

GENERAL AWARENESS – HISTORY OF INDIA & FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Chapter: History of India and Indian Freedom Struggle

Subject:	General Awareness – History
Total Questions:	70 MCQs
Question Type:	Multiple Choice (Single Correct Answer)
Exam Relevance:	UPSC, SSC CGL/CHSL, IBPS, RRB NTPC, State PSC, NDA, CDS, Defence Exams
Topics Covered:	Ancient India, Medieval India, Colonial Period, Freedom Struggle, Independence & Social Reforms
Based On:	Static GK + Latest Current Affairs 2021–2026

★ ■ ANCIENT INDIA ★

Q1. The Indus Valley Civilisation (Harappan Civilisation) flourished during which period?

- A) 5000–3500 BCE
- B) 3000–1500 BCE
- C) 2000–1000 BCE
- D) 1000–500 BCE

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 3000–1500 BCE**

■ *Explanation: The Indus Valley Civilisation flourished approximately from 3000 BCE to 1500 BCE. Major sites include Mohenjo-daro (Sindh, Pakistan), Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan), Dholavira (Gujarat), Lothal (Gujarat), and Kalibangan (Rajasthan).*

Q2. The Harappan city of Lothal, known for the world's earliest known dock/dockyard, is located in which present-day Indian state?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Punjab
- C) Gujarat
- D) Haryana

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Gujarat**

■ *Explanation: Lothal in Gujarat is a major Harappan site famous for its ancient dockyard, bead factories, and warehouse. It was an important port city of the Indus Valley Civilisation on the Arabian Sea trade route.*

Q3. The Vedic period is broadly divided into Early Vedic (Rigvedic) and Later Vedic periods. The most important river during the Early Vedic period was:

- A) Ganga
- B) Yamuna
- C) Saraswati (Sindhu)
- D) Godavari

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Saraswati (Sindhu)**

■ *Explanation: The Saraswati (and the Sindhu/Indus) river was the most sacred river in the Early Vedic period. The Rigveda mentions the Saraswati as 'mother of all rivers'. During the Later Vedic period, the Ganga–Yamuna doab became the centre of civilisation.*

Q4. The Mauryan Empire was founded by Chandragupta Maurya with the help of which minister?

- A) Ashoka
- B) Chanakya (Kautilya)
- C) Bindusara
- D) Bimbisara

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Chanakya (Kautilya)**

■ *Explanation: Chandragupta Maurya founded the Mauryan Empire around 321 BCE with the strategic guidance of Chanakya (Kautilya/Vishnugupta). Chanakya authored the Arthashastra — a treatise on statecraft and economic policy.*

Q5. Emperor Ashoka's conversion to Buddhism is said to have been triggered by which battle?

- A) Battle of Hydaspes
- B) Battle of Talikota
- C) Kalinga War (261 BCE)
- D) Battle of Panipat

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Kalinga War (261 BCE)**

■ *Explanation: The Kalinga War (261 BCE) was a decisive conflict in Ashoka's reign. Witnessing the massive bloodshed and suffering (an estimated 100,000+ killed), Ashoka renounced violence and embraced Buddhism and Dhamma (non-violence, compassion).*

Q6. The Gupta Empire, often called the 'Golden Age of India', was founded by:

- A) Chandragupta I
- B) Samudragupta
- C) Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)
- D) Skandagupta

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Chandragupta I**

■ *Explanation: The Gupta Empire was founded by Sri Gupta around 240 CE, but effectively established as an imperial power by Chandragupta I (320 CE), who took the title 'Maharajadhiraja'. The reign of Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) marked the peak of Gupta glory.*

Q7. The Sangam Age refers to which period of ancient South Indian history?

- A) 3rd century BCE – 3rd century CE
- B) 5th–8th century CE
- C) 10th–12th century CE
- D) 1st–4th century BCE only

✓ **Correct Answer: A) 3rd century BCE – 3rd century CE**

■ *Explanation: The Sangam Age (c. 300 BCE–300 CE) refers to the period of ancient Tamil literature when three literary academies (Sangams) flourished in Madurai. The three ruling dynasties were the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas.*

Q8. Harshavardhana, who ruled North India in the 7th century CE, was defeated by which Chalukya king when he tried to expand southward?

- A) Vikramaditya I
- B) Pulakeshi II
- C) Kirtivarman II
- D) Mangalesa

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Pulakeshi II**

■ *Explanation: Pulakeshi II (Chalukya king of Vatapi) defeated Harshavardhana of Kanauj on the banks of the Narmada River around 618–619 CE, halting his southward expansion. The Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang) visited India during Harsha's reign.*

Q9. The Battle of Tarain (1191 and 1192 CE) was fought between Prithviraj Chauhan and which ruler?

