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Compiled by Arvind KrS

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Prelims 2026 Edition · Compiled November 2026

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PRELIMS RESEARCH | GS PAPER 1 | MODERN INDIAN HISTORY

UPSC Prelims Research: Modern Indian History 2026

All 5 Modern Indian History questions of UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2026, General Studies Paper 1, with the correct answer and an explanation of every option.

Q. The artificially fixed rupee-sterling exchange rate prescribed by the Hilton-Young Commission (1926) was adopted by the British Government for which one of the following reasons?

(a) Aiding the flow of remittances from India and maintaining India's creditworthiness
(b) Providing support to Indian importers
(c) Encouraging export of cotton produce from India
(d) Preventing depreciation of the Rupee in terms of gold

Answer: (a) Aiding the flow of remittances from India and maintaining India's creditworthiness

The Hilton-Young Commission and the 1s 6d ratio

- The **Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance (1925–26)**, chaired by **Edward Hilton Young**, reported in **1926**. It recommended a **gold bullion standard**, a **central bank** for India (which led to the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**; the RBI started in **1935**) and an exchange rate of **1 shilling 6 pence (18d) per rupee**.
- The rate was put into law by the **Currency Act of 1927**. Before the First World War the rupee had stood at **1s 4d (16d)**. The government held the rupee at 18d by **contracting the money supply**, which is why the rate is described as **artificially fixed**.
- **Purshotamdas Thakurdas**, the only Indian member of the commission, wrote a **minute of dissent** and asked for the old **1s 4d** rate. Indian business groups (the later **FICCI**, set up in 1927) and nationalists called the 18d rate the **"ratio controversy"**: an overvalued rupee hurt Indian producers and exporters.

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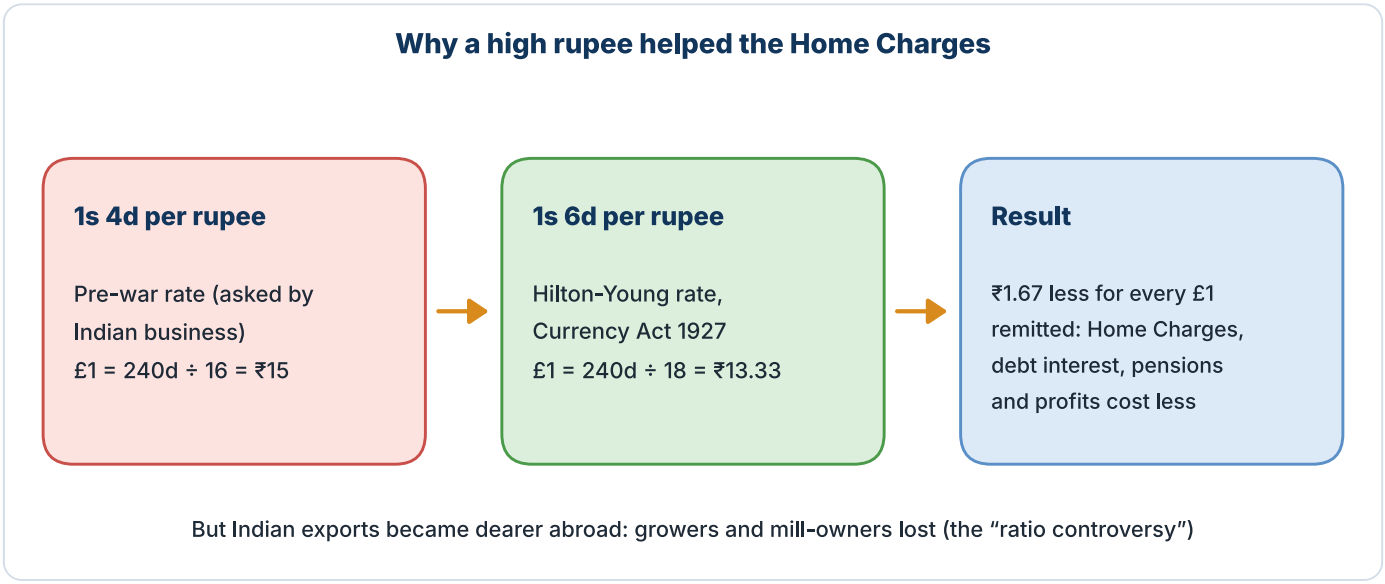

How the 1s 6d ratio cut the rupee cost of remittances

Why the British wanted a high rupee

- India had to pay large sums in sterling every year: the **Home Charges** (interest on the sterling debt, pensions and salaries of British officials, India Office costs, army stores), plus **profits and dividends** of British firms. A higher rupee meant **fewer rupees for each pound** sent to Britain, so the government could make these **remittances** cheaply and keep its budget balanced.
- A steady, high rupee also kept India's **sterling loans** safe in the eyes of the London money market, so India stayed **creditworthy** and could borrow there at low interest. This is option **(a)**.

