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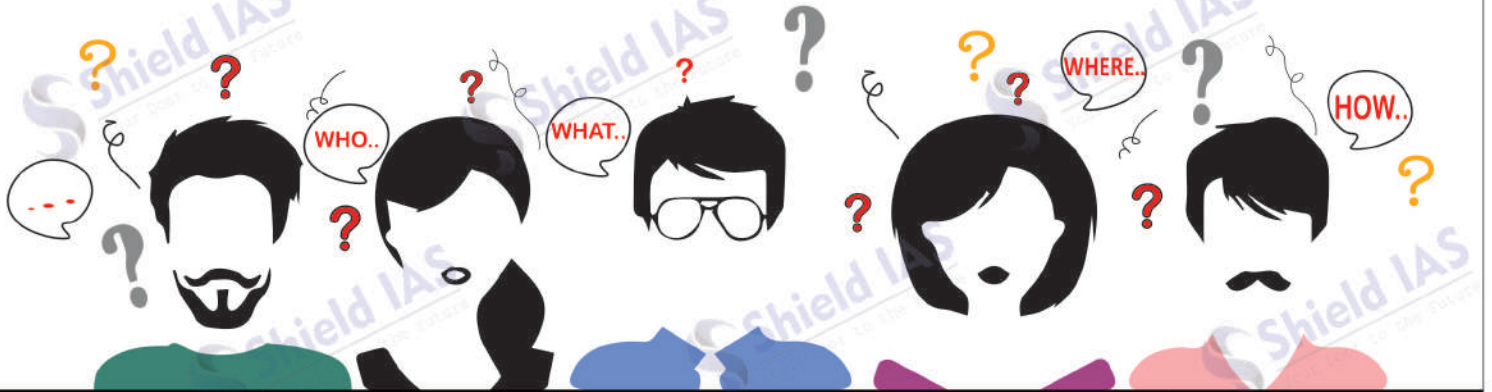


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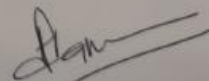


AMOL SRIVASTAVA
AIR-83 UPSC CSE 2017

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The books have been prepared by my mentors who helped me in clearing my Civil Services Exam in 2015-16.



HARSH KUMAR
IFS - 2016

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- Nidhin

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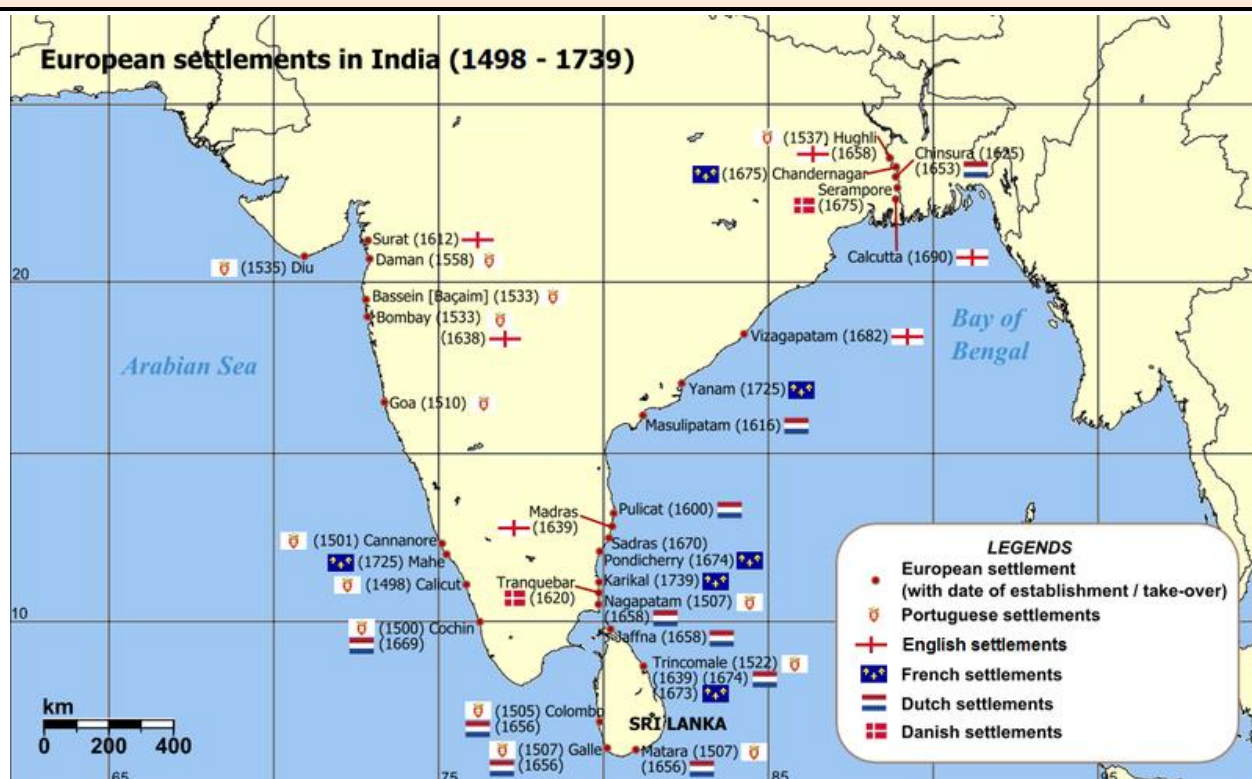
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MODERN INDIA

(SPECIAL EDITION FOR PRELIMS 2023)

COMING OF EUROPEANS IN INDIA



PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. In the first quarter of the seventeenth century, in which of the following was/were the factory/factories of the English East India Company located? (UPSC Prelims 2021)

1. Broach

2. Chicacole

3. Trichinopoly

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2

(c) 1 and 2 only (d) 2 and 3

Notes

➔ PORTUGUESE

- The **Portuguese were the first Europeans** to arrive in India and the last to leave.
- In **c. 1498 CE**, **Vasco da Gama of Portugal** discovered a new sea route from Europe to India.
- He sailed around **Africa via the Cape of Good Hope** and reached Calicut.
- He was **welcomed by the Zamorin**, the Hindu ruler of Calicut and returned to Portugal in the next year making huge profits from the Indian cargo that was worth 60 times the cost of his expedition.
- In **c. 1500 CE**, **another Portuguese Pedro Alvares Cabral** arrived in India and **Vasco da Gama also made a second trip in c. 1502 CE**.
- The Portuguese established trading settlements at **Calicut, Cochin and Cannanore**.
- The **first governor** of the Portuguese in India was **Francis de Almeida**.
- In **c. 1509 CE**, **Afonso de Albuquerque** was made the governor of the Portuguese territories in India and in **c. 1510 CE**, **he captured Goa** from the ruler of Bijapur and thereafter, **Goa became the capital** of the Portuguese settlements in India.
- The Portuguese established their **domination over the entire Asian coast from Hormuz in the Persian Gulf to Malacca in Malaya** and the **spice islands in Indonesia**. At the time of the death of Afonso de Albuquerque, the Portuguese were the strongest naval power in India.
- In **c. 1530 CE**, **Nino da Cunha** captured **Diu and Bassein** from Bahadur Shah of Gujarat. They also established **settlements at Salsette, Daman and Bombay** on the west coast and at San Thome near Madras and Hugli in Bengal on the east coast.
- However, the Portuguese power declined in India by the end of the 16th century and they lost all their acquired territories in India except Daman, Diu and Goa.

Portuguese Contributions to India

- They brought **tobacco cultivation to India**.
- They **established the first printing press** at Goa in c. 1556 CE.
- **“The Indian Medicinal Plants”** was the first scientific work which was published at Goa in c. 1563 CE.

Causes of Decline of Portuguese in India

- The governors that succeeded Afonso de Albuquerque were weak and less competent which eventually led to the decline of the Portuguese Empire in India.
- The Portuguese were **intolerant and fanatical in religious matters**. They indulged in forcible conversion of the native people to Christianity. Their approach in this respect was hateful to the people of India where religious tolerance was the rule.
- The Portuguese **administration was more interested in making fortunes for themselves** which resulted in the further alienation of the people of India. They were also involved in inhuman cruelties and lawlessness. They did not even shy away from piracy and plunder. All these acts resulted in a hostile attitude towards the Portuguese.
- The Portuguese and the Spanish had left the English and the Dutch far behind during the 15th century and the first half of the 16th century. But in the later half of the 16th century, England and Holland, and later, France, all growing commercial and naval powers, waged a fierce struggle against the Spanish and the Portuguese monopoly of world trade. In this struggle, the latter were subjugated. This also weakened their power in India.
- Also the **might of the Mughal Empire and the growing power of the Marathas did not let the Portuguese maintain their trade monopoly for long in India**. For instance, they **clashed**

with the Mughal power in Bengal in c. 1631 CE and were driven out of their settlement at Hugli.

- The **Portuguese discovered Brazil in Latin America** and began to pay much more attention to it than its territories in India.
- When **Portugal came under Spain in c. 1580 CE**, the **Spanish interests predominated over the Portugal interests** which were subsequently side lined.

→ DUTCH

- The Dutch East India Company was **established in c. 1602 CE** under the name **Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie (VOC)**.
- Dutch set up their **first factory at Masulipatnam in Andhra**.
- They also **established trading depots at:**

▪ Surat, Broach, Cambay and Ahmedabad in Gujarat in west India, Cochin in Kerala, Chinsura in Bengal, Patna in Bihar and Agra in U.P. Pulicat (Tamil Nadu) was their main centre in India and later, it was replaced by Nagapattinam.

- In the 17th century, they won over the Portuguese and emerged the most dominant power in European trade in the East. They dislodged the Portuguese from the Malay straits and the Indonesian islands, and **in c. 1623 defeated English attempts** to establish themselves there.
- The **Anglo-Dutch rivalry** continued for about seven years during which the Dutch lost their settlements to the British one by one and finally, the **Dutch were defeated by the English in the Battle of Bedara in c. 1759**.
- The mid-18th century marked the decline of the Dutch East India Company. It was marred by faulty business policies, corruption, and surrounding political changes.
- In **1741** the powerful ruler of Travancore, Martanda Verma, crushed the Dutch to regain dominance over Malabar. The fourth Anglo-Dutch war, where the British navy sank their ships and took over the trading posts, led to their bankruptcy in 1799.
- Finally, in **1825**, the Anglo-Dutch treaty put an end to the Dutch prominence in India, with all Dutch possessions being transferred to the British.

→ BRITISH

- The English Association or Company to trade with the East was **formed in c. 1599 CE** under the auspices of a group of merchants known as **"The merchant Adventurers"**.
- The company was given a **royal charter and the exclusive privilege to trade in the East by Queen Elizabeth on 31st December c.1600 CE** and was popularly known as the East India Company.
- In **c. 1609 CE**, **Captain William Hawkins** arrived at the court of **Mughal Emperor Jahangir** to seek permission to establish an English trading centre at Surat.
- But it was refused by the Emperor due to pressure from the Portuguese.
- Later in **c. 1612 CE**, **Jahangir** permitted the East India Company to **set up a factory at Surat**.
- In **c. 1615 CE**, **Sir Thomas Roe** came to the Mughal court as ambassador of **James I, the king of England** and succeeded in getting an Imperial farman to trade and establish factories in different parts of India.
- Thus, by **c. 1619 CE**, the **English established their factories at Agra, Ahmedabad, Baroda and Broach**.

- The English opened their **first factory in the south at Masulipatnam**.
- In c. **1639 CE**, **Francis Day** obtained the site of **Madras** from the **Raja of Chandragiri** and built a small fort around their factory called **Fort St. George**.
- **Madras soon replaced Masulipatnam as the headquarters of the English** on the Coromandel coast.
- The English East India Company acquired **Bombay from Charles II, the then king of England in c. 1668 CE** and Bombay became the headquarters of the company on the west coast.
- In c. **1690 CE**, an **English factory was established at a place called Sutanuti** by **Job Charnock**. Later, it developed into the **city of Calcutta** where **Fort William** was built and which later became the capital of British India.
- British settlements in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta became the nuclei of flourishing cities.
- The British East India Company grew in power and tended to acquire the status of a sovereign state in India.

→ FRENCH

- The first French venture to Indian was around the 16th century when expeditions were sent to India for trade purposes. Not all of them were successful.
- The French East India Company **was founded in c. 1664 CE by Colbert**, a minister under **Louis XIV**.
- First expedition to India, led by Francois Caron (French Governor), reached Surat in 1667 and established the first trading post (Surat) in the subcontinent.
- In c. **1668 CE**, the **first French factory was set up at Surat by Francis Caron**.
- In c. **1669 CE**, **Maracara established a factory at Masulipatnam**.
- In c. **1673 CE**, **Francois Martin founded Pondicherry (Fort Louis)**, which became the headquarters of the French possessions in India and he became its first governor.
- In c. **1690 CE**, the **French acquired Chandranagore** near Calcutta from the governor, **Shaista Khan**.
- The French established their factories at Balasore, Mahe, Qasim Bazar and Karaikal.
- The **arrival of Joseph Francois Dupleix** as French governor in India in c. 1742 CE saw the beginning of the Anglo-French conflict which resulted in the famous Carnatic wars.

→ DANES

- The **Danes established an East India Company in c. 1616 CE**.
- They formed **settlements at Tranquebar (Tamil Nadu) in c. 1620 CE** and at **Serampore (Bengal) in c. 1676 CE**. Their headquarters was at Serampore.
- However, they could not strengthen themselves in India and had to sell all their settlements in India to the British in c. 1845 CE.
- End of Danish colonies in India: During the Napoleonic Wars (1803 AD–1815 AD) the British invaded Danish shipping, and devastated the Danish East India Company's Indian trade, and ultimately captured Danish colonies, making them part of British India. The last Danish colonial post-Serampore was ceded to Britain by Denmark in 1845 AD.

→ ANGLO-FRENCH RIVALRY

- In the beginning of the 18th century, the English and the French were competing with each other to establish their dominance in India. They took advantage of the political turmoil in India which was due to the decline of the Mughal Empire.
- The rivalry between the French and the English played out in the three Carnatic Wars.

→ FIRST CARNATIC WAR

- Course of the First Carnatic War
- France and Britain were on opposite sides of the camp at the **War of Austrian Succession** that had broken out in Europe in 1740.
- This Anglo-French rivalry led to their trading companies in India vying with each other for supremacy.
- The **French Governor of Pondicherry Dupleix** had raised an army of Indian sepoys under French officers in India.
- The **French East India Company was nationalized in 1720** and France had imperialistic designs on India.
- In 1745, there was a naval attack on a French fleet by Britain in which even Pondicherry in danger.
- Dupleix, along with **additional French troops from Mauritius** defended against this attack and **captured Madras**, which had been controlled by the English.
- The English made another attack on Pondicherry but instead faced a heavy loss. The **English sought help from the Nawab of Carnatic (Arcot) Anwaruddin Khan**.
- The Nawab asked the French to return Madras to the British.
- Dupleix tried convincing the Nawab unsuccessfully that Madras would be handed over to him at a later stage.
- Then, the **Nawab sent a huge army to fight the French forces**. This army was defeated by the relatively small number of **French forces in Mylapore (in modern-day Chennai) in 1746**.
- This exposed the weakness of the armies of the Indian rulers vis-à-vis the efficiently trained armies of the European powers.
- The **war ended in 1748** with the **Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle also called Treaty of Aachen**.

Effects of the First Carnatic War

- Madras was given back to the English in **exchange for Louisburg in North America to France**.
- Dupleix understood the **superiority of the European armies** who used this advantage to influence Indian princes and establish French hegemony in South India.

→ SECOND CARNATIC WAR

- **Fought between:** Different claimants to the posts of the Nizam of Hyderabad, and the Nawab of the Carnatic; each claimant being supported either by the British or the French.
- **People involved:** Muhammad Ali and Chanda Sahib (for the Nawabship of the Carnatic or Arcot); Muzaffar Jung and Nasir Jung (for the post of the Nizam of Hyderabad).
- **Period:** 1749 – 1754
- **Result:** Muzaffar Jung became Hyderabad's Nizam. Muhammad Ali became the Nawab of the Carnatic.

Course of the Second Carnatic War

- The first Carnatic War demonstrated the power of the well-trained European army vis-à-vis the less than efficient armies of the Indian princes.
- The French Governor-General Dupleix wanted to take advantage of this and assert influence and authority over the Indian kingdoms, so as to make way for a French Empire in India. So, he was looking to interfere in the internal power struggles among Indian chiefs.
- Even though England and France were officially at peace with each other as there was no fighting in Europe, the political climate in Southern Indian at that time led their companies to fight in the subcontinent.

Hyderabad

- The **Nizam of Hyderabad, Asaf Jah I died in 1748** starting a power struggle between his **grandson (through his daughter) Muzaffar Jung**, and **his son Nasir Jung**.
- **Anwaruddin Khan, the Nawab of the Carnatic supported Nasir Jung's claim** to the throne of the Nizam.
- This led **Muzaffar Jung to instigate war with French support against Anwaruddin**, called the **Battle of Ambur**.
- **Anwaruddin Khan had died** in the Battle of Ambur in 1749.

Carnatic

- Now there was a tussle for the **Nawabship of Carnatic between Muhammad Ali** (son of Anwaruddin) and **Chanda Sahib** (son-in-law of Dost Ali Khan, a former Nawab of the Carnatic).
- This led to a tripartite understanding among the various powers.
- After Anwaruddin Khan's death, his son **Muhammad Ali fled to Trichy**. Then, **Chanda Sahib was proclaimed the Nawab of the Carnatic**.
- Then, French forces marched on to the Deccan and fought and killed **Nasir Jung**.
- Subsequently, **Muzaffar Jung was installed as the Nizam of Hyderabad**.
- However, Muzaffar Jung was killed a couple of months later and the French installed **Salabat Jung (another son of Asaf Jah I) as the Nizam**.
- In return, the **French acquired from the Nizam four rich districts on the Coromandel Coast (Northern Sircars)**.
- At this time, **Trichy was under the control of Chanda Sahib** and the French. But the **Trichy Fort was held by Muhammad Ali**.
- To undermine the growing French power in the region, the English decided to support Muhammad Ali.
- **Robert Clive (later Governor of Bengal) attacked Arcot**, the capital of the Carnatic, as a divisionary tactic. This is called the **Siege of Arcot**, in which the British won.
- After this many battles were fought and Chanda Sahib was killed in one of them.
- Thus, **Muhammad Ali was installed as the Nawab of the Carnatic**.
- The war ended with the **Treaty of Pondicherry in 1754**.

Effects of the Second Carnatic War

- Although the French gained the **Northern Sircars**, Dupleix was criticised by the French authorities because of heavy losses to the French company.
- Dupleix was called back to France. He was replaced by **Charles-Robert Godeheu** who signed the **Treaty of Pondicherry**.

- As per the treaty, the English and the French were to indulge only in commercial activities in India and not interfere in sub-continental political affairs.

→ THIRD CARNATIC WAR

- **People involved:** Count de Lally (French General), British Lieutenant-General Sir Eyre Coote
- **Period:** 1757 – 1763
- **Result:** British victory

Course of the war

- In **1756, the Seven Year's War** broke out in Europe and once again England and France were pitted against one another. No major engagements would take place between the two in the Indian Subcontinent until 1757.
- **After the Battle of Plassey in 1757, the British forces wrested Chandannagar (in Bengal)** from the French.
- The French, under **Count de Lally, captured Fort St. George and attacked the English** to acquire Madras.
- But he **was defeated by English forces under Sir Eyre Coote in the Battle of Wandiwash in 1760.**
- The French **lost their Indian possessions including Pondicherry, Mahe, Gingee and Karaikal** to the British.
- The war ended with the **Treaty of Paris in 1763.**
- As per the Treaty, **Chandannagar and Pondicherry were returned to France** but they were barred from fortifying them or having troops in them. They could only have trading activities.

Effects of the War

- French hopes of building an empire in India were completely dashed.
- This **established Britain as the paramount European power** in India. The path was clear for the establishment of a British colonial rule in India.

Reasons for French failure

- **Superior naval strength of the British.** They could bring in soldiers from Europe and also provide supplies from Bengal. The French did not have any such avenue to replenish resources.
- **Britain had Madras, Bombay and Calcutta – three important posts.** In contrast, the **French had only one strong post, Pondicherry.** This meant that if Pondicherry was captured, the French had little hope of recovery. But Britain could rely on any of the other two bases if one was captured.
- The **victory at the Battle of Plassey** opened up the British to a rich area, namely Bengal.
- The British had **many capable and able soldiers** like Robert Clive, Stringer Lawrence and Sir Eyre Coote.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q1. Which of the following treaty ended the war of Austrian succession and First Anglo-French war in India?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) Treaty of Aix-La-Chappelle | (b) Treaty of Paris |
| (c) The treaty of Pondicherry | (d) Treaty of Masulipattam |

Q2. The French were finally defeated by the English in which of the following battles?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Battle of Wandiwash | (b) Battle of St. Thome |
| (c) Battle of Plassey | (d) Battle of Hyderabad |

Notes

INDIA IN THE 18th CENTURY



➔ LATER MUGHALS

- The period between c. 1707 CE and c. 1761 CE (the time of Aurangzeb's death to the period when the Third Battle of Panipat took place, wherein Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated the Maratha chiefs), witnessed the resurgence of regional identities and highlighted a sad state of affairs for the once-mighty Mughals.
- The Mughal court became the scene of factions among the nobles.
- The **weakness of the empire was exposed when Nadir Shah imprisoned the Mughal Emperor** and looted Delhi in c. 1739 CE.
- After the death of Aurangzeb in c. 1707 CE, a war of succession broke out among his three sons – **Muazzam (the governor of Kabul), Muhammad Kam Baksh (the governor of Deccan) and Muhammad Azam Shah (the governor of Gujarat).**

Bahadur Shah I/Shah Alam/Muazzam (c. 1707 – 1712 CE)

- **Muazzam ascended the throne** and assumed the title of **Bahadur Shah, at the age of 63.**
- He **followed a liberal policy** towards the nobles, granted them the territories of their preferences and promoted them.
- This led to the worsening of the state finances. It is also believed that the real power was in the hands of the **wazir, Zulfiqar Khan.**
- He showed **a tolerant attitude towards Hindus**, though he never abolished jizya.
- During his reign, the **independence of Marwar and Mewar was acknowledged.** However, the settlement could not restore these states to become fully committed warriors for the Mughal cause.
- His policy towards the Marathas was also half-hearted reconciliation. He **did not recognize Shahu (whom he released) as the rightful Maratha king.**
- He **granted Maratha the sardeshmukhi of the Deccan**, but failed to grant the Chauth and thus could not satisfy them fully. Marathas, thus, continued to fight among themselves as well as against the Mughals.
- **Jat chief Charuman and the Bundella chief Chattrasal** joined him in his campaign **against the Sikhs.**
- **High mansab was granted to the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh.** He, however, had to face rebellion from **Banda Bahadur** and it was during the course of his campaign against Banda Bahadur that he died (in c. 1712 CE).
- He was given the title of "**Shah-i-Bekhabar**" by Mughal historians like **Khafi Khan.**

Jahandar Shah (c. 1712 – 1713 CE)

- After the death of Bahadur Shah, a new form of politics emerged in the Mughals' political sphere wherein the **nobles became 'king makers' and the kings mere 'puppets' in their hands.**
- **Jahandar Shah was the first puppet ruler** in Mughal India. He was **supported by Zulfiqar Khan (wazir)** who had the reins of the executive in his hands.
- Zulfiqar Khan **built friendly relations with the Marathas, the Rajputs and different Hindu chieftains.**
- He **abolished jizya and gave the title of "Maharaja" to Ajit Singh (Marwar) and Mirza Raj Sawai to Jai Singh of Amber.**
- He also **granted the Chauth and Sardeshmukhi of the Deccan to Shahu.** However, the old policy of suppression was continued against Banda Bahadur and the Sikhs.

- Zulfiqar also tried to improve the financial situation of the empire by checking reckless grants of jagirs and offices. He also made mansabdars maintain the official quota of troops.
- However, he is **infamous in history for introducing the evil practice of Ijarah (revenue farming)**.
- Jahandar Shah's favourite lady, **Lal Kanwar (a dancing girl) dominated the court**.

Farrukh Siyar (c. 1713 – 1719 CE)

- Farrukh Siyar **defeated his brother Jahandar Shah** at Agra in c. 1713 CE.
- He ascended the throne with the **support of the Saiyyad brothers (the kingmakers) – Saiyyad Abdullah Khan (Wazir) and Hussain Ali Khan (Mir Bakshi)**.
- The Saiyyad brothers **killed Zulfiqar Khan** and appointed themselves to key positions.
- The Saiyyad brothers tried to **make peace with the Marathas, the Jats, the Rajputs** and were also successful in suppressing the Sikh revolt. It was during this time that Banda Bahadur, the Sikh leader, was executed.
- In c. **1717 CE, Farrukh Siyar granted many trading privileges to the East India Company** and also exempted customs duties for its trading through Bengal.
- The Saiyyad brothers **completely did away with jizya and also abolished pilgrimage tax** at a number of places.
- Due to the overwhelming powers of the Saiyyad brothers, differences grew between Farrukh Siyar and the Saiyyad brothers. The emperor plotted thrice against the brothers, but failed to overpower them.
- In c. **1719 CE, the Saiyyad brothers forged an alliance with Balaji Vishwanath (Maratha ruler) and with the help of Maratha troops, the Saiyyad brothers killed Farrukh Siyar**.

Rafi-us-Darajat (c. 1719 CE)

- The Saiyyad brothers placed Rafi-us-Darajat at the throne. In fact, within a short span of eight months three young princes were raised to the throne by the Saiyyad brothers.
- He died within four months due to excessive consumption.
- Grandson of Aurangzeb, **Nikusiyyar** revolted during his reign and occupied the throne at Agra with the support of **Mitrasen (a Nagar Brahmin)**.

Rafi-us-Daula (c. 1719 CE)

- Hussain Ali Khan (the Saiyyad brother) marched upon Agra and imprisoned Nikusiyyar.
- **Rafi-us-Daula was titled as Shah Jahan II**.
- He ruled for a very short period and died of Tuberculosis.

Muhammad Shah (Rangeela)/Roshan Akhtar (c. 1719 – 1748 CE)

- Brother of Jahan Shah who was fond of dancing and was **himself an expert Kathak dancer**.
- In c. **1720, he successfully dislodged the Saiyyad brothers** with the help of Nizam-ul-Mulk, **Chin Qilich Khan** and his father's cousin **Muhammad Amin Khan**.
- He **appointed Muhammad Amir Khan**, who killed Hussain Ali Khan, as **wazir under the title of Itmad-ud-Daula**.
- However, independent states emerged during his reign, the **Deccan under Nizam-ul-Mulk, Awadh under the leadership of Saadat Khan** and **Murshid Quli Khan** reigned Bihar, Bengal and Orissa.
- The weakness of the Mughal empire was exposed when Nadir Shah invaded India, imprisoned the Mughal emperor and looted Delhi in c. 1739 CE.

→ INVASION OF NADIR SHAH (C. 1739 CE)

- Nadir Shah was the Emperor of Iran. He was a national hero there who drove the Afghans out of Iran.
- When Nadir Shah came to power in c. 1736 CE, **Muhammad Shah Rangeela withdrew his ambassador from the Persian court** and snapped all diplomatic ties with that country. Nadir Shah sent three envoys to the Mughal court and his third envoy was detained by Rangeela which enraged him.
- When Nadir Shah invaded Afghanistan, some of the Afghan nobles took shelter under Rangeela.
- Also, **Saadat Khan and Nizam-ul-Mulk invited Nadir Shah** to invade India.

Course of invasion

- He captured Jalalabad, Peshawar (c. 1738 CE) and then Lahore in c. 1739.
- **Battle of Karnal (c. 1739 CE)**
- Upon hearing of the advancing Persian army, Muhammad Shah marched his forces out of Delhi in order to meet the invading army and prevent their entry into his capital.
- The two forces met at Karnal for battle (about 120 km north of Delhi). The Persian soldiers wreaked havoc on the Mughal army.
- Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah surrendered and he had to take Nadir Shah to his capital. The entire treasury was looted and the soldiers indulged in a gruesome massacre of the general population including women and children at Delhi.
- The sack of Delhi lasted for several days, after which Nadir Shah asked his men to cease. In May c. 1739 CE, Nadir Shah and his troops left the city.
- Muhammad Shah was retained as the emperor of the Mughal empire but was compelled to cede to him all the provinces of the empire falling west of the river Indus.
- Nadir Shah almost emptied the treasury and also **took away the famous Kohinoor and the Peacock throne.**
- Nadir Shah's invasion caused an irreparable loss of prestige and exposed the weaknesses of the empire to the Maratha Sardars and the foreign trading companies as well.

Ahmad Shah (c. 1748 – 1757 CE)

- Son of Muhammad Shah Rangeela and **Kudsiya Begum** (a dancing girl).
- Ahmad Shah Abdali (ruler of Afghanistan) invaded Delhi many times, and Punjab along with Multan was ceded to him.
- The Marathas snatched Malwa and Bundelkhand.
- His wazir, **Imad-ul-Mulk, blinded him and imprisoned him at Salimgarh.**

Alamgir II (c. 1754 – 1759 CE)

- He was the **second son of Jahandar Shah** and was **raised to the throne by Imad-ul-Mulk** after he deposed Ahmad Shah.
- Had to face repeated invasions of Ahmad Shah Abdali.
- The famous **Battle of Plassey (23 June c. 1757 CE)** was fought during his tenure. The Battle of Plassey helped the British East India Company to seize control of Bengal.
- He was **also murdered by his wazir, Imad-ul-Mulk.**

Ali Gauhar/Shah Alam II (c. 1759 – 1806 CE)

- During his reign, the Mughal power was so depleted that it led to a saying in Persian “**Sultanat-e-Shah Alam, Az Dili ta Palam**”, meaning “The kingdom of Shah Alam is from Delhi to Palam,” Palam being a suburb of Delhi.
- Due to his conflict with the wazir, he **fled to Awadh (c. 1761 – 1764 CE)**.
- He **returned to Delhi when Marathas re-established their hold and invited him to the capital**.
- The **third Battle of Panipat (c. 1761 CE)** was fought during his reign between the Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali.
- The **Battle of Buxar was fought in c. 1764 CE** between the forces under the command of the British East India Company, led by **Hector Munro** and the combined armies of **Mir Qasim (Nawab of Bengal)**, **Shuja-ud-Daula (Nawab of Awadh)** and the **Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II**.
- The war was brought to an end by the **Treaty of Allahabad (c. 1765 CE)** under which Diwani rights (right to collect land revenue) of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa were granted to the British East India Company.
- He was the **first Mughal ruler who became an East India Company pensioner**.

Akbar II (C. 1806 – 1837 CE)

- He was the son of **Shah Alam II** and remained only under British protection as in c. 1803 CE, the British had captured Delhi.
- He **conferred the title of “Raja” on Ram Mohan Roy**.
- He was a great poet and is credited with the introduction of the Hindu-Muslim unity **festival Phool Walon Ki Sair**.

Bahadur Shah II/Zafar (c. 1837 – 1857 CE)

- He was the last ruler of the Mughal Empire. He was an accomplished poet and his pen name was **Zafar (victory)**.
- He participated in the revolt of c. 1857 CE.
- After the revolt was suppressed, he was **deported to Rangoon (Burma) where he died in c. 1862 CE**.

➔ THE PESHWAS

- The word Peshwa has its **roots in the Persian language meaning “foremost”, and was introduced in the Deccan by the Muslim rulers**.
- The early Peshwas were the prime ministers of the Maratha Chhatrapatis who were appointed to assist the rulers in different administrative and political affairs.
- The Peshwas later assumed the number one position in Maratha politics.

Balaji Vishwanath Bhatt (c. 1713 – 1719 CE)

- The **Bhatts were Chitpavan Brahmins** hailing from Shrivardhan in the Konkan region.
- He made the post of the Peshwa hereditary and is also known in history for making the position of Peshwa the most important and influential in the Maratha administration.

- He **played an important role in the civil war as he sought the support of all Maratha leaders for Shahu** and thus, helped Shahu in his rise to power.
- In **c. 1719 CE, Balaji Vishwanath was successful in attaining certain rights from the then Mughal Emperor, Farrukh Siyar** such as recognition of Shahu as the Maratha king and to collect Chauth and Sardeshmukhi from the six Mughal provinces of the Deccan, including the Carnatic and Mysore.
- Along with Shahu, **Balaji Vishwanath assisted the Sayyid brothers** in deposing the Mughal emperor, Farrukh Siyar in c. 1719 CE.

Baji Rao I (c. 1720 – 1740 CE)

- Eldest son of Balaji Vishwanath who succeeded him as Peshwa at the **young age of twenty**. The Maratha power rose to its heights under him and he was the most famous among all the Peshwas.
- He **preached and propagated the idea of Hindu-pad-padshahi (Hindu Empire)** to gain the support of the Hindu chiefs against the Mughals, their common enemy.
- During his lifetime, he did not lose any battle. He **defeated Nizam-ul-Mulk (Deccan) twice**, at Palkhed and Bhopal, and compelled him to grant chauth and sardeshmukhi of the five provinces of the Deccan.
- In **c. 1722 CE, he seized Salsette and Bassein from the Portuguese**.
- In **c. 1728 CE, he shifted the administrative capital from Satara to Pune**.
- He **initiated the system of the confederacy** among the Maratha chiefs. Under this system, a territory was assigned to each Maratha chief which he could administer autonomously.
- Consequently, many Maratha families became prominent and established their authority over different parts of India. They were the **Peshwas at Poona**, the **Bhonsles at Nagpur**, the **Scindias at Gwalior**, the **Holkars at Indore** and the **Gaekwads at Baroda**.

Balaji Baji Rao I/Nana Sahib I (c. 1740 – 1761 CE)

- Balaji Baji Rao I succeeded his father as Peshwa at the young age of nineteen.
- **Shahu, the Maratha king died in c. 1749 CE** without an issue.
- His nominated successor **Ramaraja**, was even though accepted by Balaji Baji Rao, gradually the **supreme power of the Maratha confederacy passed into the hands of the Peshwa (by the Sangola Agreement c. 1750 CE)**.
- In **c. 1752 CE, the Peshwa entered into an agreement with the Mughal Emperor**. According to this agreement, the Peshwa, Balaji Baji Rao assured the Mughal Emperor that he would protect the Mughal empire from internal as well as external enemies and in return, the chauth of the north-west provinces and the total revenue of Ajmer and Agra would be granted to the Marathas.
- The **Marathas bravely fought the Third Battle of Panipat (c. 1761 CE)** when Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded India (as per the agreement of c. 1752 CE). However, the Marathas were defeated and many Maratha leaders and thousands of soldiers died in the battle. On hearing the sad end of the battle, Balaji Baji Rao also died.
- The defeat at the Battle of Panipat checked the expansion of the Marathas and also fragmented the empire which never fought again as one unit.
- Meanwhile, the branches of the **Bhonsle family relocated to Kolhapur and Nagpur**, while the mainline remained in the Deccan heartland, at Satara.

Madhav Rao (c. 1761 – 1772 CE)

- He was an outstanding Peshwa, who restored the lost territories of the Maratha empire.

