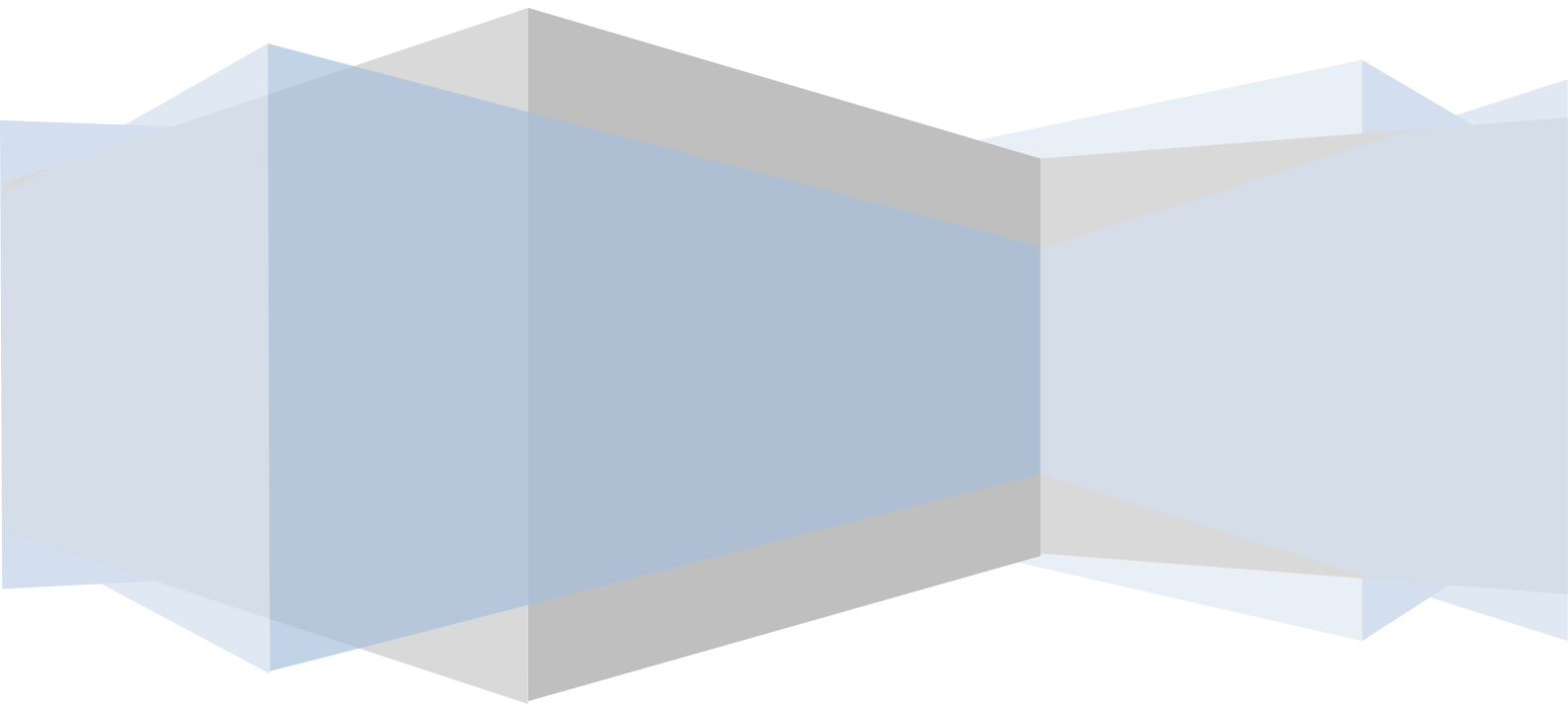


Chapter 10: Towards Freedom

Short Answers

CSM 02: History of India and Indian National Movement

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This chapter contains:

- Third Round Table Conference
- Provincial Autonomy
- Government of India Act 1935
- Causes of World War II
- Quit India Movement
- Indian National Army and Subhash Chandra Bose
- Rajaji Formula of 1944
- Cabinet Mission
- Mountbatten Plan
- Independence Act 1947

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1. Third Round Table Conference