Group	Effect of the 18d (overvalued) rupee
British government and Home Charges	Fewer rupees needed to remit each pound; sterling debt easier to service
British manufacturers	Their goods became cheaper in India
Indian exporters, cotton and jute growers	Got fewer rupees for the same sterling price; exports discouraged
Indian industry	Faced cheaper imports; less protection

The other options

- **(b) Indian importers:** importers did gain from cheaper foreign goods, but this was a **side effect**. The policy was framed to protect the **Home Charges** and British interests, not to help Indian traders. The gain went mainly to **British exporters** selling in India.
- **(c) Export of cotton:** an overvalued rupee **discourages exports**, because foreign buyers have to pay more for Indian cotton. Indian cotton growers and the Bombay mill-owners were among the **strongest critics** of the 18d ratio.
- **(d) Depreciation against gold:** the commission did link the rupee to gold through the gold bullion standard, but the question asks why the **rupee-sterling** rate was fixed high. The aim was a **strong rupee for remittances**, not a guard against falling gold value. When Britain left the gold standard in **September 1931**, the rupee was simply **tied to sterling at 1s 6d**, which shows that the sterling link, not gold, was what mattered.

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Q. Which one of the following statements about the Eka Movement and Bardoli Satyagraha is correct?

(a) The Eka Movement was throughout supported and organized by the Congress while Bardoli Satyagraha was initially independent of Congress influence and was only in the last stages supported by the Congress.
(b) The Eka Movement was provided leadership by the taluqdars of Awadh, whereas the Bardoli Satyagraha was a movement of the landless labourers.
(c) The Bardoli Satyagraha was a campaign against the enhancement of land revenue, while the Eka Movement was a protest against excessive extraction of rents.
(d) The Eka Movement was located in the Varanasi and Mirzapur districts of the present-day U.P., while the Bardoli Satyagraha took place in Saurashtra.

> **Answer: (c) The Bardoli Satyagraha was a campaign against the enhancement of land revenue, while the Eka Movement was a protest against excessive extraction of rents.**

Eka (Unity) Movement, 1921–22

- The **Eka Movement** arose at the end of **1921** in the northern districts of **Awadh**: **Hardoi, Bahraich and Sitapur** (and spread to Barabanki and Lucknow). It followed the **Awadh Kisan Sabha** agitation of 1920–21 led by **Baba Ramchandra**.
- **Grievances:** rents were **about 50% higher** than the recorded rent; **thekedars** (rent collectors) were oppressive; and **share-rents** (rent paid in grain) were common. So it was a protest against **excessive rents**, not against government land revenue.
- **Eka meetings** began with a religious ritual: peasants vowed to pay **only the recorded rent**, to pay it on time, not to leave their land when evicted, not to do **begar** (forced labour) and to stand by the decisions of the panchayats.
- It was **started by Congress and Khilafat leaders**, but soon came under **grassroots leaders**, above all **Madari Pasi** (from a low caste), and other low-caste peasants. It moved away from Congress discipline of non-violence, and was **put down by March 1922** through severe repression.

Bardoli Satyagraha, 1928

- **Bardoli** taluka is in **Surat district, south Gujarat**. In **1926–27** the Bombay government **raised the land revenue by about 30%** (later cut to **21.97%**).
- **Vallabhbhai Patel** led the campaign from **February 1928**: peasants refused to pay the enhanced revenue. Its women gave him the title **"Sardar"**. Congress workers had been doing **constructive work** in Bardoli since 1922 (for example among the **Kaliparaj** tribal people), so the campaign was **Congress-led from the start**.
- The **Maxwell-Broomfield inquiry** later found the increase unjustified and reduced it to **6.03%**. Bardoli became a model of a **non-violent peasant struggle** against **land revenue enhancement**.

