

Major NCERT textbook deletions that led to controversies in recent times



NCERT Controversy

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is a government-established organisation advising central and state governments on school education academic matters.

NCERT textbooks have been a source of controversy for allegedly promoting the ruling party's political ideology since its establishment in 1961.

NCERT recently carried out a 'syllabus rationalisation' exercise from December 2021 to June 2022 to reduce the burden on students after the Covid-19 pandemic.

A 'rationalised' NCERT syllabus was released for 2022-23 where 30% of the syllabus was deleted for Classes 6 to 12. Though most of the changes were announced in April 2022, not all were declared, leading to a fresh row in 2023 over undisclosed deletions related to Mahatma Gandhi and the Gujarat Riots.

Since 2014, there have been three NCERT revisions -- in 2017, in 2019, and in 2021.

While NCERT textbooks have been a centre of controversies since 1977, here are a few recent changes in NCERT textbooks that sparked a row

1. ON MAHATMA GANDHI
2. ON MUGHAL EMPIRE
3. ON GUJARAT RIOTS
4. ON MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD
5. ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR
6. DARWIN'S THEORY OF EVOLUTION
7. ON CLIMATE AND ECOSYSTEM
8. ON PSYCHOLOGY AND HUMAN BEHAVIOUR
9. OTHER DELETIONS



Other Indians were less forgiving. At his daily prayer meeting on the evening of 30 January, Gandhiji was shot dead by a young man. The assassin, who surrendered afterwards, was a Brahmin from Pune named Nathuram Godse, the editor of an extremist Hindu newspaper who had denounced Gandhiji as "an appeaser of Muslims".

Express Investigation

Here Are The Key Deletions In NCERT Textbooks

1. ON MAHATMA GANDHI

References on Mahatma Gandhi have been changed in the Class 12 NCERT political science textbook 'Politics in India since Independence'.

Deleted section:

"He was particularly disliked by those who wanted Hindus to take revenge or who wanted India to become a country for the Hindus just as Pakistan was for the Muslims. They accused Gandhi of acting in favour of Muslims and Pakistan."

1. ON MAHATMA GANDHI

Deleted section:

"His steadfast pursuit of Hindu-Muslim unity provoked Hindu extremists so much that they made several attempts to assassinate Gandhi ji. Despite this, he refused to accept protection and continued to meet with everyone during his prayer meetings."

1. ON MAHATMA GANDHI

Deleted section:

"Gandhi's death had almost a magical effect on the communal situation in the country. Partition related anger and violence suddenly subsided. The government of India cracked down on organisations that were spreading communal heat. Organisations like the Rashtriya Samaj Seva Sangh were banned for sometime. Communal politics began to lose its appeal."

1. ON MAHATMA GANDHI

Revised Sections

A paragraph about Mahatma Gandhi's assassination was revised in a chapter in the Class 12 history textbook 'Themes in Indian History-3'.

Older section: “Gandhiji was shot dead by a young man. The assassin, who surrendered afterwards, was a Brahmin from Pune named Nathuram Godse, the editor of an extremist Hindu newspaper who had denounced Gandhiji as an appeaser of Muslims.”

Revised section: “At his daily prayer meeting on the evening of 30 January, Gandhiji was shot dead by a young man. The assassin, who surrendered afterwards, was Nathuram Godse.”

2. ON MUGHAL EMPIRE

Reference to Mughal history has been shortened at various levels from NCERT textbooks.

In the Class 7 textbook, Our Pasts-II, a two-page table detailing achievements of Mughal emperors such as Humayun, Shah Jahan, Akbar, Jahangir and Aurangzeb has been removed.

A two-page table in the Class 7 history textbook 'Our Pasts-II' showing the achievements of Mughal emperors was removed.



2. ON MUGHAL EMPIRE

The Class 8 textbook no longer includes information about Aurangzeb, the last powerful Mughal ruler, or the emergence of regional kingdoms after his death in 1707.

The only chapter in a higher class dedicated to Mughal history titled 'Theme 9- Kings and Chronicles, the Mughal Courts' was removed from the Class 12 history textbook.

Following the rationalisation of the NCERT syllabus, students now have the opportunity to learn about certain aspects of Mughal history during Classes 7 and 8, while it is not covered in Classes 9 to 11. A condensed version is provided in Class 12.

