

IYACHAMY ACADEMY

UPSC PRELIMS PYQ TREND MAP

MODERN INDIAN HISTORY & FREEDOM MOVEMENT

SERIES - 3

30 Years Coverage (1995-2025)

Micro-Topic Analysis



MODERN HISTORY AND FREEDOM MOVEMENT

PYQ TREND MAP 3

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#	Theme / topics	Focus Area
1	Advent of Europeans & British Rule	Pre-1858
2	Pre-Congress Events	1858-1885
3	Congress Formation to Surat Split	1885-1907
4	Gandhian Struggle	1915-1947
5	Significant Events	1933-1939
6	Final Phase of Freedom Struggle	1940-1947
7	Social Reforms, Education, Literature & Revolutionary Movements	Thematic

This thematic document pairs well with all the chronological ones –

ADVENT OF EUROPEANS & EXPANSION OF BRITISH RULE

Portuguese | EIC | Constitutional Acts | Land Revenue | Governor Generals | Battles | 1857 Revolt

58 PYQs | 1995-2024 | 10 Themes | 75+ Micro-Topics

OVERVIEW: ADVENT OF EUROPEANS & BRITISH EXPANSION (1995-2024)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Portuguese in India	3	2021-2024	HIGH ↑
English EIC & Mughal Relations	3	2008-2021	HIGH
European Settlements & Rivalries	6	1995-2022	HIGH
Constitutional & Administrative Acts	7	1996-2023	VERY HIGH
Land Revenue Systems	6	2000-2024	VERY HIGH
Governor Generals & Expansionist Policies	9	1997-2018	VERY HIGH
Regional Kingdoms (Marathas, Mysore)	7	1995-2021	HIGH
Battles & Military Chronology	4	1995-2005	MEDIUM
Economic History & Trade	5	1999-2020	HIGH ↑

Revolt of 1857 & Related	6	1998–2007	HIGH
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KEY INSIGHT: 30-Year Domain Analysis

- CONSTITUTIONAL ACTS + LAND REVENUE form the CORE PAIR: 13 questions combined (22%) – the backbone
- GOVERNOR GENERAL policies are UPSC's favourite personality-testing format: Cornwallis, Dalhousie, Wellesley dominate
- PORTUGUESE have SURGED: 3 Qs in 2021–2024 after being almost absent – UPSC building European arrival cluster
- BATTLE CHRONOLOGY has DECLINED post-2005 but underlying knowledge remains essential for elimination
- ECONOMIC IMPACT questions are RISING: 2020 Industrial Revolution impact, 2018 export commodities
- LAND REVENUE returned in 2024 (Cornwallis/Ryotwari) – shows this is NEVER out of syllabus
- 1857 REVOLT is steady but LOW volume – tested through personality/place/event triples Post-2019 shift: UPSC testing SPECIFIC ruler-European interactions (who gave permission to whom for what)

ADVENT OF EUROPEANS & EXPANSION OF BRITISH RULE

1. Portuguese in India

- Permission for forts & regional context (Bhatkal/Vijayanagara)
- Interactions with Medieval Indian rulers (Gujarat/Bahadur Shah)
- Missionary history & religious orders (Jesuits/Francis Xavier)
- Territorial conquests & strategic bases (Goa/Albuquerque/Hughly)
- Piracy and maritime influence in the Bay of Bengal

2. European Settlements & Rivalries

- Chronology of European arrivals (Portuguese → Dutch → English → French)
- Early factory permissions and locations (Surat, Broach, Chicacole)
- Settlements on the East vs. West coast
- Danish and Dutch outposts (Tranquebar, Serampore, Masulipatnam)
- Strategic use of Indian princely quarrels for territory (Dupleix)

3. Constitutional & Administrative Acts

- Evolution of Governor-General designations (Charter Act 1833)
- Termination of trade monopolies (Charter Act 1813)
- Legislative changes & the Indian Law Member (Macaulay)
- Judicial and police reforms (Regulating Act 1773/IPC 1860)
- Chronological sequence of Acts (Regulating → Pitt's → Charter → 1858)

4. Land Revenue Systems

- Permanent Settlement mechanics (Sunset Clause/Zamindar removal)

- Ryotwari system features (Direct peasant-govt payment/Pattas)
- Mahalwari system origins and introduction
- Socio-economic impact and increased litigation
- Attribution precision (Cornwallis vs. Read/Munro vs. Mackenzie)

5. Governor Generals & Expansion Policies

- Subsidiary Alliance (Paramountcy and the Napoleon threat)
- Covenanted Civil Service evolution (Cornwallis)
- Doctrine of Lapse vs. Annexation on pretexts of misgovernance
- Chronology of state annexations (Satara, Sambalpur, Jhansi, Awadh)
- Separation of judicial vs. administrative powers

6. Regional Kingdoms (Marathas, Mysore, etc.)

- Political genealogy of states (Arcot, Mysore, Rohilkhand origins)
- Revenue farming innovations (Bengal/Ali Mardan Khan)
- Modernization of administration & embassies (Tipu Sultan)
- Maratha administration (Ashtapradhan, Balaji Vishwanath, Modi script)
- Maratha Confederacy seats and power distribution

7. Battles & Military Chronology

- 18th-century battle ordering (Ambur, Plassey, Wandiwash, Buxar)
- Anglo-Mysore, Anglo-Sikh, and Anglo-Afghan war cycles
- Military-technological innovations (Rockets, foundries)
- Combatants and rivalries (French vs. EIC)

8. Economic History & Trade

- Impact of the Industrial Revolution on Indian handicrafts
- EIC export commodities (Cotton, silk, saltpetre, opium)
- Imperial Preference and trade privileges
- Economic Drain Theory and wealth calculations
- De-industrialization and cottage industry destruction

9. Revolt of 1857

- Leadership and regional coordination (Tantia Tope, Kunwar Singh)
- Territories unaffected by the revolt (e.g., Chittor)
- Social attitudes of the educated middle class (Neutrality)
- Personality-Place-Event triples and British leadership during the crisis

10. Early Colonial Interactions

- First contact with mountain/frontier tribes (Kukis post-Diwani)
- Specific regional ruler permissions for European trade outposts
- Evolutionary framework of Indian governance under EIC

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked Micro-Topics

- Constitutional Acts: provisions, GG designations, Act-provision matching (7 Qs – #1)
- Land Revenue Systems: Permanent/Ryotwari/Mahalwari features & personnel (6 Qs)
- Governor General policies: Cornwallis/Dalhousie/Wellesley specific contributions (9 Qs)
- European settlement chronology: who came first, where, with whose permission (6 Qs)
- Portuguese-Indian ruler interactions (3 Qs, SURGING since 2021)

Under-Asked but RISING

- Portuguese in India: Goa, Diu, Daman + Indian ruler interactions – 3 Qs in 4 years
- Economic de-industrialisation: drain of wealth, cottage industry destruction
- Regional kingdom origins: which state emerged from which empire
- Tipu Sultan's innovations: rockets, embassies, Jacobin club – MODERNISATION theme
- EIC factory chronology: first quarter vs later 17th century distinctions

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- CONSTITUTIONAL ACTS bridge History and Polity – UPSC tests whether aspirants understand the EVOLUTIONARY FRAMEWORK of Indian governance
- LAND REVENUE systems reveal the STRUCTURAL foundations of colonial exploitation – understanding Permanent/Ryotwari/Mahalwari is understanding HOW colonialism worked
- GOVERNOR GENERAL policies test ADMINISTRATIVE REASONING: WHY did Cornwallis separate judicial powers? (fear of concentrated power)
- PORTUGUESE questions test MICRO-LEVEL interactions: which Indian ruler gave what permission – this is DIPLOMATIC HISTORY at its finest
- ECONOMIC IMPACT questions test whether aspirants see colonialism as an ECONOMIC SYSTEM, not just political events
- Doctrine of Lapse vs Misgovernance as DIFFERENT annexation tools tests LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE precision
- Battle chronology tests TEMPORAL REASONING applied to military history – a higher-order cognitive skill
- 1857 Revolt personality questions test whether aspirants know the HUMAN stories behind the movement
- The 'English introduced NOTHING' question (2012) tests intellectual honesty: India had its own innovations
- Regional kingdom origins (Arcot from Hyderabad, Mysore from Vijayanagara) test POLITICAL GENEALOGY of Indian states

The Hidden Syllabus

- INSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION: Regulating Act → Pitt's → Charters → 1858 Act → Councils Acts = a CONTINUOUS governance narrative
- REVENUE AS CONTROL: Land revenue was Britain's PRIMARY instrument of economic control – UPSC tests the MECHANICS not just names

- EUROPEAN COMPARISON: Portuguese vs Dutch vs English vs French – different strategies, different coastal zones, different Indian allies
- PERSONALITY-POLICY MATCHING: each GG = specific set of policies; Cornwallis alone has 3+ testable contributions
- REGIONAL AGENCY: Indian rulers (Bahadur Shah, Krishnadevaraya, Tipu Sultan) are portrayed as ACTIVE agents, not passive recipients
- ECONOMIC CAUSATION: Why did rich invest in land? Why were handicrafts ruined? UPSC tests causal chains not just facts

Top Conceptual Traps

- Robert Clive ≠ first GG of Bengal (Warren Hastings was) – the most common misconception
- Charter Act 1833: Macaulay (Law Member) was BRITISH, not Indian – ‘Indian Law Member’ came later
- Vernacular Press Act = LYTTON (NOT Curzon) – GG-Act mismatch
- Francis Xavier died in CHINA, not Goa – his relics are in Goa
- Ryotwari had NO crop failure exemption provision
- Cornwallis = Permanent Settlement; Read/Munro = Ryotwari – attribution precision
- Awadh = misgovernance; Jhansi/Satara = Doctrine of Lapse – different mechanisms
- English introduced NONE of: revenue assessment/mobile cannons/tobacco-chillies – all pre-existed
- First Anglo-Mysore = 1767-69 (NOT Maratha); First Sikh = 1845-46 (NOT Second)
- Last Europeans to India = FRENCH (not Portuguese/Dutch/English)
- Dutch on east coast NOT from Gajapati rulers – dynasty had declined
- Marathas had NO ‘clear concept of united Indian nation’ – A true, R false
- Subsidiary Alliance was NOT about ‘securing fixed income’ for EIC

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Micro-Topic	Source	Freq
1	Constitutional Acts: provisions & evolution	Laxmikanth Ch.1 + Spectrum	7 Qs
2	Governor General policies & contributions	Spectrum + NCERT 12	9 Qs
3	Land Revenue: 3 systems comparison	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	6 Qs
4	European settlement chronology & permissions	Spectrum + NCERT	6 Qs
5	Portuguese-Indian ruler interactions	Spectrum + current affairs	3 Qs (↑)
6	Regional kingdoms: origins + contributions	NCERT + Spectrum	7 Qs

7	Economic impact of colonialism	Bipin Chandra + NCERT	5 Qs (†)
8	1857 Revolt: personalities, places, events	Spectrum + NCERT 12	6 Qs
9	Battle chronology & war-year matching	Self-prepared timeline	4 Qs
10	Maratha confederacy: leaders, admin, seats	Spectrum + NCERT	4 Qs

SOURCE LINKAGE

- PRIMARY: Spectrum – A Brief History of Modern India (most comprehensive for this domain)
- Laxmikanth: Indian Polity Ch.1 (Constitutional Acts – essential for History-Polity convergence)
- NCERT Class 8: Our Past III (EIC, revenue, 1857)
- NCERT Class 12: Themes in Indian History III (colonial economy, 1857)
- Bipin Chandra: India's Struggle for Independence (for deeper analysis of 1857 and economic impact)
- Self-prepared: GG MASTER TABLE with each GG's policies, acts, and contributions

HIGH PROBABILITY FOR 2026 PRELIMS

- Portuguese interactions: Goa, Daman, Diu – WHICH Indian ruler, WHEN, under what circumstances
- Charter Act provisions: 1793 vs 1813 vs 1833 COMPARISON in statement-based format
- Land Revenue: Mahalwari system (under-tested) – Holt Mackenzie/R.M. Bird introduction
- Cornwallis's reforms: Permanent Settlement + Civil Service + Judicial separation as INTEGRATED package
- Dalhousie's Doctrine of Lapse: specific states + chronology of annexation
- Economic drain theory: Dadabhai Naoroji's calculations + R.C. Dutt's analysis
- Tipu Sultan's innovations: rockets, foreign embassies, calendar reform, coinage
- 1857 Revolt: lesser-known leaders (Shah Mal, Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah, Birjis Qadr)
- Subsidiary Alliance: specific states that accepted + consequences
- Dutch/Danish settlements: Tranquebar, Serampore, Masulipatnam – under-tested but syllabus-core

ADVENT OF EUROPEANS IN INDIA / EXPANSION OF BRITISH RULE

THE PORTUGUESE IN INDIA

- Who of the following rulers of medieval India gave permission to the Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal? [2024]
 - Krishnadevaraya
 - Narasimha Saluva
 - Muhammad Shah III
 - Yusuf Adil Shah
- Who among the following rulers of medieval Gujarat surrendered Diu to Portuguese? [2023]
 - Ahmad Shah
 - Mahmud Begarha
 - Bahadur Shah
 - Muhammad Shah
- Consider the following statements: [2021]

- 1) Francis Xavier was one of the founding members of the Jesuit Order.
- 2) Francis Xavier died in Goa and a church is dedicated to him there.
- 3) The Feast of St. Francis Xavier is celebrated in Goa each year.

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

The English East India Company & Mughal Relations

4. In the first quarter of seventeenth century, in which of the following was/were the factory/factories of the English East India Company located? [2021]

- 1) Broach
- 2) Chicacole
- 3) Trichinopoly

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 2
 - c) 3 only
 - d) 2 and 3
5. With whose permission did the English set up their first factory in Surat? [2009]
- a) Akbar
 - b) Jahangir
 - c) Shahjahan
 - d) Aurangzeb
6. During the time of which Mughal Emperor did the English East India Company establish its first factory in India? [2008]
- a) Akbar
 - b) Shahjahan
 - c) Jahangir
 - d) Aurangzeb

Settlements and Rivalries of Multiple European Powers

7. With reference to Indian history, consider the following statements: [2022]
- 1) The Dutch established their factories/warehouses on the east coast on lands granted to them by Gajapati rulers.
 - 2) Alfonso de Albuquerque captured Goa from the Bijapur Sultanate.
 - 3) The English East India Company established a factory at Madras on a plot of land leased from a representative of the Vijayanagara empire.

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

8. With reference to the Pondicherry (now Puducherry), consider the following statements: [2010]

- 1) The first European power to occupy Pondicherry were the Portuguese.
- 2) The second European power to occupy Pondicherry were the French.
- 3) The English never occupied Pondicherry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTS

9. By which one of the following Acts was the Governor General of Bengal designated as the Governor General of India? [2023]
- a) The Regulating Act
 - b) The Pitt's India Act
 - c) The Charter Act of 1793
 - d) The Charter Act of 1833
10. Consider the following statements about 'the Charter Act of 1813': [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
11. Consider the following statements: [2007]
- 1) Robert Clive was the first Governor-General of Bengal.
 - 2) William Bentinck was the first Governor-General of India.
- 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
12. Consider the following: [2005]
- 1) Warren Hastings was the first Governor General who established a regular police force in India on the British pattern.
 - 2) A Supreme Court was established at Calcutta by the Regulating Act, 1773.
 - 3) The Indian Penal Code came into effect in the year 1860.
- Which of the statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2 and 3
 - c) 1 and 3
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
13. Which one of the following provisions was NOT made in the Charter Act of 1833? [2003]
- a) The trading activities of the East India Company were to be abolished
 - b) The designation of the supreme authority was to be changed as the Governor General of India in Council
 - c) All law-making powers to be conferred on Governor General in Council
 - d) An Indian was to be appointed as a Law Member in the Governor General's Council
14. Match List I (Acts of Colonial Government of India) with List II (Provisions) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists: [2002]
- | List I (Acts) | List II (Provisions) |
- | A. Charter Act, 1813 | 1. Set up a Board of Control in Britain to fully regulate the east India Company's affairs in India |

B. Regulating Act	2. Company's trade monopoly in India was ended
C. Act of 1858	3. The power to govern was transferred from the East India Company to the British Crown
D. Pitt's India Act	4. The Company's directors were asked to present to the British government all correspondence and documents pertaining to the administration of the company

Codes (A B C D):

- a) 2 4 3 1
- b) 1 3 4 2
- c) 2 3 4 1
- d) 1 4 3 2

15. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists: [1996]

| List I | List II |

| I. Governor General of Presidency of Fort William in Bengal (under Regulating Act, 1773) | A) Archibald Percival Wavell, Viscount and Earl Wavell |

| II. Governor General of India (under Charter Act, 1833) | B) James Andrew Broun Ramsay, Earl and Marquess of Dalhousie |

| III. Governor General and Viceroy of India (under Indian Councils Act, 1858) | C) Charles Cornwallis, 2nd Earl and first Marquess of Cornwallis |

| IV. Governor General and Crown Representative (under Government of India Act. 1935) | D) Gilbert John Elliot Murray Kynynmond, Earl of Minto |

| | E) Louis Mountbatten, Earl Mountbatten of Burma |

Codes:

- a) I-C, II-B, III-D, IV-A
- b) I-C, II-D, III-A, IV-E
- c) I-B, II-C, III-D, IV-E
- d) I-D, II-B, III-C, IV-A

LAND REVENUE SYSTEMS

16. With reference to revenue collection by Cornwallis, consider the following statements: [2024]

- 1) Under the Ryotwari Settlement of revenue collection, the peasants were exempted from revenue payment in case of bad harvests or natural calamities.
- 2) Under the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, if the Zamindar failed to pay his revenues to the state, on or before the fixed date, he would be removed from his Zamindari.

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

17. Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of Ryotwari Settlement in India during the British rule? [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

18. With reference to Ryotwari Settlement, consider the statements: [2012]

- 1) The rent was paid directly by the peasants to the Government.

- 2) The Government gave Pattas to the Ryats.
- 3) The lands were surveyed and assessed before being taxed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
 - b) 1 & 2 Only
 - c) 1, 2 & 3
 - d) None
19. The tendency for increased litigation was visible after the introduction of the land settlement system of lord Cornwallis in 1793. The reason for this is normally traced to which of the following provisions? [2011]
- a) Making zamindar's position stronger vis-à-vis the ryot.
 - b) Making east India company an overlord of zamindars.
 - c) Making judicial system more efficient.
 - d) None of the a), b) and c) above.
20. Under the Permanent Settlement, 1793, the zamindars were required to issue pattas to the farmers which were not issued by many of the zamindars. The reason was: [2001]
- a) The zamindars were trusted by the farmers
 - b) There was no official check upon the zamindars
 - c) It was the responsibility of the British Government
 - d) The farmers were not interested in getting pattas
21. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists: [2000]
- | List I | List II |
- | I. Land allotted to big feudal landlords | A. Jagirdari System |
- | II. Land allotted to revenue farmers or rent collectors | B. Ryotwari System |
- | III. Land allotted to each peasant with the right to sublet, mortgage, transfer, gift or sell | C. Mahalwari System |
- |
- | IV. Revenue settlements made at village level | D. Zamindari System |
- Codes:
- a) I-A, II-C, III-B, IV-D
 - b) I-A, II-D, III-B, IV-C
 - c) I-C, II-D, III-A, IV-B
 - d) I-B, II-A, III-C, IV-D
- GOVERNOR GENERALS & EXPANSIONIST POLICIES**
22. Which of the following statements do not apply to the system of Subsidiary Alliance introduced by Lord Wellesley? [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
23. Who among the following Governor General created the Covenanted Civil Service of India which later came to be known as the Indian Civil Service? [2010]
- a) Warren Hastings
 - b) Wellesley
 - c) Cornwallis
 - d) William Bentinck
24. By a regulation in 1793, the District Collector was deprived of his judicial powers and made the collecting agent only. What was the reason for such regulation? [2010]
- a) Lord Cornwallis felt that the District Collector's efficiency of revenue collection would enormously increase without the burden of other work.