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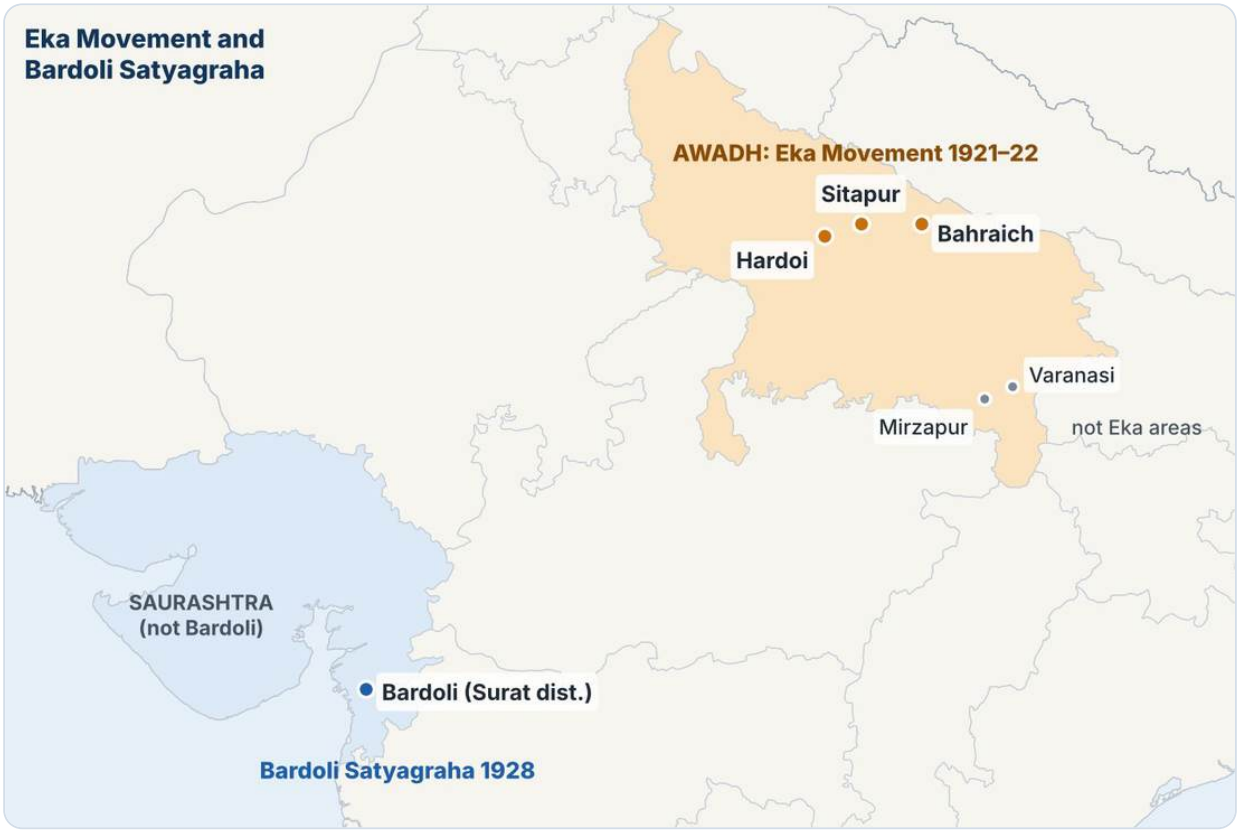

Where the Eka Movement and the Bardoli Satyagraha took place

Feature	Eka Movement	Bardoli Satyagraha
Year	1921–22	1928
Region	Northern Awadh: Hardoi, Bahraich, Sitapur	Bardoli taluka, Surat district, Gujarat
Against	High rents, thekedars, begar (landlords)	30% rise in land revenue (government)
Leaders	Congress-Khilafat at first; then Madari Pasi	Vallabhbhai Patel (Congress)
Outcome	Crushed by March 1922	Enhancement cut to 6.03%

The other options

- **(a)** reverses the facts. Eka **began** with Congress help but slipped **out of Congress control** under Madari Pasi. Bardoli was **Congress-led throughout**, under Patel.
- **(b)** Eka was **against the taluqdars** and landlords, so taluqdars could not lead it. Bardoli was a struggle of **landholding peasants** (mostly **Patidar** cultivators) who paid land revenue, not of landless labourers.
- **(d)** Eka was in **Hardoi, Bahraich and Sitapur**, not Varanasi and Mirzapur. Bardoli is in **south Gujarat (Surat)**, not **Saurashtra** (the Kathiawar peninsula).

Q. Which of the following factors contributed to the formation of the Forward Bloc by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1939?

