

Chapter Summary: The Age of Industrialisation

1. Before the Industrial Revolution

- **Proto-industrialisation:** Production before factories. Merchants in 17th–18th century Europe moved to countryside to bypass urban guild restrictions. Peasants produced goods at home.
- **Significance:** It was a precursor to factory production, enabling merchants to control large-scale production without factories.

 **CBSE Repeated Question:** *What is proto-industrialisation?*


✨ **Tip:** Mention it was a phase before industrial factories, involving rural household production for the international market.

2. The Coming of the Factory System

- **First factories:** Started in 1730s, expanded after 1780s. Cotton was the leading industry.
- **Inventions:** Spinning Jenny, water frame, and steam engine (by James Watt) increased efficiency and output.
- **Richard Arkwright:** Set up the first cotton mill; introduced the idea of centralised production.

3. Pace of Industrialisation

- **Not rapid or uniform:**
 - Cotton led till 1840s, then iron and steel took over.
 - Traditional industries like handloom, pottery, food processing still dominated.
- **Steam power** spread slowly due to high cost and maintenance issues.

 **CBSE Focus:** *Was industrialisation fast?*

🧠 **Remember:** Only some sectors modernised; majority remained traditional even by late 1800s.

4. Hand Labour vs Machines

- **Britain** had abundant labour → less incentive to mechanise.
- **Machines** were costly, unreliable.
- **Handmade goods** were prestigious and had intricate designs, preferred by the upper classes.

 **CBSE Repeated Question:** *Why did some industrialists prefer hand labour over machines?*

✅ **Answer point:** Seasonal demand, availability of labour, preference for intricate, custom-made products.

5. Life of Workers

- **Unstable jobs;** workers had to migrate and rely on networks.
- **Low wages,** long hours, harsh conditions.

- **Hostility to machines:** Spinning Jenny reduced demand for labour, causing riots.

 **CBSE Repeated Topic:** *Worker's condition & resistance to machines*

 **Fact:** Women workers lost jobs → attacked machines like Spinning Jenny.


6. Industrialisation in Colonies – India


a. Indian Textiles Before Colonisation

- India was known for **fine cotton and silk exports**.
- **Surat, Hoogly** were major ports before British dominance.

b. East India Company's Role

- Appointed **gomasthas** to control weavers.
- Imposed **advances (loans)**; weavers lost freedom to sell to others.
- Often **exploited and punished**.

 **CBSE Question:** *Why were gomasthas appointed?*

 **Point:** To control weavers and ensure monopoly for the East India Company.

7. Decline of Indian Textiles

- **British tariffs** on Indian textiles to protect Manchester mills.
- **Cheap machine-made cloth** flooded Indian markets.
- **American Civil War** (1860s): Cotton from India exported to Britain → Indian weavers faced cotton shortage and high prices.
- **Impact:** Weavers suffered, some left trade.

8. Indian Industrial Growth

- **First mills:** Bombay (cotton - 1854), Calcutta (jute - 1855), Kanpur, Ahmedabad, Madras followed.
- **Entrepreneurs:** Many like J.N. Tata, Dwarkanath Tagore, and G.D. Birla started with trade (esp. with China), then moved into industry.
- **Workers:** Often came from nearby villages; jobs obtained through jobbers.

9. Peculiarities of Indian Industrialisation

- Early mills produced **coarse yarn**, not fabric.
- **Swadeshi Movement (1905):** Boosted demand for Indian goods.
- **World War I:** Increased demand → Indian industries grew rapidly.
- Post-war, **Manchester couldn't compete** with Indian industry.

10. Small-Scale Industries

- Even in 1940s, most workers were in **small workshops**, not large factories.
- **Handloom sector** revived using innovations like **fly shuttle**.
- **Finer cloth**, like saris and Madras handkerchiefs, couldn't be replicated by machines.

11. Marketing and Advertisements

- **British goods** marketed with images of gods and kings to attract Indian buyers.
- **Indian producers** used nationalist themes to promote **swadeshi** goods.



Timeline: Events in Chronological Order

Year	Event
1730s	First factories set up in England
1760	Britain imports 2.5 million pounds of raw cotton
1764	Spinning Jenny invented by James Hargreaves
1781	James Watt patents improved steam engine
1787	Cotton import in Britain rises to 22 million pounds
1790	Workers protest against machines
1854	First cotton mill in Bombay set up
1855	First jute mill in Bengal
1860s	American Civil War; cotton supply from US stops
1861–62	Indian textile mills (Ahmedabad, Madras, Kanpur) start
1870s	British cotton imports to India exceed 50% of total
1901	5.8 lakh workers in Indian factories
1905	Swadeshi Movement begins
1912	J.N. Tata establishes Tata Iron and Steel Plant
1914–18	First World War → Indian industry booms
1931	10% of Indian industrial workers in