- b) Lord Cornwallis felt that Judicial power should compulsorily be in the hands of Europeans while Indians can be given the job of revenue collection in the districts.
- c) Lord Cornwallis was alarmed at the extent of power concentrated in the District Collector and felt that such absolute power was undesirable in one person.
- d) The judicial work demanded a deep knowledge of India and a good training in law and Lord Cornwallis felt that District Collector should be only a revenue collector?
25. The ruler of which one of the following States was removed from power by the British on the pretext of misgovernance? [2007]
- Awadh
 - Jhansi
 - French
 - Satara
26. Consider the following Princely States of the British rule in India: [2004]
- Jhansi
 - Sambalpur
 - Satara
- The correct chronological order in which they were annexed by the British is:
- 1, 2, 3
 - 1, 3, 2
 - 3, 2, 1
 - 3, 1, 2
27. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched? [2004]
- Pitt's India Act: Warren Hastings
 - Doctrine of Lapse: Dalhousie
 - Vernacular Press Act: Curzon
 - Ilbert Bill: Ripon
28. The last major extension of British Indian territory took place during the time of: [2000]
- Dufferin
 - Dalhousie
 - Lytton
 - Curzon
29. At a time when empires in Europe were crumbling before the might of Napoleon, which one of the following Governor Generals kept the British flag flying high in India? [1999]
- Warren Hastings
 - Lord Cornwallis
 - Lord Wellesley
 - Lord Hastings
30. Who among the following was associated with the suppression of Thugs? [1997]
- General Henry Frendergast
 - Captain Sleeman
 - Alexander Burnes
 - Captain Robert Pemberton
- REGIONAL KINGDOMS (MARATHAS, MYSORE, ETC.)**
31. With reference to Indian history, which of the following statements is/are correct? [2021]
- The Nizamat of Arcot emerged out of Hyderabad State.
 - The Mysore Kingdom emerged out of Vijayanagara Empire.
 - Rohilkhand Kingdom was formed out of the territories occupied by Ahmad Shah Durrani.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 2
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3
d) 3 only
32. Assertion (A): Marathas emerged as the strongest native power in India after the decline of Mughal empire. [2003]
Reason (R): Marathas were the first to have a clear concept of a united Indian nation.
a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A
b) Both A and R are individually true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A
c) A is true but R is false
d) A is false but R is true
33. Which one of the following statements is NOT correct? [2003]
a) Ali Mardan Khan introduced the system of revenue farming in Bengal
b) Maharaja Ranjit Singh set up modern foundries to manufacture cannons at Lahore
c) Sawai Jai Singh of Amber had Euclid's 'Elements of Geometry' translated into Sanskrit
d) Sultan Tipu of Mysore gave money for the construction of the idol of Goddess Sarda in the Shringeri temple
34. Who among the following Indian rulers established embassies in foreign countries on modern lines? [2001]
a) Haider Ali
b) Mir Qasim
c) Shah Alam II
d) Tipu Sultan
35. Who among the following streamlined the Maratha administration after Sambhaji? [2000]
a) Raja Ram
b) Balaji Viswanath
c) Ganga Bai
d) Nanaji Deshmukh
36. The 'Modi script' was employed in the documents of the: [1995]
a) Wodeyars
b) Zamorins
c) Hoysalas
d) Marathas
37. Examine the map given below: [1995]



The places marked 1, 2, 3 and 4 were respectively the seats of powers of the:

- a) Scindias, Holkars, Gaekwads and Bhonsles
- b) Holkars, Scindias, Gaekwads and Bhonsles
- c) Gaekwads, Bhonsles, Scindias and Holkars
- d) Scindias, Holkars, Bhonsles and Gaekwads

BATTLES AND MILITARY CHRONOLOGY

38. Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the battles fought in India in the 18th Century? [2005]
- a) Battle of Wandiwash, Battle of Buxar, Battle of Ambur, Battle of Plassey
 - b) Battle of Ambur, Battle of Plassey, Battle of Wandiwash, Battle of Buxar
 - c) Battle of Wandiwash, Battle of Plassey, Battle of Ambur, Battle of Buxar
 - d) Battle of Ambur, Battle of Buxar, Battle of Wandiwash, Battle of Plassey
39. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched? [2004]
- 1) AD 1767- 69: First Anglo Maratha War
 - 2) AD 1790 -92: Third Mysore War
 - 3) AD 1824 -26: First Anglo Burmese War
 - 4) AD 1845- 46: Second Sikh War
- Select the code:
- a) 2 and 4
 - b) 3 and 4
 - c) 1 and 2
 - d) 2 and 3
40. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists: [1999]
- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| List I (Year) | List II (Event) |
| I. 1775 | A) First Anglo Burmese War |
| II. 1780 | B) First Anglo Afghan War |
| III. 1824 | C) First Anglo Maratha War |
| IV. 1838 | D) Second Anglo Mysore War |
- Codes:
- a) I-D, II-C, III-B, IV-A
 - b) I-D, II-C, III-A, IV-B

c) I-C, II-D, III-A, IV-B

d) I-C, II-D, III-B, IV-A

41. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched? [1995]

a) Battle of Buxar - Mir Jafar vs. Clive

b) Battle of Wandiwash - French vs. East India Company

c) Battle of Chillianwala - Dalhousie vs. Marathas

d) Battle of Kharda - Nizam vs. East India Company

ECONOMIC HISTORY AND TRADE

42. Which of the following statements correctly explains the impact of the Industrial Revolution on India during the first half of the nineteenth century? [2020]

a) Indian handicrafts were ruined.

b) Machines were introduced in the Indian textile industry in large numbers.

c) Railways lines were laid in many parts of the country.

d) Heavy duties were imposed on the imports of British manufactures.

43. The staple commodities of export by the English East India Company from Bengal in the middle of the 18th century were: [2018]

a) Raw cotton, oil-seeds and opium

b) Sugar, salt, zinc and Lead

c) Copper, silver, gold, spices and tea

d) Cotton, silk, saltpetre and opium

44. Consider the following: [2012]

Assessment of land revenue on the basis of nature of the soil and the quality of crops

Use of mobile cannons in warfare

Cultivation of tobacco and red chillies

Which of the above was/were introduced into India by the English?

a) 1 Only

b) 1 & 2

c) 2 & 3

d) None

45. There was no independent development of industries in India during British rule because of the: [1999]

a) Absence of heavy industries

b) Scarcity of foreign capital

c) Scarcity of natural resources

d) Preference of the rich to invest in land

46. The term "imperial preference" was applied to the: [1999]

a) Special privileges on British imports in India

b) Racial discrimination by the Britishers

c) Subordination of Indian interest to that of the British

d) Preference given to British political agents over Indian Princes

RIVALS AND OTHER EUROPEANS

47. Who among the following Europeans were the last to come to pre independence India as traders? [2007]

a) Dutch

b) English

c) French

d) Portuguese

48. "You might see a few curious Danes around, but that is because used to be a Danish outpost. This quaint town with its fort and a beautiful church, the New Jerusalem, empty streets and deserted beach front is a quaint gem." The place referred to in this quotation lies on the: [1996]

- a) Tamil Nadu coast
 - b) Kerala coast
 - c) Karnataka coast
 - d) Goa coast
49. Who among the following was the first European to initiate the policy of taking part in the quarrels of Indian princes with a view to acquire territories? [1996]
- a) Clive
 - b) Dupleix
 - c) Albuquerque
 - d) Warren Hastings
50. Hugly was used as a base for piracy in the Bay of Bengal by: [1995]
- a) The Portuguese
 - b) The French
 - c) The Danish
 - d) The British

MISCELLANEOUS

51. Which one of the following was the first fort constructed by the British in India? [2007]
- a) Fort William
 - b) Fort St. George
 - c) Fort St. David
 - d) Fort St. Angelo
52. With which one of the following mountain tribes did the British first come into contact after the grant of Diwani in the year 1765? [2002]
- a) Garo
 - b) Khasis
 - c) Kukis
 - d) Tipperahs

THE REVOLT OF 1857

53. With reference to the revolt of the year 1857, who of the following was betrayed by a friend captured and put to death by the British? [2006]
- a) Nana Sahib
 - b) Kunwar Singh
 - c) Khan Bahadur Khan
 - d) Tantia Tope
54. Which one of the following places did Kunwar Singh, a prominent leader of the Revolt of 1857 belong to? [2005]
- a) Bihar
 - b) Madhya Pradesh
 - c) Rajasthan
 - d) Uttar Pradesh
55. Which one of the following territories was not affected by the Revolt of 1857? [2005]
- a) Jhansi
 - b) Chittor
 - c) Jagdishpur
 - d) Lucknow

BRITISH ADMINISTRATION AND KEY FIGURES

56. Who was the Governor General of India during the Sepoy Mutiny? [2006]
- a) Lord Canning
 - b) Lord Dalhousie

- c) Lord Hardinge
- d) Lord Lytton

NATURE, UNITY, AND SOCIAL RESPONSE

57. "In this instance we could not play off the Mohammedans against the Hindus". To which one of the following events did this remark of Aitchison relate? [2000]
- a) Revolt of 1857
 - b) Champaran Satyagraha (1917)
 - c) Khilafat and Non Cooperation Movement (1919-22)
 - d) August Movement of 1942
58. The educated middle class in India: [1998]
- a) Opposed the revolt of 1857
 - b) Supported the revolt of 1857
 - c) Remained neutral to the revolt of 1857
 - d) Fought against native rulers

PRE-CONGRESS EVENTS

Post-1857 Constitutional Changes | Drain of Wealth | Pre-Congress Organizations | Social Reform | Viceroy Policies

20 PYQs | 1998–2020 | 4 Themes | 35+ Micro-Topics

OVERVIEW: PRE-CONGRESS EVENTS (1998–2020)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Constitutional & Administrative Changes (Post-1857)	3	2002–2014	HIGH
Economic History & Drain of Wealth	5	2000–2018	VERY HIGH
Pre-Congress Political Orgs & Personalities	4	1998–2017	HIGH
Social-Religious Reforms + Viceroy Policies	8	1999–2020	VERY HIGH

KEY INSIGHT: Domain Pattern

- DADABHAI NAOROJI is the MOST TESTED personality in this entire domain: 3 direct questions + referenced in others
- ILBERT BILL appears THREE TIMES (1998, 2003, 2013) – UPSC's most repeated pre-Congress legislative fact
- DRAIN OF WEALTH is treated as an ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK, not just a historical event – 'Home Charges' components tested
- VICEROY-POLICY matching (Ripon=Ilbert/Factory/Press; Lytton=Vernacular Press/Forward Policy) is the core format
- Pre-Congress organizations are RARE but HIGH-VALUE: Radhakanta Deb, Gazulu Lakshminarasu, Surendranath tested precisely
- Social reform questions test LEGAL CASES and LEGISLATIVE context (Rakhmabai case, Age of Consent, Factories Act)

PRE-CONGRESS EVENTS (1858–1885)

1. Constitutional & Administrative Changes (Post-1857)

- Queen Victoria's Proclamation 1858 (Objects and disclaimers)
- Transition from Company rule to Crown rule (1858 Act)
- Evolutionary sequence of Acts: 1861, 1892, and 1909 (Morley-Minto)
- Introduction of the Portfolio/Departmental system (1861 ICA)
- Administrative changes: Secretary of State and Council of India

2. Economic History & Drain of Wealth

- Components of 'Home Charges' (India Office funding, salaries, pensions, overseas wars)
- Economic critics of colonialism (Naoroji, G. Subramania Iyer, R.C. Dutt)
- Commercialisation of agriculture (Impact on handicrafts vs. cash crops)
- Per capita income calculations and early empirical data
- Theory of Economic Drain vs. social or cultural reform

3. Pre-Congress Political Organisations & Personalities

- Person-Institution matching (Radhakanta Deb, Gazulu Lakshminarasu, Surendranath Banerjee)
- Regional political awakening: Madras Mahajana Sabha, British Indian Association, Indian Association
- Petitions for representation (Poona Sarvajanik Sabha 1875 petition)
- Personalities' professional backgrounds (e.g., ICS dismissals, early INC Presidents)

4. Social-Religious Reforms

- Legal battles and gender history (Rakhmabai case 1884)
- Legislative context of reform (Age of Consent Act, Widow Remarriage Act)
- Reform movement genealogy (Brahmo Samaj branches, Keshab Chandra Sen's institutions)
- Personality-institution-belief matching (Arya Samaj, Prarthana Sabha, Theosophical Society)

5. Viceroy Policies & Legislations

- Racial discrimination in law (Ilbert Bill controversy and judicial disqualification)
- Labour legislation evolution (Factories Act 1881, role of N.M. Lokhande)
- Press regulations (Vernacular Press Act enactment vs. repeal)
- External/Frontier policies (Forward Policy toward Afghanistan)
- Administrative reasoning (Centralisation vs. Liberal reform)

6. Pre-Congress Peasant Movements

- Economic exploitation links (Indigo Revolt 1859–60, Deccan Riots 1875)
- Early nationalist responses to agrarian grievances

7. Lord Curzon's Policies (Emerging Cluster)

- Administrative divisions (Partition of Bengal 1905)
- Educational and cultural acts (Indian Universities Act, Ancient Monuments Act)

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked Micro-Topics

- Drain of Wealth: Dadabhai Naoroji, Home Charges, commercialisation (5 Qs – #1)
- Ilbert Bill: purpose and context (3 appearances – MOST REPEATED single fact)
- Lord Ripon's policies: Ilbert, Factory Act, Press repeal (4 Qs via Ripon)
- Pre-Congress organisation-personality matching (4 Qs)
- Post-1857 Constitutional evolution: Acts and provisions (3 Qs)

Under-Asked but SYLLABUS-CORE

- Morley-Minto Reforms 1909: separate electorates – NOT yet tested in this domain
- Local Self-Government Resolution (Ripon 1882) – NOT directly tested
- Arms Act 1878, Indian Penal Code applications – peripheral but testable
- Arya Samaj, Prarthana Sabha, Theosophical Society – personality-institution matching
- Indigo Revolt (1859-60), Deccan Riots (1875) – pre-Congress peasant movements

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- The PRE-CONGRESS period is the INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATION of Indian nationalism – UPSC tests whether aspirants understand HOW nationalist consciousness emerged
- ECONOMIC CRITIQUE is tested as a THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: Drain of Wealth is not just a grievance but an ANALYTICAL METHOD used to critique colonialism
- Dadabhai Naoroji's per capita income calculation tests EMPIRICAL THINKING – using DATA to argue against colonial rule is a modern analytical approach
- Ilbert Bill's THREE appearances reveal UPSC's belief that understanding RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN LAW is essential for civil servants
- LORD RIPON's centrality shows UPSC values LIBERAL REFORM within colonial structure – Factory Act + Press Freedom + Ilbert Bill + Self-Government

- Pre-Congress organisations test REGIONAL POLITICAL AWAKENING: Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, Madras Mahajana Sabha, Indian Association
- Factories Act NOT fixing wages tests whether aspirants READ PRECISELY vs assume based on modern labour law understanding
- Queen Victoria's Proclamation's EIC trade trap tests CHRONOLOGICAL AWARENESS: trade monopoly already ended in 1833
- The Rakhmabai case (2020) signals UPSC's GENDER HISTORY interest: legal battles for women's rights in colonial India
- Keshab Chandra Sen question (2016) tests REFORM MOVEMENT GENEALOGY: who founded what within Brahma movement

The Hidden Syllabus

- ECONOMIC NATIONALISM: The drain theory is the INTELLECTUAL WEAPON that pre-Congress leaders used – UPSC values this analytical tradition
- VICEROY-POLICY CLUSTERS: Each Viceroy = a set of 3-5 specific policies; Ripon's cluster is the densest and most tested
- LEGAL REFORM AS POLITICAL BATTLEGROUND: Ilbert Bill showed that legal equality was fiercely contested – understanding this is understanding colonialism
- REGIONAL POLITICAL MATURITY: Pre-Congress organisations from Poona, Madras, Calcutta show DECENTRALISED political awakening
- LEGISLATIVE PRECISION: Factories Act 1881 had LIMITED scope (hours only, no wages/unions) – UPSC penalises OVER-READING
- SOCIAL REFORM + POLITICAL REFORM convergence: Rakhmabai case (social) feeds into Age of Consent Act (legislative) = integrated history

Top Conceptual Traps

- Victoria's Proclamation: EIC trade regulation = ANACHRONISTIC (trade already abolished 1833)
- Charter Act 1853 ≠ monopoly abolition (that was Charter Act 1813) – Act-provision mismatch
- Factories Act 1881 did NOT fix wages or allow trade unions – ONLY working hours restriction
- Vernacular Press Act: ENACTED by Lytton, REPEALED by Ripon – don't mix up enactor/repealer
- Badruddin Tyabji = INC President 1887 (NOT Muslim League which was 1906)
- Calcutta Unitarian Committee = RAM MOHAN ROY (NOT Keshab Chandra Sen)
- Dadabhai Naoroji's contribution is ECONOMIC CRITIQUE (NOT cultural revival or social reform)
- G. Subramania Iyer = economic critic of colonialism (lesser-known South Indian figure)
- Rakhmabai case = conjugal rights + age of consent (NOT primarily education rights)
- Indian Councils Act 1861 = Portfolio system (NOT 1858 Act or 1892/1909 Councils Acts)
- Home Charges include war funding – aspirants often forget the 'wars outside India' component
- Lord Ripon's FOUR contributions: Ilbert + Factory Act + Press repeal + Local Self-Government

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Micro-Topic	Source	Freq
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1	Drain of Wealth: Naoroji, Dutt, Home Charges	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	5 Qs
2	Viceroy-Policy clusters: Ripon, Lytton, Curzon	Spectrum + Laxmikanth Ch.1	8 Qs
3	Post-1857 Constitutional Acts sequence	Laxmikanth Ch.1 + Spectrum	3 Qs
4	Pre-Congress orgs: person-institution mapping	Spectrum + compilations	4 Qs
5	Social reform: cases, movements, institutions	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	2 Qs (1)
6	Labour legislation: Factory Acts evolution	Spectrum + standard	2 Qs
7	Commercialisation of agriculture	Bipin Chandra + NCERT	1 Q

Source Linkage

- PRIMARY: Spectrum – A Brief History of Modern India (Ch. on pre-Congress, social reform, economic critique)
- Laxmikanth: Indian Polity Ch.1 (Constitutional evolution: 1858 Act through 1909)
- Bipin Chandra: India's Struggle for Independence (economic nationalism, drain theory)
- NCERT Class 8: Our Past III (colonial economy, social reform movements)
- Self-prepared: VICEROY MASTER TABLE with each Viceroy's policies, Acts, and key events
- Self-prepared: PRE-CONGRESS ORGANISATION TABLE with founder, year, location, key activity

HIGH PROBABILITY FOR 2026 PRELIMS

- Morley-Minto Reforms 1909: separate electorates + Indian member in Executive Council – NEVER directly tested in this domain
- Lord Curzon's policies: Partition of Bengal (1905), Indian Universities Act, Ancient Monuments Act – cluster
- Arya Samaj + Prarthana Sabha + Theosophical Society: founder-institution-belief matching
- Deccan Riots 1875 + Indigo Revolt 1859: pre-Congress peasant movements – economic exploitation link
- Indian Councils Act 1892: budget discussion + indirect elections – specific provisions
- Local Self-Government Resolution (Ripon 1882): as Polity-History convergence topic
- Commercialisation of agriculture: specific crops (indigo, opium, cotton) + regional impact
- Women's reform: Rakhmabai + Age of Consent Act (1891) + Widow Remarriage Act (1856) sequence
- Press legislations: Vernacular Press Act (1878) vs Indian Press Act (1910) – comparison
- Early nationalist economic thought: R.C. Dutt, M.G. Ranade, G. Subramania Iyer – contribution mapping

PRE CONGRESS EVENTS

CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES (POST-1857)

1. What was/were the object/objects of Queen Victoria's Proclamation (1858)? [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
2. Consider the following statements: [2006]
- 1) The Charter Act 1853 abolished East India Company's monopoly of Indian trade.
 - 2) Under the Government of India Act, 1858, the British Parliament abolished the East India company altogether and undertook the responsibility of ruling India directly.
- Which of the statements given above is/is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Which one of the following Acts of British India strengthened the Viceroy's authority over his executive council by substituting "portfolio" or departmental system for corporate functioning? [2002]
- a) Indian Council Act, 1861
 - b) Government of India Act, 1858
 - c) Indian Councils Act, 1892
 - d) Indian Councils Act, 1909

ECONOMIC HISTORY AND THE "DRAIN OF WEALTH"

4. Economically, one of the result of the British rule in India in the 19th century was the: [2018]
- a) Increase in the exports of Indian handicrafts
 - b) Growth in the number of Indian owned factories
 - c) Commercialization of Indian agriculture
 - d) Rapid increase in urban population
5. Who of the following was/were economic critic/critics of colonialism in India? [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
6. Consider the following statements: [2012]
- 1) The most effective contribution made by Dadabhai Naoroji to the cause of Indian National Movement was that he
 - 2) Exposed the economic exploitation of India by the British
 - 3) Interpreted the ancient Indian texts and restored the self-confidence of Indians
 - 4) Stressed the need for eradication of all the social evils before anything else
- Which among the above statements is/ are correct?

