

MAIN POINTS

- 'The Adventure' combines science and fiction.
- The story looks at the idea of parallel worlds.
- Professor Gaitonde or Gangadharant was travelling by the Jijamata Express from Pune to Mumbai.
- He emerged from Victoria Terminus station. He found himself facing an imposing building - East India House, Headquarters of The East India Company.
- He was shocked and surprised because The East India Company had been wound up after the uprising of 1857.
- He entered the Forbes building to meet his son but couldn't find him.
- He entered the library in the town hall and asked for a list of history books.
- Out of the five books, four described history as we know it. Only in the fifth volume history had taken a different turn.
- It was written that the Marathas won the Battle of Panipat. Abdali was defeated and chased back to Kabul.
- The victory of the Marathas established their supremacy in northern India.
- The East India Company gave up its expansionist programme. It offered aid and help to the Marathas.
- Gangadharant read that India was never subjected to slavery.
- Gangadharant went through Bhausahebanchi Bakhar to look for the description of the battle.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- From where was Professor Gaitonde travelling to?**
 - From Pune to Bombay
 - From Pune to Delhi
 - From Bombay to Pune
 - No where
- Towards which place did the professor decide to take a walk after his dinner?**
 - Post office
 - Mandi
 - Sea
 - Azad maidan
- Why did professor Rajendra say that the incidents narrated by Gaitonde were not real?**
 - As he had been in coma for two days
 - As he was not well
 - As his mental condition was not good
 - As Rajendra wanted to believe in facts
- What happened after the empty chair incident?**
 - He was in the hospital
 - He went to his room
 - He went to meet his friend
 - He decided to go back
- What did the professor slip into his pocket before leaving the library?**
 - The Bakhar
 - English literature book
 - Newspaper
 - Money
- Where did the train stop beyond the tunnel?**
 - At a small town called Amer
 - A small town called Sarhad
 - Delhi
 - Mountains
- What is the name of the train by which professor Gaitonde was travelling?**
 - Deccan Queen
 - Rajdhani Express
 - Jijamata Express
 - Shatabdi Express
- What did the professor do when he noticed the empty chair?**
 - He sat on the chair
 - He left the stage
 - He joined the crowd
 - He went back to his guest house
- Whom did the professor meet at the hospital?**
 - Rajendra
 - Doctor
 - Speaker
 - Librarian

10. **Where was the library that the professor wanted to visit?**
 - a. Town Hall
 - b. Asiatic Society
 - c. GBMR
 - d. YMCA
11. **What did the professor start investigating at the library?**
 - a. American history
 - b. The period of Ashok to the third battle of Panipat
 - c. History of East India company
 - d. British history
12. **Why did the professor start liking the new India that he was reading about in the library?**
 - a. This country knew how to stand on its feet
 - b. It was different from the previous one he knew
 - c. He liked the ruler here
 - d. It was a wealthy nation
13. **Whom did professor Gaitonde meet during his train journey?**
 - a. Khan Saheb
 - b. Pathan
 - c. Mr Gupta
 - d. Professor Ali
14. **What did the Professor notice on the road in Bombay?**
 - a. Shops and offices were different
 - b. Road was constructed
 - c. New shopping complex
 - d. New residential complex
15. **What happened to Marathas in reality?**
 - a. They lost the battle
 - b. They won the battle
 - c. They signed treaty after the battle
 - d. Nothing as such
16. **According to which of the two theories did the incident with Professor Gaitonde happen?**
 - a. Quantum theory and theory of relativity
 - b. Catastrophe theory and theory of relativity
 - c. Catastrophe theory and lack of determinism
 - d. Only Big Bang theory
17. **Where did Professor Gaitonde and Khan Sahib get off?**
 - a. Bombay station
 - b. Azad Maidan
 - c. Indore
 - d. Victoria terminus station
18. **What does one notice about both the worlds?**
 - a. Both were same
 - b. Both were in different universe
 - c. Different people write history
 - d. Interpretation of different histories and different sets of events by different people
19. **What happens in the case of electrons in the lack of determinism in Quantum theory?**
 - a. Electrons don't move from their path
 - b. One cannot predict which path the electron takes at a point of time
 - c. Electrons merge with other atoms
 - d. None of the above
20. **What happens once the observer knows about the correct placing of the electrons?**
 - a. In every world a new substance can be created
 - b. A black hole can be created
 - c. A new compound can be observed
 - d. The alternative worlds can exist at the same time
21. **What happened after the battle of Panipat in India according to the Bakhar?**
 - a. India merged with neighbouring nations and moved to the path of democracy
 - b. It got a new ruler
 - c. The British rule began in India
 - d. All
22. **Professor Gaitonde enquired about whom on entering the Forbes building?**
 - a. President of the company
 - b. Mr Vinay Gaitonde
 - c. Mr Vishal gaitonde
 - d. Mr Vikas Gaitonde
23. **Which theory as explained by Rajendra states that a small change in any situation can result in a shift in behaviour?**
 - a. Quantum theory
 - b. Theory of relativity
 - c. Big Bang theory
 - d. Catastrophe theory
24. **What is the name of the protagonist of the story 'The Adventure'?**
 - a. Professor Gangadhar Pant Gaitonde
 - b. Professor Rajendra Prasad
 - c. Professor Vikram Seth
 - d. Professor Ali