1. Bose failed to win the confidence of Mahatma Gandhi.

2. The Congress Left was disunited and failed to support Bose.

3. The Communists did not support Bose in his endeavours.

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4. The supporters of M.N. Roy and socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan preferred Congress unity to supporting Bose.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

> **Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4**

From Tripuri to the Forward Bloc

- Bose was **Congress President at Haripura (1938)**. In **January 1939** he stood again and **defeated Pattabhi Sitaramayya**, Gandhi's candidate, by **1,580 votes to 1,377**. Gandhi said that Pattabhi's defeat was **"more mine than his"**.
- In **February 1939**, **12 of the 15** members of the Congress Working Committee (including Patel, Rajendra Prasad and Azad) **resigned**; Nehru stepped down separately. At the **Tripuri session (March 1939)**, the **Pant resolution** asked Bose to name his Working Committee **"in accordance with the wishes of Gandhiji"**.
- Gandhi would not agree to a joint committee, and Bose **resigned as President in April 1939**; **Rajendra Prasad** took his place. On **3 May 1939** Bose formed the **Forward Bloc** inside the Congress, to rally the Left. In **August 1939** he was removed from the presidentship of the Bengal Congress and barred from Congress office for three years.

Statement by statement

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bose wanted an **ultimatum to the British** and a mass struggle; Gandhi felt the country was not ready. Bose **could not win Gandhi's confidence**, and without it he could not run the Congress.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** the **Congress Left** (Congress Socialists, Communists, Royists, Kisan Sabha leaders and Nehru) was **divided** and did not stand behind Bose against the Gandhian leadership at Tripuri.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** the **Communists backed Bose** in the 1939 presidential contest, and they later joined the **Left Consolidation Committee** that Bose set up in **June 1939** with other Left groups. They were not the factor that pushed him to form the Bloc. (They did avoid a **split** at Tripuri, but the statement that they did not support him is too sweeping.)
- **Statement 4 is correct: Jayaprakash Narayan** and the **Congress Socialist Party** stayed **neutral** on the Pant resolution, and **M.N. Roy's** followers also put **Congress unity** first, because a split on the eve of war would have weakened the national movement.
- So statements **1, 2 and 4** contributed, and the answer is **(b)**.

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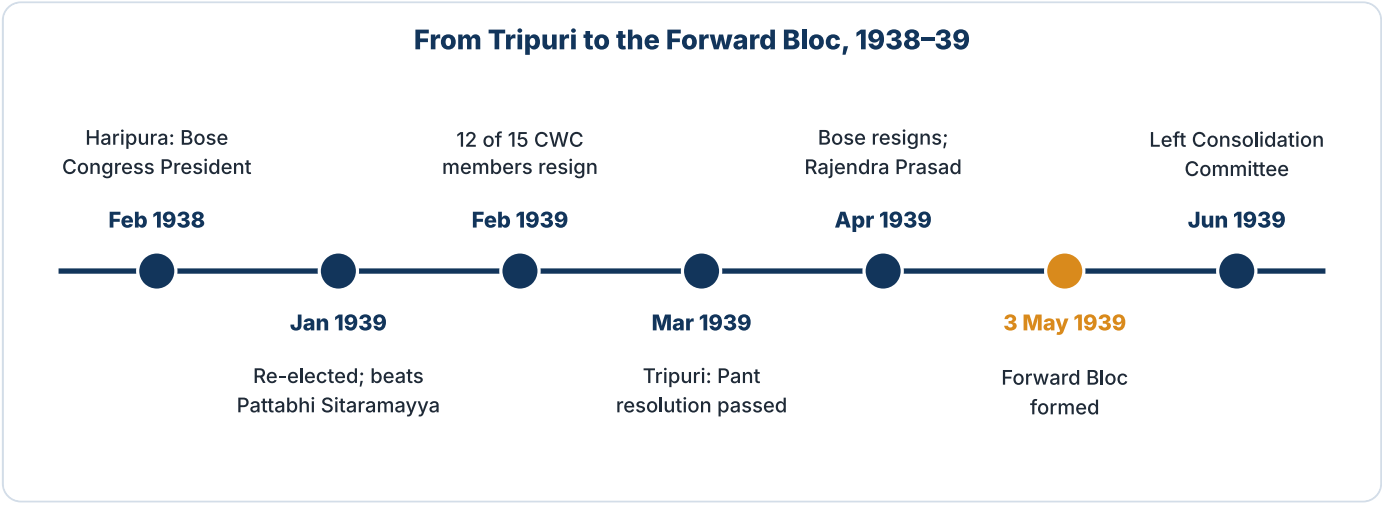

Events leading to the Forward Bloc, 1938–39

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the British policy in Awadh immediately after its annexation in 1856:

