the main source of Indian philosophy. There are about 300 Upanishads of which 10 have attracted worldwide attention as they deal with philosophy and theology of the Aryans . These are commentaries which are appended to the Aranyakas and deal mainly with philosophy and religion.
5. **The Puranas**: Are 18 in number, of which the Bhagawat Purana and Vishnu Purana are the most important. They give religious and historical details of the Aryan civilization, and contain legends, rituals, tradition and moral codes.
6. **Manu Smriti**: Manu was the great law-giver in the Aryan period and his book, Manu Smriti, deals with the laws of inheritance, duties of kings and his subjects. As Manu established a detailed legal system for the Aryans, he is considered the first law-giver of India.

Doctrines	Priest/Teacher	Important Information
1. Nayasutra (Logical Doctrine)	Gautama Maharshi	Hindu doctrines based on logic
2. Vaisheshika (Monic Doctrine)	Karnad and Ramanuja	This is basis of Vishistadwaita
3. Yogasutra (Yoga Doctrine)	Maharishi Pathanjali	A harmonic doctrine that deals with harmony between mind and body through yoga.
4. Sankya sutra (Numerical Doctrine)	Kapil Maharishi and Madhvacharya	Duite Siddhanata which deals with numerals
5. Uttara Meemamsa	Badatayans	Major upanishadic work taken up by the rishis of that time
6. Poorva Meemamsa	Jaimini Maharshi	About worship via Yajna (rituals) and also become the basis of Karmamarga.

Later Vedic Period (1000 - 600 BC): Rishis who were the authors of the Vedas are Madhuchandra Vaisvamitra, Gurutsamida, Afri, Bhardvaj, Kanva, Kashypa Rashikas, Vamadevas, Yami Vaivasratai, Sasvathi and other.

Growth of Buddhism and Jainism: In sixth BC, also called the period of religious unrest.

As a result of revolt against the supremacy of Brahmanical priests, several schools of philosophy opposing Brahmanism developed, led by the Kshatriyas of the royal families of Magadha who later helped in the propagation of Jainism and Buddhism.

Buddhism: The fourth greatest religion in the world originated in India. Buddhism received state patronage of king like Ashoka the Great, and it spread to neighbouring countries like Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Japan Vietnam, Thailand.

The Schism (or split) in Buddhism: During the 4th Buddhist council held in Kashmir, the Buddhists split into two groups: the Hinayanas (believed in simple teachings of Buddha) and the Mahayanas (the preachers with doctrine of bhakti as their integral part) Pali was the main language for Hinayanas and Sanskrit for Mahayanas.

Founder: Founded by Gautama Siddhartha who was a Kshatriya prince of the Saka clan. He was born in 567 BC (or 576 BC as is believed by some historians) at Lumbini in Nepal and was the son of Suddhodana, *Raja of Kapilavastu*.

Influence of Buddhism: *Political* Buddhism destroyed the rising militant spirit and fostered a sense of national unity and universal brotherhood.

Educational centres were founded at Buddhist Viharas and Indian culture spread to regions outside India during the reigns of emperor Ashoka and Kanishka.

Decline of Buddhism: Buddhism declined as Hinduism reformed with the rise of the Rajputs as a military force. Muslim invasions in the 11th and 12th centuries led to its further disintegration.

Founder: Founded by Rishabha, who was father of King Bharata, the first Chakravarti of India. Jainism became a major religion under Vardhamana Mahavira who was the 24th Tirthankara or Prophet of Jainism.

Doctrine

1. Attainment of Nirvana (release from rebirth) through Tri-Ratna (three jewels) consisting of (a) Right faith, (b) Right knowledge, (c) Right conduct,
2. Belief in Ahimsa or non-violence in world, thought or deed towards all living beings.
3. Belief in Karma through denying the existence of God and dismissal of ritual.

Medieval India

Marked by the beginning of the Sultanate of Delhi, which was established after the conquest of Muhammad Ghori. The period of Sultanate of Delhi, ranges from AD 1206–1526. This is considered as the beginning of Muslim rule in India.

Important dynasties:

- (i) The **Slave dynasty's** period ranges from AD 1206–1290. It was founded by Qutub-ud-din Aibak and the prominent rulers of this dynasty were Iltutmish and **the only Muslim woman ruler of India, Razia Sultana.**
- (ii) The **Khilji dynasty** was founded by Jalal-ud-din Khilji and its period ranges from AD 1290–1320. Alauddin Khilji was one of the most prominent rulers of this dynasty.
- (iii) The **Tughlak dynasty** was founded by Ghiasuddin Tughlak and the period ranges from AD 1320–1414. **Ibn Batuta was an important African traveller who visited India in 1333.**
- (iv) The **Lodhi dynasty** was founded by Bahlol Lodhi and the period of this dynasty ranges from AD 1451–1526. Sikander and Ibrahim Lodhi were the other two prominent rulers belonging to this dynasty.

Decline of Delhi Sultanate

The main causes were:

- (a) Despotism and military type of governments which did not have the confidence of the people
- (b) Degeneration of the Delhi sultans
- (c) The Sultanate became too vast and could not be controlled effectively
- (d) Financial instability
- (e) Number of slaves increased to 1,80,000 in Firoz Shah's time which was a burden on the treasury

First Battle of Panipat: The first Battle of Panipat was fought in 1526 between Ibrahim Lodhi, the Sultan of Delhi and Babur, the ruler of Kabul, Babur invaded India and established the Mughal dynasty.

The Mughal Dynasty (1526 - 1540 and 1555 - 1857)

Extent: Stretched from Punjab to Bengal, including Jaunpur and Bihar, in the 16th century. Included Kabul in the north-west, Kashmir in the north; Sindhi, Multan, Ajmer and Gujarat in the west; Malwa and Benar in the south; and Odisha and Bengal in the east at the time of Akbar's death. Stretched from Kabul, Kandhar and Peshawar in the north of Kaveri in the south by the end of the 17th century.

Important rulers of Mughal dynasty:

One of the most important dynasties of India is **Mughal dynasty**, which reigned almost continuously from AD 1526–1857 (**the longest period**).