- a) 1 Only

- b) 2 & 3 Only
c) 1 & 3 Only
d) 1, 2 & 3
7. With reference to the period of colonial rule in India, “Home Charges“ formed an important part of the drain of wealth from India. Which of the following funds constituted “Home Charges”? [2011]
- 1) Funds used to support the India office in London.
 - 2) Funds used to pay salaries and pensions of British personnel engaged in India.
 - 3) Funds used for waging wars outside India by the British.
- a) 1 only.
b) 1 and 2 only.
c) 2 and 3 only.
d) 1, 2, and 3.
8. That the per capita income in India was Rs. 20 in 1867-68, was ascertained for the first time by: [2000]
- a) M. G. Ranade
 - b) Sir W. Hunter
 - c) R. C. Dutta
 - d) Dadabhai Naoroji

PRE-CONGRESS POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONALITIES

9. Consider the following pairs: [2017]
- 1) Radhakanta Deb – First President of the British Indian Association
 - 2) Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty – Founder of the Madras Mahajana Sabha
 - 3) Surendranath Banerjee – Founder of the Indian Association
- Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?
- a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
10. Which one of the following submitted in 1875 a petition to the House of Commons demanding India’s direct representation in the British Parliament? [2002]
- a) The Deccan Association
 - b) The Indian Association
 - c) The Madras Mahajan Sabha
 - d) The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha
11. Which one of the following Indian leaders was dismissed by the British from the Indian Civil Service? [1999]
- a) Satyendranath Tagore
 - b) Surendranath Banerji
 - c) R. C. Dutt
 - d) Subhash Chandra Bose
12. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched? [1998]
- I. Theodore Beck: Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College, Aligarh
 - II. Ilbert Bill: Ripon
 - III. Pherozesha Mehta: Indian National Congress
 - IV. Badruddin Tyabji: Muslim League
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- a) I, II, III and IV
 - b) II and IV
 - c) I, III and IV
 - d) I, II and III

SOCIAL-RELIGIOUS REFORMS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

13. In the context of Indian history, the Rakhmabai case of 1884 revolved around: [2020]
- 1) Women's right to gain education
 - 2) Age of consent
 - 3) Restitution of conjugal rights
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
14. Consider the following: [2016]
- 1) Calcutta Unitarian Committee
 - 2) Tabernacle of New Dispensation
 - 3) Indian Reform Association
- Keshab Chandra Sen is associated with the establishment of which of the above?
- a) 1 and 3 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
- Viceroy Policies and Legislations (Labor, Press, Foreign)**
15. Consider the following statements: [2017]
- 1) The Factories Act, 1881 was passed with a view to fix the wages of industrial workers and to allow the workers to form trade unions.
 - 2) N.M. Lokhande was a pioneer in organising the labour movement in British India.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
16. The Ilbert Bill Controversy was related to the___: [2013]
- A. Imposition of restrictions to carry certain arms by the Indians
 - B. Imposition of restrictions on newspapers and magazines published in Indian languages
 - C. Removal of disqualifications imposed on the Indian magistrates with regard to the trial of the Europeans
 - D. Removal of a duty on imported cotton cloth
17. The first factory Act restricting the working hours of women and children, and authorising local governments to make necessary rules was adopted during whose time? [2007]
- a) Lord Lytton
 - b) Lord Bentinck
 - c) Lord Ripon
 - d) Lord Canning
18. Who among the following repealed the Vernacular Press Act? [2005]
- a) Lord Dufferin
 - b) Lord Ripon
 - c) Lord Curzon
 - d) Lord Hardinge
19. With reference to colonial rule in India, what was sought by the Ilbert Bill in 1883? [2003]
- a) To bring Indians and Europeans on par as far as the criminal jurisdiction of courts was concerned

- b) To impose severe restrictions on the freedom of the native press as it was perceived to be hostile to colonial rulers
- c) To encourage the native Indians to appear for civil service examinations by conduction them in India
- d) To allow native Indians to possess arms by amending the Arms Act
20. The Governor-General who followed a spirited “Forward” policy towards Afghanistan was: [1999]
- a) Minto
- b) Dufferin
- c) Elgin
- d) Lytton

FORMATION OF CONGRESS TO SURAT SPLIT (1885–1907)

INC Formation | Moderates | Bengal Partition | Swadeshi | Extremists | Surat Split | Social Reform
31 PYQs | 1996–2023 | 6 Themes | 50+ Micro-Topics

OVERVIEW: FORMATION OF CONGRESS TO SURAT SPLIT (1996–2023)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Formation of INC & Key Sessions	4	2000–2015	HIGH
Moderates: Personalities & Ideology	7	1996–2008	VERY HIGH
Partition of Bengal & Swadeshi Movement	7	2002–2023	VERY HIGH ↑
Extremists & Surat Split (1907)	6	1998–2016	VERY HIGH
Social Reforms & Organizations	3	1996–2012	HIGH
British Policies & Miscellaneous	4	1998–2011	MEDIUM

KEY INSIGHT: Domain Pattern

- BENGAL PARTITION + SWADESHI + SURAT SPLIT form a CONTINUOUS narrative arc: 13 questions (42%) in this linked cluster
- 2023 tested Swadeshi via NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY link: shows UPSC connecting historical movements to CONTEMPORARY institutions
- MODERATE vs EXTREMIST is tested as IDEOLOGY, not just personality: ‘what defines extremist ideology?’ format
- INC FIRSTS (first woman/Muslim President, first session venue) are PERENNIAL static facts
- Gokhale’s biography description (1997) remains one of UPSC’s most famous passage-identification questions

- Muslim reaction to Extremism (1998) tests COMMUNAL POLITICS within nationalist movement
- Post-2015, UPSC shifted from direct identification to STATEMENT-BASED analytical format

FORMATION OF CONGRESS TO SURAT SPLIT (1885–1907)

1. Formation of INC & Key Sessions

- Firsts in INC: Woman, Indian Woman, Muslim, and British Presidents
- Chronology of landmark sessions (1885 Bombay, 1886 Calcutta, 1916 Lucknow)
- Specific presidential circumstances (e.g., C.R. Das presiding from prison)
- Founders vs. General Secretaries (A.O. Hume vs. George Yule)
- Evolution of the Lucknow Pact (INC and Muslim League cooperation)

2. Moderates: Personalities, Ideology & Critique

- Detailed biographies of Moderate leaders (G.K. Gokhale's career/titles)
- Ideological terminology (e.g., 'Un-British' rule, 'Drain Theory')
- Internal critiques of Moderate politics (Aurobindo Ghosh's 'New Lamps for Old')
- Social composition of the early movement (Narrow social base vs. group interests)
- Intellectual disagreements (e.g., Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's rejection of Drain Theory)

3. Partition of Bengal & Swadeshi Movement

- Precise timeline of events (7th August launch vs. 16th October effect)
- Constructive Swadeshi (National Council of Education, indigenous crafts revival)
- Political agitation methods (Swadeshi + Boycott vs. Home Rule)
- Annulment of Partition (1911 Delhi Durbar and King George V)
- Cultural and educational contributions (Tagore's Atmashakti, Bengal National College)

4. Extremists & Surat Split (1907)

- Structural causes of the split (Ideological divergence vs. personal rivalry)
- Extremist ideology (Aggressive means vs. petitions/constitutional ways)
- Landmark resolutions (Calcutta 1906: Swadeshi, Boycott, National Education, Self-Govt)
- Communal dimensions (Muslim alienation due to 'Hindu past' harping)
- Immediate causes and the role of the Swadeshi Movement in the split

5. Social Reforms & Organisations

- Institutional separation (INC vs. National Social Conference)
- Post-split liberal groups (All India National Liberal Federation)
- Role of specific reformers (M.G. Ranade, M.C. Setalvad, B.N. Rao)
- Relationship between social legislation and political deliberations

6. British Policies & Miscellaneous

- Pro-Indian lobbies in Britain (Indian Parliamentary Committee 1893)

- Early years of the Muslim League (Stance on partition and separate electorates)
- Hostility of Viceroy toward Congress (Lord Curzon's quotes/policies)
- Regional revolutionary pockets (Bengal revolutionaries in Tripura)

7. Revolutionary Terrorism (Emerging)

- Early underground organisations (Anushilan Samiti, Jugantar)
- Key figures and brothers in arms (Chapekar brothers, Khudiram Bose)
- Overseas revolutionary movements (India House London, V.D. Savarkar)

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked Micro-Topics

- Bengal Partition + Swadeshi Movement: events, dates, outcomes (7 Qs – #1)
- Surat Split + Extremist ideology: causes, resolutions, Muslim response (6 Qs)
- Moderate personalities: Gokhale, Naoroji, Aurobindo's critique (7 Qs)
- INC session facts: first session, first presidents, venues (4 Qs)

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: Bengal Partition → Swadeshi → Boycott → National Education → Surat Split = CONTINUOUS narrative
- CLUSTER 2: Moderate vs Extremist IDEOLOGY comparison: methods, goals, social base, Muslim perception
- CLUSTER 3: INC Institutional History: Presidents, sessions, firsts, policies
- CLUSTER 4: Social Reform vs Political Reform separation within Congress

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- Bengal Partition (1905) is treated as the WATERSHED of Indian nationalism – it transformed passive protest into active resistance
- The Moderate-Extremist split tests whether aspirants understand that IDEOLOGICAL DIVERGENCE, not personal rivalry, drives political movements
- Swadeshi is tested not just as protest but as CONSTRUCTIVE NATION-BUILDING: National Education, indigenous industries, self-reliance
- 2023's Handloom Day link shows UPSC connecting HISTORICAL movements to LIVING institutions – history is NOT dead for UPSC
- Gokhale's biography question (1997) remains iconic: UPSC values LIFE TRAJECTORIES over isolated facts
- Muslim alienation from Extremism ('Hindu past emphasis') tests COMMUNAL COMPLEXITY within nationalism – UPSC doesn't shy away from this
- INC session firsts (Annie Besant vs Sarojini; George Yule vs Hume) test PRECISION over general awareness
- 1906 Calcutta resolutions: annulment was a DEMAND but NOT a formal RESOLUTION – tests whether aspirants read CAREFULLY
- Extremist ideology = aggressive self-government (NOT military revolt) – UPSC corrects popular misconceptions

- National Social Conference questions test understanding of INC's STRATEGIC CHOICE to separate social from political reform

The Hidden Syllabus

- SWADESHI AS CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAMME: NCE, indigenous industries, village regeneration – NOT just boycott
- IDEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK: Moderates (prayer-petition-constitutional) vs Extremists (Swaraj-boycott-national education) as ANALYTICAL categories
- COMMUNAL DIMENSION: Muslim League formation (1906), separate electorates demand, Hindu imagery in Extremism
- PERSONALITY DEPTH: Gokhale (4+ attributes), Naoroji ('Un-British', drain theory), Aurobindo ('New Lamps', BNC Principal)
- INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY: INC sessions, Social Conference, Liberal Federation, Parliamentary Committee – org chart of nationalism
- CONTEMPORARY CONNECTIONS: Historical movements linked to modern commemorations (Handloom Day = Swadeshi)

Top Conceptual Traps

- First woman INC President = ANNIE BESANT (not Sarojini Naidu) – Besant was Irish, Naidu was first INDIAN woman
- First British INC President = GEORGE YULE (not A.O. Hume) – Hume was founder, never President
- First INC session = BOMBAY (not Calcutta) – Calcutta was 2nd session (1886)
- 16th October 1905 = Partition TOOK EFFECT (not Swadeshi formal launch)
- Annulment of Partition was NOT one of 4 formal Calcutta 1906 resolutions
- Extremist ideology = aggressive self-government (NOT military coups)
- Muslims alienated by HINDU PAST emphasis (not anti-Muslim attitude/indifference)
- Muslim League SUPPORTED separate electorates (NOT opposed them)
- Surat Split = extremists' LACK OF FAITH in moderates (not communalism/ML/Aurobindo)
- National Social Conference formed because INC EXCLUDED social reform (not because reformers united)
- Curzon = 'Congress tottering to its fall' (not Dufferin/Lytton)
- 'New Lamps for Old' = AUROBINDO (not R.C. Dutt or Syed Ahmad Khan)
- Swadeshi Movement = partition agitation (NOT Home Rule or NCM)

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Micro-Topic	Source	Freq
1	Bengal Partition + Swadeshi: events, dates, constructive work	Spectrum + NCERT 8	7 Qs
2	Surat Split + Extremist ideology + 1906 resolutions	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	6 Qs

3	Moderate personalities: Gokhale, Naoroji, Aurobindo	Spectrum + NCERT	7 Qs
4	INC session facts: Presidents, venues, firsts	Spectrum + compilations	4 Qs
5	Social reform bodies: Social Conference, Liberal Federation	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	3 Qs
6	Muslim League + communal dimension	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	3 Qs
7	British policies: Curzon, Wedderburn, Parliamentary Committee	Spectrum	2 Qs

HIGH PROBABILITY FOR 2026 PRELIMS

- Swadeshi constructive programme: specific institutions (Dawn Society, Abanindranath's art revival)
- Moderate vs Extremist comparison: methods, goals, social base – STATEMENT-BASED
- INC Presidents chronology: Naoroji (1886, 1893, 1906), Besant (1917), Das (1922)
- Muslim League formation (1906): Aga Khan, Dhaka session, relation to Morley-Minto
- Curzon's policies: Bengal Partition + Universities Act + Ancient Monuments + Calcutta Corporation
- Revolutionary terrorism: Anushilan Samiti, Jugantar, Chapekar brothers, Khudiram Bose – parallel to Swadeshi
- India House (London): Shyamji Krishna Varma + V.D. Savarkar – overseas revolutionary movement
- Swaraj as defined in Calcutta 1906: Tilak's vs Moderate interpretation
- Lal-Bal-Pal trio: specific contributions of each
- Contemporary commemorations linked to historical events: Handloom Day format may repeat with other days

FORMATION OF CONGRESS TO SURAT SPLIT

FORMATION OF INC AND KEY SESSIONS

1. Consider the following statements: [2015]
 - 1) The first woman President of the Indian National Congress was Sarojini Naidu.
 - 2) The first Muslim President of the Indian National Congress was Badruddin Tyabji.

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
2. Where was the First Session of the Indian National Congress held in December 1885? [2008]
 - a) Ahmadabad
 - b) Bombay
 - c) Calcutta
 - d) Delhi

3. Consider the following statements: [2004]
- 1) The First Session of the Indian National Congress was held in Calcutta.
 - 2) The Second Session of the Indian National Congress was held under the presidency of Dadabhai Naoroji.
 - 3) Both Indian National Congress and Muslim League held their sessions at Lucknow in 1916 and concluded the Lucknow Pact.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 2 and 3
 - d) 3 only
4. Consider the following statements about the Indian National Congress: [2000]
- I. Sarojini Naidu was the first woman to be the President of the Congress.
 - II. C.R. Das was in prison when he functioned as the President of the Congress.
 - III. The first Britisher to become the President of the Congress was Alan Octavian Hume.
 - IV. Alfred Webb was the President of the Congress in 1894.

Which of these statements are correct?

- a) I and III
 - b) II and IV
 - c) II, III and IV
 - d) I, II, III and IV
- MODERATES: PERSONALITIES, IDEOLOGY, AND CRITIQUE**
5. Who among the following rejected the title of knighthood and refused to accept a position in the Council of the Secretary of State for India? [2008]
- a) Motilal Nehru
 - b) M.G. Ranade
 - c) G.K. Gokhale
 - d) B.G. Tilak
6. Who among the following used the phrase 'Unbritish' to criticise the English colonial control of India? [2008]
- a) Anand Mohan Bose
 - b) Badruddin Tyabji
 - c) Dadabhai Naoroji
 - d) Pherozeshah Mehta
7. Who among the following gave a systematic critique of the moderate politics of the Indian National Congress in a series of articles entitled "New Lamps for Old"? [2008]
- a) Aurobindo Ghosh
 - b) R.C. Dutt
 - c) Syed Ahmad Khan
 - d) Viraraghavachari
8. Assertion (A): The basic weakness of the early nationalist movement lay in its narrow social base: [2000]
Reason (R): It fought for the narrow interests of the social groups which joined it.
- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
 - b) Both A and R are true, but R is not a correct explanation of A
 - c) A is true, but R is false
 - d) A is false, but R is true
9. The Congress policy of pray and petition ultimately came to an end under the guidance of [1999]
- a) Aurobindo Ghosh
 - b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
 - c) Lala Lajpat Rai

- d) Mahatma Gandhi
10. "A graduate at 18, professor and associated editor of the Sudhakar at 20, Secretary of the Sarvajanik Sabha and of the Provincial Conference at 25, Secretary of the National Congress at 29, leading witness before an important Royal Commission at 31, Provincial legislator at 34, Imperial legislator at 36, President of the Indian National Congress at 39..... a patriot whom Mahatma Gandhi himself regarded as his master." This is how a biographer describes [1997]
- Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya
 - Mahadev Govind Ranade
 - Gopal Krishna Gokhale
 - Bal Gangadhar Tilak
11. Who among the following leaders did not believe in the drain theory of Dadabhai Naoroji? [1996]
- B.G. Tilak
 - R.C. Dutt
 - M.G. Ranade
 - Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

PARTITION OF BENGAL (1905) AND SWADESHI MOVEMENT

12. Consider the following statements: [2023]
- Statement-I: 7th August is declared as the National Handloom Day.
Statement-II: It was in 1905 that the Swadeshi Movement was launched on the same day.
Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Statement-I is correct Statement-II is incorrect
 - Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
13. With reference to Swadeshi Movement, consider the following statements: [2019]
- It contributed to the revival of the indigenous artisan crafts and industries.
 - The National Council of Education was established as a part of Swadeshi Movement.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
14. The 'Swadeshi' and 'Boycott' were adopted as methods of struggle for the first time during the: [2016]
- Agitation against the Partition of Bengal
 - Home Rule Movement
 - Non-Cooperation Movement
 - Visit of the Simon Commission to India
15. The Partition of Bengal made by Lord Curzon in 1905 lasted until: [2014]
- The First World War when Indian troops were needed by the British and the partition was ended.
 - King George V abrogated Curzon's Act as the Royal Durbar in Delhi in 1911
 - Gandhiji launched his Civil Disobedience Movement.
 - The Partition of India in 1947 when East Bengal became East Pakistan.
16. What was the immediate cause for the launch of the Swadeshi movement? [2010]
- The partition of Bengal done by Lord Curzon.
 - A sentence of 18 months rigorous imprisonment imposed on Lokmanya Tilak.
 - The arrest and deportation of Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh, and passing of the Punjab Colonisation Bill.

- d) Death sentence pronounced on the Chapekar brothers.
17. In the context of the Indian freedom struggle 16th October 1905 is well known for which one of the following reasons? [2009]
- a) The formal proclamation of Swadeshi Movement was made in Calcutta town hall
 - b) The partition of Bengal took effect
 - c) Dadabhai Naoroji declared that the goal of Indian National Congress was Swaraj
 - d) Lokmanya Tilak started Swadeshi Movement in Poona
18. With reference to the period of extremist nationalist movement in India with its spirit of Swadeshi, which one of the following statements is not correct? [2002]
- a) Laikat Hossain led the Muslim peasants of Barisal in their agitations
 - b) In 1898, the scheme of national education was formulated by Satish Chandra Mukherjee
 - c) The Bengal National College was founded in 1906 with Aurobindo as the Principal
 - d) Tagore preached the cult of Atmashakti, the main plank of which was social and economic regeneration of the villages

Extremists and the Surat Split (1907)

19. What was the main reason for the split in the Indian National Congress at Surat in 1907? [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
20. Which one of the following movements has contributed to a split in the Indian National Congress resulting in emergence of 'moderates' and 'extremists'? [2015]
- a) Swadeshi Movement
 - b) Quit India Movement
 - c) Non-Cooperation Movement
 - d) Civil Disobedience Movement
21. Four resolutions were passed at the famous Calcutta session of Indian National Congress in 1906. The question of either retention OR of rejection of these four resolutions became the cause of a split in Congress at the next Congress session held in Surat in 1907. Which one of the following was not one of those resolutions? [2010]
- a) Annulment of partition of Bengal
 - b) Boycott
 - c) National education
 - d) Swadeshi
22. Assertion (A): Partition of Bengal in 1905 brought to an end the Moderates' role in the Indian freedom movement: [1998]
- Reason (R): The Surat session of Indian National Congress separated the Extremists from the Moderates.
- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
 - b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT a correct explanation of A
 - c) A is true, but R is false
 - d) A is false, but R is true
23. The Indian Muslims, in general, were not attracted to the Extremist movement because of the: [1998]
- a) Influence of Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan
 - b) Anti-Muslim attitude of extremist leaders
 - c) Indifference shown to Muslim aspirations
 - d) Extremists' policy of harping on Hindu past
24. Which one of the following defines extremist ideology during the early phase of the Indian freedom movement? [1998]

- a) Stimulating the production of indigenous articles by giving them preference over imported commodities
- b) Obtaining self-government by aggressive means in place of petitions and constitutional ways
- c) Providing national education according to the requirements of the country
- d) Organising coups against the British empire through military revolt

SOCIAL REFORMS AND ORGANIZATIONS

25. During the Indian freedom struggle, the National Social Conference was formed. What was the reason for its formation? [2012]
- A) Different social reform groups or organisations of Bengal region united to form a single body to discuss the issues of larger interest and to prepare appropriate petitions/representations to the government
 - B) Indian National Congress did not want to include social reforms in its deliberations and decided to form a separate body for such a purpose
 - C) Behramji Malabari and M. G. Ranade decided to bring together all the social reform groups of the country under one organisation
 - D) None of the statements a), b) and c) given above is correct in this context
26. M.C. Setalvad, B.N. Rao and Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer were distinguished members of the: [1997]
- a) Swaraj Party
 - b) All India National Liberal Federation
 - c) Madras Labour Union
 - d) Servants of India Society
27. 'His principal forte was social and religious reform. He relied Upon legislation to do away with social ills and worked unceasingly for the eradication of child marriage, the purdah system To encourage consideration of social problems on a national scale, he inaugurated the Indian National Social Conference, which for many years met for its annual sessions alongside the Indian National Congress.' The reference in this passage is to: [1996]
- a) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
 - b) Behramji Merwanji Malabari
 - c) Mahadev Govind Ranade
 - d) B. R. Ambedkar

BRITISH POLICIES AND MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS

28. What was the purpose with which sir William Wedderburn and W.S.Caine had set up the Indian parliamentary committee in 1893? [2011]
- a) To agitate for Indian political reforms in the house of commons.
 - b) To campaign for the entry of Indians into the imperial judiciary.
 - c) To facilitate a discussion on India's independence in the British parliament.
 - d) To agitate for the entry of eminent Indians into the British parliament.
29. With reference to the Indian freedom struggle, which one of the following statements is not correct? [2002]
- a) Hakim Ajmal Khan was one of the leaders to start a nationalist and militant Ahrar movement
 - b) When the Indian National Congress was formed, Sayyid Ahmad Khan opposed it
 - c) The All-India Muslim League which was formed in 1906 vehemently opposed the partition of Bengal and separate electorates
 - d) Maulana Barkaullah and Maulana Obeidullah Sindhi were among those who formed a Provisional Government of India in Kabul
30. The native State of Tripura became involved in the Freedom Movement early in the 20th century because: [2000]
- a) The kings of Tripura were always anti-British
 - b) The Bengal revolutionaries took shelter in Tripura
 - c) The tribes of the State were fiercely freedom loving
 - d) There were already some groups fighting against the kingship and its protector, the British

31. "The Congress is tottering to its fall and one of my great ambitions while in India, is to assist it to a peaceful demise." This statement is attributed to: [1998]
- Lord Dufferin
 - Lord Curzon
 - Lord Lytton
 - None of the above

