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INDIAN HISTROY

Medieval India

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Medieval in India:

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

Important Dynasties:

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.

The **Khilji dynasty** was founded by Jalal-ud-din Khilji and its period ranges from AD 1290-1320. Alaud -din Khilji was one of the most prominent rulers of this dynasty.

The **Tughlak dynasty** was founded by Ghiasuddin Tughlak and the period ranges from AD 1320-1414. Ibn Batuta was an important African traveler who visited India in 1333.

The **Lodhi dynasty** was founded by Bahlol Lodhi and the period of this dynasty ranges 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:

- Despotic and military type of government which did not have the confidence of the people
- Degeneration of the Delhi Sultan
- The Sultanate became too vast and could not be controlled effectively.
- Financial instability
- 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, Gujarat in the west. Malwa and banner in the south; and Orissa 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.

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 a 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-Babriin 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 communication by building several highways. He built the grand trunk road, that runs from Peshwar to Calcutta. He also introduced military reforms; he recruited and paid the soldiers directly and every soldier had his share recorded and his horse branded with the imperial sign.

Akbar (1556-1605): the Eldest son of Humayun. He ascended the throne at the young age 13 on 14 February 1556 and his tutor Bairam Khan was appointed as the regent. The most successful Mughal emperors. 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 Mirra-un-Nisa, widow of Sher Afgan, 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 name 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 Jehangir resisted, he later on granting 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 in Delhi under the title Alamgir. He ruled for 50 years till his death in February, 1707 in Ahmednagar.

The 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 of 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, he was not entirely successful in thwarting the enemies. Aurangzeb never returned to the north and died in Ahmednagar in February, 1707.

Sikh Revolt: Aurangzeb captured Guru Teg Bahadur, the 9th Guru of Sikhs in 1675 executed him when he refused to embrace Islam. Guru Gobind Sing, 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 was 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:

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

Third Battle of Panipat: The third battle of Panipat fought between Ahmad Shah Abdali and Marathas, ended Maratha Power.

India Under British Rule:

In 1498, a Portuguese sailor Vasco DA Gama discovered the sea route of 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 Event related to Modern Indian History:

- First war of Independence: 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.
- Government of India Act, 1858: This proclaimed the direct governance of the British crown over India.
- 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.
- Partition of Bengal: It takes place in 1905.

(B). Other significant events related to the Indian freedom movement:

Year	Important Events happening in that year
1885	Formation of Congress by A. O. Hume
1905	Partition of Bengal, Launching of Swadeshi movement
1906	Formation of Muslim League by Nawab Saimullah of Dacca
1907	Surat Session of Congress, where congress got split into moderates and extremists
1909	Morley-Minto Reforms, in which separate electorates for Hinds and Muslim was introduced for the first time
1911	The capital shifted from Calcutta to New Delhi
1916	Lucknow session of congress, where the famous Lucknow pact was signed between congress and Muslim league. Formation of Home rule league by Annie Beasant.
1917	Champaran Satyagraha 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-Chelmsford reforms.
1920	Khilafat Movement against British by Shaukat and Muhammad Ali. Launching of non cooperation movement by Mahatma Gandhi.
1922	Chauri Chaura, incident in UP and withdrawal of NCM by Gandhi, formation of Swaraj party by Motilal Nehru, C.R Das and N.C Kelkar.
1927	Simon commission of 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. First round table conference in London
1935	Government of India Act
1937	Formation of Congress Ministries in provinces
1939	Outbreak of World War II, resignation of congress ministries

1942	Quit India movement, Wavell plan and Shimla conference. Maulana Abdul 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 Rajandera Prasad (Muslim League did not participate)
1947	Mountbatten Plan (June 3 Plan) and Partition of India

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

Name	An event associated with
Lord Dalhousie (1848-1856)	Mainly known for the Doctrine of Lapse, responsible for an annexing number of states on the basis of their philosophy. The first train from Bombay to Thane started during his reign in 1853.
Lord Cornwallis (1786-1793)	Credited with the new revenue system under the permanent settlement of Bengal. Introduce of Civil services.
Lord Canning	The revolts 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 independent India

(D). 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 Mahmud Ghazni
AD 1236	Accession of only women ruler of India, Razia Sultan, 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 Babur and Ibrahim Lodi, Babur won and established Mughal empire
1540	Battle of Kanauj
1556	Second Battle of Panipat (Between Akbar and Hemu)
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, British rule established through Lord Clive
1761	Shah Alam II became Indian emperor and third Battle of Panipat took place
1764	Battle of Buxar between Mir Qasim & East India Company
1784	Pitt's India Act
1793	Permanent Settlement in Bengal
1829	Prohibition of Sati Practice
1853	The first railway line became operational between Bombay and Thane
1857	First War of Independence of Mutiny of Sepoys
1885	Foundation of Indian National Congress
1905	First partition of Bengal under Lord Curzon
1914	Beginning of the 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	Subhas 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 Law Day)

26 1950	January	India became a republic
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(E) List of important Presidents of Indian National Congress:

Session No.	Year	Place	President
1	1885	Bombay	W.C.Banrjee
2	1886	Calcutta	Dada Bhai Naoroji
3	1887	Madras	Badruddin Tybaji
4	1888	Allahabad	George Yule
5	1889	Bombay	Sir William Wedderburn
6	1890	Calcutta	Sir Phirozshah Mehta
9	1893	Lahore	Dada Bhai Naoroji
21	1905	Banaras	G K Gokhale
22	1906	Calcutta	Dada Bhai Naoroji
23	1907	Surat	Dr.Rash Behari Ghosh
33	1917	Calcutta	Mrs.Annie Besant
35	1918	Delhi	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. Sarjoni Naidu
47	1929	Lahore	Jawaharlal Nehru
56	1938	Haripura	S. C. Bose
57	1939	Tripura	S. C. Bose

(F). 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 Hilla	Maulana Azad

(G). Important Visitors to India and the Kings, whose courts they visited:

Visitor	Name of King
1. Megasthenes	Chandragupta Maurya
2. Fahien (Chinies)	Chandragupta II
3. Huen Tsang (Chinies)	Harshvardhan
4. Al-Beruni	He accompanied Mehmood of Gazni, when the latter invaded India. Al-Beruni has written an important book on India viz. Tariq-Hind. also known as Kitab-i-Hindi
5. Ibn Batuta	Muhammed bin Tuglak
6. Amir Khusro	Balban, Allaudin khilzi, Muhammed bin Tuglak
7. Sir Thomas	Jahangir

India After independence:

Lord Mountbatten, the first Governor –General of free India. Sir C. Rajagopalachari became the first and the only India 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 accession of all princely states. All states were merged into neighboring 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 September 1948, the Indian Army marched in Hyderabad after the violent actions of the Razas 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 neighbors:

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

1962- China attacked India in retaliation to India support to Tibet. China forcefully occupied a 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 independence Bangladesh.



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