Important Rulers

Babur (1526 - 1530): Is said to have founded the Mughal empire. He defeated Ibrahim Lodhi in the First Battle of Panipat on 20 April 1526 and became emperor of Delhi. In 1527, he defeated Rana Sanga at Khanwa near Fatehpur Sikri and occupied Agra. In 1527, in the Battle of Gorge, he defeated the Afghans and thus, became the master of the entire India.

He wrote his autobiography, Tuzuk-i-Babri in which he gives an excellent account of India and his empire. He died in 1530.

Humayun (1530 - 1540): He was the son of Babur and ascended the throne in 1530. His succession was challenged by his brothers Kamran, Hindal and Askari along with the Afghans. He fought two battles against Sher Shah at Chausa (1539) and at Kannauj (1560) and was completely defeated by his enemies. He escaped to Persia where he passed 12 years of his life in exile.

After Sher Shah's death, he invaded India in 1555 and defeated his brothers and the Afghans. He once again became the ruler of India. He died in an accident in 1556, just two years after he regained his kingdom.

Sher Shah Suri (1540 - 1545): An Afghan who ruled the country for a brief period from 1540 - 1545 after defeating Humayun. His empire extended from the Brahmaputra in the east to the Indus in the west, from the Himalayas in the north to the Narmada in the south. During his reign of five years, he introduced a brilliant administration, land revenue policy and several other measures to improve economic conditions of his subjects. He issued the coin called 'Rupia' and fixed standard weights and measures all over the empire. He also improved communications by building several highways. He built the Grand Trunk Road (G.T.Road), that runs from Peshawar to Calcutta. He also introduced military reforms; he recruited and paid the soldiers directly and every soldier had his *Chehra* (face) recorded and his horse branded with the imperial sign. He set up cantonments in various part of his empire and a strong garrison was posted in each cantonment.

Akbar (1556-1605): The eldest son of Humayun, he ascended the throne at the young age of 13 on 14 February 1556 and his tutor Bairam Khan was appointed as the regent. The most successful Mughal emperor. An excellent leader, who separated religion and politics, started a new religion called **Din-e-Ilahi**.

Jahangir (1605-1627): Salim, son of Akbar, came to the throne after Akbar's death in AD 1605. He is known for his strict administration of justice. In May 1611 Jahangir married Mihr-un-nisa, widow of Sher Afghan, a Persian nobleman of Bengal. Later on, she was given the title 'Nur Jahan'. Nur Jahan took an active interest in the matters of the state and also ruled the empire when Jahangir was ill for a long time.

Jahangir issued coins jointly in Nur Jahan's named and his own.

Relation with Foreigners: In 1608, Captain William Hawkins, a representative of the East India Company came to Jahangir's court. In 1615, Sir Thomas Roe, an ambassador of King James of England also came to his court. Though initially Jahangir resisted, he later on granted permission to the English to establish a trading post at Surat.

Revolts: Guru Arjan Dev was martyred during his period, thus alienating the Sikh Community.

Aurangzeb (1659 - 1707): After imprisoning Shahjahan, his son Aurangzeb was crowned at Delhi under the title *Alamgir*. He ruled for 50 years till his death in February, 1707 in Ahmednagar.

Extent of the Empire: Aurangzeb's empire extended from Kashmir in the north to Jinji in the south, and the Hindu-kush in the west to Chittagong in the east.

During this period, the Marathas, under Shivaji, rose to power and were a force to reckon with.

The Execution of Sambhaji in 1689 saw the collapse of the Maratha empire. Aurangzeb's empire now extended But in certain parts of south India (Mysore, Maharashtra, etc), he was not entirely successful in thwarting his enemies. Aurangzeb never returned to the north and died in Ahmednagar in February, 1707.

Intolerance of other religions: He was Muslim fanatic and thus was an intolerant autocrat. Many Hindu temples were demolished and religious festivals, idol worship and pilgrimages were banned during his reign.

Sikh Revolt: Aurangzeb captured Guru Teg Bahadur, the 9th Guru of Sikhs in 1675 and executed him when he refused to embrace Islam. Guru Gobind Singh, son of Guru Teg Bahadur, organized his followers into a militant force called 'Khalsa' to avenge the murder of his father. Guru Gobind Singh continued the war against Mughals but he too was put to death.

Decline of the Mughal Empire

After Aurangzeb, the Mughal empire rapidly declined. Important causes for the decline were:

- (a) Aurangzeb's Rajput, Deccan and religious policies;
- (b) Stagnation in agricultural production, trade and manufacture;
- (c) Rapidly rising demands of the ruling classes, leading to attempts to realize more from Jagirs, causing peasant and Zamindari discontent;
- (d) Jagirdari crisis: Aurangzeb tried to corner the most profitable Jagirs, leading to corruption;
- (e) Factionalism among nobility after Aurangzeb; development of powerful Irani, Turani, Deccani, Hindustani blocs in the court who vied for power in order to destabilize the central administrative machinery;
- (f) Rise of independent kingdoms;
- (g) Rise of European power in India;
- (h) Nadir Shah's invasion in 1739.

Third Battle of Panipat: The third battle of Panipat fought between Ahmed Shah abdali and the Marathas, ended Maratha power.

India Under British Rule

In 1498, a Portuguese sailor Vasco da Gama discovered the sea route to India. East India Company of Britain came here with the excuse of trading and soon started developing its political dominion in India and, finally, succeeded in establishing their rule over India.

(A) Important events related to modern Indian history:

- (i) **First War of Independence (Mutiny of Sepoys):** It took place in 1857, when soldiers refused to touch the new rifle cartridges which were said to have been greased with cover made of animal fat. **Mangal Pande** was a prominent figure, who surfaced during this mutiny. He killed two Britishers at Barrackpore, and this was also one of the causes of the mutiny.
- (ii) **Government of India Act, 1858:** This proclaimed the direct governance of British crown over India.
- (iii) **Formation of Indian National Congress:** **A.O. Hume** is credited with the formation of Indian National Congress in **December 1885**, which held its **first session at Bombay**, under the **presidentship of W.C. Bonnerjee**.
- (iv) **Partition of Bengal:** It took place in 1905.

