

# The Age of Industrialisation

## Proto-industrialisation

- Proto-industrialisation refers to the phase of industrial development that existed **before the establishment of factories**. During this period, goods were produced on a **large scale for international markets**, but production was done at home or in small workshops rather than in factories.

### **Explanation:**

- Merchants would give raw materials like wool or cotton to rural workers. These workers, often farmers, would spin yarn or weave cloth in their homes. This system is also called the **putting-out system**.

### **Example:**

- In Europe, a merchant might supply wool to villagers. The villagers would spin and weave it into cloth and return it to the merchant, who then sold it in international markets.

## Coming of the Factories in England

- Factories began to appear in England during the **18th century**, marking the start of modern industrialisation.

### **Explanation:**

- The textile industry, especially **cotton**, became the first major factory-based industry. New machines increased production speed and efficiency. One important figure was **Richard Arkwright**, who invented machines and established the first cotton mills.

### **Example:**

- Arkwright's cotton mill brought workers together in one place, using machines powered by water or steam to produce cloth much faster than hand production.

## The Pace of Industrial Change

- This refers to how quickly industries developed and expanded during industrialisation.

### **Explanation:**

- In Britain, the cotton industry grew rapidly until the 1840s. After that, **iron and steel industries** became more important due to the demand for railways, machines, and construction.

Example:

- Railway expansion required huge amounts of iron and steel, which led to the growth of metal industries.

## Hand Labour and Steam Power

- Even during industrialisation, both **hand labour and machines (steam power)** were used together.

**Explanation:**

- Machines could not produce everything. Some products required **human skill**, especially those with detailed designs. Also, labour was cheap and easily available.

Example:

- Luxury goods like embroidered clothes or finely designed furniture were still made by hand because machines could not create such intricate designs.

## Life of the Workers

- This refers to the living and working conditions of workers during industrialisation.

**Explanation:**

- Workers migrated from villages to cities in search of jobs. However, jobs were not always available, leading to unemployment and poverty. Many workers lived in poor conditions.

**Example:**

- Some workers had to sleep under bridges or in shelters while waiting for work. Seasonal industries meant workers often had no income for months.

## The Age of Indian Textiles

- Before industrialisation, India was famous for its **high-quality silk and cotton textiles** in global markets.

**Explanation:**

- Indian merchants exported textiles worldwide. However, with the arrival of European companies like the East India Company, Indian trade began to decline.

Example:

- Cities like Surat and Hoogly were major textile export centres before British control shifted trade to Bombay and Calcutta.

## Miserable Condition of the Weavers

- This refers to the poor treatment of Indian weavers under British rule.

### **Explanation:**

- The East India Company controlled trade and forced weavers to sell only to them at low prices. Officials called **gomasthas** supervised and often mistreated weavers.

### **Example:**

- Weavers were beaten or punished if they refused to work under unfair conditions, forcing many to abandon their profession.

## Manchester Comes to India

- British industrial goods, especially textiles from Manchester, entered Indian markets.

### **Explanation:**

- British industries demanded protection, so Indian textiles were taxed heavily, while British goods were sold cheaply in India.

### **Example:**

- Machine-made cloth from Manchester flooded Indian markets, reducing the demand for handmade Indian textiles.

## Factories Come Up

- The establishment of factories in India during the 19th century.

### **Explanation:**

- Industrialisation slowly began in India with the setting up of cotton and jute mills.

### **Example:**

- First cotton mill in Bombay (1854)
- First jute mill in Bengal (1855)
- Elgin Mill in Kanpur

## The Early Entrepreneurs

- These were the first Indian businessmen who invested in industries.

### **Explanation:**

- They played an important role in starting industries in India despite British dominance.

Example:

- Famous entrepreneurs included:
  - Dwarkanath Tagore
  - Jamsedjee Tata
  - G.D. Birla

### **Workers of the Factories**

- The labour force working in factories.

**Explanation:**

- Workers mainly came from nearby villages. Many were peasants or artisans who had lost their traditional jobs.

Example:

- A farmer who could not earn enough from agriculture would move to a city and work in a textile mill.

### **Peculiarities of Industrial Growth**

- This refers to the unique features of industrial growth in India.

**Explanation:**

- European companies invested mainly in industries that supported exports, such as tea, coffee, jute, and indigo.

Example:

- During **World War I**, Indian factories produced goods like uniforms, jute bags, and boots for the British army, leading to industrial growth.

### **Predominance of Small-scale Industries**

- Small-scale and traditional industries remained important in India.

**Explanation:**

- Even after industrialisation, handloom and handicraft industries continued to grow.

Example:

- Handloom cloth production increased significantly between 1900 and 1940.

### **Market for Goods**

- This refers to how industries created demand for their products.

### **Explanation:**

- Industrialists used **advertisements** to attract customers and promote their goods.

### **Example:**

- Advertisements showed products as modern and desirable, encouraging people to buy machine-made goods.

### **Conclusion**

The Age of Industrialisation transformed economies and societies across the world. It introduced factories, machines, and mass production, but also led to **social inequalities, worker exploitation, and decline of traditional industries**, especially in countries like India.