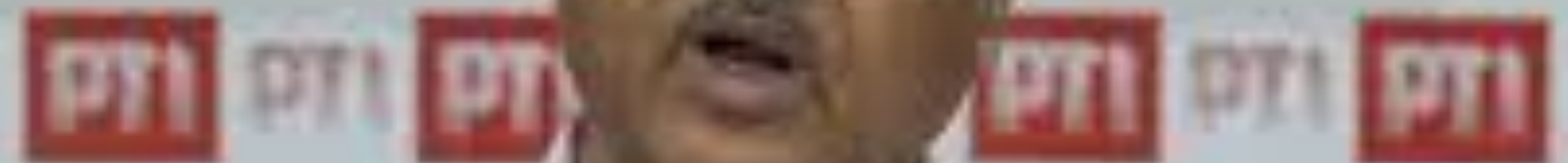
3. ON GUJARAT RIOTS

References to post-Godhra riots have been removed from NCERT textbooks of Classes 6 to 12.

The Godhra riots reference has been removed from the Class 12 sociology textbook 'Understanding Society'. It discussed class, religion, and ethnicity causing residential segregation and cited the 2002 Godhra violence to illustrate how it led to the ghettoization of Muslim and Hindu communities.

The deleted paragraph read:

"Where and how people will live in cities is a question that is also filtered through socio-cultural identities. Residential areas in cities all over the world are almost always segregated by class, and often also by race, ethnicity, religion and other such variables. Tensions between such identities both cause these segregation patterns and are also a consequence. For example, in India, communal tensions between religious communities, most commonly Hindus and Muslims, results in the conversion of mixed neighbourhoods into single-community ones. This in turn gives a specific spatial pattern to communal violence whenever it erupts, which again furthers the 'ghettoisation' process. This has happened in many cities in India, most recently in Gujarat following the riots of 2002."



‘Why should we teach about riots in schools?’

NCERT chief on tweaks in textbooks

4. ON MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD

References to independent India's first education minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, have been removed from the Class 11 political science textbook.

A line has been revised to omit Maulana Azad's name from the constituent assembly committee meetings in the first chapter titled 'Constitution - Why and How'.

"Usually, Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel or BR Ambedkar chaired these Committees," says the revised line.

In 1946, Azad led the Congress in the elections for the new Constituent Assembly of India that would draft the Constitution of India.

In his sixth year as Congress president, he also led a delegation that negotiated with the British Cabinet Mission.

5. ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR

References to Jammu and Kashmir's conditional accession have been removed from the Class 11 political science textbook.

A sentence deleted from Chapter 10 'The Philosophy of the Constitution' read:
"For example, the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian union was based on a commitment to safeguarding its autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution."

In August 2019, Article 370 was abrogated by the Central government, ending Jammu and Kashmir's autonomous status.

In October 2019, the former state was bifurcated into two Union Territories.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON AUGUST 5 REVOKED
ARTICLE 370 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION BY
WAY OF A PRESIDENTIAL ORDER



UT of J&K
with Assembly

UT of Ladakh
without Assembly

JAMMU &
KASHMIR

LADAKH

AREA

1,01,387 square km

POPULATION

1,25,41,302

AREA

59,196 square km

(most of it is over 9,800 feet above sea level)