- He defeated the Nizam and also made Haidar Ali (Mysore) pay tribute, and reasserted control over northern India by defeating the Rohillas and subjugating the Rajput states and Jat chiefs.
- When the Marathas re-established their hold, Madhav Rao invited the Mughal emperor, Shah Alam to Delhi (~c. 1771 CE).
- During his reign, semi-independent states were created like the Holkars, the Scindias and the Gaekwads (Gaekwars).

| | |
|--|---|
| Raghunath Rao (c. 1772 – 1773 CE) | There ensued a struggle for power between Raghunath Rao (younger brother of Balaji Baji Rao) and Narayan Rao (younger brother of Madhav Rao). |
| Narayan Rao (c. 1772 – 1773 CE) | He was murdered on the orders of Raghunath Rao. |
| Raghunath Rao (c. 1773 – 1774 CE) | He seized the throne but was overthrown by the emperor. |

Sawai Madhav Rao (c. 1774 – 1795 CE)

- He was the son of Narayan Rao, who was **just 40 days old when crowned as the Peshwa**.
- The **empire was managed by Nana Phadnavis**, an able administrator and a great warrior, with the help of the **Barbhai Council (a twelve-member regency council)**.
- **Raghunath Rao sought the help of the British** which led to the **First Anglo-Maratha War (c. 1775 – 1782 CE)**.
- **Nana Phadnavis defeated the British at the Battle of Talegaon (c. 1776 CE)** and then, the famous **treaty of Purandar (c. 1776 CE)** and the **treaty of Salbai (c. 1782 CE)** were signed.
- **The treaty virtually restored the status quo except** for the fact that the English retained Salsette and dropped the cause of Raghunath Rao.
- In c. 1800 CE, Nana Phadnavis died and thereafter, the Marathas could not sustain against the British and could not restore their past glory.

Baji Rao II (c. 1796 – 1818 CE)

- Son of **Raghunath Rao** and the last Peshwa.
- In c. **1802 CE**, he **signed the treaty of Bassein** with the British which allowed the British to take control over the Maratha region and also of Deccan and western India.
- In the **Third Anglo-Maratha War (c. 1818 CE)**, he **was defeated by the East India Company** and the Peshwa's territory in central Maharashtra was annexed to the British East India company's Bombay province.
- His **adopted son Nana Sahib (Dhondu Pant)** participated in the famous revolt of c. 1857 CE against the British.
- The Marathas emerged as a great power in India after the decline of the Mughal Empire. However, they could not prevent the establishment of British power in India. One of the main causes for the decline of the Maratha empire was the lack of unity among the Maratha chiefs (Holkars, Scindias, Bhonsles). Also, the Maratha army was ill-equipped as compared to the British army.

➔ CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI'S ADMINISTRATION

- Shivaji Maharaj laid the foundations of a sound system of administration.
- His system of administration was very much influenced by the Mughal and Deccani states of administration.
- The Maratha Empire was called **Swarajya or Mulk-e-Kadim**.

Central Administration

- The king was assisted by a council of ministers called **Ashtapradhan**.
- Each minister headed a department and was directly answerable to Shivaji.
- These offices were neither permanent nor hereditary.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Peshwa – Pant Pradhan | in charge of finance and general administration. Later Peshwa became more powerful and became the Prime Minister. |
| Sar-i-Naubat or Senapati | Military commander, an honorary post. |
| Amatya/Majumdar | Accountant General |
| Waqia Navis | Intelligence and police, posts, and household affairs. |
| Surnavis or Chitnis or Sachiv | who looked after official correspondence |
| Sumanta | Master of ceremonies and foreign affairs. |
| Nyayadhish | Justice. |
| Pandita Rao | Charities and religious administration |

Provincial Administration

- The provinces were known as **Prants** and it was under the charge of a **Subedar**.
- The **Sarsubedar** used to control and supervise the work of the Subedar.
- The **Tarfs** were controlled by a **havaladar**.
- **Villages or Mauzas** were the lowest unit of administration.
- In rural regions, a **police officer** was called **Faujdar** and in **urban regions**, he was called **Kotwal**.
- Under the Marathas, performance based **Brahmin elites** were called **Kamvishdar** who controlled the central bureaucracy and the local administration and also enjoyed powers of tax assessment and collection.
- They provided information about local conditions to the superior officials.

Prants (Province) ⇒ Subedar supervised by Sarsubedar



Tarfs (Districts) ⇒ Havaladar (law and order)



Parganas (sub-districts) ⇒ Deshpande (Account and record keeper) and Deshmukh (law and order)



Mauzas (Village) ⇒ Kulkarni (Account and record keeper) and Patil (law and order).

Army

- The **regular army (paga)** consisted of about 30,000 to 40,000 cavalry supervised by havaldars who received fixed salaries.
- The **lowest head of the cavalry was called Naik.**
- There were two divisions in the Maratha cavalry –

- **Bargirs** – equipped and paid by the state.
- **Silahdars** – maintained by the nobles.

- The forts were carefully supervised, Mavali soldiers and gunners were appointed there.
- Three men of equal rank were placed in charge of each fort to guard against treachery.
- By the end of his reign, Shivaji had about 240 forts. Shivaji also built a powerful navy for guarding the Maratha ports and collecting taxes from the incoming and outgoing ships.

Revenue

- The revenue system of Shivaji was **based on that of Malik Amber of Ahmednagar.**
- The **measuring rod (lathi) was used for measuring land.**
- Lands were also classified into **three categories** – paddy fields, garden lands and hilly tracts.
- He appointed his own **revenue officials called Karkuns** and reduced the powers of the existing Kulkarnis and Deshmukhs.
- **Chauth and sardeshmukhi were the two major sources of revenue** that were collected in the neighbouring territories of the Mughal empire or Deccan Sultanates (and not in the Maratha kingdom).
- **Chauth was one-fourth of the land revenue** paid to the Marathas in order to avoid the Maratha raids.
- **Sardeshmukhi** was an additional levy of ten percent on those lands on which the Marathas claimed hereditary rights.

→ REGIONAL KINGDOMS

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. With reference to Indian history, which of the following statements is/are correct? (UPSC Prelims 2021)

1. The Nizamat of Arcot emerged out of Hyderabad State.
2. The Mysore Kingdom emerged out of Vijaynagara Empire.

3. Rohilkhand Kingdom was formed out of the territories occupied by Ahmad Shah Durrani.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 | (b) 2 only |
| (c) 2 and 3 | (d) 3 only |

Notes

→ BENGAL

- With the gradual weakening of the central Mughal authority, **Murshid Quli Khan who served as a diwan under Aurangzeb** became virtually independent but had to pay tribute to the Mughal Emperor.
- In c. **1739 CE**, **he was replaced by Alivardi Khan** and became the Nawab himself.
- These Nawabs brought peace and stability in the region and also promoted trade, agriculture and industry.
- They provided equal employment opportunities to both Hindus and Muslims.
- However, they failed to understand the long term implications of the presence of the European trading companies in these areas and could not keep up the level of their military preparedness with the European powers.
- Consequently, there were battles and wars between the two, for example, **Siraj-ud-Daula, the successor of Alivardi Khan, had to fight the East India Company** over the trading rights in c. 1756 CE.
- His **defeat in the Battle of Plassey (c. 1757 CE) resulted in the subjugation of Bengal** as well as India by the British.

→ AWADH

- During the decline of the Mughal power, another provincial kingdom – Awadh, emerged under governor **Saadat Khan Burhan ul Mulk**.
- He made his position hereditary just before his death in c. **1739 CE** and later his successors, **Safdar Jung** and **Asaf ud Daulah** played an important role in the politics of northern India and gave long-term administrative stability to the Awadh province.
- Under the Nawabs, **Faizabad and Lucknow** emerged as centres of cultural excellence comparable to Delhi in the spheres of arts, literature and crafts.
- Regional architecture also reflected itself in the form of **Imambarahs and other buildings**.
- The evolution of the **dance form of kathak** was the outcome of this cultural synthesis.

→ RAJPUTS

- Rajputs had served well under the Mughals and in exchange, they were granted considerable autonomy in their **watan jagirs**.
- However, during the reign of Aurangzeb, the relation between the Mughals and the Rajputs suffered, mainly due to his interference in the succession dispute of Marwar.
- Moreover, most of the Rajput states were constantly involved in petty fights and civil wars.
- One of the important principalities that emerged in the early 18th century was that of Jaipur (earlier Amber), located in eastern Rajasthan.
- Its ruler, **Sawai Jai Singh** emerged as the single most important ruler in the region.
- With the rise of Marathas, Rajput influence began to decrease and Jaipur became a vulnerable target for the ambitions of the Marathas particularly, Mahadaji Scindia.

→ PUNJAB

- The decline of the Mughal power **gave Sikhs the opportunity to rise.**
- By **c. 1770 CE**, there was a confederation of about 60 chieftains, some of who later emerged as princely states under the British such as Patiala and Nabha.
- It was **Maharaja Ranjit Singh (grandson of Charhat Singh Sukerchakia)** who brought the Sikh chiefs west of the river Sutlej under his control and established a powerful Sikh empire in Punjab.
- He started controlling the different trade routes, and in order to enhance his revenues started imposing monopolies on the trade in salt, grain and textiles from Kashmir.
- Using these earnings, he built up a modernized army of 40,000 cavalry and infantry and by c. 1809 CE emerged as the undisputed master of Punjab.
- His rule lasted for four decades, c. 1799 – 1839 CE. However, within ten years of his death, the British annexed Punjab.

→ SOUTH INDIA

- The principal states that rose to prominence in the latter half of the 18th century (after 1740 CE) were

- **Travancore** in Kerala under Martanda Varma and Rama Varma
- **Mysore** under Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan

- Before them, there were three formidable powers (though representatives of Mughal authority) in the south –

- The **Marathas** who were present both at Thanjavur and elsewhere,
- **Sadullah Khan of Arcot (Karnataka)** who ruled around the 1700s and
- The **Nizam-ul-Mulk of Hyderabad.**

- However, in the second half of the 18th century, the power of all three of these declined.

→ TRAVANCORE

- **Martanda Varma** ruled **Travancore** (southern Kerala state of Venad) from c. 1729 – 1758 CE, built a strong standing army and fortified the northern limits of his kingdom.
- He was succeeded by **Rama Varma (c. 1758 – 1798 CE)** who was able to protect his kingdom successfully against a new rival power – Mysore.

→ MYSORE

- Mysore emerged as a powerful state under the **rulers of the Vadiyar dynasty (or Wodeyar)**. Being a landlocked region, Mysore depended on ports of the Indian east coast for trade and military supplies.
- In **c. 1761 CE**, a cavalry commander of migrant origin, Haidar Ali attained sufficient power in the kingdom to reduce the Vadiyars to mere figureheads.
- **Haidar Ali, and later around c. 1782 CE his son Tipu Sultan** worked hard to consolidate Mysore and to have access to both coasts of Peninsular India.

- They were also relatively successful against the **Kodavas (the inhabitants of the upland kingdom of Kodagu, Coorg)**, Coastal Karnataka and northern Kerala which enabled Tipu Sultan to have diplomatic and commercial relations on his own with the Middle East.
- However, they had to fight against the local chiefs, the Poligars. They eventually lost their kingdom to the English East India Company.

CONSOLIDATION OF BRITISH

➔ ROBERT CLIVE

- Clive's initial stay in India lasted from **1744 to 1753**.
- He was called back to **India in 1755 to ensure British supremacy** in the subcontinent against the French.
- He became the **deputy governor of Fort St. David** at Cuddalore.
- In **1757, Clive along with Admiral Watson** was able to recapture Calcutta from the **Nawab of Bengal Siraj Ud Daulah**.
- In the Battle of Plassey, the Nawab was defeated by the British despite having a larger force.
- Clive delivered a decisive English victory by inducing the Nawab's army Commander **Mir Jaffar**, who was installed as Bengal's Nawab after the battle.
- Clive was also able to capture some French forts in Bengal.
- For these exploits, Robert Clive was made **Lord Clive, Baron of Plassey**.
- As a result of this battle, the British became the paramount power in the Indian subcontinent.
- Bengal became theirs and this greatly increased the company's fortunes.
- This also opened up other parts of India to the British and finally led to the rise of the British Raj in India. For this reason, **Robert Clive is also known as "Conqueror of India"**.

Robert Clive's Rule of Bengal

- Robert Clive was the **Governor of Bengal from 1757-60** and from **1765-67**.
- During his first tenure as Bengal's governor, under the Nawab Mir Jaffar, corruption was rampant.
- The company's sole aim was maximising revenue at the expense of the peasants.
- He amassed a great personal fortune in India and returned to Britain in 1760.
- He **returned to India in 1765 as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bengal**.
- At this time, there was widespread corruption in the company.
- So Clive forbade the company's employees from engaging in private trade. He also barred them from accepting gifts.
- He started a '**Society of Trade**' in **1765** but it was later abolished.
- Mir Jaffar's son-in-law Mir Qasim had ascended the throne of Bengal.
- He wanted to wrest himself from English influence.
- The **Battle of Buxar** was fought between the British and the combined forces of Mir Qasim, Shuja Ud Daulah (the Nawab of Awadh) and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II. The British won this battle.
- As a result of this battle, the **Diwani (right to collect revenue) of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha was granted to the British by the Mughal Emperor** in return for an annual sum of money and Allahabad and Kora districts.

- Robert Clive, who could have had Awadh as well, refrained from annexing it. He intended to use it as a 'buffer' state between the British and the Marathas.
- The Nizamat (territorial jurisdiction) of Bengal remained with the Nawab. In reality, the English held this power.
- This was Clive's Dual System where the company was the Diwan and the Nawab held the Nizamat.

→ BATTLE OF PLASSEY

- It is a battle fought between the East India Company force headed by Robert Clive and Siraj-Ud-Daulah (Nawab of Bengal).
- The Battle of Plassey was fought at **Palashi**, on the banks of Bhagirathi river near Calcutta on June 23, 1757.

Reasons for the Battle of Plassey

- The **rampant misuse of the trade privileges** given to the British by the Nawab of Bengal
- **Non-payment of tax and duty** by the workers of the British East India Company

Other reasons that supported the coming of this battle were:

- Fortification of Calcutta by the British without the Nawab's permission
- Misleading Nawab on various fronts by British
- **An asylum was provided to Nawab's enemy Krishna Das**
- The East India Company had a strong presence in India majorly at Fort St. George, Fort William and Bombay Castle.
- The British resorted to having an alliance with the Nawabs and princes in exchange for security against any form of external and internal attack and were promised concessions in return for their safety and protection.
- The problem arose when the alliance was disrupted under the **rule of Nawab of Bengal (Siraj-Ud-Daulah)**.
- The **Nawab started seizing the fort of Calcutta** and imprisoning many British Officials in June 1756.
- The prisoners were kept in a dungeon at Fort William. This incident is called the **Black Hole of Calcutta** since only a handful of the prisoners survived the captivity where over a hundred people were kept in a cell meant for about 6 people.
- The East India company planned an attack and Robert Clive **bribed Mir Jafar**, the commander-in-chief of the Nawab's army, and also promised him to make him Nawab of Bengal.

| Participants | Role |
|--|---|
| Siraj-Ud-Daulah (Nawab of Bengal) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Involved in Black-Hole Tragedy (imprisoned 146 English persons who were lodged in a very tiny room due to which 123 of them died of suffocation) ○ Adversely affected by the rampant misuse of trade privileges by the EIC ○ Attacked and seized the English fort at Calcutta, it brought their hostility into the open |
| Robert Clive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gave asylum to political fugitive Krishna Das, disappointing Siraj-Ud-Daulah ○ Misuse of trade privileges ○ Fortified Calcutta without the nawab's permission |

| | |
|---|---|
| Mir Jafar (Commander-in-Chief of Nawab's army) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bribed by East India Company (EIC) ○ Was to be made the Nawab by EIC for conspiring against Siraj-Ud-Daulah ○ Cheated Siraj-Ud-Daulah during the battle |
| Rai Durlabh (One of the Commanders of the Nawabs Army) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Joined his army with Siraj-Ud-Daulah's but did not participate in the battle ○ Betrayed Siraj |
| Jagat Seth (Influential Banker) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Involved in the conspiracy involving the imprisonment and ultimate killing of Nawab Siraj-Ud-Daulah |
| Omi Chand (Bengal Merchant) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One of the principal authors of the conspiracy against Nawab and associated with the treaty negotiated by Robert Clive before the Battle of Plassey in 1757 |

Effects of Battle of Plassey

- Apart from the British getting political power of Northern India but only after Nawabs, there were several other effects in many forms that came out as a result of the Battle of Plassey.
- They can be categorised as:

Political Effects

- The Battle of Plassey resulted at the **end of the French forces**.
- **Mir Jafar** was crowned as the Nawab of Bengal
- Mir Jafar was unhappy with the position and **instigated the Dutch to attack the British** in order to consolidate his foundation.
- **Battle of Chinsura was fought between the Dutch and British forces** on November 25, 1759.
- The British installed **Mir Qasim** as the Nawab of Bengal.
- The British became the paramount European power in Bengal.
- Robert Clive was titled "Lord Clive", Baron of Plassey and also obtained a seat in the British House of Commons.

Economic Effects

- The economy of India was affected severely.
- Post the victory, the British started imposing severe rules and regulations on the inhabitants of Bengal in the name of tax collection.

→ BATTLE OF BUXAR

- It was a battle fought between the English Forces, and a joint army of the **Nawab of Oudh, Nawab of Bengal, and the Mughal Emperor**.
- The battle was the result of misuse of trade privileges granted by the Nawab of Bengal and also the colonialist ambitions of East India Company.

Background

- Before the battle of Buxar, one more battle was fought. It was the Battle of Plassey, that gave the British a firm foothold over the region of Bengal.

- As a result of the Battle of Plassey, **Siraj-Ud-Daulah was dethroned** as the Nawab of Bengal and was **replaced by Mir Jafar** (Commander of Siraj's Army.)
- After Mir Jafar became the new Bengal nawab, the British made him their puppet but Mir Jafar got involved with Dutch East India Company.
- **Mir Qasim (son-in-law of Mir Jafar) was supported by the British** to become the new Nawab and under the pressure of the Company, Mir Jafar decided to resign in favour of Mir Kasim.
- A pension of **Rs 1,500 per annum was fixed for Mir Jafar**.
A few reasons which were the key to the Battle of Buxar are given below:
- **Mir Qasim wanted to be independent and shifted his capital to Munger Fort** from Calcutta.
- He also **hired foreign experts** to train his army, some of whom were in direct conflict with the British.
- He **treated Indian merchants and English as same**, without granting any special privileges for the latter.
- These factors fuelled the English to overthrow him and war broke out between Mir Kasim and the Company in 1763.

Battle of Buxar

- When the battle broke out in 1763, English **gained successive victories** at **Katwah, Murshidabad, Giria, Sooty and Munger**.
- Mir Kasim **fled to Awadh (or Oudh)** and formed a **confederacy with the Shuja-Ud-Daulah (Nawab of Awadh) and Shah Alam II (Mughal Emperor)**.
- Mir Qasim wanted to recover Bengal from the English.
- Mir Qasim's soldiers met the English army troops directed by **Major Munro in 1764**.
- The joint armies of Mir Qasim were defeated by the British.
- Mir Qasim absconded from the battle and the other two surrendered to the English army.
- The battle of Buxar ended with the **Treaty of Allahabad in 1765**.

Result

- **Mir Qasim, Shuja-Ud-Daula and Shah Alam-II** lost the battle on October 22, 1764.
- **Major Hector Munro** won a decisive battle and **Robert Clive had a major role** in that.
- English became a great power in northern India.
- Mir Jafar (Nawab of Bengal) **handed over districts of Midnapore, Burdwan and Chittagong** to the English for the maintenance of their army.
- The English were also **permitted duty-free trade in Bengal**, except for a duty of two per cent on salt.
- After the death of Mir Jafar, his minor son, **Najimud-Daula, was appointed nawab**, but the real power of administration lay in the hands of the naib-subahdar, who could be appointed or dismissed by the English.
- Clive made **political settlements with Emperor Shah Alam II and Shuja-Ud-Daula of Awadh in the Treaty of Allahabad**.

Treaty of Allahabad between Robert Clive & Shuja-Ud-Daulah:

- Shuja had to **surrender Allahabad and Kara to Shah Alam II**
- He was made to **pay Rs 50 lakh to the Company as war indemnity**; and
- He was made to give **Balwant Singh (Zamindar of Banaras)** full possession of his estate.

Treaty of Allahabad between Robert Clive & Shah Alam-II:

- Shah Alam was **commanded to reside at Allahabad** which was ceded to him by Shuja-Ud-Daulah under the Company's protection
- The emperor **had to issue a Farman granting the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the East India Company in lieu of an annual payment of Rs 26 lakh;**
- Shah Alam had to abide by a provision of **Rs 53 lakh to the Company in return for the Nizamat functions (military defence, police, and administration of justice) of the said provinces.**

➔ WARREN HASTINGS

- Warren Hastings (1732 – 1818) became the **first Governor of the Presidency of Fort William (Bengal) in 1772** and the **first Governor-General of Bengal in 1774** till he resigned in 1785.
- He started his career as a writer (clerk) in the East India Company at Calcutta in 1750.
- In **1758, he became the British resident at Murshidabad**, the capital of Bengal, after Mir Jafar was installed as the Nawab after the Battle of Plassey.
- During his term, the **First Anglo-Maratha war and the second Anglo-Mysore war** were fought.
- The **Regulating Act of 1773** was passed during his term.
- He supported **Sir William Jones in the formation of the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1785.**

Abolition of the Dual System

- Hastings **abolished the Dual System** that had been established by Robert Clive.
- In the Dual System, the company had Diwani rights (rights to collect revenue) and the Nizam or Indian chiefs had the administrative authority.
- The Nawab's annual allowance of Rs.32 lakh was reduced to Rs.16 lakh.
- The annual tribute paid to the Mughal Emperor was also stopped.

Revenue Reforms

- For revenue collection, a Board of Revenue was set up at Calcutta.
- Treasury was moved from Murshidabad to Calcutta. Calcutta became Bengal's capital in 1772.
- British collectors were appointed for each district and an Accountant General was also appointed.
- Unreasonable fines were done away with and restrictions were placed on the raising of rent.

Judicial Reforms

- The judicial powers of the Zamindars were abolished.
- Civil and criminal courts were established. Two appellate courts were established at Calcutta, one for **civil (Sadar Diwani Adalat)** and one for **criminal (Sadar Nizamat Adalat)** cases.
- The **criminal court was to have an Indian judge.**
- Muslims were to be tried according to their law in the Koran and Hindus, according to Hindu laws. A code of Hindu Law, prepared by Hindu Pandits was translated into English.
- He also came down heavily on the dacoits in Bengal.

Trade Regulations

- Hastings abolished the system of dastaks which were misused by company officials and traders earlier.

- He enforced a uniform tariff of 2.5% for Indian and foreign goods.
- Private trade by company officials was restricted.

→ FIRST ANGLO-MYSORE WAR (1767-69)

- **Hyder Ali** built a strong army and annexed many regions in the South including **Bidnur, Canara, Sera, Malabar and Sunda**
- He **also took French support** in training his army
- This alarmed the British.
- The **British, along with the Marathas** and the **Nizam of Hyderabad** declared war on Mysore.
- **Hyder Ali was able to bring the Marathas and the Nizam to his side** with skilful diplomacy
- He paid the Marathas to turn them neutral.
- War continued for a year-and-a-half without any conclusion
- Haidar changed his strategy and suddenly appeared before the gates of Madras.

Result

- Following complete chaos and panic at Madras, **English was forced to conclude a very humiliating treaty with Haidar on April 4, 1769—Treaty of Madras** which brought an end to the war
- The conquered territories were restored to each other.
- It was also agreed that they would help each other in case of a foreign attack.

Hyder Ali

- Started his career as a soldier in the Mysore Army.
- Soon rose to prominence in the army owing to his military skills.
- He was made the **Dalavayi (commander-in-chief)**, and later the **Chief Minister of the Mysore state under Krishnaraja Wodeyar II**, ruler of Mysore.
- Through his administrative prowess and military skills, he became the de-facto ruler of Mysore with the real king reduced to a titular head only.
- He set up a modern army and trained them along European lines.

→ SECOND ANGLO-MYSORE WAR (1780-84)

Causes of the War

- The **Marathas attacked Mysore in 1771**. But the **British refused to honour the Treaty of Madras** and did not give support to Hyder Ali
- As a result, Hyder Ali's territories were taken by the Marathas. He had to buy peace with the Marathas for a sum of Rs.36 lakh and another annual tribute
- This **angered Hyder Ali** who started hating the British.
- When the **English attacked Mahe**, a French possession under Hyder Ali's dominion, he declared war on the English in 1780

Course of the War

- Hyder Ali **forged an alliance with the Nizam and the Marathas** and defeated the British forces in Arcot.

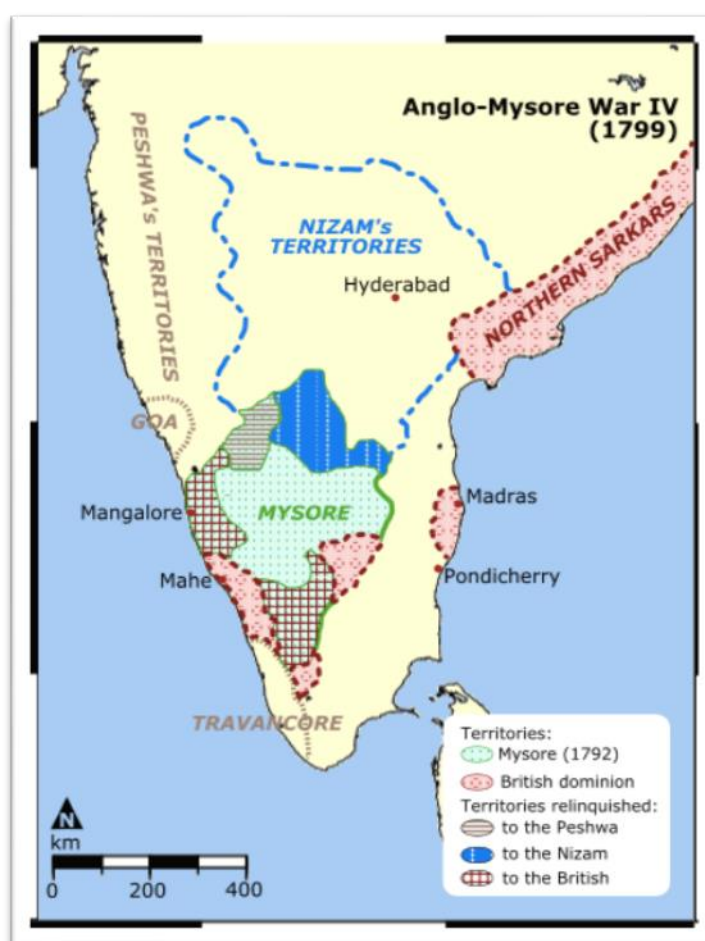
- Hyder Ali died in 1782 and the war was continued by his son Tipu Sultan
- **Sir Eyre Coote**, who had earlier defeated Hyder Ali many times, ended the war inconclusively with the **Treaty of Mangalore**
- As per the Treaty of Mangalore (11 March 1784), both parties **agreed to return the captured territories and prisoners to each other.**

→ THIRD ANGLO-MYSORE WAR (1790 – 1792)

- The British started improving their relationship with the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Marathas.
- Tipu Sultan, who assumed control of Mysore after Hyder Ali's death, had French help in bettering his military resources.
- He also refused to free the English prisoners taken during the second Anglo-Mysore war as per the Treaty of Mangalore.

The course of the war

- **Tipu declared war on Travancore in 1789.** Travancore was a friendly state of the British.
- In 1790, the **Governor-General of Bengal, Lord Cornwallis declared war on Tipu.**
- Tipu was defeated in the first phase of the war and his forces had to retreat.
- Later the English advanced towards **Tipu's capital of Seringapatam and Tipu had to bargain for peace.**
- The war ended with the **Treaty of Seringapatam in 1792.**
- As per the treaty, Tipu had to cede half of his kingdom to the English including the areas of **Malabar, Dindigul, Coorg and Baramahal.**
- He also had to pay Rs.3 Crore as war indemnity to the British.
- Tipu also had to surrender two of his sons as surety to the British till he paid his due.



→ FOURTH ANGLO-MYSORE WAR (1799)

- The Treaty of Seringapatam failed to bring peace between Tipu and the English.
- **Tipu also refused to accept the Subsidiary Alliance** of Lord Wellesley.
- Tipu **aligned with the French** which the British saw as a threat.
- Mysore was attacked from all four sides.
- The **Marathas and the Nizam invaded from the North.**

- Tipu's troops were outnumbered.
- The British secured a **decisive victory at the Battle of Seringapatam in 1799.**
- Tipu died while defending the city.

Result of the war

- Tipu's **territories were divided between the British and the Nizam of Hyderabad.**
- The **core area around Seringapatam and Mysore was restored to the Wodeyar dynasty** who had been ruling Mysore before Hyder Ali became the de-facto ruler.
- **Mysore entered into a Subsidiary Alliance with the British** and a British resident was placed at the Mysore Court.
- The Kingdom of Mysore remained a princely state not directly under the British until 1947 when it chose to join the Indian Union.

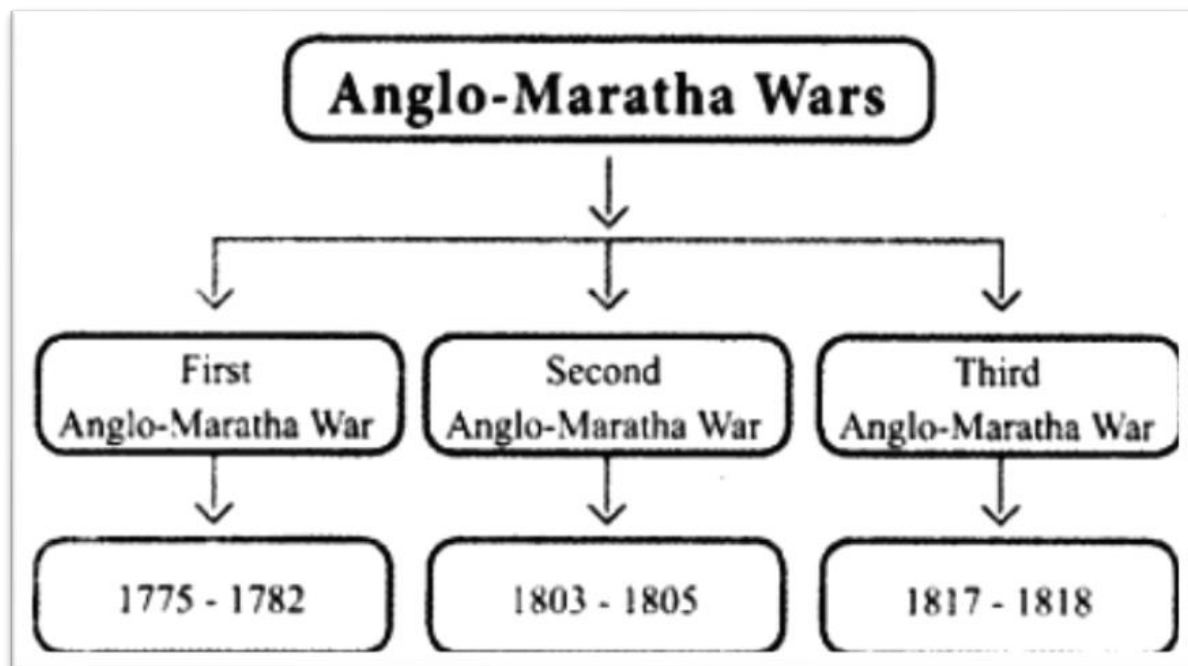
→ FIRST ANGLO-MARATHA WAR (1775 – 1782)

- The **third Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao died in 1761** due to shock after his defeat at the Third Battle of Panipat.
- His son **Madhavrao I succeeded him.** Madhavrao I was able to recover some of the Maratha power and territories which they had lost in the Battle of Panipat.
- The English were aware of the growing Maratha power.
- When **Madhavrao I died, there was a tussle for power in the Maratha camp.**
- His **brother Narayanrao became the Peshwa but his uncle Raghunathrao** wanted to become the Peshwa. For this, he sought the help of the English
- So, **the Treaty of Surat in 1775** was signed according to which **Raghunathrao ceded Salsette and Bassein to the English** and in return he was given 2500 soldiers.
- The **British and army of Raghunathrao attacked the Peshwa and won.**
- The **British Calcutta Council under Warren Hastings annulled this treaty and a new treaty, the Treaty of Purandhar** was signed in **1776 between the Calcutta Council and Nana Phadnavis, a Maratha minister.**
- Accordingly, Raghunathrao was given a pension only and Salsette was retained by the British.
- But the **British establishment at Bombay violated this treaty and sheltered Raghunathrao.**
- In **1777, Nana Phadnavis went against his treaty with the Calcutta Council and granted a port on the west coast to the French.**
- This led the British to advance a force towards Pune. There was a **battle at Wadgaon near Pune** in which the **Marathas under Mahadji Shinde** secured a decisive victory over the English.
- The **English were forced to sign the Treaty of Wadgaon in 1779.**
- There was a series of battles **at the end of which the Treaty of Salbai was signed in 1782.** This ended the first Anglo-Maratha war.

Results

- The East India Company **retained Salsette and Broach.**
- It also obtained a guarantee from the Marathas that they would retake their possessions in the Deccan from Hyder Ali of Mysore.
- The Marathas also promised that they would not grant any more territories to the French.
- Raghunathrao was to receive a pension of Rs.3 lakh every year.

- All territories taken by the British after the Treaty of Purandhar were ceded back to the Marathas.
- The English accepted Madhavrao II (son of Narayanrao) as the Peshwa.



→ SECOND ANGLO-MARATHA WAR (1803 – 1805)

- After Tipu Sultan's Mysore was captured by the British in 1799, the Marathas were the only major Indian power left outside of British domination.
- At that time, the Maratha Confederacy consisted of five major chiefs, **the Peshwas at Pune, the Gaekwads at Baroda, the Holkars at Indore, the Scindias at Gwalior and the Bhonsles at Nagpur.**
- There were internal squabbles among themselves.
- **Baji Rao II (son of Raghunathrao) was installed as the Peshwa** after the death of Madhavrao II.
- In the **Battle of Poona in 1802, Yashwantrao Holkar, the chief of the Holkars of Indore defeated the Peshwas and the Scindias.**
- **Baji Rao II sought British protection and signed the Treaty of Bassein** with them.
- As per this treaty, he ceded territory to the British and agreed to the maintenance of British troops there.
- The **Scindias and the Bhonsles did not accept this treaty and this caused the second Anglo-Maratha war in central India in 1803.**
- The Holkars also joined the battle against the English at a later stage.

Results

- All the Maratha forces were defeated by the British in these battles.
- The **Scindias** signed the **Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon in 1803** through which the British got the territories of Rohtak, Ganga-Yamuna Doab, Gurgaon, Delhi Agra region, Broach, some districts in Gujarat, parts of Bundelkhand and Ahmadnagar fort.

- The **Bhonsles signed the Treaty of Deogaon in 1803** as per which the English acquired Cuttack, Balasore and area west of Wardha River.
- The **Holkars signed the Treaty of Rajghat in 1805** according to which they gave up Tonk, Bundi and Rampura to the British.
- As a result of the war, large parts of central India came under British control.

