CONTENTS

India after Independence
(1961 CE to 2000 CE)

Till now we have studied the history of ancient, medieval and modern India. This year we have to study the history of India in the post-independence era. Sources of modern history are different from those of ancient and medieval history. We can study history with the help of various sources like written sources, material sources, oral sources and sources in the audio-visual medium. In the modern period, we have to take note of various sources at the regional, state, national as well as international level. We can write history with the help of these sources.

Written Sources : The following sources are included in the written sources.

Newspapers
Periodicals
Encyclopedias
Diaries
Postage Stamps
Written Sources
Reference books
Government Gazettes
Correspondence
Documents in the Archives
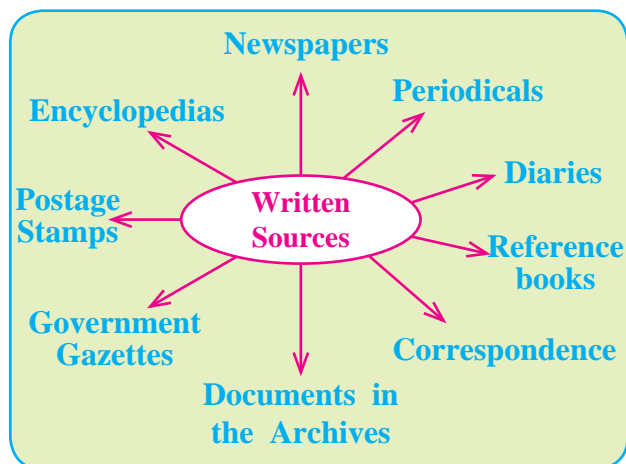
Do you know?

The place where historical documents are preserved is called 'Archives'. The main office of the National Archives of India is at New Delhi. It is the largest among the Archives in Asia.

Just as newspapers are considered the fourth pillar of democracy in the modern period, they are also a major medium of information. If we consider the period from 1961 to 2000, we see that in the beginning, there was no alternative to the print media, especially newspapers. With liberalisation and widespread use of internet in India, an alternative for print media became available. Yet, the print media still continue to be powerful.

Newspapers : Through newspapers, we can get information about national and international affairs, politics, art, sports, literature and social and cultural affairs. Newspapers contain matters related to human life. Most national newspapers have started their regional editions. They publish supplements that give information about various topics. Newsletters of various movements, the dailies or weeklies of political parties, monthly and annual magazines are important among the print media.

Some newspapers produce special supplements towards the end of the year that take an overview of the important events of the year. Such supplements help us understand the important events of the year.

Press Trust of India (PTI) : After 1953, the Press Trust of India has been an important source of primary details of all important events and of articles on important subjects. Press Trust of India has provided reports, photographs and articles on financial and scientific issues to newspapers. PTI has now started its online service. During the 1990s, PTI started using the 'satellite broadcast' technology instead of tele-printers to send news all over the country. This material is important for writing the history of modern India.

Postage Stamps : The postage stamps don't reveal anything on their own. Yet a historian makes them speak. There have been several changes in postage stamps since India became independent. Postage stamps reveal a lot to us about changing times due to the variety in the sizes of the stamps, the novelty in their subjects and colour schemes.

The Postal Department issues postage stamps on a wide variety of themes like political leaders, flowers, animals, birds, an event, or the silver, golden, diamond jubilees or centenary, bicentenary,

tercentenary of different events. It is therefore a valuable repository of history.

Material Sources : The following sources are included among the physical sources.

Coins	Places of worship	Things in daily use	Royal Seals
↑	↑	↑	↑
Material sources			
↓	↓	↓	↓
Ornaments	Museums	Clothing	Modern architecture
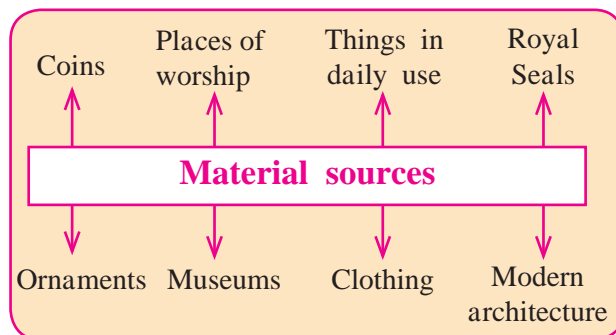
Coins : We can also understand history with the help of coins and the changes in the printing of currency notes. Reserve Bank of India prints the notes. It has its headquarters in Mumbai.