The **third Round Table Conference** was held on **November 17, 1932**, and lasted until **December 24, 1932**. The leaders of **Congress did not attend** this conference either. It was impossible to reach a conclusion without the presence and participation of Congress leaders. It only resulted in the creation of the **Government of India Act, 1935**, which was modeled after the **Government of India Act, 1919**. One of the primary reasons for Congress's absence was that too many of its leaders were once again imprisoned, this time for continuing the **Civil Disobedience Movement**, undertaking salt Satyagraha. In this article, we will discuss the **Third Round Table Conference** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

1.1 Background

- On November 17, 1932, the third Round Table Conference was held in London. This was a nominal conference.
- Congress refused to attend (despite being invited), and the Labour Party in the United Kingdom also refused to attend.
- As a result, only 46 people responded. The "**White Paper**" issued by the government was the key outcome of the Third Round Table Conference.
- On the basis of this paper, a new Indian constitution was drafted and approved by both Houses of Parliament.
- The Government of India Act 1935 was to be enacted based on this paper.
- During this conference, a college student named **Chaudhary Rahmat Ali proposed the name of the new land** carved out of India specifically for Muslims. **Pakistan** was the name given to this "holy" land.
- Muslim leaders who attended the conference included Muhammad Ali, Agha Khan, Fazlul Haq, and Jinnah.

1.2 Participants

- The Third Round Table Conference had only 46 delegates in total.
- The INC and the Labour Party decided not to attend.
- Indian princely states were represented by princes and divans.
- The depressed class was there.
- Women, Europeans, Anglo-Indians, and labor groups.
- The Aga Khan (Muslims), represented British Indians.
- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Depressed Classes)
- Henry Gidney (Anglo-Indians)
- N. M. Joshi (Labour)
- Begum Jahanara Shahnawaz (Women)
- Tej Bahadur Sapru (Liberals)

1.3 Issues Discussed

- The reports of the Sub-Committees appointed during the Second Round Table Conference were heard and formed the basis of discussions at the Conference.
- More details about the new constitution were worked out.
- The Indian delegates attempted to push through some progressive provisions, which were quickly withdrawn.
- Similarly, the inclusion of a Bill of Rights for citizens was postponed for flimsy reasons.

1.4 Outcome

- This round table conference was also a setback because no important issues were discussed due to the absence of political leaders and Maharajas.
- The proposals of this round table conference were written down and published in a White paper in 1933, which was later debated in the British parliament.
- The British parliament then examined the round table conference's proposals and recommendations.
- Based on this, the Government of India Act of 1935 was enacted.

1.5 Conclusion

The Round Table Conferences played a significant role in Indian history and are responsible for the way we view our country today. Throughout British rule, it played a generous role in ensuring that Indian leaders had a platform to communicate with the British as equals and express their concerns and needs. However, it was the Third Round Table Conference that finally brought our leaders the long-awaited freedom for which they had fought.

2. Provincial Autonomy

The **Provincial Autonomy** was one of the reclaiming features of this Act. The **Simon Commission** recommended including this provision in the Government of India Act, 1935. Previously, provinces did not have an Executive Council or Reserved Subjects, but this legislation added these subjects. The **system of dyarchy**, or the division of subjects into 'Reserved' and 'Transferred,' was **abolished by this Act**. With the abolition of Dyarchy in provinces, the entire provincial administration became delegated to accountable ministers, who were managed and eliminated with the aid of provincial legislatures. In this article, we will discuss **Provincial Autonomy under the Govt of India Act, 1935** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

2.1 Provincial Part of Government of India Act, 1935

- Except for law and order, the Council of Ministers has the authority to administer provincial matters.
- The power to administer law and order was in the hands of the government, which had powers superior to the Council of Ministers.
- The ministers were chosen from among the elected members of the provincial legislature and were collectively accountable to it.
- The British-appointed provincial Governors were to accept the ministers' recommendations unless they negatively affected their areas of statutory "**special responsibilities**" such as the prevention of any grave threat to the peace or tranquillity of a province, the safeguarding of the legitimate interests of minorities, civil servants' rights, and so on.
- In the event of a political breakdown, the Governor, with the Viceroy's approval, could seize total control of the provincial government.
- In fact, the governors had more unrestricted power than any British official had during the British Raj's history.
 - After the resignation of the Congress provincial ministries in 1939, the governors ruled the ex-Congress provinces directly throughout the war.
- It was widely acknowledged that the provincial section of the Act gave provincial politicians a great deal of power and patronage as long as both British officials and Indian politicians followed the rules.

