

# Exploring Society: India and Beyond

**Social Science Textbook for  
Grade 8 | Part 1**



विद्या स मृतमनुरोद्धरे



एन सी ई आर टी

NCERT

**राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद्**  
**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING**



# Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>Letter to the Student</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Your Journey through this Textbook</i>	<i>vii</i>
<b>THEME A — INDIA AND THE WORLD: LAND AND THE PEOPLE</b>	
Chapter 1    Natural Resources and Their Use	1
<b>THEME B — TAPESTRY OF THE PAST</b>	
<i>A Note on History's Darker Periods</i>	20
Chapter 2    Reshaping India's Political Map	21
Chapter 3    The Rise of the Marathas	61
Chapter 4    The Colonial Era in India	83
<b>THEME D — GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY</b>	
Chapter 5    Universal Franchise and India's Electoral System	117
Chapter 6    The Parliamentary System: Legislature and Executive	139
<b>THEME E — ECONOMIC LIFE AROUND US</b>	
Chapter 7    Factors of Production	163
<i>Glossary</i>	186
<i>Images and Maps from External Sources</i>	188