(B) Other significant events related to Indian Freedom Movement:

Year	Important events happenings in that year
1885	Formation of Congress by A. O. Hume
1905	Partiton of Bengal, launching of swadeshi movement
1906	Formation of Muslim League by Nawab Salimullah of Dacca
1907	Surat session of Congress, where congress got split into moderates and extremists
1909	Morley-Minto Reforms, in which separate electorates for Hindus and Muslims was introduced for the first time.
1911	Capital shifted from Calcutta to New Delhi (architected by Lutyen)
1916	Lucknow session of Congress, where the famous Lucknow pact was signed between congress and muslim league. Formation of home rule league by Annie Besant.
1917	Champaran satyagraha (champaran is a place in Bihar) by Mahatma Gandhi. His first satyagraha in India.
1919	The draconian Rowlatt Act, Jalliyawallah massacre at Amritsar on the orders of General O'Dyer; Montague-Chemsford reforms.
1920	Khilafat Movement against British by Shaukat and Muhammad Ali. Launching of non cooperation movement by Mahatama Gandhi.
1922	Chauri chaura, incident in UP and widhrawl of NCM by Gandhi, formation of Swaraj party by Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das and N. C. Kelkar.
1927	Simon Commission to India, which was protested by Lala Lajpat Rai. He died during a lathi charge during the protest.
1929	Passing of Purna Swaraj resolution at Lahore session of Congress under the presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru.
1930	Dandi March (Salt Satyagrah) by Mahatma Gandhi from Sabarmati ashram (a palce in Gujrat). First round table conference in London
1935	Government of India Act
1937	Formation of Congress Ministries in provinces
1939	Out break of World War II, resignation of Congress ministries
1942	Quit India Movement, Wavell plan and Shimla conference. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad attended the conference representing Congress
1945	Cabinet Mission Plan which envisaged forming of the interim government and to determine means of transferring power.
1946	Formation of Constituent Assembly under Rajendra Prasad (Muslim league did not participate)
1947	Mountbatten Plan (June 3 plan) and partition of India

(C) Important Governor General and Viceroys associated with British rule and related events:

Name	Events associated with
Lord Dalhousie (1848-1856)	Mainly known for Doctrine of Lapse , responsible for annexing number of states on the basis of this philosophy. First train from Bombay to Thane started during his reign in 1853.
Lord Cornwallis (1786-1793)	Credited with a new revenue system under the permanent settlement of Bengal. Introduction of Civil services.
Lord Canning	The revolt of 1857. The first Viceroy of India
Lord Wellesley (1798-1805)	The subsidiary alliance system.
Lord Curzon (1899-1905)	Partition of Bengal
William Bentinck (1828-35)	Abolition of Sati and reducing the female infanticide.
Thomas B. Macaulay	His advice was instrumental in introducing English, under the leadership of William Bentinck.
Lord Hastings(1813-1823)	Associated with Ryotwari settlement.
Robert Clive	He was the first British Governor of Bengal.
Warren Hastings (1773-1785)	The first Governor-General of India; Regulating Act 1773 and Pitt's India Act of 1784 were passed during his tenure.
Lord Mountbatten	The first Governor-General of Free India.
C. Rajagopalachari	First Indian and last Governor-General of Independent India.

Reforms under British period and important people carrying them

Warren Hastings (1772 - 1785): Warren Hastings succeeded Clive in 1772 and became the first Governor-General of India. He passed The Regulating Act 1773, giving a legalized working constitution to the Company's dominion in India. It envisaged a Council of Ministers headed by the Governor - General.

The Pitt's India Act of 1784 was passed by the British Parliament to put the Company's affairs in permanent centralized control of the British Parliament.

Lord Cornwallis (1786 - 93): Hasting in 1787. He introduced a new revenue system under the permanent Settlement of Bengal in 1793 with a view to stabilize land revenue and create a loyal contented class of Zamindars.

Lord Wellesley (1798 - 1805): During the governor-generalship of Lord Wellesley, the Fourth Mysore War (1799) was fought. Tipu Sultan, after regaining lost strength, set out again on his plan to oust the British from India with the help of Napoleon and the Persian king.

Lord Hastings (1813 - 23): Under the governorship of Lord Hastings, Nepal was defeated in 1814, resulting in Nepal ceding Garhwal and kumaon to the British. In 1818, the Marathas made a last attempt to regain their independence. This led to the third Anglo-Maratha war in which the Marathas were completely crushed.

During Hasting's tenure various reforms were initiated such as the Ryotwari settlement according to which direct settlement was made between the government and the Ryots (cultivators).

Lord William Bentinck (1828 - 35): He was famous for the social reforms he introduced, such as abolition of Sati (1829), suppression of Thuggee, suppression of female infanticide and human sacrifices, English was introduced as a medium of higher education on the advice of his council member, Lord Bentinck also made a pact with Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the ruler of Punjab. By the charter Act 1833, the company ceased to be a trading company and became an administrative power.

Raja Rammohan Roy: Lived during his period. He was a religious and social reformer who helped bentinck in the abolition of Sati. In 1829, a new society called Brahmo Samaj was started by Rammohun Roy which discarded idol worship, caste system and several complicated rites and rituals.

Sir Charles Metacalfe (1836 - 44): He was notable for removing restriction on the press and media.

Lord Hardinge (1844 - 48): During his period the First Sikh War (1845) was fought between the Sikhs and the British. The Sikhs were defeated and were brought under British control.

Lord Dalhousie (1848 - 56): Lord Dalhousie succeeded Lord Harding in 1848. During his period the Second Sikh War (1849) was fought in which the Sikhs were defeated again and Dalhousie was successful in annexing the whole of Punjab to the British administration.

The Doctrine of Lapse was introduced by Lord Dalhousie, whereby in the absence of a natural heir, the sovereignty of Indian states was to lapse to the British and such rulers were not permitted to adopt a son to inherit their kingdoms.

Reforms: The first railway line between Bombay and Thane was opened in 1853 and in the same year Calcutta and Agra were connected by telegraph. Other reforms include setting up of P.W.D and passing of the Widow Remarriage Act (1856).

Lord Ripon: He was appointed Viceroy of India in 1880. During his time in India, Ripon introduced legislation (the "Ilbert Bill", named for his secretary, Courtenay Ilbert), that would have granted native Indians more legal rights, including the right of Indian judges to judge Europeans in court. He was known for introducing the Local Self Government in 1882. He is often referred as father of Local Self Government in India.