2.2 Features

- Dyarchy was replaced by provincial autonomy.
- Provinces were given autonomy and their own legal identities.
- Provinces were freed from the secretary of state's and governor general's "superintendence and direction."
- Provinces received direct legal authority from the British Crown, and they were given independent financial powers and resources.
- Provincial governments could borrow money using their own assets as collateral.

Executive

- The Governor was to be the Crown's nominee and representative in a province to exercise authority on the king's behalf.
- Governor was to have special powers regarding minorities, civil servant rights, law and order, British business interests, partially excluded areas, princely states, and so on.
- Governor could take over and run the administration indefinitely.

Legislature

- **Separate electorates** based on Communal Award were to be established.
- All members were to be elected directly.
- **Women were granted the right to vote** on the same basis as men.
- Ministers were to administer all **provincial subjects** in a council of ministers headed by a premier.
- Ministers were made answerable to and removable by an adverse vote of the legislature.
- The provincial legislature could legislate on subjects in provincial and concurrent lists.
- The governor has the authority to:
 - refuse assent to a bill,
 - promulgate ordinances, and
 - enact governor's Acts.

2.3 Division of power

The Government of India, 1935 divided the powers between the Centre and Provinces into three lists:

- Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items)
- Provincial List (for Provinces, with 54 items)
- Concurrent List (for both with 36 items)

The Viceroy was given the residuary powers.

2.4 Conclusion

The Centre's hold on provincial subjects was reduced after the commencement or beginning of this Act. Ministers could not freely exercise their authority over their departments. The Governor rarely used his dominating power, which he wielded over the ministers. At the time of the political breakdown, the governor took total control of the provincial government on the advice of the Viceroy.

3. Government of India Act 1935

The Government of India Act was introduced by the British Parliament in 1935. The Act was the longest in the then history of the British Parliament. It consisted of various recommendations and lists which made it so long. Thus, in the end, it was divided into two separate acts- The Government of India Act and the Government of Burma Act.

3.1 Background

In August 1935, the Government of India passed a lengthy law entitled "Government of India Act 1935". The law was originally passed by the British Parliament in 1935 at the time. Although it was the longest law passed by the British Parliament, it also contained another law, the "Burmese Government Act 1735".

Since then, the Act has been divided into 2 separate Acts, the first being the Government of India Act 1935 and the second being the Government of India Act 1935. The Government of India Act 1935 was passed by the British Parliament in August 1935.

With 321 sections and 10 schedules, this was the longest act passed by the British Parliament so far and was later divided into two parts. Government of India Act 1935 and the Government of Burma Act 1935.

The Act is based on various aspects of the "Government of India Act 1935". (1) Simon Commission Report (2) Round Table Conference Recommendation (3) Joint Selection Committee Report (4) White Paper published in 1933 by the British Government.

3.2 Overview

Particulars	Details
Purpose	This Act was made for the Government of India and the provision
Spatial expansion	Applies to areas under British direct control.
Act by	British Parliament in 1935
Act of Royal Act	July-1935, 24
Commencement	April-1937, 01
Status of law	The law was repealed by the Government of Independent India on January 26, 1935.

3.3 Creation of All India Federation

- The proposed All India Confederation includes 11 provinces of British India, 6 Chief Commissioners' Provinces, and states that can accept the Confederation. For the monarchical states, federal entry was voluntary. Until then the federation could not be formed. In many states, in which the ruler is entitled to choose not less than half of the 104 seats in the state, and the population is at least half of the total population, where the total population is earned for the union.
- The position of a state joining the federation should be placed in the Access of Instrument. Joining the Confederacy is a must for the British Provinces and the Chief Commissioner Provinces.
- The proposed coalition included the 11 provinces of British India, the six Commissioners Provinces, and those areas that are not recognized by the federation. As for the tribal chiefs, entry into the Federation was voluntary. The alliance could not be established until:
 - In most provinces, administrators who had the right to elect not less than 104 seats in the national council, and
 - The estimated proportion of the population was at least half the proportion of the people of all the Indian states who had agreed to the federation.
- The time when the state joined the Federation was to be placed in the Instrument of Accession. Joining the federation was compulsory in the British provinces and at the high commission.