→ THIRD ANGLO-MARATHA WAR (1817 – 1818)

- After the second Anglo-Maratha war, the Marathas made one last attempt to rebuild their old prestige.
- They wanted to retake all their old possessions from the English.
- They were also unhappy with the British residents' interference in their internal matters.
- The **chief reason for this war was the British conflict with the Pindaris** whom the British suspected were being protected by the Marathas.
- The Maratha chiefs **Peshwa Bajirao II, Malharrao Holkar and Mudhoji II Bhonsle forged a united front against the English.**
- **Daulat Rao Shinde, the fourth major Maratha chief** was pressured diplomatically to stay away.
- But the British victory was swift.

Results

- The **Treaty of Gwalior was signed in 1817 between Shinde and the British**, even though he had not been involved in the war. As per this treaty, **Shinde gave up Rajasthan to the British.**
- The Rajas of Rajputana remained the Princely States till 1947 after accepting British sovereignty.
- The **Treaty of Mandasor was signed between the British and the Holkar chief** in 1818. An infant was placed on the throne under British guardianship.
- The **Peshwa surrendered in 1818.** He was dethroned and pensioned off to a small estate in Bithur (near Kanpur). Most parts of his territory became part of the Bombay Presidency.
- His adopted son, **Nana Saheb became one of the leaders of the Revolt of 1857 at Kanpur.**
- The **territories annexed from the Pindaris became the Central Provinces** under British India.
- This war led to the end of the Maratha Empire. All the Maratha powers surrendered to the British.
- An **obscure descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji** was placed as the ceremonial head of the **Maratha Confederacy at Satara.**
- This was one of the last major wars fought and won by the British. With this, the British controlled most parts of India barring Punjab and Sindh directly or indirectly.

Reasons for Maratha Loss

- Lack of unity among the Maratha chiefs themselves.
- Lack of good relations with other Indian princes and ruling dynasties.
- Failure to understand the British political and diplomatic strengths.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q3. Which among the following statements is not correct?

- British army was defeated in the first Anglo-Maratha War
- The Second Anglo-Mysore War was concluded by Treaty of Wadgaon
- Hyder Ali Died in the Second Anglo-Mysore war

(d) Third Anglo Mysore war led to the Treaty of Seringpatnam

Q4. Who among the following was placed on the throne of Nawab of Bengal after the Battle of Buxar?

- (a) Shiraj-ud-daula (b) Mir Kasim
(c) Mir Jafar (d) Najimuddin Ali Khan

Q5. Consider the following Anglo-Maratha treaties:

1. Treaty of Salbai
2. Treaty of Bassein
3. Convention of Wadgaon

The correct chronological order of these treaties is as:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 (b) 2, 3, 1 (c) 3, 1, 2 (d) 2, 1, 3

Q6. Consider the following statements about Tipu Sultan:

1. Tipu entered into negotiations with Revolutionary France
2. Tipu sent a diplomatic mission to Arabia, Afghanistan and Turkey to forge an anti-British front.
3. Tipu planted a 'tree of liberty' at his capital Seringapatnam and became a member of Jacobian Club

Choose the correct statements:

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) All of the above

Notes

➔ REGULATING ACT 1773

- The Regulating Act was passed in the British Parliament in June 1773.
- It was the **first parliamentary ratification and authorization defining the powers and authority of the East India Company** with respect to its Indian possessions.

Background

- The **East India Company was in severe financial crisis** and had asked a loan of 1 million pounds from the British government in 1772.
- Allegations of corruption and nepotism were rampant against company officials.
- There was a terrible famine in Bengal where a huge population perished.
- The **Dual form of administration instituted by Robert Clive** was complex and drawing a lot of complaints.
- According to this system, the company had Diwani rights (obtained after the Battle of Buxar) in Bengal and the Nawab had Nizamat rights (judicial and policing rights) as secured from the Mughal Emperor.
- In reality, both powers were vested with the company. The farmers and the general population suffered as their improvement was neglected and the company was only concerned with maximising revenue.
- Lawlessness increased in Bengal.
- The defeat of the company against Mysore's Hyder Ali in 1769.

Provisions of the Regulating Act

- This act permitted the company to retain its territorial possessions in India but **sought to regulate the activities and functioning of the company**.
- It did not take over **power completely, hence called 'regulating'**.
- The act **provided for the appointment of a Governor-General along with four Councillors in the Presidency of Fort William (Calcutta)**, jointly called the **Governor-General in Council**.
- As per this, **Warren Hastings was appointed as the Governor-General** of the Presidency of Fort William.
- The **Governors in Councils at Madras and Bombay were brought under the control of Bengal**, especially in matters of foreign policy. Now, they could not wage war against Indian states without Bengal's approval.
- The **company directors were elected for a period of five years and one-fourth of them were to retire every year**. Also, they could not be re-elected.
- The company directors were **directed to make public all correspondence** on revenue, civil and military matters **with Indian authorities before the British authorities**.
- A **Supreme Court of Judicature was established at Calcutta with Sir Elijah Impey** as the first Chief Justice.

The Regulating Act of 1773

- 1773 – dire financial situation of the Company, especially due to loss of tea sales to America since 1768. The Company owed money to Bank of England and the government.
- Lord North wanted to overhaul the management of the East India Company with the Regulating Act.
- Company men not trained to govern so North's government began moves towards government control.
- Provisions of The Act:
 - Governor-General and Council of 4 required for the government of the presidency of Fort William in Bengal.
 - Supreme court of judicature set up at Fort William, over all British subjects in Bengal and their native servants.
 - British officials in India were prohibited from receiving any gifts, presents, pecuniary advantages from the Indian princes or other powers

- Judges were to come from England. It had **civil and criminal jurisdiction over the British subjects** and not Indian natives.

Defects of Regulating Act 1773

- The **Governor-General had no veto power**.
- It **did not address the concerns of the Indian population** who were paying revenue to the company.
- It did not stop corruption among the company officials.
- The **Supreme Court's powers were not well-defined**.
- The parliamentary control that was sought in the activities of the company proved to be ineffective as **there was no mechanism to study the reports** sent by the Governor-General in Council.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q7. Which among the following were the provisions of the Regulating Act of 1773?

1. The Bengal presidency got superiority over Bombay and Madras presidency.
2. Governor-General of Bengal was appointed with its council consisting of four members
3. The servants of the company were debarred from taking bribes.
4. Eligibility and voting rights of the Board of Directors came under the control of the British Government

Choose the correct option from the codes given below :

- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 and 4 only (c) 1, 2 and 4 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Notes

→ PITT'S INDIA ACT 1784

Provisions of the Act

- For **political matters**, the **Board of Control** was created and for **commercial affairs**, the **Court of Directors** was appointed.
- The Board of Control took care of civil and military affairs. It comprised of 6 people:

- Secretary of State (Board President)
- Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Four Privy Councillors

- In this dual system of control, the **company was represented by the Court of Directors** and the **British government by the Board of Control**.
- The **act mandated that all civil and military officers disclose their property** in India and Britain within two months of their joining.

- The **Governor-General's council's strength was reduced to three members.**
- **One of the three would be the Commander-in-Chief** of the British Crown's army in India.
- The Presidencies of Madras and Bombay became subordinate to the Bengal Presidency. **In effect, Calcutta became the capital** of the British possessions in India.

Features

- This act made a **distinction between the commercial and political activities** of the East India Company.
- For the first time, the **term 'British possessions in India'** was used.
- This act **gave the British government direct control over Indian administration.**
- The **Company became subordinate to the British government** unlike as in the previous Regulating Act of 1773, where the government only sought to 'regulate' matters and not take over.
- This act **established the British Crown's authority in the civil and military administration** of its Indian territories.
- **Commercial activities were still a monopoly** of the Company.

Drawbacks

- The act was deemed a failure because there was no clarity on the boundaries between the company's powers and the government's authority.
- The **Governor-General had to serve two masters** i.e. East India Company and the British Crown
- There were **no clear boundaries between the responsibilities of the Board of Control and the Court of Directors of the company.**
- The Governor-General had to take on the spot decisions exercising his discretion.

→ CHARTER ACT OF 1793

Provisions

- This Act **continued the company's rule over the British territories** in India.
- It **continued the company's trade monopoly in India for another 20 years.**
- The Act established that **"acquisition of sovereignty by the subjects of the Crown is on behalf of the Crown and not in its own right,"** which clearly stated that the company's political functions were on behalf of the British government.
- The **company's dividends were allowed to be raised to 10%.**
- The **Governor-General was given more powers.** He could override his council's decision under certain circumstances.
- He was also **given authority over the governors of Madras and Bombay.**
- When the Governor-General was present in Madras or Bombay, he would supersede in authority over the governors of Madras and Bombay.
- In the Governor-General's absence from Bengal, **he could appoint a Vice President** from among the **civilian members of his Council.**
- The composition of the Board of Control changed. It was to have a **President and two junior members**, who were not necessarily members of the Privy Council.
- The **salaries of the staff and the Board of Control** were also **now charged to the company.**

- After all expenses, the **company had to pay the British government Rs.5 Lakhs** from the Indian revenue annually.
- Senior company officials were barred from leaving India without permission. If they did so, it would be considered as a resignation.
- The **company was granted the authority to grant licenses to individuals** and company employees to carry on trade in India. This was known as '**privilege**' or '**country trade**'. This led to shipments of opium to China.
- This Act separated the revenue administration and the judiciary functions of the company leading to the **disappearance of Maal Adalats (revenue courts)**.

→ LAND REVENUE SYSTEMS

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS

Q. Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of Ryotwari Settlement in India during the British rule? (UPSC Prelims 2017)

1. Lord Cornwallis
2. Alexander Read
3. Thomas Munro

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 1 and 3 only |
| (c) 2 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Q. With reference to Ryotwari Settlement, consider the following statements (UPSC Prelims 2012)

1. The rent was paid directly by the peasants to the government.
2. The government gave the Pattas to the Ryots.
3. The lands were surveyed and assessed before being taxed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 1 and 2 |
| (c) 1, 2 and 3 | (d) None of the above |

Notes

→ PERMANENT SETTLEMENT ACT 1793

- Before the British advent in Bengal, there **were a class of Zamindars in Bengal, Bihar and Odisha who collected revenue from land on behalf of the Mughal Emperor** or his representative, the Diwan.

- After the **Battle of Buxar in 1764**, the **East India Company** was granted the **Diwani of Bengal**. But then the Company found itself not able to collect revenue from the innumerable number of farmers in rural areas. They also did not have a good understanding of local laws and customs.
- The severe Bengal famine of 1770 occurred partly due to this neglect by the Company.
- Then, **Warren Hastings** tried to bring in some reforms like the **five-yearly inspections**. Here, the revenue-collection was awarded through an auction to the person promising the highest revenue. Due to the dangerous implications and effects of such a system, Hastings also experimented with the annual settlement of land. But this too did not improve conditions.
- Then, **Lord Cornwallis** under directions from the then British PM, **William Pitt**, proposed the **Permanent Settlement system in 1786**. This came into effect in 1793, by the **Permanent Settlement Act of 1793**.

Features of the Permanent Settlement

- **Landlords or Zamindars** were recognised as the **owners of the land**.
- They were **given hereditary rights of succession** of the lands under them.
- The **Zamindars could sell or transfer the land** as they wished.
- The **Zamindars' proprietorship would stay as long as he paid the fixed revenue** at the said date to the government. If they failed to pay, their rights would cease to exist and the land would be auctioned off.
- The **amount to be paid by the landlords was fixed**. It was agreed that this would not increase in future (permanent).
- The **fixed amount was 10/11th portion of the revenue for the government** and **1/10th was for the Zamindar**. This tax rate was way higher than the prevailing rates in England.
- The Zamindar also had to give the tenant a patta which described the area of the land given to him and the rent he had to pay the landlord.

Merits

- The **responsibility of taking care of farmers fell upon the shoulders of the Indian landlords**. Being sons of the soil, they could reach the far corners of the region and also understand local customs very well.
- Because of the permanent nature of the system, there was a sense of security for everyone. The **company knew the amount it would get in revenue**. The landlord also was assured of the amount. Finally, the farmers also, in lieu of the patta were certain of their holdings and knew how much rent was to be paid.
- Since the settlement was of a permanent nature, the Zamindars would have an interest in the improvement in the land thereby improving the revenue.

Demerits

- The **basic demerit of this system was that the efficiency depended upon the nature** of the Zamindars. If they were good, the interests of the farmers and the land were looked after very well. They would make improvements in the land which would be beneficial to everyone concerned. But if the landlords were bad, they were negligent of the plight of the farmers and the conditions of the land.
- This **created a class of hereditary landlords forming the upper aristocracy** in society who generally led luxurious and extravagant lifestyles.
- The Zamindars were generally favourable to the British administration and supported the British even during the freedom struggle. There were exceptions.

- The **land assessment was not done properly and land revenue was fixed arbitrarily**. This meant that both productive and unproductive land was expected to furnish revenue at the same rates. This created a burden on the farmers of unproductive land. Also, in the case of productive land, it was a loss of revenue to the government.
- The **revenue rates were so high that many Zamindars became defaulters**. In time, this system proved to have disastrous effects. In 1811, the British government warned against the imposition of permanent settlement without a proper land survey.

→ RYOTWARI SYSTEM

- This system of land revenue was instituted in the late **18th century** by **Sir Thomas Munro**, Governor of Madras in 1820.
- This was **practised in the Madras and Bombay areas**, as well as **Assam and Coorg provinces**.
- In this system, the **peasants or cultivators were regarded as the owners of the land**. They had ownership rights, could sell, mortgage or gift the land.
- The **taxes were directly collected by the government from the peasants**.
- The **rates were 50% in dryland and 60% in the wetland**.
- The rates were high and unlike the Permanent System, **they were open to being increased**.
- If they failed to pay the taxes, they were evicted by the government.
- **Ryot means peasant cultivators**.
- Here **there were no middlemen as in the Zamindari system**. But, since high taxes had to be paid only in cash (no option of paying in kind as before the British) the problem of moneylenders came into the show. They further burdened the peasants with heavy interests.

| Permanent Settlement | Mahalwari System |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lord Cornwallis introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal and Bihar in 1793. ● It made the landlord or zamindar deposit a fixed amount of money in the state treasury. ● In return they were recognised as hereditary owners of land. ● This made the zamindar the owner of the land. ● The amount of revenue to be paid to the Company was fixed for a period of time which made the British financially secured. ● The British stood to benefit from this settlement as the new class of zamindars that emerged became their political allies. ● These classes supported the British in times of need and acted as a buffer between them and the peasants. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 1822, the British introduced the Mahalwari Settlement in the North Western Provinces, Punjab, the Ganga Valley and parts of Central India. ● In this settlement the basis of assessment was the product of a mahal or estate, which may be a village or a group of villages. ● All the proprietors of mahal were jointly responsible for paying the sum of revenue assessed by the government. ● Unfortunately it brought no benefit to the peasants as the British demands were very high in this settlement. |

→ MAHALWARI SYSTEM

- The Mahalwari system was introduced by **Holt Mackenzie in 1822** and it was reviewed under **Lord William Bentinck in 1833**.
- This system was introduced in **North-West Frontier, Agra, Central Province, Gangetic Valley, Punjab**, etc.
- This had elements of both the **Zamindari and the Ryotwari systems**.

- This system divided the land into **Mahals**. Sometimes, a Mahal was constituted by one or more villages.
- The tax was assessed on the Mahal.
- Each **individual farmer gave his share**.
- Here also, ownership rights were with the peasants.
- **Revenue was collected by the village headman** or village leaders.
- It introduced the **concept of average rents for different soil classes**.
- The **state share of the revenue was 66% of the rental value**.
- The **settlement was agreed upon for 30 years**.
- This system was called the **Modified Zamindari system** because the **village headman virtually became a Zamindar**.

Consequences of the British land revenue systems

- **Land became a commodity**.
- Earlier there was no private ownership of land. Even kings and cultivators did not consider land as his 'private property'.
- **Due to the very high taxes, farmers resorted to growing cash crops instead of food crops. This led to food insecurity and even famines.**
- Taxes on agricultural produce were moderate during pre-British times. The British made it very high.
- **Insistence on cash payment of revenue led to more indebtedness among farmers.** Moneylenders became landowners in due course.
- **Bonded labour arose** because loans were given to farmers/labourers who could not pay it back.
- When India achieved freedom from colonial rule, **7% of the villagers (Zamindars/landowners) owned 75% of the agricultural land**.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q8. Mahalwari system was introduced in which of the following provinces?

1. Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, and districts of Benaras
2. Bombay and Madras

Choose the correct statement(s):

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of the above

Notes

→ SUBSIDIARY ALLIANCE

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. Which one of the following statements does not apply to the system of Subsidiary Alliance introduced by Lord Wellesley? (UPSC Prelims 2018)

(a) To maintain a large standing army at others expense

(b) To keep India safe from Napoleonic danger

(c) To secure a fixed income for the Company

(d) To establish British paramountcy over the Indian States

Notes

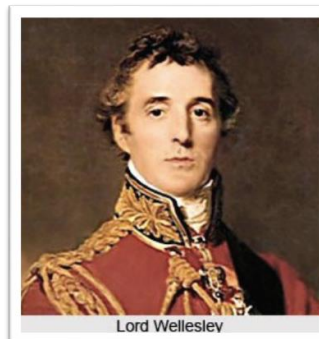
○ Subsidiary Alliance was basically a **treaty between the British East India Company and the Indian princely states**, by virtue of which the Indian kingdoms lost their sovereignty to the English. It also was a **major process that led to the building of the British Empire in India.**

○ It was **framed by Lord Wellesley, the Governor-General of India from 1798 to 1805.**

○ It was actually used for the **first time by the French Governor-General Marquis Dupleix.**

○ The **Nawab of Awadh was the first ruler** to enter into the subsidiary alliance with the British after the Battle of Buxar.

○ However, **the Nizam of Hyderabad was the first to accept a well-framed subsidiary alliance.**



Features

- An **Indian ruler entering into Subsidiary Alliance with the British had to dissolve his own armed forces and accept British forces** in his territory.
- He also **had to pay for the British army's maintenance.** If he failed to make the payment, a portion of his territory would be taken away and ceded to the British.
- In return, the **British would protect the Indian state against any foreign attack or internal revolt.**
- The British **promised non-interference in internal affairs** of the Indian state but this was rarely kept.
- The **Indian state could not enter into any alliance with any other foreign power.**

- He could also not employ any other foreign nationals other than Englishmen in his service. And, if he were employing any, on the signing of the alliance, he had to terminate them from his service. The idea was to curb the influence of the French.
- The Indian state could also not enter into any political connection with another Indian state without British approval.
- The Indian ruler, thus, lost all powers in **respect of foreign affairs and the military**.
- He virtually lost all his independence and **became a British 'protectorate'**.
- **A British Resident was also stationed** in the Indian Court.

Effects of the Subsidiary Alliance

- As a result of **Indian rulers disbanding their armies**, many people were rendered **unemployed**.
- Many **Indian states lost their independence and slowly**, most parts of India were coming under British control.
- The Nizam of Hyderabad was the first to accept the Subsidiary Alliance in 1798.
- Lord Clive also introduced the subsidiary system in Oudh and the Treaty of Allahabad was signed where the British promised the Oudh territory from enemies like Marathas.

Order in which the Indian States entered into Subsidiary Alliances

- Hyderabad (1798)
- Mysore (1799 – After Tipu Sultan was defeated in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War)
- Tanjore (1799)
- Awadh (1801)
- Peshwa (Marathas) (1802)
- Scindia (Marathas) (1803)
- Gaekwad (Marathas) (1803)

→ VELLORE MUTINY-1806

- The Vellore mutiny on 10 July 1806 was the **first instance of a large-scale and violent mutiny by Indian sepoys against the East India Company**, predating the Indian Rebellion of 1857 by half a century.
- The revolt, which took place in the South Indian city of Vellore, lasted one full day, during which mutineers seized the Vellore Fort and killed or wounded many British troops. The mutiny was subdued by cavalry and artillery from Arcot.

Causes

- The English **disregard to the religious sensitivities** of the Hindu and Muslim Indian sepoys.
- **Sir John Craddock, the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army** had issued orders **prohibiting soldiers from wearing religious marks** on their foreheads and also to trim their moustaches and shave off their beards. This offended both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.
- They were also **asked to wear new round hats instead of the traditional headgear** that they were used to.

- This led to suspicion among the sepoys that they were being converted to Christianity.
- Craddock was acting against warning from the military board not to bring about changes in the military uniform without taking into consideration all required precautions of Indian sensibilities.
- A few sepoys who had protested against these new orders were taken to Fort St. George and punished severely. They were given heavy flogging.
- Also present in the Vellore Fort were the wife and children of Tipu Sultan (who was killed in the Battle of Seringapatam in 1799) who were housed in a palace within the fort.
- Tipu Sultan's sons also instigated the rebellion.

Course of events

- On 10th July 1806, the sepoys who had gathered killed 14 British officers and 115 Englishmen of the 69th Regiment.
- The mutiny started during midnight and by dawn, the fort had been captured by them.
- They **raised the flag of the Mysore Sultanate** over the fort.
- They also **declared Tipu Sultan's son Fateh Hyder** as the king.
- But a British officer who had escaped the fort alerted the British force present at Arcot.
- From Arcot, **British troops arrived led by Sir Rollo Gillespie**. He was able to quell the rebellion.
- About 100 Indian soldiers were brought out of the palace where they had sought refuge. They were then ordered to stand against a wall and shot dead.
- In all, 350 Indian soldiers were killed and 350 wounded.



Significance

- All **three Madras regiments** involved in the Vellore Mutiny **were disbanded**.
- After a trial, sepoys involved in the mutiny were punished by death (blown away from canons, hanging and firing squads) and by penal transportation.
- John Craddock and other senior British officers responsible for the new dress regulations were recalled to Britain.
- The **new dress regulations were abolished**.
- **Flogging for Indian soldiers was abolished**.
- **Tipu Sultan's family were moved to Calcutta**.
- It is believed that the brutal and swift suppressing of the Vellore Mutiny is partly responsible for the Southern sepoys not taking part in the Indian Revolt of 1857.

→ CHARTER ACT OF 1813

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS

Q. Consider the following statements about 'the Charter Act of 1813': (UPSC Prelims 2019)

1. It ended the trade monopoly of the East India Company in India except for trade in tea and trade with China.

2. It asserted the sovereignty of the British Crown over the Indian territories held by the Company.
3. The revenues of India were now controlled by the British Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q. Which of the following led to the introduction of English Education in India? (UPSC Prelims 2018)

1. Charter Act of 1813
2. General Committee of Public Instruction, 1823
3. Orientalist and Anglicist Controversy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only
 (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Notes

Background

- Due to **Napoleon Bonaparte's Continental System** in Europe (which prohibited the import of British goods into French allies in Europe), British traders and merchants suffered.
- So they demanded they be given a share in the British trade in Asia and dissolve the monopoly of the East India Company.
- The company objected to this.
- Finally, **British merchants were allowed to trade in India under a strict licensing system under the Charter Act of 1813.**
- But in **trade with China and the tea trade**, the company still retained its monopoly.

Provisions

- This Act **asserted the Crown's sovereignty** over British possessions in India.
- The **company's rule was extended to another 20 years.**
- Their **trade monopoly was ended** except for the **trade in tea, opium, and with China.**
- It **empowered the local governments to tax people** subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- The **company's dividend was fixed at 10.5%.**
- The Act gave **more powers for the courts in India over European British subjects.**
- Another important feature of this act was to **grant permission to the missionaries to come to India and engage in religious proselytization.**
- The missionaries were successful in getting the appointment of a Bishop for British India with his headquarters at Calcutta in the provisions of the Act.

- The act provided for a **financial grant towards the revival of Indian literature and the promotion of science.**
- The company was also to take up a **greater role in the education of the Indians** under them. It was to set aside Rs.1 Lakh for this purpose.

➔ DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN EDUCATION

- The company **wanted some educated Indians who could assist them** in the administration of the land.
- Also, **they wanted to understand the local customs and laws** well.
- For this purpose, **Warren Hastings established the Calcutta Madrasa in 1781** for the teaching of Muslim law.
- In **1791, a Sanskrit College was started in Varanasi by Jonathan Duncan** for the study of Hindu philosophy and laws.
- The missionaries supported the spread of Western education in India primarily for their proselytising activities. They established many schools with education only being a means to an end which was Christianising and 'civilising' the natives.
- The Baptist missionary **William Carey had come to India in 1793** and by 1800 there was a Baptist Mission in Serampore, Bengal, and also a number of primary schools there and in nearby areas.
- The Indian reformers believed that to keep up with times, a modern educational system was needed to spread rational thinking and scientific principles.
- The **Charter Act of 1813 was the first step towards education being made an objective** of the government.
- The act sanctioned a sum of Rs.1 lakh towards the education of Indians in British ruled India. This act also gave an impetus to the missionaries who were given official permission to come to India.
- But there was a split in the government over what kind of education was to be offered to the Indians.
- The **orientalists preferred Indians to be given traditional Indian education.** Some others, however, wanted Indians to be educated in the western style of education and be taught western subjects.
- There was also another **difficulty regarding the language of instruction.** Some wanted the use of Indian languages (called vernaculars) while others preferred English.
- Due to these issues, **the sum of money allotted was not given until 1823** when the **General Committee of Public Instruction decided to impart oriental education.**
- In **1835, it was decided that western sciences and literature would be imparted to Indians** through the medium of English by Lord William Bentinck's government.
- Bentinck had **appointed Thomas Babington Macaulay as the Chairman of the General Committee of Public Instruction.**

Education during British period

- Charter act – 1813
- Charter act – 1833
- Macaulay's minutes – 1835
- Wood's despatch – 1854
- Hunter commission – 1882
- University commission – 1902
- Calcutta university commission – 1917
- Hartog committee – 1929
- Abbot wood report – 1937
- Sargent report – 1944

- Macaulay was an ardent anglicist who had absolute contempt for Indian learning of any kind. He was **supported by Reverend Alexander Duff, JR Colvin, etc.**
- On the **side of the orientalist** were **James Prinsep, Henry Thomas Colebrooke, etc.**
- Macaulay minutes refer to his proposal of education for the Indians.

According to him:

- **English education should be imparted** in place of traditional Indian learning because the oriental culture was 'defective' and 'unholy'.
- He **believed in education a few upper and middle-class students.**
- In the course of time, education would trickle down to the masses. This was called the **infiltration theory.**
- He wished to create a class of Indians who were Indian in colour and blood but English in taste and affiliation.
- In 1835, **the Elphinstone College (Bombay) and the Calcutta Medical College** were established.

→ CHARTER ACT OF 1833

Features

- The **company's commercial activities** were closed down.
- It was made **into an administrative body for British Indian possessions.**
- The **company's trade links with China** were also closed down.
- This act **permitted the English to settle freely in India.**
- This act **legalised the British colonisation of the country.**
- The company still possessed the Indian territories but it was held '**in trust for his majesty**'.

Provisions

- **India became a British colony.**
- The Governor-General of Bengal was **re-designated as the Governor-General of India.**
- This made **Lord William Bentinck the first Governor-General of India.**
- Thus, the country's administration was unified under one control.
- The **Governors of Bombay and Madras lost their legislative powers.**
- The Governor-General had legislative powers over entire British India.
- The **Governor-General in council had the authority to amend, repeal or alter** any law pertaining to all people and places in British Indian territories whether British, foreign or Indian native.
- The **civil and military affairs of the company were controlled by the Governor-General in council.**
- The Governor-General's council was to have four members. The fourth member had limited powers only.
- For the first time, the Governor-General's government was called **Government of India** and the council was called **India Council.**

Indian Law Commission

- The act mandated that any law made in India was to be put before the British Parliament and was to be called 'Act'.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the act, an Indian Law Commission was established. The first Law Commission had Lord Macaulay as its chairman. It sought to codify all Indian law. |
| Split in Bengal Presidency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act provided for the Presidency of Bengal to be divided into the Presidencies of Agra and Fort William. But this never came into effect. |
| Indians in government service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was the first act that gave permission for Indians to have a share in the country's administration. It stated that merit should be the basis of employment to government service and not birth, colour, religion or race. |
| Slavery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act provided for the mitigation of slavery existing in India at that time. The British Parliament abolished slavery in Britain and all its possessions in 1833. |
| Tilt towards Christianity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the number of British residents in the country was increasing, the act allowed for having three Bishops in India. It also sought to regulate the establishment of Christian institutions in India. |

Significance of the Charter Act of 1833

- It was the final step in the centralisation of India's administration.
- The ending of the East India Company's commercial activities and making it into the British Crown's trustee in administering India.
- Codification of laws under Macaulay.
- Provision for Indians in government service.

→ POLITICAL MAP 1757-1857



→ FIRST ANGLO-SIKH WAR (1845 – 1846)

- **Major Broad** was placed in Amritsar as the East India Company's agent in 1843.
- The British were closely watching the developments in the Punjab political front and had territorial ambitions there as in other parts of the subcontinent.
- The **Sikh forces crossed the Sutlej in December 1845** and took offensive positions against the English forces.
- Subsequently, battles were fought in different places and the **English victory at Sobraon led to the signing of the Lahore Treaty in 1846** which ended the war.

Treaty of Lahore, 1846

- **Maharaja Duleep Singh**, who was the ruler of Punjab was to remain its ruler with his mother **Jindan Kaur as regent**.
- The Sikhs had to **cede the Jalandhar Doab** to the British.
- The Sikhs were also asked to pay a very huge war indemnity to the English. But since they could not pay all of it, part of it was paid and to make up for the remaining, **Kashmir, Hazarah and all territories between the Beas and the Indus Rivers were given to the English**.
- The Sikhs were to limit their army to a certain number.
- Also, a British Resident, **Sir Henry Lawrence was appointed to the Sikh court**.

→ SECOND ANGLO-SIKH WAR (1848 AND 1849)

Causes

- The humiliation caused by the first Anglo-Sikh war wherein the Sikh Empire had lost some territories to the British East India Company.
- The **Sikh regent, Maharani Jindan Kaur** was not treated properly by the British.
- She was removed from Lahore on conspiracy charges against the British resident in Lahore.
- Multan was a part of the Sikh Empire when Maharaja Ranjit Singh had captured it in 1818.
- Multan was governed by Dewan Mulraj. He resented the Lahore Court's (capital of the Sikh Empire but controlled by the British resident since the first Anglo-Sikh war) demand for increased tax assessment and revenues.
- The British Resident at that time was **Sir Frederick Currie**. He undermined Mulraj and imposed another governor **Sardar Kahan Singh along with a British agent Patrick Vans Agnew**.
- In 1848, Vans Agnew and another officer who arrived in Multan to take charge were murdered by Mulraj's troops.
- This news led to unrest in Punjab and many Sikh soldiers joined the rebel forces against the British.
- Battles were fought in **Ramnagar and Chilianwala**.
- The battle at Ramnagar was indecisive whereas the Sikhs won at Chilianwala.
- The final battle was fought at **Gujrat near Chenab** in 1849. This was won by the British forces.
- The **Afghan forces under Dost Mohammad Khan had joined the Sikhs' side**.

Results

- Punjab was annexed by the British in **March 1849 (under Lord Dalhousie) as per the Treaty of Lahore**.
- The **eleven-year-old Maharaja, Duleep Singh was pensioned off to England**.

- Jind Kaur was separated from her son the Maharaja and taken to Firozpur. Her allowance was reduced to a meagre amount and her jewels and money confiscated.
- **Sir John Lawrence was appointed as the first Chief Commissioner of Punjab** to take care of the administration.
- **Dalhousie was recognised for his role in the annexation of Punjab** to the British and was made a **Marquis**.
- The famous **Koh-i-Noor diamond** went into British hands.
- It was in possession of Maharaja Ranjit Singh who had willed it to the **Puri Jagannath Temple of Odisha** but his will was not executed by the British. They say it was acquired as part of the Treaty of Lahore after the second Anglo-Sikh war.

➔ DOCTRINE OF LAPSE

- James Andrew Broun-Ramsay, 1st Marquess of Dalhousie, known commonly as **Lord Dalhousie**, was the Governor-General of India from 1848 to 1856. He had been a famous Scottish statesman.
- He is commonly associated with the Doctrine of Lapse.

Lord Dalhousie

(12 January 1848 to 28 February 1856)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Doctrine of Lapse | 6. Post Office Act, 1854 |
| 2. Charles Wood Despatch | 7. Established Public Works Department |
| 3. Second Anglo-Burmese War (1852) | 8. The Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848-1849) |
| 4. First Railway line connecting Bombay and Thane | 9. Engineering College was established at Roorkee. |
| 5. First telegraph Line was laid between Diamond Harbour to Calcutta. | |

Features of Doctrine of Lapse

- Before the introduction of this doctrine, the princely states had a **ritualised method of adoption practised for centuries**. An heir apparent would eventually be selected from a pool of candidates, who were groomed for succession from an early age, called bhayats if no competent born-to son were produced (an obviously unsuitable or treasonous born-to son could be excluded from the succession).
- If the ruler died before adopting a successor, **one of his widows could adopt an heir**, who would immediately accede to the throne.
- The adoptee would cut all ties with his birth family.
- Once the Doctrine of Lapse came into place the following features were now faced by the Indian rulers.

- According to this doctrine, **any princely state under the direct or indirect (as a vassal) control of the East India Company, should the ruler not produce a legal male heir, would be annexed by the company.**
- This was not introduced by Lord Dalhousie even though it was he who documented it and used it widely to acquire territories for the British.
- As per this, any adopted son of the Indian ruler could not be proclaimed as heir to the kingdom. The adopted son would only inherit his foster father's personal property and estates.
- The **adopted son would also not be entitled to any pension that his father** had been receiving or to any of his father's titles.
- This challenged the Indian ruler's long-held authority to appoint an heir of their choice.

- **In 1824**, before the time of Dalhousie, the **princely state of Kittur** was acquired by the East India Company by this doctrine.
- It was as per this policy that **Nana Sahib, the adopted son of the Maratha Peshwa Baji Rao II was denied his titles and pension.**
- The final moment straw came when **Awadh was annexed** to the English East India Company under the terms of the Doctrine of Lapse on the grounds of internal misrule on 7 February 1856 AD.
- This annexation was one of the reasons for the Revolt of 1857.

STATES ANNEXED UNDER DOCTRINE OF LAPSE

1. Satara in 1848.
2. Jaipur in 1849.
3. Sambhalpur in 1849.
4. Bahat in 1850.
5. Udaipur in 1852.
6. Jhansi in 1853.
7. Nagpur in 1854.

Effects of Doctrine of Lapse

- Many Indian states lost their sovereignty and became British territories.
- This led to a lot of unrest among the Indian princes.
- A lot of people were unhappy with the 'illegal' nature of this doctrine and this was one of the causes of the Indian Revolt of 1857.
- Nana Sahib and the Rani of Jhansi had grievances against the British because the former's pension was stopped by the British after his foster father died, and the Rani's adopted son was denied the throne under the doctrine of lapse.
- Dalhousie returned to Britain in 1856. After the Indian Revolt broke out in 1857, his governance was widely criticised as one of the causes of the rebellion.