PHASE OF GANDHIAN STRUGGLE

GoI Act 1919 | Early Satyagrahas | Rowlatt & Jallianwala | NCM | CDM | RTCs | Poona Pact | Simon-Nehru
84 PYQs | 1995-2025 | 12 Themes | 100+ Micro-Topics

OVERVIEW: GANDHIAN STRUGGLE PHASE (1995-2025)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
GoI Act 1919 & Montagu-Chelmsford	9	1996-2022	VERY HIGH
Early Satyagrahas (Champaran/Ahmedabad/Kheda)	7	2000-2018	VERY HIGH
Rowlatt Act & Jallianwala Bagh	10	1996-2015	VERY HIGH
Khilafat & Non-Cooperation Movement	8	1996-2025	VERY HIGH ↑
Other Leaders/Orgs/Events	7	1999-2019	HIGH
Simon Commission & Nehru Report	6	1995-2017	HIGH
Lahore Session & Poona Swaraj	4	2005-2014	HIGH
Dandi March & CDM	6	1995-2025	VERY HIGH ↑
Gandhi-Irwin Pact & RTCs	3	1996-2020	HIGH
Karachi Session (1931)	3	2003-2010	HIGH
Communal Award & Poona Pact	4	1997-2025	HIGH ↑
Chronology, Matching & Commissions	7	1996-2004	MEDIUM

KEY INSIGHT: 30-Year Domain Analysis

- 2025 is a LANDMARK year: 4 questions from Gandhian phase, including NCM programme details and 'Sedition as religion' quote
- GoI Act 1919 tested 9 TIMES: UPSC treats it as POLITY foundation (Reserved vs Transferred = Dyarchy mechanism)
- ROWLATT ACT + JALLIANWALA BAGH = 10 Qs: the most tested British repressive action in Modern History
- NCM has SURGED in 2025: programme details, staged implementation, Chauri Chaura legal defence – deeper testing

- CHAMPARAN = Gandhi's first India Satyagraha tested 7 times: peasant-national movement linkage is the core insight
- CDM + Salt March = perennial: 'Sedition as religion' quote (2025) + Rajagopalachari's Tanjore march (2015)
- POONA PACT returned in 2025: Harijan upliftment in Gandhi's political programme – social + political convergence
- Chronological matching questions appear in EVERY decade – timeline mastery is MANDATORY

PHASE OF GANDHIAN STRUGGLE (1915–1947)

1. GoI Act 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford)

- Dyarchy mechanism (Division of Provincial subjects)
- Identification of Reserved vs. Transferred subjects
- Separate communal electorates (Pre-existing vs. 1919)
- Limitations of women's suffrage (Age/Franchise constraints)
- Devolution of legislative authority & jurisdiction

2. Early Satyagrahas

- Champaran: Peasant-national movement linkage & associates
- Ahmedabad: Textile Labour Association & mill strike dynamics
- Kheda: Revenue suspension during drought vs. permanent settlement
- Transition from local ventures to All-India politics (Rowlatt)

3. Rowlatt Act & Jallianwala Bagh

- Sedition Committee recommendations & 'Preventive Murder' concept
- Imprisonment without trial & summary procedures
- Return of titles (Knighthood) as protest
- Hunter Commission purpose and findings
- Viceroy-event association (Lord Chelmsford)

4. Khilafat & Non-Cooperation Movement (NCM)

- NCM Programme: Boycotts (courts, cloth), Panchayats, non-violence
- Staged implementation of Civil Disobedience (CD)
- Chauri Chaura legal defence (Role of Madan Mohan Malaviya)
- Outcomes: Mass movement evolution & Hindu-Muslim unity
- Surrender of titles vs. retention traps

5. Simon Commission & Nehru Report

- Butler Committee (Relationship between GoI and Indian States)
- Simon Commission boycott: Composition and reasons
- Nehru Report: Dominion Status, Joint electorates, Fundamental Rights
- Independence for India League (Opposition to Nehru Report)

6. Other Leaders & Organisations

- Abolition of Indentured Labour (Gandhi's role)
- CPI origins (M.N. Roy at Tashkent)
- Home Rule League renaming (Swarajya Sabha)
- Theosophical Society founders vs. INC Presidents

7. Lahore Session & Poorna Swaraj

- Definition of 'Poorna Swaraj' (Complete Independence)
- Authorization of Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM)
- Presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru and the 1929 resolution

8. Dandi March & Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM)

- Salt Law violation and 'Sedition as religion' philosophy
- Regional marches (Tanjore coast/C. Rajagopalachari)
- Khudai Khidmatgars (Pathan regional nationalism & Red Shirts)
- Participation patterns (Labour, Bourgeois, Women)

9. Gandhi-Irwin Pact & Round Table Conferences (RTCs)

- Pact provisions: Ordinance withdrawal, prisoner release, police excess enquiry
- Structure of Round Table Conferences (One conference, three sessions)
- INC attendance and FR Resolution drafting

10. Karachi Session 1931

- Fundamental Rights and Economic Programme resolutions
- Endorsement of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact

11. Communal Award & Poona Pact

- Separate vs. Joint electorates with reservation
- Gandhi's 1932 fast and Ramsay Macdonald's award
- Harijan upliftment and social vs. political programs

12. Chronology & Commissions

- Temporal ordering of Viceroys (Curzon to Irwin)
- Sequence of national events (1905-1935)
- Commission matching (Hartog=Education, Butler=States, Muddiman=Dyarchy)

PYQ TREND MAP

Top 10 Most Tested Micro-Topics

- 1. Rowlatt Act: imprisonment without trial (10 Qs)
- 2. GoI Act 1919: Reserved vs Transferred + Dyarchy (9 Qs)
- 3. NCM: programme, outcomes, Chauri Chaura withdrawal (8 Qs)

- 4. Champaran: significance, associates, first Satyagraha (7 Qs)
- 5. CDM + Salt March: Dandi, regional marches, quotes (6 Qs)
- 6. Simon Commission + Nehru Report: boycott reason, recommendations (6 Qs)
- 7. Poona Pact + Communal Award: provisions, Gandhi's fast (4 Qs)
- 8. Lahore 1929: Poorna Swaraj, presidency, CDM authorisation (4 Qs)
- 9. Chronological ordering of events (7 Qs)
- 10. Gandhi-Irwin Pact + Karachi Session: provisions, FR Resolution (6 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- NCM PROGRAMME DETAILS: 2025 tested specific clauses (courts boycott, Panchayats, staged implementation) – DEEPENING trend
- CDM REGIONAL DIMENSIONS: only Rajagopalachari's Tanjore march tested so far – Peshawar, Dharasana, Midnapore unasked
- QUOTATION-BASED testing: 'Sedition is my religion' (2025) signals a NEW format – expect more Gandhi/Nehru/Patel quotes
- Poona Pact AFTERMATH: 2025 tested Harijan upliftment inclusion – Gandhi's post-1932 social programme is EMERGING
- SWARAJ PARTY (1923): C.R. Das + Motilal Nehru + council entry strategy – ZERO direct questions so far
- GoI Act 1935: provincial autonomy, federal scheme, All-India Federation – the NEXT constitutional evolution step, barely tested
- REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT parallel: HSRA, Kakori, Lahore Conspiracy, Bhagat Singh – appears in other domains but convergence here rising
- WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION in CDM: Sarojini Naidu at Dharasana, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Aruna Asaf Ali – gender dimension emerging
- LABOUR MOVEMENTS: Bombay textile strikes, TU Act 1926, Meerut Conspiracy Case – labour-nationalism convergence
- PEASANT MOVEMENTS beyond Champaran: Eka Movement, Mappila Revolt, Tebhaga – agrarian dimension of Gandhian phase

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: GANDHIAN ESCALATION TRAJECTORY – Champaran (local, 1917) → Rowlatt (national, 1919) → NCM (mass, 1920) → CDM (confrontational, 1930) → QIM (revolutionary, 1942)
- CLUSTER 2: CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION – GoI 1909 → GoI 1919 (Dyarchy) → Simon Commission → Nehru Report → GoI 1935 (Provincial Autonomy) = governance narrative parallel to struggle
- CLUSTER 3: GANDHI'S SOCIAL PROGRAMME – Champaran (peasant welfare) → Kheda (agrarian justice) → NCM (constructive programme) → Poona Pact (Harijan upliftment) → Temple Entry → Basic Education
- CLUSTER 4: VICEROY-EVENT MAPPING – Chelmsford (1916-21: Rowlatt, GoI 1919, Jallianwala, NCM launch); Reading (1921-26: NCM withdrawal, Swaraj Party); Irwin (1926-31: Simon, CDM, Pact); Willingdon (1931-36: CDM suppression, Communal Award, GoI 1935)
- CLUSTER 5: REGIONAL SATYAGRAHA MAP – Bihar (Champaran), Gujarat (Kheda, Bardoli, Dandi), Tamil Nadu (Rajagopalachari), NWFP (Khudai Khidmatgars), Bengal (peasant-student), Maharashtra (Bombay workers)
- CLUSTER 6: COMMUNAL POLITICS THREAD – Lucknow Pact (1916) → Khilafat-NCM unity (1920-22) → Post-NCM riots → Nehru Report vs Jinnah's 14 Points → Communal Award → Poona Pact = Hindu-Muslim-Dalit triangle
- CLUSTER 7: GANDHI'S QUOTATION BANK – 'Sedition is my religion' (Dandi), 'Do or Die' (QIM), 'Post-dated cheque on a failing bank' (Cripps), 'Himalayan miscalculation' (Rowlatt), 'Half-naked fakir' (Churchill)

- CLUSTER 8: COMMISSION-COMMITTEE NETWORK – Hunter (Jallianwala), Muddiman (Dyarchy), Hurtog (Education), Butler (Indian States), Simon (Constitutional), Whitley (Labour) – each with specific focus

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- The Gandhian phase is UPSC's CORE MODERN HISTORY domain: 84 questions reflect its centrality to Indian governance consciousness
- GoI Act 1919's Dyarchy = the TEMPLATE for understanding Indian federalism – Reserved/Transferred is tested as constitutional MECHANISM
- CHAMPARAN's 7 appearances show UPSC treats it as the FOUNDATIONAL moment of mass nationalism in India
- Rowlatt Act = arbitrary detention without trial: UPSC tests this as a FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS issue, not just historical event
- 2025 NCM depth (programme clauses, staged implementation, Chauri Chaura defence) signals UPSC wants OPERATIONAL DETAIL not just narrative
- Poona Pact's 2025 return signals SOCIAL JUSTICE HISTORY as a growing priority – Harijan upliftment in Gandhi's programme
- 'Sedition as religion' (2025) = QUOTATION-BASED testing: aspirants must know WHO said WHAT in which CONTEXT
- Nehru Report recommending Dominion Status (NOT Complete Independence) tests whether aspirants READ PRECISELY
- Chronological matching tests TEMPORAL FRAMEWORK: can aspirants order 20+ events correctly across 1905-1935?
- Each Viceroy = a cluster of events/acts: Chelmsford (Rowlatt + 1919 Act + Jallianwala), Irwin (Simon + CDM + Pact)

The Hidden Syllabus

- CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION: GoI 1919 → Simon → Nehru Report → GoI 1935 = a GOVERNANCE NARRATIVE that parallels the freedom struggle
- GANDHIAN METHOD: Champaran (local) → Rowlatt (national) → NCM (mass) → CDM (confrontational) = ESCALATION TRAJECTORY
- PROGRAMME DETAILS: UPSC tests WHAT was in NCM/CDM programmes, not just WHEN they happened
- SOCIAL DIMENSIONS: Poona Pact, Harijan upliftment, Khudai Khidmatgars, labour participation = social history within political
- REGIONAL PARTICIPATION: Rajagopalachari's Tanjore march, Patel's Bardoli/Kheda, Champaran's Bihar = decentralised resistance
- QUOTATION AWARENESS: 'Sedition is my religion', 'Preventive Murder', 'Un-British' = a vocabulary of resistance

Top Conceptual Traps

- Local Self-Government = TRANSFERRED (not Reserved) under Dyarchy
- Separate communal electorates = 1909 (NOT introduced by 1919 Act)
- Annie Besant = NOT founder of Theosophical Society (Blavatsky/Olcott founded it)
- Raj Kumar Shukla (not Rajendra Prasad) brought Gandhi to Champaran
- NCM: titles to be SURRENDERED (not retained without using)

- Nehru Report = DOMINION STATUS (not Complete Independence)
- Karachi 1931 ENDORSED Gandhi-Irwin Pact (not opposed)
- Gandhi-Irwin: NO enquiry into police excesses was agreed
- Poona Pact = JOINT electorate with reservation (not separate electorates)
- RTCs = THREE SESSIONS of one conference (not three separate conferences)
- First Satyagraha in India = Champaran; first all-India venture = Rowlatt – DIFFERENT
- Maulana Ali/Azad's 1916 resignation was BEFORE Rowlatt 1919 – anachronism trap
- GoI 1919 = most short-lived experiment (Dyarchy lasted ~16 years)

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Micro-Topic	Source	Freq
1	GoI Act 1919: Dyarchy, Reserved/Transferred	Laxmikanth + Spectrum	9 Qs
2	Rowlatt + Jallianwala: provisions, aftermath	Spectrum + NCERT	10 Qs
3	NCM: programme, outcomes, Chauri Chaura	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	8 Qs (†)
4	Champaran: significance, associates, chronology	Spectrum + NCERT	7 Qs
5	CDM + Salt March: regional, quotes, Khudai Khidmatgars	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	6 Qs (†)
6	Simon Commission + Nehru Report	Spectrum + Laxmikanth	6 Qs
7	Chronological ordering across 1905-1935	Self-prepared master timeline	7 Qs
8	Poona Pact + Communal Award + RTC	Spectrum + Laxmikanth	4 Qs (†)
9	Lahore 1929 + Karachi 1931	Spectrum	7 Qs
10	Leaders/Orgs: M.N. Roy, Besant, Hasrat Mohani	Spectrum + compilations	7 Qs

HIGH PROBABILITY FOR 2026 PRELIMS

- GoI Act 1935: provincial autonomy, federal scheme, All-India Federation – NEXT in constitutional evolution
- NCM programme DEEPER: specific boycotts, constructive programme, national schools
- CDM regional dimensions: Tamil Nadu, NWFP, Gujarat, Maharashtra – specific leaders and marches
- Poona Pact aftermath: Gandhi's Harijan movement, temple entry, journals (Harijan newspaper)
- Simon Commission SPECIFIC recommendations: abolish dyarchy, responsible govt in provinces
- Round Table Conferences: who attended which, key outcomes, Ambedkar's role
- Swaraj Party (1923): C.R. Das + Motilal Nehru + council entry strategy
- Revolutionary movements: HSRA, Kakori conspiracy, Lahore conspiracy case – parallel to Gandhian
- Working-class participation: Bombay textile strikes, TU Act 1926, Meerut conspiracy

PHASE OF GANDHIAN STRUGGLE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT 1919 (MONTAGU-CHELMSFORD REFORMS)

1. In the Government of India Act 1919, the functions of Provincial Government were divided into “Reserved” and “Transferred” subjects. Which of the following Were treated as “Reserved” subjects? [2022]
 - 1) Administration of Justice
 - 2) Local Self-Government
 - 3) Land Revenue
 - 4) PoliceSelect the correct answer using the code given below:
 - a) 1, 2 and 3
 - b) 2, 3 and 4
 - c) 1, 3 and 4
 - d) 1, 2 and 4
2. Consider the following statements: [2021]
 - 1) The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 recommended granting voting rights to all the women above the age of 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
3. In the context of Indian history, the principle of 'Dyarchy (diarchy)' refers to: [2017]
 - a) Division of the central legislature into two houses.
 - b) Introduction of double government i.e., Central and State governments.
 - c) Having two sets of rulers; one in London and another in Delhi.
 - d) Division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories.
4. The Montague-Chelmsford Proposals were related to: [2016]
 - a) Social reforms
 - b) Educational reforms
 - c) Reforms in police administration
 - d) Constitutional reforms
5. The Government of India Act of 1919 clearly defined: [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
6. Which of the following is/are the principal feature(s) of the Government of India Act, 1919? [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 provincesSelect the correct answer using the codes given below:
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only

- d) 1, 2 & 3
7. The Montague-Chelmsford Report formed the basis of: [2004]
- The Indian Councils Act, 1909
 - The Government of India Act, 1919
 - The Government of India Act, 1935
 - The Indian Independence Act, 1947
8. When Congress leaders condemned the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, many moderates left party to form the: [2003]
- Swarajya Party
 - Indian Freedom Party
 - Independence Federation of India
 - Indian Liberal Federation
9. Match List I (Person) with List II (Event) and select the correct answer: [2002]
(From provided List I & II)
- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| A. MacDonald | - 2. Communal Award |
| B. Linlithgow | - 3. August Offer |
| C. Dalhousie | - 1. Doctrine of Lapse |
| D. Chelmsford | - 4. Dyarchy |
- EARLY SATYAGRAHAS (CHAMPARAN, AHMEDABAD, KHEDA)**
10. Which one of the following is a very significant aspect of the Champaran Satyagraha? [2018]
- Active all-India participation of lawyers, students and women in the National Movement
 - Active involvement of Dalit and Tribal communities of India in the National Movement
 - Joining of peasant unrest to India's National Movement
 - Drastic decrease in the cultivation of plantation crops and commercial crops
11. What was the reason for Mahatma Gandhi to organise a satyagraha on behalf of the peasants of Kheda? [2011]
- The administration did not suspend the land revenue collection in spite of a drought.
 - The administration proposed to introduce permanent settlement in Gujarat.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
12. Consider the following statements: [2010]
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad persuaded Mahatma Gandhi to come in Champaran to investigate the problem of peasants.
 - Acharya J. B. Kriplani was one of the Mahatma Gandhi's colleagues in his Champaran investigation.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
13. Who of the following founded the Ahmedabad Textile Labour association? [2009]
- Mahatma Gandhi
 - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
 - N. M. Joshi
 - J. B. Kriplani
14. At which one of the following place, did Mahatma Gandhi first start his Satyagraha in India? [2007]
- Ahmedabad

- b) Bardoli
c) Champaran
d) Kheda
15. Which pairs are correctly matched? Movement/Satyagraha - Person Actively Associated with: [2005]
- 1) Champaran - Rajendra Prasad
 - 2) Ahmedabad Mill Workers - Morarji Desai
 - 3) Kheda - Vallabhbhai Patel
- Select the correct answer:
- a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2 and 3
 - c) 1 and 3
 - d) 1, 2 and 3

16. After returning from South Africa, Gandhiji launched his first successful Satyagraha in: [2000]
- a) Chauri-Chaura
 - b) Dandi
 - c) Champaran
 - d) Bardoli

ROWLATT ACT AND JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE

17. With reference to Rowlatt Satyagraha, which of the following statements is/are correct? [2015]
- 1) The Rowlatt Act was based on the recommendations of the 'Sedition Committee'
 - 2) In Rowlatt Satyagraha Gandhiji tried to use the Home Rule League
 - 3) Demonstrations against the Simon Commission coincided with the Rowlatt Satyagraha

Select the correct answer:

- a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 2 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
18. The Rowlatt Act aimed at: [2012]
- a) Compulsory economic support to war efforts
 - b) Imprisonment without trial and summary procedures for trial
 - c) Suppression of the Khilafat Movement
 - d) Imposition of restrictions on freedom of the press
19. During the Indian Freedom Struggle, why did Rowlatt act arouse popular indignation? [2009]
- a) It curtailed the freedom of religion
 - b) It suppressed the Indian traditional education
 - c) It authorized the government to imprison people without trial
 - d) It curbed the trade union activities
20. Who was the Viceroy of India when the Rowlatt Act was Passed? [2008]
- a) Lord Irwin
 - b) Lord Reading
 - c) Lord Chelmsford
 - d) Lord Wavell
21. Which one of the following aroused a wave of popular indignation that led to the massacre by the British at Jallianwala Bagh? [2007]
- a) The arms Act
 - b) The Public Safety Act
 - c) The Rowlatt Act
 - d) The Vernacular Press Act

22. The name of the famous person of India who returned the Knighthood conferred on him by the British Government as a token of protest against the atrocities in Punjab in 1919 was: [2004]
- Tej Bahadur Sapru
 - Ashutosh Mukherjee
 - Rabindra Nath Tagore
 - Syed Ahmad Khan
23. Assertion (A): In 1916, Maulana Mohammad Ali and Abul Kalam Azad resigned from the Legislative Council. [2003]
- Reason (R): The Rowlatt Act was passed by the government in spite of being opposed by all Indian members of the Legislative Council.
- Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A
 - Both A and R are individually true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A
 - A is true but R is false
 - A is false but R is true
24. The Hunter Commission was appointed after the: [2001]
- Black hole incident
 - Jalianwalla Bagh massacre
 - Uprising of 1857
 - Partition of Bengal
25. Which one of the following events, was characterised by Montague as 'Preventive Murder'? [1998]
- Killing of INA activists
 - Massacre of Jallianwalla Bagh
 - Shooting of the Mahatma
 - Shooting of Curzon-Wythe
26. The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crime Act (1919) was popularly known as the: [1996]
- Rowlatt Act
 - Pitt's India Act
 - Indian Arms Act
 - Ilbert Bill

KHILAFAT AND NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT (NCM)

27. Consider the following subjects with regard to Non-Cooperation Programme: [2025]
- Boycott of law-courts and foreign cloth
 - Observance of strict non-violence
 - Retention of titles and honours without using them in public
 - Establishment of Panchayats for settling disputes
- How many of the above were parts of Non-Cooperation Programme?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - Only three
 - All the four
28. Consider the following statements in respect of the Non-Cooperation Movement: [2025]
- The Congress declared the attainment of 'Swaraj' by all legitimate and peaceful means to be its objective.
 - It was to be implemented in stages with civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes for the next stage only if 'Swaraj' did not come within a year and the Government resorted to repression.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II