3.4 How the Government of India Act 1935 Divided Powers?

- The dissolution of the provincial government and the introduction of the diarchy in the centre.
- The dissolution of the Council of India and the introduction of an advisory body in its area.
- Provision of All India Federation with British India territories and prince territories.
- Add protection and armor for minors.
- It divided the power between the Institute and the provinces according to the three-name list - the Federal List for Centre, the Provincial List for Provinces, and the Concurrent List for both.
- The Viceroy had residual power.

3.5 Changes Brought by the Government of India Act 1935

- Provincial Autonomy
- Diarchy in the middle
- Bicameral Legislature
- Federal Court
- Indian Council
- Franchise
- Reorganization

Government of India Act 1935: Provincial Autonomy

- The most notable feature of the Act is the independence of the province. With the abolition of Dyarchy in the provinces, all provincial administrators are instructed by the ministers responsible for the control and removal of the provincial legislatures.
- Provincial independence means two things. Firstly, the Provincial Governments were complete, responsible for the provincial legislatures, and secondly, the provinces were free from foreign control and interference in many matters.
- Thus, in the provincial context, the 1935 Act made a fundamental decline in the action of 1919.
- This action divided the power between the Institute and the provinces according to the three-name list - the Provincial List (Institutional, with 59 items), the Provincial List (Provincial, with 54 items), and the Interim List (both, and 36 items). The power to save space is given to Viceroy.
- The level of independence brought to the provincial level depended on key boundaries: The provincial authorities retained key retaining power, and the British authorities also retained the right to establish a governing government.

Government of India Act 1935: Diarchy at the Center

- Under this Act, the executive power of the Center is vested in the Governor-General on behalf of the Crown. Federal subjects were divided into two folding categories of reserved and transfer subjects.
- The reserve list includes matters relating to defence, external affairs, administrative matters, and tribal areas. These matters were handled by the Governor-General at his discretion with the assistance of three advisers appointed by him. They are not accountable to the legislature. Under this act, the administrative authority of the institution was vested in the Governor-General instead of the Crown.
- State headings were divided into two categories of Reserved and Transferred Articles.
- The Restricted List contains topics such as defence management, foreign affairs, religious affairs, and issues related to tribal areas. These matters were to be handled by the Governor-General in his opinion with the help of three advisers appointed by him. They were innocent of any wrongdoing.
- The handling of referred matters would be done by the General on the advice of the Council of Ministers whose number shall not exceed 10. The council of ministers had to give up the trust of the legislature. However, the Governor-General may act contrary to the advice of the Council of Ministers if any of his 'special responsibilities' are involved in this act. However, in the event {where the action affects special responsibilities}, the Governor-General shall act under the direction of the Secretary of State.
- In addition, the Governor-General was also responsible for coordinating the work between the two divisions and promoting joint dialogue between advisers and ministers.

Government of India Act 1935: Bicameral Legislature

- The bicameral federal legislature will have two houses namely- the Council of Provinces and the Federal Assembly.
- Both the houses also consisted of representatives from Princely State nominated by the rulers.
- The election had to be for the representative of British India, some of which were nominated by the Governor-General.
- Women, depressed classes, and minority communities had separate electorates.

Government of India Act 1935: Federal Court

- In Delhi, a federal court was established.
- It was established to resolve the disputes between provinces or center and provinces.
- It was supposed to have 1 chief justice and not more than 6 judges.

Government of India Act 1935: Indian Council

- He dissolved the Council of India, established by the Government of India Act of 1858.
- The Secretary of State of India was assigned a replacement.

Government of India Act 1935: Franchise

- This action expanded the franchise.
- This action introduced the first direct election.
- About 10% of the population had the right to vote.