→ CHARTER ACT OF 1853

Governor-General's office

- The **Law member (fourth member) became a full member with the right to vote.**
- The **Legislative Council which had six members now had 12 members.**
- The 12 members were:

- 1 Governor-General,
- 1 Commander-in-Chief,

- 4 members of the Governor-General's Council,
 - 1 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at Calcutta,
 - 1 regular judge of the Supreme Court at Calcutta, and
 - 4 representative members drawn from among the company's servants with at least 10 years tenure, appointed by the local governments of Bengal, Bombay, Madras and North Western Provinces.
- The **Governor-General could nominate a vice president** to the council.
 - The **Governor-General's assent was required for all legislative proposals**.
 - The **Court of Directors could create a new presidency or province**. This was because of the difficulties that were faced in administering the increasingly large Indian territories of Britain.
 - Since **1833 and 1853, two new provinces of Sind and Punjab** were added.
 - It could also appoint a Lieutenant Governor for these provinces.
 - In **1859, a Lt. Governor was appointed for Punjab**.
 - This Act also led to the creation of Assam, Burma and the Central Provinces.
 - The **Act provided for the appointment of a separate governor** for the Bengal Presidency. It maintained that the governor of Bengal should be different from the Governor-General who was to head administration of the whole of India.
 - The number of Board of Directors was reduced from 24 to 18 out of which 6 people were to be nominated by the British Crown.

Indian Civil Services

- **Macaulay Committee of 1854** gave India her first civil services.
- This act **removed the right of patronage to appointments in civil service held by the Court of Directors**.
- The appointment was to be done **only by open competition based on merit** and was open to all.
- The report recommended that only the 'fittest' be selected to the ICS.

Features of the Charter Act 1853

- For the first time, the **legislative and executive functions of the Governor-General's council** were separated.
- This act served as the **foundation of the modern parliamentary form of government**. The legislative wing of the Governor-General's Council acted as a parliament on the model of the British Parliament.
- It **extended the company's rule for an indefinite period**, unlike the previous charter acts. Thus, it could be taken over by the British government at any time.
- Company's influence was further reduced by this act. The **Board of Directors now had 6 members who were Crown-nominated**.
- It gave birth to the Indian civil services and was open to all including Indians. This ended the system of appointments by recommendation and started a system of open and fair competition.
- For the **first time, local representation was introduced into the legislative council** in the form of four members from the local governments of Bengal, Bombay, Madras and North Western Provinces.

➔ REVOLT OF 1857



Immediate Reason of Revolt

- The immediate factor was the introduction of the '**Enfield**' rifle.
- The cartridge had to be bitten off before loading it into the gun.
- Indian sepoys believed that the cartridge was greased with either pig fat or made from cow fat. This was against the Hindu and Muslim sentiments. Thus they were reluctant to use the 'Enfield' rifle.
- This was a flashpoint to enrage the soldiers against the British. This was believed to be the immediate factor for the revolt of 1857.

Causes of Revolt of 1857

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Religious and Social Causes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Racism or racial discrimination was believed to be a major reason for the revolt of 1857 wherein Indians were exploited and were kept away from mixing with Europeans. ○ The whites also started interfering in the religious and cultural affairs of Indians and tortured them as well. |
| Political Causes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The British expansion had led to the propagation of unjust policies that led to the loss of power of the Nawabs and Zamindars residing at various places of India. ○ The introduction of unfair policies like the policy of Trade and Commerce, the policy of indirect subordination (subsidiary alliance), the policy of war and annexation, the policy of direct subordination (doctrine of lapse), the policy of misgovernance (through which Awadh was annexed) greatly hampered the interests of the rulers of the native states, and they one by one became victims of British expansionism. ○ Therefore, those rulers, who lost their states to the British, were naturally against the British and took sides against them during the revolt. |
| Economic Factors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There were various reforms in the taxation and revenue system that affected the peasants' heavily. British Government had imposed and introduced various administrative policies to expand their territory. ○ The major policies are listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Permanent Settlement in Bengal ▪ Mahalwari settlement in Central India & Ryotwari settlement in southern India ○ These three settlements were highly exploitative, and in particular, the Permanent settlement had created a devastating impact. ○ Thus, the peasants were greatly encouraged to overthrow the British Government from India and led to their active participation in the revolt of 1857. |
| Military Factors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Indian soldiers faced a lot of discrimination from the British officials with respect to their salaries, pensions, promotions. ○ Indians were subjugated in the military while their European counterparts faced no such discrimination. This led to discontent and was a major military factor that resulted in the revolt of 1857. |

Impact

- The revolt of 1857 shook the foundation of British East India Company and disclosed their inefficiency in handling the Indian administration.
- The major impact was the introduction of the Government of India Act, 1858 which abolished the rule of British East India Company and marked the beginning of British raj that bestowed powers in the hands of the British government to rule India directly through representatives.

Causes of Failure

The revolt was eventually not successful in ousting the British from the country because of several factors.

- The sepoys **lacked one clear leader**; there were several.
- They also **did not have a coherent plan** by which the foreigners would be routed.
- Indian rulers who aided the revolt **did not envision any plan for the country after the British were defeated**.

- **Majorly northern India** was affected by this revolt. The three presidencies of Bengal, Bombay and Madras remained mostly unaffected.

| Place | Revolt of 1857 -Important Leaders |
|-------------|--|
| Delhi | Bahadur Shah II, General Bakht Khan |
| Lucknow | Begum Hazrat Mahal, Birjis Qadir, Ahmadullah |
| Kanpur | Nana Sahib, Rao Sahib, Tantia Tope, Azimullah Khan |
| Jhansi | Rani Laxmibai |
| Bihar | Kunwar Singh, Amar Singh |
| Farrukhabad | Tufzal Hasan Khan |
| Assam | Kandapareshwar Singh, Maniram Dutta Baruah |
| Orissa | Surendra Shahi, Ujjwal Shahi |

→ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT 1858

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. What was/were the object/objects of Queen Victoria's Proclamation (1858)? (UPSC Prelims 2014)

1. To disclaim any intention to annex Indian States.
2. To place the Indian administration under the British Crown.

3. To regulate East India Company's trade with India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Notes

- The Revolt of 1857 served as a jolt to the British government.
- There was widespread resentment against the company in Britain as the policies of the company were blamed for the revolt.
- **Queen Victoria, who was the monarch of Britain**, also became the sovereign of British territories in India, with the title "**Empress of India**" as a result of this Act.
- First Secretary of State for India: **Lord Stanley**
- **Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli** was opposed to the crown directly ruling India, but his fellow MP's did not agree with his views and the bill passed the House of Commons easily.

- First Governor-General and Viceroy of India: **Lord Canning**

Provisions of the Act

- East India Company was liquidated.
- **Indian territories of Britain were to be governed in the name of the British Queen.**
- The **Court of Directors and the Board of Control were scrapped.**
- The **powers of the Company's Court of Directors** were vested with the **Secretary of State for India.**
- This **Secretary of State was to be a British MP and a member of the Prime Minister's cabinet.**
- He was to be **assisted by a council of 15 members.**
- He was also the **channel of communication between the British government in Britain and the Indian administration.** He also had the power to send secret despatches to India without consulting his council.
- Via the Secretary of State, the British parliament could ask questions regarding Indian affairs.
- The **representative of the British government in India was the Governor-General and Viceroy (both the same person to avoid conflict).**
- The Viceroy and the governors of the various presidencies were appointed by the Crown.
- The **Viceroy was to be assisted with an Executive Council.**
- This act made **India a direct British colony.**
- This act **abolished the dual government of the Pitt's India Act.**
- This act also **ended the doctrine of lapse.**
- The Indian Civil Services was to be instituted for the administration of the country. There was provision for Indians also to be admitted to the service.
- It was decided that the **remaining Indian princes and chiefs (more than 560 in number) would have their independent status provided they accept British suzerainty.**

→ INDIAN COUNCILS ACT-1861

Provisions

- For the executive functions of the Council, a **fifth member was added.**
- Now there were **five members for home, military, law, revenue and finance.**
- **(A sixth member for public works was added in 1874.)**
- Lord Canning, who was the Governor-General and Viceroy at the time, **introduced the portfolio system.** In this system, each member was assigned a portfolio of a particular department.
- For **legislative purposes**, the Governor-General's Council was **enlarged.** Now, **there were to be between 6 and 12 additional members** (nominated by the Governor-General).
- They were appointed for a **period of 2 years.** Out of these, at **least half of the additional members were to be non-official (British or Indian).**
- Their functions were confined to legislative measures.
- **Lord Canning nominated three Indians** to the Council in 1862 namely, the **Raja of Benares, the Maharaja of Patiala and Sir Dinkar Rao.**
- Any bill related to public revenue or debt, military, religion or foreign affairs could not be passed without the Governor-General's assent.

- The **Viceroy had the power to overrule the council** if necessary.
- The Governor-General also had the power to **promulgate ordinances** without the council's concurrence during emergencies.
- The **Secretary of State for India in Britain could also dissolve any act passed by the Governor-General's Council.**
- This Act **restored the legislative powers of the Governor-in-Councils of the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay** (which was taken away by the Charter Act of 1833).
- The **legislative council of Calcutta had extensive power to pass laws for the whole of British India.**
- There was **provision made for the formation of legislative councils in other provinces.**
- New provinces could also be created for legislative purposes and Lieutenant Governors be appointed for them.
- Legislative councils were formed in other provinces in **Bengal in 1862, North-West Frontier Province in 1886 and Punjab and Burma in 1897.**

Assessment of the Indian Councils Act 1861

- The **legislative council had limited role.** It was **chiefly advisory.**
- **No discussion on finance was permitted.**
- Even though Indians were nominated, there was **no statutory provision for the inclusion of Indians in it.**
- It allowed for the **decentralisation of administration** with the vesting of legislative power to the presidencies of Bombay and Madras.
- The **power of ordinance given to the governor-general gave him absolute powers.**

MOVEMENTS AND UPRISINGS

→ POLITICO-RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS

- These movements had a religious framework although political and economic reasons were also responsible for them. The main politico-religious movements are as follows.

→ SANYASI UPRISING (1770-1820'S)

- In Hinduism, a Sanyasi is a person who has renounced the world and is free from all attachments and worldly desires.
- The Sanyasis who had revolted against the English in the 18th century were not necessarily men who had renounced the world. There were many sects of Sanyasis who travelled from northern India to various religious places and shrines in Bengal.
- Some of the Sanyasis were **naga sadhus**, i.e., ascetics who had renounced clothes. But some others were people who wore clothes and were also permitted to marry.
- The British were wary of these wandering men and called them by various epithets like 'erratic beggars', 'gypsies of Hindusthan', 'lawless mendicants', 'religious vagrants', etc.
- After the British had acquired revenue rights in Bengal, many zamindars there had fallen upon hard times owing to the steep tax rates.

- It was the practice of the **Sanyasis to collect alms and contributions from these zamindars during their religious travels.**
- This was stopped when the zamindars found it too difficult to provide alms since after paying the British their due, they were hardly left with anything substantial.
- The British considered the Sanyasis looters and imposed restrictions on the Sanyasis barring them from visiting holy places.
- The Sanyasis rose in rebellion against the British and raided English factories and government treasuries.
- This rebellion was centred in the **forests of Murshidabad and Baikunthapur, Bengal.**
- In 1771, 150 unarmed sanyasis were killed under the orders of Warren Hastings.
- The **Sanyasi uprising went on for about 50 years** and was suppressed completely only in the 1820s.
- **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's novel Anandamath, written in 1882, was set in the backdrop of the Sanyasi Rebellion.** This book was banned by the British.
- **India's National Song 'Vande Mataram'** was taken from this novel.

→ FAKIR UPRISING (1776-77)

- Fakir uprising was started **after the British annexation of Bengal** by Fakirs or wandering Muslim mendicants.
- They were led by **Majnu Shah.**
- He defied the British authority and **began to levy taxes on the farmers and zamindars in Bengal.**
- They **looted English factories** acquiring cash, arms and ammunitions.
- **Majnu Shah was supported by Rajputs, Pathans and disbanded Indian soldiers.**
- After Majnu Shah's death, his brother **Chirag Shah led the operations.**
- Other notable leaders of the uprising were **Bhavani Pathak** and **Devi Chaudhurani.**

→ PAGAL PANTHI REVOLT (1825 – 1850'S)

- The Pagal Panthis were a religious order founded by **Karim Shah** in the Mymensingh and Sherpur districts of Bengal.
- The order's philosophy was that of religious harmony and non-violence incorporating tenets of Sufism, Hinduism and animism.
- Under Karim Shah's son **Tipu Shah**, the order revolted against the British government by organising peasant rebellions.
- They were **against the oppressive tax regime** of the British.
- Tipu Shah captured Sherpur in 1825 and practically ruled over the Sherpur and Mymensingh areas. Disturbances continued till the 1850's.

→ FARAIZI REVOLT (1838 – 1857)

- The Faraizis were followers of a Muslim sect founded by **Haji Shariatullah.**
- It spread to **Faridpur, Bakharganj** and **Mymensingh** districts of Bengal.
- This movement supported the cause of the tenants against the landlords and the British government.
- It was led by **Shariatullah's son Dadu Mian.**

→ KUKA REVOLT (1871 – 71)

- The Kukas, also called **Namdharis**, were a sect within Sikhism.
- They started out as a group for religious purification in Sikhism but under **Ram Singh**, the movement acquired a political overtone with the established aim of **restoring Sikh rule in Punjab and ousting the foreign powers**.
- The Kukas wore only white, hand-woven clothes and boycotted British education, products and laws.
- In 1872, Ram Singh was captured and exiled to Rangoon and 65 Kukas were blown away from canons by the British.

→ POLYGAR REBELLIONS (1799 – 1805)

- **Polygars (Palaiyakkarars) were feudal lords** who were appointed as military chiefs and administrative governors from the time of the Vijayanagara Empire in parts of Southern India. (They were given the charge of a Palayam or a group of villages).
- It was the **Polygars who collected taxes from the cultivators**.
- But the East India Company came into conflict with the Polygars over the question of who should collect taxes, and sought to control the Polygars.
- The first rebellion, also called the **First Polygar War broke out in September 1799 in Tirunelveli district in modern Tamil Nadu**.
- The Polygars were led by **Kattabomma Nayak** (also called Veerapandi Kattabomman) who was in charge of Panchalankurichi Palayam.
- He had defied the British for 7 years refusing to accept their suzerainty and pay revenue to them.
- In the battles with the British troops, Kattabomman initially escaped but was subsequently caught and publicly hanged as a warning to other Polygars.
- The **Second Polygar War (1800 – 01)** is also called the **South Indian Rebellion** due to its scale and reach.
- This South Indian Confederacy consisted of Marudu Pandian of Sivaganga, Dheeran Chinnamalai of Kongu Nadu, Gopala Nayak of Dindigul, Krishnappa Nayak and Dhoondaji of Mysore and Pazhassi Raja Kerala Varma of Malabar.
- It took the British more than a year to suppress this rebellion.
- After this, the **Carnatic Treaty of 1801 was signed which gave the British direct control over Tamil Nadu**. With this, the authority of the Polygars also ended.

→ REVOLT OF VELU THAMBI DALAWA (1805 – 09)

- Velu Thambi was the **Diwan (Prime Minister) of the Kingdom of Travancore**.
- He rose in revolt against the British when they tried to oust him from the post of Diwan. He was also against the heavy financial burden imposed on the kingdom by the Subsidiary Alliance Treaty.
- Velu Thampi was able to garner good support from the people of the land against the British.
- He took his own life in order to avoid capture by the British in 1809.

→ INDIGO REBELLION

- The indigo farmers revolted in the **Nadia district of Bengal** by refusing to grow indigo. They attacked the policemen who intervened.
- The planters, **in response to this, increased the rents and evicted the farmers** which led to more agitations.

- In April 1860, all the farmers in the Barasat division of the districts Nadia and Pabna went on a **strike and refused to grow indigo**.
- The strike spread to other parts of Bengal.
- The farmers were led by the **Biswas brothers of Nadia, Rafiq Mondal of Malda and Kader Molla of Pabna**. The revolt also received support from many zamindars notably **Ramrattan Mullick of Narail**.
- The revolt was suppressed and many farmers were slaughtered by the government and some of the zamindars.
- The revolt was backed by the Bengali intelligentsia, Muslims and the missionaries. The whole of the rural population supported the revolt.
- The press also supported the revolt and played its part in portraying the plight of the farmers and fighting for their cause.
- The play **Nil Darpan (The Mirror of Indigo)** by **Dinabandhu Mitra** written in **1858 – 59** **portrayed the farmers' situation accurately**. It showed how farmers were coerced into planting indigo without adequate payment.
- The play became a talking point and it urged the Bengali intelligentsia to lend support to the indigo revolt.
- **Michael Madhusudan Dutta** translated the play into English on the authority by the **Secretary to the Governor of Bengal, W S Seton-Karr**.

Assessment of the Indigo Rebellion

- The revolt was **largely non-violent** and it acted as a precursor to Gandhiji's non-violent satyagraha in later years.
- The revolt was not a spontaneous one. It was built up over years of oppression and suffering of the farmers at the hands of the planters and the government.
- Hindus and Muslims joined hands against their oppressors in this rebellion.
- It also **saw the coming together of many zamindars with the ryots or farmers**.
- The revolt was a success despite its brutal quelling by the government.
- In response to the revolt, the government appointed the **Indigo Commission in 1860**. In the report, a statement read, 'not a chest of Indigo reached England without being stained with human blood.'
- A notification was also issued which stated that farmers could not be forced to grow indigo.
- By the end of 1860, indigo cultivation was literally washed away from Bengal since the planters closed their factories and left for good.
- The revolt was made immensely popular by its portrayal in the play Nil Darpan and also in many other works of prose and poetry. This led to the revolt taking center stage in the political consciousness of Bengal and impacted many later movements in Bengal.

→ DECCAN RIOT OF 1875

- In 1875, peasants in the Bombay Presidency rose in rebellion against the agrarian crisis that faced them.
- In the Bombay Deccan region, the British had introduced the Ryotwari settlement as the system of land revenue.
- Under this system, the revenue of land was fixed on a yearly basis.
- In the Ryotwari system, the agreement was between the government and the ryot (cultivator) directly.

- The revenue was fixed according to the soil-type and the paying capacity of the farmer. However, the **revenues were so high that farmers found it extremely difficult to pay their dues**. Any failure in the rains would deteriorate the situation.
- To pay their revenues farmers generally took loans from moneylenders. Once the loans were taken, the farmers found it impossible to repay them since the interest rates were steep.
- Peasant indebtedness became a serious problem in the rural areas.
- In 1861, civil war broke out in the USA. USA was the largest supplier of cotton to Britain. Once the civil war broke out, the demand for cotton from India became high and this led to a surge in cotton cultivation in India and there was a period of 'boom' then.
- However, once the war in America ended, cotton demand sunk and this affected the farmers adversely.
- The moneylenders, who during the time of the civil war were generous with their loans, once again refused the farmers loans.
- This infuriated the farmers because they were completely dependent on the moneylenders, who were insensitive to their plight.
- The uprising began at **Supa village in the district of Poona**.
- In 1875, farmers attacked a market place where many moneylenders lived. They burnt account books and looted grain shops. **They also torched the houses of sahkars** (people who were both traders and moneylenders).
- The farmers were led by the village headmen.
- The **farmers' main motive was to destroy the account books of the moneylenders** and they resorted to violence only when these books were not handed over to them.
- They also **socially boycotted the moneylenders**.
- The movement continued for 2 months and spread to over 30 villages.
- The movement also got support from the **Poona Sarvajanik Sabha** co-founded by **M G Ranade**.
- It took several months for the police to restore order in the countryside.
- The Bombay government initially dismissed the uprising as trivial.
- However, the Government of India pressurised Bombay to enquire into the matter.
- Accordingly, the Deccan Riots Commission was set up which presented a report to the British Parliament in 1878.
- In **1879, the Agriculturists Relief Act** was passed which ensured that the farmers could not be arrested and imprisoned if they were unable to pay their debts.

➔ MAJOR TRIBAL UPRISINGS

➔ KOL REBELLION (1832)

- The Kols were one of the **tribes inhabiting the Chhotanagpur area**.
- They lived in complete autonomy under their traditional chiefs but this changed when the British came.
- Along with the British came the moneylenders and the merchants.
- The Kols then lost their lands to farmers from outside and also had to pay huge amounts of money in taxes. This led to many becoming bonded labourers.
- The British judicial policies also caused resentment among the Kols.
- There was an insurrection in 1831-32 which saw the Kols organise themselves and revolt against the British and the moneylenders.

- They killed many outsiders and burned houses. This armed resistance went on for two years after which it was brutally suppressed by the British with their superior weaponry.
- The Kol Rebellion was so intense that troops had to be called in from Calcutta and Benares to crush it.

→ SANTHAL HUL (1855-1856)

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. After the Santhal Uprising subsided, what was/were the measure/measures taken by the colonial government? (UPSC Prelims 2018)

1. The territories called 'Santhal Parganas' were created.

2. It became illegal for a Santhal to transfer land to a non-Santhal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only | |
| (c) Both 1 and 2 | (d) Neither | 1 |
| nor | | 2 |

Notes

- The **Santhal Hul (also known as the Santhal revolt)** occurred in the regions of present-day Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal against the British as well the Zamindari system from 1855 until 1856 when the movement was crushed by the British.
- When the Zamindari system was introduced in the Bengal presidency, the British and the Zamindars claimed the traditional Santhal land as their own.
- The Santhals were exploited mercilessly by the landlords who charged exorbitant rates of interest which ensured that the tribals were never able to repay their loan.
- They lost their land and also were turned into bonded labourers.
- They had to suffer extortions, forceful deprivation of property, abuse and violence, cheating in business deals, wilful trampling of their crops, etc.
- The government supported the landlords instead of helping the tribals whose grievances were genuine.
- The rebellion started in June 1855 when two brothers **Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu** organised 10000 Santhals and began an armed uprising.
- They killed many moneylenders and Company agents. The revolt was very intense and massive in scale.
- The Santhal community celebrates the day of rebellion to this day.
- The revolt was violently suppressed by the British with about 20000 Santhals being killed including the two leaders.
- After the revolt, district of Santhal Pargana was carved out of Bhagalpur and Birbhum. It became illegal to transfer the land to non-Santhal.

→ MUNDA ULGULAN (1899 – 1900)

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. With reference to the history of India, Ulgulan or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following events? (UPSC Prelims 2020)

- (a) The Revolt of 1857
- (b) The Mappila Rebellion of 1921
- (c) The Indigo Revolt of 1859-60
- (d) Birsa Munda's Revolt of 1899-1900

Notes

- The Mundas inhabited the **Chotanagpur area**.
- The **Khuntkatti system**, which was a joint holding of land, prevailed among the Mundas. But the advent of the British and the outsider-Zamindars replaced the Khuntkatti with the Zamindari system. This caused indebtedness and forced labour among the tribals.
- There were many rebellions during the late 18th century and the 19th century against the British and the dikus (landlords, moneylenders, merchants).
- The Mundas were able to get an able and charismatic leader in **Birsa Munda** who proclaimed a rebellion in 1894.
- He organised his people to revolt openly against the government. He urged people to stop paying debts and taxes.
- He was arrested and spent 2 years in jail before being released in 1897.
- In December 1899, he launched an armed struggle on the landlords and the government.
- The Mundas torched police stations, houses of the landlords, churches and British property.
- In 1900 Birsa Munda was caught. He died in jail due to cholera aged just 25.

Causes of the tribal uprisings

- The tribals' mainstay were shifting agriculture, hunting, fishing and the use of forest produce.
- With the **influx of non-tribals into the traditional regions of the tribals, the practice of settled agriculture was introduced**. This led to a loss of land for the tribal population.
- The **tribals were reduced to being landless agricultural labourers**.
- The British introduced money lenders into the tribal areas which led to severe exploitation of the local tribals. They became bonded labourers under the new economic system.
- The tribal societies had a **system of joint ownership of land which was replaced** by the notion of private property.
- There were **restrictions imposed on the use of forest produce, on shifting agriculture and on hunting practices**. This led to the loss of livelihood for the tribals.

- Tribal society was traditionally egalitarian compared to mainstream society which was marked by caste and class distinctions. With the **coming of the non-tribals or outsiders, the tribals came to be classified under the lowest rungs of society.**
- A **Forest Department** was set up in 1864 by the government mainly to control the rich resources of Indian forests.
- The **Government Forest Act of 1865** and the **Indian Forest Act of 1878** established complete government monopoly over the forested land.
- The work of the **Christian missionaries** also led to social upheaval in tribal society and this was also resented by them.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT

→ INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (INC)

- Formed in **1885** by **Allan Octavian Hume**, a retired British civil servant.
- Other **founding members** include **Dadabhai Naoroji** (Born on September 4, 1825) and **Dinshaw Wacha**.
- The **first session was held in Bombay** under the presidency of **Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee in 1885.**
- The first session was attended by 72 delegates from across the country.
- **Viceroy of India at the time was Lord Dufferin** who gave his permission to Hume for the first session.
- The Congress was formed with the intention of discussing problems faced by the people of the country irrespective of caste, creed, religion or language.
- It was basically a movement of the upper and middle class, western-educated Indians in its moderate phase.
- The **second session of the Congress was held in Calcutta in 1886 followed by the third in Madras in 1887.**



THE FIRST INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, 1885.

→ INDIAN COUNCILS ACT 1892

Background

- The Indian National Congress (INC) was formed in 1885. There was a growing feeling of nationalism and this led the INC to put forth some demands to the British authorities.
- One of their demands was the **reform of the legislative councils**.
- They also wanted the **principle of the election instead of nomination**.
- The INC also wanted the **right to hold discussions on financial matters** which was hitherto not allowed.
- The Viceroy at the time Lord Dufferin set up a committee to look into the matter. But the Secretary of State did not agree to the plan of direct elections. He, however, agreed to representation by way of indirect election.

Provisions of the Indian Councils Act 1892

- The act increased the number of additional or non-official members in the legislative councils as follows:

- Central Legislative Council: 10 – 16 members
- Bengal: 20 members
- Madras: 20 members
- Bombay: 8 members
- Oudh: 15 members
- North Western Province: 15

- In 1892, out of **24 members, only 5 were Indians**.
- The members were **given the right to ask questions on the budget** (which was barred in the Indian Councils Act 1861) or matters of public interest but had to give notice of 6 days for it.
- They **could not ask supplementary questions**.
- The **principle of representation was initiated through this act**. The district boards, universities, municipalities, chambers of commerce and zamindars were authorised to recommend members to the provincial councils.
- The **legislative councils were empowered to make new laws and repeal old laws with the permission of the Governor-General**.

Assessment

- It was the **first step towards a representative form of government** in modern India although there was nothing in it for the common man.
- The number of Indians was increased and this was a positive step.
- However, since the British conceded only a little, this act led indirectly to the rise of many revolutionary movements in India.
- Many leaders like **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** blamed Congress's **moderate policy of petitions and persuasions** for a lack of positive developments and called for a more aggressive policy against British rule.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q9. Which of the following Acts/reforms gave the right to members of Viceroy's council to ask questions related to the Budget for the first time?

- (a) Charter Act of 1858 (b) Indian Council Act 1861
 (c) Indian Council Act 1892 (d) Morley Minto Reforms 1909

Notes

→ MODERATE PHASE (1885 – 1905)

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. Who of the following was/were economic critic/critics of colonialism in India? (UPSC Prelims 2015)

1. Dadabhai Naoroji
2. G.Subramania Iyer

3. R.C. Dutt

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
 (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Notes

- The moderate phase of the Congress (or the national movement) was dominated by the 'moderates'.
- They were people who believed in British justice and were loyal to them.
- Prominent moderate leaders:-

Dadabhai Naoroji

- Known as the '**Grand old man of India.**'
- He became the **first Indian to become a member of the House of Commons** in Britain.
- Authored '**Poverty and Un-British Rule in India**' which focused on the

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| | economic drain of India because of British policies. This led to an enquiry on the matter. |
| Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first president of the INC. ○ Lawyer by profession. ○ First Indian to act as Standing Counsel. |
| G Subramania Aiyer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Founded 'The Hindu' newspaper where he criticised British imperialism. ○ Also founded Tamil newspaper 'Swadesamitran'. ○ Co-founded the Madras Mahajana Sabha. |
| Gopal Krishna Gokhale | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regarded as Mahatma Gandhi's political guru. ○ Founded the Servants of India Society. |
| Sir Surendranath Banerjee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Also called 'Rashtraguru' and 'Indian Burke'. ○ Founded the Indian National Association which later merged with the INC. ○ Cleared the Indian Civil Service but was discharged due to racial discrimination. ○ Founded newspaper 'The Bengalee'. |



- **Other moderate leaders** included Rash Behari Ghosh, R C Dutt, M G Ranade, Pherozeshah Mehta, P R Naidu, Madan Mohan Malaviya, P. Ananda Charlu, and William Wedderburn.

Aims and demands of the moderates

- **Education of the masses and organising public opinion**, make people aware of their rights.
- **Indian representation in the Executive Council** and in the **Indian Council in London**.
- **Reform of the legislative councils**.
- **Separation of the executive from the judiciary**.
- **Decreased land revenue tax** and ending peasant oppression.
- After 1892, raised the slogan, "**No taxation without representation**."
- **Reduced spending on the army**.
- **Abolishing salt tax and duty on sugar**.
- **Holding the ICS exam in India** along with England to allow more Indians the opportunity to take part in the administration.
- **Freedom of speech and expression**.
- Freedom to **form associations**.

- **Development of modern capitalist industries** in India.
- **End of economic drain** of India by the British.
- **Repealing the Arms Act** of 1878.
- Increasing **spending on education** of Indians.

Methods of the moderates

- They **believed in peaceful and constitutional methods** to demand and fulfil those demands.
- Used **petitions, meetings, resolutions, pamphlets, memoranda and delegations** to voice their demands.
- Their method has been called **3P – Prayers, Petition and Protest**.
- Had complete **faith in the British justice system**.
- **Confined to the educated classes** only.
- Did not try to employ the masses.
- They aimed only at **getting political rights and self-government under British dominion**.

Successes of the moderates

- **Indian Councils Act of 1892** was the first achievement of the INC.
- This Act **increased the size of the legislative councils** and also increased the proportion of non-officials in them.
- They were able to **sow the seeds of nationalism** in the people.
- They **popularised ideals like democracy, liberty and equality**.
- They **exposed many draining economic policies** of the British.
- Leaders like Gopal Krishna Gokhale (Born on May 9 1866) and M G Ranade were **social reformers too and opposed child marriage and imposed widowhood**.

Limitations of the moderates

- This phase of the national movement excluded the masses and only the educated elites participated in it.
- They **did not demand complete independence** from foreign rule.
- They **did not understand the power of a mass movement of people**, unlike Gandhi who used this power.
- **Drew most of their ideas from western political thinking** which further alienated them from the people.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q10. Who Started the newspaper “The Bengalee”?

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Romesh Chunder Dutt | (b) Surendranath Banerjee |
| (c) Pherozshah Mehta | (d) Panambakkam Anandacharlu |

Notes

→ PARTITION OF BENGAL 1905

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS

Q. The 'Swadeshi' and 'Boycott' were adopted as methods of struggle for the first time during the (UPSC Prelims 2016)

- (a) Agitation against the Partition of Bengal
- (b) Home Rule Movement
- (c) Non-Cooperation Movement
- (d) Visit of the Simon Commission to India

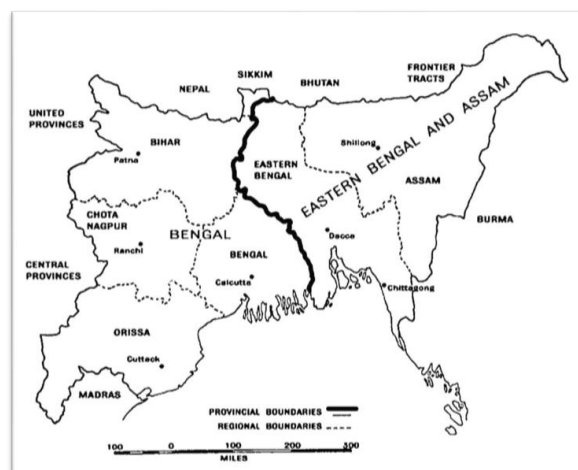
Q. The Partition of Bengal made by Lord Curzon in 1905 lasted until (UPSC Prelims 2014)

- (a) the First World War when Indian troops were needed by the British and the partition was ended.
- (b) King George V abrogated Curzon's Act at the Royal Durbar in Delhi in 1911.
- (c) Gandhiji launched his Civil Disobedience Movement.
- (d) the Partition of India in 1947 when East Bengal became East Pakistan.

Notes

Background & the Partition

- Since **1765 (following the Battle of Buxar)** the province of Bengal, which included present-day West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Bangladesh and Assam **was under the British**.
- It was a **very large area** and the **population rose to almost 80 million** by the first few years of the 20th century.
- **Calcutta was the capital of the province and also of British India.**
- There were difficulties in administering such a large area. The eastern part, especially in rural areas were neglected.
- That region was lacking in the fields of industry, education and employment. Much of the industry was centred on Calcutta.
- For **administrative ease, the partition of the province had been proposed** even before Curzon had arrived in India.



- In **1874, Assam was sliced away from Bengal** and put under a **Chief Commissioner**.
- Initially, Lord Curzon proposed the partitioning of the province as an administrative measure solely. In 1904, he undertook a tour of eastern Bengal.
- The **idea of using the Bengal partition as a political tool to undermine the growing nationalism in Bengal** and other parts of India occurred later.
- As per Curzon, after the partition, the **two provinces would be Bengal (including modern West Bengal, Odisha and Bihar) and Eastern Bengal and Assam**.
- Bengal would also lose **five Hindi-speaking states to the Central Provinces**. It would **gain Odia-speaking states** from the Central Provinces.
- **Eastern Bengal** would consist of Hill Tripura, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions. Its capital would be **Dhaka**.
- **Bengal would have a Hindu majority and Eastern Bengal and Assam would have a Muslim majority population**. Its capital would remain Calcutta.

Reaction to the partition of Bengal

- There was **widespread political unrest** in the province after Curzon announced the partition.
- Many people in Bengal regarded this partition as an insult to their motherland. There was a huge cry for the unity of Bengal.
- Rabindranath Tagore composed the famous song '**Amar Sonar Bangla**' which later became the **national anthem of Bangladesh**.
- The Indian National Congress protested this move to separate the province on communal lines.
- Most of the **Bengalis in the western part protested** against this step which would also make them a **linguistic minority** in their own province. There would be more Odia and Hindi speaking people than Bengalis.
- Many Muslims from the Bengali Muslim community welcomed this move since they thought that it would advance their educational, economic and political interests if they became the majority in the new province.
- Lord Curzon also promised to start a university in Dhaka. This was also seen as an opportunity for Muslims to develop in education and improve their standard of living.
- The general protest in the rest of the country was against this partition. The people saw through the 'divide and rule' policy of the British authorities.
- The chief aim of such a partition was only to create a rift between the two communities and hampering the unity and nationalism in the country.
- The agitation had started much before the date of the partition itself. On the date of the partition, people observed a day of mourning. Tagore asked Hindus and Muslims to tie rakhis to each other as a mark of protest.
- A few Muslims also were against the partition.
- The **Swadeshi and Boycott movements in the national struggle started as a result of this partition**.
- People **started boycotting British goods which had flooded the Indian market** and had dealt a blow to the indigenous industry.
- The partition did **succeed in creating a communal rift in the country and even contributed to the birth of the Muslim League in 1906**.

Partition annulled

- Owing to mass political protests, the **partition was annulled in 1911**.

