

CLASS: XII English

India Through A Traveller's Eyes

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India, despite her ups and downs, has always been a favoured destination for the foreigners. The story of her civilization, the thinking of philosophers and architectural glories have inspired many a foreigner to visit India and enjoy the varieties of experiences that she offers.

Pearl S. Buck, an eminent American writer, visited India just after the second world war when freedom struggle in India was at its peak. The writer clearly says that she came to India to meet the young intellectuals and freedom fighters and not only to visit the Taj Mahal or Fatehpur Sikri, she did visit these monuments, but her main interest was in the political life of India and in the making of a new India under the leadership of Gandhi and Nehru.

She has put down her impression quite candidly. She does not conceal her distress when she saw urchins begging in the streets. But she saw not only this painful poverty. She visited a few villages households where she has experience of culture and dignity of living. She writes of a village house being cleaned by cow dung and where she was offered fresh rice, lentils and vegetables on banana leaves. The landlord of the house was a respected person and was seen being consulted by the villagers.

The writer also had an occasion to visit Bombay and Delhi where she was quite happy listening to young political leaders speaking on their dreams of a modern society and on the strategies for independence. She expresses her great respect for Gandhiji's belief in truth and non-violence. She had already read about Lord Buddha in her childhood. She traced Gandhi reviving the ancient teachings of India to galvanise the masses for freedom struggle. She believes that this policy will bring success and will change the outlook of the people all over the world.