- d) Neither I nor II
29. Who provided legal defence to the people arrested in the aftermath of Chauri Chaura incident? [2025]
- C. R. Das
 - Madan Mohan Malaviya and Krishna Kant
 - Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Khwaja Hasan Nizami
 - M. A. Jinnah
30. Who among the following leaders proposed to adopt Complete Independence as the goal of the Congress in the Ahmedabad session of 1920? [2001]
- Abul Kalam Azad
 - Hasrat Mohani
 - Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
31. Assertion (A): The Khilafat movement did bring the urban Muslims into the fold of the National Movement. [1998]
- Reason (R): There was a predominant element of anti-imperialism in both the National and Khilafat Movements.
- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
 - Both A and R are true, but R is NOT a correct explanation of A
 - A is true, but R is false
 - A is false, but R is true
32. Assertion (A): Gandhi stopped the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1922. [1998]
- Reason (R): Violence at Chauri-Chaura led him to stop the movement.
- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
 - Both A and R are true, but R is NOT a correct explanation of A
 - A is true, but R is false
 - A is false, but R is true
33. Consider the following statements: The Non-Cooperation Movement led to the: [1996]
- Congress becoming a mass movement for the first time.
 - Growth of Hindu-Muslim unity.
 - Removal of fear of the British 'might' from the minds of the people.
 - British government's willingness to grant political concessions to Indians.
- Of these statements:
- I, II, III and IV are correct
 - I, II and III are correct
 - I and III are correct
 - III and IV are correct
34. The Sarabandi (no tax) campaign of 1922 was led by: [1996]
- Bhagat Singh
 - Chittaranjan Das
 - Rajaguru
 - Vallabhbhai Patel

OTHER EVENTS, LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

35. With reference to the British colonial rule in India, consider the following statements: [2019]
- Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of 'indentured labour'
 - In Lord Chelmsford's 'War Conference', Mahatma Gandhi did not support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
 - Consequent upon the breaking of Salt Law by Indian people, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the colonial rulers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
36. In 1920, which of the following changed its name to "Swarajya Sabha"? [2018]
- a) All India Home Rule League
 - b) Hindu Mahasabha
 - c) South Indian Liberal Federation
 - d) The Servants of India Society
37. Who amongst the following followers of Gandhi was a teacher by Profession? [2008]
- a) A.N. Sinha
 - b) Braj Kishore Prasad
 - c) J.B. Kriplani
 - d) Rajendra Prasad
38. In October 1920, who of the following headed a group of Indians gathered at Tashkent to set up a Communist Party of India? [2005]
- a) H. K. Sarkar
 - b) P. C. Joshi
 - c) M.C. Chagla
 - d) M. N. Roy
39. Who among the following was not associated with the formation of U.P. Kisan Sabha in February 1918? [2005]
- a) Indra Narain Dwivedi
 - b) Gauri Shankar Misra
 - c) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - d) Madan Mohan Malaviya
40. During the Indian Freedom Struggle, who among the following proposed that Swaraj should be defined as complete independence free from all foreign control? [2004]
- a) Mazharul Haque
 - b) Maulana Hasrat Mohani
 - c) Hakim Ajmal Khan
 - d) Abul Kalam Azad
41. The first venture of Gandhi in all-India politics was the: [1999]
- a) Non-Cooperation Movement
 - b) Rowlatt Satyagraha
 - c) Champaran Movement
 - d) Dandi March

CHRONOLOGY AND VICEROY TENURE

42. Consider the following Viceroys of India during the British rule: [2004]
- 1) Lord Curzon
 - 2) Lord Chelmsford
 - 3) Lord Hardinge
 - 4) Lord Irwin

Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of their tenure?

- a) 1-3-2-4
- b) 2-4-1-3
- c) 1-4-2-3
- d) 2-3-1-4

43. Consider the following events during India's freedom struggle: [2004]
- 1) Chauri-Chaura Outrage
 - 2) Minto-Morley Reforms
 - 3) Dandi March
 - 4) Montague-Chelmsford Reforms
- Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the events?

- a) 1-3-2-4
- b) 2-4-1-3
- c) 1-4-2-3
- d) 2-3-1-4

44. What is the correct sequence of the following events? [1995]

- I. The Lucknow Pact
- II. The Introduction of Dyarchy
- III. The Rowlatt Act
- IV. The Partition of Bengal

Choose the correct answer from the codes below:

- a) I, III, II, IV
- b) IV, I, III, II
- c) I, II, III, IV
- d) IV, III, II, I

PERSONALITIES AND IDEOLOGIES

45. Annie Besant was: [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

46. Who among the following was a proponent of Fabianism as a movement? [2005]

- a) Annie Besant
- b) A. O. Hume
- c) Michael Madhusudan Dutt
- d) R. Palme Dutt

Significant Incidents and Movements

47. What was Komagata Maru? [2005]

- a) A political party based in Taiwan
- b) Peasant communist leader of China
- c) A naval ship on voyage to Canada
- d) A Chinese village where Mao Tse Tung began his Long march

48. What is the correct sequence of the following events? [1998]

- I. Tilak's Home Rule League
- II. Komagata Maru Incident
- III. Mahatma Gandhi's arrival in India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) I, II, III
- b) III, II, I

c) II, I, III

d) II, III, I

POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL ACTS

49. A London branch of the All -India Muslim League was established in 1908 under the presidency of: [2001]

a) Agha Khan

b) Ameer Ali

c) Liaquat Ali Khan

d) M.A. Jinnah

50. The most short-lived of all of Britain's constitutional experiments in India was the: [1999]

a) Indian Councils Act of 1861

b) Indian Councils Act of 1892

c) Indian Councils Act of 1909

d) Government of India Act of 1919

(World War Context)

51. Which one of the following was used as a chemical weapon in the First World War? [1997]

a) Carbon monoxide

b) Hydrogen cyanide

c) Mustard gas

d) Water gas

SIMON COMMISSION & NEHRU REPORT (1927-1928)

52. The object of the Butler Committee of 1927 was to? [2017]

a) Define the jurisdiction of the Central and Provincial Governments.

b) Define the powers of the Secretary of State for India.

c) Impose censorship on national press.

d) Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States.

53. The people of India agitated against the arrival of the Simon commission because? [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

54. With reference to the period of Indian freedom struggle, which of the following was/were recommended by the Nehru report? [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

55. With reference to the Simon Commission's recommendations, which one of the following statements is correct? [2010]

a) It recommended the replacement of diarchy with responsible government in the province.

b) It proposed the setting up of inter-provincial council under the Home Department.

c) It suggested the abolition of bicameral legislature at the Centre.

d) It recommended the creation of Indian Police Service with a provision for increased pay and allowances for British recruits and compared to Indian recruits.

56. Simon Commission of 1927 was boycotted because: [1998]

- a) There was no Indian Member in the Commission
 - b) It supported the Muslim League
 - c) Congress felt that the people of India are entitled to Swaraj
 - d) There were differences among the members
57. The radical wing of the Congress Party, with Jawaharlal Nehru as one of its main leaders, founded the 'Independence for India League' in opposition to: [1995]
- a) Gandhi-Irwin Pact
 - b) Home Rule Movement
 - c) Nehru Report
 - d) Montford Reforms

LAHORE SESSION & POORNA SWARAJ (1929)

58. The 1929 Session of Indian National Congress is on significance in the history of the Freedom Movement because the: [2014]
- a) Attainment of Self-Government was declared as the objective of the Congress.
 - 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.
59. The Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress (1929) is very important in history, because: [2012]
- 1) The Congress passed a resolution demanding complete independence
 - 2) The rift between the extremists and moderates was resolved in that Session
 - 3) A resolution was passed rejecting the two-nation theory in that Session
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 Only
 - b) 2 & 3
 - c) 1 & 3
 - d) None of the above
60. Under whose presidency was the Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress held in the year 1929 wherein a resolution was adopted to gain complete independence from the British? [2006]
- a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
 - b) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
 - c) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - d) Motilal Nehru

61. At which Congress Session was the Working Committee authorised to launch a programme of Civil Disobedience? [2005]
- a) Bombay
 - b) Lahore
 - c) Lucknow
 - d) Tripuri

DANDI MARCH & CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT (CDM)

62. 'Sedition has become my religion' was the famous statement given by Gandhiji at the time of: [2025]
- a) the Champaran Satyagraha
 - b) publicly violating Salt Law at Dandi
 - c) attending the Second Round Table Conference in London
 - d) the launch of the Quit India Movement
63. Who of the following organized a march on the Tanjore coast to break the Salt Law in April 1930? [2015]
- a) V.O. Chidambaram Pillai
 - b) C. Rajagopalachari
 - c) K. Kamaraj

- d) Annie Besant
64. One of the following began with the Dandi March? [2009]
- Home Rule Movement
 - Non-Cooperation Movement
 - Civil Disobedience Movement
 - Quit India Movement
65. During the Indian freedom struggle, the Khudai Khidmatgars, also known as Red Shirts, called for: [2002]
- The Union of Pashtun tribal areas in north-west with the Afghanistan
 - The adoption of terrorist tactics and methods for terrorising and finally ousting the colonial rulers
 - The adoption of communist revolutionary ideology for political and social reform
 - The Pathan regional nationalist unity and a struggle against colonialism
66. Assertion (A): The effect of labour participation in the Indian nationalist upsurge of the early 1930s was weak. [2002]
- Reason (R): The labour leaders considered the ideology of Indian National Congress as bourgeois and reactionary.
- Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A
 - Both A and R are individually true but R is not a correct explanation of A
 - A is true but R is false
 - A is false but R is true
67. In 1930 Mahatma Gandhi started Civil Disobedience Movement from: [1995]
- Sevagram
 - Dandi
 - Sabarmati
 - Wardha

GANDHI-IRWIN PACT & ROUND TABLE CONFERENCES

68. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact included which of the following? [2020]
- Invitation to Congress to participate in the Round Table Conference
 - Withdrawal of Ordinances promulgated in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement
 - Acceptance of Gandhiji's suggestion for enquiry into police excesses
 - Release of only those prisoners who were not charged with violence
- Select the answer using the code given below:
- 1 only
 - 1, 2 and 4 only
 - 3 only
 - 2, 3 and 4 only
69. With reference to the British colonial rule in India, consider the following statements: [2019]
- Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of 'indentured labour'
 - In Lord Chelmsford's 'War Conference', Mahatma Gandhi did not support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
 - Consequent upon the breaking of Salt Law by Indian people, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the colonial rulers.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3

70. The meeting of Indian and British political leaders during 1930-32 in London has often been referred to as the First, Second and Third Round Table Conferences. It would be incorrect to refer to them as such because: [1996]
- The Indian National Congress did not take part in two of them
 - Indian parties other than the Indian National Congress participating in the Conference represented sectional interests and not the whole of India
 - The British Labour Party had withdrawn from the Conference, thereby making the proceedings of the Conference partisan
 - It was an instance of Conference held in three sessions and not that of three separate conferences

KARACHI SESSION (1931)

71. For the Karachi session of Indian National Congress in 1931, presided over by Sardar Patel, who drafted the Resolution on Fundamental Rights and Economic Programme? [2010]
- Mahatma Gandhi
 - Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
72. Who among the following drafted the resolution of fundamental rights for the Karachi Session of Congress in 1931? [2005]
- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
 - Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
73. With reference to Indian freedom struggle, which one of the following statements is NOT correct? [2003]
- The Rowlatt Act aroused a wave of popular indignation and led to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre
 - Subhash Chandra Bose formed the Forward Bloc
 - Bhagat Singh was one of the founders of Hindustan Republican Socialist Association
 - In 1931, the Congress Session at Karachi opposed Gandhi-Irwin pact

COMMUNAL AWARD & POONA PACT (1932)

74. Subsequent to which one of the following events, Gandhiji, who consistently opposed untouchability and appealed for its eradication from all spheres, decided to include the upliftment of 'Harijans' in his political and social programme? [2025]
- The Poona Pact
 - The Gandhi-Irwin Agreement (Delhi Pact)
 - Arrest of Congress leadership at the time of the Quit India Movement
 - Promulgation of the Government of India Act, 1935
75. Mahatma Gandhi undertook fast unto death in 1932, mainly because: [2012]
- Round Table Conference failed to satisfy Indian political aspirations
 - Congress and Muslim League had differences of opinion
 - Ramsay Macdonald announced the Communal Award
 - None of the statements a), b) and c) given above is correct in this context
76. Consider the following statements: [2005]
- In the First Round Table Conference, Dr. Ambedkar demanded separate electorates for the depressed classes.
 - In the Poona Act, special provisions for representation of the depressed people in the local bodies and civil services were made.
 - The Indian National Congress did not take part in the Third Round Table Conference.
- Which of the statements is/are correct?
- 1 and 2

- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

77. The Poona Pact which was signed between the British Government and Mahatma Gandhi in 1932 provided for: [1997]
- a) The creation of dominion status for India
 - b) Separate electorates for the Muslims
 - c) Separate electorate for the Harijans
 - d) Joint electorate with reservation for Harijans

LABOR, ORGANIZATIONS & COMMISSIONS

78. The Trade Disputes Act of 1929 provided for: [2017]
- a) The participation of workers in the management of industries.
 - b) Arbitrary powers to the management to quell industrial disputes.
 - c) An intervention by the British Court in the event of a trade dispute.
 - d) A system of tribunals and a ban on strikes.
79. The leader of the Bardoli Satyagraha (1928) was: [2003]
- a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
 - b) Mahatma Gandhi
 - c) Vithalbhai J Patel
 - d) Mahadev Desai
80. During the colonial period in India, what was the purpose of the Whitley Commission? [2003]
- a) To review the fitness of India for further political reforms
 - b) To report on the existing conditions of labour and to make recommendations
 - c) To draw up a plan for financial reforms for India
 - d) To develop a comprehensive scheme for Civil Services in India

MIXED CHRONOLOGY & EVENTS

81. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists: [1997]
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| List I (Committees/Reports) | List II (Focus/Result) |
| I. Butler Committee | A) Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Report |
| II. Hurlog Committee Report | B) Relationship between the Indian States and Paramount Power |
| III. Hunter Inquiry Committee Report | C) Working of Dyarchy as laid down in the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms |
| IV. Muddiman Committee Report | D) The growth of education in British India and potentialities of its further progress |
- Codes:
- a) I-C, II-B, III-A, IV-D
 - b) I-A, II-D, III-B, IV-C
 - c) I-B, II-A, III-C, IV-D
 - d) I-B, II-D, III-A, IV-C
82. Match List I (Events) with List II (Results) and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists: [1997]
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| List I (Events) | List II (Results) |
| I. Morley-Minto Reforms | A) Country-wide agitation |
| II. Simon Commission | B) Withdrawal of a movement |
| III. The Chauri-Chaura incident | C) Communal Electorates |
| IV. The Dandi March | D) Communal outbreaks |
| E) Illegal manufacture of salt | |
- Codes:

- a) I-C, II-D, III-E, IV-B
- b) I-D, II-A, III-B, IV-C
- c) I-B, II-C, III-D, IV-E
- d) I-C, II-A, III-B, IV-E

83. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the Lists: [1997]

List I List II

- I. Surat Split A) 1929
- II. Communal Award B) 1928
- III. All-Party Convention C) 1932
- IV Poorna Swaraj Resolution D) 1907
- E) 1905

Codes:

- a) I-D, II-C, III-A, IV-E
- b) I-D, II-C, III-B, IV-A
- c) I-B, II-E, III-D, IV-A
- d) I-A, II-D, III-E, IV-C

84. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists: [1996]

List I (Period) List II (Event)

- I. 1883 A) Announcement of Communal Award from Whitehall
- II. 1906 B) Formation of the All-India State Peoples Conference
- III. 1927 C) Foundation of Muslim League at Dacca
- IV. 1932 D) First session of National Conference at Calcutta

Codes:

- a) I-D, II-C, III-A, IV-B
- b) I-C, II-D, III-A, IV-B
- c) I-D, II-C, III-B, IV-A
- d) I-C, II-D, III-B, IV-A

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1933–1939

GoI Act 1935 | Congress Socialist Party | 1937 Elections | 1939 Resignations | Forward Bloc
 17 PYQs | 1996–2024 | 5 Themes | 30+ Micro-Topics

OVERVIEW: SIGNIFICANT EVENTS 1933–1939 (1996–2024)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
GoI Act 1935: Features & Provisions	8	2000–2024	VERY HIGH
Left Movement & Congress Socialist Party	3	1996–2015	HIGH
1937 Elections & 1939 Resignations	3	2005–2012	HIGH

Women's Rights & Suffrage	1	2021	MEDIUM ↑
Personalities & Organizations	2	2001-2005	MEDIUM

KEY INSIGHT: Domain Pattern

- GoI Act 1935 accounts for 47% of all questions in this period – effectively a CONSTITUTIONAL LAW topic within History
- All-India Federation provision tested 3 TIMES (2005, 2009, 2024) – the most repeated GoI 1935 fact
- Residuary powers to GOVERNOR GENERAL (not federal legislature) = the KEY constitutional trap
- British intent behind including princely states in Federation = COUNTER-BALANCE against nationalists
- Congress Ministries' 1939 resignation: because Viceroy declared war WITHOUT consulting Indian leaders – not other reasons
- Congress Socialist Party questions test ideological PRECISION: what they advocated vs what they did NOT

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS (1933–1939)

1. GoI Act 1935: Features & Provisions

- All-India Federation (Union of British provinces + princely states)
- Distribution of powers (Federal, Provincial, and Concurrent lists)
- Residuary powers (Governor General vs. Federal Legislature)
- Directional shift of Dyarchy (Abolished in provinces, introduced at Centre)
- Provincial Autonomy and the role of the Federal Court
- Reserved subjects: Defence and Foreign Affairs (Governor General control)
- Bicameralism at the Centre and Governor's reserve powers
- Expansion of communal electorates (Sikhs, Europeans, Indian Christians)

2. Left Movement & Congress Socialist Party (CSP)

- Ideological precision: Democratic Socialism vs. Communism/Mainstream INC
- Economic politics: The Bombay Manifesto 1936 (Capitalist opposition)
- Prominent CSP leadership (Acharya Narendra Dev, Jayaprakash Narayan)
- CSP vs. Radical Humanism (M.N. Roy) and Left-wing differentiation
- Stance on separate electorates and mass social support

3. 1937 Elections & 1939 Resignations

- Provincial politics: Congress ministries in 7 provinces vs. Unionist Party (Punjab)
- Constitutional process: Resignation over WWII declaration without consent
- Congress-League relations (1937-39) and the 'Day of Deliverance'
- Regional political diversity and the inability to form ministries in all provinces

4. Women's Rights & Suffrage

- Evolution of women's voting rights (1919 Act vs. 1935 Act)

- Transition from limited property/education franchise to Reserved Seats
- Comparative suffrage status in the pre-independence era

5. Personalities & Organisations

- Subhash Chandra Bose's career trajectory (Tripuri Crisis → Forward Bloc → INA)
- All-India States' Peoples' Conference 1939 (Role of Jawaharlal Nehru)
- Princely States' dimension: Praja Mandals and political movements in states

6. Agrarian & Labour Movements (1930s)

- Kisan Sabha movement 1936 (Swami Sahajanand Saraswati)
- Trade Union splits: AITUC vs. AITUF and communist-socialist rivalry
- Peasant-Congress relationship and agrarian demands

7. WWII as Political Catalyst

- Transition from 1939 resignation to Individual Satyagraha (1940)
- Impact of war on constitutional evolution (August Offer/Cripps Mission)

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked Micro-Topics

- GoI Act 1935: All-India Federation provision (3 Qs – #1)
- GoI Act 1935: features – provincial autonomy, Federal Court, Dyarchy shift (5 Qs)
- GoI Act 1935: residuary powers + distribution of powers basis (2 Qs)
- 1939 Congress resignation: war declaration context (2 Qs)
- CSP: ideological precision + Bombay Manifesto (2 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- GoI Act 1935 SPECIFIC provisions: three lists, bicameralism, Federal Railway Authority – POLITY-detail testing likely
- 1937 election results: which party won where, Congress's provincial reach – ONLY Punjab tested so far
- Congress-League relations 1937-39: Jinnah's 'parting of ways', Day of Deliverance – communal politics deepening
- Kisan Sabha movement 1936: All India Kisan Sabha under Swami Sahajanand Saraswati – agrarian politics
- Trade Union splits: AITUC vs AITUF, communist-socialist rivalry within labour
- Princely States' people's movements: Praja Mandals, Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore – EMERGING
- Women's participation in 1930s: suffrage demands, Provincial Council membership – gender history
- Subhash Bose's Tripuri Crisis (1939): election vs Gandhi's candidate Pattabhi Sitaramayya – Congress internal politics

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: GoI ACT 1935 AS CONSTITUTIONAL TEMPLATE – Provincial autonomy, three lists, Federal Court, Dyarchy at centre, Governor's powers = direct precursor of Indian Constitution

IYACHAMY ACADEMY

- CLUSTER 2: IDEOLOGICAL SPECTRUM 1930s – Congress mainstream (Gandhi) vs Congress Socialists (Narendra Dev, JP) vs Communists (CPI) vs Bose (Forward Bloc) vs Capitalists (Bombay Manifesto)
- CLUSTER 3: PROVINCIAL POLITICS 1937-39 – Congress ministries in 7 provinces, Unionist Party in Punjab, Muslim League weak in elections, resignation over WWII
- CLUSTER 4: PRINCELY STATES DIMENSION – Federation to include states, British intent to counter-balance, States' Peoples' Conference, Praja Mandals
- CLUSTER 5: WWII AS POLITICAL CATALYST – War declaration without consent → Congress resignation → Individual Satyagraha → Cripps Mission → Quit India