1. The taluqdars were dispossessed of their estates but allowed to retain their arms and forts.

2. A Summary Revenue Settlement was made in 1856 assuming that the taluqdars were outsiders.

3. The British believed in taking revenue directly from the peasants by removing the taluqdars.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only

Annexation of Awadh and the Summary Settlement

- **Awadh was annexed in February 1856** by **Lord Dalhousie** on the ground of **misgovernment** (not the Doctrine of Lapse). **Nawab Wajid Ali Shah** was deposed and sent to **Calcutta**.
- The **taluqdars** of Awadh were powerful landholders who had **armed retainers** and **forts**. Right after annexation the British **disarmed them, disbanded their armies and destroyed their forts**. So **statement 1 is wrong**: they were not allowed to keep their arms and forts.
- The **Summary Settlement of 1856** assumed that the taluqdars were **interlopers (outsiders)** with **no permanent stake in the land**, who had gained their estates by **force and fraud**. Many taluqdars were **dispossessed**: they lost **more than half** the villages they had held before annexation. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- The British hoped that by **removing the taluqdars** they could **settle the land directly with the cultivators** (the actual owners in their view), which would **raise government revenue** and win the peasants' loyalty. **Statement 3 is correct.**

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What followed

- The plan backfired. Peasants did not gain: the **revenue demand was over-assessed**, and the old ties with the taluqdars remained. In **1857**, Awadh saw one of the **most widespread revolts**, with taluqdars and peasants fighting together; **Begum Hazrat Mahal** led it at **Lucknow**.
- After 1857 the British **reversed the policy**: loyal taluqdars were **given back their estates through sanads** and became allies of the Raj. This is a good example of how annexation and land policy fed the Revolt.

Q. Consider the following assertion : The genesis of political alliances based on community lay in the very nature of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, 1919.

Which of the following statements support/supports the above assertion?

1. Reforms retained and extended the principle of separate electorates.

2. Separate electorates were supposed to counter Indian nationalism, which was growing stronger.

3. Deprived classes rallied around the favours inherent in separate electorates.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

> **Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

Separate electorates under the 1919 reforms

- The **Montagu-Chelmsford Report (1918)** led to the **Government of India Act, 1919**. It introduced **dyarchy** in the provinces and a **bicameral** central legislature, and **widened the franchise** (still limited by property and tax).
- **Separate electorates for Muslims** began with the **Indian Councils Act, 1909** (Morley-Minto). The 1919 Act **retained** them and **extended** the principle to **Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans**. Seats were also **reserved for non-Brahmins in Madras** and for the **Marathas in Bombay**. **Statement 1 supports the assertion.**
- The Montagu-Chelmsford Report itself **criticised communal electorates** as harmful to self-government, but kept them, partly because the **Lucknow Pact (1916)** had accepted them. British officials saw them as a way to **divide and balance** a nationalism that had grown stronger after the **Home Rule movement**. **Statement 2 supports the assertion.**
- Groups that gained seats or **special representation**, such as **non-Brahmins** (the **Justice Party** won the first Madras elections in 1920) and the **depressed classes**, organised as **communities** to secure these benefits. This laid the ground for **community-based political alliances** in the 1920s and 1930s. **Statement 3 supports the assertion.**

Act	Communal or special representation

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Indian Councils Act, 1909	Separate electorates for Muslims
Government of India Act, 1919	Extended to Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Europeans; reserved seats for non-Brahmins (Madras), Marathas (Bombay)
Communal Award, 1932	Extended to the depressed classes (changed by the Poona Pact, 1932)
Government of India Act, 1935	Extended further to women, labour and others

- All three statements support the assertion, so the answer is **(d)**.

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All 9 Modern Indian History questions of UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2021, General Studies Paper 1, with the correct answer and an explanation of every option.

Q. Consider the following statements:

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

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

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St. Francis Xavier (1506–1552)

- Francis Xavier venerated as Saint Francis Xavier, was a **Catholic missionary and saint who was a co-founder of the Society of Jesus.**
- He was born in Javier, Kingdom of Navarre (in present-day Spain), he was a companion of Ignatius of Loyola and **one of the first seven Jesuits.**
- He led an **extensive mission into Asia, mainly in the Portuguese Empire** of the time and was influential in evangelization work, **most notably in India**.