Ramakrishna and Vivekananda: Ramakrishna Paramahansa (1836 - 1886), a priest at a temple in Dakshineswar near Calcutta emphasized that there are many roads to God. His great disciple, Swami Vivekananda (1863 - 1902) popularized his religious message and founded Ramakrishna Mission in 1896.

Arya Samaj: The Arya samaj was founded in 1875 by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in order to reform Hindu religion in north India. Swami Dayanand believed that there was only one God who was to be worshipped in spirit and not in the form of idols and images. He also wrote Satyarth Prakash.

Lord Wavell (1944 - 47): The Cabinet Mission Plan (1946) provided for an interim government and laid down the procedure for the framing of the Indian Constitution. The observation of direct Action Day in Calcutta by the Muslim League led to riots and bloodshed. On 20 February 1947 the Prime Minister of England, Clement Atlee, announced that transfer of power would take place before June 1948. Riots and disturbances continued vigorously in demand for Partition of India.

Lord Mountbatten (1947 - 1948): Lord Mountbatten was the last Viceroy and the first Governor-General of Free India. The partition of India was decided by the June 3rd Plan and the Indian Independence Act 1947 and Pakistan a free nation on 14 August 1947. Lord Mountbatten retired in June 1948 and was succeeded by C. Rajagopalachari, who became the first Indian Governor-General of Independent India.

Important events and incidents during British rule

Partition of Bengal: On 30 December 1898, Lord Curzon took over as the new Viceroy of India. The partition of Bengal came into effect on 16 October 1905, through a Royal Proclamation, reducing the old province of Bengal in size by creating a new province of East Bengal, which later on became East Pakistan and present day Bangladesh. The government explained that it was done to stimulate growth of underdeveloped eastern region of the Bengal. But, actually, the main objective was to 'Divide and Rule' the most advanced region of the country at that time.

Reasons for Partition of Bengal: To destroy the political influence of the educated middle class among whom the Bengali intelligentsia were the most prominent. It also set up a communal gulf between Hindus and Muslims. The Indian national Congress unanimously condemned the partition of Bengal.

Surat Congress: The Indian National Congress split into two groups - the extremists and the moderates - at the Surat session in 1907 held on the banks of the river 'Tapti'. The extremists were led by Tilak, Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal and the moderates were led by Gopal Krishna Gokhale. At the Surat session, the moderate and extremist delegates of congress met in an atmosphere surcharged with excitement and anger.

The suddenness of the Surat fiasco took the extremist leaders by surprise and they offered their cooperation to the working committee of the Congress by accepting presidentship of Ras Behari Ghose. But the Moderates would not relent as they found themselves on firm ground. The government observing the opportunity launched a massive attack on the Extremists by suppressing their newspaper and arresting their main leader, Tilak, and sending him to Mandalay Jail for six years. The Extremists were not able to organize an effective alternative party or to sustain the movement. Aurobindo Ghosh gave up politics and left for Pondicherry. Bipin Chandra Pal, also left politics temporarily and Lajpat Rai left for Britain. After 1908, the national movement as a whole declined.

The Gandhian Era (1918 - 1947): Mahatma Gandhi dominated the Indian political scene from 1918 - 1947. This period of the Indian National Congress is also referred to as the Gandhian Era. It was the most intense and eventful phase of India's freedom struggle. Mahatma Gandhi provided the leadership of the highest order and his philosophy of non-violent Satyagraha became the most potent weapon to drive out the British from the Indian soil.

Rowlatt Act (1919): During the viceroyalty of Lord Chelmsford, a sedition committee was appointed by the government in 1918 with Justice Rowlatt which made certain recommendations to curb seditious activities in India. The Rowlatt Act 1919, gave unbridled powers to the government to arrest and imprison suspects without trial.

Gandhiji decided to fight against this Act and he gave a call for Satyagraha on 6 April 1919.

He was arrested on 8 April 1919. This led to further intensification of the agitation in Delhi, Ahmedabad and Punjab.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (13 April, 1919): The arrest of Dr Kitchlu and Dr Satyapal on 10 April 1919, under the Rowlatt Act in connection with Satyagraha caused serious unrest in Punjab. A public meeting was held the next day, 13 April 1919 in a park called Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar where thousands of people including women and children assembled. Before the meeting could start General O' Dyer ordered indiscriminate heavy firing on the crowd and the people had no way out to escape. As a result hundreds of men, women, and children were killed and more than 1200 people wounded.

Khilafat Movement (1920): The Caliph, Sultan of Turkey, was looked upon by the Muslims as their religious head. During the First World War, when the safety and the welfare to Turkey were threatened by the British thereby weakening the Caliph's position, Indian Muslims adopted an aggressive anti-British attitude. The two brothers, Mohammed Ali and Shaukat Ali launched an anti-British movement in 1920 - the Khilafat Movement for the restoration of the Khilafat. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad also led the movement. It was supported by Gandhiji and the Indian National Congress which paved the way for Hindu-Muslim unity.

Non- Cooperation Movement (1920): Gandhiji to launch his non-violent, non-cooperation movement At the Calcutta Session in September 1920, the Congress resolved in favour of the non-violent, non-cooperation movement and defined Swaraj as its ultimate aim. The movement envisaged: (a) Surrender of titles and honorary officers; (b) resignation from nominated offices and posts in the local bodies; (c) Refusal to attend government *darbars* and official functions and boycott of British courts by the lawyer; (d) Refusal of general public to offer themselves for military and other government jobs, and boycott of foreign goods. etc.

Apart from educational boycott, there was boycott of law courts which saw major lawyers like Motilal Nehru, C.R.Das, Rajagopalachari, Saifuddin Kitchlu, Vallabhbhai Patel, Aruna Asaf Ali, etc. giving up their lucrative practices in their fields and inspiring thousands of followers.

Chauri Chaura Incident (1922): The Congress session held at Ahmedabad in December 1921 decided to launch a Civil Disobedience movement while reiterating its stand on the non-violent, non-cooperation movement of which Gandhiji was appointed the leader. Before Gandhiji could launch the Civil Disobedience Movement a mob of countrymen at Chauri Chaura, a place near Gorakhpur in UP, Clash with the police which opened fire. In retaliation the mob burnt the police - station and killed 22 police men. This completed Gandhiji to call off the Civil Disobedience Movement on 12 February 1922.