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- GoI Act 1935 = the CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATION of modern India: power distribution, federal court, three lists ALL derive from it
- Testing Defence/Foreign Affairs as RESERVED (not under legislature) shows UPSC values understanding of SOVEREIGNTY LIMITS under colonial rule
- Residuary powers to GG (not legislature) tests whether aspirants understand the DIFFERENCE between colonial and independent India's Constitution
- British intent behind princely states inclusion tests STRATEGIC THINKING: can aspirants see beyond the legal text to political motive?
- CSP's 'None correct' answer tests IDEOLOGICAL PRECISION: distinguishing democratic socialism from communism and from Congress mainstream
- 1939 resignation over WAR tests whether aspirants understand CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS: consultation before war declaration
- Punjab's Unionist Party shows REGIONAL POLITICAL DIVERSITY: Congress didn't win everywhere
- Bombay Manifesto = BUSINESS vs SOCIALIST politics within the independence movement – economic dimension of freedom struggle
- Bose's Forward Bloc (1939) vs INA (1942-43) tests CHRONOLOGICAL PRECISION within a single leader's career
- The Act's FAILURE to implement Federation (princely states refused) is as important as its provisions

The Hidden Syllabus

- CONSTITUTIONAL COMPARISON: GoI 1935 vs Indian Constitution – what was retained, what was changed (Laxmikanth Ch.1 is ESSENTIAL)
- DYARCHY'S DIRECTIONAL SHIFT: abolished in provinces (1935), introduced at centre (1935) – understanding this MOVEMENT is critical
- IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENTIATION: Congress-CSP-CPI-Forward Bloc represent FOUR distinct positions on the political spectrum
- ECONOMIC POLITICS: Bombay Manifesto (1936) vs Karachi Resolution (1931) = capitalist vs socialist economic visions for India
- PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN PRACTICE: 1937-39 ministries = India's FIRST experiment with self-governance at provincial level

- WWII AS TURNING POINT: 1939 resignation → August Offer → Cripps → QIM = the war accelerated everything

Top Conceptual Traps

- Defence/Foreign Affairs = GOVERNOR GENERAL's control (NOT federal legislature) – 2024 trap
- Residuary powers = GOVERNOR GENERAL (not Federal Legislature) – opposite of Indian Constitution (Parliament)
- Dyarchy ABOLISHED in provinces but INTRODUCED at centre – directional confusion is the trap
- Communal representation was EXPANDED in 1935, not abolished – progressive evolution assumption fails
- All-India Federation was a PROVISION but NEVER IMPLEMENTED (princely states refused) – provision ≠ implementation
- CSP advocated DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM (not proletariat dictatorship/boycott/separate electorates) – ALL three wrong
- Congress ministries resigned over WAR DECLARATION without consent – not internal Congress reasons
- Punjab = UNIONIST PARTY won (not Congress) – Congress didn't form ministry everywhere
- Forward Bloc = 1939 (Bose's party); INA = 1942-43 (Bose's army) – DIFFERENT entities
- 1919 Act did NOT give universal women's suffrage – very limited franchise
- M.N. Roy = Communist/Radical Humanist (NOT Congress Socialist) – LEFT differentiation
- • GoI 1935 = basis of Indian Constitution's power distribution (not 1909/1919/1947)

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Micro-Topic	Source	Freq
1	GoI Act 1935: all provisions + features	Laxmikanth Ch.1 + Spectrum	8 Qs
2	1939 resignation + WWII context	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	3 Qs
3	CSP ideology + Left movement differentiation	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	3 Qs
4	1937 elections: who won where	Spectrum compilations	+ 1 Q (†)
5	Princely states: Federation + Praja Mandals	Spectrum + NCERT	2 Qs
6	Bose's career: CSP→Tripuri→Forward Bloc→INA	Spectrum	1 Q
7	Women's suffrage evolution: 1919→1935→Constitution	Laxmikanth + Spectrum	1 Q (†)

Source Linkage

- PRIMARY: Laxmikanth Ch.1 (GoI Act 1935 provisions – the MOST IMPORTANT single source for this domain)
- Spectrum: A Brief History of Modern India (1937 elections, 1939 resignation, CSP, Bose)
- Bipin Chandra: India's Struggle for Independence (ideological currents, Bombay Manifesto, left movement)
- NCERT Class 12: Themes in Indian History III (princely states, provincial politics)
- Self-prepared: GoI 1935 vs INDIAN CONSTITUTION comparison table (features retained/modified/dropped)

HIGH PROBABILITY FOR 2026 PRELIMS

- GoI Act 1935: three lists (Federal/Provincial/Concurrent) – specific subjects in each list
- GoI Act 1935 vs Constitution: what was retained (Federal Court→Supreme Court, three lists, emergency provisions)
- Congress-League relations 1937-39: Jinnah's 'parting of ways', Pakistan Resolution build-up
- All India Kisan Sabha (1936): Swami Sahajanand, agrarian demands, peasant-Congress relationship
- Princely States' Praja Mandals: Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, Rajkot – people's movements in states
- Tripuri Crisis (1939): Bose vs Gandhi's candidate – Congress internal democracy
- Individual Satyagraha (1940): after 1939 resignation, before QIM – UNDER-TESTED transitional phase
- Day of Deliverance (Dec 1939): Muslim League celebrated Congress resignation – communal politics milestone
- August Offer (1940): Linlithgow's proposal – constitutional evolution continues during war
- Left movement comparison: CSP vs CPI vs Forward Bloc vs Royists – ideological spectrum matching

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS 1933-1939

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935 (FEATURES & PROVISIONS)

1. With reference to the Government of India Act, 1935, consider the following statements: [2024]
 - 1) It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation based on the union of the British Indian Provinces and Princely States.
 - 2) Defence and Foreign Affairs were kept under the control of the federal legislature.Which of the statements given above is/is/are correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. In the Federation established by The Government of India Act of 1935, the residuary powers were given to the: [2018]
 - a) Federal Legislature
 - b) Governor General
 - c) Provincial Legislature
 - d) Provincial Governors
3. The distribution of powers between the Centre and the States in the Indian Constitution is based on the scheme provided in the: [2012]
 - a) Morley-Minto Reforms, 1909
 - b) Montagu-Chelmsford Act, 1919
 - c) Government of India Act, 1935
 - d) Indian Independence Act, 1947

4. Consider the following statements: [2009]
- 1) The discussions in the Third Round Table Conference eventually led to the passing of the Government of India act of 1935.
 - 2) The Government of India act of 1935 provided for the establishment of an all-India Federation to be based on a Union of the provinces of British India and the Princely States.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. Consider the following statements: The Government of India Act, 1935 provided for: [2005]
- The provincial autonomy.
The establishment of Federal Court.
All India Federation at the centre.
- Which of the statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2 and 3
 - c) 1 and 3
 - d) 1, 2 and 3

6. Consider the following statements: [2004]
- 1) Some of the main features of the Government of India Act, 1935 were the:
 - 2) Abolition of diarchy in the Governors' provinces
 - 3) Power of the Governors to veto legislative action and to legislate on their own
 - 4) Abolition of the principle of communal representation

Which of the statements given above is are correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 2
 - c) 2 and 3
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
7. The real intention of the British to include the princely states in the Federal Union proposed by the India Act of 1935 was to: [2002]
- a) Exercise more and direct political and administrative control over the princely states
 - b) Involve the princes actively in the administration of the colony
 - c) Finally effect the complete political and administrative take-over of all the princely states by the British
 - d) Use the princes to counter-balance the anti-imperialist doctrines of the nationalist leaders
8. Which one of the following is not a feature of the Government of India Act of 1935? [2000]
- a) All India federation
 - b) Dyarchy in the provinces
 - c) Dyarchy in the centre
 - d) Provincial autonomy

THE LEFT MOVEMENT AND CONGRESS SOCIALIST PARTY

9. With reference to Congress Socialist Party, consider the following statements: [2015]
- 1) It advocated the boycott of British goods and evasion of taxes.
 - 2) It wanted to establish the dictatorship of proletariat.
 - 3) It advocated separate electorate for minorities and oppressed classes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only

- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

10. Consider the following statements: [2010]

- 1) The "Bombay Manifesto" signed in 1936 openly opposed the preaching of socialist ideals.
- 2) It evoked support from a large section of business community from all across India.

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

11. Who among the following was a prominent leader of the Congress Socialist Party? [1996]

- a) M. N. Roy
- b) Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi
- c) Pattam Thanu Pillai
- d) Acharya Narendra Dev

1937 PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS AND 1939 RESIGNATIONS

12. The Congress ministries resigned in the seven provinces in 1939, because: [2012]

- 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

13. Assertion (A): The Congress in all the provinces resigned in the year 1939. [2008]

Reason (R): The Congress did not accept the decision of the Viceroy to declare war against Germany in the context of the Second World War.

- a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A and R are individually true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- c) A is true but R is false
- d) A is false but R is true

14. In which one of the following provinces was a Congress ministry not formed under the Act of 1935? [2005]

- a) Bihar
- b) Madras
- c) Orissa
- d) Punjab

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND SUFFRAGE

15. Consider the following statements: [2021]

- 1) The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 recommended granting voting rights to all the women above the age of 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

PERSONALITIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

16. Which party was founded by Subhash Chandra Bose in the year 1939 after he broke away from the Congress? [2005]

- a) Indian Freedom Party
- b) Azad Hind Fauj

- c) Revolutionary
d) Forward Block
17. Who among the following, was the President of the All-India States' Peoples' Conference in 1939? [2001]
- a) Jaya Prakash Narayan
b) Jawaharlal Nehru
c) Sheikh Abdullah
d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

FINAL PHASE OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE (1940–1947)

Cripps Mission | Quit India | INA | Cabinet Mission | Constituent Assembly | Partition & Independence
54 PYQs | 1995–2024 | 9 Themes | 80+ Micro-Topics

OVERVIEW: FINAL PHASE OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE (1995–2024)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Cripps Mission (1942)	8	1998–2022	VERY HIGH
Quit India Movement (1942)	7	1999–2021	VERY HIGH
Subhash Bose & INA	4	1999–2021	HIGH
Wavell Plan & Post-War Deadlock	3	2007–2010	HIGH
Cabinet Mission & Naval Mutiny	6	1996–2015	VERY HIGH
Interim Government (1946)	4	1995–2006	HIGH
Constituent Assembly (1946–50)	8	1996–2024	VERY HIGH ↑
Partition & Independence (1947)	10	1996–2014	VERY HIGH
Chronology, Orgs & Personalities	4	1998–2019	MEDIUM

KEY INSIGHT: 30-Year Domain Analysis

- CRIPPS MISSION (8 Qs) + CABINET MISSION (6 Qs) = 14 questions on MISSIONS alone – proposals, provisions, rejections
- CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY returned in 2024 (Provisional President) – shows it's NEVER out of UPSC's scope
- PARTITION questions are the most EMOTIONALLY charged: Gandhi's alternative, Congress's reasons, communal context
- QUIT INDIA is tested as MOVEMENT CHARACTERISTICS (spontaneous, non-violent intent, labour non-participation)
- INTERIM GOVERNMENT portfolios = PURE STATIC facts tested across 3 decades (Nehru headed, Liaquat Ali=Finance)

- INA questions test PERSONNEL + GEOGRAPHY: officers' names (2021), formation location (Singapore), Free Indian Legion
- Chronological ordering of 1940s events (August Offer→QIM→INA trial→Naval Mutiny) appears TWICE

FINAL PHASE OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE (1940–1947)

1. Cripps Mission (1942)

- Provisions: Dominion Status vs. Independence, Province opt-out clause
- Negotiators: Official Congress representatives (Nehru & Maulana Azad)
- Rejection Reasons: Inadequacy of proposals vs. composition of mission
- War Context: Impact of PM Winston Churchill and US/Labour pressure

2. Quit India Movement (1942)

- Resolution & Leadership: AICC adoption, 8th August 1942, 'Do or Die' call
- Movement Characteristics: Spontaneity vs. non-violence, violent outbreaks
- Underground Activities: Aruna Asaf Ali and organizational networks
- Social/Political Impact: Princely states sovereignty, peasant upsurge

3. Subhash Bose & INA

- Personnel & Trials: Officers (Shah Nawaz Khan, Dhillon, Sehgal), INA Trials
- Formation & Geography: Locations (Singapore, Germany), Free Indian Legion
- Ideology: War as a 'godsent opportunity' and political party vs. military venture

4. Wavell Plan & Simla Conference

- Constitutional Deadlock: Rajagopalachari's 'The Way Out' pamphlet solutions
- Executive Proposals: Reconstitution of council, Hindu-Muslim parity
- Failure Reasons: Rejection of portfolios and partition-avoidance tactics

5. Cabinet Mission & Naval Mutiny

- Proposals: Recommended Federal government, Grouping of provinces
- Rejection Context: Rejection of Pakistan vs. proposed grouping instead
- Naval Revolt 1946: Bombay & Karachi centres, impact on administration
- Causation: Partition inevitability and last opportunities to avoid it

6. Interim Government (1946)

- Portfolio Mapping: Rajendra Prasad (Food/Agri), Liaqat Ali (Finance), Nehru (Head)
- Strategic Choices: Muslim League's entry and strategic choices within governance

7. Constituent Assembly (1946-1950)

- Election Mechanics: Elected by Provincial Assemblies, members from Princely states
- Leadership: Provisional President (Sinha), Committee Chairmen (Nehru, etc.)
- Institutional Origins: Swaraj Party 1934 idea vs. Congress/ML stance
- Significant Milestones: Adoption dates, first session venues

8. Partition & Independence (1947)

- Boundary Commissions: Radcliffe Committee (Delimitation of boundaries)
- Fragmentation Plans: Balkan Plan (Lord Mountbatten's brainchild)
- Leadership at Independence: INC President (Kripalani), Gandhi's alternative plans
- Territorial Issues: Bengal/Punjab/Assam independent existence plans

9. Chronology & Personalities

- Sequential Ordering: August Offer → QIM → Wavell → Cabinet Mission → Partition
- Specific Organisations: Hind Mazdoor Sabha, All India Liberal Federation
- Personnel-Position Matching: Sapru, K.C. Neogy, P.C. Joshi

10. Post-Independence Integration

- Princely States: Instrument of Accession, Patel-Menon strategy (Syllabus-core)
- Administrative Legacy: Abolition of paramountcy, lapse of treaties

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked Micro-Topics

- 1. Cripps Mission provisions: Dominion Status, opt-out, constitution body (8 Qs)
- 2. Partition & Independence: Radcliffe, Gandhi's alternative, Congress acceptance (10 Qs)
- 3. Constituent Assembly: election method, provisional president, committees (8 Qs)
- 4. Quit India: characteristics, 'Do or Die', Gandhi's eve statements (7 Qs)
- 5. Cabinet Mission: federal govt, rejection of Pakistan, last opportunity (6 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES: Drafting, Union Constitution, Minorities, Fundamental Rights – only Union tested so far
- CA DEBATES: Nehru's Objectives Resolution, debate on minorities, language controversy – ZERO direct questions
- PRINCELY STATES INTEGRATION: Sardar Patel + V.P. Menon, Instrument of Accession – post-independence but syllabus-core
- MOUNTBATTEN PLAN (June 3, 1947) specific provisions: referendum in NWFP, Bengal/Punjab partition – UNDER-TESTED
- INDIAN INDEPENDENCE ACT 1947 provisions: abolition of paramountcy, lapse of treaties – POLITY convergence
- INA TRIAL at Red Fort: legal arguments, public sympathy, Bhulabhai Desai – tested only via officer names (2021)
- DIRECT ACTION DAY (Aug 1946): Calcutta killings, communal cascade – NEVER directly tested
- ATTLEE'S DECLARATION (Feb 1947): deadline for British withdrawal – under-tested political trigger
- Women in final phase: Aruna Asaf Ali (tested), Usha Mehta (Secret Congress Radio), Sucheta Kripalani – expanding

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: MISSION COMPARISON – Cripps (Dominion Status, opt-out) vs Cabinet Mission (united India, grouping, no Pakistan) vs Wavell (equal Hindu-Muslim) = COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS
- CLUSTER 2: ROAD TO PARTITION – Cripps opt-out → Muslim League's Lahore Resolution → Direct Action → Cabinet Mission rejection → Mountbatten Plan = CAUSAL CHAIN

- CLUSTER 3: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AS INSTITUTION – Election method, Provisional President, committees, Objectives Resolution, Drafting Committee = POLITY's origin story
- CLUSTER 4: QUIT INDIA'S DUAL NATURE – Gandhi's non-violent intent vs actual violent upsurge; spontaneous mass movement vs underground leadership (Aruna/JP)
- CLUSTER 5: INTERIM GOVERNMENT PORTFOLIOS – Nehru (head/VP), Rajendra Prasad (Food), Liaqat Ali (Finance), Sardar Patel (Home), Asaf Ali (Railways) = CABINET composition
- CLUSTER 6: GANDHI AT INDEPENDENCE – Not in Congress, in Calcutta during riots, suggested winding up Congress, opposed partition but accepted, invited Jinnah = COMPLEX portrait
- CLUSTER 7: 1940s CHRONOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK – August Offer (1940) → Individual Satyagraha → Cripps (1942) → QIM (Aug 1942) → Wavell (1945) → Cabinet Mission (1946) → Interim Govt → Partition (1947)

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- The FINAL PHASE is where CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY and POLITICAL STRUGGLE converge – every mission/plan/act shapes India's governance DNA
- CRIPPS's Dominion Status vs full independence tests whether aspirants understand the PRECISE limits of each British offer
- Cabinet Mission as 'last opportunity' tests HISTORICAL CAUSATION: can aspirants trace how partition became inevitable?
- QIM's 'non-violent intent but violent reality' tests ANALYTICAL MATURITY: history is rarely black-and-white
- Constituent Assembly election by PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES (3 times!) shows UPSC considers this the FOUNDATIONAL democratic fact
- Gandhi's alternative (invite Jinnah) tests UNCONVENTIONAL THINKING: the road not taken in Indian history
- Interim Government portfolios test ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORY: civil servants should know who held what
- INA officers' NAMES (2021) signal deeper PERSONNEL testing – not just leaders but second-tier figures
- Bengal's united independence plan tests whether aspirants see ALTERNATIVES to the partition narrative
- Chronological ordering tests whether aspirants can construct a MENTAL TIMELINE of 1940-47 events

The Hidden Syllabus

- MISSION COMPARISON TABLE: Cripps vs Cabinet Mission vs Wavell vs Mountbatten – provisions, outcomes, who rejected why
- CAUSAL CHAIN TO PARTITION: each mission's failure leads to next attempt, each rejection hardens positions
- CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY'S INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE: committees, debates, procedures = POLITY's foundational chapter
- GANDHI'S COMPLEX POSITION: opposed partition but accepted it; not in Congress; suggested alternative; was in Calcutta during riots
- INTERIM GOVERNMENT AS GOVERNANCE EXPERIMENT: first Indian-led central government, portfolio distribution, Muslim League's strategy
- INA + NAVAL MUTINY as MILITARY DIMENSION of freedom struggle: challenges the civil disobedience-only narrative

Top Conceptual Traps

- Cripps = DOMINION STATUS (not full independence) – the most common mission trap
- Cabinet Mission REJECTED Pakistan (proposed grouping) – 'acceptance of Pakistan' is FALSE

- QIM was NOT non-violent in practice – turned violent after leaders' arrest
- Gandhi did NOT ask govt servants/soldiers to leave on QIM eve – only princes statement
- Simla Conference = Lord WAVELL (not Mountbatten) – Mountbatten came later
- INA formed in SINGAPORE (not Japan/Burma/Malaya)
- INC President at partition = KRIPALANI (not Nehru/Azad/Rajagopalachari)
- Gandhi was NOT a Congress member at independence
- CA Provisional President = Sachchidananda SINHA (not Rajendra Prasad who became permanent)
- Ambedkar elected to CA from WEST BENGAL (not Bombay Presidency)
- Nehru = Union Constitution Committee Chairman (not CA President – that was Rajendra Prasad)
- CA idea first mooted by SWARAJ PARTY 1934 (not Congress/ML/All Parties)
- Sardar Patel (not Gandhi/Nehru) was totally in favour of Cabinet Mission
- Mountbatten's instructions: KEEP UNITED if possible (not accept Pakistan)



Priority	Micro-Topic	Source	Freq
1	Cripps Mission: all provisions + rejection reasons	Spectrum + Laxmikanth	8 Qs
2	Partition: events, alternatives, reasoning, Congress	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	10 Qs
3	Constituent Assembly: election, committees, facts	Laxmikanth Ch.2 + Spectrum	8 Qs (↑)
4	Quit India: characteristics, quotes, eve statements	Spectrum + NCERT	7 Qs
5	Cabinet Mission: provisions, rejection, last chance	Spectrum + Laxmikanth	6 Qs
6	Interim Govt: portfolios, head, Muslim League	Spectrum + compilations	4 Qs
7	INA: Bose, officers, location, Free Indian Legion	Spectrum	4 Qs
8	Wavell Plan + Simla Conference	Spectrum	3 Qs
9	Chronology: 1940-47 event ordering	Self-prepared timeline	4 Qs
10	Princely states integration	Spectrum + V.P. Menon	0 Qs (↑↑)

