

Unit - 6

Development of Industries in India



Learning Objectives

- Acquit with the traditional crafts of India.
- Analyse the causes for the decline of Indian industries.
- Understand the beginning of modern industries.
- Know the aim of five-year plans.
- Understand the phases of industrial development in India.



Introduction

The history of Indian industry perhaps dates back to the history of humankind. India's traditional economy was characterised by a blend of agriculture and handicrafts. According to Edward Baines, 'The birthplace of cotton manufacture is India where it probably flourished long before the dawn of authentic history.' Bernier, who visited India during the reign of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, marvelled at the incredible quantity of manufactured goods. Tavernier, a French traveller, admired the peacock throne, carpets of silk and gold as well as mini carvings.

Traditional Crafts of India

The crafts in India has a rich history. Crafts were an integral part in the life of the people. Before arrival of mechanised industry, the production of Indian handicrafts was the second largest source of employment in rural India next to agriculture. The traditional Indian industry was known in the fields of textiles, woodwork, ivory, stone cutting, leather,

fragrance wood, metal work and jewellery. The village artisans such as potters, weavers, smiths produced articles and utensils for domestic use. But some specialised goods were produced for domestic and international markets. Some such specialised goods produced were cotton textiles, muslin, wool, silk and metal articles. India was famous for its fine quality of cotton and silk clothes. There are references made in many scholarly works to the professions of the weaver, the tailor and the dyer. Certain centres of metal industry were quite well known. For example, Saurashtra was known for bell metal, Vanga (Bengal) for tin industry and Dacca was identified with muslin clothes.

