

1. During the freedom struggle, newspapers and magazines published by nationalist leaders were used as effective tools to mobilize the masses. Comment.

Approach

Candidates can start the answer with highlighting importance of the print medium during struggle and then simply comment on how it mobilized the masses for movement.

Introduction

Newspapers during the freedom struggle in India were an important source of mass communication throughout the country. Leaders used the newspaper to spread awareness among the masses. Though impact of these journals and newspapers was not only limited to towns and cities it helped to mobilize masses in villages.

Body

- The beginning of the 19th century, politically conscious Indians had been attracted to modern civil rights, especially the freedom of the Press.
- Sighting the Importance of Press, the struggle for the freedom of the Press became an integral part of the struggle for freedom.
- James Augustus Hickey is considered the father of Indian Press. He started the Bengal Gazette in the year 1780.

Role of newspaper and magazines to mobilize masses:

- Most members of Congress were Journalists, as a result of which Powerful newspapers emerged during these years.
- These were the Hindu and Swadesamitran under the editorship of G. Subramaniya Iyer, Kesari and Mahratta under B.G. Tilak, Bengalee under Surendranath Banerjea, Amrita Bazar Patrika under Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak, through his newspapers, was among the first to advocate bringing the lower middle classes, the peasants, artisans and workers into the Congress fold.
- In these newspapers, government Acts and policies were put to critical scrutiny. They acted as an institution of opposition to the government. The press made people aware about the colonial exploitation.
- Almost every act and every policy of the Government was subjected to sharp criticism, in many cases with great care and vast learning backing it up.
- The newspapers also helped in spreading awareness about the extreme measures taken by the colonial government which further incited protests and revolutionary acts against the British.

- The Role of the press was significant as it acted as a breeding ground for discontent voices of India, which saw prevailing narrative of Colonial authorities as false and wanted to register their protest.
- Nationalist Leaders such as Tilak and Gandhi through their newspapers and editorials took advantage to reach to the readers of the remotest parts of India.
- Thus, generating a nationalistic feeling and mobilizing the masses to fight for freedom of a “Nation” – an imagination which already had grasped minds of masses in urban and rural areas alike.

Conclusion

The country has witnessed up & down of numerous journals & newspapers during the fight for independence and most of them have acted as an effective weapon for social & political renaissance. Journalism has been the backbone of the freedom struggle through formation & propagation of the nationalist ideology and building up of strong national sentiment & consciousness among the masses.

2. In what ways did the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi on the national stage catalyse the freedom movement? explain with the help of suitable examples.

Approach-

In this question candidates needs to write about how arrival of mahatma Gandhi catalyzes the national freedom movement, In second part of answer give some examples to substantiate your points .

Introduction-

Gandhi's Role in the National Movement or Methods adopted by Mahatma Gandhi to make the Indian National Movement a mass movement. Roles and methods adopted by mahatma Gandhi in the National Movement of India was undoubtedly the most remarkable.

Body-

Mahatma Gandhi was the leader who guided India towards Independence. India was under the British rule for over 250 years. Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915 at the request of Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

- Gandhi's contribution to the Indian freedom movement cannot be measured in words. He, along with other freedom fighters, compelled the British to leave India. His policies and agendas were non-violent and his words were the source of inspiration for millions.

Champaran-

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- The Champaran agitation in Bihar was Gandhi's first active involvement into Indian freedom politics. The Champaran farmers were being forced to grow Indigo and were being tortured if they protested.
- The farmers sought Gandhi's help and through a calculated non-violent protest, Gandhi managed to win concessions from the authority.

Kheda-

- When Kheda, a village in Gujarat, was badly hit by floods, the local farmers appealed to the rulers to waive off the taxes. Here, Gandhi started a signature campaign where peasants pledged non-payment of taxes.
- He also arranged a social boycott of the mamlatdars and talatdars (revenue officials). In 1918, the Government relaxed the conditions of payment of revenue tax until the famine ended.

Khilafat Movement-

- Gandhi's influence on the Muslim population was remarkable. This was evident in his involvement in the Khilafat Movement. After the first World War, the Muslims feared for the safety of their Caliph or religious leader and a worldwide protest was being organised to fight against the collapsing status of the Caliph.
- Gandhi became a prominent spokesperson of the All India Muslim Conference and returned the medals he had received from the Empire during his Indian Ambulance Corps days in South Africa. His role in the Khilafat made him a national leader in no time.

Non-cooperation Movement-

- Gandhi had realised that the British had been able to be in India only because of the co-operation they received from the Indians. Keeping this in mind, he called for a non-cooperation movement.
- With the Congress' support and his indomitable spirit, he convinced people that peaceful non-cooperation was the key to Independence. The ominous day of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre triggered the non-cooperation movement. Gandhi set the goal of Swaraj or self-governance, which since then became the motto of Indian freedom movement.