25. **What did the professor notice at the lecture going on in the pandal?**
 a. There was no crowd
 b. Presidential chair was empty
 c. The speaker was very old
 d. The language of the lecture was unfamiliar
26. **In reality was the professor in two different worlds at the same time?**
 a. Yes
 b. No
 c. Maybe
 d. Can't say
27. **How many days did the professor live in the parallel world?**
 a. 5 days
 b. 7 days
 c. 1 day
 d. 2 days
28. **The first station that the train stopped was**
 a. Pune
 b. Karjat
 c. Lonavala
 d. Peshawar
29. **Khan Sahib was going to.....**
 a. Islamabad
 b. Allahabad
 c. Peshawar
 d. Patna
30. **The final destination of the train was.....**
 a. Pune
 b. Nagpur
 c. Patna
 d. Bombay
31. **Which was the precise movement Indian history had taken a different turn?**
 a. Battle of Panipat
 b. Battle of Haldighati
 c. Battle of Plassey
 d. Battle of Waterloo
32. **Abdali was defeated by...**
 a. Sadashivrao
 b. Vishwasrao
 c. Mir Jafar
 d. a and b
33. **The Battle of Panipat was decisive in the matter of.....**
 a. Power struggle in India
 b. Marathi culture
 c. Mughal culture
 d. British domination
34. **The historical alternatives in this chapter point at**
 a. Historical fluidity
 b. Absolute truth
 c. Subjective interpretation
 d. a and c
35. **Professor Gaitonde was an expert in which subject?**
 a. Physics
 b. Chemistry
 c. History
 d. Geography
36. **What do you understand by 'doctored accounts'?**
 a. Account maintained by doctors
 b. Doctors' accounts
 c. Accounts by doctors
 d. Tampered accounts, not original
37. **What was going to be the topic of Gangadhar Rao's thousandth presidential address?**
 a. Vishwasrao
 b. Sadashivrao
 c. Mughal sultanate
 d. What course history might have taken if the Marathas had won the Battle of Panipat
38. **Which train would Khan Sahib take for Peshawar?**
 a. Frontier Mail
 b. Gareeb Rath
 c. Rajdhani
 d. Purushottam
39. **As the Professor walked along the Hornby road there was no..... building.**
 a. Khadi House
 b. Handloom House
 c. Electric Appliances
 d. None
40. **"The professor felt that his investigations were incomplete", what did he want to find?**
 a. Reason for Mughal victory
 b. Reason for British domination
 c. Reason for French domination
 d. The reason to explain Maratha victory
41. **Where did he find the historical reference to complete his investigation?**
 a. Bakhar
 b. Bhausahabanchi Bakhar
 c. Maratha Bakhar
 d. Mughal Bakhar
42. **The professor earlier used the bakhars generally for**
 a. Evidence
 b. Documentation
 c. Seeking truth
 d. Entertainment
43. **An unchaired lecture is like Shakespeare's Hamlet without....**
 a. The Prince of Denmark
 b. Ophelia
 c. Polonius
 d. Claudius

44. **The audience was sick of listening to**
 a. Remarks from the chair
 b. Vote of thanks
 c. Long introductions
 d. All
45. **Gangadhar Pant had the experience of speaking atmeetings.**
 a. 99 b. 100
 c. 999 d. 1000
46. **The audience only wanted to listen to the**
 a. Chairperson b. President
 c. Guest d. Speaker
47. **..... became the target for a shower of tomatoes, eggs and other objects.**
 a. Gangadhar pant b. Khan Sahib
 c. Rajendra d. Vinay
48. **The page from the Bakar described.....**
 a. Mughal victory
 b. Rajput victory
 c. how East India company won
 d. How Vishwasrao narrowly missed the bullet
49. **Rajendra said that by reality we generally mean.....**
 a. Textual knowledge
 b. Knowledge from listening
 c. Direct or indirect sensory experiences
 d. None
50. **After being released from the hospital the Professor was not going to attend**
 a. College
 b. Panipat Seminar
 c. Panipat lecture
 d. Meeting

ANSWERS KEY

1-a, 2-d, 3-d, 4-a, 5-a, 6-b, 7-c, 8-a, 9-a, 10-a, 11-b, 12-a, 13-a, 14-a, 15-a, 16-c, 17-d, 18-d, 19-b, 20-d, 21-a, 22-b, 23-d, 24-a, 25-b, 26-b, 27-d, 28-c, 29-c, 30-d, 31-a, 32-d, 33-a, 34-d, 35-c, 36-d, 37-d, 38-a, 39-b, 40-d, 41-b, 42-d, 43-a, 44-d, 45-d, 46-d, 47-a, 48-d, 49-c, 50-b

VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. **Who was Gangadhar pant Gaitonde?**

Ans. He was a professor of history.

