

# 1. Sources of History

We have studied the sources of ancient and mediaeval Indian history. This year we are going to study the sources of Modern Indian History. Historical sources include material, written and oral sources. Similarly sources based on modern technology such as audio, video and audio-visual are included.

**Material Sources :** Various objects, monuments, places, coins, sculptures etc. can be included in the material sources of history.

**Buildings and Places :** The period of Modern Indian History is believed as period of European, especially the British rulers, and governance of Princely States. In this period various buildings, bridges, roads, water supply system, fountains etc. were built. These buildings include government offices, residences of officers, leaders and revolutionaries; palaces of rulers of princely states, forts, prisons etc. Among these monuments many buildings are intact even today. Some are declared as national monuments, where as some are converted into museum. For eg. Cellular Jail in Andaman.

While visiting these sites we get information about contemporary history, architecture, nature of the monument and also the economic condition of that particular period. Just as during the visit to Cellular jail in Andaman we get information about the revolutionary work of V.D.Savarkar; by visiting Manibhavan in Mumbai or Sevagram Ashram at Wardha we get information about the history of Gandhian era.



**Do you know ?**

**Museums and History :** For the study of History various objects, paintings, photographs and such other things are preserved in a museum. At the Aga Khan Palace in Pune, we can see different objects, documents giving information about the life of Mahatma Gandhi.



**Aga Khan Palace, Pune**

**Statues and Memorials :** During the Pre Independence and Post Independence period, memorials of many personalities were erected in the form of statues. These statues are also important for the study of modern Indian history. The various statues provide information about the contemporary rulers and eminent personalities. The display plaque on the statues gives us information about the full name of the concerned person, birth and death details, brief information about their contribution and a biographical sketch of the person. Just as the statues of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Lokmanya Tilak, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, there are memorials which are erected in the memory of various events which give information

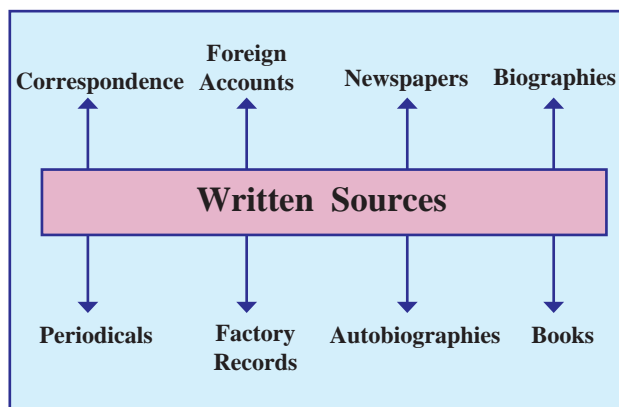
about the concerned event, period, people related to the event etc. For e.g. Hutatma Smarak at various places.



### Do it.

Trace out the statues and memorials in your neighbouring areas. Note down the information, of an event or personality, that you obtain through it.

**Written Sources :** The following aspects are included in the written sources of Modern Indian History.



### Newspapers and Periodicals :

Newspapers provide us information about the contemporary events. Along with it, detail analysis of a particular event, views of eminent people, editorials are also published. We get information about the political, social, economic and cultural happenings of that period. In the pre independence period, newspapers like Dnyanoday, Dnyanprakash, Amrit Bazaar Patrika, Deenbandhu, Kesari acted as important source of awakening the minds of the people. Through the newspapers we can study the British policies regarding India and their effects on India. During the British period, newspapers were not only the source of political events but also acted as a source of social reformation. The 'Nibandhmala' by

Vishnushastri Chiplunkar and Shatapatre written by Lokahitawadi alias Gopal Hari Deshmukh in the weekly 'Prabhakar' comments on various social and cultural issues.

### Let us know :

#### Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar and newspapers :

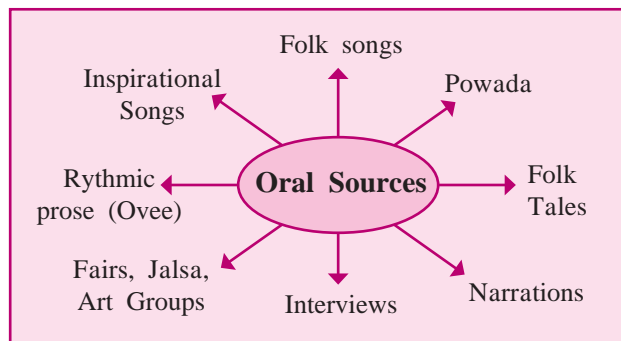
In January 1920, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar started the fortnightly 'Mooknayak'. But later, Dr. Ambedkar had to leave for higher studies to England and hence he handed over this paper to his colleagues. In April 1927, Dr. Ambedkar started the newspaper 'Bahishkrut Bharat'. Through the medium of Bahishkrut Bharat he wrote for the reformation of common people and bringing unity among them. Apart from this he also started two more newspapers, namely, 'Janata' and 'Prabuddha Bharat'.