Swaraj Party (1922): The foundation of the 'Swaraj Party' were laid on 1 January 1923, as the 'Congress-Khilafat Swarajya Party'. It proposed then an alternative programme of diverting the movement from widespread civil disobedience programme to restrictive one which would encourage its member to enter into legislative councils (established under Montford Reforms of 1919) by contesting elections in order to wreck the legislature from within and to use moral pressure to compel the authority to concede to the popular demand for self-government.

In the election held in 1923, the Swaraj Party captured 45 of the 145 seats. In provincial elections they secured few seats but in the central provinces they secured a clear majority. In Bengal, the Swaraj Party was the largest party. They followed the policy of undiluted opposition. The Swarajists demanded the release of all the political prisoners, provincial autonomy, repealing of the repressive laws imposed by the British government. However, after the death of C.R.Das in 1925 they drifted towards a policy of cooperation with the government. This led to dissension and the party broke up in 1926.

Lahore Session (1929): In December 1929, under the presidentship of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian National Congress at its Lahore Session resolved declaring 'Poorna Swaraj' (complete independence) to be the goal of the national movement.

It was Gandhiji again who was the decisive voice in investing Jawaharlal Nehru with the office of President in what was to be a critical year of mass struggle.

Jawaharlal Nehru's Presidential address was a stirring call to action: *"We have now an open conspiracy to free this country from foreign rule, and you, comrades, and all the countrymen and countrywomen are invited to join it"*. Nehru also made it known that in his view liberation did not mean only throwing off the foreign yoke: *"I must frankly confess that I am a socialist and a republican, and am no believer in kings and princes, or in an order which produces the modern kings of industry, who have greater power over the lives and fortunes of men than even the kings of old, and whose methods are as predatory as those of old feudal aristocracy."* He also spelt out the method

of struggle: *“Any great movement for liberation today must necessarily be a mass movement, and mass movements must essentially be peaceful, except in times of organized revolt... And if the principal movement is a peaceful one, contemporaneous attempts at a sporadic violence can only distract attention and weaken it.”*

On 31 December 1929, the newly adopted tricolour flag was unfurled and 26 January fixed as the Independence Day which was to be celebrated every year, pleading to the people not to submit to British rule any longer.

Dandi March (1930): Also called the ‘Salt Satyagraha’. To achieve the goal of complete independence, Gandhiji launched another civil disobedience movement. Along with 79 followers, Gandhiji started his famous march from Sabaramati Ashram on 20 March 1930, for the small village Dandi to break the Salt Law. While Gandhiji was marching to Dandi, Congress leaders and workers had been busy at various levels with the hard organizational tasks of enrolling volunteers and members, forming grassroot Congress Committee, collecting funds, and touring villages and towns to spread nationalist messages.

On reaching the seashore on 6 April 1930, he broke the Salt Law by picking up salt from the seashore. By picking a handful of salt, Gandhiji inaugurated the Civil Disobedience Movement, a movement that was to remain unsurpassed in the history of the Indian National Movement for the countrywide mass participation it unleashed. The movement became so powerful that it sparked off patriotism even among the Indian soldiers in the Army. The Garhwal soldiers refused to fire on the people at Peshawar.

Gandhiji was arrested on 5 May 1930. This was followed by another round of boycott of foreign goods and it took the shape of a nationwide civil disobedience movement in which ladies also participated. Soon thereafter followed repressive measures such as mass arrests, lathi-charge, police firing, etc. About 1,00,000 people went to jail. There was a massive protest on Gandhiji’s arrest. But it was in Sholapur, where the textile workers, who dominated the strike along with the residents of the town, went on to attack all symbols of the government authority and established a virtual parallel government in the city, which could only be dislodged with the imposition of the martial law after 16 May 1930.

Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931): Early in 1931 two moderate statesmen, Sapru and Jayakar, initiated efforts to bring about rapprochement between Gandhiji and the government. Six meetings with Viceroy Lord Irwin, finally, led to the signing of a pact between the two on 5 March 1931, whereby the Congress called off the movement and agreed to join the Second Round Table Conference. The terms of the agreement included the immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted for violence, the remission of all fines not yet collected, the return of confiscated land not yet sold to third parties, and lenient treatment of all the government officials who had resigned.

Gandhiji and other leaders were released from Jail as Irwin agreed to release most political prisoners and to return the properties that had been seized by the governments. The government also conceded the right to make the salt for consumption of villages along the coast, and also the right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing. The Congress on its part, agreed to discontinue the Civil Disobedience Movement and to participate in the next round Table Conference.

The Second round Table Conference (1931): Was held in London during the viceroyalty of Lord Willingdon during September-December 1931 and Gandhiji attended it on behalf of Indian National Congress. Nothing much was expected from the Conference for the imperialist political forces, which ultimately controlled the British Government in London, were opposed to any political or economic concession being given to India which could lead to its independence. The Round Table Conference, however, failed as Gandhiji could not agree with British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald on his policy of communal representation and refusal of the British government on the basic Indian demand for freedom. The conference closed on 11 December 1931, without any concrete result.

The Communal Award (1932): While Gandhiji was arrested on his return from London after the Second Round Table Conference, Ramsay MacDonald announced his award on communal representation in August 1931. This was another expression of the age-old British policy of ‘Divide and Rule’. Besides containing provisions for representation of Muslims, Sikhs and Europeans, it envisaged communal representation of depressed classes also. Gandhiji was deeply grieved by this and underwent a fast in protest against this award since it aimed to divide India on a communal basis.

While many political Indians saw the fast as a diversion from the ongoing political movement, all were deeply concerned and emotionally shaken: almost everywhere in India mass meetings took place. Political leaders of different persuasions, like Madan Mohan Malviya, B.R. Ambedkar and M.C. Rajah became active. In the end they succeeded in hammering out an agreement, known as the Poona Pact.