Coins

The coins from 1950 to those used at present, the metals used for making them, their different shapes, the diversity of subjects on them together help us to understand the important contemporary issues in India eg., coins to convey the message of population control and coins communicating the importance of agriculture and of farmers.

Museums : All States of India have museums that depict the characteristics and display the cultural and social heritage of the State. They enable us to understand history (eg., the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum at Mumbai, Reserve Bank Museum in Pune city). Apart from the Government Museums, some private collectors also set up their own museums. They are based on distinctive subjects. eg., coins, notes, lamps and nutcrackers in different shapes, cricket equipment, etc.

Oral sources : These sources include folktales, folksongs, proverbs, ballads and *owis* (Marathi verses in the oral tradition). Activists were inspired by the *powadas* of Lokshahir Anna Bhau Sathe and Shahir Amar Sheikh during the Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement.

Try this.

As an example of how some event gets reflected in literature and how a poet perceives that event, study the poem 'Aavahan' written on the backdrop of the Sino-Indian war by the noted Marathi poet Kusumagraj.

Find pieces of literature based on contemporary events.

Audio-visual sources : Television, films, internet are called 'Audio-visual media'. Many domestic and foreign television channels also come under this head, eg., History channel, Discovery channel, etc.

Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) : The Government of India started the Film and Television Institute of India at Pune in 1960 with the purpose of providing public education. An institute called Indian News Review has produced various newsreels on important events in politics, social issues, art, sports and culture. This Department has also produced various documentaries on prominent social leaders, on people who have made major contributions for the country and about important locations in India. These news releases and documentaries are useful for studying the history of modern India.

FTII Logo

Till now we have seen some important sources for writing the history of modern India. The times in the 21st century are changing so rapidly, that even these sources will prove to be inadequate. However, new sources are coming forth. For example, during the transformation from land line telephone to cellphones, a gadget called 'pager' came up for contacting people. But it died out as quickly as it had come up. The huge amount of information available on the Internet is used for studying history, but the truth and authenticity of this information needs to be verified.

Now it has become comparatively easy to study history with the all these sources. As these sources are from the contemporary period, they are easily available. Since a subject like history touches all the aspects of our lives, efforts for preservation of such sources are made at all levels. We should also contribute to this effort.

Exercises

1. **(A) Choose the right option and rewrite the sentence.**
   (1) The National Archives of India is situated at……….
   (a) Pune   (b) New Delhi
   (c) Kolkata   (d) Hyderabad
   (2) The …………… is included among the Audio-Visual media.
   (a) Newspaper   (b) Television
   (c) All India Radio (d) Periodicals
   (3) ………. is not included in physical sources.
   (a) Coins   (b) Ornaments
   (c) Buildings   (d) Proverbs

   (B) Identify the wrong pair and rewrite the corrected one.

Person	Specialty
Jal Cooper	- Philatelist
Kusumagraj	- Poet
Anna Bhau Sathe	- A people's bard
Amar Shaikh	- Art collector

2. **Write short notes.**
   (1) Written Sources
   (2) Press Trust of India

3. **Give Reasons.**
   (1) The postal department tries to preserve the heritage and integrity of Indian culture through postage stamps.
   (2) Audio-visual media are an important source for writing the history of modern India.

Projects

(1) Create a handwritten account or a documentary about your school.
(2) Watch the different documentaries available on the official website of the Archeological Survey of India, an organisation under the Government of India.
(3) Which sources would you use to write the history of your village/town? Write the history of your village/town using those sources.