- A) Mahmud of Ghazni
- B) Muhammad of Ghor (Muizzuddin Muhammad)
- C) Alauddin Khalji
- D) Timur

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Muhammad of Ghor (Muizzuddin Muhammad)**

■ *Explanation: The First Battle of Tarain (1191) was won by Prithviraj Chauhan over Muhammad of Ghor. In the Second Battle of Tarain (1192), Muhammad of Ghor defeated and captured Prithviraj Chauhan. This marked the beginning of the Delhi Sultanate.*

Q10. The Delhi Sultanate was established after the Second Battle of Tarain. The first Sultan of Delhi was:

- A) Iltutmish
- B) Qutbuddin Aibak
- C) Balban
- D) Razia Sultan

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Qutbuddin Aibak**

■ *Explanation: Qutbuddin Aibak, a slave (mamluk) of Muhammad of Ghor, founded the Delhi Sultanate in 1206 CE and the Mamluk (Slave) dynasty. He also began construction of the Qutub Minar. He died in 1210 CE after a fall during a polo match.*

Q11. Razia Sultan was the first and only female ruler of the Delhi Sultanate. She was the daughter of which Sultan?

- A) Qutbuddin Aibak
- B) Iltutmish
- C) Balban
- D) Raziyya

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Iltutmish**

■ *Explanation: Razia Sultan (1236–1240 CE) was the daughter of Iltutmish, the third ruler of the Mamluk (Slave) dynasty. She was nominated by her father as his successor and became the first woman to rule the Delhi Sultanate.*

Q12. The Vijayanagara Empire was founded in 1336 CE by which two brothers?

- A) Harihar and Bukka (Sangama dynasty)
- B) Devaraya I and II
- C) Krishna Deva Raya and Aliya
- D) Saluva Narasimha and Devaraya

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Harihar and Bukka (Sangama dynasty)**

■ *Explanation: Harihara I and Bukka I, brothers of the Sangama dynasty, founded the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336 CE with guidance of their guru Vidyaranya. The greatest ruler was Krishnadeva Raya (1509–1529). The capital was Hampi.*

Q13. Babur founded the Mughal Empire in India after which decisive battle?

- A) First Battle of Panipat, 1526
- B) Battle of Khanwa, 1527
- C) Battle of Ghaghra, 1529
- D) Second Battle of Panipat, 1556

✓ **Correct Answer: A) First Battle of Panipat, 1526**

■ *Explanation: Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi (the last Delhi Sultanate ruler) at the First Battle of Panipat on 21 April 1526, using superior cannon and artillery (the first use of gunpowder weapons in an Indian battle), founding the Mughal Empire.*

Q14. Akbar's policy of 'Sulh-i-Kul' (Universal Peace) referred to:

- A) Military conquest of all territories
- B) Policy of religious tolerance and harmony among all faiths
- C) Tax exemption for Hindus
- D) Abolition of the Jizya tax only

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Policy of religious tolerance and harmony among all faiths**

■ *Explanation: Sulh-i-Kul (absolute peace / universal harmony) was Akbar's policy of religious tolerance toward all faiths — Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Zoroastrians, and Jains. He abolished Jizya (1564), held Din-i-Ilahi discussions, and married Hindu Rajput princesses.*

Q15. The Maratha Empire was founded by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. When did Shivaji perform his coronation (Rajyabhishek)?

- A) 1659
- B) 1664
- C) 1674
- D) 1680

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 1674**

■ *Explanation: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's coronation (Rajyabhishek) was performed on 6 June 1674 at Raigad Fort. This formally established the Maratha Kingdom as an independent sovereign state, with Shivaji taking the title 'Chhatrapati' (Paramount Sovereign).*

Q16. The Battle of Plassey (1757) marked the beginning of British political control over India. The British East India Company defeated whom?

- A) Hyder Ali of Mysore
- B) Siraj-ud-Daulah of Bengal
- C) Tipu Sultan
- D) Nawab of Awadh

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Siraj-ud-Daulah of Bengal**

■ *Explanation: At the Battle of Plassey (23 June 1757), Robert Clive of the British East India Company defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal. The victory was greatly aided by the treachery of Mir Jafar (Siraj's commander), establishing British supremacy in Bengal.*

★ ■■ COLONIAL PERIOD & EARLY RESISTANCE ★

Q17. The Revolt of 1857 is known by different names. Which of the following is NOT a name used for the 1857 Revolt?