- New provinces were **created based on linguistic lines rather than religious lines**.
- Bihar and Orissa Province was carved out of Bengal. (Bihar and Orissa became separate provinces in 1936).
- A separate Assam province was created.
- The **capital of British India was moved to Delhi from Calcutta in 1911**.
- Despite the annulment, the partition did create a communal divide among the Hindus and Muslims of Bengal.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q11. Consider the following statements regarding the measures suggested by the extremists during the Swadeshi Movement:

1. Boycott of British goods and institutions.
2. Development of indigenous alternatives.
3. Violation of unjust laws.
4. Violent agitations if necessitated by the British oppression.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2, 3 and 4 (c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

Notes

→ INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT – EXTREMIST PHASE

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS

Q. He wrote biographies of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Shivaji and Shrikrishna ; stayed in America for some time; and was also elected to the Central Assembly. He was (UPSC Prelims 2018)

- (a) Aurobindo Ghosh
- (b) Bipin Chandra Pal
- (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (d) Motilal Nehru

Q. What was the main reason for the split in the Indian National Congress at Surat in 1907? (UPSC Prelims 2016)

- (a) Introduction of communalism into Indian politics by Lord Minto
- (b) Extremists' lack of faith in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate with the British Government
- (c) Foundation of Muslim League

- (d) Aurobindo Ghosh's inability to be elected as the President of the

Indian National Congress

Notes

Background

- The failure of the moderate leaders in getting any significant results from the British authorities.
- The limitations of the moderates were the main causes of the rise of extremism.
- The **partition of Bengal in 1905 opened the eyes of the Indians to the true colours of the British rulers.**
- Lord Curzon and his disdain for anything Indian also created resentment and anger against the foreigners.
- There was a fear among some leaders that the moderates with their westernized notions were trying to create an India in the image of the West.
- There was a **revival of national pride at that time.**
- The **extremist leaders were also influenced by the growth of spiritual nationalism** at that time.
- The **Delhi Durbar held in 1903** when people had not fully recovered from the horrific effects of the famine that killed lakhs of people drew widespread condemnation.
- Events happening around the world also inspired the extremist leaders. **Abyssinia's successful repulsion of the Italian army in 1896** and **Japan's defeat of Russia in 1905** shattered the notion of European invincibility.
- Other national movements like in Persia, Egypt and Turkey also motivated the Indian leaders.

Surat Split

- The differences between the moderates and the extremists became official in the Surat session of the **Indian National Congress (INC) in 1907.**
- The meeting was **to take place in Nagpur that year.**
- The **extremists wanted Lala Lajpat Rai or Bal Gangadhar Tilak to be the President. But the moderates wanted Rash Behari Ghosh** as President.
- There was a rule that the session's President could not be from the home province. Tilak's home province was Bombay Presidency in which Surat was also situated. So, the moderates changed the venue to Surat so that Tilak could be excluded from the presidency.
- The **moderates also wanted to drop the resolutions on swadeshi, boycott movements and national education.**
- **Rash Behari Ghosh became the president** in the session which was held at Surat.
- Tilak was not even allowed to speak and this angered the extremists, who wanted to cancel the session.

- Both sides were firm on their demands and neither was willing to find a common path.
- The moderates then held a separate meeting in which they reiterated the Congress goal of self-government within the British Empire and to adopt only constitutional methods to achieve their goals.
- Unfortunately, the Surat session was marred by the use of sticks and chappals by the members on one another.

Methods of Extremist Leaders

- The **extremist goal was 'swaraj'**. This, at that time, **either meant complete autonomy and freedom from British control, or a total Indian control over the administration** but not necessarily a break away from Britain's imperial reign.
- This was in **contrast to the moderates' demand of only an increase in the share of Indians** in the administration and military upper echelons.
- The **extremist leaders involved wider sections of people in the movement**. They involved lower-middle-class people also.
- They **did not stick to constitutional methods to protest and demand**. They resorted to boycotts, strikes, etc. They also burned foreign-made goods.
- They **believed in confrontation** rather than persuasion.
- The **Swadeshi movement gathered momentum** in India because of the extremists' support. This led to the **establishment of Indian banks, mills, factories**, etc.
- They were **strongly against British imperialistic policies** in India.
- They took **pride in Indian culture and history**. They looked at the ancient scriptures for inspiration and courage.
- They **believed in sacrificing everything including life** for the cause of the motherland.
- They opposed westernisation of Indian society by the British.
- Tilak famously said, **"Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it."**
- They were **very vocal in their opposition to the British rule**, unlike the moderates who had faith in British justice.
- They tried to instil **self-respect and patriotism in the people by invoking past heroes** like Ashoka, Shivaji, Maharana Pratap and Rani Laxmibai.
- They did not believe in loyalty to the British Crown

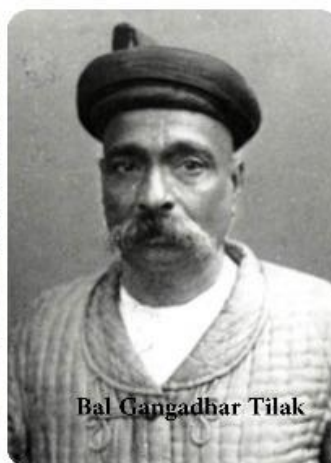
Extremist leaders



Lala Lajpat Rai



Bipan Chandra Pal



Bal Gangadhar Tilak



Aurobinda Ghosh

- **Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal** (the first three called Lal-Bal-Pal leading the extremist cause in Punjab, Bombay and Bengal respectively.)
- Other leaders included **Aurobindo Ghosh, Rajnarayan Bose, A K Dutt, V O C Pillai**.

Government reaction to extremists

- The government attacked the extremist leaders vigorously.
- Laws were passed to check their activities and influence. The following laws were passed between 1907 and 1911:
 - Seditious Meetings Act, 1907;
 - Indian Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act, 1908;
 - Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908; and
 - the Indian Press Act, 1910.
- Tilak was sentenced and served in prison in Mandalay (Burma) for writing in support of revolutionaries who were involved in the killing of two British women (their original target was a British magistrate).

Impact of the Extremist Period

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak organized **Ganpati and Shivaji festival** to spread the message of boycotting westernization in India. This was a major social reform and had a larger impact on society.
- The slogan “**Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it**” by Tilak was the talk of society.
- British goods and national education was boycotted which brought a major change in the economy of the country and gave way to employment and various other opportunities for the Indians.
- There was a major reform in education across the country as the extremists worked on establishing National universities free from government control.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q12. With respect to the ‘Surat Session of the Indian National Congress, 1907’, consider the following statements:

1. Rash Behari Bose was elected as the President of the Surat Session 1907.
2. The resolution supporting the programme of Swadeshi, boycott and national education was passed during this session.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q13. Consider the following statements regarding Bal Gangadhar Tilak:

1. He founded the anti-cow killing society.
2. He set up the Home Rule League at Poona.
3. He supported the Age of Consent Bill

Choose the correct statements:

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) All of the above

Q14. Consider the following statements regarding the Freedom Movement of India:

1. Surendra Nath Banerjee was the first Indian to go to jail in performance of his duty as a journalist.
2. Bal Gangadhar Tilak founded the newspaper ‘Kesari’ and ‘Maratha’.

3. Tilak started the practice of using the traditional religious Ganpati festival to propagate nationalist ideas through patriotic songs and speeches.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q15. Consider the following statements:

1. Aurobindo Ghosh organized the Mitra Mela (a secret society).
2. The Anushilan Samiti was organized by Promotha Mitter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Notes

➔ MUSLIM LEAGUE

- On **30 December 1906**, the **All-India Muslim League (AIML)**, popularly known as the Muslim League was **founded in Dhaka**, British India (now in Bangladesh).
- The **communal idea** that the Muslims are a separate nation was sown into the Indian political ethos first by **Sir Syed Ahmed Khan**, a philosopher and Muslim reformist.
- Although he wanted Muslims to get educated and think in a scientific temper, **he suggested aligning with the British rather than rebel against them**, as most beneficial for the community.
- He had founded the **Muhammadan Educational Conference in 1886** but this organisation stayed away from politics and desisted from even discussing it as per its own code.
- On **30 December 1906**, around 3000 delegates attended a conference of the **Muhammadan Educational Conference at Dhaka in which the ban on politics** was removed and a motion was moved to form the AIML.
- The name was proposed by **Nawab Khwaja Sir Salimullah Bahadur** and seconded by **Hakim Ajmal Khan**.
- The AIML was the **first Muslim political party** of India.

- The idea was that the Congress Party was only catering to the needs of the Hindus. This was an erroneous idea since Congress always meant to include every community of the country and had many Muslim leaders as members.
- The **founders** of the Muslim League were: **Khwaja Salimullah, Vikar-ul-Mulk, Syed Amir Ali, Syed Nabiullah, Khan Bahadur Ghulam and Mustafa Chowdhury.**
- The **first Honorary President** of the League was **Sir Sultan Muhammad Shah (Aga Khan III).**
- The AIML was essentially a party of educated elite Muslims, at least in the beginning.
- The party's **chief aim was to promote and secure civil rights for Muslims.** It espoused loyalty to the British government as a means to achieve more political and civil rights.
- The objectives of the league were:

- To create among Muslims the feelings of **loyalty towards the British Government.**
- To **safeguard the political rights of the Muslims** and to convey the same to the government.
- To **prevent the rise of prejudice against other communities of India among the Muslims.**

Course of League

- **Muhammad Ali Jinnah joined the league in 1913.**
 - When the Congress party was opposed to the government and fighting for the gradual establishment of an independent India, the league propounded loyalty to the government. They, in fact, provided the government with a tool to fight the growing nationalism in the country.
 - Even though partition of the country was not on the minds of Indian Muslims in the early years of the league, it came into the picture after 1930. Leaders of the league began the propaganda that Hindus and Muslims are not one nation and have separate cultures and identities although they have been cohabiting for centuries.
 - In 1940, Jinnah gave a speech in Lahore in which he talked of the impossibility of living as one nation.
- In response to this, **some members of the league who were opposed to the Two-Nation Theory broke away from the party** and formed the **All-India Jamhur Muslim League (AIJML).**
 - The **AIJML later merged with the Congress party.**
- In **1937, the Muslim League was not able to form the government** in any province in the provincial elections held that year as per the Government of India Act. Even in the 125 non-general constituencies out of which 59 were reserved for Muslims, the Congress managed to win 25 seats with 15 seats coming from the Muslim dominated North-West Frontier Province.
 - In 1939, the Congress ministries resigned following the viceroy's declaration that made India a party to the Second World War. The **league urged Muslims to celebrate December 22 as Deliverance Day.**
 - The party, under Jinnah, spearheaded the campaign for Pakistan throughout the 1940s and was successful in its mission of dividing the country. The country was partitioned along communal lines along with independence in 1947.
 - The **league was dissolved on 14 August 1947.** It continues to exist in various forms as political parties in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. In India, the Indian Union Muslim League functions as a political party with its base in Kerala and ironically, aligns itself with the Congress Party.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q16. What is the name of the newspaper published by the Indian Muslim League?

- (a) Quam (b) Inquilab (c) Star of India (d) Bombay Chronicle

➔ MORLEY-MINTO REFORMS 1909

- The Indian Councils Act 1909 was an act of the British Parliament that introduced a few reforms in the legislative councils and increased the involvement of Indians (limited) in the governance of British India.
- It was more commonly called the **Morley-Minto Reforms after the Secretary of State for India John Morley and the Viceroy of India, the 4th Earl of Minto.**

Background of Reforms

- Despite Queen Victoria's proclamation that Indian's would be treated equally, very few Indians got such an opportunity as the British authorities were hesitant to accept them as equal partners.
- Lord Curzon had carried out the **partition of Bengal in 1905**. This led to a massive uprising in Bengal as a result. Following this, the British authorities understood the need for some reforms in the governance of Indians.
- The Indian National Congress (INC) was also agitating for more reforms and self-governance of Indians. The earlier Congress leaders were moderates, but now extremist leaders were on the rise who believed in more aggressive methods.
- **INC demanded home rule for the first time in 1906.**
- **Gopal Krishna Gokhale met Morley in England** to emphasise the need for reforms.
- **Shimla Deputation:** A group of **elite Muslims led by Aga Khan met Lord Minto in 1906** and placed their demand for a **separate electorate for the Muslims**.
- **John Morley was a member of the Liberal government**, and he wanted to make positive changes in India's governance.

Major provisions of reforms

- The **legislative councils at the Centre and the provinces increased in size.**
 - **Central Legislative Council** – from 16 to 60 members
 - **Legislative Councils** of Bengal, Madras, Bombay and United Provinces – 50 members each
 - **Legislative Councils** of Punjab, Burma and Assam – 30 members each
- The legislative councils at the Centre and the provinces were to have four categories of members as follows:
 - **Ex officio members:** Governor-General and members of the executive council.
 - **Nominated official members:** Government officials who were nominated by the Governor-General.
 - **Nominated non-official members:** nominated by the Governor-General but were not government officials.
 - **Elected members:** elected by different categories of Indians.
- The **elected members were elected indirectly.**
- The **local bodies elected an electoral college** who would elect members of the provincial legislative councils. These members would, in turn, **elect the members of the Central legislative council.**
- The **elected members** were from the **local bodies, the chambers of commerce, landlords, universities, traders' communities and Muslims.**
- In the **provincial councils, non-official members were in the majority.** However, since some of the non-official members were nominated, in total, a non-elected majority was there.

- **Indians were given membership to the Imperial Legislative Council for the first time.**
- It introduced **separate electorates for the Muslims**. Some constituencies were earmarked for Muslims and only Muslims could vote their representatives.
- The **members could discuss the budget and move resolutions**. They could also discuss matters of public interest.
- They could also **ask supplementary questions**.
- **No discussions on foreign policy or on relations with the princely states** were permitted.
- Lord Minto appointed (on much persuasion by Morley) **Satyendra P Sinha as the first Indian member of the Viceroy's Executive Council**.
- **Two Indians were nominated to the Council of the Secretary of State** for Indian affairs.

Assessment of reforms

- The Act introduced communal representation in Indian politics. This was intended to stem the growing tide of nationalism in the country by dividing the people into communal lines. The culmination of this step was seen in the partition of the country along religious lines. The effects of differential treatment of different religious groups can be seen to this day.
- The Act did nothing to grant colonial self-government, which was Congress's demand.
- The Act did increase Indian participation in the legislative councils, especially at the provincial levels.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q17. With respect to the "Morley Minto Reforms", consider the following statements:

1. Separate electorates for the Muslims for election to the Central Council.
2. The Legislative Councils could reject the budget, but the Governor could restore it.
3. The elective principle was recognised for the non-official membership of the Councils in India.
4. One Indian was to be appointed to the Viceroy's Executive Council.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 3 and 4 only (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Notes

→ HOME RULE MOVEMENT

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS

Q. He wrote biographies of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Shivaji and Shrikrishna ; stayed in America for some time; and was also elected to the Central

Assembly. He was (UPSC Prelims 2018)

- (a) Aurobindo Ghosh

- (b) Bipin Chandra Pal
- (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (d) Motilal Nehru

Q. Annie Besant was (UPSC Prelims 2013)

- 1. responsible for starting the Home Rule Movement.

- 2. the founder of the Theosophical Society.
- 3. once the President of the Indian National Congress.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

BRITISHER WHO FOUGHT FOR INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

ANNIE BESANT

(1 Oct 1847 – 20 Sep 1933)

Was a prominent British India socialist, theosophist, women's rights activist, writer and orator and supporter of Irish and Indian self-rule.

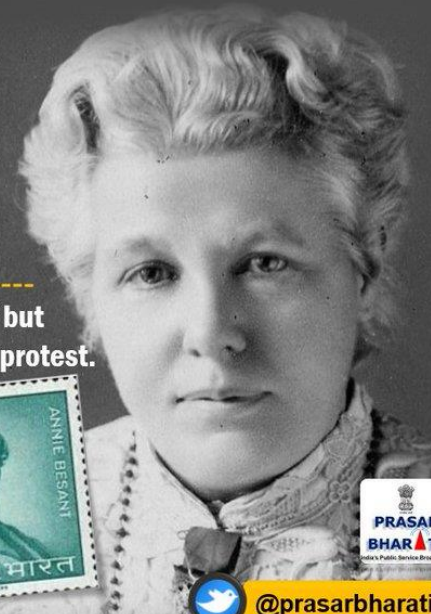
In 1914 World War I, She declared, "England's need is India's opportunity"


In Dec 1917 she took over as president of the Indian National Congress.


Until the end of her life (1933), she continued to campaign for India's independence, not only in India but also on speaking tours of Britain.

Came to India in 1893 & In 1916 she launched the All India Home Rule League along with Lokmanya Tilak.

Was arrested in June 1916 but freed in Sep 1917 on huge protest.






@prasarbharati

Background

- The **Government of India Act 1909** was **dissatisfactory** to the aspirations of Indians.
- The **Congress Party's split in 1907** and fiery leader Bal Gangadhar Tilak's imprisonment from 1908 to 1914 meant that there was **a lull in the national movement**.
- But **Tilak's release and the advent of Annie Besant brought about a revival** of the national movement.
- **Annie Besant was an Irish socialist**, writer and orator who supported the Irish and Indian home rule movements. She arrived in India in 1893.
- The leaders in India were divided on whether to support Britain in the war or not.
- **Annie Besant, however, declared, "England's need is India's opportunity"**.
- Having returned from exile in Mandalay, Tilak understood the need for a revival of the nationalist movement in the country.
- He also understood the growing importance of the Congress Party in India's political scene. So, his first task was to get readmitted into the party. (The extremists led by Tilak had separated from the Congress).

- In the **Congress session of December 1915**, it was decided to let the extremists re-join the party largely due to **Annie Besant's persuasion**. Besant had also recognised the need for Congress approval and the active participation of the extremists in the national struggle.
- However, Besant and Tilak were not able to convince Congress to support their decision to set up home rule leagues.
- Besant managed to convince the Congress to pledge to educative propaganda and the establishing of local-level committees. It was also agreed upon that if these conditions were not satisfied by September 1916, she would be free to set up a home rule league.
- Accordingly, she set up her **Home Rule League in September 1916**.
- **Tilak**, however, was not bound by any such condition and so had **set up his league in April 1916**.

Foundation

- There were two home rule leagues launched.
- **Tilak** launched the Indian Home Rule League in April 1916 at Belgaum.
- **Annie Besant** launched the Home Rule League in September 1916 at Madras.
- They had the **common objective** of achieving self-government in India.
- There was an **informal understanding** between both the leagues wherein Tilak's league worked in Maharashtra (except Bombay), Karnataka, Berar and the Central Provinces. Besant's league worked in the rest of the country.
- **Tilak's league had its headquarters in Delhi**. It had 6 branches. Besant's league had 200 branches and was a looser organisation compared to Tilak's.
- The two leagues worked closely with one another. However, they did not merge to avoid friction between both the leaders.



Objectives

- To **achieve self-government** in India.
- To **promote political education** and discussion to set up agitation for self-government.
- To **build confidence among Indians** to speak against the government's suppression.
- To **demand a larger political representation** for Indians from the British government.
- To **revive political activity in India** while maintaining the principles of the Congress Party.

Activities

- The leagues **organised demonstrations and agitations**.
- There were public meetings in which the **leaders gave fiery speeches**.
- They were able to create a stir within the country and alarm the British to such an extent that Annie Besant was arrested in June 1917.
- This move by the British created a nation-wide protest and now even moderate leaders joined the league. Besant was released in September 1917.

Significance

- The Home Rule League **functioned throughout the year** as opposed to the Congress Party whose activities were confined to once a year.
- The movement was able to **garner huge support from a lot of educated Indians**. In 1917, the two leagues combined had around 40,000 members.
- Many members of the Congress and the Muslim League joined the league. Many prominent leaders like **Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Joseph Baptista, G S Kharpade and Sir S Subramanya Iyer** were among its members.
- The moderates, extremists and the Muslim League were briefly united through this movement.
- The movement was able to spread political consciousness to more regions in the country.
- This movement led to the **Montague Declaration of 1917** in which it was declared that there would be **more Indians in the government** leading to the development of self-governing institutions ultimately realising responsible governments in India.
- This **Declaration (also known as August Declaration)** implied that the demand for home rule would no longer be considered seditious. This was the biggest significance of the movement.

Failure and Decline

- The movement was not a mass movement. It was **restricted to educated people and college students**.
- The leagues did not find a lot of support among Muslims, Anglo-Indians and non-Brahmins from Southern India as they thought home rule would mean a rule of the upper caste Hindu majority.
- Many of the **moderates were satisfied with the government's assurance of reforms** (as precluded in the Montague Declaration). They did not take the movement further.
- **Annie Besant kept oscillating** between being satisfied with the government talk of reforms and pushing the home rule movement forward. She was not able to provide firm leadership to her followers. (Although ultimately she did call the reforms 'unworthy of Indian acceptance').
- In **September 1918, Tilak went to England to pursue a libel case against Sir Ignatius Valentine Chirol, British journalist and author of the book 'Indian Unrest'**.
- The book contained deprecatory comments and had called **Tilak the 'Father of Indian Unrest.'** (Tilak lost the case).
- Tilak's absence and Besant's inability to lead the people led to the movement's fizzing out.
- After the war, **Mahatma Gandhi gained prominence as a leader of the masses** and the **Home Rule Leagues merged with the Congress Party in 1920**.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q18. With respect to the "Home Rule League", consider the following statements:

1. It created an organizational link between the town and the country.
2. Mohammad Ali Jinnah participated in the Home Rule League.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q19. Consider the following statements –

1. In 1915, Annie Besant chaired the Bombay session of the Indian National Congress.
2. She launched a campaign through her two papers; New India and Commonweal.
3. She established Indian Boy Scouts Association.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

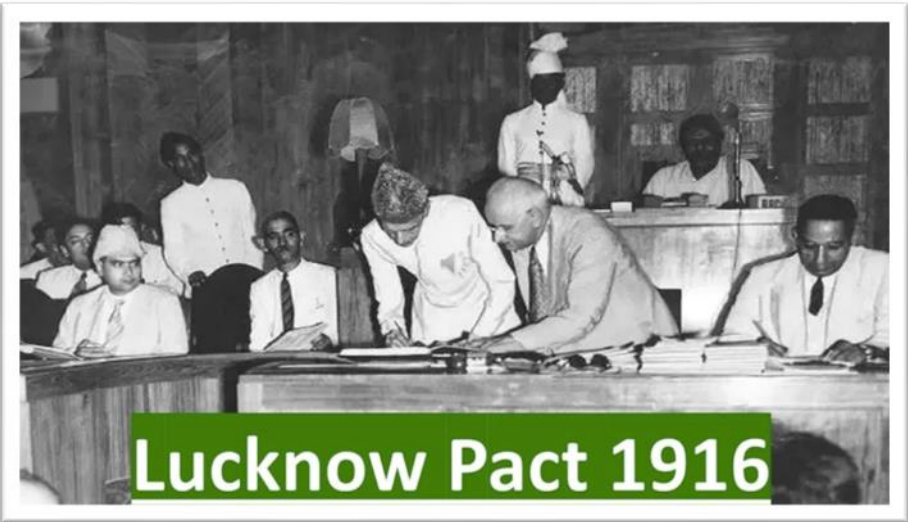
(c) 2 and 3

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Notes

→ LUCKNOW PACT, 1916

Background

- When the Muslim League was formed in 1906, it was a relatively moderate organisation with a pro-British stance.
 - After the First World War, the **Viceroy Lord Chelmsford** had solicited reform suggestions from Indians in return for the Indian support to the British war effort.
- 
- The **Muslim League** led by **Mohammed Ali Jinnah** wanted to use this opportunity to press for constitutional reforms through a joint Hindu-Muslim platform.
 - **Jinnah was then a member of both the parties and he was largely responsible for the Pact.**
 - This was the first time that leaders of both the INC and the Muslim League were meeting for a joint session.
 - At the meeting, the leaders consulted with each other and drafted a set of demands for constitutional reforms.
 - In **October 1916, 19 elected Indian members** of the Imperial Legislative Council addressed a memorandum to the Viceroy seeking reforms.
 - In November 1916, leaders from both the parties met again in Calcutta and discussed and amended the suggestions.
 - Finally, at their **respective annual sessions held at Lucknow in December 1916, the INC and the League confirmed the agreement.** This came to be known as the Lucknow Pact.
 - For his efforts, **Sarojini Naidu** gave Jinnah the title '**the Ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity.**

Reforms suggested in the Lucknow Pact

- **Self-government** in India.
- **Abolition of the Indian Council.**
- **Separation of the executive from the judiciary.**
- **Salaries of the Secretary of State for Indian Affairs to be paid from British coffers** and not the Indian funds.
- **1/3rd representation to be given to Muslims** in the Central Government.
- The **number of Muslims in the provincial legislatures** to be laid down for each province.
- **Separate electorates for all communities until a joint electorate is demanded by all.**
- **Introduction of a system of weightage for minority representation** (it implied giving minorities more representation than their share in the population).
- Increasing the **term of the Legislative Council to 5 years.**
- **Half the members of the Imperial Legislative Council to be Indians.**
- All **elected members to be elected directly on the basis of adult franchise.** 4/5th of the members of the provincial legislatures to be elected and 1/5th to be nominated.
- **Members of the Legislative Council** to elect their President themselves.

Results of Lucknow Pact

- The Lucknow Pact gave the impression of Hindu-Muslim unity in the national political scene. But it was only an impression and short-lived.
- The agreement between the parties on a **separate communal electorate formally established communal politics in India.**
- Through this pact, the **INC also tacitly accepted that India consisted of two different communities with different interests.**
- This pact pushed the hitherto less relevant Muslim League into the forefront of Indian politics along with the Congress Party.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q20. Which of the following factors led to the Lucknow Pact between the Muslim League and the Congress?

1. The refusal of the British government to set up a university at Aligarh with powers to affiliate colleges all over India.
2. The Calcutta Session of the Muslim League, 1912 had committed unconditionally to work with other groups for a system of self-government suited to India.
3. Congress's acceptance of the separate electorates as provided under the Morley Minto Reforms.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 3 only (d) 2 and 3 only

Notes

→ EMERGENCE OF M.K. GANDHI

- M. K. Gandhi returned from South Africa (where he had lived for more than 20 years) to India in 1915.
- There he had led a peaceful agitation against the discrimination meted out to Indians and had emerged as a respected leader.
- It was in South Africa that he developed his brand of Satyagraha.
- In India, he first used this tool against the British government at Champaran in Bihar.



PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS

Q. Which one of the following is a very significant aspect of the Champaran Satyagraha? (UPSC Prelims 2018)

- (a) Active all-India participation of lawyers, students and women in the National Movement
- (b) Active involvement of Dalit and Tribal communities of India in the National Movement
- (c) Joining of peasant unrest to India's National Movement
- (d) Drastic decrease in the cultivation of plantation crops and commercial crops

Q. What was the reason for Mahatma Gandhi to organize a satyagraha on behalf of the peasants of Kheda? (UPSC Prelims 2011)

1. The Administration did not suspend the land revenue collection in spite of a drought.
2. The Administration proposed to introduce Permanent Settlement in Gujarat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Notes

→ CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA (1917)

- The **first civil disobedience movement by Gandhi** in the freedom struggle.
- Persuaded by **Rajkumar Shukla**, an indigo cultivator, Gandhi went to Champaran in Bihar to investigate the conditions of the farmers there.
- The farmers were suffering under heavy taxes and an exploitative system. They were forced to grow indigo by the British planters under the tinkathia system.

- Gandhi arrived in Champaran to investigate the matter but was not permitted by the British authorities to do so.
- He was asked to leave the place but he refused.
- He was able to gather support from the farmers and masses.
- When he appeared in court in response to a summons, almost 2000 locals accompanied him.
- The **case against him was dropped and he was allowed to conduct the inquiry.**
- After peaceful protests against the planters and landlords led by Gandhi, the **government agreed to abolish the exploitative tinkathia system.**
- The peasants also received a part of the money extracted from them as compensation.
- Champaran struggle is called the first experiment on Satyagraha by Gandhi and later Ahmedabad Mill Strike and Kheda Satyagraha occurred.
- It was during this time that **Gandhi was given the names 'Bapu' and 'Mahatma' by the people.**

→ KHEDA SATYAGRAHA (1918)

- 1918 was a year of failed crops in the Kheda district of Gujarat due to droughts.
- As per law, the farmers were entitled to remission if the produce was less than a quarter of the normal output.
- But the government refused any remission from paying land revenue.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, under Gandhi's guidance,** led the farmers in protest against the collection of taxes in the wake of the famine.
- People from all castes and ethnicities of the district lend their support to the movement.
- The protest was peaceful and people showed remarkable courage even in the face of adversities like confiscation of personal property and arrest.
- Finally, the authorities gave in and gave some concessions to the farmers.

→ AHMEDABAD MILL STRIKE (1918)

- Gandhi used **Satyagraha and hunger strike for the first time** during an industrial dispute between the owners and workers of a cotton mill in Ahmedabad.
- The owners wanted to withdraw the plague bonus to the workers while the workers were demanding a hike of 35% in their wages.
- During the peaceful strike led by Gandhi, he underwent a hunger strike.
- The Ahmedabad Mill strike was successful and the workers were granted the wage hike they wanted.
- In all these movements, Gandhi was **able to involve the masses** including farmers, artisans and even the so-called lower castes. This was a change from the previous movements when the participation was limited to the upper and the middle classes.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q21. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Ahmedabad mill strikes?

1. Due to the failure of cotton crop, the mill owners refused to hike the wages of the workers.
 2. Anusuya Sarabhai called Mahatma Gandhi to fight for the workers' rights.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q22. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Kheda Satyagrah?

1. The Workers were demanding suspension of revenue assessment for the year 1919.
2. Narahari Parikh, Mohanlal Pandya and Ravi Shankar Vyas were the key figures of this Satyagrah.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Notes

→ ROWLATT ACT

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. With reference to Rowlatt Satyagraha, which of the following statements is/are correct? (UPSC Prelims 2015)

1. The Rowlatt Act was based on the recommendations of the 'Sedition Committee'.
2. In Rowlatt Satyagraha, Gandhiji tried to Utilize the Home Rule League.

3. Demonstrations against the arrival of Simon Commission coincided with Rowlatt Satyagraha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Notes

- Officially known as the **Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, 1919**.
- Passed in March 1919 by the Imperial Legislative Council.
- This **act authorised the British government to arrest anybody** suspected of terrorist activities.

- It also authorised the government to **detain such people arrested for up to 2 years without trial**.
- It empowered the police to search for a place without a warrant.
- It also **placed severe restrictions on the freedom of the press**.
- The act was passed as per recommendations of the **Rowlatt Committee chaired by a judge, Sir Sidney Rowlatt**, after whom the act is named.
- The act was widely condemned by Indian leaders and the public. The bills came to be known as '**black bills**'.
- The act was passed despite unanimous opposition from the Indian members of the council, all of whom resigned in protest. These included **Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Madan Mohan Malviya and Mazhar Ul Haq**.
- In response to this act, a nationwide hartal was called by **Gandhiji on 6th April. This was called the Rowlatt Satyagraha**.
- The movement was cancelled by Gandhiji when it was marred by rioting in some provinces, particularly in Punjab where the situation was grim.
- The British government's primary intention was to repress the growing nationalist movement in the country.
- The British were also afraid of a **Ghadarite revolution** in Punjab and the rest of the country.
- Two **popular Congress leaders Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew** were arrested.
- The protest was very intense when the act came into effect and the army was called in Punjab to tackle the situation.



PRACTICE QUESTION

Q23. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Rowlatt Act?

1. The Rowlatt Act was officially called as the "Sedition and Revolutionary Crimes Act".
2. Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Madan Mohan Malviya resigned in protest.
3. The government aimed at replacing the provisions of the wartime Defence of India Act (1915) by a permanent law.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 3 only

Notes

→ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT 1919

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. The Government of India Act of 1919 clearly defined (UPSC Prelims 2015)

- (a) the separation of power between the judiciary and the legislature
- (b) the jurisdiction of the central and provincial governments
- (c) the powers of the Secretary of State for India and the Viceroy
- (d) None of the above

Q. Which of the following is/are the principal feature(s) of the Government of India Act, 1919? (UPSC Prelims 2012)

- 1. Introduction of dyarchy in the executive government of the provinces.
- 2. Introduction of separate communal electorates for Muslims.
- 3. Devolution of Legislative authority by the centre to the provinces.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Notes

- The Government of India Act 1919 was an act of the British Parliament that **sought to increase the participation of Indians in the administration** of their country.
- The act was based on the recommendations of a report by **Edwin Montagu, the then Secretary of State for India, and Lord Chelmsford, India's Viceroy between 1916 and 1921.**
- Hence the constitutional reforms set forth by this act are known as Montagu-Chelmsford reforms or Montford reforms.

→ PRINCIPLE FEATURES OF THE ACT

Provincial Government

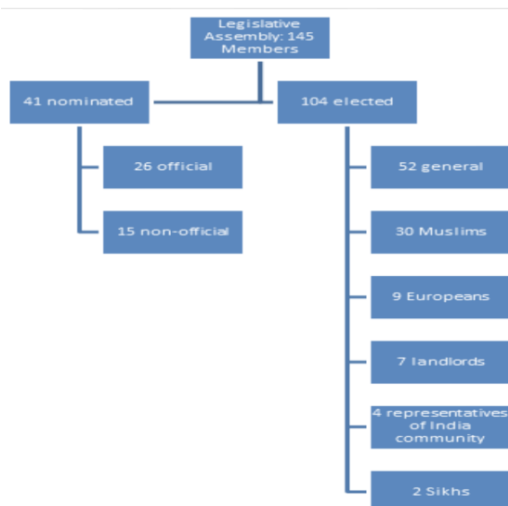
| Executive: | Legislature: |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dyarchy was introduced, i.e., there were two classes of administrators – Executive councillors and ministers. ○ The Governor was the executive head of the province. ○ The subjects were divided into two lists – reserved and transferred. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The size of the provincial legislative assemblies was increased. ○ Now about 70% of |

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The governor was in charge of the reserved list along with his executive councillors. The subjects under this list were law and order, irrigation, finance, land revenue, etc. ○ The ministers were in charge of subjects under the transferred list. The subjects included were education, local government, health, excise, industry, public works, religious endowments, etc. ○ The ministers were responsible to the people who elected them through the legislature. ○ These ministers were nominated from among the elected members of the legislative council. ○ The executive councillors were not responsible to the legislature, unlike the ministers. ○ The Secretary of State and the Governor-General could interfere in matters under the reserved list, but this interference was restricted for the transferred list | <p>the members were elected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There were communal and class electorates. ○ Some women could also vote. ○ The governor's assent was required to pass any bill. ○ He also had veto power and could issue ordinances also. |
|---|---|

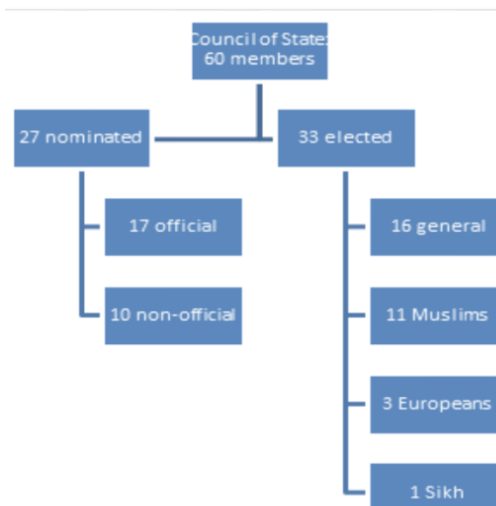
Central government

| Executive: | Legislature: |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The chief executive authority was the Governor-General. ○ There were two lists for administration – central and provincial. ○ The provincial list was under the provinces while the centre took care of the central list. ○ Out of the 8 members of the Viceroy's executive council, 3 were to be Indian members. ○ The governor-general could issue ordinances. ○ He could also certify bills that were rejected by the central legislature. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A bicameral legislature was set up with two houses – Legislative Assembly (forerunner of the Lok Sabha) and the Council of State (forerunner of the Rajya Sabha). ○ Legislative Assembly (Lower House) |

Members of the Legislative Assembly



Members of the Council of State



- The legislators could ask questions and also

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The nominated members were nominated by the governor-general from Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians. ○ The members had a tenure of 3 years. ○ Council of State (Upper House) ○ Only male members with a tenure of 5 years. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ vote a part of the budget. ○ Only 25% of the budget was subject to vote. ○ Rest was non-votable. ○ A bill had to be passed in both houses before it became a law. <p>There were three measures to resolve any deadlock between both the houses – joint committees, joint conferences and joint sittings.</p> |
|---|--|

Governor-General

- The governor-general's assent was required for any bill to become law even if both houses have passed it.
- He could also enact a bill without the legislature's consent.
- He could prevent a bill from becoming law if he deems it as detrimental to the peace of the country.
- He could disallow any question, adjournment motion or debate in the house.