POPULATION

2.74 lakh

Area and population to change as the new UT boundaries are drawn

UT: Union Territories

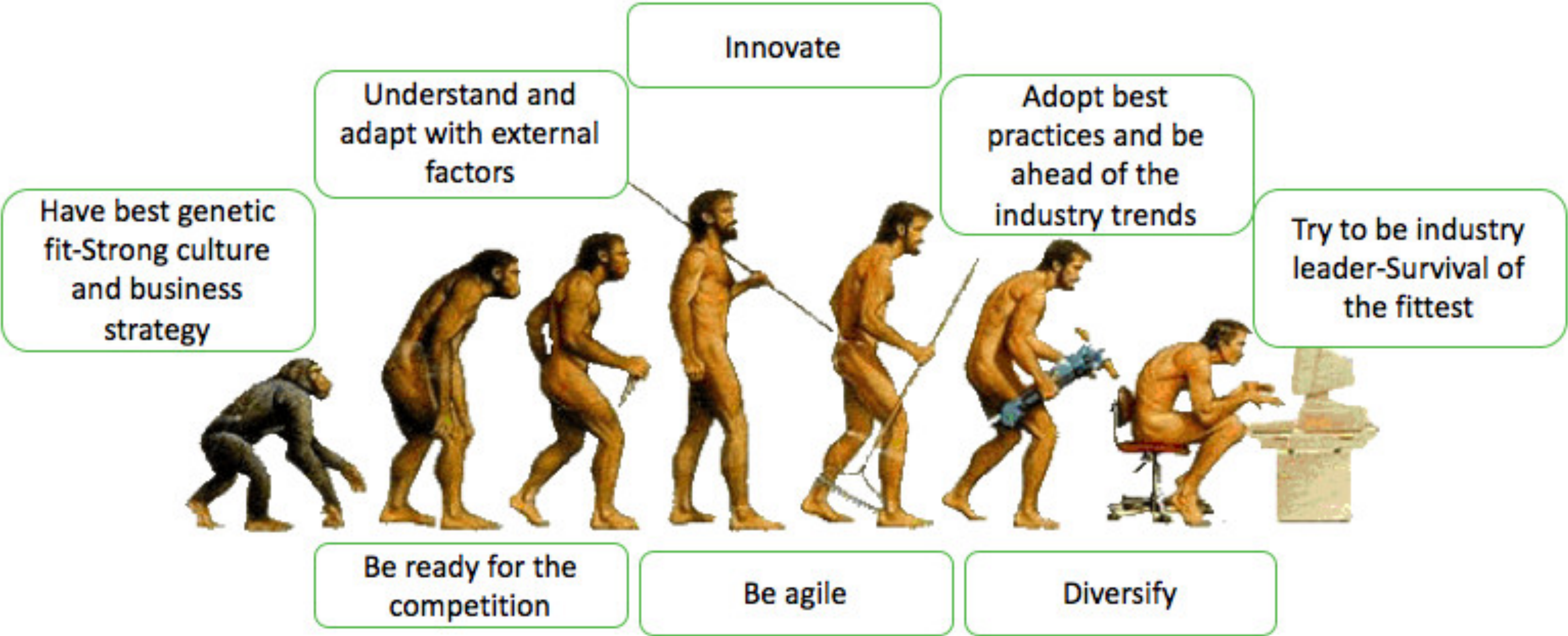
JAMMU & KASHMIR AFTER ARTICLE 370 IS REVOKED:

6. DARWIN'S THEORY OF EVOLUTION

NCERT removed Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution from the science textbooks for Classes 9 and 10.

Chapter 9 of the science textbook, 'Heredity and Evolution,' was replaced by 'Heredity.'

This led to more than 1,800 scientists, teachers, educators, and science enthusiasts from across India signing an open letter against the move, citing it as a 'travesty of education.'



Corporate learnings from Darwin's theory of evolution



The crux of **Darwin's Theory of Evolution** focuses on the elimination of inferior species gradually over time, through a process called '**Natural Selection**'.

NCERT Textbooks Controversy:
1800 Scientists, Teachers, Educators Expressed
Concern About the Removal of Topic of Evolution
from Science Textbooks.



7. ON CLIMATE AND ECOSYSTEM

The Class 7 science syllabus has done away with the full chapter of 'Weather, Climate and Adaptations of Animals to Climate' while the full chapter of 'Pollution of Air and Water' has been removed from the Class 8 science syllabus.

Selected sections of the 'Climate' chapter have been removed from the Class 9 syllabus.