Government of India Act 1935: Reorganization

- The provincial reorganization included the division of Sind and Bombay, splitting Bihar and Orissa into separate provinces, the complete division of Burma and India, the Aden group of India, and the establishment of a separate colony.
- The Indian Government Act of 1935 enshrined the Federal Government of the British Indian Provinces and the Indian States. But with Burma, there was a different set of events.
- Burma was proposed to be divided following the recommendations of the Indian Statutory (Simon Commission) whose proposal was officially approved by the Government. As a result, the Burmese Round Table was held in London in 1932.
- In 1935, the Burmese Act was passed, and Burma's separation took place in 1937. The Indian Government Act of 1935 provided for a new Burmese Office, to prepare for the establishment of Burma as a separate colony.
- But the same Secretary of State led the two Departments and was named the Secretary of State of India and Burma. The first secretary of the State of India and Burma was Lord Dundas.

3.6 Other Points

1. The principle of religious representation was extended by giving special voters to women, workers, and the Scheduled Castes (oppressed classes).
2. Adopted at the centre by this Act. Although the reserved subjects and the transferred subjects are derived from federal subjects, the provisions of the said Act do not apply.
3. The Act was enacted for the betterment of the monarchy and the Confederation of India under a single body. Power was segregated under this Act and this Act divided the power between the units and the Center in three ways. The first is the federal list, the second is the regional list and the third is the joint list. All residual powers are under the Viceroy of India.
 - Federal List (with 59 items per centre)
 - Regional list (for provinces and with 54 items)
 - Simultaneous list (for both and with 36 items).
4. The law expanded the franchise, giving ten per cent of the population the right to vote.
5. A federal court was established under this Act. Following the enactment of this law, a federal court was established in 1937.
6. The Act also abolished the Council of India, established by the Government of India by Act 1858.
7. The Act established not only the Federal Public Service Commission but also the Provincial Public Service Commission and the Joint Public Service Commission for two or more other provinces.
8. The caste system in these provinces was abolished and replaced by 'provincial autonomy'. Provinces are allowed to function as autonomous divisions of government within their defined territories. Also, the law introduced responsible governments in the provinces, i.e., the governor was required to act on the advice of the ministers responsible for the regional legislature. It came into force in 1937 and was discontinued in 1939.
9. It introduced bipartisanship in six of the eleven provinces. Thus, the laws of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam, and the United Provinces are bicameral consisting of a Legislature (Upper House) and a Legislative Assembly (Lower House). However, many restrictions were imposed on them.
10. The main objective of the 1935 Act was to ensure that the Government of India was under the British crown. Therefore, officers and their duties are received from the Crown, even the crown does not perform executive functions. His concept, familiar with the notions of supremacy, is not present in the laws previously passed for India.

4. Causes of World War II

World War II was a devastating global conflict that lasted from **1939 to 1945**. Britain declared war on Germany on **September 3, 1939**, and the British Government of India declared India's support for the war **without consulting Indian opinion**. Tens of millions of people died as a result of genocides (including the Holocaust), starvation, massacres, and disease. It remains the bloodiest conflict in human history to this day.

During World War II, India contributed around 2.5 million volunteer soldiers to fight for the **Allies**. These incredibly brave soldiers came from humble and impoverished backgrounds, but they fought passionately on land, sea, and air. It is a long list of legends, some acknowledged but mostly underrated, who played critical roles during the war. In this article, we will discuss the **causes and impact of World War II on India** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

4.1 Background

- When **World War I ended in 1919**, it was assumed that this would be the "war to end all wars."
- This assertion would be proven incorrect 20 years later, when a resurrected **Nazi Germany** invaded **Poland** on **September 1, 1939**, sparking another war with devastation equal to or greater than World War I.
- The causes of World War II were numerous and varied, but in the end, it all came down to **Adolf Hitler** and his Nazi Party's aggressive and expansionist policies.
- Furthermore, the harsh **Treaty of Versailles** years before had only laid the groundwork for future conflicts.