Who could vote?

- The franchise was restricted and there **was no universal adult suffrage.**
- Voters **should have paid land revenue of Rs.3000 or have a property with rental value or have taxable income.**
- They should possess **previous experience in the legislative council.**
- They **should be members of a university senate.**
- They **should hold certain offices in the local bodies.**
- They **should hold some specific titles.**
- All this **narrowed the number of people who could vote to an abysmal number.**

Indian Council

- There were to be at least 8 and a maximum of 12 members in the council.
- Half of the members should have ten years of experience in public service in India.
- Their tenure was to be 5 years.
- Their salaries were increased from £1000 to £1200.
- There were to be 3 Indian members in the Council.

Other Salient Features

- This act provided for the first time, the **establishment of a public service commission** in India.
- The act also **provided that after 10 years, a statutory commission** would be set up to study the working of the government. This **resulted in the Simon Commission** of 1927.
- It also **created an office of the High Commissioner** for India in London.

Merits of the Act

- Dyarchy introduced the **concept of responsible government.**
- It introduced the **concept of federal structure with a unitary bias.**

- There was the **increased participation of Indians** in the administration. They held some portfolios like labour, health, etc.
- For the first time, **elections were known to the people** and it created political consciousness among the people.
- **Some Indian women also had the right to vote for the first time.**

Limitations of the Act

- This act **extended consolidated and communal representation.**
- The **franchise was very limited.** It did not extend to the common man.
- The governor-general and the governors had a lot of power to undermine the legislatures at the centre and the provinces respectively.
- **Allocation of the seats for the central legislature was not based on population but the 'importance' of the province** in the eyes of the British.
- The Rowlatt Acts were passed in 1919 which severely restricted press and movement. Despite the unanimous opposition of Indian members of the legislative council, those bills were passed. Several Indian members resigned in protest.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q24. Which of the following provisions was/were provided in the Government of India Act, 1919?

1. A scheme of federalism was provided.
2. The position of the High Commissioner for India was created.
3. Responsible government at the central level.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 2 and 3 only

Notes

➔ NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT

- Mahatma Gandhi was the main force behind the non-cooperation movement.
- In **March 1920, he issued a manifesto** declaring a doctrine of the non-violent non-cooperation movement. Gandhi, through this manifesto, wanted people to:

- Adopt swadeshi principles
- Adopt swadeshi habits including hand spinning & weaving
- Work for the eradication of untouchability from society

- Gandhi travelled across the nation in 1921 explaining the tenets of the movement.

Features of the Non-Cooperation Movement

- The movement was **essentially a peaceful and non-violent protest** against the British government in India.
- Indians were **asked to relinquish their titles and resign from nominated seats** in the local bodies as a mark of protest.
- People were **asked to resign from their government jobs**.
- People **were asked to withdraw their children from government-controlled or aided schools** and colleges.
- People were **asked to boycott foreign goods** and use only Indian-made goods.
- People were **asked to boycott the elections to the legislative councils**.
- People were **asked not to serve in the British army**.
- It was also planned that if the above steps did not bring results, **people would refuse to pay their taxes**.
- The INC also **demanding Swarajya or self-government**.
- Only completely **non-violent means would be employed** to get the demands fulfilled.
- The non-cooperation movement was a **decisive step in the independence movement** because, for the first time, the INC was ready to forego constitutional means to achieve self-rule.
- Gandhiji had assured that Swaraj would be achieved in a year if this movement was continued to completion.

Causes of Non-Cooperation Movement

| | |
|--|---|
| Resentment at the British after the war | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indians thought that in return for the extensive support of manpower and resources they had provided to Britain during the First World War, they would be rewarded by autonomy at the end of the war. ○ But the Government of India Act 1919 was dissatisfactory. ○ In addition, the British also passed repressive acts like the Rowlatt Act which further angered many Indians who felt betrayed by the rulers despite their wartime support. |
| Home Rule Movement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Home Rule Movement started by Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak set the stage for the non-cooperation movement. ○ The extremists and the moderates of the INC were united, and the Lucknow Pact also saw solidarity between the Muslim League and the Congress Party. ○ The return of the extremists gave the INC a militant character. |
| Economic hardships due to World War I | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India's participation in the war caused a lot of economic hardships to the people. Prices of goods began to soar which affected the common man. ○ Peasants also suffered because the prices of agricultural products did not increase. All this led to resentment against the government. |
| The Rowlatt Act and the Jallianwala Bagh massacre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The repressive Rowlatt Act and the brutal massacre at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar had a profound effect on the Indian leaders and the people. ○ Their faith in the British system of justice was broken and the whole country rallied behind its leaders who were pitching for a more aggressive and firmer stance against the government. |
| The Khilafat Movement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During the First World War, Turkey, which was one of the Central Powers, had fought against the British. ○ After Turkey's defeat, the Ottoman caliphate was proposed to be dissolved. Muslims regarded Sultan of Turkey as their Caliph (religious head of the Muslims). |

- The **Khilafat movement** was launched under the leadership of **Ali Brothers (Maulana Mohammed Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali), Maulana Azad, Hakim Ajmal Khan, and Hasrat Mohani**.
- It got the support from Mahatma Gandhi to persuade the British government not to abolish the caliphate.
- The leaders of this movement accepted the non-cooperation movement of Gandhiji and led a joint protest against the British.

Suspension of movement

- Gandhiji called off the movement in **February 1922** in the wake of the Chauri Chaura incident.
- In **Chauri Chaura, Uttar Pradesh, a violent mob set fire** to a police station killing 22 policemen during a clash between the police and protesters of the movement.
- Gandhiji called off the movement saying people were not ready for revolt against the government through ahimsa. Several leaders like **Motilal Nehru and C R Das** were against the suspension of the movement only due to sporadic incidents of violence.

Significance of Non-Cooperation Movement

- Swaraj was not achieved in one year as Gandhiji had told.
- However, it was a truly mass movement where lakhs of Indians participated in the open protest against the government through peaceful means.
- It shook the British government who were stumped by the extent of the movement.
- It **saw participation from both Hindus and Muslims** thereby showcasing communal harmony in the country.
- This movement established the popularity of the Congress Party among the people.
- As a result of this movement, people became conscious of their political rights. They were not afraid of the government.
- Hordes of people thronged to jails willingly.
- The Indian merchants and mill owners enjoyed good profits during this period as a result of the boycott of British goods. Khadi was promoted.
- The import of sugar from Britain reduced considerably during this period.
- This movement also established Gandhiji as a leader of the masses.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q25. Consider the following statements about Non-Cooperation Movement:

1. Congress accepted the Non-Cooperation resolution at Amritsar Session in 1919.
2. Tagore argued against the educational boycott program of Non-Cooperation Movement.
3. Justice Party participated in council elections despite Non-Cooperation Movement's call for boycott of council elections.
4. No-revenue campaign was successfully launched at Bardoli under leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 4 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Notes

➔ MOPLAH REBELLION OF 1921

- The Moplah Rebellion, also known as the Moplah Riots of 1921 was the culmination of a series of riots by Mappila Muslims of Kerala in the 19th and early 20th centuries against the British and the Hindu landlords in Malabar (Northern Kerala).
- It was an armed revolt.
- It was led by **Variyamkunnath Kunjahammed Haji**.

Background of Moplah Rebellion

- Muslims had arrived in Kerala in the 7th century AD as traders via the Arabian Sea even before north India was invaded by Muslim armies from the west.
- They were given permission to carry on trade and settle by the native rulers. **Many of them married local women and their descendants came to be called Moplahs** (which means son-in-law in Malayalam).
- Before Tipu Sultan's attack on Malabar, in the traditional land system in Malabar, the **Jenmi or the landlord held the land which was let out to others for farming**. There were mainly three hierarchical levels of ownership including the cultivator, and each of them took a share of the produce.
- The **Moplahs were mostly cultivators of the land under this system** and the **Jenmis were upper-caste Hindus**.
- During Hyder Ali's invasion of Malabar in the 18th century, many Hindu landlords fled Malabar to neighbouring areas.
- During this time, the **Moplah tenants were accorded ownership rights to the lands**.
- After the death of Tipu Sultan in 1799 in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War, Malabar came under British authority as part of the Madras Presidency.
- The **British set out to restore ownership rights to the Jenmis** who had earlier fled the region.
- Jenmis were now given absolute ownership rights of the land which was not the case previously.
- The peasants were now facing high rents and a lack of security of tenure.
- This caused a series of riots by the Moplahs starting from 1836. Between 1836 and 1896, they killed many government officers and landlords.

Course of Moplah Rebellion

- The Khilafat Movement had started in 1919 in India in support of the restoration of the caliphate in Turkey. The Indian National Congress (INC) was aligned with it.

- The Khilafat meetings in Malabar incited communal feelings among the Moplahs and it became a movement directed against the British as well as the Hindu landlords of Malabar.
- There was large-scale violence that saw systematic persecution of Hindus and British officials. Many homes and temples were destroyed.
- The prominent leaders of the rebellion were **Ali Musaliyar and Variyankunnath Kunjahammed Haji**.
- From August 1921 till about the end of the year, the rebels had under their control large parts of Malabar.
- By the end of the year, the rebellion was crushed by the British who had raised a special battalion, the Malabar Special Force for the riot.
- In November 1921, 67 Moplah prisoners were killed when they were being transported in a closed freight wagon from Tirur to the Central Prison in Podanur. They died of suffocation. This event is called the **Wagon Tragedy**.

→ SWARAJ PARTY

- The Swaraj Party or the Congress-Khilafat Swarajya Party was formed on **1 January 1923** by **C R Das and Motilal Nehru**.
- The formation of the Swaraj Party came after various significant events like the withdrawal of non-cooperation movement, the government of India act 1919 and 1923 elections.

Background

- After the Chauri Chaura incident, Mahatma Gandhi withdrew the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1922.
- This was met with a lot of disagreements among leaders of the Congress Party.
- While some **wanted to continue non-cooperation**, others **wanted to end the legislature boycott and contest elections**.
- The former were called **no-changers** and such leaders included **Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, C Rajagopalachari, etc.**
- The others who wanted to enter the legislative council and obstruct the British government from within were called the **pro-changers**. These leaders included **C R Das, Motilal Nehru, Srinivasa Iyengar, etc.**
- In **1922, in the Gaya session** of the Congress, C R Das (who was presiding over the session) moved a proposal to enter the legislatures but it was defeated. Das and other leaders broke away from the Congress and formed the Swaraj Party.
- **C R Das was the President and the Secretary was Motilal Nehru.**
- Prominent leaders of the Swaraj Party included **N C Kelkar, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy and Subhas Chandra Bose.**



Aims of the Swaraj Party

- Attaining **dominion status**.
- Obtaining the **right to frame a constitution**.
- Establishing **control over the bureaucracy**.
- Obtaining **full provincial autonomy**.
- Attaining **Swarajya (self-rule)**.
- Getting people the **right to control government machinery**.
- Organising **industrial and agricultural labour**.
- **Controlling the local and municipal bodies**.
- Having an **agency for propaganda** outside the country.
- Establishing a **federation of Asian countries** to promote trade and commerce.
- Engaging in the **constructive programmes of the Congress**.

Significance

- Gandhiji and both the pro-changers and the no-changers realised the importance of putting up a united front in order to get reforms from the government.
- So, it was decided that the **Swarajists would contest elections as a separate 'group'** within the Congress Party.
- The Swaraj Party won 42 out of 104 seats to the Central Legislature in 1923.
- The party's programme was to obstruct the government. They wanted to create deadlocks on every measure.
- They boycotted all official functions and receptions held by the government.
- They voiced their grievances and aspirations in the Legislative Assembly.

Achievements

- Swarajist **Vithalbhai Patel became speaker of the Central Legislative Assembly** in 1925.
- They **outvoted the government many times** even in matters related to budgetary grants.
- They were able to **defeat the Public Safety Bill in 1928**.
- They **exposed the weaknesses of the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms**.
- They gave **fiery speeches in the Assembly** on self-rule and civil liberties.

Drawbacks

- They **could not coordinate their struggle inside the Assembly with the mass freedom struggle** outside.
- They **totally relied on newspapers** to carry their work and message in the Assembly to the outside world.
- Some of them **could not resist the perks of power**. **Motilal Nehru** was a member of the **Skeen Committee** and **A Ramaswamy Iyengar** was a member of the **Public Accounts Committee**.
- Their policy of obstructionism had its flaws and limitations.
- The death of C R Das in 1925 further weakened the party.
- There were **internal divisions** among the Swarajists. They were divided into the **responsivists and the non-responsivists**.
- The **responsivists (M M Malaviya, Lala Lajpat Rai, N C Kelkar)** wanted to cooperate with the government and hold offices, whereas the **non-responsivists (Motilal Nehru)** **withdrew from legislatures in 1926**.

- The party was in shambles when it went into the 1926 elections, and as a result, did not perform well.
- The party's failure to support the peasant cause in Bengal led to a loss of support of many members.
- The **party merged with the Congress in 1935.**

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q26. Which of the following newspapers started by Motilal Nehru?

- (a) Independent (b) Young India (c) Socialist (d) Free Press Journal

Notes

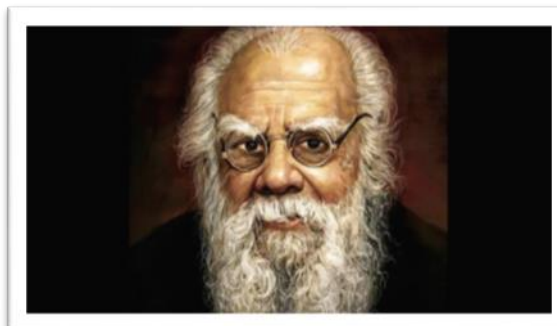
→ VAIKOM SATYAGRAHA

- Due to the prevalent caste system in Kerala and the rest of India, low-caste Hindus were not allowed to enter into the temples.
- In Kerala, they were not allowed even to walk on the roads that led to the temples also. (Kerala state was formed in 1956; earlier it was broadly divided into **Malabar (North Kerala), Cochin and Travancore kingdoms**).
- In the **Kakinada meet of the Congress Party in 1923**, **T K Madhavan** presented a report citing the discrimination that the depressed caste people were facing in Kerala. In Kerala, a committee was formed comprising people of different castes to fight untouchability.
- The **committee chaired by K Kelappan**, comprised of **T K Madhavan, Velayudha Menon, K Neelakantan Namboothiri and TR Krishnaswami Iyer**.
- In **February 1924**, they decided to launch a '**Keralaparyatanam**' in order to get temple entry and also the right to use public roads for every Hindu irrespective of caste or creed.

The movement

- The movement began on **30th March 1924**.
- At the **Vaikom Mahadeva Temple**, there was a board that denied the entry of "lower caste" people (avarnas).
- The Satyagrahis made batches of three and entered the temple. They were resisted and arrested by the police.
- **Gandhiji, Chatampi Swamikal and Sree Narayana Guru** supported the movement.
- The movement gained prominence in the whole of India and support came from far and wide.

- The Akalis of Punjab supported by setting up kitchens to provide food to the Satyagrahis.
- Even Christian and Muslim leaders were in support of the movement. However, Gandhiji was not entirely convinced by this as he wanted the movement to be an intra-Hindu affair.
- On Gandhiji's advice, the movement was taken back temporarily in April 1924.
- After discussions with caste Hindu people failed, the leaders again started the movement. Leaders **T K Madhavan and K P Kesava Menon** were arrested.
- **E V Ramaswami Naicker (Periyar) came from Tamil Nadu to support the movement** and then he was arrested.
- On **1st October 1924, a group of savarnas (forward castes)** marched in a procession and submitted a petition to the Regent Maharani Sethu Lakshmi Bai of Travancore with approximately 25000 signatures for allowing entry to the temple for everyone.
- Gandhiji also met with the Regent Maharani. This procession of savarnas was led by **Mannath Padmanabhan Nair**. Beginning with about 500 people at Vaikom, the number increased to approximately 5000 when the procession reached Thiruvananthapuram in the month of November 1924.



Effects & Significance

- On 23rd November 1925, all the gates of the temple were opened to Hindus except the eastern gate. In 1928, backward castes got the right to walk on public roads leading to all temples in Travancore.
- This was the first time that an organized movement was being conducted on such a massive scale for the basic rights of the untouchables and other backward castes in Kerala.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q27. Consider the following statements about Vaikom Satyagraha:

1. A pioneer attempt to extend Gandhian satyagraha to a princely state.
2. It could be called first Temple Entry Movement.
3. It had a multi-caste support.
4. It was supported by the Christians community in Kerala too.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) 2, 3 and 4

Notes

→ SIMON COMMISSION

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. The people of India agitated against the arrival of Simon Commission because (UPSC Prelims 2013)

- (a) Indians never wanted the review of the working of the Act of 1919
- (b) Simon Commission recommended the abolition of Dyarchy (Diarchy) in the Provinces

- (c) there was no indian member in the Simon Commission
- (d) the Simon Commission suggested the partition of the country

Notes

- The Indian Statutory Commission also known as **Simon Commision**, was a **group of seven Members of Parliament under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon** (later, 1st Viscount Simon).
- The commission arrived in British India **in 1928 to study constitutional reform** in Britain's largest and most important possession.
- One of its members was the future leader of the **Labour Party Clement Attlee**, who became committed to **self-government for India**. It came to be known as the Simon Commission after its chairman Sir John Simon.
- It was **Government of India Act 1919** that announced that **in 10 years from 1919, a royal commission** will be set up to report on the working of the act.

Background

- Diarchy was introduced in India by the **Government of India Act 1919**. The Act also promised that a commission would be appointed after 10 years to review the working and progress made on the measures taken through the Act.
- The **Indian people and leaders wanted a reform** of the diarchy form of government.
- The Conservative Party-led government in the UK feared a defeat at the hands of the Labour Party in the elections due, and so hastened the appointment of a commission in 1928, even though it was due only in 1929 as per the 1919 Act.
- The **Commission was composed entirely of British members with not a single Indian member** being included in it. This was seen as an insult to Indians who were right in saying that their destiny could not be determined by a handful of British people.

- The **Secretary of State for India, Lord Birkenhead** had **berated Indians** on account of their perceived inability to formulate a concrete scheme of reforms through consensus among all sections of the Indian political scene.
- **Lord Birkenhead was responsible for setting up the Commission.**
- Clement Atlee was a member of the Commission. He would later become Britain's Prime Minister during Indian independence and partition in 1947.

Indian Response

- **Indians were outraged at their exclusion** from the Commission.
- The **Congress Party decided to boycott the Commission at their session at Madras in 1927.**
- The **Muslim League led by M A Jinnah also boycotted it.** A certain section of members led by Muhammad Shafi supported the government.
- The Justice Party in the South decided to side with the government on this issue.
- When the Commission landed in February 1928, there were mass protests, hartals and black flag demonstrations all over the country.
- People were chanting the slogan, **'Simon Go Back.'**
- The police resorted to lathi charges to suppress the movement. Even senior leaders like Pandit Nehru were not spared.
- In Lahore, **Lala Lajpat Rai, who was leading the demonstration against the Simon Commission, was brutally lathi-charged.** He died later that year due to injuries sustained then.
- Dr B R Ambedkar had submitted a report on behalf of the **Bahishkrita Hitakarini Sabha on the education of the depressed classes in the Bombay Presidency.**

Impact of the Simon Commission

- The Commission's report was published in 1930. Before the publication, the government assured that henceforth, Indian opinion would be considered and that the natural outcome of constitutional reforms would be dominion status for India.
- It **recommended the abolition of diarchy and the setting-up of representative governments** in the provinces.
- It also **recommended the retention of separate communal electorates** until the communal tensions had died down.
- The **Simon Commission led to the Government of India Act 1935** which acted as the basis for many parts of the current Indian Constitution.
- The **first provincial elections were held in 1937** and it saw Congress governments being set up in almost all the provinces.
- The arrival of the Commission gave an **impetus to the Indian independence movement** by galvanizing leaders and masses.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q28. Consider the following statements regarding the Simon Commission :

1. This commission was appointed to report on the working of the Indian constitution established by the Government of India Act 1919.
 2. There was only one member in the Commission from the princely states.
 3. The Liberal Federation headed by Tej Bahadur Sapru supported the Commission.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q29. Consider the following statements:

1. Subhash Chandra Bose represented the Indian National Congress at the Brussels Congress of the League against Imperialism.
2. Lord Birkenhead had constantly harped on the inability of the Indians to formulate a concrete scheme of constitutional reforms which had the support of wide sections of the Indian political opinion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Notes

→ NEHRU REPORT

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. With reference to the period of India freedom struggle, which of the following was/were recommended by the 'Nehru report'? (UPSC Prelims 2011)

1. Complete Independence for India.
2. Joint electorates for reservation of seats for minorities.

3. Provision of fundamental rights for the people of India in the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Notes

Background

- When the Simon Commission came to India in 1928, it was vehemently opposed by Indians especially the Congress Party for the lack of a single Indian in the Commission.
- So, the **Secretary of State for India, Lord Birkenhead** challenged the Indian leaders to draft a constitution for India, implicitly implying that Indians were not capable of finding a common path and drafting a constitution.
- The political leaders accepted this challenge and an All Party Conference was held and a committee appointed with the task of drafting a constitution.
- This committee was **headed by Motilal Nehru with Jawaharlal Nehru as the Secretary**. Other members were **Ali Imam, Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mangal Singh, M S Aney, Subhas Chandra Bose, Shuaib Qureshi and G R Pradhan**.
- The draft constitution prepared by the committee was called the Nehru Committee Report or Nehru Report. The report was submitted at the Lucknow session of the all-party conference on August 28, 1928.
- This was the first major attempt by Indians to draft a constitution for themselves.

Recommendations

- **Dominion status for India (like Canada, Australia, etc.)** within the British Commonwealth. (This point was a bone of contention with the **younger set of leaders including Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose who favoured complete independence.**)
- **Nineteen fundamental rights including the right to vote for men and women above 21 years of age**, unless disqualified.
- **Equal rights for men and women as citizens.**
- **No state religion.**
- **No separate electorates for any community.** It did provide for reservation of minority seats.
- It **provided for reservation for seats for Muslims at the centre and in provinces** where they were in a minority and not in Bengal and Punjab. Similarly, it provided for **reservation for non-Muslims in the NWFP.**
- A **federal form of government with residual powers with the centre**. There would be a bicameral legislature at the centre. The ministry would be responsible to the legislature.
- **Governor-General to be the constitutional head** of India. He would be appointed by the British monarch.
- A proposal for the **creation of a Supreme Court.**
- The **provinces would be created along linguistic lines.**
- The **language of the country would be Indian**, written either in Devanagari (Sanskrit/Hindi), Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Bengali, Marathi or Gujarati in character.
- **Usage of English** to be permitted.

Responses

- The issue of communal representation was controversial. In **December 1927, many Muslim leaders met Motilal Nehru at Delhi and suggested a few proposals**. These were accepted by Congress at its Madras session. These '**Delhi Proposals**' were:

- **1/3rd representation of Muslims in the Central Legislature.**
- **Representation to Muslims in Punjab and Bengal in proportion to their populations.**
- **Formation of three new provinces with a Muslim majority** – Sindh, Baluchistan and North-West Frontier Province (NWFP).

- However, the **Hindu Mahasabha** was opposed to the formation of the new provinces and the communal representation in Bengal and Punjab. They pressed for a **strictly unitary system**.
- The report made concessions to the Hindu group by stating that joint electorates would be the system followed with reservation of seats for Muslims only where they were in a minority. Sindh would be created into a new province (by severing from Bombay) only after dominion status was granted and weightage would be given to the Hindu minority there.
- **At the all-party conference held in Calcutta in 1928** to discuss the report, Jinnah made three amendments to the report:

- 1/3rd representation of Muslims in the Central Legislature.
 - Reservation to Muslims in Punjab and Bengal in proportion to their populations until adult suffrage was established.
 - Residual powers to be vested with the provinces and not the centre.
- Since these demands of Jinnah were not met, he gave the **'Fourteen Points' in March 1929**, which served as the basis of all future agenda of the League.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q30. Consider the following statements:

1. The pro-changers and the no-changers appeared in the Congress due to the sudden withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
2. The pro-changers advocated Council entry, while the no-changers encouraged the Constructive programme.
3. Motilal Nehru was a pro-changer, while C. Rajagopalachari was a no-changer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) 1 and 2 (d) 2 and 3

Notes

➔ JINNAH'S FOURTEEN POINTS

1. Federal constitution with residual powers with the provinces.
2. Provincial autonomy.
3. **No constitutional amendment without the agreement of the states.**
4. All legislatures and elected bodies to have adequate Muslim representation without reducing Muslim majority in a province to minority or equality.
5. Adequate Muslim representation of Muslims in the services and in self-governing bodies.
6. 1/3rd representation of Muslims in the Central Legislature.
7. 1/3rd Muslim members in the central and state cabinets.
8. Separate electorates.

9. No bill to be passed in any legislature if 3/4th of a minority community considers it against its interests.
10. Any reorganisation of territories not to affect the Muslim majority in Bengal, Punjab and the NWFP.
11. Separation of Sindh from Bombay Presidency.
12. Constitutional reforms in the NWFP and Baluchistan.
13. Full religion freedom for all communities.
14. Protection of the religious, cultural, educational and language rights of Muslims.

→ BARDOLI SATYAGRAHA

- The Bardoli Satyagraha, 1928 was a movement in the independence struggle **led by Sardar Vallabhai Patel for the farmers of Bardoli against the unjust raising of taxes.**
- The Bardoli Taluk in modern-day Gujarat was hit by floods and famines in 1925, which adversely affected crop yield. This affected the farmers financially.
- Ignoring the plight of the farmers, the **Bombay Presidency increased the tax rates by 22%.**
- Despite petitions and appeals from civic groups and farmers to review this unjust hike in tax rates in lieu of the grave situation, the government decided to go ahead with tax collection.
- In **1927, the local Congress Party** published a report to show that the farmers could not carry the burden of the enhanced assessment. But the authorities did not budge.
- In **January 1928, farmers in Bardoli invited Vallabhai Patel** to launch the protest movement wherein all of them resolved not to pay taxes.
- They also assured Gandhiji of their commitment to non-violence.
- Patel agreed to take on the leadership role only after getting assurances from the farmers of their resolve to the movement. He informed them of the possible consequences of their move such as confiscation of land and property and imprisonment.
- Patel got in touch with the government and apprised it of the situation. He got the reply that the government was unwilling to make any concessions.
- **Gandhiji also lend support to the movement** through his writings in 'Young India' magazine.



The Movement

- Patel was an exemplary commander of his non-violent 'army' in Bardoli.
- He divided the taluk into camps and organised hundreds of men and women under the camps.
- The **volunteers came from Hindu, Muslim and Parsi communities** also.
- From the camps, volunteers issued news bulletins, campaigns and also made speeches educating the masses about the need to be disciplined and prepared for austerity.
- Door-to-door campaigning was also done.
- A large number of women took active part in the movement. It was **these women who gave Patel the moniker 'Sardar'.**

- Peasants were asked to take oaths in the name of god that they would not pay the taxes.
- Those **who paid taxes or were supportive of the British were socially boycotted**.
- They also worked for the **betterment of the Kaliparaj caste** (farmers who worked as landless labourers).
- They refused non-essential goods to government offices in the area.
- They **resisted eviction and confiscation (jabti) in unique ways**. They had informers in the government offices who would give prior information as to if and when a jabti notice was going to be carried out. The whole village would then move to another place and the officers would be faced with an empty village when they arrived to confiscate the property.
- **K M Munshi and Lalji Naranji** resigned from the Bombay Legislative Council.
- Although the movement was local, it received nation-wide attention and support.

Effects

- Fearing things could go out of hand, the government set up the **Maxwell-Broomfield commission** to look into the matter.
- The **revenue was reduced to 6.03%**.
- The **peasants were returned their confiscated land**.
- Patel emerged as a national leader after the success of the Bardoli Satyagraha. He showed his remarkable organising skills.

Criticism

- The movement was **focused on the conditions of the rich and middle-class farmers** and largely neglected the poor farmers.
- It **did not raise the problem of Hali Pratha** (a kind of bonded labour system).
- It is said that the movement was **an experiment on Satyagraha** as a method of freedom struggle. The basic problems of the peasants were not addressed.
-

→ POORNA SWARAJ

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. The 1929 Session of Indian National Congress is of significance in the history of the Freedom Movement because the (UPSC Prelims 2014)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) attainment of Self-Government was declared as the objective of the Congress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) attainment of Poorna Swaraj was adopted as the goal of the Congress (c) Non-Cooperation Movement was launched (d) decision to participate in the Round Table Conference in London was taken |
|---|---|

Notes

- The Indian National Congress, on **19 December 1929**, passed the historic '**Purna Swaraj**' – (total independence) resolution – at its **Lahore session**.
- A **public declaration was made on 26 January 1930** – a day which the Congress Party urged Indians to celebrate as '**Independence Day**'.
- The declaration was **passed due to the breakdown of negotiations between leaders of the freedom movement and the British over the question of dominion status for India**.
- In **1929, Lord Irwin, the then Viceroy of India**, made a vaguely announced – referred to as the **Irwin Declaration** - that India would be granted dominion status in the future. Indian leaders welcomed this as they had been making the demand for dominion status for a long time. They now wanted all further negotiations with the British to focus on the formalization of dominion status for India.
- The **Irwin Declaration triggered a backlash in England**: politicians and the general public were not in favour of India obtaining dominion status.
- Under pressure, **Lord Irwin, at a meeting with Jinnah, Nehru, Gandhi and Sapru**, told Indian leaders that he **could not promise dominion status** anytime soon.
- The **Indian National Congress irked and now changed its stance**: it **gave up demands for dominion status and instead, at its Lahore Session in 1929, passed the 'Purna Swaraj' resolution that called for complete independence**. The resolution marked the beginning of a large-scale political movement against colonial rule.
- The resolution was a short 750-word document. It **did not have a legal/constitutional structure** – it read more like a manifesto.
- It **called for severing ties with the British and claimed 'Purna Swaraj' or 'complete independence'**.
- It indicted British rule and succinctly articulated the resulting economic, political and cultural injustice inflicted on Indians.
- The document spoke on behalf of Indians and made its intention of launching the civil disobedience movement clear.

→ SALT SATYAGRAHA

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

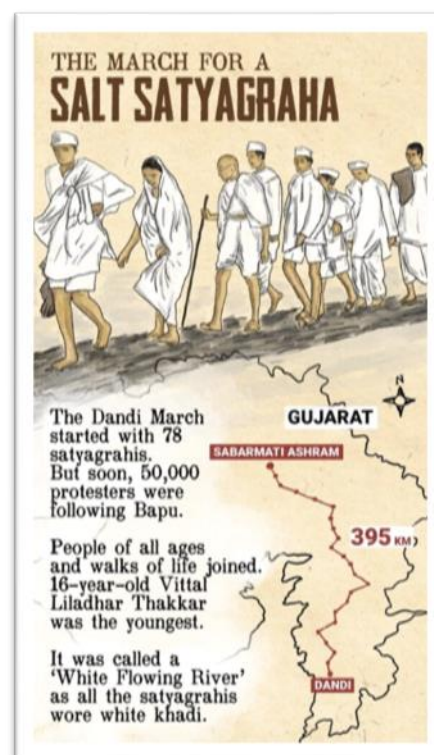
- | | |
|--|---|
| Q. Who of the following organized a march on the Tanjore coast to break the Salt Law in April 1930? (UPSC Prelims 2015) | (a) V.O. Chidambaram Pillai (b) C.Rajagopalachari (c) K.Kamaraj (d) Annie Besant |
|--|---|

Notes

- The Salt March, also known as the **Salt Satyagraha, Dandi March and the Dandi Satyagraha**, was an act of nonviolent civil disobedience in colonial India led by Mahatma Gandhi.
- The twenty four day march lasted from **12 March 1930 to 6 April 1930 as a direct action campaign of tax resistance and nonviolent protest** against the British salt monopoly.
- The Salt Satyagraha was a mass civil disobedience movement **initiated by Mahatma Gandhi** against the salt tax imposed by the British government in India.
- He led a large group of people from Sabarmati Ashram on 12th March 1930 till Dandi, a coastal village in Gujarat, to break the salt law by producing salt from seawater.

Background

- By **1930, the Congress Party had declared that Poorna Swarajya or complete independence** was to be the sole aim of the freedom struggle.
- It **started observing 26 January as Poorna Swarajya Day**, and it was decided that civil disobedience was to be the means employed to achieve it.
- Mahatma Gandhi was asked to plan and organise the first such act. Gandhiji chose to break the salt tax in defiance of the government.
- Some members of Congress were skeptical of the choice and other Indians and the British dismissed this choice of salt with disdain.
- The then **Viceroy, Lord Irwin was hardly perturbed by the threat of a salt protest** and the government did nothing to prevent the salt march from taking place.
- But **Gandhiji's choice of using salt was nothing short of brilliant** because it touched a chord with every Indian.
- It **was a commodity required by all and the poor people were hurt because of the salt tax**.
- Indians had been making salt from **seawater free of cost until the passing of the 1882 Salt Act** that gave the British monopoly over the production of salt and authority to impose a salt tax. It was a criminal offence to violate the salt act.
- Gandhiji also hoped to unite Hindus and Muslims as the cause was common to both groups.
- The **salt tax accounted for 8.2% of the British Raj revenue from tax** and Gandhiji knew that the government could not ignore this.



The course of the Salt Satyagraha

- Gandhiji **informed Lord Irwin of his plan on 2nd March 1930**.
- He would lead a group of people from his Ashram at Sabarmati on 12th March 1930 and walk through the villages of Gujarat.
- On reaching the coastal village of Dandi, he would make salt from seawater thereby breaking the salt act. Gandhiji started the march as planned with 80 of his followers. They were given strict instructions not to resort to any kind of violence.
- Thousands of people thronged the path from Sabarmati Ashram to Ahmedabad to witness the historic event.