His works

- He has asked for a special minister to the king of Portugal whose sole office would be to further Christianity in Goa.
- He also was the **first Christian missionary to venture into Japan, Borneo, the Maluku Islands, and other areas.**
- In those areas, struggling to learn the local languages and in the face of opposition, he had less success than he had enjoyed in India.
- Xavier was about to extend his missionary **preaching to China when he died on Shangchuan Island.**
- Known as the "**Apostle of the Indies**" and "**Apostle of Japan**", he is considered to be one of the greatest missionaries since Paul the Apostle.
- **The Feast of St. Francis Xavier:**
  - The Feast of St. Francis Xavier is **observed on December 3rd each year in Goa.**
  - It is a regional **public holiday in the northern Spanish community of Navarra and the Indian state of Goa.**

Francis Xavier

Q. Consider the following statements:

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

> **Answer: (b) 2 only**

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Notes:

- The **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms**, implemented through the **Government of India Act of 1919**, introduced **limited franchise** for women, but **did not grant voting rights to all women above the age of 21**.
  - Voting rights for women were very **restricted** and limited to certain categories of women, such as **those with property qualifications** or **members of special interest groups** (like graduates).
  - **Universal adult franchise** was not even discussed at that stage in colonial India, as the reforms were limited and aimed at giving Indians limited participation in governance.
- The **Government of India Act, 1935** expanded the electoral participation of women and **provided reserved seats** for them in the **provincial legislatures**.
  - While **universal franchise was still not granted**, the act allowed a **larger number of women to vote** compared to the 1919 reforms and allocated a specific number of **reserved seats for women** in provincial legislatures.

Government of India Act 1919

- **Provincial Government** (Legislature)
  - The Government of India Act 1919 **expanded the provincial legislative councils, with 70% of members elected, but key limitations persisted**. The dyarchical system restricted Indian control to less critical areas, while essential sectors like finance and law remained under British authority.
    - The **diarchy was implemented in eight provinces**, including Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Central Provinces, United Provinces, Bombay, Madras, and Punjab.
    - **Women were granted the right to vote.**
    - Legislative councils could propose legislation, but the governor's approval was required. The governor can veto bills and issue ordinances.
    - The legislative councils may reject the budget, but the governor has the authority to restore it if necessary.
- **Central Government** (Legislature)
  - The **Council of State (Upper House) had 60 members, 26 nominated by the British government and 34 elected by the provincial legislatures**.
    - The Legislative Assembly had 145 members—104 elected and 41 nominated. The electorate was limited to property owners and taxpayers.
    - Legislators had the authority to ask questions, pass adjournment motions, and vote on **parts of the budget**, but 75% of it remained unvoted.
    - The Council of State consisted of **only male members and served for 5 years**, while the Central Legislative Assembly lasted 3 years.

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

(a) The Quit India Resolution was adopted by the AICC.

(b) The Viceroy's Executive Council was expanded to include more Indians.

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(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.

Answer: (a) The Quit India Resolution was adopted by the AICC.

Notes:

- The Congress Working Committee meeting at **Wardha (14 July 1942)** adopted a resolution demanding complete independence from the British government. The **draft proposed massive civil disobedience** if the British did not accede to the demands.
- On **8th August 1942**, the **All India Congress Committee (AICC)** passed the **Quit India Resolution** at **Bombay (now Mumbai)**, which marked the beginning of the **Quit India Movement**.
  - This was a call for an **immediate end to British rule in India** and a mass struggle led by **Mahatma Gandhi**, emphasizing **non-violent resistance.**
  - The slogan "Quit India" was coined by **Yusuf Meherally**, a socialist and trade unionist.
- **On 8 August 1940, the Viceroy Lord Linlithgow made a proposal called the August Offer** which expanded the Executive Council to include more Indians.
- **Congress ministries resigned in 1939**, in opposition to the British decision to unilaterally announce India's participation in Second World War.
- **Cripps offer came in march 1942**, which promised full dominion status for India after the Second World War.

Q. Who among the following is associated with 'Songs from Prison', a translation of ancient India religious lyrics in English?

(a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

(b) Jawaharlal Nehru

(c) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

(d) Sarojini Naidu

Answer: (c) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

Notes:

- Gandhi made these translations during his incarceration in **Yeravda Prison in 1930. The other editor was John S Hoyland.**
- **Songs from Prison"** is a collection of **ancient Indian religious lyrics** translated into **English** by **Mahatma Gandhi**.