**Maps and Drawings :** Map is also regarded as an important source of history. The changing nature of a city or a particular location can be traced through maps. The Survey of India was an independent department established during the British period. Through scientific methods of survey, they have created maps of India, various provinces of India, cities etc. Similarly, the plans designed by the architects prove important from the view of study of architecture of a building as well as phases of development process

of a particular area. For example, the Department of Mumbai Port Trust has the original plan of the Bombay Port. Information about development of Bombay city can be understood through the plans drafted by architects and engineers.

**Oral Sources :** The following sources are included in the oral sources of Modern Indian history.



**Inspirational Songs :** During the period of freedom movement various inspirational songs were composed. At present some of these songs are available in written form, but there are many other unpublished inspirational songs memorised by freedom fighters. Through these inspirational song we can get information about the conditions during pre independence period and also the spirit behind the freedom struggle could be understood.

**Powada :** Powada is a source for getting information about a historical event or the work of a person. There are various Powadas composed on freedom struggle of 1857, valour of revolutionaries during British rule etc. These Powadas were used to create motivation and spirit

among the people. Apart from freedom movement, the Powadas were composed based on the work of Satyashodhak Samaj for awakening among the oppressed classes, the Samyukta Maharashtra movement and such other events.

**Video, Audio and Audio-Visual Sources :** During the modern period, due to the development of Technology there was a development in the art of photography, recording, Films etc. Obviously, these photographs, records or films can be used as a source of history.

**Photographs :** Photographs are visual source of modern Indian history. With the discovery of art of photography, photograph of various persons, events, objects, structure, places were clicked. Through these photographs we get information of the person or an event in a visual format. In case of mediaeval period there are paintings available that depict the physical features of a person or visual description of a particular event, but the authenticity of these paintings is doubtful. Comparatively photographs are considered to be more reliable. The photograph of a person gives information about the physical features, dressing style etc. Photograph of an event give a visual image of the event whereas photograph of an object or a structure helps in understanding its nature.

**Recordings :** The discovery of technique of recording was also as important as photography. Recording is a form of audio source of history. During modern period, the speeches of leaders or important personalities, songs etc are available in the form of recordings. They can be used as a source of history. For example. National anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' sung by Rabindranath Tagore



#### Do it.

Collect and present the inspirational songs and Powadas related to the period of Indian freedom movement.

himself or the speeches of Subhash Chandra Bose can be used as an audio source for the study of history of Modern India.

**Films :** Films are considered as a unique discovery of modern technology. In the 20th century, there was a great development in the technique of filmmaking. Dada Saheb Phalke, in the year 1913, laid the foundation of Indian film industry. Audio visual recording of Dandi Yatra, Salt Satyagraha, Quit India Movement and such other historical incidents are available. Through these films the events could be seen in reality.

Compared to ancient and mediaeval period, the sources of study of modern Indian history are found in abundance and variety. The archaeological sources of this period are to a great extent found in a better state. There are many written sources preserved in the archives. But while referring the written sources, the ideology and opinions of the author regarding the particular event needs to be examined. There is a great need of preserving these historical sources through which the rich tradition of history can be handed over to the next generation.

### Exercise

#### 1. Rewrite the statements by choosing the appropriate options.

- (1) Among the historical sources ..... sources are based on Modern technology.
  - (a) Written                      (b) Oral
  - (c) Material                    (d) Audio-visual
- (2) The ..... is a museum in Pune which gives information about the history of Mahatma Gandhi.
  - (a) Aga Khan Palace
  - (b) Sabarmati Ashram
  - (c) Cellular Jail
  - (d) Lakshmi Vilas Palace
- (3) A unique discovery of modern technology in 20th century is ..... .
  - (a) Powada                      (b) Photograph
  - (c) Interviews                  (d) Films

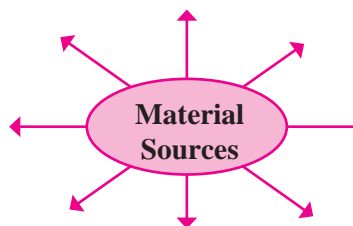
#### 2. Explain the following statements with reasons.

- (1) During the British period newspapers also acted as source of social reformation.
- (2) Audio Visual Recordings are considered as the most trustworthy source for the study of Modern Indian History.

#### 3. Write short notes.

- (1) Photographs
- (2) Museums and History
- (3) Audio sources

#### 4. Complete the following diagram.



#### Project

- (1) Collect the photographs related to Indian Freedom movement with the help of internet.
- (2) Gather information about the important leaders of Indian freedom movement and their biographies and read aloud.