- At the end of every day, Gandhiji would address thousands of people and attack the government in his speeches.
- Gandhiji talked to foreign journalists and wrote articles for newspapers on the way. This pushed the **Indian independence movement into the forefront of world media. Gandhiji became a household name in the West.**
- **Sarojini Naidu joined him on the way.** Every day more and more people joined him and on 5th April 1930, they reached Dandi.
- At this time, there were about 50,000 people participating in the march.
- On the morning of 6th April 1930, Gandhiji broke the salt law by making salt. Thousands of people followed suit.

Effects

- Around 60,000 people including Gandhiji himself were arrested by the government.
- There was widespread civil disobedience carried on by the people. **Apart from the salt tax, other unpopular tax laws were being defied like the forest laws, chowkidar tax, land tax, etc.**
- The government tried to suppress the movement with more laws and censorship.
- The **Congress Party was declared illegal.** But this did not deter the satyagrahis who continued the movement.
- There were some incidents of violence in Calcutta and Karachi but Gandhiji did not call off the movement, unlike the previous time with the non-cooperation movement.
- **C Rajagopalachari led a similar march on the southeast coast from Trichy to Vedaranyam** in Tamil Nadu. He too was arrested for making salt.
- **K Kelappan led a march in the Malabar region** from Calicut to Payyanur.
- There were similar marches and salt was produced illegally in Assam and Andhra Pradesh.
- In Peshawar, the **Satyagraha was organised and led by Gandhiji's disciple, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan.** In April 1930 he was arrested. Khan's followers (called **Khudai Khidmatgars**) whom he had trained in Satyagraha had gathered in a marketplace called the Qissa Khwani Bazaar. There they were fired at by the British Indian Army despite being unarmed.
- **Thousands of women** also took part in the Satyagraha.
- **Foreign clothes were boycotted. Liqueur shops were picketed.** There were **strikes** all over.
- On May 21, 1930, there was a protest against the **Dharasana Salt Works** by peaceful non-violent protestors led by Sarojini Naidu. The police lathi-charged the protestors brutally and it resulted in the deaths of 2 people with several others being injured. This event was reported in the international media and there was a condemnation of British policies followed in India.
- The British **government was shaken by the movement.** Also, its non-violent nature made it difficult for them to suppress it violently.
- This movement had **three main effects:**



- It pushed **Indian freedom struggle into the limelight in western media.**
 - It brought a **lot of people including women and the depressed classes directly** in touch with the freedom movement.
 - It showed the **power of the non-violent Satyagraha** as a tool in fighting imperialism.
- Gandhiji was released from prison in 1931 and he met with Lord Irwin who was keen to put an end to the civil disobedience movement and the media attention it had caught.
 - As per the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact**, the **civil disobedience movement would be ended and Indians**, in return, would be allowed to make salt for domestic use.
 - Lord Irwin also agreed to **release the arrested Indians.**
 - **Gandhiji attended the Second Round Table Conference in London as an 'equal'.**

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q31. Consider the following statements with respect to pre-historic rock paintings:

1. In India, the earliest paintings have been reported from the lower Paleolithic stage.
2. During the upper Paleolithic period the themes were multiple but the painting were smaller in size with predominantly hunting scenes.
3. The painting of Mesolithic phase were linear representation of huge animals and stick-like human figures.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2 only (c) 3 only (d) None

Q32. Which of the following statements about the Civil Disobedience Movement in India are correct?

1. It aimed at paralyzing the administration by performance of specific illegal acts.
2. Even though most of the government establishments were boycotted, hospitals and railways were not disturbed.
3. The dock labourers and the mill workers clashed with the Government machinery.
4. Nehru compared the Salt March to Napoleon's march to Paris, on his return from Elba.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 (b) 1, 2 and 4 (c) 1 and 4 (d) All of the above

Q33. Which of the following was/were the reason(s) for choosing salt as the important theme during the Civil Disobedience Movement?

1. Salt, in a flash, linked the ideal of Swaraj with a most concrete and universal grievance of the rural poor.
2. It offered to the urban populace the opportunity of a symbolic identification with mass suffering.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Notes

→ FIRST ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE 1930

Background

- There were **increasing demands of granting dominion status** to India among a certain section of the British polity.
- In India, the freedom movement was in full swing with its demand for swaraj or self-rule spearheaded by the charismatic Gandhi.
- The conferences were based on the **recommendation of Muhammad Ali Jinnah to Lord Irwin**, the then Viceroy of India and **James Ramsay MacDonald**, the then British Prime Minister, and the **Simon Commission report**.
- It was for the **first time that the Indians and the British were meeting as 'equals'**. The first conference started on November 12th, 1930.

Participants

- 58 political leaders from British India.
- 16 delegates from the native princely states.
- 16 delegates from the three British political parties.
- The **Indian National Congress decided not to participate in the conference**. Many of the INC leaders were imprisoned due to their involvement in the civil disobedience movement.
- Among the British-Indians, the following representatives attended the conference: Muslim League, Hindus, Justice Party, Sikhs, liberals, Parsis, Christians, Anglo-Indians, Europeans, landlords, labour, women, universities, Sindh, Burma, other provinces, and the representatives from the Government of India.

Issues discussed

- **Federal structure**
- **Provincial constitution**
- Provinces of Sindh and NWFP
- Minorities
- Defence services
- Franchise
- Executive responsibility to the legislature
- **Dr B R Ambedkar demanded separate electorates for the 'untouchables'.**
- **Tej Bahadur Sapru moved the idea of an All-India Federation.**
- This was supported by the Muslim League.
- The princely states also supported this on the condition that their internal sovereignty is maintained.

Effects

- The First Round Table Conference **lasted till 19th January 1931.**
- Although many principles on reforms were agreed upon, not much was implemented and the Congress Party carried on its civil disobedience. The Conference was regarded as a failure.
- The **British government understood the importance and the need for the Congress Party** to make any decision on India's political future.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q34. Which of the following leaders attended the first Round Table Conference?

1. Homi Modi 2. Moonje 3. Jayakar 4. Aga Khan

Choose the correct code:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) All of the above

Notes

→ GANDHI-IRWIN PACT

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact included which of the following? (UPSC Prelims 2020)

1. Withdrawal of Ordinances promulgated in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement
2. Acceptance of Gandhiji's suggestion for enquiry into police excesses

3. Release of only those prisoners who were not charged with violence

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Notes

- The **rejection of demands** put forward by Mahatma Gandhi in Delhi Manifesto led to **Lahore Congress session**.
- Later, under the civil disobedience movement, Gandhi put forward 11 demands and gave an ultimatum of January 31, 1930, to accept or reject.
- In July 1930 the viceroy, Lord Irwin, suggested a round table conference and reiterated the goal of dominion status.
- On **January 25, 1931, Gandhi and all other members of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) were released from jail unconditionally.**

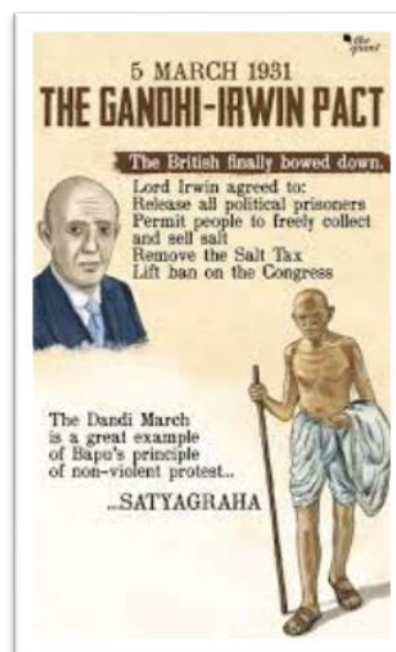
- The **CWC authorised Gandhi to initiate discussions with the viceroy Lord Irwin.**
- Later a pact was signed in Delhi, which came to be known as **Delhi-Pact or Gandhi-Irwin Pact.**

Background

- The **Second Round Table Conference was to be held in 1931** in London.
- In 1930, the Salt Satyagraha was conducted and India and Gandhi received worldwide attention. The British government in India was criticised for its unjust treatment of Indians.
- Gandhi and many other leaders were imprisoned along with thousands of Indians.
- Lord Irwin wanted the issue to come to an end.
- So, Gandhi was released from prison in January 1931.
- The then **Congress President Sardar Vallabhai Patel authorised M.K. Gandhi** to hold talks with Lord Irwin.
- Accordingly, M.K. Gandhi met Irwin and held negotiations. It was for the first time that the two were meeting as 'equals'.

Features of Gandhi-Irwin Pact

- The Indian National Congress (INC) **agreed to take part in the Round Table Conference.**
- The **INC would stop the civil disobedience movement.**
- **Withdrawal of all ordinances** that curbed the activities of the Congress.
- **Withdrawal of all prosecutions** except those involving violent crimes.
- **Release of those who were arrested** for taking part the civil disobedience movement.
- **Removal of the salt tax.**



in

Result of Gandhi Irwin Pact

- The INC participated in the Second Round Table Conference which was held in 1931 during September – December.
- The government **agreed to withdraw all ordinances.**
- It **agreed to release all political prisoners** to save those involved in violence.
- It **agreed to allow peaceful picketing of liquor and foreign cloth shops.**
- It **agreed to revoke the ban on the INC.**
- It **agreed to restore the confiscated properties** of the Satyagrahis.
- It **agreed to permit the collection of salt by people near the sea coasts.**
- It **agreed to forego fines** not yet collected.
- It agreed to the **lenient treatment of all government servants** who had resigned from service in the wake of the civil disobedience movement.

Gandhi – Irwin Pact – Demands of Gandhi not agreed to by Irwin:

- A public inquiry into police excesses during its suppression of the movement.

- Commuting the death sentences of Bhagat Singh and his associates to life sentences.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q35. Who among the following played an important role in the signing of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact?

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Motilal Nehru | 2. Tej Bahadur Sapru |
| 3. Madanmohan Malaviya | 4. Jayakar |
| 5. Chintamani | |

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 4 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 4 and 5

Notes

→ KARACHI SESSION

- The Karachi Resolution was **passed by the Indian National Congress at its 1931 Karachi session** under the presidentship of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Karachi session of Indian National Congress was held on **March 31, 1931**.
- The Session was conducted in the shadow of three major events.

- **First**, Mahatma Gandhi had just been released from prison following his Salt Satyagraha.
- **Second**, the Gandhi-Irwin pact had just been concluded which had brought the civil disobedience movement to an end.
- **Third**, the British government had, a week before the session, executed Bhagat Singh and two of his associates in connection with the Kakori Conspiracy case.

- The Resolution is three pages long and is mostly written in a **quasi-legal style**.
- It reiterated the **Congress Party's commitment to 'Purna Swaraj' or 'complete independence'**.
- In addition to **fundamental rights** which protected civil liberties, the Resolution for the first time put forward a list of **socio-economic principles/rights** that the Indian state had to adhere to.
- These **included**: protections for industrial workers, abolishing of child labour, free primary education and protections for agricultural labour.
- The Resolution also, which seems to be a **Gandhian influence, prohibited intoxicating drinks and drugs**.
- The socio-economic provision in the Karachi Resolution went on to influence the Constituent Assembly in drawing up **Part IV of the Indian Constitution** – the Directive Principles of State Policy.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q36. Who presided over the Karachi Session of Indian National Congress where the resolutions on Fundamental Rights and National Economic Policy were passed?

- (a) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (b) Jawahar Lal Nehru
 (c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (d) Subhash Chandra Bose

Notes

→ SECOND ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

- The Second Round Table Conference was **held in London from 7 September 1931 to 1 December 1931** with the **participation of Gandhi and the Indian National Congress.**

Participants

- British delegates belonging to various political parties including the British Prime Minister, James **Ramsay Macdonald.**
- Indian **princely states** represented by Maharajas, princes and divans.
- British Indians represented by:
- Indian National Congress (INC) – Mahatma Gandhi, Rangaswami Iyengar, Madan Mohan Malaviya
- Muslims – Md. Ali Jinnah, Aga Khan III, Muhammad Iqbal, etc.
- Hindus – M R Jayakar, etc.
- Depressed classes – Dr B R Ambedkar
- Women – Sarojini Naidu, etc.
- Liberals, Justice Party, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Parsis, Europeans, Anglo-Indians, industry, labour, landlords, Burma, Sindh and other provinces.



Outcome

- The session started on 7 September 1931. The major difference between the first and the second conference was that the INC was participating in the second one. This was one of the results of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.
- Another difference was that unlike the previous time, **British PM Macdonald was heading not a Labour government, but a National government**. The Labour Party had been toppled two weeks before in Britain.
- The British **decided to grant a communal award** for representing minorities in India by providing for **separate electorates for minority communities**. Gandhi was against this.
- In this conference, Gandhi and Ambedkar differed on the **issue of separate electorates for the untouchables**. Gandhi was against treating untouchables as separate from the Hindu community. This issue was resolved through the **Poona Pact 1932**.
- The second round table conference was deemed a failure because of the many disagreements among the participants. While the INC claimed to speak for the whole of the country, other participants and leaders of other parties contested this claim.

→ THIRD ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

- The third Round Table Conference took place between **17 November 1932 and 24 December 1932**.

Participants

- Only 46 delegates in total took part in this conference.
- The **INC and the Labour Party decided not to attend it**. (The INC wasn't invited).
- Indian princely states were represented by princes and divans.
- **British Indians** were represented by the Aga Khan (Muslims), Depressed classes, women, Europeans, Anglo-Indians and labour groups.

Outcome

- Not much was achieved in this conference also.
- The recommendations of this conference were published in a **White Paper in 1933** and later discussed in the British Parliament.
- The recommendations were analysed and the **Government of India Act of 1935 was passed on its basis**.

→ POONA PACT

- The Poona Pact was an agreement **between M K Gandhi and B R Ambedkar** signed in the **Yerwada Central Jail, Poona on September 24th, 1932** on behalf of the depressed class for the reservation of the electoral seats in the Legislature of the British Government.
- It was signed **by Ambedkar on behalf of the depressed classes** and by **Madan Mohan Malviya on behalf of Hindus** and Gandhi as a means to end the fast that Gandhi was undertaking in jail as a protest **against the decision made by British prime minister Ramsay MacDonald to give separate electorates to depressed classes** for the election of members of provincial legislative assemblies in British India.



Important Facts

- Dr Ambedkar was **in favour of a separate electorate for the Depressed Classes** and this was laid down **by him in the First Round Table Conference**. He was representing the Depressed Classes in the conference.
- Gandhi was against this idea and when PM Macdonald decided to grant communal awards to minorities and the Depressed Classes, he undertook a fast whilst in jail in Poona.
- Due to public pressure to end the fast unto death, **Dr Ambedkar and Gandhi made the Poona Pact which laid down reserved seats for the Depressed Classes in the provincial legislatures for which elections would be through joint electorates.**
- Gandhi was against this idea because he did not want to view the untouchables as being outside the folds of Hinduism.
- Certain seats for the provincial legislatures would be reserved for the Depressed Classes. The number of seats was based on the total strength of the Provincial Councils. The number of seats reserved for the provinces was 30 for Madras, 8 for Punjab, 14 for Bombay with Sindh, 20 for the Central Provinces, 18 for Bihar and Orissa, 30 for Bengal, 7 for Assam and 20 for the United Provinces. So, in total there were **147 reserved seats.**
- For each of these seats, the **members of the Depressed Classes who could vote would form an electoral college.** This **Electoral College would elect a panel of four candidates** who belong to the Depressed Classes..
- Then these four candidates would stand in the election for the assembly along with the general candidates where the general electorate would vote. The members of the Depressed Classes hence got a 'double vote' since they could vote under the general electorate also.
- Even in the Central Legislature, the same principle of the joint electorate and reserved seats was to be followed.
- In the Central Legislature, **19% of the seats would be reserved for the Depressed Classes.**
- This system **would continue for ten years unless a mutual agreement consents** to terminate it earlier.
- Fair representation of the Depressed Classes would be ensured by all means.
- Nobody would be discriminated against on the basis of caste on matters regarding election to the local bodies or in public services appointments.
- A certain sum of money from the educational grant would be allotted for the education of the Depressed Classes in all provinces.

→ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT 1935

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS

**Q. Consider the following statements:
(UPSC Prelims 2021)**

1. The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 recommended granting voting rights to all the women above the age 21.
2. The Government of India Act of 1935 gave women reserved seats in legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q. In the Federation established by The Government of India Act of 1935, residuary powers were given to the (UPSC Prelims 2018)

- (a) Federal Legislature
- (b) Governor General
- (c) Provincial Legislature
- (d) Provincial Governors

Notes

- The Government of India Act was passed by the British Parliament in August 1935.
- It was the longest act enacted by the British Parliament at that time.
- It was divided into two separate acts namely, the **Government of India Act 1935** and the **Government of Burma Act 1935**.

Background

- There was a growing demand for constitutional reforms in India by Indian leaders.
- India's **support to Britain in the First World War also aided in British acknowledgement** of the need for the inclusion of more Indians in the administration of their own country.
- The Act was based on:

- Simon Commission Report
- The recommendations of the Round Table Conferences
- The White Paper published by the British government in 1933 (based on the Third Round Table Conference)
- Report of the Joint Select Committees.

| | |
|--|---|
| Creation of an All-India Federation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This federation was to consist of British India and the princely states. ○ The provinces in British India would have to join the federation but this was not compulsory for the princely states. ○ This federation never materialised because of the lack of support from the required number of princely states. |
| Division of powers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This Act divided powers between the centre and the provinces. ○ There were three lists which gave the subjects under each government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal List (Centre) ▪ Provincial List (Provinces) ▪ Concurrent List (Both) ▪ The Viceroy was vested with residual powers. |
| Provincial autonomy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Act gave more autonomy to the provinces. ○ Diarchy was abolished at the provincial levels. ○ The Governor was the head of the executive. ○ There was a Council of Ministers to advise him. The ministers were responsible to the provincial legislatures who controlled them. The legislature could also remove the ministers. ○ However, the governors still retained special reserve powers. ○ The British authorities could still suspend a provincial government. |
| Diarchy at the centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The subjects under the Federal List were divided into two: Reserved and Transferred. ○ The reserved subjects were controlled by the Governor-General who administered them with the help of three counsellors appointed by him. They were not responsible to the legislature. These subjects included defence, ecclesiastical affairs (church-related), external affairs, press, police, taxation, justice, power resources and tribal affairs. ○ The transferred subjects were administered by the Governor-General with his Council of Ministers (not more than 10). The Council had to act in confidence with the legislature. The subjects in this list included local government, forests, education, health, etc. ○ However, the Governor-General had 'special powers' to interfere in the transferred subjects also. |
| Bicameral Legislature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A bicameral federal legislature would be established. ○ The two houses were the Federal Assembly (lower house) and the Council of States (upper house). ○ The federal assembly had a term of five years. ○ Both houses had representatives from the princely states also. The representatives of the princely states were to be nominated by the rulers and not elected. The representatives of British India were to be elected. Some were to be nominated by the Governor-General. ○ Bicameral legislatures were introduced in some provinces also like Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Bihar, Assam, and the United Provinces. |
| Federal Court | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A federal court was established at Delhi for the resolution of disputes between provinces and also between the centre and the provinces. |

| | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was to have 1 Chief Justice and not more than 6 judges. |
| Indian Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Council was abolished. The Secretary of State for India would instead have a team of advisors. |
| Franchise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Act introduced direct elections in India for the first time. |
| Reorganisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sindh was carved out of Bombay Presidency. Bihar and Orissa were split. Burma was severed off from India. Aden was also separated from India and made into a Crown colony. |

Other points

- The British Parliament **retained its supremacy over the Indian legislatures** both provincial and federal.
- A **Federal Railway Authority was set up** to control Indian railways.
- The act provided for the **establishment of Reserve Bank of India**.
- The **Act also provided for the establishment of federal, provincial and joint Public Service Commissions**.
- The Act was a milestone in the **development of a responsible constitutional government** in India.
- The Government of India Act 1935 was replaced by the Constitution of India after independence.
- The Indian leaders were not enthusiastic about the Act since despite granting provincial autonomy the governors and the viceroy had considerable 'special powers'.
- Separate communal electorates were a measure through which the British wanted to ensure the Congress Party could never rule on its own. It was also a way to keep the people divided.

➔ AUGUST OFFER

- During the Second World War, the **Indian National Congress (INC) leaders were upset with the British government for having pulled India into a war without the consent of Indians**.
- Lord Linlithgow had declared India to be at war with Germany without consultation.
- France had fallen to the **Axis Powers** and the Allies were suffering many reverses in the war. There was also a **change of government in Britain and Winston Churchill** became the British Prime Minister in 1940.
- The British government were keen to get Indian support for the war. **Britain herself was in danger of being occupied by the Nazis** and in this light, the INC softened its stand. It said that support for the war would be provided if power was transferred to an interim government in India.
- Then, the Viceroy Linlithgow made a set of proposals called the '**August offer**'. For the first time, the right of Indians to frame their own constitution was acknowledged.

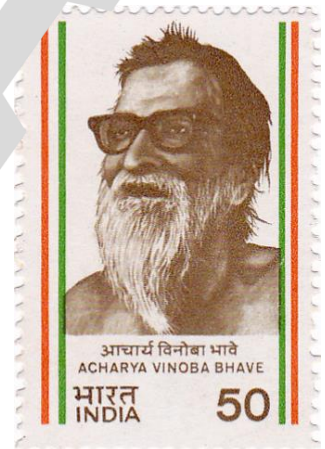
Terms of the August Offer

- A **representative Indian body would be formed after the war** to frame a constitution for India.

- **Dominion status was the objective** for India.
- The **Viceroy's Executive Council would be expanded right away to include for the first time more Indians than whites**. However, defence, finance and home portfolios were to remain with the British.
- An **advisory war council was to be established**.
- An assurance was given to the minorities that no transfer of power would take place "to any system of government whose authority is directly denied by large and powerful elements in Indian national life."
- The Viceroy also stated that **there would be no revision of the Government of India Act**. He also said that before any real constitutional reform could be done, the differences between the INC and the Muslim League would have to be resolved.

Response of the Indian leaders

- The INC **rejected this offer at its meeting at Wardha in August 1940**.
- It **demand complete freedom from colonial rule**. Jawaharlal Nehru remarked that the dominion status concept was as dead as a doornail.
- The **League also rejected the offer saying that nothing short of partitioning the country would be acceptable to them**.
- After this, **Mahatma Gandhi initiated the Individual Satyagraha** to affirm the right to free speech. He avoided a mass satyagraha because he did not want violence.
- The **first three satyagrahis were Vinoba Bhave, Nehru and Brahma Datt**. All three were jailed.
- The satyagrahis also started a march towards Delhi which was called the 'Delhi Chalo Movement'.
- The movement failed to pick up steam and was aborted in December 1940.
- After the failure of the August Offer, the British government sent the Cripps Mission to India in a bid to garner Indian support for the war.



→ CRIPPS MISSION

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

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|--|--|
| <p>Q. The plan of Sir Stafford Cripps envisaged that after the Second World War (UPSC Prelims 2016)</p> <p>(a) India should be granted complete independence.</p> <p>(b) India should be partitioned into two before granting independence.</p> | <p>(c) India should be made a republic with the condition that she will join the Commonwealth.</p> <p>(d) India should be given Dominion status.</p> |
|--|--|

Notes

- The Cripps Mission was sent by the British government to India in **March 1942 to obtain Indian cooperation for the British war efforts in the 2nd World War.**
- It was headed by **Sir Richard Stafford Cripps**, a labour minister in **Winston Churchill's coalition government** in Britain.

Background

- Japan was advancing outside the **eastern borders of India and the fall of Burma was a jolt** to the British in the war.
- The threat of a Japanese invasion on India was looming and **Indian support was essential for Britain's war efforts.**
- When the 2nd World War broke out in 1939, the **Viceroy Lord Linlithgow declared India a party to the war as part of the British Empire.** This was done without consultation with Indians and this led to massive protests from the Congress Party.
- The party leaders, **who were heading 7 provincial governments resigned from their posts.** The Muslim League celebrated it as 'Deliverance Day'.
- Britain was facing pressure from the US and other allied leaders over its own imperial policies in India and **also to secure Indian cooperation** for the Allied war effort. This also led the British government to send Cripps to India.

Proposals of Cripps Mission

- **Setting up of an Indian dominion.** This dominion would have the freedom to remain with the British Commonwealth or to secede from it. It would also be at liberty to take part in international organisations.
- **A Constituent Assembly would be formed to frame a new constitution** for the country. This Assembly would have members elected by the provincial assemblies and also nominated by the princes.
- **Any province unwilling to join the Indian dominion could form a separate union and have a separate constitution.**
- The **transfer of power and the rights of minorities** would be safeguarded by negotiations between the Constituent Assembly and the British government.
- In the meantime, until this new constitution came into force, **India's defence would be controlled by the British and the powers of the Governor-General would remain unaltered.**

Significance

- For the first time, the **British government acknowledged India's right to be a dominion.**
- Indians could **frame their own Constitution.**
- The proposal of **giving freedom to the provinces to be a separate union** turned out to be a **model for the country's partition in 1947.**
- The **right to cede from the Commonwealth indicated full sovereignty** at a later stage.
- In the interim period, Indians were **guaranteed a good share in the administration.**

Failure

- The proposals were **seen as too radical by the British and as too conservative by the INC** who wanted complete independence.
- The Mission **was rejected by the INC, the Muslim League and other Indian groups.**
- The **Hindu Mahasabha and the Liberals were against the right of states to secede.**

- The **Depressed Classes objected** because they were apprehensive about their status in a country where they would be in a minority.
- It is also believed that the mission failed because of a clear **lack of support for it by the Viceroy Linlithgow, British PM Winston Churchill and the Secretary of State for India, Leo Amery.**

| | |
|---|---|
| INC rejected the Cripps Mission for the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The INC was against the provinces' right to separately form unions as this was damaging to national unity. 2. They were also against the Governor-General's power being retained as against him being only a constitutional head. 3. They also protested the lack of share in defence. 4. There was no concrete plan for the immediate transfer of power. | Muslim League rejected the Cripps Mission for the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They did not like the idea of a single union of India. 2. They protested the method for the Constituent Assembly's creation and also against the procedure to decide on the provinces' accession to the Indian union. |
|---|---|

→ QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS

Q. With reference to 8th August 1942 in Indian history, which one of the following statements is correct? (UPSC Prelims 2021)

- (a) The Quit India Resolution was adopted by the AICC.
- (b) The Viceroy's Executive council was expanded to include more Indians.
- (c) The Congress ministries resigned in seven provinces.
- (d) Cripps proposed an Indian Union with full Dominion Status once the Second World War was over.

Q. With reference to Madanapalle of Andhra Pradesh, which one of the following statements is correct? (UPSC Prelims 2021)

- (a) Pingali Venkayya designed the tricolour Indian National Flag here.
- (b) Pattabhi Sitaramaiah led the Quit India Movement of Andhra region from here.

- (c) Rabindranath Tagore translated the National Anthem from Bengali to English here.
- (d) Madame Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott set up headquarters of Theosophical Society first here.

Q. Quit India Movement was launched in response to (UPSC Prelims 2013)

- (a) Cabinet Mission Plan
- (b) Cripps Proposals
- (c) Simon Commission Report
- (d) Wavell Plan

Q. Which one of the following observations is not true about the Quit India Movement of 1942? (UPSC Prelims 2011)

- (a) It was a nonviolent movement
- (b) It was led by Mahatma Gandhi
- (c) It was a spontaneous movement
- (d) It did not attract the labour class in general

Notes

- Mumbai's **Gowalia Tank Maidan also known as August Kranti Maidan** is the place where the quit India movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi.
- He along with other leaders gathered here on **August 8 and 9, 1942**.
- The outcome of the movement was that Congress was declared an unlawful association and its offices all over the country were raided.
- The **leaders were arrested** and there rose a chaotic moment with this incident.

Facts

- Also known as the India August Movement or August Kranti.
- It was officially launched by the Indian National Congress (INC) led by Mahatma Gandhi on **8 August 1942**.
- The movement gave the **slogans 'Quit India' or 'Bharat Chodo'**. Gandhi gave the slogan to the people – **'Do or die'**.
- In line with the Congress ideology, it was supposed to be a peaceful non-violent movement aimed at urging the British to grant India independence.
- The Quit India Resolution was passed by the Congress Working Committee on 8 August 1942 in Bombay. Gandhi was named the movement's leader.
- The resolution stated the provisions of the movement as:

- An **immediate end to British rule** over India.
- **Declaration of the commitment of free India** to defend itself against all kinds of imperialism and fascism.
- **Formation of a provisional government of India** after British withdrawal.
- **Sanctioning a civil disobedience movement** against British rule.

- Gandhi's instructions to various sections of the public:

- **Government servants:** do not resign your job but proclaim loyalty to the INC.
- **Soldiers:** be with the army but refrain from firing on compatriots.
- **Peasants:** pay the agreed-upon rent if the landlords/Zamindars are anti-government; if they are pro-government, do not pay the rent.
- **Students:** can leave studies if they are confident enough.
- **Princes:** support the people and accept the sovereignty of them.

- **People of the princely states:** support the ruler only if he is anti-government; declare themselves as part of the Indian nation.

Causes of Quit India Movement

- The Second World War had started in 1939 and **Japan, which was part of the Axis Powers** that were opposed to the British in the war **were gaining onto the north-eastern frontiers of India.**
- The **British had abandoned their territories in South-East Asia and had left their population in the lurch.** This act did not garner much faith among the Indian population who had doubts about the British ability to defend India against Axis aggression.
- Gandhi also believed that **if the British left India, Japan would not have enough reason to invade India.**
- Apart from hearing news about British setbacks in the war, the war-time difficulties such as high prices of essential commodities fostered resentment against the British government.
- The **failure of the Cripps Mission to guarantee any kind of a constitutional remedy** to India's problems also led to the INC calling for a mass civil disobedience movement.

Response to Quit India Movement

- The British government responded to the call of Gandhi **by arresting all major Congress leaders** the very next day. **Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, etc. were all arrested.**
- This left the **movement in the hands of the younger leaders** like Jayaprakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia.
- New leaders like **Aruna Asaf Ali emerged out of the vacuum of leadership.**
- Over 100000 people were arrested in connection with this movement. The government resorted to violence in order to quell the agitation. They were mass floggings and lathi charges. Even women and children were not spared. About 10000 people died in police firing in total.
- There was **no communal violence.**
- The **INC was banned.**
- Its leaders were jailed for almost the whole of the war. Gandhi was released on health grounds in 1944.
- The people responded to Gandhi's call in a major way. However, in the absence of leadership, there were stray incidences of violence and damage to government property. Many buildings were set on fire, electricity lines were cut and communication and transport lines were broken.
- **Some parties did not support the movement.** There was **opposition from the Muslim League, the Communist Party of India and the Hindu Mahasabha.**
- The League was not in favour of the British leaving India without partitioning the country first. In fact, **Jinnah asked more Muslims to enlist in the army to fight the war.**
- The **Communist party supported the war waged by the British since they were allied with the Soviet Union.**
- **Subhas Chandra Bose, was by this time, organizing the Indian National Army and the Azad Hind government** from outside the country.
- **C Rajagopalachari, resigned from the INC** since he was not in favour of complete independence.
- In general, the **Indian bureaucracy did not support** the Quit India Movement.



- There were strikes and demonstrations all over the country. Despite the communist group's lack of support to the movement, workers provided support by not working in the factories.
- In some places, **parallel governments were also set up**. Example: **Ballia, Tamluk, Satara**.
- The **chief areas of the movement** were **UP Bihar, Maharashtra, Midnapore, and Karnataka**.
- The movement lasted till 1944.

Importance

- Despite heavy-handed suppression by the government, the people were unfazed and continued their struggle.
- Even though the government said that independence could be granted only after the end of the war, the movement drove home the point that **India could not be governed without the support of the Indians**.
- The movement **placed the demand for complete independence** at the top agenda of the freedom movement.
- Public morale and anti-British sentiment were enhanced.

→ INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. In the context of Colonial India, Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sehgal, and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon are remembered as (UPSC Prelims 2021)

(a) Leaders of Swadeshi and Boycott Movement.

(b) Members of the Interim Government in 1946.

(c) Members of the Drafting Committee in the Constituent Assembly.

(d) Officers of the Indian National Army

Notes

- The Indian National Army (Also known as the **Azad Hind Fauj**) was an armed force formed by Indian Nationalists in 1942, through the patronage of the Imperial Japanese Army, to secure the Independence of India.

Background of the INA

- Following the outbreak of World War II, Japan invaded South East Asia.
- At the time 70,000 troops were stationed in the region, most of them **along the Malayan coast**.
- Japan conducted a lightning campaign which culminated in the **fall of the Malayan peninsula and Singapore in 1942**.
- In the **Singapore campaign alone**, 45,000 Indian prisoners of war were captured. It was from these prisoners of war that the **Japanese decided to create an auxiliary army which would fight against the British**.
- The **first INA was formed under Mohan Singh**, a former officer of the British Indian Army captured during the Malay campaign. Conditions in the prisoner of war camps, as well as resentment against the British in general, saw many prisoners of war volunteer join the Indian National Army
- The initiative received considerable support from the Imperial Japanese Army and from the ethnic Indian population of South-East Asia. However, **disagreements between Mohan Singh and Japanese Army Command** regarding the autonomy of the Indian National Army led to the disbandment of the first INA in December 1942.



Subash Chandra Bose and the second INA

- Although Mohan Singh had angered the Japanese Army Command through his actions, they relented to form a second Indian National Army.
- **Mohan Singh himself recommended that Subash Chandra Bose for the leadership role.** His reputation as a committed nationalist was known to both the Indian diaspora of South East Asia and the Imperial Japanese Army. As such, they were more open to the idea of a nationalist army led by Subash Chandra Bose.
- The **activities of Subash Chandra Bose in India had forced the British authorities** to imprison him, but he escaped and reached Berlin in 1941.
- Although the German leadership were sympathetic to his cause, logistic problems prevented them from granting any support to his quest for raising an army to fight the British. However, the Japanese were ready to support him and upon their personal invitation, Subash Chandra Bose arrived in **Singapore in July 1943** to take command of what would be known as the **second Indian National Army**, now known by its alternative name as the **Azad Hind Fauj**.



Operations of the Azad Hind Fauj

- After Subash Chandra Bose took command of the Azad Hind Fauj, there was a swell of volunteers looking to join the INA.
- Although Subash Chandra Bose agreed for the INA to remain subordinate to the Japanese Army, he saw it as a necessary sacrifice towards the fulfilment of the ultimate goal of freeing India from the British Empire.

- The Azad Hind Fauj participated in **operation U-Go, the 1944 Japanese campaign** towards British India.
- Although the INA saw initial success during the early phases of the operation, they were forced to withdraw during the **battle of Imphal and battle of Kohima** (Fought on April 4th, 1944) which saw the disastrous defeat for the Japanese Army at the hands of the British.
- The INA lost a substantial number of men and material in this retreat. A number of units were disbanded or used to feed into new divisions of the now declining Japanese Army
- Following the Japanese defeat in World War 2, most of the members of the INA were captured by the British. Subash Chandra Bose himself eluded capture and was reported to have died in a plane crash near Taiwan in September 1945.

→ C R FORMULA

Background

- During the Second World War, the British government, under the viceroyalty of **Lord Linlithgow** had said that any move towards an Indian statehood would be possible **only if the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Muslim League resolve their differences**.
- The League was increasingly demanding a separate nation of Pakistan for the Muslims whereas the INC was against the partitioning of the country.
- To **break this deadlock** between the two major political parties in India, **C Rajagopalachari, INC member who was close to Mahatma Gandhi, proposed a set of plans called the C R Formula or Rajaji Formula**.
- This was the **first acknowledgement by a Congressman about the inevitability of the partition** of the country and a tacit acceptance of Pakistan.