- A) Sepoy Mutiny
- B) India's First War of Independence
- C) Great Rebellion
- D) Partition Movement

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Partition Movement**

■ *Explanation: The Revolt of 1857 is called: Sepoy Mutiny (by the British), First War of Indian Independence (by V.D. Savarkar), Great Rebellion, and Soldiers' Revolt. 'Partition Movement' refers to the agitation against Bengal Partition of 1905 — a different event.*

Q18. The Revolt of 1857 started from which place on 10 May 1857?

- A) Delhi
- B) Lucknow
- C) Meerut
- D) Jhansi

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Meerut**

■ *Explanation: The Revolt of 1857 formally began at Meerut on 10 May 1857, when Indian sepoy mutinied against their British officers, refused to use the greased cartridges (which were rumoured to contain cow and pig fat), and marched to Delhi.*

Q19. The Indian National Congress (INC) was founded in 1885 by:

- A) Dadabhai Naoroji
- B) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- C) Allan Octavian Hume (A.O. Hume)
- D) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Allan Octavian Hume (A.O. Hume)**

■ *Explanation: The Indian National Congress was founded on 28 December 1885 in Bombay by A.O. Hume (a retired British civil servant), with Womesh Chandra Bonerjee as its first President. It was initially a platform for moderate political dialogue.*

Q20. The partition of Bengal (1905) was announced by which Viceroy and led to which major movement?

- A) Lord Curzon – Swadeshi and Boycott Movement
- B) Lord Minto – Non-Cooperation Movement
- C) Lord Ripon – Civil Disobedience Movement
- D) Lord Dalhousie – Quit India Movement

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Lord Curzon – Swadeshi and Boycott Movement**

■ *Explanation: Lord Curzon announced the Partition of Bengal in 1905 (effective 16 October 1905) to divide the largely Muslim East Bengal from Hindu-majority West Bengal. This triggered the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement — the first major mass agitation against British rule.*

Q21. 'Lal-Bal-Pal' trio refers to which three nationalist leaders of the early 20th century?

- A) Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal
- B) Lalbahadur Shastri, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Pattabhi Sitaramayya
- C) Lala Hardayal, Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad
- D) Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Pal, Aurobindo Ghosh

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal**

■ *Explanation: 'Lal-Bal-Pal' refers to Lala Lajpat Rai (Punjab), Bal Gangadhar Tilak (Maharashtra), and Bipin Chandra Pal (Bengal) — the three 'Extremist' leaders of the Indian National Congress who advocated aggressive action against British rule.*

★ ■■ **GANDHI & THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT** ★

Q22. The Morley-Minto Reforms (Indian Councils Act 1909) introduced which controversial provision?

- A) Dyarchy in the provinces
- B) Separate electorates for Muslims
- C) Universal adult franchise
- D) Federal structure for India

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Separate electorates for Muslims**

■ *Explanation: The Morley-Minto Reforms (1909) introduced separate electorates for Muslims — Muslim voters would elect Muslim representatives. This was a British 'divide and rule' strategy that sowed seeds of communal division and eventually contributed to Partition.*

Q23. Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in which year?

- A) 1906
- B) 1909
- C) 1915
- D) 1919

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 1915**

■ *Explanation: Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in January 1915, invited by Gopal Krishna Gokhale. After returning, Gandhi established the Sabarmati Ashram (1917) in Ahmedabad and began his work through experiments in Champaran and Kheda.*

Q24. The Champaran Satyagraha (1917) was India's first civil disobedience movement led by Gandhi. It was a protest against which system?

- A) Salt tax imposed by the British
- B) The Tinkathia system forcing indigo cultivation on peasants
- C) The Rowlatt Act's black laws
- D) Land revenue demands in Bengal

✓ **Correct Answer: B) The Tinkathia system forcing indigo cultivation on peasants**

■ *Explanation: Champaran Satyagraha (1917) in Bihar was Gandhi's first major movement in India, protesting the Tinkathia system — which compelled indigo farmers to cultivate indigo on 3/20 of their land and sell it at fixed low prices to British planters.*

Q25. The Rowlatt Act (1919) was opposed by Gandhi because it allowed:

- A) Arrest without trial and detention without jury for suspected revolutionaries
- B) Separate electorate for Muslims
- C) Partition of Bengal
- D) Import of British goods duty-free

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Arrest without trial and detention without jury for suspected revolutionaries**

■ *Explanation: The Rowlatt Act (1919) — called the 'Black Act' — allowed the British government to arrest and imprison any person suspected of terrorism without trial. Gandhi called a nationwide hartal (strike) against it, which led to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.*

Q26. The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (13 April 1919) was carried out under whose orders?