4.2 Causes

Treaty of Versailles

- The **Treaty of Versailles** signed on **June 28, 1919**, officially ended World War I. But it was clear from the start that the defeated would be subjected to a harsh peace.
- To protect itself from a future German attack, France demanded reparations, demilitarization of the Rhineland region, and the '**War Guilt Clause**,' which placed the blame for starting the war squarely on Germany's shoulders.
- The imposition of such harsh terms was the result of French vengeance, which had been nurtured since the days of its defeat during the **Franco-Prussian War of 1871**.
- The ensuing war also resulted in Germany's unification, which was declared in the halls of Versailles, adding insult to injury.
- The German folks were offended that they would be blamed for the conflict. Instead of reaching a deal that would lead to peace, the victorious side was content to humiliate them.
- Demilitarization of the military, territorial loss, and the absurd amount of penance to be paid were like rubbing salt in an open wound.
- The new **Weimar government** in Germany had no choice but to agree to the demeaning peace terms.

- In the sight of the German people, this only branded them as "criminals and traitors."
- To pay back the massive reparations, the Weimar Republic began printing massive amounts of German currency. This resulted in massive devaluation and inflation, as well as the near-collapse of an already fragile economy.
- Fed up with their own government's mismanagement, the German people began to accept anyone who could reverse the embarrassment that had been heaped on them. Hitler and his Nazi party would arise with such a promise at this time.

Rise of Nazis

- Hitler and his Nazi Party fully exploited the wave of hostility over the systemic injustice of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Taking advantage of the ding done to German pride, Hitler promised to right the wrongs done by the Versailles Treaty.
- The "us versus them" rhetoric was added to this. The '**us**' in this case were the **Aryans**, while the 'them' were the Slavic Eastern Europeans.
- Among '**them**' were **Jews, Communists, Gypsies**, etc who did not match the Nazi description of an Aryan.
- The Nazis blamed Jews for Germany's battles of World War I and all the financial distress that followed as a "conspiracy" that had crippled Germany.
- This rhetoric would have severe repercussions for Europe's and Germany's Jewish populations.

Economic Hardship

- The harsh sanctions imposed on Germany under the Versailles Treaty only added to the hardships endured by the German people.
- The late-twentieth-century **Great Depression** exacerbated the problem by driving up the price of essential items.
- Hyperinflation caused many essential items, such as bread, to become even more expensive than they were before, fueling widespread resentment of the fragile Weimar Republic.
- At the time, the **Ruhr valley** was one of Germany's most industrialized regions. France invaded and occupied the Ruhr valley in order to collect promised war reparations.
- This harmed German pride to the point where they were ready to support any party or leader who would avenge their humiliation. It was an ideal environment for Hitler and his Nazi party to rise to power.

The League of Nations' Failure

- The **League of Nations** (disbanded on **April 20, 1946**) was established in 1919, post - world war War I.
- It was viewed as an international body that would prevent disputes between member nations and settle disputes through diplomatic means.

- However, the League of Nations did not have its own army to enforce and uphold its mandate. To enforce its directives, it had to rely on financial sanctions and the armies of the member nations.
- Although US President **Woodrow Wilson** was an enthusiastic supporter of the league, he was forced to withdraw due to infuriating opposition from the more isolationist faction of the US Congress, a faction that had no curiosity about being involved in distant European politics.
- The absence of the United States diminished its power and credibility—the addition of a rapidly growing military and industrial world power such as the United States could have added more power to the League's demands and requests.
- As a result, the League of Nations was powerless to prevent **Japan's** invasion of China or Germany's invasion of Czechoslovakia.
- Due to the league's failure to respond, Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, and Fascist Italy would form their own alliance to continue their own aggressive expansion, setting the stage for the emergence of a new world war.

