

## Victorian Age (1837-1901) – Developments

### Introduction :

Queen Victoria ruled England for 64 years (1837 –1901). She declared herself as the **Empress of India** too. Her reign witnessed remarkable changes in many fields. There are many features to be discussed about the Age. They are:

### **Loss of faith in God and Religion:**

The publication of *The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin in 1859 changed the view that man is the outcome of the evolutionary process, from animals. This broke the view that God created the world.

### **Scientific and Industrial Changes in the Victorian age: Transport and Communication:**

**Transport:** During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, people started moving from one place to other for various business purposes and for jobs too. All these were possible because of the tremendous development in transport facilities.

### **The Railways:**

The railway revolution began with George Stevenson's invention of the Railway Engine which he called "Active." The first railway line was the one made in 1825. Then many railway companies were started. George Hudson (a politician) was interested in promoting railway companies. He was known as the Railway King of England. In 1844, Cheap Trains Act was passed to make the trains to travel frequently.

### **The Penny Post:**

It came into existence in 1840. Sir Rowland Hill took efforts to create posts sent from one place to another for the value of a penny. Sir Rowland suggested to lesser the postage price and to make the penny post cheaper. So, postage stamps were introduced. As a result, posts became the cheapest means of communication all over the world.

### **The Telegraph :**

It was invented by an American Samuel Morse. The Electric telegraph company opened 17 offices in London. **The Telephone:** It was invented by an American Alexander Graham Bell. He impressed Queen Victoria by demonstrating telephone in front of her. With the queen's support, he opened a Telephone Exchange in London in 1879. Soon telephone became the easiest means of Communication. **Electricity:** It was a great blessing to mankind. Discovered by Volta and Galvani, electric power replaced stem power in factories and industries. The electric light discovered by Swan and Edison was used in houses too. **The Photography:** The camera was discovered and it replaced painting. **Use of Medicines:** The use of effective medicines saved many patients during the Victorian Age. Doctor Simpson discovered Chloroform. Lister's antiseptics and Pasteur's discoveries helped the patients a lot. Sir Ronald Ross discovered the causes of malaria.

### **Conclusion:**

Thus, many scientific discoveries made life easy and comfortable in Victorian England. At the same time, people lost faith in fellow human beings and God. So, there were problems raised among the nations of the world that led to the horrifying world wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.