- A) Lord Chelmsford
- B) General Dyer (Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer)
- C) Lord Curzon
- D) Lord Irwin

✓ **Correct Answer: B) General Dyer (Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer)**

■ *Explanation: General Reginald Dyer ordered troops to open fire on an unarmed civilian gathering at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar on 13 April 1919 (Baisakhi Day) without warning. Hundreds were killed (official: 379, actual: 1000+). Rabindranath Tagore returned his knighthood in protest.*

Q27. The Non-Cooperation Movement was launched by Gandhi in which year?

- A) 1919
- B) 1920
- C) 1922
- D) 1930

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 1920**

■ *Explanation: Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement in September 1920 at the Calcutta Congress session, urging Indians to boycott British institutions, courts, schools, and councils, and to return British honours. It was withdrawn in February 1922 after the Chauri Chaura incident.*

Q28. The Chauri Chaura incident (1922) — which led to the withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement — occurred in which district?

- A) Champaran, Bihar
- B) Gorakhpur, United Provinces (UP)
- C) Bardoli, Gujarat
- D) Amritsar, Punjab

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Gorakhpur, United Provinces (UP)**

■ *Explanation: On 5 February 1922, a mob of protesters at Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur, UP) burnt a police station, killing 22 policemen. Gandhi, deeply disturbed by the violence, suspended the Non-Cooperation Movement — a controversial decision that disappointed many nationalists.*

Q29. The Dandi March (Salt March) was launched by Gandhi on 12 March 1930. What was its direct objective?

- A) To protest against the Rowlatt Act
- B) To demand complete independence (Purna Swaraj)
- C) To defy the British Salt Laws by making salt from sea water
- D) To boycott British cloth

✓ **Correct Answer: C) To defy the British Salt Laws by making salt from sea water**

■ *Explanation: Gandhi's Dandi March (12 March – 6 April 1930) covered 241 miles from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi village on the Gujarat coast. On reaching the sea, Gandhi made salt, symbolically defying the British Salt Laws (which taxed salt and banned Indians from making it). This launched the Civil Disobedience Movement.*

Q30. The Quit India Movement was launched by Gandhi on which date in 1942?

- A) 8 August 1942
- B) 15 August 1942
- C) 26 January 1942
- D) 9 August 1942

✓ **Correct Answer: A) 8 August 1942**

■ *Explanation: Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement (August Kranti) on 8 August 1942 at the Bombay session of the AICC, giving the slogan 'Do or Die' (Karo Ya Maro). On 9 August 1942 (now observed as Quit India Day), the British arrested all major Congress leaders.*

★ ■ **REVOLUTIONARY FREEDOM FIGHTERS** ★

Q31. The Indian National Congress first demanded Purna Swaraj (Complete Independence) at which session?

- A) Surat Session 1907
- B) Nagpur Session 1920
- C) Lahore Session 1929
- D) Karachi Session 1931

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Lahore Session 1929**

■ *Explanation: At the Lahore Session of Congress (December 1929), under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru, the resolution of Purna Swaraj (Complete Independence) was passed. On 26 January 1930, the first Independence Day was celebrated by hoisting the national flag across India.*

Q32. Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev were hanged on which date?

- A) 30 January 1948
- B) 23 March 1931
- C) 15 August 1947
- D) 14 February 1931

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 23 March 1931**

■ *Explanation: Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar were hanged by the British at Lahore Central Jail on 23 March 1931. They were convicted for the killing of British officer J.P. Saunders (in retaliation for the lathi-charge death of Lala Lajpat Rai). 23 March is observed as Shaheed Diwas.*

Q33. Lala Lajpat Rai died due to police lathi-charge during protest against which Commission?

- A) Hunter Commission
- B) Simon Commission
- C) Muddiman Committee
- D) Butler Commission

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Simon Commission**

■ *Explanation: Lala Lajpat Rai (Punjab Kesari – Lion of Punjab) led a protest against the Simon Commission in Lahore on 30 October 1928. Police Superintendent James Scott ordered a brutal lathi-charge, in which Lala Lajpat Rai was severely beaten. He died on 17 November 1928. Bhagat Singh killed Saunders in revenge.*

Q34. Subhas Chandra Bose founded the Indian National Army (INA/Azad Hind Fauj). The motto of the INA was:

- A) Do or Die
- B) Jai Hind – Unity, Faith, Sacrifice
- C) Vande Mataram
- D) Inquilab Zindabad

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Jai Hind – Unity, Faith, Sacrifice**

■ *Explanation: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose reorganised the INA in 1943 under the motto 'Unity, Faith, Sacrifice'. He gave the rallying cry 'Jai Hind' and the famous call 'Tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe azadi dunga' (Give me blood and I will give you freedom).*

Q35. Chandrashekhar Azad was one of India's most celebrated revolutionary freedom fighters. He made a vow never to be captured alive. He died in which city?