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- **Context:**
  - Gandhi translated these texts while he was imprisoned during the **freedom struggle**. His work reflects his deep engagement with **spirituality** and his effort to share the essence of **Indian religious thought** with a broader, English-speaking audience.
- **Content:**
  - The translations in this collection include spiritual songs and hymns from various sources, such as the **Bhagavad Gita**, **Bhajans**, and **verses from saints like Tulsidas, Kabir**, and others, reflecting Gandhi's belief in **non-violence (Ahimsa), truth (Satya), and universal brotherhood**.
- **Impact:**
  - Through this work, Gandhi emphasized the role of spirituality in political action, drawing inspiration from ancient Indian religious traditions for his **philosophy of Satyagraha** (non-violent resistance).

Q. Who among the following was associated as Secretary with Hindu Female School which later came to be known as Bethune Female School?

(a) Annie Besant

(b) Debendranath Tagore

(c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

(d) Sarojini Naidu

> **Answer: (c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar**

Bethune College:

- The **"Hindu Female School," later known as Bethune School and now Bethune College, was a pioneering institution founded in Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1849**, dedicated to promoting **women's education** and later became the **first women's college in Asia.**
- It is the **oldest women's college in India**. It was **established as a girls' school in 1849**, and as a **college in 1879**.
- The college was **founded as the Calcutta Female School in 1849 by John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune**, with the support of social reformers like **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and Raja Dakshinaranjan Mukherjee.**
  - Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, as the Secretary of the Hindu Female School, played a crucial role in the development and success of the school.

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

(a) Leaders of Swadeshi and Boycott Movement

(b) Members of the Interim Government in 1946

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

(d) Officers of the Indian National Army

Answer: (d) Officers of the Indian National Army

Notes:

- The **Indian National Army (also known as the Azad Hind Fauj)** was an armed force formed by **Indian Nationalists in 1942**, through the patronage of the Imperial Japanese Army, to secure independence for India.
- The **first INA was formed under Mohan Singh**, a former officer of the British Indian Army captured during the Malay campaign. Conditions in the prisoner-of-war camps, as well as resentment against the British in general, saw many prisoners of war volunteer to join the Indian National Army.
- The initiative received considerable support from the **Imperial Japanese Army a**nd from the ethnic Indian population of South-East Asia.
  - However, disagreements between Mohan Singh and the Japanese Army Command regarding the autonomy of the Indian National Army led to the disbandment of the first INA in December 1942.
- **Subash Chandra Bose and the Second INA**
  - Although Mohan Singh had angered the Japanese Army Command through his actions, they relented to form a second Indian National Army. **Mohan Singh himself recommended Subash Chandra Bose for the leadership role**. His reputation as a committed nationalist was known to both the Indian diaspora of South East Asia and the Imperial Japanese Army. As such, they were more open to the idea of a nationalist army led by Subash Chandra Bose. The activities of Subash Chandra Bose in India had forced the British authorities to imprison him, but he escaped and reached Berlin in 1941.
- **Major General Shah Nawaz Khan, Colonel Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon and Colonel Prem Kumar Sahgal were three of the senior-most officers of INA and trusted colleagues of Netaji.**
  - These three officers were part of **Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army (INA)**, which fought alongside the **Axis Powers** during World War II to achieve India's independence from British rule.
- **The Red Fort Trials (1945–1946):**
  - The three officers — **Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sehgal, and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon** – were charged with **treason, murder, and torture** for their role in the INA.
  - The **trial** took place at the **Red Fort** in Delhi, and it became a **symbol of national resistance** against British rule, uniting Indians across political ideologies.
  - Although the British found them guilty, the widespread **public outrage and protests** across India forced the British to **commute their sentences**.

Constituent Assembly of India

- Constituent Assembly of India was **partly elected and partly nominated body to frame the Constitution of India**. It was **elected by the Provincial assemblies** of British India following the Provincial Assembly **elections held in 1946** and **nominated by princely states**.
- After India's independence from the British in August 1947, its members served as the nation's '**Provisional Parliament**', as well as the Constituent Assembly.

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- It was conceived and created by **V. K. Krishna Menon**, who first outlined its necessity in 1933 and enshrined it as an Indian National Congress demand.
- The Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, **chaired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, comprised **seven members**:
  - Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar,
  - N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar,
  - K.M. Munshi,
  - Mohammad Saadulla,
  - B.L. Mitter (later replaced by N. Madhava Rao),
  - D.P. Khaitan (later replaced by T.T. Krishnamachari),
  - and B.R. Ambedkar.