Salt March-

- Also known as the Dandi Movement, Gandhi's Salt March is considered to be a pivotal incident in the history of freedom struggle. At the Calcutta Congress of 1928, Gandhi declared that the British must grant India dominion status or the country will erupt into a revolution for complete independence. The British did not pay heed to this.
- As a result, on December 31, 1929, the Indian flag was unfurled in Lahore and the next January 26 was celebrated as the Indian Independence Day. Then, Gandhi started a Satyagraha campaign against the salt tax in March 1930. He marched 388 kilometres from Ahmedabad to Dandi in Gujarat to make salt. Thousands of people joined him and made it one of the biggest marches in Indian history.

Quit India Movement-

- During the Second World War, Gandhi was determined to strike the British Empire with a definitive blow that would secure their exit from India. This happened when the British started recruiting Indians for the war.
- Gandhi protested strongly and said that the Indians cannot be involved in a war that is in favour of democratic purposes when India itself is not a free country.

This argument exposed the two-faced image of the colonisers and within half a decade, they were out of this country.

- Gandhian phase led to emphasis on Hindus-Muslims Unity. He very well knew that India could not attain freedom without the unity of Hindus-Muslims. Irrespective of religion and caste all people took part in mass movement.
- Thousands of women came out of their homes and participated in salt satyagraha.
- All Working class and professionals participated including lawyers, teachers, professors also joined the national movement.
- Gandhian phase witnessed the involvement of the business class in the movement. Business class participated and gave financial assistance and rejected imported goods.
- He emphasized the development of cottage and village industries. It was seen that these cottage industries were on the rise and people became more self-reliant.
- This helped the Indians be less dependent on imports from other countries and the Britishers
- Under his leadership National movement was inclusive and representative.
- Ultimately, it can be said that the Gandhian movement helped India attain freedom. Gandhi through his nonviolent method shook the foundation of British rule and defeated the great empire.

Conclusion-

Mahatma Gandhi is perhaps the most widely recognized figure of the Indian Nationalist Movement for his role in leading non-violent civil uprisings. His contribution not only leads country towards freedom but become torchlight for many countries to follow the path.

3. What were the key developments after the second world war that forced the British to rethink their strategy for India.

Approach -

A simple straightforward question where candidates are expected to write about developments that happened after second world war which forced British to rethink their strategy for India.

Introduction -

Before the war, Britain maintained colonies all over the world, which provided valuable raw materials, manpower and strategic bases. By 1945, however, colonies

were an expensive liability for British government. hence after war they are forced to rethink their strategy about India.

Body -

- Even before the World War II began, the British had realized the futility of holding on to their reign in India.
- By the time the war ended, Great Britain was bankrupt, unable and unwilling to continue to maintain colonies of the British Empire. Britain needed resources and manpower for development of Britain itself.
- The United States' rising global influence and its opposition to imperialism made colonialism less politically viable, while Japan's wartime victories had destroyed Britain's imperial prestige.
- The backbone of British rule in India - British Indian Army was no longer absolutely loyal.
- Thousands of former British Indian soldiers joined Netaji's Azad Hind Fauz and fought against British (its another thing that Azad Hind Fauz was defeated by fellow Indian soldiers). The naval mutiny of 1946 was another example.
- Another backbone of Indian Empire -ICS (Indian Civil Services) was In shambles at the end of world war.
- There was no recruitment for ICS in Britain since the start of world war and large numbers of Indians had succeeded in joining ICS by then. ICS was not able to attract best British talents and without a loyal and able civil service, Britain couldn't have governed India.
- India was no more profitable any more. Due to many reforms and world war arrangement, Britain was paying India for fighting world war.
- Britain could no longer buy Indian raw materials at very low price and dump British goods. The national movements had crippled the British trade and India was getting industrialized as well.
- The new superpowers America and Soviet Union were not supportive of European colonialism. Even America didn't support Britain during Sues Crisis and Soviets were actively calling for independence of colonies.
- as a deeply committed military force comprising Indian volunteers and POWs of the Japanese in South East Asia, with the aim of launching a military campaign to throw the British out of India.And they almost succeeded.
- The INA and Japanese forces were finally stopped by the British Army, with help of Indian soldiers, in Imphal and Kohima in the North East.
- The Bengal Famine in 1943 was devastating for the Indian people but with the British refusing to stop supplies from India in favour of those suffering in the country, only strengthened the resolve of the nationalists in their call for freedom.
- As the war came to an end, the British government in India began to initiate steps for withdrawal.

- The violent partition of the country left deep scars but the British also left behind a professional and well trained defence force in India.

Conclusion-

Many developments compelled Britishers to leave India but legacy of the British came in the form of institutions – the civil services, the judiciary, the Railways and other services, all of which contributed deeply in serving as a stable foundation on which modern India stands today.

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