Poona Pact (1932): As discussed, the communal award created immense dissatisfaction among Hindus. Gandhiji who was on fast in protest staked his life to get the award repudiated. According to the Pact, the idea of separate electorate for the Depressed Classes was abandoned but seats reserved for them in the provincial legislatures were increased from 71 in the award to 147, and in the Central legislature to 81 per cent of the total. Ultimately, the fast ended with the Poona Pact which annulled the award. The leaders of the various groups and parties among Hindus, and Dr B.R. Ambedkar on behalf of the Harijans, signed the pact. The Poona Pact between caste Hindus and the depressed classes agreed upon a joint electorate.

The third round Table Conference (1932): It was held in 1932 but again proved fruitless since the national leaders were in prison.

The Government of India Act, 1935: The Simon Commission report submitted in 1930 formed the basis for the Government of India Act received the royal assent on 4 August 1935.

The Act continued and extended all the existing features of the Indian constitution. Popular representation, which went back to 1892, dyarchy and ministerial responsibility, which dated from 1921, provincial autonomy, whose chequered history went back to eighteenth century presidencies, communal representation, which first received overt recognition in 1909, and the safeguards devised in 1919, were all continued and in most cases extended. But in addition there were certain new principles introduced. It provided for a federal type of government. Thus, the act:

- i. Introduced provincial autonomy
- ii. Abolished dyarchy in provinces
- iii. Made ministers responsible to the legislative and federation at the centre

The act of 1935 was condemned by nearly all section of Indian public opinion and was unanimously rejected by the Congress. The Congress demanded instead, the convening of a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of adult franchise to frame a constitution for an independent India.

Although the Congress opposed the Act, yet it contested the elections when the Constitution was introduced on 1 April 1937; and formed ministries, first in six provinces and then in another two. The Congress high command exercised a great hold upon ministries of each province. The Muslim League was, however, not happy with the Congress rule, especially Mr Jinnah, who described it in these words: "Congress was drunk with power and was oppressive against Muslims."

Quit India Movement (1942 - 1945): On 8 August 1942, the Congress in its meeting at Bombay passed a resolution known as 'Quit India' resolution, whereby Gandhiji asked the British to quit India and gave a call for 'Do or die' to his countrymen. On 9 August 1942, Gandhiji was arrested but the other leaders continued the revolutionary struggle. Violence spread throughout the country, several government offices were destroyed and damaged, telegraph wires, were cut and communication paralyzed. The movement was, however, crushed by the government.

Cabinet Mission Plan: The struggle for freedom entered a decisive phase in the year 1945 - 46. The British Prime Minister, Lord Attlee, made a declaration on 15 March 1946, the British Cabinet Mission would visit India to make recommendations regarding constitutional reforms to be introduced in India. The Cabinet Mission which constituted of Lord Lawrence, Sir Stafford Cripps and A.V.Alexander visited India and met the representatives of different political parties, but a satisfactory solution to the constitutional difficulties could not be found. The Mission envisaged the establishment of a Constituent Assembly to frame the Constitution, as well as, an interim government. The Muslim League accepted the plan on 6 June 1946, while maintaining its rights of striving for a separate Muslim state. The Congress also partially accepted the plan.

Direct Action Campaign: Provoked by the success of the Congress, the Muslim League launched a direct action campaign on 16 August 1946, which resulted in heavy communal riots in the country.

Interim Government: On 2 September 1946, an interim government was formed. Congress members led by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru joined it, but the Muslim League did not as it withdrew its earlier acceptance of the Cabinet Mission Plan.

Mountbatten Plan: In March 1947, Lord Mountbatten replaced Lord Wavell. He announced his plan on 3 June 1947. It offered a key to the political and constitutional deadlock created by the refusal of the Muslim Leagues to join the Constituent Assembly formed to frame the Constitution of India. Mountbatten's formula was to divide India but retain maximum unity. The country would be partitioned but so would be Punjab and Bengal, so that the Limited Pakistan that emerged would meet both the Congress and the League's position to some extent. the League's position on Pakistan was conceded in that it would be created, but the Congress position on unity would be taken into account to make Pakistan as small as possible. He laid down detailed principles for the partition of the country and speedy transfer of political powers in the form of dominion status to the newly formed dominion of India and Pakistan. Its acceptance by the Congress and the Muslim League resulted in the birth of Pakistan.

Partition of India: In accordance with the Independence Act 1947, India was partitioned on 15 August 1947 into India and Pakistan. The Act made India and Pakistan independent dominions. Bloodshed and violence marked the exodus of refugees. The state of Kashmir acceded to the Indian Union, after the raiders were helped by Pakistan in October 1947. Lord Mountbatten was appointed the Governor-General of free India and M.A. Jinnah, the first Governor-General of Pakistan.

List of important historical events in India

Year	Events
326 BC	Invasion of Alexander the Great on India
58 BC	Beginning of Vikrami Era
AD 78	Beginning of Saka Era
AD 1001	First invasion of India by Mahmud Ghazni
AD 1236	Accession of only woman ruler of India, Razia Sultana, to the throne of Delhi
1498	Discovery of sea route of India by Portuguese traveller Vasco da Gama, via the Cape of Good Hope
1526	First Battle of Panipat, between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi, Babur won and established Mughal empire.
1540	Battle of Kanauj
1556	Second Battle of Panipat (between Akbar and Himu)
1576	Battle of Haldighati, Akbar defeated Rana Pratap
1600	East India Company was established
1675	Execution of the Ninth Sikh Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur
1757	Battle of Plassey, East India Rule established through Lord Clive
1761	Shah Alam II became Indian emperor and Third Battle of Panipat between (Ahmad Shah Abdali and Maratha) took place
1764	Battle of Buxar between Mir Caseem & East India Company
1784	Pitt's India Act
1793	Permanent Settlement in Bengal
1829	Prohibition of Sati Practice
1853	First railway line became operational between Bombay and Thane
1857	First War of Independence or Mutiny of Sepoys
1885	Foundation of Indian National Congress
1905	First partition of Bengal under Lord Curzon
1914	Beginning of First World War
1920	Non Cooperation Movement
1930	Salt Satyagraha
1931	Gandhi-Irwin Pact
1931	Civil Disobedience
1939	Beginning of Second World War
1942-45	Quit India Movement
1943-44	Subhash Chandra Bose took over Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army); Bengal famine also occurred during this period.
1947	Independence of India
1948	Mahatma Gandhi assassinated
26 November 1949	Indian Constitution was adopted (Observed as National Law Day)
26 January 1950	India Became Republic

Important Battles in the Indian History**B.C.**

326 Alexander defeated Porus in the Battle of Hydaspas.

261 Ashoka defeated Kalinga in the Kalinga War.

A.D.