2. **Where was he travelling to?**

Ans. He was travelling to Bombay from Pune.

3. **Who is the writer of the chapter?**

Ans. Jayant Narlikar.

4. **Which train was faster, Jijamata Express or Deccan Queen?**

Ans. Jijamata Express

5. **Whom was the writer planning to meet after returning to Pune?**

Ans. Rajendra Deshpande

6. **When the train stopped at a station called Sarhad, who went through the train checking permits?**

Ans. A uniformed Anglo-Indian.

7. **Where did the British Raj begin from?**

Ans. From the station of Sarhad.

8. **What was painted on each train carriage of GBMR?**

Ans. A tiny Union Jack (flag of Britain)

9. **When did the East India company wind up?**

Ans. After the events of 1857

10. **Who was Vinay Gaitonde?**

Ans. He was the son of Professor Gaitonde.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. **Why do you think Professor Gaitonde decided never to preside over meetings again?**

Ans. Professor Gaitonde decided never to preside over meetings again as he had a bitter experience at one of the lectures going on in the Azad Maidan where he was showered with tomatoes, eggs and other objects.

2. **Why was the professor surprised to see the name of the East India company at many important buildings in Bombay?**

Ans. The East India company was replaced by British rule in India after the events of 1857. Besides, the professor was living in the 20th century and India had already gained independence in 1947 from British rule. So he was shocked to be experiencing India at the time of the British Raj.

3. **How were the Peshwas trying to keep in step with the changing times in the 20th century?**

Ans. The Peshwas were progressive. They kept pace with changing times by setting up centres of science and technology. They were inspired by the British. For technological development they roped in the help of the East India Company. Under the

guidance of the Peshwas, India moved towards democracy.

4. What information did Professor Gaitonde get from Bhausahebanchi Bakhar?

Ans. The professor was not in the habit of consulting Bakhars while looking for historical evidence; he generally read them more as a source of entertainment. Nevertheless, sometimes he did find information of true value. This time he got to know that the bullet shot to kill Vishwasrao had missed him by the breadth of a hair. This was seen as a good omen, leading to the victory of the Maratha army.

5. How did the Catastrophe theory work in the Battle of Panipat?

Ans. Application of the Catastrophe theory to the Battle of Panipat changed the course of history in India. The Marathas were victorious and the East India Company was contained only in Bombay. The British government never had to step into India. Gradually India moved towards democracy.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Summarise the chapter in your own words.

Ans. This is an extract from Jayant Narlikar's original story, The Adventure. It is a science fiction story based on two theories, the Catastrophe theory and the lack of determinism in Quantum theory, explained through an imaginary set of events which would have occurred in the life of a history professor. The professor has to present a paper related to the third battle of Panipat. As he was strolling in the direction of Azad Maidan he saw a pandal and entered it. A meeting was in progress. The speaker was speaking, however the president's chair was empty. Gangadhar Pant tried to take the chair and also explain to the public why the presidential chair should not be left empty. The public was enraged, showering the professor with tomatoes, eggs and other objects; later carrying him off the stage. The professor met with an accident right after, and ended up in a hospital. He had slipped into a coma for 2 days, his friend Rajendra Deshpande informed him. During that time he had travelled back into time of the Peshwas and saw the changed course of history. The Marathas were victorious and the East India company was (confined to) Bombay. The British government never had to step into India. Gradually India moved towards democracy. Rajendra Deshpande applied the Catastrophe theory to the battle of Panipat to explain and co-relate the professor's experience. History is

an account of the past which cannot be altered but it is reported by different sources and the interpretation of certain events can be different, especially when authentic records are not found. Sometimes the human mind also ponders over what could have been or if something different could have happened, this wishful thinking may lead to altered reconstruction of history.

2. Describe Gangadharpant's experience in the Azad Maidan and what effect it had on him?

Ans. The professor was strolling towards Azad Maidan. He realised that a lecture was being delivered when he saw a pandal there. When he saw the empty presidential chair on the stage he started speaking, despite public resistance. The public said that they were fed up with long lectures and long introductions, yet he went on speaking. He was bombarded with tomatoes, eggs and other objects. He was later carried off the stage by the public. Later as he was walking away, he collided with a truck and went into a coma for the next 2 days. He had such a bitter experience that henceforth he decided never to preside over another meeting.

3. How did Rajendra Deshpande explain Gangadharpant's experience? Write a detailed analysis.

Ans. Rajendra applied the Catastrophe theory to the Battle of Panipat the Maratha army as well as the Mughal army were well prepared. The point at which Vishwas Rao was killed proved to be the turning point; because it had not been established then whether he had actually died or survived. The troops were in constant stress of losing the leaders, thus losing their morale, too. But when the bullet missed Vishwas Rao according to the Bakhar the troops felt encouraged and energetic. Lack of determinism in the Quantum theory explains that nothing can be predicted by external behaviour. Professor Gaitonde had been thinking about determinism and the battle of Panipat at the time he met with the accident at the Azad Maidan and was transitioned to the other realm.