- A) Lahore
- B) Delhi
- C) Allahabad (Alfred Park)
- D) Bombay

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Allahabad (Alfred Park)**

■ *Explanation: Chandrashekhar Azad (HSRA leader) was cornered by British police at Alfred Park (now Azad Park), Allahabad, on 27 February 1931. True to his vow to never be captured, he shot himself with his last bullet. He was only 24 years old.*

Q36. The Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), later renamed HSRA, was founded by which revolutionary?

- A) Bhagat Singh
- B) Ramprasad Bismil
- C) Sachindra Nath Sanyal
- D) Sukhdev

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Sachindra Nath Sanyal**

■ *Explanation: The Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) was founded in 1924 by Sachindra Nath Sanyal, with prominent members including Ramprasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, and Chandrashekhar Azad. After 1928 it was renamed Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) with Bhagat Singh joining.*

★ ■ **IMPORTANT ACTS & MOVEMENTS** ★

Q37. The Kakori Train Robbery/Conspiracy (1925) was carried out by revolutionaries of which organisation?

- A) Ghadr Party
- B) Anushilan Samiti
- C) Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)
- D) Indian National Army

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)**

■ *Explanation: The Kakori Train Robbery (9 August 1925) was carried out by HRA revolutionaries including Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Roshan Singh, and Rajendra Lahiri — who looted the British train at Kakori (near Lucknow) to fund their revolutionary activities.*

Q38. The Government of India Act 1935 introduced which major constitutional feature?

- A) Universal adult franchise
- B) Federalism and Provincial Autonomy (Dyarchy abolished at provincial level)
- C) Independence of India
- D) Bicameral Parliament for India

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Federalism and Provincial Autonomy (Dyarchy abolished at provincial level)**

■ *Explanation: The Government of India Act 1935 introduced Provincial Autonomy (elected provincial governments replacing dyarchy), an All-India Federation, Federal Court, Reserve Bank of India, and a Federal Public Service Commission. It is the longest Act of the British Parliament and formed the basis of India's Constitution.*

Q39. The Indian Independence Act 1947 was passed by the British Parliament. On which date did India officially become independent?

- A) 14 August 1947
- B) 15 August 1947
- C) 26 January 1948
- D) 26 January 1950

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 15 August 1947**

■ *Explanation: India became independent on 15 August 1947. Lord Mountbatten was the last Viceroy and the first Governor-General of independent India; C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) was the last (and only Indian) Governor-General. India became a Republic on 26 January 1950.*

Q40. The Wavell Plan (1945) and the Shimla Conference was an attempt by which Viceroy to break the political deadlock?

- A) Lord Linlithgow
- B) Lord Irwin
- C) Lord Wavell
- D) Lord Mountbatten

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Lord Wavell**

■ *Explanation: The Wavell Plan (June 1945) was proposed by Viceroy Lord Wavell at the Shimla Conference. It proposed reconstituting the Executive Council with equal Hindu and Muslim representation. The plan failed due to Mohammad Ali Jinnah's insistence on Muslim League's exclusive right to nominate all Muslim members.*

Q41. The Cabinet Mission Plan (1946) proposed:

- A) Partition of India into two separate nations
- B) A three-tier federal Union of India with provinces and princely states
- C) Direct elections for a Constituent Assembly
- D) Immediate transfer of power to Congress

✓ **Correct Answer: B) A three-tier federal Union of India with provinces and princely states**

■ *Explanation: The Cabinet Mission Plan (May 1946) rejected the Pakistan demand and proposed a three-tier Union: (1) a Union of India, (2) groups of provinces (A, B, C), and (3) individual provinces, with a Constituent Assembly to frame the Constitution. Congress accepted it but its ambiguous interpretation led to the League's withdrawal.*

Q42. The 'Divide and Rule' policy's most decisive implementation was the Partition of India in 1947. Pakistan was declared independent on:

- A) 14 August 1947
- B) 15 August 1947
- C) 16 August 1947
- D) 26 January 1947

✓ **Correct Answer: A) 14 August 1947**

■ *Explanation: Pakistan became independent on 14 August 1947 (one day before India's Independence Day on 15 August 1947). The Radcliffe Line (drawn by Cyril Radcliffe in only 5 weeks) divided Punjab and Bengal between India and Pakistan.*

Q43. Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded which organisation in 1828 to reform Hindu society?

