

## Chapter 12 India After Independence

### Question 1.

Name three problems that the newly independent nation of India faced. The Problem of the rehabilitation of given below

Answer:

- The three problems that the newly 8 million refugees who had come into the country from newly born Pakistan.
- The problem of the princely states. There were almost 500 princely states, each ruled by a Maharaja or a Nawab, and each of them had to be persuaded to join the new nation,
- The new nation had to adopt a political system that would best serve the hopes and aspirations of the people.

### Question 2.

What was the role of the Planning Commission?

Answer:

Role of Planning Commission

1. Lifting India and Indians out of poverty, and building a modern technical and industrial base were among the major objectives of the new commission.
2. A broad agreement was reached on “mixed economy” model.
3. In mixed economy, both the State and the private sector would play important and complementary roles in increasing production and generating jobs.
4. These roles were:
  - Which industries should be initiated by the state.
  - Which industries by the market.
  - How to achieve a balance between the different regions and states.
5. Roles of state and private sectors were to be defined by the Planning Commission.
6. To make 5-year plans.

### Question 3.

Fill in the blanks.

1. Subjects that were placed on the Union List were ....., ....., and .....
2. Subjects on the Concurrent List were ..... and .....
3. Economic planning by which both the state and the private sector played a role in development was called a ..... model.
4. The death of ..... sparked off such violent protests that the government was forced to give in to the demand for the linguistic state of Andhra.

Answer:

1. Taxes, defense, foreign affairs
2. Forests, agriculture
3. ‘mixed economy’
4. Potti Sriramulu

### Question 4.

State whether true or false:

1. At independence, the majority of Indians lived in villages.
2. The Constituent Assembly was made up of members of the Congress Party.
3. In the first national election, only men were allowed to vote.
4. The Second Five Year Plan focused on the development of the heavy industry.

Answer:

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True

Question 5.

What did Dr. Ambedkar mean when he said that "In politics we will have equality, and in social and economic life we will have inequality"?

Answer.

By the statement, he meant that in political life UAF would give equality. We have one person one vote policy. But this would not automatically remove inequality between castes, rich or poor. In our social and economic life the principle of one man one value will still be denied.

Question 6.

After Independence, why was there a reluctance to divide the country on linguistic lines?

Answer.

- Way back in the 1920s, the Indian National Congress, in the beginning, had promised that after independence, each major linguistic group would have its own province.
- After independence, the Congress did not take any steps to honour this promise.
- India had been divided on the basis of religion: despite the wishes and efforts of Mahatma Gandhi, freedom had come not to one nation but to two.
- As a result of the partition of India, more than ten lakh people had been killed in riots between Hindus and Muslims.
- The country could not afford further divisions on the basis of language.
- Both Prime Minister Nehru and Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Patel were against the creation of states on the basis of languages.

Question 7.

Give one reason why English continued to be used in India after Independence.

Answer.

English continued to be used in India after Independence because south Indian states expressed strong opposition to Hindi.

Question 8.

How was the economic development of India visualised in the early decades after Independence?

Answer.

In 1950, the government set up a Planning Commission to help design and execute suitable policies for economic development. There was a broad agreement on the "mixed economy" model. Here, both the state and the private sector would play important and complementary roles in increasing production and generating jobs. Now, it was on the Planning Commission to define which industries should be initiated by the state and which by the market and how to achieve a balance between the different regions and states.

In 1956, the Second Five Year Plan was formulated which focused on the development of heavy industries such as steel, and on the building of large dams. These sectors would be under the control of the state. This focus on heavy industry and the effort at state regulation of the economy was to guide economic policy for the next few decades.

Question 9.

Who was Mira Behn? Find out more about her life and her ideas.

Answer.

Mira Behn was actually Madeline's shade, daughter of a British admiral. Mira Behn wrote in 1949, "by science and machinery the mankind may get huge returns for a time, but ultimately will come desolation. We have got to study Nature's balance, and develop our lives within her laws if we are to survive as a physically healthy and morally decent species." She worked with Mahatma Gandhi.

Question 10.

Find out more about the language divisions in Pakistan that led to the creation of the new nation of Bangladesh. How did Bangladesh achieve independence from Pakistan?

Answer.

After the division of India in 1947 into India and Pakistan (West and East), the Urdu speaking rulers of West Pakistan kept torturing the Bengali speaking population of East Pakistan. A time came when the East Pakistani population rose in revolt against West Pakistan. The government committed atrocities on the Bengalis and thousands of them came to India as refugees. The Bengali population formed Mukti Vahini under the leadership of Muziburr Rehman. India helped him and got the West PAKISTANI army surrendered. As a result, Bangladesh came into being on 16th December 1971.

## **Class 8 History Chapter 12 India After Independence Exercise Questions**

Question 1.

Choose the correct option.

(i) Which one is not a feature of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) It adopted the universal adult franchise
- (b) It gave politicians special powers
- (c) It provided equality before the law to all citizens
- (d) It offered special privileges for the poorest and most disadvantaged Indians

(ii) Which one is the subject of the State List?