Proposals

- The **Muslim League would join hands with the INC to demand independence** from the British.
- Both **parties would cooperate and form a provisional government** at the centre.
- After the war, **a commission would be entrusted with the task of demarcating those areas with an absolute majority of Muslims and a plebiscite** to be held in those areas where all the inhabitants (Muslims and non-Muslims) would vote based on adult suffrage whether to form a separate sovereign nation or not.
- In **case of partition, joint agreements to be made** for the safeguarding of **defence, communications and commerce**.
- The above terms to come to fruition only if Britain transfers full powers to India.
- In **1944, Gandhi and M A Jinnah held talks** on the basis of the Rajaji Formula.
- The talks were a failure as Jinnah had objections to the proposal.

Jinnah's objections

- He **wanted the INC to accept the Two-Nation Theory**.
- He **did not want the entire population of the Muslim majority areas to vote on the plebiscite**, but only the Muslim population in those areas.
- He was also **against the idea of a common centre**. Also, Jinnah wanted separate dominions to be created before the English left India.

- The **Sikhs also looked upon the formula unfavourably because the formula meant a division of Punjab**. Although the Sikhs were a big chunk of the population, there were not in the majority in any of the district.
- **V D Savarkar and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee** of the Hindu Mahasabha and **Srinivas Sastri of the National Liberal Federation were also against** the C R Formula.
- The INC, which was hitherto opposed to the partition of the country was willing to give some concessions to get the League on board for talks for independence, but the League was more interested in Pakistan than freedom.

→ DESAI-LIAQAT PACT, 1945

- M.K. Gandhi convinced that the British rulers would not grant independence to India unless and until the Congress and Muslim League reach some conclusion on the future of the country or the immediate formation of the Interim National Government.
- Hence, **Gandhi directed Bhulabhai Desai**, the leader of the Congress party **in the Central Legislative Assembly**, to talk with the league leaders and find a way out of the political deadlocks.
- **Bhulabhai Desai met Liaquat Ali Khan, deputy leader of the Muslim League in the Central Legislative Assembly**, and both of them came up with the draft proposal for the formation of an interim government at the centre, consisting of-
 - an equal number of persons nominated by the Congress and the league in the central legislature;
 - 20% reserved seats for minorities

→ WAVELL PLAN AND SHIMLA CONFERENCE

- The Wavell Plan was **first presented at the Shimla Conference in 1945**. It was named after Viceroy of India, **Lord Wavell**.
- The Shimla Conference **was convened in order to agree on the Wavell Plan for Indian self-government**, which **provided for separate representations on communal lines**.
- Both the plan and the **conference failed** on account of the Muslim League and the Indian National Congress not coming to an agreement.

Background

- The Second World War had **caused many socio-economic problems** in the British Empire, especially when it came to maintaining their overseas colonies.
- Thus the **British Government saw it fit to grant India the freedom** it had been demanding for so long. In addition, the Quit India Movement and an increase in revolutionary activity only made the British position in India tenuous at best.
- **Lord Wavell, who became the Viceroy in 1943, was charged with presenting a formula for the future government of India** that would be acceptable to both the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League, allowing for a smooth transition of power.
- Lord Wavell was considered an apt person for this task as he had been the head of the Indian Army and thus had a better understanding of the Indian situation.

Proposal

- In May 1945 Wavell visited London and discussed his ideas with the British Government.
- These London talks resulted in the formulation of a definite plan of action which was officially made public simultaneously on **14 June 1945** by **L.S. Amery, the Secretary of State for India**.
- The Wavell Plan proposed the following:

- The **Viceroy's Executive Council** was to have **all Indian members** except the Viceroy himself and the Commander-in-Chief.
- The council was to **have a 'balanced representation' of all Indians** including 'caste-Hindus', Muslims, Depressed Classes, Sikhs, etc. Muslims were given 6 out of 14 members which accounted for more than their share of the population (25%).
- The **Viceroy/Governor-General** would still have the **power of veto** but its use would be minimal.
- The **foreign affairs portfolio** would be transferred from the **Governor-General** to an **Indian member**. The defence would be handled by a British general until the full transfer of power was made.
- A conference would be convened by the Viceroy to get a list of all the members recommended to the Council from all parties concerned. In case a joint list was not agreed upon, separate lists would be taken from the parties. This was to be the Shimla Conference.
- If this plan worked, similar councils would be formed in all provinces comprising of local leaders.

What happened at the Shimla Conference?

- Lord Wavell **invited 21 political leaders including Mahatma Gandhi and M A Jinnah to Shimla**, the summer capital of British India to discuss the **Wavell Plan on June 25th, 1945**.
- The **conference was a failure** because the League and the Congress could not settle their differences.
- **Jinnah insisted that only League members could be the Muslim representatives in the Council, and opposed to the Congress nominating Muslim members**. This was because Jinnah wanted the League to be the sole representative of Muslims in India. Congress would never agree to this demand.
- In the Wavell Plan, there were **6 Muslim representatives out of 14 members, which was more than the Muslim share of the population**. Despite this, the League wanted the power of veto to any constitutional proposal which it believed was not in its interest. Congress opposed this unreasonable demand also.
- Jinnah refused to give the names to the council unless the government acknowledged that only the Muslim League was the exclusive representative of Indian Muslims.
- The Wavell Plan, thus, was dissolved with the failure of the conference. And with it the last chance to avoid partition.
- After this, the war ended and a new Labour government was elected in Britain. This new government was intent on giving independence to India without much delay and sent the Cabinet Mission with that purpose.

➔ **CABINET MISSION 1946**

PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

Q. With reference to the Cabinet Mission, which of the following statements is/are correct? (UPSC Prelims 2015)

1. It recommended a federal government.
2. It enlarged the powers of the Indian courts.

3. It provided for more Indians in the ICS.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) None

Notes

- Cabinet Mission was a high-powered mission sent in **February 1946 to India** by the **Atlee Government (British Prime Minister.)**
- The mission had three British cabinet members – **Pethick Lawrence (Secretary of State for India), Stafford Cripps (President of the Board of Trade), and A.V. Alexander (First Lord of Admiralty).**
- The Cabinet Mission's aim was to **discuss the transfer of power** from British to Indian leadership.
- You should know that Lord Wavell was not a member of the Cabinet Mission but was involved.



Objectives

- To **obtain an agreement with the Indian leaders** as to the framing of a constitution for India.
- To **formulate a constitution-making body** (the Constituent Assembly of India).
- To **establish an Executive Council** with the support of the major Indian parties.

Reasons of Failure

- The Congress Party **wanted a strong centre with minimum powers for the provinces.**

- The Muslim League wanted **strong political safeguards for the Muslims** like parity in the legislatures.
- Since both parties had many ideological differences and could not find common ground, the mission came up with its own set of proposals in May 1946.
- The **Dominion of India would be granted independence, without any partition.**
- The provinces would be divided into three groups/sections:

- **Group A:** Madras, Central Provinces, UP, Bihar, Bombay and Orissa
- **Group B:** Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Baluchistan
- **Group C:** Bengal and Assam

- The Muslim-majority provinces were grouped into two groups and the remaining Hindu-majority in one of the groups.
- The **central government at Delhi would have powers over the defence, foreign affairs, communications and currency.** The rest of the powers would be vested with the provinces.
- A **constituent assembly would be set up for writing a new constitution** for the country.
- An **interim government would be established until a new government was formed** on the basis of the constitution written by the constituent assembly.
- The **Congress was not keen on the idea of the groupings of provinces on the basis of Hindu-Muslim majority** and vying for control at the centre. It was also against the idea of a weak centre. The Muslim League did not want any changes to the proposals.
- Since the plan was not accepted, a new plan was proposed by the mission in June 1946. This plan **proposed the division of India into a Hindu-majority India and a Muslim-majority India** later to be renamed Pakistan.
- A **list of princely states was also made that could either join the union or remain independent.**
- The **Congress Party under Jawaharlal Nehru** did not accept the second plan. Instead, it **agreed to be part of the constituent assembly.**
- The Viceroy invited 14 men to form the interim government. There were 5 from the Congress, 5 from the League, 1 member each representing the Sikh, Parsee, Indian Christian and scheduled caste communities.
- Both the League and the Congress were given the right to nominate 5 members to the Viceroy's interim council. The **Congress nominated Zakir Hussain as one of the members to which the League objected** saying only it represented Indian Muslims and no other party. The Muslim League did not take part in it.
- The **Congress leaders entered the viceroy's interim council** and thus Nehru headed the interim government. The new government began the task of framing a constitution for the country.
- **Congress-led governments were formed in most provinces** including the NWFP. In Bengal and Sind, the League formed the governments.
- **Jinnah and the League objected to the new central government.** He geared to agitate for Pakistan and urged Muslims to demand Pakistan by any means. He called for '**Direct Action Day**' on 16 August 1946.
- This call led to widespread communal rioting in the country with 5000 people being killed on the first day in Calcutta. Communal riots spread to many other areas notably Noakhali and Bihar.
- There was a call for the partitioning of the country on account of the riots.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was one of the first Congress leaders to acknowledge the inevitability of the partition** as a means to stop the brutal violence.

→ INDIAN INDEPENDENCE ACT 1947

- Lord Mountbatten (India's last viceroy) proposed a plan in May 1947 according to which provinces were to be declared independent successor states with the power to choose whether to join the constituent assembly or not.

Mountbatten Plan background

- Lord Mountbatten came to India as the last Viceroy and was assigned the task of a **speedy transfer of power by the then British Prime Minister Clement Atlee**.
- In **May 1947**, Mountbatten came up with a plan under which he proposed that the provinces be declared **independent successor states** and then be allowed to choose whether to join the constituent assembly or not. This plan was called the '**Dickie Bird Plan**'.
- Jawaharlal Nehru when apprised of the plan, vehemently opposed it saying it would lead to **Balkanisation** of the country. Hence, this plan was also called **Plan Balkan**.
- Then, the viceroy came up with another plan called the **June 3 Plan**. This plan was the last plan for Indian independence. It is also called the **Mountbatten Plan**.
- The **June 3 Plan** included the principles of **partition, autonomy, sovereignty to both nations, right to make their own constitution**.
- Above all, the **Princely States** such as **Jammu and Kashmir** were given a choice to either join India or Pakistan. The consequences of these choices would affect the new nations for decades to come.
- This plan was accepted by both the Congress and the Muslim League. By then, the Congress had also accepted the inevitability of the partition.
- This plan was **put into action by the Indian Independence Act 1947** which was passed in the British Parliament and **received the royal assent on 18 July 1947**.



Provisions of the Mountbatten Plan

- British India was to be partitioned into **two dominions – India and Pakistan**.
- The **constitution framed by the Constituent Assembly would not be applicable to the Muslim-majority areas (as these would become Pakistan)**. The question of a separate constituent assembly for the Muslim-majority areas would be decided by these provinces.
- As per the plan, **the legislative assemblies of Bengal and Punjab met and voted for the partition**. Accordingly, it was decided to partition these two provinces along religious lines.
- The **legislative assembly of Sind would decide whether to join the Indian constituent assembly or not**. It decided to go to Pakistan.
- A referendum was to be held on **NWFP (North-Western Frontier Province) to decide which dominion to join**. NWFP decided to join Pakistan while Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan boycotted and rejected the referendum.
- The **date for the transfer of power was to be August 15, 1947**.
- To fix the international boundaries between the two countries, the Boundary Commission was established chaired by **Sir Cyril Radcliffe**. The commission was to demarcate Bengal and Punjab into the two new countries.
- The **princely states were given the choice to either remain independent or accede to India or Pakistan**. The British suzerainty over these kingdoms was terminated.
- The **British monarch would no longer use the title ‘Emperor of India’**.
- After the dominions were created, the British Parliament could not enact any law in the territories of the new dominions.
- Until the time the new constitutions came into existence, the Governor-General would assent any law passed by the constituent assemblies of the dominions in His Majesty’s name. The **Governor-General was made a constitutional head**.
- On the midnight of 14th and 15th August 1947, the dominions of Pakistan and India respectively came into existence.
- Lord Mountbatten was appointed the first Governor-General of independent India and M .A. Jinnah became the Governor-General of Pakistan.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q37. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Nehru Report?

1. The Nehru Report defined the Dominion Status as the form of government desired by India.
2. It rejected the principle of separate communal electorates, on which the previous constitutional reforms had been based.
3. The Report recommended universal adult suffrage and equal rights for women.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q38. Which of the following directions was/were given by M.K. Gandhi during the Civil Disobedience Movement for future action?

1. Foreign liquor and cloth shops can be picketed.
2. Lawyers can give up practice.
3. Government servants can resign from their posts.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q39. One of the main causes for the rise and growth of the Indian National Movement was the grievances of several sections of the Indian society, except a few, against the British. Which of the following sections were the exceptions?

1. Peasants and artisans
2. Native rulers and landlords
3. Middle classes and modern intelligentsia
4. Workers and industrialists
5. Money lenders and traditional intellectuals

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) 2 and 4 only (b) 3 and 5 only (c) 4 and 5 only (d) 2 and 5 only

Q40. Which of the following statements about Tilak is/are incorrect?

1. He believed that political freedom should precede social reform.
2. He favoured initiative by the Congress in the matters of social reform.
3. He opposed the British Government's initiative in the matter of social reforms.
4. He did not consider social and political reforms to be interlinked.
5. He separated religion from politics.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) 5 only (b) 2 and 5 (c) 2, 4 and 5 (d) 4 only

Q41. Which of the following was/were not included in the positive programmes of the Non-Cooperation Movement?

1. Establishment of national schools, colleges and private arbitration courts.
2. Popularisation of swadeshi and revival of Khadi.
3. Development of harmony between Hindus and Christians.
4. Removal of untouchability for Harijan welfare.
5. Emancipation and upliftment of women.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) 5 only (b) 3 and 5 (c) 3 only (d) 2 and 4

Q42. An Anti-Non-cooperation Association was started in 1920 by a group of industrialists. Who among the following did not belong to that group?

1. Purushottamdas Thakurdas
2. Jamanlal Bajaj
3. Jamunadas Dwarakadas
4. Setalved
5. G D Birla

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) 2 and 4 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 3 and 4 (d) 4 and 5

Q43. The Congress ministries resigned in the seven provinces in 1939, because

- (a) The Congress could not form ministries in the other four provinces
- (b) Emergence of a 'left wing' in the Congress made the working of the ministries impossible
- (c) There were widespread communal disturbances in their provinces
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct.

Q44. The Vernacular press act:

1. was passed during the times of Lord Lytton
2. empowered the magistrate to deposit a security, which could be confiscated if the printer violated the Bond
3. was repealed during times of Lord Ripon

Which among the above is / are correct statements?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q45. Consider the following statements:

1. The Kisan Sabha movement started in Bihar under the leadership of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati.
2. Faizpur Session of congress resulted in unification of All India Kisan Sabha and Indian National Congress.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

Choose the correct code:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q46. Who among the following belonged to “Bombay Triumvirate”?

1. G.K Gokhley
2. Feroz Shah Metha
3. KT Telang
4. Badruddin Tyabji

Choose the correct code:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2, 3 and 4 (c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 1 and 2 only

Q47. Which of the following parties were established by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar?

1. The Peasants and Workers Party of India
2. All India Scheduled Castes Federation
3. The Independent Labour Party

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q48. The pioneer of Communism in India was:

- (a) S.A.Dange (b) M.R.Jayakar (c) M.N.Roy (d) Nalin Gupta

Q49. Consider the following statements:

1. Pherozeshah Mehta was one of the founders of the Bombay Presidency Association.
2. Gopal Krishna Gokhale was the editor of the ‘Sudharak.’

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

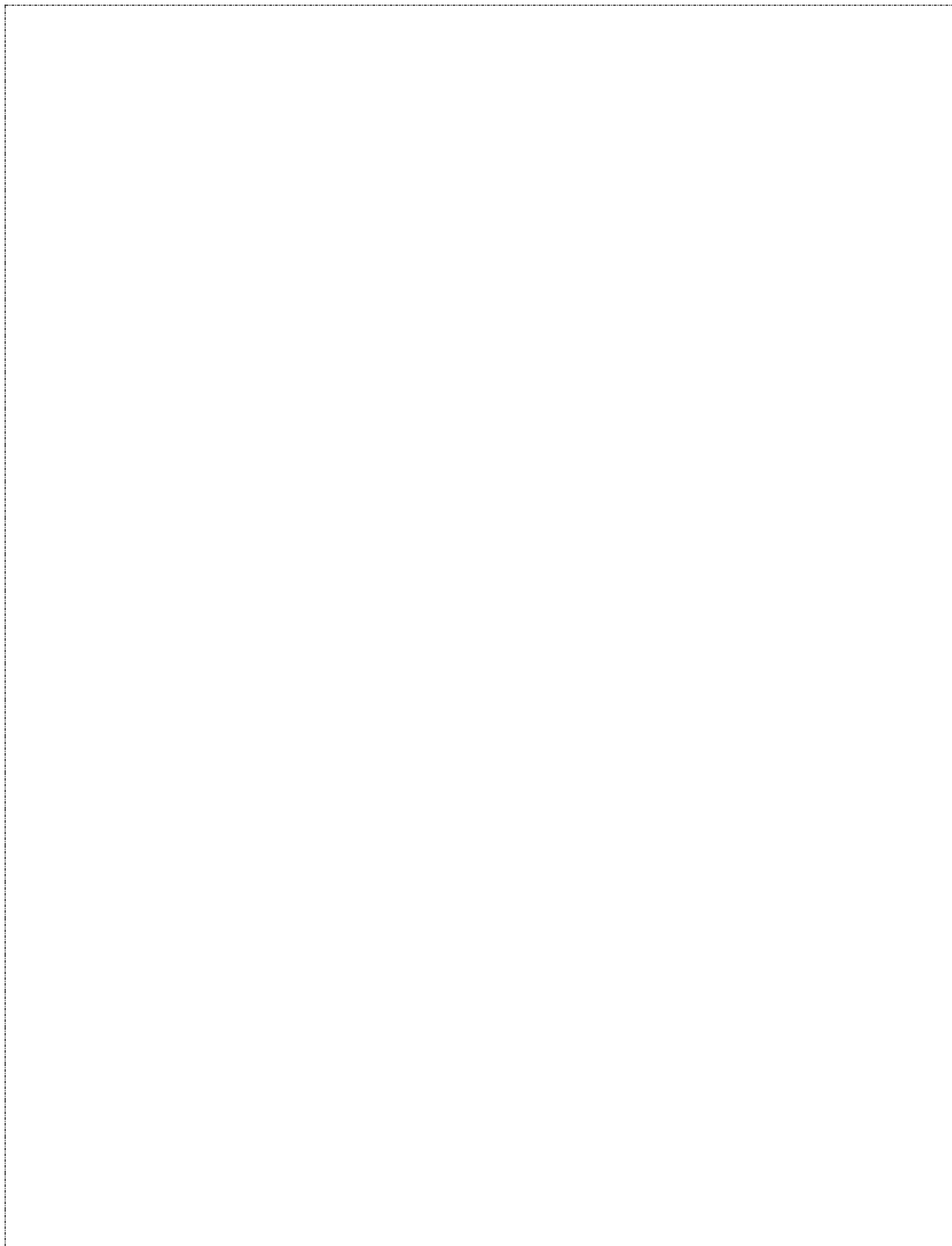
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q50. Consider the following statements:

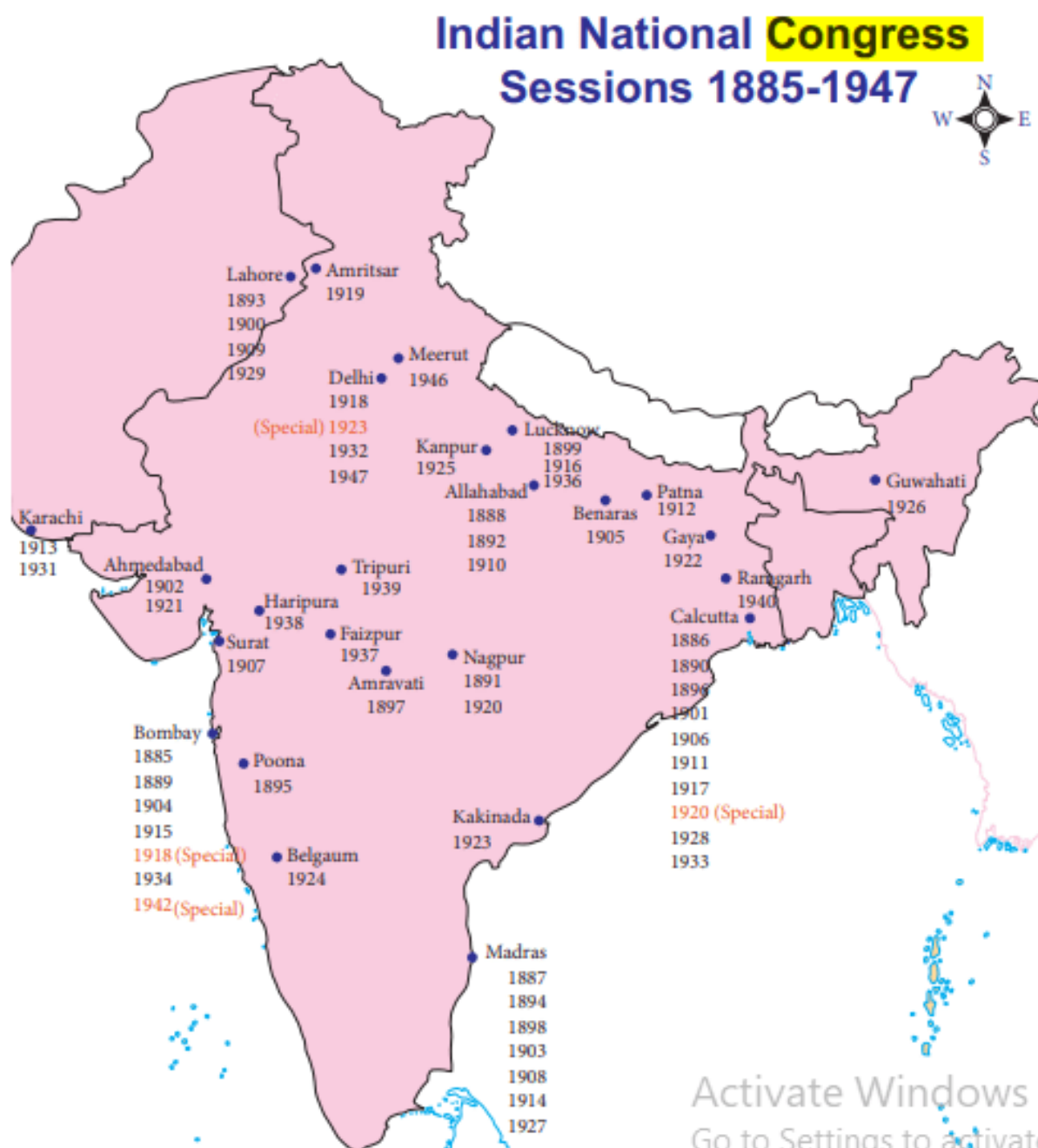
1. Purushottamdas Tandon formed the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party.
2. The Congress Socialist Party was formed in 1934.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2



→ SESSIONS OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS



→ GOVERNOR GENERALS OF BENGAL

Warren Hastings - 1772-1785

First Governor-General of Bengal
End to the dual system of administration
Regulating Act of 1773
Supreme Court at Calcutta
Asiatic Society of Bengal
First Anglo-Maratha War and Treaty of Salbai

First English translation of Bhagavad Gita
Pitt's India Act-1784

Lord Cornwallis - 1786-1793

Establishment of Appellate courts and lower grade courts

Establishment of Sanskrit college
 Third Anglo-Mysore War and Treaty of Seringapatam
 Introduction of Permanent Settlement and civil services

Sir John Shore - 1793-1798

Charter act of 1793
 Policy of Non-intervention
 Battle of Kharda

Lord Wellesley - 1798-1805

Introduction of Subsidiary Alliance System
 Fourth Anglo- Mysore war and the Treaty of Bassein
 Second Anglo – Maratha war
 Establishment of Madras presidency
 Establishing Fort William College at Calcutta

Sir George Barlow - 1805-1807

The Acting Governor-General of India until the arrival of Lord Minto,
 Diminished the area of British territory because of his passion for economy and retrenchment,

→ GOVERNOR GENERALS OF INDIA

Lord William Bentinck - 1828-1835

First Governor-General of India (Charter Act of 1833 made Governor-General of Bengal as Governor-General of India.)
 Abolition of Sati
 Suppression of Thuggee, infanticide and child sacrifices.
 English Education Act of 1835
 Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata

Lord Charles Metcalfe - 1835-1836

‘Liberator of the Indian press
 detached all restraints on an open press

Lord Auckland - 1836-1842

The Mutiny of Vellore took place in 1806

Lord Minto I - 1807-1813

Concluded the treaty of Amritsar with Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1809,
 Introduced the Charter Act of 1813

Lord Hastings - 1813-1823

The policy of Non-intervention came to an end
 Third Anglo-Maratha war
 Abolition of Peshwaship
 Establishment of the Ryotwari System in Madras (By Thomas Munroe) and Bombay
 Mahalwari system in north-western Provinces and Bombay

Lord Amherst - 1823-1828

The annexation of Assam leading to the first Burmese war of 1824,
 The mutiny of Barrackpore in 1824

Dedicated himself to the improvement of native schools and the expansion of the commercial industry of India
 The first Anglo-Afghan war

Lord Ellenborough - 1842-1844

Sindh was annexed

Lord Hardinge I - 1844-1848

First Anglo Sikh War (1845-46)

Lord Dalhousie - 1848-1856

Introduced ‘Doctrine of Lapse’
 Charles Wood Dispatch
 Post Office Act, 1854
 1st Railway line connecting Bombay and Thane
 Established engineering college in Roorkee

Second Anglo-Sikh War
 First telegraph line
 Establishment of the Public Works Department
 Abolition of titles and pensions.
 Started Competitive examination for Indian Civil Services

→ VICEROYS OF INDIA

Lord Canning - 1858-1862

Abolished doctrine of lapse

Lord Elgin - 1862 – 1863

Wahabi Movement

Lord Lawrence - 1864 – 1869

Establishment of High court in Calcutta, Madras during his reign.
 Anglo-Bhutanese war

Lord Mayo - 1869 – 1872

Financial Distribution between centre and state introduced for the first time
 First Census in 1872
 Mayo College for the royal elite was set up
 Lord Mayo was the only Governor-General who was killed in India. He was killed by Sher Ali Afridi in Port Blair
 Establishment of Statistical Survey of India

Lord Northbrook - 1872 – 1876

Civil Marriage and Arya Samaj marriage introduced
 Universal Marriage Act introduced in 1872
 Intercaste Marriage allowed
 Kuka Movement in Punjab

Lord Lytton - 1876 – 1880

Vernacular Press Act, 1878
 Arms Act, 1878
 Nationalist view – Due to High rate of taxation purchasing power had reduced.
 Government view – Drought is natural phenomena due to which people became poor

Widow Remarriage Act

Lord Canning - 1856-1857

Three universities at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay in 1857 were established
 Revolt of 1857 took place

Ignored severe famine and organized durbar.
 Proclaimed Queen Victoria “The Empress of India”

Abolished tax on cotton for British traders
 Maximum age to take up civil services exam lowered from 21 to 19

Lord Ripon - 1880 – 1884

Was the most loved Governor-General
 Repealed the controversial Arms and Vernacular press act
 Set up Local self-governments – Panchayats and Municipal Boards due to which he was known as Father of Self Government
 2 new universities opened – Punjab University 1884, Allahabad University 1887
 Illbert Bill – Indian judge cannot try English Judge
 Appointment of Hunter Commission

Lord Dufferin - 1884 – 1888

III Anglo---Burmese war (1885---1886)
 Indian National Congress was founded in 1885

Lord Lansdowne - 1888 – 1894

Indian Councils Act, 1892 (Indirect election was introduced for the first time)
 Factory Act, 1891

Lord Elgin II - 1894 – 1899

First British Officer called Rands was killed.
 He was killed by Chapekar (Ramkrishna & Damodar) Brothers. This was the first political murder.

Lord Curzon - 1899 – 1905

Indian Universities act – to control Indian Universities

Raleigh Commission

Partition of Bengal

Curzon-Kitchener controversy

Lord Minto II - 1905 – 1910

Morley – Minto reforms

Lord Hardinge II - 1910 – 1916

Mesopotamian Campaign

Transfer of Capital from Calcutta to Delhi

Hindu Mahasabha was established by Madan

Mohan Malaviya

Lord Chelmsford - 1916 – 1921

Home Rule League Movements

Rowlatt Act was passed

Montague – Chelmsford reform was passed

Lord Reading - 1921 – 1926

Swaraj Party was formed

Chauri – Chaura incident took place

Lord Irwin - 1926 – 1931

Launch of civil disobedience movement and Dandi march

First round table conference was held

Lord Willingdon - 1931 – 1936

Second & Third Round Table Conference

Poona pact was signed

Communal award was started

Lord Linlithgow - 1936 – 1944

Cripps Mission

Quit India movement

Lord Wavell - 1944 – 1947

CR Formula 1944

Launch of Direct Action day

Wavell Plan & Shimla conference

Lord Mountbatten - 1947-48

June 3rd Plan

Last Viceroy and First Governor-General of free India

→ NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS

| YEAR | NAME | NEWSPAPER/JOURNAL | FOUNDER |
|------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1780 | Bengal Gazette | English newspaper | James Augustus Hicky |
| 1819 | Samvad Kaumudi | Bengali weekly newspaper | Ram Mohan Roy |
| 1822 | Mirat-ul-Akbar | Persian language journal | Raja Ram Mohan Roy |
| 1853 | Hindoo Patriot | English weekly | Madhusudan Ray |
| 1854 | Rast Goftar | Gujarati Newspaper | Dadabhai Naoroji |
| 1858 | Som Prakesh | Weekly newspaper | Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar |

| | | | |
|------|----------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1862 | Indian Mirror | Newspaper | Devendra Nath Tagore |
| 1868 | Amrita Bazar Patrika | Newspaper | Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh |
| 1871 | Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq | Journal | Sir Syed Ahmed Khan |
| 1878 | Hindu | Newspaper | Vir Raghavacharya and G.S. Aiyar |
| 1881 | Kesari | Marathi Newspaper | B.G. Tilak |
| 1888 | Sudharak | Newspaper | Gopal Ganesh Agarkar |
| 1896 | Prabuddha Bharata | English monthly journal | P. Aiyasami, B. R. Rajam Iyer, G. G. Narasimhacharya, and B. V. Kamesvara Iyer at the behest of Swami Vivekananda |
| 1899 | Udbodhana | Magazine | Swami Vivekananda |
| 1903 | Indian Opinion | Newspaper | M. K Gandhi |
| 1905 | Bande Mataram | English language newspaper | Aurobindo Ghosh |
| 1910 | Bombay Chronicle | English-language newspaper | Firoze Shah Mehta |
| 1911 | Comrade | Weekly English newspaper | Maulana Mohammad Ali |
| 1912 | Al-Balagh | Urdu weekly newspaper | Abul Kalam Azad |
| 1912 | Al-Hilal | Urdu weekly newspaper | Abul Kalam Azad |
| 1913 | Pratap | Hindi language newspaper | Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi |
| 1914 | New India | English-language daily newspaper | Annie Besant |
| 1919 | Independent | Newspaper | Motilal Nehru |

| | | | |
|------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1919 | Young India | Weekly journal | M. K Gandhi |
| 1920 | Mook Nayak | Marathi weekly | B.R. Ambedkar |
| 1924 | Hindustan Times | English daily newspaper | Sunder Singh Lyallpuri |
| 1929 | Nav Jeevan | Weekly newspaper | M. K Gandhi |
| 1932 | Harijan | Weekly journal | M. K Gandhi |
| 1936 | Free Hindustan | Journal | Tarak Nath Das |
| 1936 | Hindustan Dainik | Hindi newspaper | M.M. Malviya |

PRACTICE QUESTIONS (ANSWER KEY)

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

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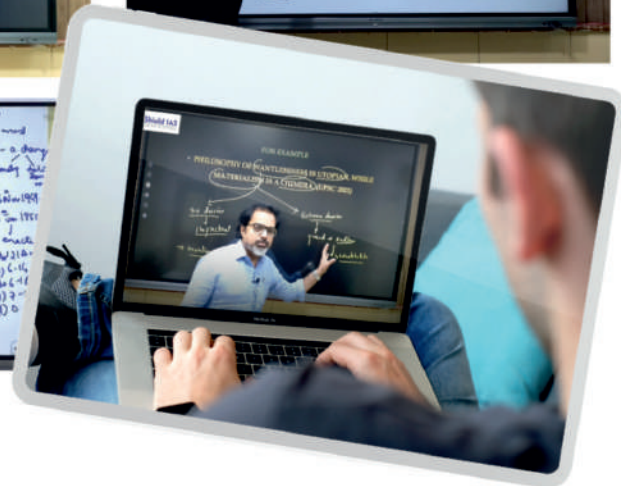
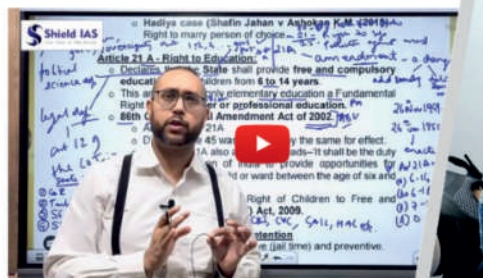
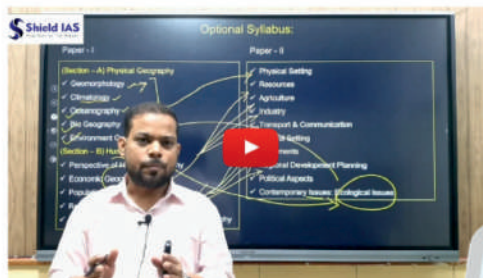
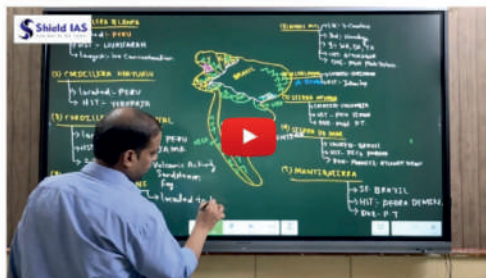
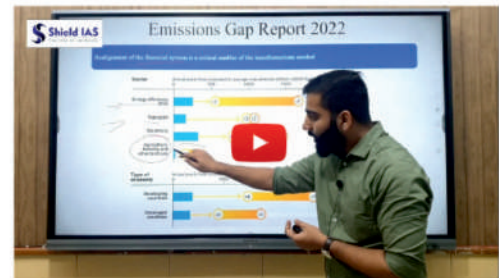
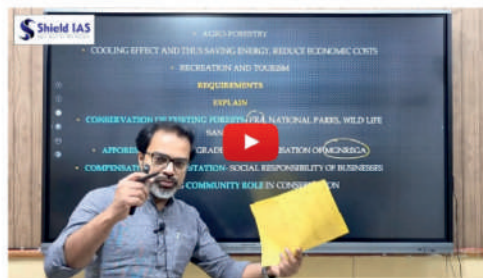


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