- A) Arya Samaj
- B) Brahma Samaj
- C) Prarthana Samaj
- D) Ramakrishna Mission

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Brahma Samaj**

■ *Explanation: Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded the Brahma Samaj in 1828 in Calcutta. He is called the 'Father of the Indian Renaissance' and campaigned against Sati, child marriage, and caste discrimination while promoting women's education and widow remarriage.*

★ ■ SOCIAL REFORM MOVEMENTS ★

Q44. Swami Dayananda Saraswati founded which organisation in 1875 with the slogan 'Back to the Vedas'?

- A) Brahma Samaj
- B) Theosophical Society
- C) Arya Samaj
- D) Prarthana Samaj

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Arya Samaj**

■ *Explanation: Swami Dayananda Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj in Bombay in 1875. With the motto 'Go Back to the Vedas', he opposed idol worship, caste discrimination, and child marriage, and strongly promoted women's education and the shuddhi (reconversion) movement.*

Q45. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, led which movement against caste discrimination in Maharashtra?

- A) Champaran Satyagraha
- B) Mahad Satyagraha (Chavdar Tank Movement, 1927)
- C) Vaikom Satyagraha
- D) Bardoli Satyagraha

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Mahad Satyagraha (Chavdar Tank Movement, 1927)**

■ *Explanation: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar led the Mahad Satyagraha (20 March 1927) at the Chavdar Tank (pond) in Mahad, Maharashtra, leading Dalit followers to drink water from the tank that was denied to them — one of the first organised mass movements for Dalit rights.*

Q46. Jyotiba Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873. What did this organisation primarily work for?

- A) Promotion of Sanskrit education
- B) Social equality and liberation of lower castes and women
- C) Promotion of Hindi language
- D) Religious reform within Islam

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Social equality and liberation of lower castes and women**

■ *Explanation: Jyotiba Phule (Mahatma Phule) founded the Satyashodhak Samaj (Truth-Seekers' Society) in 1873 in Pune to fight caste-based discrimination, promote education for Dalits and women, and challenge Brahminical dominance. He opened the first school for girls in 1848.*

Q47. Who gave Mahatma Gandhi the title of 'Mahatma' (Great Soul)?

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru
- B) Rabindranath Tagore
- C) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- D) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Rabindranath Tagore**

■ *Explanation: Rabindranath Tagore is generally credited with first using the title 'Mahatma' for Gandhi. Gandhi, in turn, called Tagore 'Gurudev'. Gandhi called Gokhale his 'political guru'. Tagore and Gandhi first met in 1915 at Shantiniketan.*

★ ■ **IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES** ★

Q48. Who is called the 'Grand Old Man of India'?

- A) Mahatma Gandhi
- B) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- C) Dadabhai Naoroji
- D) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Dadabhai Naoroji**

■ *Explanation: Dadabhai Naoroji (1825–1917) is called the 'Grand Old Man of India'. He was the first Indian to be elected to the British Parliament (1892, Liberal Party). He propounded the 'Drain of Wealth' (or Economic Drain) theory — that British rule drained India's resources.*

Q49. Bal Gangadhar Tilak gave which famous slogan asserting India's right to freedom?

- A) Do or Die
- B) Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it
- C) Give me blood, I shall give you freedom
- D) Jai Hind

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it**

■ *Explanation: Bal Gangadhar Tilak (Lokmanya Tilak) gave the immortal declaration 'Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it.' He founded the Deccan Education Society, started Ganesh Chaturthi as a national festival, and published the newspapers Kesari (Marathi) and Mahratta (English).*

Q50. Annie Besant was the first woman President of the Indian National Congress (1917). She is also associated with founding which institution?

- A) Servants of India Society
- B) Theosophical Society and Home Rule League
- C) Indian Women's Association
- D) Brahma Samaj

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Theosophical Society and Home Rule League**

■ *Explanation: Annie Besant (Irish-British leader) was a leading Theosophist and founded the Home Rule League in 1916 in India. She became the first woman President of the INC in 1917 at the Calcutta session. She established the Central Hindu College (later Banaras Hindu University) in Varanasi.*

Q51. Sarojini Naidu, known as the 'Nightingale of India', was the first Indian woman to become the President of the Indian National Congress in which year?

- A) 1919
- B) 1922
- C) 1925
- D) 1930

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 1925**

■ *Explanation: Sarojini Naidu was elected President of the Indian National Congress in 1925 (Kanpur session), becoming the first Indian woman (as opposed to Annie Besant, who was Anglo-Irish) to hold the post. She was also the first woman Governor of an Indian state (United Provinces, 1947).*

Q52. Vinoba Bhave launched the Bhoodan (Land Gift) Movement in 1951. It began in which village of Telangana?