Failure of Policy of Appeasement

- Despite the Versailles Treaty's prohibition on such a venture, the Nazis embarked on a gigantic re-armament program. The absence of protest or restrictions only accelerated the process.
- The Luftwaffe was established, the German navy was expanded, and conscription was implemented.
- Another breach of the Treaty occurred in **March 1936** when German troops invaded the Rhineland. These events only served to bolster Hitler's domestic image while also providing much-needed employment.
- Hitler, buoyed by his success, decided to try his luck with foreign appeasement.
- The British Prime Minister, **Neville Chamberlain**, believed that appeasement was the only way to avoid a conflict. When claims were made on Sudetenland in **Czechoslovakia**, he readily agreed to sign the **Munich Agreement**.
- However, the total subordination of Czechoslovakia in March 1939 galvanized public opinion throughout Europe against Hitler.
- Neville Chamberlain soon discovered that Hitler would not be satisfied with a few concessions here and there.
- It was widely assumed that Hitler would claim Prussia and the Courland Peninsula on the same grounds that he had claimed Sudetenland—that they were populated by a majority of ethnic Germans. The issue was that Prussia was right in the middle of Polish territory.
- France and the United Kingdom both guaranteed their sovereignty. As a result, when Germany invaded Poland in **September 1939**, France and the United Kingdom declared war, kicking off World War II in earnest.

4.3 India's Role in the World War II

- The Indian contribution extended beyond soldiers in the Second World War.
- Indian men and women of all backgrounds contributed to the war effort in the fight against fascism.

- Indians helped in all aspects of the war effort, including serving on merchant supply ships transporting supplies and food to soldiers in Europe.
- Indian doctors and nurses were heavily involved on British and other countries' soil.
- The **Indian Comforts Fund (ICF)** was founded in 1939 at India House in Aldwych and was run by Indian and British women.
- Between 1939 and 1945, the ICF distributed over 1.7 million food packets to soldiers and Asian POWs, in addition to warm clothing and other supplies.

4.4 Impact of World War II on India

- Even before World War II, the British had recognized the futility of retaining their rule in India. The British Empire had suffered greatly as a result of World War II.
- Britain had lost a lot of capital and was looking to its colonies to help them regain their status as a world power. However, **Mahatma Gandhi** was organizing Indians against the British at the time.
- The Second World War also caused a catastrophic loss to the Indian economy; between 1939 and 1945, external factors heavily influenced the economy, resulting in massive economic imbalances that persisted long after peace was achieved in India.
- The root cause of India's entire economic problem was inflation, which manifested as a result of massive amounts of treasury being used to finance various military activities.
- The Second World War had four major consequences for India:
 - **high inflation** due to war expenditure;
 - a drop in the value of the Indian currency;
 - **economic imbalances** due to currency exchange problems, and
 - the development of exchange control.
- The biggest cause of inflation in India could be explained by the country's **Sterling Balance problem**.
- As much as 1600 crores in Sterling securities were held by the RBI, resulting in even more paper currency being flushed into the market, eventually leading to uncontrolled inflation.
- WWII fueled India's independence struggle, but not before the British nearly lost India to Netaji's Indian National Army.
- In addition, World War II was fought to prevent **Hitler** from establishing German colonies outside of Germany's borders, a colonial occupation that Britain had already been carrying out for centuries.
- As a result, following the war, people all over the world began to support voices opposing the British occupation of its colonies.
- The **Bengal Famine in 1943** was devastating for the Indian people, but the British refusal to stop supplies from India in favor of those suffering in the country only strengthened the nationalists' resolve in their call for freedom.
- When the **Labour Party** took power in Britain in 1945, it was committed to internationalism and racial equality, among other liberal principles.
- Prime Minister **Clement Attlee** (Labour Party) began the process of granting India independence shortly after taking office in 1947.

4.5 Impacts of World War II on the rest of the world

- **Colonialism and imperialism** came to an end.
- Dictatorships in Germany and Italy ended.
- Germany was split into two parts: **West Germany and East Germany.**
 - West Germany was ruled by the United Kingdom, France, and the United States. The Soviet Union occupied East Germany.
- Nationalist movements in Africa and Asia were becoming more powerful.
- There were nearly 5 million deaths (2.2 crore soldiers and 2.8 crore civilians).
- Rise of unemployment, low growth, and other economic issues
- There was the emergence of two power blocs—the United States and the Soviet Union and as a result, there was a cold war.
- The rise of third-world countries.
- The **United Nations Organization (UNO)** was established in 1945.