- (a) Education
- (b) Defence
- (c) Forests
- (d) Agriculture

(iii) Who is called the father of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) Vallabhbhai Patel
- (d) Bhimrao Ambedkar

(iv) The bilingual state of Bombay was divided into separate states for

- (a) Marathi and Telugu speakers
- (b) Marathi and Malayalam speakers

- (c) Marathi and Gujarati speakers
- (d) Bengali and Gujarati speakers

(v) Who was the Deputy Prime Minister of Independent India?

- (a) Motilal Nehru
- (b) Bhim Rao Ambedkar
- (c) Vallabhbhai Patel
- (d) MaulanaAzad

Answer.

(i) (b), (ii) (a), (iii) (d), (iv) (d), (v) (c).

Question 2.

Fill in the blanks with appropriate words to complete each sentence.

1. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was also the ..... minister of newly independent India.
2. The Bhilai steel plant was set up with the help of the former ..... in 1959.
3. In 1966, the state of Punjab was divided into ..... and .....
4. India's population in 1947 was almost ..... million.
5. Soon after Independence, India chose to grant ..... right to all its citizens regardless of gender, class or education.

Answer.

1. Foreign
2. Uncivilised, civilised
3. Punjab, Haryana
4. 345
5. Voting

Question 3.

State whether each of the following statements is True or False.

1. The Adivasis or the Scheduled Tribes were not granted reservation in seats and jobs.
2. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar belonged to a Marathi-speaking Dalit family.
3. Bridges and dams became the symbol of development in free India.
4. Dharavi in Gujarat is one of the world's largest slums.
5. Nehru and Patel wanted to divide the country on the basis of language.

Answer.

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. False

Question 4.

Match the items given in Column A correctly with those given in Column B.

### **Column A**

(i) *Gandhi Sagar Dam*

(ii) *Bhilai Steel Plant*

(iii) *Krishna Menon*

(iv) *Mira Behn*

(v) *Potti Sriramulu*

### **Column B**

(a) *Chhattisgarh*

(b) *Gandhi's follower*

(c) *Madhya Pradesh*

(d) *Andhra Pradesh*

(e) *Led the Indian delegation to the UN between 1952 and 1962*

Answer.

(i) (c), (ii) (a), (iii) (e), (iv) (b), (v) (d).

### **Very Short Answer Type Questions**

Question 1.

When was the Indian Constitution adopted?

Answer.

The Indian Constitution was adopted on 26 January 1950.

Question 2.

Which step has been described as revolutionary?

Answer.

All Indians above the age of 21 would be allowed to vote in state and national elections.

Question 3.

On what point did Nathuram Godse disagree with Gandhiji?

Answer.

Nathuram Godse disagreed with Gandhiji's conviction that Hindus and Muslims should live together in harmony.

Question 4.

Name two subjects of the State List.

Answer.

Education and health.

Question 5.

Name two subjects of the Concurrent List.

Answer.

Forests and agriculture.

Question 6.

Who was Potti Sriramulu?

Answer.

He was a veteran Gandhian who went on a hunger strike demanding the formation of Andhra state to protect the interests of Telugu speakers.

Question 7.

When did the new state of Andhra Pradesh come into existence?

Answer.

The new state of Andhra Pradesh came into existence on 1 October 1953.

Question 8.

What were the points of focus of the Second Five Year Plan?

Answer.

Development of heavy industries.

The building of large dams.

Question 9.

How was the Bhilai Steel Plant viewed?

Answer.

The Bhilai Steel Plant was viewed as an important sign of the development of modern India after Independence.

Question 10.

What was the basic objective of the foreign policy of Independent India?

Answer.

The basic objective of the foreign policy of Independent India was non-alignment, i.e. the American and Soviet alliances.

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

Question 1.

What created problems in unifying the people of India after it got independence?

Answer.

The points that created problems were:

1. At the time of independence, India's population was large. It was divided too. There were divisions between high castes and low castes, between the majority Hindu community and Indians who practised other faiths.
2. The citizen of this country spoke different languages, wore different kinds of dresses, ate different kinds of foods, and practiced different professions.

Question 2.

What was the label of development of India at the time it got independence?

Answer.

At the time India got independence the label of its development was very low. A vast majority of Indians lived in the villages. Farmers and peasants depended on the monsoon for their survival. So did the non-farm sector of the rural economy, for if the crops failed, barbers, carpenters, weavers, and other service groups would not get paid for their services either. In the cities too the condition was not good. Factory workers usually lived in crowded slums. They had little access to education and health care.

Question 3.

What special privileges were offered for the poorest and most disadvantaged Indians by the

constitution?

Answer.

First of all the practice of untouchability was abolished. Hindu temples were thrown open to all including the former untouchables.

- A certain percentage of seats in legislatures as well as jobs in government were reserved for members of the lowest castes.
- Along with the former untouchables, the Adivasis also known as the Scheduled Tribes were also granted reservations in seats and jobs. They too had been deprived and discriminated against like the Scheduled Castes.

Question 4.

How have powers and functions of the Central and State Governments been divided by the Constitution?

Answer.