- A) Wardha
- B) Pochampally
- C) Seva Gram
- D) Nalgonda

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Pochampally**

■ *Explanation: Vinoba Bhave launched the Bhoodan Movement on 18 April 1951 at Pochampally village (now Bhoodan Pochampally) in Nalgonda district, Telangana, where Ramachandra Reddy gifted 80 acres of land for poor Harijans — inspiring Bhave's nationwide land-gift campaign.*

Q53. Who hoisted the Indian National Flag at the Red Fort on India's first Independence Day on 15 August 1947?

- A) Mahatma Gandhi
- B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- C) Lord Mountbatten
- D) Jawaharlal Nehru

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Jawaharlal Nehru**

■ *Explanation: Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, hoisted the Indian National Flag at the Red Fort on 15 August 1947. Mahatma Gandhi was in Calcutta during Independence Day, fasting to restore communal harmony during Partition violence.*

★ ■■ IMPORTANT EVENTS TIMELINE ★

Q54. The 'Tryst with Destiny' speech was delivered by which leader at midnight of 14–15 August 1947?

- A) Mahatma Gandhi
- B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- C) Jawaharlal Nehru
- D) B.R. Ambedkar

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Jawaharlal Nehru**

■ *Explanation: Jawaharlal Nehru delivered the famous 'Tryst with Destiny' speech at the Constituent Assembly at midnight on 14–15 August 1947, beginning with: 'Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge...'*

Q55. The Indian Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949 and came into effect on 26 January 1950. 26 November is observed as:

- A) Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas)
- B) National Law Day
- C) Republic Day
- D) Independence Day

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas)**

■ *Explanation: 26 November is observed as Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) since 2015 to mark the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. 26 January 1950 is Republic Day — when the Constitution came into force replacing the Government of India Act 1935.*

Q56. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's greatest contribution to Independent India was:

- A) Framing the Indian Constitution
- B) Integration of 562 princely states into the Indian Union
- C) Launching the Green Revolution
- D) Establishing India's foreign policy (Non-Alignment)

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Integration of 562 princely states into the Indian Union**

■ *Explanation: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, called the 'Iron Man of India' and 'Bismarck of India', integrated about 562 princely states into the Indian Union through diplomacy and, in some cases, military force (e.g., Hyderabad Police Action, 1948). He was India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.*

Q57. The Constituent Assembly of India was chaired by which personality as its permanent chairman?

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru
- B) Rajendra Prasad
- C) B.R. Ambedkar
- D) C. Rajagopalachari

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Rajendra Prasad**

■ *Explanation: Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected the permanent Chairman (President) of the Constituent Assembly on 11 December 1946. B.R. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution. Rajendra Prasad later became independent India's first President (1950–1962).*

Q58. The formation of the Muslim League took place in which year and city?

- A) 1905, Bombay
- B) 1906, Dhaka
- C) 1910, Lahore
- D) 1916, Lucknow

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 1906, Dhaka**

■ *Explanation: The All India Muslim League was founded on 30 December 1906 at Dhaka (now in Bangladesh) under the leadership of Nawab Salimullah Khan and with the participation of Aga Khan III. Its initial aim was to protect Muslim political interests in India.*

★ ■ INDEPENDENCE & AFTERMATH ★

Q59. The Lucknow Pact (1916) was a historic agreement between which two organisations?

- A) INC and the Hindu Mahasabha
- B) INC and the All India Muslim League
- C) Brahmo Samaj and Arya Samaj
- D) INC and the Home Rule League

✓ **Correct Answer: B) INC and the All India Muslim League**

■ *Explanation: The Lucknow Pact (December 1916) was an agreement between the INC (led by Tilak) and the Muslim League (led by Jinnah) on a joint scheme of self-governance reforms, including acceptance of separate electorates by Congress. It represented a rare moment of Hindu-Muslim political unity.*

Q60. The Poona Pact (1932) was signed between Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar. What issue did it resolve?

- A) Land reforms for Dalits
- B) Separate electorates vs. reserved seats for Depressed Classes
- C) Formation of a separate Dalit political party
- D) Anti-untouchability legislation

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Separate electorates vs. reserved seats for Depressed Classes**

■ *Explanation: The Communal Award (1932) by the British PM Ramsay MacDonald granted separate electorates for Depressed Classes. Gandhi fasted unto death against this. The Poona Pact (September 1932) replaced separate electorates with reserved seats within the general electorate for Depressed Classes — increasing reserved seats from 71 to 148.*

Q61. The Dandi March completed on 6 April 1930 was part of which larger movement?