Interim Government

- The **Interim Government of India, also known as the Provisional Government of India, formed on 2 September 1946** from the newly elected Constituent Assembly of India, had the task of assisting the transition of British India to independence.
  - It **remained in place until 15 August 1947**, the date of the independence (and partition) of British India, and the creation of the dominions of India and Pakistan.
- **Key Members and their Portfolios:**
  - **Jawaharlal Nehru (INC):** Vice President, External Affairs, and Commonwealth Relations.
  - **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (INC):** Home Affairs, Information, and Broadcasting.
  - **Rajendra Prasad (INC):** Agriculture and Food.
  - **C. Rajagopalachari (INC):** Education and Arts.
  - **Baldev Singh (Sikh):** Defence.
  - **Liaquat Ali Khan (Muslim League):** Finance.
  - **Jagjivan Ram (INC):** Labour.
  - **Asaf Ali (Muslim League):** Railways and Communications.
  - **C.H. Bhabha (Parsee):** Works, Mines, and Power.
  - **Ibrahim Ismail Chundrigar (Muslim League):** Commerce.
  - **Abdur Rab Nishtar (Muslim League):** Posts and Air.
  - **Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Muslim League):** Health.
  - **Jogendra Nath Mandal (Scheduled Caste):** Law.
  - **John Matthai (Indian Christian):** Industries and Supplies.

Q. With reference to Indian history, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Nizamat of Arcot emerged out of Hyderabad State.
2. The Mysore Kingdom emerged out of Vijayanagara Empire.
3. Rohilkhand Kingdom was formed out of the territories occupied by Ahmad Shah Durrani.

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Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

> **Answer: (b) 2 only**

Notes:

- The **Nizamat of Arcot** (also called the **Carnatic Nawabdom**) did not emerge from the Hyderabad state.
  - Arcot was initially part of the **Mughal Empire** and came under the **Nawab of the Carnatic**. Later, with the weakening of Mughal authority, the Nawab of Arcot established an **independent rule**.
  - However, **Hyderabad** was formed in 1724 when **Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I** declared independence from the Mughal Empire, but Arcot was **separate from Hyderabad** and ruled by its own Nawab.
- The **Kingdom of Mysore** was founded by **the Wodeyars** in the 15th century, initially as a vassal state under the **Vijayanagara Empire**.
  - After the decline of the Vijayanagara Empire following the **Battle of Talikota (1565)**, Mysore emerged as an **independent kingdom** and expanded its influence, particularly under **Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan**.
- **Rohilkhand** was founded by **Afghan chiefs, led by Daud Khan** in the early **18th century**.
  - Though Ahmad Shah Durrani (Abdali) invaded India multiple times, he did not establish Rohilkhand.
  - Instead, the **Rohilla Afghans** formed the kingdom independently from Mughal territories in the **Awadh region** (modern Uttar Pradesh). Durrani did, however, have some alliances with the Rohillas during his campaigns.

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

1. Broach
2. Chicacole
3. Trichinopoly

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

> **Answer: (a) 1 only**

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Notes:

- **Broach (present-day Bharuch, Gujarat):**
  - Broach was an **important trading center in Gujarat**. The EIC set up a factory here **in 1616**, along with other factories at Surat and Cambay.
  - Gujarat was attractive to the English due to its thriving textile and spice trade, and Broach was a key part of this network.
- **Chicacole (present-day Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh):**
  - Chicacole was **not a significant center of English trade or factory establishment in the early 17th century.**
  - The EIC focused on the western coast during this period, and their presence on the eastern coast grew only later.
- **Trichinopoly (present-day Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu).**
  - Trichinopoly was a significant city in South India, but **it was not a focus of the English East India Company's activities during the early 17th century.**
  - The company began expanding to the Coromandel Coast (Madras) later, towards the mid-17th century.

Q. With reference to Madanapalle of Andhra Pradesh, which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) Pingali Venkayya designed the tricolor 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.

> **Answer: (c) Rabindranath Tagore translated the National Anthem from Bengali to English here.**

Notes:

- **Madanapalle, a town in Andhra Pradesh**, holds a special place in Indian history, particularly in the context of **Rabindranath Tagore and the National Anthem.**
- **Rabindranath Tagore in Madanapalle:**
  - In 1919, Tagore visited **Madanapalle**, where he stayed at the **Besant Theosophical College**.
  - It was during this stay that he **translated "Jana Gana Mana"** (the National Anthem of India) from **Bengali to English**. This translation is titled **"The Morning Song of India."**
- **Pingali Venkayya designed the tricolour flag** in **Vijayawada**.
- **Pattabhi Sitaramaiah** was active in the Andhra region during the freedom movement, but there is **no record of him leading the Quit India Movement from Madanapalle**.
- The **Theosophical Society** was founded by **Madame Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott** in **New York** in **1875**, and its **headquarters were later moved to Adyar, Chennai (then Madras).**

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