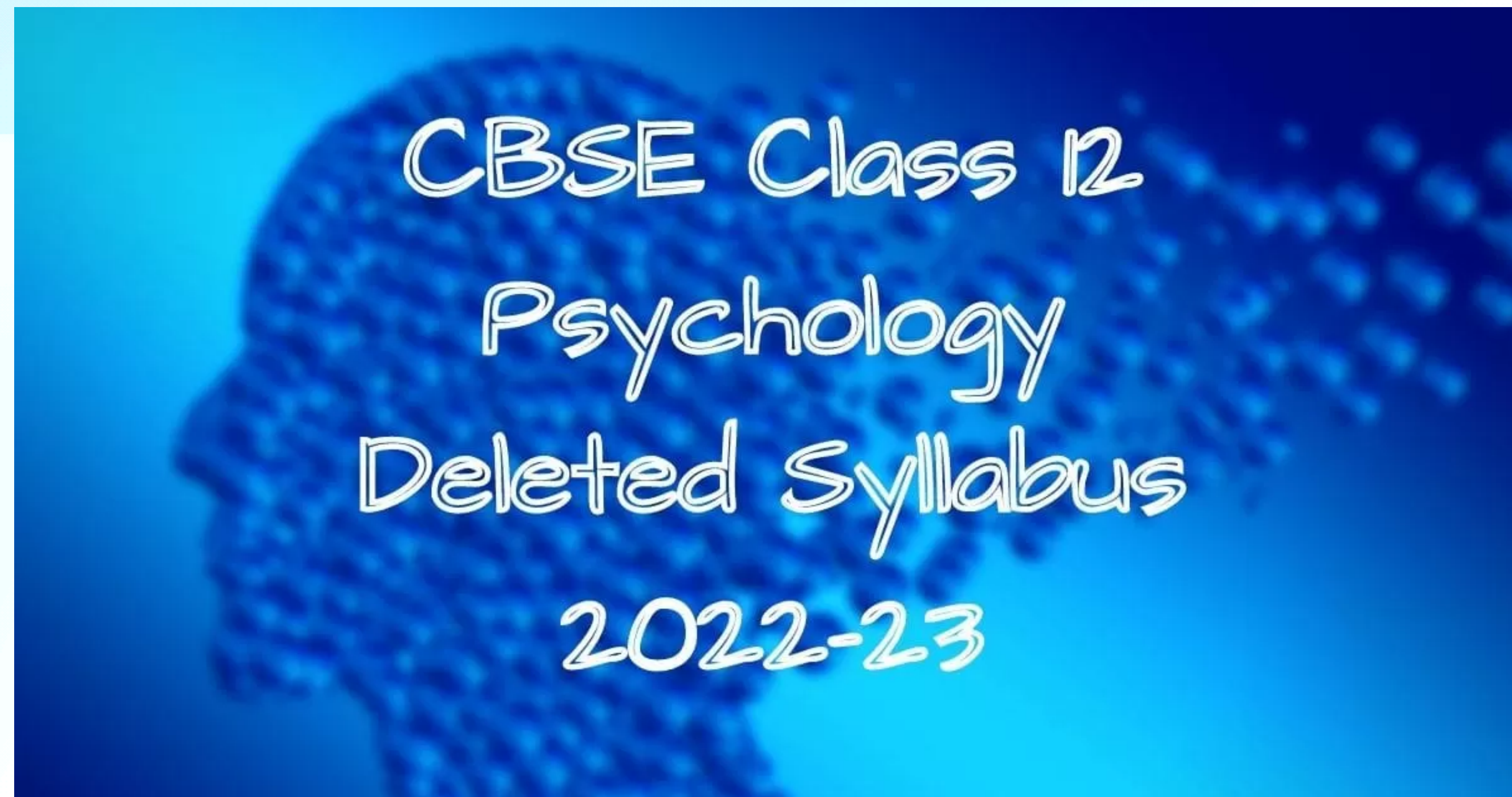
Selected sections of 'Forest and Wildlife Resources' in Class 10 have been removed as well.

In Class 12, sections of 'Ecosystem', and the full chapter of 'Environmental Issues' have been removed.

8. ON PSYCHOLOGY AND HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

The full chapters on 'Effective Communication Skills' and 'The Bases of Human Behaviour' have been removed from the Class 11 syllabus.

Topics removed from Class 12 include 'Human Development', and 'Developing Psychological Skills'.



9. OTHER DELETIONS

Other sections removed from NCERT textbooks across various classes include information on the Emergency, the Cold War, and the Naxalite movement, among others.