HIGH PROBABILITY FOR 2026 PRELIMS

- Cabinet Mission vs Cripps COMPARISON: statement-based format testing specific differences
- Constituent Assembly committees: Drafting (Ambedkar), Minorities (Patel), Fundamental Rights (Sardar Patel/Munshi/Ayyar)
- Mountbatten Plan (June 3) specific provisions: referendum, partition of Bengal/Punjab
- Indian Independence Act 1947: specific provisions (abolition of paramountcy, two dominions)
- Princely States integration: Instrument of Accession, Patel-Menon strategy, key holdouts
- INA Trial at Red Fort: Bhulabhai Desai's defence, public sympathy wave
- Direct Action Day (Aug 1946): the event that made partition 'inevitable'
- Women in final phase: Usha Mehta (Congress Radio), Sucheta Kripalani, Vijayalakshmi Pandit
- Attlee's February 1947 declaration: deadline for British withdrawal
- Mission comparison table: what each offered, who rejected, why – ANALYTICAL question likely

FINAL PHASE OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE

EARLY 1940S DEVELOPMENTS (AUGUST OFFER & INDIVIDUAL SATYAGRAHA) CRIPPS MISSION (1942)

1. In the "Individual Satyagraha", Vinoba Bhave was chosen as the first Satyagrahi. Who was the second? [2009]

- a) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - b) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
 - c) Rajagopalachari
 - d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
2. With reference to the proposals of Cripps Mission, consider the following statements: [2022]
- 1) The Constituent Assembly would have members nominated by the Provincial Assemblies as well as the Princely States.
 - 2) Any Province, which is not prepared to accept the new Constitution would have the right to sign a separate agreement with Britain regarding its future status.
- 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
3. The plan of Sir Stafford Cripps envisaged that after the Second World War: [2016]
- a) India should be granted complete independence
 - b) India should be partitioned into two before granting independence
 - c) India should be made a republic with the condition that she will join the Commonwealth
 - d) India should be given Dominion status
4. Who among the following were official Congress negotiators with the Cripps Mission? [2010]
- a) Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel
 - b) Acharya J. B. Kripalani and C. Rajagopalachari
 - c) Pandit Nehru and Maulana Azad
 - d) Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai
5. Consider the following statements: [2009]
- 1) The Cripps Proposals include the provision for
 - 2) Full independence for India
 - 3) Creation of Constitution making body.
- 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
6. Who of the following Prime Ministers sent the Cripps Mission to India? [2009]
- a) James Ramsay MacDonald
 - b) Stanley Baldwin
 - c) Neville Chamberlain
 - d) Winston Churchill
7. An important aspect of the Cripps Mission of 1942 was: [2003]
- a) That all Indian States should join the Indian Union as a condition to consider any degree of autonomy for India
 - b) The creation of an Indian Union with Dominion status very soon after the Second World War
 - c) The active participation and cooperation of the Indian people, communities and political parties in the British war effort as a condition for granting independence with full sovereign status to India after war.
 - d) The framing of a constitution for the entire Indian Union, with no separate constitution for any province, and a Union Constitution to be accepted by all provinces
8. Assertion (A): The Congress rejected the Cripps proposals.: [1998]
Reason (R): The Cripps Mission consisted solely of whites.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT a correct explanation of A
- c) A is true, but R is false
- d) A is false, but R is true

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT (1942)

9. With reference to 8th August, 1942 in Indian history, which one of the following statements is correct? [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.
10. Quit India movement was launched in response to? [2013]
- a) Cabinet mission plan
 - b) Cripps proposals
 - c) Simon Commission report
 - d) Wavell plan
11. Which one of the following observations is not true about the quit India movement of 1942? [2011]
- a) It was a non-violent movement.
 - b) It was led by mahatma Gandhi.
 - c) It was a spontaneous movement.
 - d) It did not attract the labour class in general.
12. With which one of the following movements is the slogan "Do or Die" associated? [2009]
- a) Swadeshi Movement
 - b) Non - Cooperation Movement
 - c) Civil Disobedience Movement
 - d) Quit India Movement
13. During the freedom struggle, Aruna Asaf Ali was a major woman organiser of underground activity in: [2009]
- a) Civil Disobedience Movement
 - b) Non-Cooperation Movement
 - c) Quit India Movement
 - d) Swadeshi Movement
14. Consider the following statements: On the eve of launch of Quit India Movement, Mahatma Gandhi: [2005]
- 1) Asked the government servants to resign.
 - 2) Asked the soldiers to leave their posts
 - 3) Asked the Princes of the Princely States to accept the sovereignty of their own people.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2 and 3
 - c) 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
15. Assertion (A): Lord Linlithgow described the August Movement of 1942 as the most serious rebellion since Sepoy Mutiny.: [1999]
- Reason (R): There was massive upsurge of the peasantry in certain areas.
- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
 - b) Both A and R are true, but R is not a correct explanation of A
 - c) A is true, but R is false
 - d) A is false, but R is true

SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE AND INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (INA)

16. In the context of Colonial India, Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sehgal and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon are remembered as: [2021]
- Leaders of Swadeshi and Boycott Movement
 - Members of the Interim Government in 1946
 - Members of the Drafting Committee in the Constituent Assembly
 - Officers of the Indian National Army
17. During the Indian Freedom Struggle, who of the following raised an army called 'Free Indian Legion'? [2008]
- Lala Hardayal
 - Rashbehari Bose
 - Subhas Chandra Bose
 - V.D. Savarkar
18. The Indian National Army (INA) came into existence in 1943 in: [2000]
- Japan
 - Burma
 - Singapore
 - Malaya
19. Which Indian nationalist leader looked upon a war between Germany and Britain as a godsent opportunity which would enable Indians to exploit the situation to their advantage? [1999]
- C. Rajagopalachari
 - M. A. Jinnah
 - Subhas Chandra Bose
 - Jawaharlal Nehru

WAVELL PLAN, SIMLA CONFERENCE & POST-WAR DEADLOCK (1944-1945)

20. After the Quit India Movement, C. Rajagopalachari issued a pamphlet entitled "The Way Out". Which one of the following was a proposal in this pamphlet? [2010]
- The establishment of a "War Advisory Council" composed of representatives of British India and the Indian States.
 - Reconstitution of the Central Executive Council in such a way that all its members, except the Governor General and the Commander - in - Chief should be Indian leaders.
 - Fresh elections to the Central and Provincial Legislatures to be held at the end of 1945 and the Constitution making body to be convened as soon as possible.
 - A solution for the constitutional deadlock.
21. Which one of the following suggested the reconstitution of the Viceroy's Executive council in which all the portfolios including that of War Members were to be held by the Indian leader? [2008]
- Simon Commission
 - Simla Conference
 - Cripps Proposal
 - Cabinet Mission
22. Assertion (A): According to the Wavell Plan, the number of Hindu and Muslim members in the Executive Council were to be equal. [2007]
- Reason (R): Wavell thought that this arrangement would have avoided the partition of India.
- Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - A is True but R is false
 - A is false but R is true

CABINET MISSION & NAVAL MUTINY (1946)

23. With reference to cabinet mission, which of the following statements is/are correct? [2015]
- 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

24. Consider the following statements: [2005]

1) Lord Mountbatten was the Viceroy when the Simla Conference took place.

2) Indian Navy Revolt, 1946 took place when the Indian sailors in the Royal Indian Navy at Bombay and Karachi rose against the Government.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

25. The last opportunity to avoid the partition of India was lost with the rejection of: [2002]

a) Cripps Mission

b) Rajagopalachari Formula

c) Cabinet Mission

d) Wavell Plan

26. "It made its proposals in May. It still wanted a united India. There was to be a Federal Union composed of British provinces." The above quotation is related to: [1999]

a) Simon Commission

b) Gandhi-Irwin Pact

c) Cripps Mission

d) Cabinet Mission

27. Which one of the following leaders of the Congress was totally in favour of the Cabinet Mission Plan? [1999]

a) Mahatma Gandhi

b) Jawaharlal Nehru

c) Sardar Patel

d) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

28. Which one of the following is not correct about the Cabinet Mission Plan? [1996]

a) Provincial grouping

b) Interim Cabinet of Indians

c) Acceptance of Pakistan

d) Constitution framing right

INTERIM GOVERNMENT (1946)

29. Which portfolio was held by Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the Interim Government formed in the year 1946? [2006]

a) Defence

b) External Affairs and Commonwealth

c) Food and Agriculture

d) None

30. Who headed the Interim Cabinet formed in 1946? [2003]

a) Rajendra Prasad

b) Jawaharlal Nehru

c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

d) Rajagopalachari

31. When the Indian Muslim League was inducted into the interim government in 1946, Liyaqat Ali Khan was assigned the portfolio of: [1998]
- Foreign Affairs
 - Home
 - Finance
 - Defence
32. In the interim government formed in 1946, the Vice-President of the Executive Council was: [1995]
- Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
 - C. Rajagopalachari
 - Dr. Rajendra Prasad

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (1946-1950)

33. Who was the Provisional President of the Constituent Assembly before Dr. Rajendra Prasad took over? [2024]
- C. Rajagopalachari
 - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
 - T.T. Krishnamachari
 - Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha
34. With reference to Indian history, the members of the constituent assembly from the provinces were? [2013]
- Directly elected by the people of those provinces
 - Nominated by the Indian national congress and the Muslim league
 - Elected by the provincial legislative assemblies
 - Selected by the government for their expertise in constitutional matters
35. Who among the following was the Chairman of the Union Constitution Committee of the Constituent Assembly? [2005]
- B. R. Ambedkar
 - J. B. Kripalani
 - Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Alladi Krishanaswami Ayyar
36. Which one of the following statements is correct? [2004]
- The Constituent Assembly of India was elected by the Provincial Assemblies in the year 1946.
 - Jawaharlal Nehru, M.A. Jinnah and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were members of the Constituent Assembly of India.
 - The First Session of the Constituent Assembly of India was held in January, 1947.
 - The Constitution of India was adopted on 26th January, 1950.
37. The members of the Constituent Assembly which drafted the Constitution of India were: [2002]
- Nominated by the British Parliament
 - Nominated by the Governor General
 - Elected by the Legislative Assemblies of various provinces
 - Elected by the Indian National Congress and Muslim League
38. Consider the following statements about Jawaharlal Nehru: [1996]
- He was the President of the Congress Party in 1947.
 - He presided over the Constituent Assembly.
 - He formed the first Congress Ministry in United Province before India's independence.
- Of these statements:
- I, II and III are correct
 - I and III are correct
 - I and II are correct
 - None is correct

39. Which one of the following first mooted the idea of a constituent assembly to frame a constitution for India? [1996]
- Swraj Party in 1934
 - Congress Party in 1936
 - Muslim League in 1942
 - All Parties Conference in 1946
40. B.R. Ambedkar was elected to the Constituent Assembly from: [1996]
- West Bengal
 - The Bombay Presidency
 - The then Madhya Bharat
 - Punjab
- PARTITION & INDEPENDENCE (1947)**
41. The Radcliffe Committee was appointed to: [2014]
- Solve the problem of minorities in India
 - Given effect to the Independence Bill
 - Delimit the boundaries between India and Pakistan
 - Enquire into the riots in East Bengal
42. The President of Indian National Congress at the time of partition of India was: [2002]
- C Rajagopalachari
 - J B Kripalani
 - Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
43. At the time of partition of India, which one of the following provinces of British India came forward with a plan for a united and independent existence? [2000]
- Punjab
 - Assam
 - Bengal
 - Bihar
44. The Balkan Plan for fragmentation of India was the brain-child of: [2000]
- W. Churchill
 - M. A. Jinnah
 - Lord Mountbatten
 - V. P. Menon
45. As an alternative to the partition of India, Gandhiji suggested to Mountbatten that he: [2000]
- Postpone granting of independence
 - Invite Jinnah to form the government
 - Invite Nehru and Jinnah to form the government together
 - Invite the army to take over for some time
46. Lord Mountbatten came to India as Viceroy along with specific instructions to: [1998]
- Balkanize the Indian sub-continent
 - Keep India united if possible
 - Accept Jinnah's demand for Pakistan
 - Persuade the Congress to accept partition
47. The Indian National Congress agreed in 1947 to the partition of the country mainly because: [1998]
- The principle of two Nation theory was then acceptable to them
 - It was imposed by the British Government and the Congress was helpless in this regard
 - They wanted to avoid large-scale communal riots
 - India would have otherwise lost the opportunity to attain freedom

48. At the time of India's Independence, Mahatma Gandhi was: [1998]
- A member of Congress Working Committee
 - Not a member of the Congress
 - The President of the Congress
 - The General Secretary of the Congress
49. Who among the following suggested the winding up of the Indian National Congress after India attained independence? [1996]
- C. Rajagopalachari
 - Acharya Kripalani
 - Mahatma Gandhi
 - Jayaprakash Narain
50. Assertion (A): The British sovereignty continued to exist in free India.: [1996]
Reason (R): The British sovereign appointed the last Governor - General of free India.
- Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 - Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A
 - A is true but R is false
 - A is false but R is true

CHRONOLOGY, ORGANIZATIONS & PERSONALITIES

51. With reference to Indian National Movement, consider the following pairs: [2019]
- Person - Position held
- Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru - President, All India Liberal Federation
 - K.C. Neogy - Member The Constituent Assembly
 - P.C. Joshi - General Secretary, Communist Party of India
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
52. Who among the following were the founders of the "Hind Mazdoor Sabha" established in 1948? [2018]
- B. Krishna Pillai, E.M.S. Namboodiripad and K.C George
 - Jayaprakash Narayan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay and M.N Roy
 - C.P Ramaswamy Iyer, K. Kamaraj and Veeresalingam Pantulu
 - Ashok Mehta, T.S Ramanujan and G.G Mehta
53. With reference to Indian freedom struggle, consider the following events: [2017]
- Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy
Quit India Movement launched
Second Round Table Conference
- What is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?
- 1-2-3
 - 2-1-3
 - 3-2-1
 - 3-1-2
54. What is the correct sequence of the following events? [1998]
- The August Offer
 - The I.N.A. trial
 - The Quit India Movement
 - The Royal Indian Naval Ratings' Revolt
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) I, III, II, IV
- b) III, I, II, IV
- c) I, III, IV, II
- d) III, I, IV, II

SOCIAL REFORMS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE & REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS

Reformers | Reform Orgs | Journals | Books | Ghadar | Revolutionaries | Education | Tribal/Peasant
59 PYQs | 1995–2025 | 7 Themes | 90+ Micro-Topics

OVERVIEW (1995–2025)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Key Reformers & Personalities	4	1995–2025	HIGH ↑
Reform Organizations & Movements	7	1995–2019	VERY HIGH
Journals, Newspapers & Translations	7	1995–2021	HIGH
Authors, Books & Novels	11	1996–2020	VERY HIGH
Ghadar Movement	4	1998–2022	HIGH
Revolutionary Figures & Organizations	8	1995–2011	HIGH
Education: Acts, Institutions, Chronology	10	1996–2021	VERY HIGH ↑
Tribal & Peasant Movements	7	1997–2020	HIGH ↑

KEY INSIGHT

- AUTHOR-WORK MATCHING is the SINGLE MOST FREQUENT format: 6+ matching questions
- Organisation–Leader–Region TRIPLES dominate reform & revolutionary sections
- EDUCATION surged in 2018: THREE questions on Wood’s Dispatch + English Education
- 2025 brought Ram Mohan Roy & Self-Respect Movement back after a gap
- TRIBAL/PEASANT rose post-2013: Tebhaga, Ulgulan, Santhal Paraganas, Indigo
- GHADAR tested with PRECISION: Barindra Ghosh ≠ Ghadar (he was Anushilan)

SOCIAL REFORMS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE & REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS

1. Key Reformers & Personalities

- Synthesis of Eastern traditions and Western scientific approach (Ram Mohan Roy)
- Early Dalit journalism and Dalit history (Vital-Vidhwansak/Walangkar)
- Political organisations of reformers (Ambedkar's parties vs. other parties)
- Personalities involved in women's education (Vidyasagar, Bethune, Keshab Chandra Sen)

- First-time terminology usage (e.g., origin of the term 'Adivasi')

2. Reform Organisations & Movements

- Ideological divides (Vedic infallibility: Brahmo Samaj vs. Arya Samaj)
- Anti-caste and non-Brahmin movements (Satya Shodhak Samaj, Self-Respect Movement)
- Regional reform mapping (Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bengal)
- Peasant-Reformist linkages (Kisan Sabha, Anti-Untouchability League)
- Campaigns against social ills (Sati, Priestly class dominance)

3. Journals, Newspapers & Translations

- Political and philosophical journals (Al-Hilal, Comrade, Indian Sociologist, Vanguard)
- Scripture translations into English (Bhagavad Gita, Madam Curie biographies)
- Editor-Journal matching and regional language journals
- Emigre journals and overseas nationalist publications

4. Authors, Books & Novels

- Author-Work matching (The densest sub-theme cluster)
- Literature on colonial mental conquest and Swadeshi performances (Deshar Katha)
- Socio-political and nationalist novels (Anand Math, Durgesh Nandini, Navanna)
- Biographies of global figures used as nationalist inspiration (Mazzini, Garibaldi)
- Translation of national anthems and local literature into English

5. Ghadar & Revolutionary Movements

- Ghadar movement logistics (HQ San Francisco, WWI bases, key leaders)
- Secret societies and militant organisations (Anushilan, Abhinav Bharat, Kuka, HSRA)
- Revolutionary raids and trials (Chittagong Armoury, Kakori, Lahore Conspiracy)
- Overseas revolutionary activities (Stuttgart flag, Berlin/North America bases)
- Underground communication during movements (Secret Congress Radio)

6. Education: Acts, Institutions & Policy

- Institutional landmarks (Wood's Dispatch 1854, Charter Act 1813)
- History of specific colleges (Fort William, Sanskrit College Benares, Hindu College)
- Educational commissions (Sadler, Raleigh, Hunter, Sargeant, Adam's Report)
- Language policy debates (Vernacular vs. English/Anglicist vs. Orientalist)
- Compulsory education bills and literacy initiatives

7. Tribal & Peasant Movements

- Major tribal revolts: Characteristics and leaders (Ulgulan/Birsa Munda, Santhal)
- Agrarian demands and sharecropping movements (Tebhaga, Indigo, Eka)
- Regional mapping of uprisings (Moplah, Pabna, Bardoli)
- Chronological ordering and post-revolt administrative changes (Paraganas creation)

- Socio-economic causes of decline (Impact of synthetic dyes on Indigo)

8. Dalit & Caste Reform Trajectory

- Evolution of Dalit movements (Phule → Walangkar → Periyar → Ambedkar)
- Non-Brahmin movements in South India (Justice Party, SNDP Yogam)
- Institutional origin and evolution of the Self-Respect Movement

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked Micro-Topics

- 1. Author-Work-Novel matching (11+ Qs – #1)
- 2. Education policy: Wood's Dispatch, institutions, chronology (10 Qs)
- 3. Revolutionary org-leader matching (12 Qs)
- 4. Reform org-leader-region triples (7 Qs)
- 5. Tribal/peasant: Ulgulan, Santhal, Tebhaga (7 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- DALIT REFORM HISTORY: Walangkar (2020), Ambedkar's parties (2012), Self-Respect (2025) – SURGING
- RAM MOHAN ROY returned 2025 after gap – reformer personality questions BACK
- TRIBAL MOVEMENTS post-2013: Birsa Munda, Santhal, Tebhaga – expect Kol Uprising, Rampa Rebellion details
- WOMEN'S EDUCATION: Bethune (2021), Pandita Ramabai, Savitribai Phule – gender dimension
- LESSER-KNOWN REVOLUTIONARIES: Usha Mehta (2011), Kalpana Dutt, Pritilata Waddedar – women revolutionaries
- LITERARY MOVEMENTS: Bengal Renaissance, Hindi novel, Urdu journalism – cultural nationalism
- MISSIONARY EDUCATION: Serampore College, Alexander Duff, Christian missions' role
- EDUCATION COMMISSIONS: Sadler, Raleigh, Sargeant – names tested but recommendations under-asked

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: REFORM ORG SPECTRUM – Brahma (anti-idolatry) vs Arya (Vedic authority) vs Prarthana (Western India) vs Self-Respect (anti-Brahminism, South)
- CLUSTER 2: AUTHOR-WORK MASTER TABLE – 20+ pairs: Bankim/Tagore/Premchand/Aurobindo/Savarkar/Gandhi/Bose/Naidu/Vidyasagar
- CLUSTER 3: REVOLUTIONARY NETWORK – Anushilan (Bengal) → Ghadar (N.America) → HSRA (North India) → INA (SE Asia)
- CLUSTER 4: EDUCATION EVOLUTION – Macaulay (1835) → Wood's (1854) → Hunter (1882) → Curzon (1902) → Sadler (1917) → Sargeant (1944)
- CLUSTER 5: TRIBAL-PEASANT GEOGRAPHY – Santhal (Jharkhand) + Birsa (Chotanagpur) + Moplah (Kerala) + Tebhaga (Bengal) + Eka (Awadh) + Indigo (Bengal)
- CLUSTER 6: JOURNAL-LEADER-IDEOLOGY – Al-Hilal (Azad/Pan-Islamism), Vanguard (Roy/Communism), Indian Sociologist (Varma/Revolutionary), Bande Mataram (Aurobindo/Militant Nationalism)
- CLUSTER 7: DALIT REFORM TRAJECTORY – Phule (Satya Shodhak 1873) → Walangkar (1890s) → Periyar (1925) → Ambedkar (ILP 1936/AISCF 1942) → Poona Pact integration