712 Invasion of Sind by Mohd.-bin-Qasim.

1191 First Battle of Tarain in which Prithviraj Chauhan defeated Mohd. Ghori.

1192 Second Battle of Tarain in which Mohd. Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan.

1194 Battle of Chhandwar in which Mohd. Ghori defeated Jaichandra of Kannauj.

1526 First Battle of Panipat in which Babar defeated Ibrahim Lodhi.

1527 Battle of Khanua in which Babar defeated Rana Sanga.

1529 Battle of Ghaghara in which Babar defeated the Afghans.

1539 Battle of Chausa in which Sher Shah Suri defeated Humayun.

1540 Battle of Kannauj (or Bilgram) in which Sher Shah Suri defeated Humayun and forced him to flee.

1556 Second Battle of Panipat in which Bairam Khan (representing Akbar) defeated Hemu.

1565 Battle of Talikota (or Banihatti) in which an alliance of Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Golkonda and Bidar defeated the Vijaynagar empire (represented by Sadasiva).

1576 Battle of Haldighati in which Akbar defeated Maharana Pratap.

1615 Mewar submitted to the Mughals. A treaty of peace was signed between Jahangir and Rana Amar Singh of Mewar.

1649 Kandahar was lost to Persia forever by the Mughals.

1658 Battle of Dharmatt and Samugarh in which Aurangzeb defeated Dora Shikoh.

1665 Raja Jai Singh defeated Shivaji and the Treaty of Purandar signed.

1708 Battle of Khed in which Shahu defeated Tara Bai.

1737 Battle of Bhopal in which Baji Rao defeated Mohd. Shah.

1739 Battle of Karnal in which Nadir Shah defeated Mohd. Shah.

1757 Battle of Plassey in which the English forces (under Robert Clive) defeated Siraj-ud-daula, the Nawab of Bengal.

1760 Battle of Wandiwash in which the English forces defeated the French forces.

1761 Third Battle of Panipat in which Ahmed Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas.

1764 Battle of Buxar in which the English under Munro defeated the alliance of Nawab Mir Qasim of Bengal, Nawab Shuja-ud-daula of Awadh and Mughal emperor Shah Alam.

1767-69 First Anglo Mysore War in which Hyder Ali defeated the English forces.

1770 Battle of Udgir in which the Marathas defeated the Nizam.

1766-69 First Anglo Maratha War in which the British were defeated.

1780-84 Second Anglo Mysore War. Hyder Ali died during the battle (1782) and the field was taken by his son Tipu Sultan. The war concluded with the Treaty of Mangalore (1784).

1789-92 Third Anglo Mysore War in which Tipu Sultan was defeated. The Treaty of Serirangapatnam followed.

1799 Fourth Anglo Mysore War in which Tipu was defeated and killed.

1803-06 Second Anglo Maratha War in which the British defeated the Marathas.

1817-19 Third Anglo Maratha War in which the British defeated the Marathas badly.

List of important Presidents of Indian National Congress

Session No.	Year	Place	President
1	1885	Bombay	W.C. Bonnerjee
2	1886	Calcutta	Dadabhai Naoroji
3	1887	Madras	Badruddin Tyabji
4	1888	Allahabad	George Yule (First European, Congress president)
5	1889	Bombay	Sir William Wedderburn
6	1890	Calcutta	Sir Phirozshah Mehta
9	1893	Lahore	Dadabhai Naoroji
21	1905	Banaras	G K Gokhale
22	1906	Calcutta	Dadabhai Naoroji
23	1907	Surat	Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh
33	1917	Calcutta	Mrs. Annie Besant (First Women President of Congress)
35	1918	Delhi (Annual Session)	M. M. Malaviya
36	1919	Amritsar	Motilal Nehru
40	1923	Special Session	Lala Lajpat Rai
42	1924	Belgaum	M K Gandhi
43	1925	Kanpur	Mrs. Sarojini Naidu
47	1929	Lahore	Jawaharlal Nehru
56	1938	Haripura	S.C. Bose
57	1939	Tripuri	S.C. Bose

Important Newspaper brought out by National leaders

1	Bengal Gazette	1780, In Calcutta, started by James Augustus Hickey. It was the first newspaper of India
2	Aharatta and Kesari	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
3	New India and Common Wheel	Annie Besant
4	Harijan, Young India	Mahatma Gandhi
5	Al Hilal	Maulana Azad

Important visitors to India and the Kings whose courts they visited

	Visitor	King
1	Megasthenes (greek)	Chandragupta Maurya
2	Fahien (Chinese)	Chandragupta II
3	Huen Tsang (Chinese)	Harshavardhan
4	Al-Beruni	He accompanied Mehmood of Gazni, when the latter invaded India. Al-Beruni has written an important book on India viz. Tariq-i-Hind , also known as Kitab-i-Hind .
5	Ibn Batuta	Muhammed bin Tuglak
6	Amir Khusro	Balban, Allaudin Khilzi, Muhammed bin Tuglak
7	Sir Thomas Roe	Jahangir
8	Abul Fazal ibn Mubarak	Akbar (His famous books are The Akbar Nama Ain-i-Akbari)

India after Independence

Lord Mountbatten became the first Governor - General of free India. Sir C. Rajagopalachari became the first and the only Indian Governor-General of India in 1948. Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru took over as the first Prime Minister in 1950. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel single-handedly dealt with the accession of all princely states. All states were merged into neighbouring provinces. The state of Kashmir, Hyderabad and Mysore merged later on. Mahatma Gandhi undertook a fast for the sake of Muslim rights. On 30 January 1948, he was assassinated by Nathuram Vinayak Godse at the Birla House prayer meeting in Delhi.

On 13 September 1948, the Indian Army marched into Hyderabad after the violent actions of the Razakars, and the state was acceded to the Indian union. On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly passed the new Constitution of India. On the morning of 26 January 1950, India was proclaimed a republic and Dr Rajendra Prasad took over as the first President, Dr S. Radhakrishnan as the Vice-President and Pt Jawaharlal Nehru as the first Prime Minister of India.