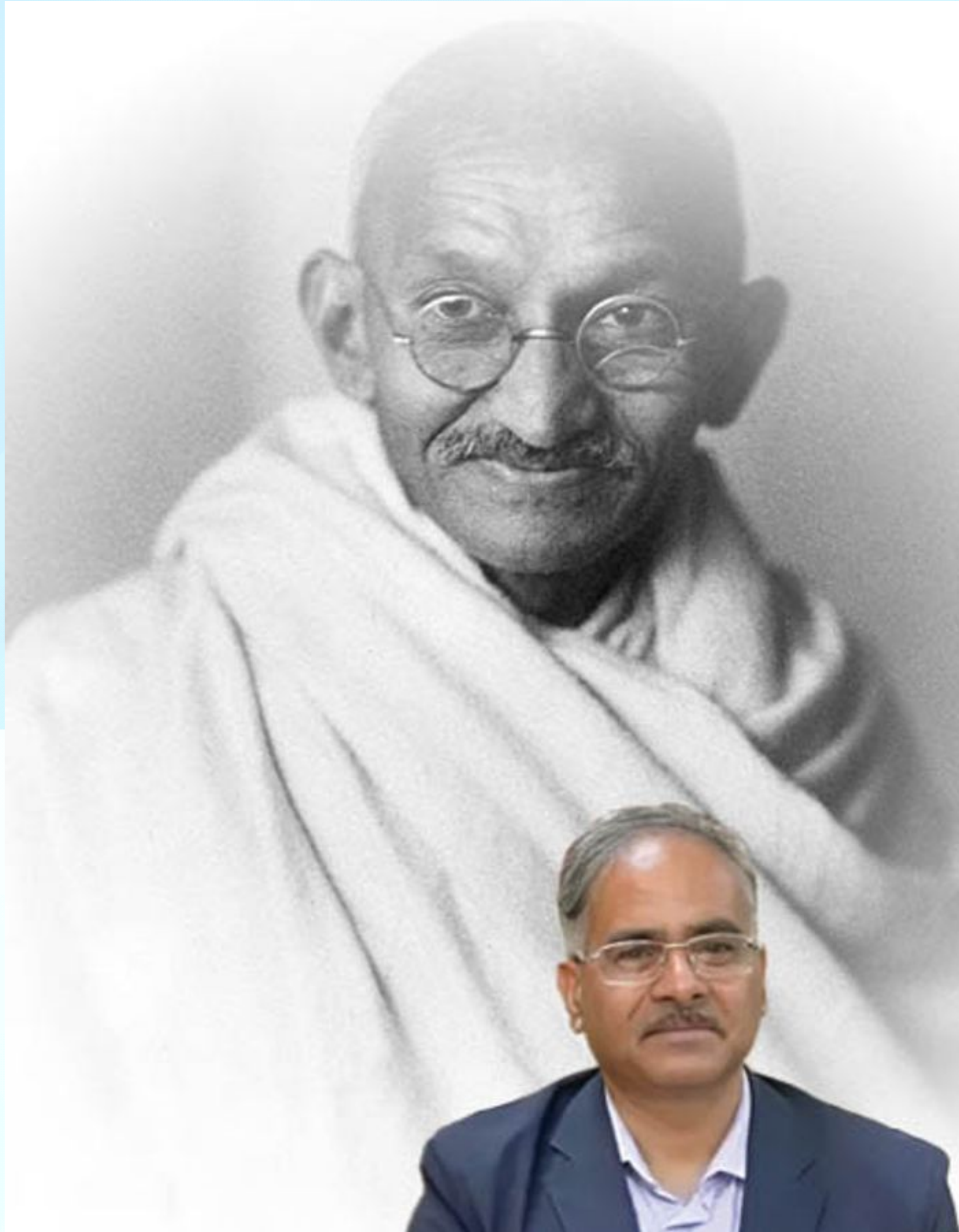
The industrial revolution was scrapped from the Class 11 textbook.

References to Dalit writer Omprakash Valmiki have been removed from the social science textbooks of Classes 7 and 8.

In the Class 6 history textbook 'Our Pasts – I', sentences on the hereditary nature of varnas, and classification of people as untouchables and rejection of the varna system have been removed from the chapter 'Kingdom, Kings and Early Republic'.

In Class 10, full chapters of 'Democracy and Diversity', 'Popular Struggles and Movements' and 'Challenges to Democracy' have been done away with.

Sections of Class 12 topics that have been removed include 'The Story of Indian Democracy', 'Social Movements', and 'Patterns of Social Inequality'.



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किसी भी
विचारधारा के दबाव
में आकर NCERT
के सिलेबस में
बदलाव नहीं किए
गए हैं।

दिनेश सकलानी,
NCERT के निदेशक