- A) Non-Cooperation Movement
- B) Civil Disobedience Movement
- C) Quit India Movement
- D) Home Rule Movement

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Civil Disobedience Movement**

■ *Explanation: The Dandi March launched the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930). After Gandhi broke the salt law at Dandi, similar defiance spread across India — including the Dharasana Salt Works Satyagraha, the Peshawar uprising, and the No-Revenue Campaign in Gujarat and Punjab.*

Q62. The INA (Indian National Army) trials of 1945–46 were held at Red Fort, Delhi. The three officers tried were known by which names?

- A) Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev
- B) Shah Nawaz Khan, P.K. Sehgal, G.S. Dhillon
- C) Netaji, Nehru, Patel
- D) Azad, Bismil, Ashfaqullah

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Shah Nawaz Khan, P.K. Sehgal, G.S. Dhillon**

■ *Explanation: The INA trials at Red Fort (1945–46) tried Colonel Shah Nawaz Khan, Colonel P.K. Sehgal, and Colonel G.S. Dhillon for waging war against the King (British Crown). Jawaharlal Nehru, Bhulabhai Desai, and Tej Bahadur Sapru defended them. The trials backfired — they created massive sympathy and unified India against British rule.*

Q63. Which incident is considered the immediate cause for the British government to finally decide to leave India?

- A) Quit India Movement of 1942
- B) Royal Indian Navy Mutiny of 1946
- C) Jallianwala Bagh massacre
- D) INA trials and their aftermath

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Royal Indian Navy Mutiny of 1946**

■ *Explanation: The Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Mutiny of February 1946 was a major uprising of Indian naval ratings in Bombay (and other cities) against the British. This, combined with the INA trials' aftermath, Clement Attlee's Labour government coming to power in UK, and post-WWII British economic weakness, convinced the British that ruling India was no longer viable.*

★ ■ **CURRENT AFFAIRS – HISTORY CONNECT** ★

Q64. India observed the 75th Anniversary of Independence as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. This celebration started on which date?

- A) 15 August 2021
- B) 12 March 2021 (exactly 75 weeks before 15 August 2022)
- C) 26 January 2022
- D) 15 August 2022

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 12 March 2021 (exactly 75 weeks before 15 August 2022)**

■ *Explanation: Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav began on 12 March 2021 — exactly 75 weeks before 15 August 2022 (India's 75th Independence Day). The date 12 March was chosen to coincide with the anniversary of Gandhi's Dandi March (12 March 1930). The celebration concluded on 15 August 2023.*

Q65. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary (23 January) is celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas' (Courage Day) in India. This was declared in which year?

- A) 2019
- B) 2020
- C) 2021
- D) 2022

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 2021**

■ *Explanation: The Government of India declared 23 January (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birthday) as 'Parakram Diwas' (Day of Valour/Courage) in 2021, to honour his indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation. A hologram statue of Netaji was installed at India Gate in 2022.*

Q66. The 2026 Bharat Gaurav Express tourist train covers the 'Freedom Struggle Trail'. Which of these cities is typically included in such heritage tourism circuits?

- A) Dandi, Champaran, Amritsar, Delhi
- B) Mumbai, Goa, Bengaluru, Chennai
- C) Shimla, Manali, Leh, Srinagar
- D) Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Jaipur

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Dandi, Champaran, Amritsar, Delhi**

■ *Explanation: Bharat Gaurav Express trains operated by IRCTC on heritage and tourist circuits include Freedom Struggle Trail covering significant locations like Dandi (Salt March), Champaran (Satyagraha), Amritsar (Jallianwala Bagh), Sabarmati (Gandhi Ashram), and Red Fort (Delhi).*

Q67. India's National Archives of India (NAI), which holds millions of historical documents, is headquartered in:

- A) Mumbai
- B) Kolkata
- C) New Delhi
- D) Chennai

✓ **Correct Answer: C) New Delhi**

■ *Explanation: The National Archives of India (NAI), established in 1891, is headquartered in New Delhi (Janpath). It is the custodian of the non-current records of the Government of India — including historical documents from the colonial period and post-independence era — and functions under the Ministry of Culture.*

Q68. The Indian History Congress (IHC) is the largest organisation of professional historians in India. It was founded in which year?

- A) 1935
- B) 1938
- C) 1940
- D) 1947

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 1938**

■ *Explanation: The Indian History Congress (IHC) was founded in 1938 in Pune. It is the largest body of professional historians in India, holding annual sessions across the country. Its founding president was Shafaat Ahmad Khan.*

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