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- REFORM ORGANISATIONS test India's INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY: each organisation represents a distinct approach to modernity
- Brahma vs Arya = the fundamental REFORM DIVIDE: one rejected Vedas, one upheld them – UPSC tests this distinction
- AUTHOR-WORK matching tests CULTURAL LITERACY: civil servants should know India's intellectual heritage
- REVOLUTIONARY MATCHING tests whether aspirants see militant nationalism as ORGANISED (not random violence)
- EDUCATION POLICY tests COLONIAL GOVERNANCE: Wood's Dispatch shaped India's education system for a century
- Fort William College's purpose (train administrators) reveals COLONIAL EDUCATION'S REAL INTENT
- TRIBAL MOVEMENTS test SUBALTERN HISTORY: can aspirants see resistance from below, not just elite politics?
- Tebhaga's ONE-THIRD demand tests PRECISE knowledge of agrarian demands
- Walangkar (2020) signals UPSC is going DEEPER into Dalit history – beyond Ambedkar/Phule
- Ghadar's NEGATIVE association (Barindra ≠ Ghadar) tests PRECISION over general awareness

Top Conceptual Traps

- Bethune School founder = J.E.D. Bethune (NOT Vidyasagar – he was secretary/associated)
- Sati campaign = RAM MOHAN ROY (not Keshab Chandra Sen)
- Arya Samaj = 1875 (NOT 1835) – common year confusion
- Brahma REJECTED Vedic infallibility; Arya UPHELD it – reverse confusion
- Bhagavad Gita English = CHARLES WILKINS (not William Jones)
- Sanskrit College Benares = JONATHAN DUNCAN (not William Jones)
- Fort William = Lord WELLESLEY (not Arthur Wellesley/Duke of Wellington)
- Wood's Dispatch: English NOT at all levels (vernacular at lower levels)
- Navanna = BIJON BHATTACHARYA (not Nabin Chandra Das)
- Barindra Ghosh ≠ Ghadar Party (he was Anushilan/Alipore)
- Bhikaji Cama: Stuttgart (Germany) not Paris – contested but UPSC accepted Paris
- Peasants & Workers Party ≠ Ambedkar's party
- Indigo declined due to SYNTHETIC DYES (not just peasant resistance)
- Tilak ≠ Satya Shodhak Sabha (that was Phule)

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Micro-Topic	Source	Freq
1	Author-Work master table: 20+ pairs	Spectrum + compilations	11 Qs
2	Education: Wood's Dispatch, Charter 1813, colleges	NCERT + Spectrum + Laxmikanth	10 Qs (↑)
3	Revolutionary org-leader matching	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	12 Qs
4	Reform orgs: Brahma/Arya/Satya Shodhak/Self-Respect	Spectrum + NCERT	7 Qs (↑)
5	Tribal/peasant: Birsa/Santhal/Tebhaga/Moplah	Spectrum + NCERT	7 Qs (↑)
6	Person-Journal matching	Spectrum + compilations	7 Qs
7	Key reformers: Roy/Phule/Walangkar/Ambedkar	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	4 Qs (↑↑)

HIGH PROBABILITY FOR 2026 PRELIMS

- Savitribai Phule's educational contributions – first woman teacher, Pune girls' school
- Pandita Ramabai: Sharada Sadan, women's education, Arya Mahila Samaj
- Kol Uprising (1831), Rampa Rebellion (Alluri Sitarama Raju 1922-24) – tribal revolts under-tested
- Education commissions comparison: Hunter vs Wood's vs Sadler recommendations
- Revolutionary women: Pritilata Waddadar, Kalpana Dutt, Bina Das – expanding testing
- Bengal Renaissance literature: Derozio, Young Bengal, Vidyasagar's social reform writings
- HSRA: Bhagat Singh's specific writings ('Why I Am an Atheist'), Assembly bomb incident
- Dalit reform timeline: Phule→Walangkar→Shahu Maharaj→Periyar→Ambedkar
- Caste movements: Justice Party (Madras), Non-Brahmin movement, SNDP Yogam (Kerala)
- Person-journal new pairs: Bal Gangadhar Tilak=Kesari/Mahratta; Surendranath=Bengalee

SOCIAL REFORMS, EDUCATION, AND LITERATURE.

SOCIAL REFORMS AND REFORMERS

KEY REFORMERS AND PERSONALITIES

1. Consider the following statements about Raja Ram Mohan Roy: [2025]
 - I. He possessed great love and respect for the traditional philosophical systems of the East.
 - II. He desired his countrymen to accept the rational and scientific approach and the principle of human dignity and social equality of all men and women.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II
2. The Vital-Vidhwansak, the first monthly journal to have the untouchable people as its target audience was published by: [2020]
 - a) Gopal Baba Walangkar
 - b) Jyotiba Phule
 - c) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
 - d) Bhimrao Ranji Ambedkar
3. Which of the following parties were established by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar? [2012]
 - 1) The Peasants and Workers Party of India
 - 2) All India Scheduled Castes Federation
 - 3) The Independent Labour PartySelect the correct answer the codes given below:
 - a) 1 & 2 Only
 - b) 2 & 3 Only
 - c) 1 & 3 Only
 - d) 1, 2 & 3
4. Consider the following statements: [2005]
 - 1) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar founded the Bethune School at Calcutta with the main aim of encouraging education for women.
 - 2) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was the first graduate of the Calcutta University.
 - 3) Keshav Chandra Sen's campaign against Sati led to the enactment of a law to ban Sati by the then Governor General.Which of the statements is/are correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 2
 - c) 2 and 3
 - d) 1, 2 and 3

REFORM ORGANIZATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

5. Who among the following was the founder of the 'Self-Respect Movement'? [2025]
- 'Periyar' E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker
 - Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
 - Bhaskarrao Jadhav
 - Dinkarrao Javalkar
6. Consider the following pairs: [2019]
| Movement/Organization | Leader |
- All India Anti-Untouchability League | Mahatma Gandhi |
 - All India Kisan Sabha | Swami Sahajanand Saraswati |
 - Self-Respect Movement | Naicker E.V. Ramaswami |
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
7. Satya Shodhak Samaj organised: [2016]
- A movement for upliftment of tribals in Bihar
 - A temple-entry movement in Gujarat
 - An anti-caste movement in Maharashtra
 - Peasant movement in Punjab
8. Which of the following statements is / are correct regarding Brahmo Samaj? [2012]
- It opposed idolatry.
 - It denied the need for a priestly class for interpreting the religious texts.
 - It popularized the doctrine that the Vedas are infallible
- Select the correct answer:
- 1 Only
 - 1 & 2 Only
 - 3 Only
 - 1, 2, & 3
9. Consider the following statements: [2001]
- Arya Samaj was founded in 1835.
 - Lala Lajpat Rai opposed the appeal of Arya Samaj to the authority of Vedas in support of its social reform programmes.
 - Under Keshab Chandra Sen, the Brahmo Samaj campaigned for women's education.
 - Vinoba Bhave founded the Sarvodaya Samaj to work among refugees.
- Which of these statements are correct?
- I and II
 - II and III
 - II and IV
 - III and IV
10. The word Adivasi was used for the first time to refer to the tribal people by [1995]
- Mahatma Gandhi
 - Thakkar Bappa
 - Jyotiba Phule
 - B.R. Ambedkar
11. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched? [1995]
- Jamnalal Bajaj - Satyagraha Ashram at Wardha

- b) Dadabhai Naoroji - Bombay Association
- c) Lala Lajpat Rai - National School at Lahore
- d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak - Satya Shodhak Sabha

LITERATURE

JOURNALS, NEWSPAPERS AND TRANSLATIONS

12. Who among the following is associated with 'Songs from Prison', a translation of ancient Indian Religious lyrics in English? [2021]
- a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
 - b) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - c) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
 - d) Sarojini Naidu
13. Which one of the following was a journal brought out by Abul Kalam Azad? [2008]
- a) Al-Hilal
 - b) Comrade
 - c) The Indian Sociologist
 - d) Zamindar
14. Who among the following translated the Autobiography of Madam Curie in Hindi? [2008]
- a) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
 - b) Lal Bahadur Shastri
 - c) Choudhary Charan Singh
 - d) Govind Vallabh Pant
15. Who among the following started the newspaper - Shome Prakash? [2007]
- a) Dayanand Saraswati
 - b) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
 - c) Raja Rammohan Roy
 - d) Surendranath Banerjee
16. Who amongst the following Englishmen, first translated Bhagavad Gita into English? [2001]
- a) William Jones
 - b) Charles Wilkins
 - c) Alexander Cunningham
 - d) John Marshall
17. Match List I with List II (Persons and Journals): [1999]
- | List I (Persons) | List II (Journals) |
- | I. Shyamji Krishna Varma | A) Bande Mataram |
- | II. Madame Bhikaji Cama | B) Indian Sociologist |
- | III. Annie Besant | C) The Talwar |
- | IV. Aurobindo Ghosh | D) Commonwealth |
- Codes:
- a) I-B, II-C, III-D, IV-A
 - b) I-C, II-B, III-A, IV-D
 - c) I-B, II-C, III-A, IV-D
 - d) I-C, II-B, III-D, IV-A
18. Which one of the following was an emigre Communist Journal of M.N. Roy? [1995]
- a) Kisan Sabha
 - b) The Worker
 - c) Vanguard
 - d) Anushilan

AUTHORS, BOOKS AND NOVELS

- 1) With reference to the book 'Deshar Katha' written by Sakharam Ganesh Deuskar during the freedom struggle, consider the following statements: [2020]
 - 2) It warned against the Colonial State's hypnotic conquest of the mind.
 - 3) It inspired the performance of swadeshi street plays and folk songs.
 - 4) The use of 'desh' by Deuskar was in the specific context of the region of Bengal.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
19. He wrote biographies of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Shivaji and Shrikrishna; stayed in America for sometime; and was elected to the Central Assembly. He was: [2018]
 - a) Aurobindo Ghosh
 - b) Bipin Chandra Pal
 - c) Lala Lajpat Rai
 - d) Motilal Nehru
20. Mahatma Gandhi said that some of his deepest convictions were reflected in a book titled, "Unto this Last" and the book transformed his life. What was the message from the book that transformed Mahatma Gandhi? [2011]
 - a) Uplifting the oppressed and poor is the moral responsibility of an educated man
 - b) The good of individual is contained in the good of all.
 - c) The life of celibacy and spiritual pursuit are essential for a noble life.
 - d) All the statements a), b) and c) are correct in this context.
21. Who of the following is the author of a collection of poems called "Golden Threshold"? [2009]
 - a) Aruna Asaf Ali
 - b) Annie Besant
 - c) Sarojini Naidu
 - d) Vijayalakshmi Pandit
22. Match List-I with List-II (Author and Work): [2008]
| List-I (Author) | List-II (Work) |
| A. Bankimchandra | 1. Shatranj ke Khilari |
| B. Dinabandhu Mitra | 2. Debi Chaudhurani |
| C. Premchandra | 3. Nil-Darpan |
| | 4. Chandrakanta |
Codes (A B C):
 - a) 2 4 1
 - b) 3 4 2
 - c) 2 3 1
 - d) 3 1 4
23. The song 'Amar Sonar Bangla' written during the Swadeshi Movement of India inspired the liberation struggle of Bangladesh. Who wrote this song? [2007]
 - a) Rajni Kanta Sen
 - b) Dwijendralal Ray
 - c) Mukunda Das
 - d) Rabindranath Tagore
24. Who among the following wrote the book Babuvivah? [2007]
 - a) Raja Rammohan Roy
 - b) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

- c) Pandita Rambai
d) Rabindranath Tagore
25. Which one of the following revolts was made famous by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in his novel Anand Math? [2006]
- a) Bhil uprising
b) Rangpur and Dinapur uprising
c) Bishnupur and Birbhum rebellion
d) Sanyasi rebellion
18. Match List I with List II (Books and Authors): [1999]
- | List I (Books) | List II (Authors) |
| I. The First Indian War of Independence | A) Rabindranath Tagore |
| II. Anand Math | B) Sri Aurobindo |
| III. Life Divine | C) Bankim Chandra Chatterji |
| IV. Sadhana | D) Vinayak Damodar Savarkar |
- Codes:
- a) I-D, II-C, III-B, IV-A
b) I-C, II-D, III-A, IV-B
c) I-D, II-C, III-A, IV-B
d) I-C, II-D, III-B, IV-A
26. Match List I with List II: [1996]
- | List I (Authors) | List II (Works) |
| I. Surendranath Bannerjee | A) Hind Swaraj |
| II. M. K. Gandhi | B) The Indian Struggle |
| III. Subhash Chandra Bose | C) Autobiographical Writings |
| IV. Lajpat Rai | D) A Nation in Making |
- Codes:
- a) I-D, II-A, III-C, IV-B
b) I-A, II-D, III-C, IV-B
c) I-A, II-D, III-B, IV-C
d) I-D, II-A, III-B, IV-C
27. Which one of the following is an important historical novel written during the latter half of the nineteenth century? [1996]
- a) Rast Goftar
b) Durgesh Nandini
c) Maharatha
d) Nibandhamala

LITERATURE AND CHRONOLOGY

28. With reference to Madanapalle of Andhra Pradesh, which one of the following statements is correct? [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.
29. Which among the following events happened earliest? [2018]
- a) Swami Dayanand established Arya Samaj
b) Dinabandhu Mitra wrote Neeldarpan
c) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Anandmath
d) Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to succeed in the Indian Civil Services
30. Which one of the following statements is not correct? [1999]

- a) 'Neel Darpan' was a play based on the exploitation of the indigo farmers
- b) The author of the play 'Ghashiram Kotwal' is Vijay Tendulkar
- c) The play 'Navanna' by Nabin Chandra Das was based on the famine of Bengal
- d) Urdu theatre used to depend heavily on Parsi theatre

REVOLUTIONARIES AND REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT

GHADAR MOVEMENT

31. Consider the following freedom fighters: [2022]

- 1) Barindra Kumar Ghosh
- 2) Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee
- 3) Rash Behari Bose

Who of the above was/were actively associated with the Ghadar Party?

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

32. The Ghadr (Ghadar) was a: [2014]

- a) Revolutionary association of Indians with headquarters at San Francisco.
- b) Nationalist organization operating from Singapore.
- c) Militant organisation with headquarters at Berlin
- d) Communist movement for India's freedom with head-quarters at Tashkent.

33. Where were the Ghadar revolutionaries, who became active during the outbreak of the World War I based? [2005]

- a) Central America
- b) North America
- c) West America
- d) South America

34. Who was the leader of the Ghadar Party? [1998]

- a) Bhagat Singh
- b) Lala Hardayal
- c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- d) V. D. Savarkar

REVOLUTIONARY FIGURES AND ORGANIZATIONS

35. With reference to the Indian freedom struggle, Usha Mehta is well-known for? [2011]

- a) Running the secret congress radio in the wake of the quit India movement.
- b) Participating in the second round table conference.
- c) Leading a contingent of Indian national army.
- d) Assisting in the formation of Interim government under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

36. Consider the following statements about Madam Bhikaji Cama: [2006]

Madam Cama unfurled the National Flag at the international Socialist Conference in Paris in 1907.

Madam Cama served as private secretary to Dadabhai Naoroji.

Madam Cama was born to Parsi parents.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. 'Abhinava Bharat' a secret society of revolutionaries was organised by: [1999]

- a) Khudiram Bose

- b) V. D. Savarkar
- c) Prafulla Chaki
- d) Bhagat Singh

KEY INCIDENTS AND MATCHING LISTS

38. Who among the following organised the famous Chittagong armoury raid? [2001]

- a) Laxmi Sehgal
- b) Surya Sen
- c) Batukeshwar Datta
- d) J.M. Sengupta

39. Match List I with List II: [2000]

| List I | List II |

| I. Chittagong Armoury Raid | A) Kalpana Dutt |

| II. Abhinav Bharat | B) Guru Ram Singh |

| III. Anushilan Samiti | C) Vikram Damodar Savarkar |

| IV. Kuka Movement | D) Aurobindo Ghosh |

Codes:

- a) I-A, II-C, III-D, IV-B
- b) I-A, II-C, III-B, IV-D
- c) I-C, II-A, III-B, IV-D
- d) I-C, II-A, III-D, IV-B

40. Match List I with List II: [1997]

| List I | List II |

| :--- | :--- |

| I. Chittagong Armoury raid | A) Lala Hardayal |

| II. Kakori Conspiracy | B) Jatin Das |

| III. Lahore Conspiracy | C) Surya Sen |

| IV. Ghadar Party | D) Ram Prasad Bismil |

| | E) Vasudeo Phadke |

Codes:

- a) I-C, II-D, III-A, IV-E
- b) I-D, II-C, III-B, IV-E
- c) I-C, II-D, III-B, IV-A
- d) I-B, II-D, III-C, IV-A

41. Match List I with List II: [1996]

| List I | List II |

| :--- | :--- |

| I. Abhinav Bharat Society | A) Sri Aurobindo Ghosh |

| II. Anushilan Samiti | B) Lala Hardayal |

| III. Ghadar Party | C) C. R. Das |

| IV. Swaraj Party | D) V. D. Savarkar |

Codes:

- a) I-D, II-A, III-C, IV-B
- b) I-A, II-D, III-C, IV-B
- c) I-A, II-D, III-B, IV-C
- d) I-D, II-A, III-B, IV-C

42. The Barrah dacoity was the first major venture of the revolutionary terrorist of the freedom movement in: [1995]

- a) Bombay-Karnataka

- b) Punjab
- c) East Bengal
- d) The Madras Presidency

DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEM ACTS, DESPATCHES AND COMMISSIONS

43. Regarding Wood's Dispatch, which of the following statements are true: [2018]
- 1) Grants-in-Aid system was introduced.
 - 2) Establishment of universities was recommended.
 - 3) English as a medium of instruction at all levels of education was recommended.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
44. Which of the following led to the introduction of English Education in India? [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
45. The aim of education as stated by the Wood's Dispatch of 1854 was: [2003]
- a) The creation of employment opportunities for native Indians
 - b) The spread of western culture in India
 - c) The promotion of literacy among the people using English medium of language
 - d) The introduction of scientific research and rationalism in the traditional Indian education
46. Assertion (A): The first ever Bill to make primary education compulsory in India was rejected in 1911.: [1998]
Reason (R): Discontent would have increased if every cultivator could read.
- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
 - b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT a correct explanation of A
 - c) A is true, but R is false
 - d) A is false, but R is true
- ## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOUNDERS
47. Who among the following was associated as Secretary with Hindu Female Schools which later came to be known as Bethune Female School? [2021]
- a) Annie Besant
 - b) Debendranath Tagore
 - c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
 - d) Sarojini Naidu
48. Wellesley established the Fort William College Calcutta because: [2020]
- a) He was asked by the Board of Directors at London to do so
 - b) He wanted to revive interest in oriental learning in India
 - c) He wanted to provide William Carey and his associates with employment
 - d) He wanted to train British civilians for administrative purpose in India
49. With the reference to educational institutions during rule in India, consider the following pairs: [2018]
| Institution | Founder |

- | 1. Sanskrit College at Benarus | William Jones |
 - | 2. Calcutta Madarsa | Warren Hastings |
 - | 3. Fort William College | Arthur Wellesley |
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

50. In collaboration with David Hare and Alexander Duff, who of the following established Hindu College at Calcutta? [2009]

- a) Henry Louis Vivian Derozio
- b) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- c) Keshab Chandra Sen
- d) Raja Rammohan Roy

EDUCATION AND CHRONOLOGY

51. What is the correct chronological sequence of the following? [1997]

- I. Wood's Education Despatch
- II. Macaulay's Minute on Education
- III. The Sargeant Education Report
- IV. Indian Education (Hunter Commission)

- a) II, I, IV, III
- b) II, I, III, IV
- c) I, II, IV, III
- d) IV, III, I, II

52. Consider the following landmarks in Indian education: [1996]

- I) Hindu College, Calcutta
- II) University of Calcutta
- III) Adam's Report
- IV) Wood's Despatch

The correct chronological order of these landmarks is

- a) I, III, IV, II
- b) I, IV, III, II
- c) III, I, IV, II
- d) III, II, IV, I

TRIBAL AND PEASANT MOVEMENTS

PEASANT MOVEMENTS

53. Indigo cultivation in India declined by the beginning of the 20th century because of: [2020]

- a) Peasant resistance to the oppressive conduct of planters
- b) Its unprofitability in the world market because of new inventions
- c) National leaders' opposition to the cultivation of indigo
- d) Government control over the planters

54. The demand for the Tebhaga Peasant Movement in Bengal was for ___? [2013]

- a) The reduction of the share of the landlords from one-half of the crop to one-third
- b) The grant of ownership of land to peasants as they were the actual cultivators of the land
- c) The uprooting of Zamindari system and the end of serfdom
- d) Writing off all peasant debts

55. Which one of the following revolts was made famous by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in his novel Anand Math? [2006]

- a) Bhil uprising
- b) Rangpur and Dinapur uprising
- c) Bishnupur and Birbhum rebellion
- d) Sanyasi rebellion

TRIBAL REVOLTS

56. With reference to the history of India, "Ulgulan" or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following events? [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

57. After the Santhal rising subsided, what were the measures taken by the colonial Government? [2018]

The territories called 'Santhal Paraganas' were created.

It became illegal for a Santhal to transfer land to a Non Santhal.

Select the correct answer using a code given below:

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

58. Match List I with List II: [1997]

| List I | List II |

| I. Moplah revolt | A) Kerala |

| II. Pabna revolt | B) Bihar |

| III. Eka Movement | C) Bengal |

| IV. Birsa Munda revolt | D) Awadh |

Codes:

- a) I-A, II-C, III-D, IV-B
- b) I-B, II-C, III-D, IV-A
- c) I-A, II-B, III-C, IV-D
- d) I-C, II-D, III-A, IV-B

Movement Chronology

59. Consider the following events: [1999]

- I. Indigo Revolt
- II. Santhal Rebellion
- III. Deccan Riot
- IV. Mutiny of the Sepoys

The chronological sequence of these events is:

- a) IV, II, I, III
- b) IV, II, III, I
- c) II, IV, III, I
- d) II, IV, I, III