During this period India has fought a number of wars with its neighbours

1948 - Pakistan attacked India and occupied large part of Kashmir.

1962 - China attacked India in retaliation to India's support to Tibet. China forcefully occupied large part of India stretching from parts of Ladakh and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

1965 - Pakistan again attacked India heightened dispute over Kashmir. India defeated Pakistan comprehensively.

1971 - Bangladesh war. The two countries fought against one another and East Pakistan broke away and emerged as independent Bangladesh.

In addition to the wars mentioned above, there were a couple of incidents brought India close to having war with its neighbours. Operation in Kargil was one of them.

Important National Days

National Day

National Day	Date and Month	Remarks
Independence Day	15 August	India achieved Independence on this day in 1947
Republic Day	26 January	India became a Republic on this day in 1950
Martyr's Day	30 January	Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on this day in 1948
Teachers' Day	5 September	Birthday of Dr S. Radhakrishnan, first Vice – President of India
Children's Day	14 November	Birthday of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru
Gandhi Jayanti	2 October	Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi

Other Important Days

Day	Date & Month
National Maritime Day	5th April
Quit India Day	9th August
National Rededication Day	31st October
National Integration Day	9th November
National Law Day	26th of November
Flag Day	7th December

Record Makers (India)

Women

1. First woman Prime Minister	Mrs Indira Gandhi
2. First woman Chief Minister of a State	Mrs Sucheta Kripalani
3. First woman Minister	Mrs Vijayalakshmi Pandit
4. First woman Central Minister	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
5. First woman Speaker of Lok Sabha	Mrs Meira Kumar
6. First woman Governor of a State	Mrs Sarojini Naidu
7. First Indian woman President of Indian National Congress	Annie Besant
8. First Indian woman President of UN General Assembly	Mrs Vijayalakshmi Pandit
9. First Muslim woman to sit on the throne of Delhi	Razia Sultana
10. First woman to swim across the English Channel	Miss Arti Saha (now Mrs Arti Gupta)
11. First woman to climb Mount Everest	Bachhendri Pal
12. First woman to circumnavigate (sail round the world)	Ujwala Rai
13. First woman IAS Officer	Anna George Malhotra
14. First woman IPS Officer	Kiran Bedi
15. First woman Advocate	Corknelia Sorabji
16. First woman Judge	Annna Chandi
17. First woman Judge of a High Court	Annna Chandi
18. First woman Judge of Supreme Court	M. Fathima Bibi
19. First woman Chief Justice of a High Court	Leila Seth
20. First woman Doctor	Kadambini Ganguli
21. First woman to pass MA	Chandra Mukhi Bose
22. First woman editor of English newspaper	Dina Vakil
23. First woman Chief Engineer	P.K.Thresia
24. First woman to receive a Sena Medal	Constable Bimla Devi (88 BN of CRPF)-1990
25. Youngest woman to climb Mount Everest	Dicky Dolma (19) from Manali - 1993
26. First woman to climb mount Everest two times	Santosh Yadav (ITBP Officer) - 1993
27. First Lady Magistrate	Omana Kunjamma
28. First woman to win Nobel Prize	Mother Teresa
29. First to be crowned Miss India	Pramita (Ester victoria Abraham) - 1947
30. First to be crowned Miss Universe	Sushmita Sen
31. First to be crowned Miss World	Reita Faria (1966)
32. First woman President	Pratibha Devi Singh Patil
33. The first woman Speaker of a State Assembly	Shano Devi (Punjab)

Man

1. First Indian to swim across the English Channel	Mihir Sen
2. First to Climb Mount Everest	Tenzing Norgay
3. First to Climb Mount Everest without Oxygen	Phu Dorjee
4. First Indian to join I.C.S.(ICS now is IAS)	Satyendra Nath Tagore
5. First Indian to get Nobel Prize	Rabindranath Tagore
6. First Indian in Space (first Indian cosmonaut)	Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma
7. First British Governor general	Warren Hastings
8. First Governor General of Free India	Lord Mountbatten
9. First Viceroy of India	Lord Canning
10. Last Governor General of Free India	C. Rajagopalachari
11. First President of India	Dr Rajendra Prasad
12. First Vice-President of India	Dr S . Radhakrishnan
13. First Muslim President of India	Dr Zakir Hussain
14. First Sikh President of India	Giani Zail Singh
15. First Prime Minister	Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru
16. First Speaker of Lok Sabha	G.V.Mavlankar
17. First Chief Justice of India	Justice H.L.Kania
18. First President of Indian National Congress	W.C.Bonnerjee
19. First Indian to become member of Viceroy's Executive Council	Lord S.P.Sinha
20. First Indian to become President of International Court of Justice	Dr Nagendra Singh
21. First Emperor of Mughal Dynasty	Babur
22. First Field Marshal	S.H.F.J.Manekshaw
23. First Indian Commander-in-Chief of India (now Field Marshal)	Gen. K.M.Cariappa
24. First Chief of the Army Staff (Indian)	Gen . Maharaja Rajendra Sinhji
25. First Chief of the Naval Staff (Indian)	Vice-Admiral R.D.Katari
26. First Chief of the Air Force Staff (Indian)	Subroto Mukherjee
27. First Indian in British Parliament	Dadabhai Naoroji
28. First Indian recipient of Victoria Cross (highest gallantry award before independence)	Khudada Khan
29. First Indian to circumnavigate the globe	Lt Col K.S.Rao
30. First Indian to reach the South Pole	Col J.K.Bajaj (1989)
31. First Indian High Court Judge	Justice Syed Mehamood (1878)
32. First Indian to make a solo air flight	J.R.D. Tata
33. First Indian to visit England	Raja Rammohun Roy (1878)
34. First Indian Member of House of Lords (British)	Lord S.P.Sinha
35. First Bar-at-Law	J.M.Tagore
36. First Chairman of Rajya Sabha	Dr S. Radhakrishnan (1952 - 62)
37. First Air Marshal	Arjan Singh
38. First Judge to face impeachment in the Lok Sabha	Justice V.Ramaswami (1993)