The Indian Constitution gives the division of power in the form of three lists, known as Union List, State List, and Concurrent List. The Union List includes subjects such as taxes, defense, and foreign affairs. On these subjects, the central government makes the laws. The State List includes subjects such as education and health. It is the exclusive responsibility of the state government to take care of these subjects. In the last comes the Concurrent List which contains subjects such as forests and agriculture. On these subjects, the Centre and the States have joint responsibility.

Question 5.

Under what circumstances a compromise was made with respect to language?

Answer.

Several members of the Constituent Assembly believed that the English language should be driven out of India with the British rule. They were of the opinion that Hindi should take place in the English language. However, those who did not speak Hindi were of a different opinions. T.T. Krishnamachari on behalf of the people of the south strongly opposed Hindi. Some threatened to separate from India if Hindi was imposed on them. Finally, a compromise was made. It was decided that while Hindi would be the 'official language' of India, English would be used in the courts, the services, and communications between one state and another.

Question 6.

Under what circumstances did the new state of Andhra Pradesh come into being?

Answer.

The decision of the Congress leaders not to divide the country on linguistic lines disappointed the Kannada speakers, Malayalam speakers, and the Marathi speakers. They had all looked forward to having their own state. The Telugu-speaking districts of what was the Madras Presidency raised the strongest protests. In October 1952, a veteran Gandhian named Potti Sriramulu went on a hunger fast demanding the formation of Andhra state to protect the interests of Telugu-speakers. The fast went on and with it hartals and bandhs began to be observed. Meanwhile, Potti Sriramulu died. This incidence intensified the situation. The protests now became widespread and intense. This forced the Central Government to give in to demand. On 1 October 1953, the new state of Andhra Pradesh came into being.

### Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1.

Give detailed descriptions of the features of the Indian Constitution.

Answer.

We have a written Constitution which was adopted on 26 January 1950.

Features:

(a) One feature of the Indian Constitution was that it adopted a universal adult franchise. All Indians above the age of 21 (now 18) would be allowed to vote in state and national elections.

(b) Our Constitution guaranteed equality before the law to all citizens, regardless of their caste or religious affiliation.

(c) The Constitution offered special privileges for the poorest and most disadvantaged Indians. The evil practice of untouchability was abolished. Hindu temples were thrown open to all, including the former untouchables. After a long debate, the Constituent Assembly also recommended that a certain percentage of seats in legislatures as well as jobs in government be reserved for members of the lowest castes, including the Adivasis.

(d) Our Constitution clearly defined the powers and functions of the central and the state governments. It gave division of power in the form of three lists - a Union List with subjects such as taxes, defense, and foreign affairs, which would be the exclusive responsibility of the Centre, a State List of subjects such as education and health, which would be taken care of mainly by the States, a Concurrent List under which would come subjects such as forests and agriculture in which the Centre and the States would have joint responsibility.

Question 2.

Write in brief the process of state formation.

Answer.

The Congress leaders were in no mood to further divide the country into linguistic lines. This created great disappointment among the Kannada speakers, Malayalam speakers, and the Marathi speakers, and the Telugu speakers, because they had all looked forward to having their own state. The Telugu speakers, however, showed the strongest protests. Their leader Potti Sriramulu went on a hunger fast demanding the formation of Andhra state to protect the interests of Telugu speakers. As the fast went on, it attracted much Hartals and bandhs began to be observed. Meanwhile, Potti Sriramulu died. This incidence intensified the situation. The protests took intense form. This forced the Central Government to give in to the demand and the new state of Andhra Pradesh came into existence on 1 October 1953.

After the formation of Andhra Pradesh, other linguistic communities also demanded their own separate states. Hence, a State Reorganisation Commission was set up, which submitted its report in 1956. It recommended the redrawing of the district and provincial boundaries to form compact provinces of Assamese, Bengali, Oriya, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Telugu speakers respectively. The large Hindi-speaking region of north India was broken up into several states. Then in 1960, the bilingual state of Bombay was divided into separate states for Marathi and Gujarati speakers. In the year 1960, the state of Punjab was also divided into Punjab and Haryana, Punjab for the Punjabi speakers, and Haryana for the rest who spoke Haryanvi or Hindi.

Question 3.

Give an account of the successes and failures of the country during the sixty-two years of its independence.

Answer.

Sixty-two years of independence have passed. This duration covers a long journey. A lot has been achieved during this time. But at the same time, there have been a number of failures.



## Successes :

1. India is still united and it is still democratic. These achievements definitely make us proud. Many foreign observers had felt that India could not survive as a single country. Others believed that it would come under military rule. Neither of these predictions proved to be true. As many as thirteen general elections have been held since independence, as well as hundreds of state and local elections.
2. There is a free press and an independent judiciary.
3. The fact that people speak different languages or practice different faiths has not come in the way of national unity.

## Failures:

1. Deep divisions are still there. Despite constitutional guarantees, people belonging to the lowest castes, such as Dalits face violence and discrimination. In many parts of rural India, they are not allowed access to water sources, temples, parks, and other public places.
2. The gulf between the rich and the poor has grown over the years. Some groups of people avail all facilities while many others continue to live below the poverty line.
3. Our Constitution provides equality before the law but in real life, this does not happen. Some Indians are more equal than others.