4.6 Conclusion

Countries and continents' status changed as a result of World War II. Britain and France lost their 14re-eminence as superpowers, giving way to the United States and the Soviet Union. The birth of the **United Nations** Organization was one of the war's most significant outcomes. Despite the League's failure to deliver, humanity did not abandon its hopes of making the world a safer and happier place to live. Following the end of the war, a conference in Potsdam, Germany, was held to establish peace treaties. Countries that fought alongside Hitler lost territory and were forced to pay reparations to the Allies. Germany, as well as its capital Berlin, was divided into four sections.

As we know today, India's contribution to WWII had a positive impact on the shaping of South Asia and South-East Asia. Throughout WWII and the postwar period, India's influence stretched from former Burma (now Myanmar) in the east to Afghanistan in the northwest. India was never involved in the cause of World War II, but its participation had a major impact on the outcome, which the current generation should be aware of and proud of.

5. Quit India Movement

The **Quit India Movement**, also known as the **August Movement** or **August Kranti**, was a rallying call issued by **Mahatma Gandhi** from the **Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee** in Mumbai on **August 8, 1942**. It was a part of Mahatma Gandhi's **Civil Disobedience Movement**, which aimed to end British rule in India. In this article, we will discuss the features and significance of the Quit India Movement which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

5.1 Background

- Following Cripps' departure, Gandhi drafted a resolution calling for British withdrawal and a nonviolent non-cooperation movement in the event of a Japanese invasion.
- The idea of a struggle was accepted at the CWC meeting in Wardha on July 14, 1942.
- The Congress Working Committee met in Wardha in July 1942 and decided to give Gandhi command of the nonviolent mass movement.
- The resolution is commonly known as the 'Quit India' resolution.
- It was to be approved by the All India Congress Committee meeting in Bombay in August, as proposed by Jawaharlal Nehru and seconded by Sardar Patel.
- Mahatma Gandhi began the Quit India movement at Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai, popularly known as **August Kranti Maidan**.
- The slogans of the movement were "**Quit India**" and "**Bharat Chodo.**" Gandhi gave the people the mantra, "**Do or die.**"
- It was supposed to be a peaceful, nonviolent movement to persuade the British to grant India independence, according to the Congress doctrine.

5.2 Resolution of Quit India Movement

On August 8, 1942, the Congress meeting in **Gowalia Tank, Bombay**, ratified the Quit India Resolution. The meeting also agreed:

- To demand that British rule in India be ended immediately;
- Declare free India's commitment to defend itself against all forms of Fascism and imperialism;
- Form a provisional Government of India following British withdrawal; and
- Sanction a civil disobedience movement against British rule.

5.3 Instructions of Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi gave a set of instructions to diverse groups of people. They were as follows:

- **Government employees** - Instead of resigning, pledge your allegiance to the INC.
- **Soldiers** - Stay with the army but don't fire on your comrades.
- **Landlords/ Zamindars** - If the landlords/Zamindars are anti-government, pay the agreed-upon rent; if they are pro-government, do not pay the rent.

- **Students** - If they are confident enough, they can leave their studies.
- **Princes** - You must stand behind the people and embrace their sovereignty.
- **People of princely states** - Only support the monarch if he is anti-government; declare yourselves as Indian citizens.

5.4 Reasons for Quit India Movement

- The Second World Conflict had begun in 1939, and Japan, as one of the Axis Powers opposing the British in the war, was gaining ground on India's north-eastern frontiers.
- The British had abandoned their colonies in Southeast Asia, leaving its people to fend for themselves. The Indian public, who had misgivings about the British ability to defend India from Axis assault, was not impressed by this move.
- Gandhi also stated that if the British were to leave India, Japan would have no cause to invade the country.
- Hearing about British military defeats, and wartime hardships such as high prices for key necessities fueled animosity of the British government.
- The INC called for a major civil disobedience movement when the **Cripps Mission** failed to provide any type of constitutional solution to India's challenges.

5.5 Phases of Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement can be studied in three phases.

The First Phase (Rampage by Public)

- The general public attacked authority symbols and forcibly hoisted national flags on public buildings.
- Satyagrahis surrendered to arrest, bridges were blown up, railway tracks were removed, and telegraph lines were severed.
- This type of activity was most prevalent in the eastern United Provinces and in Bihar.
- Students reacted by striking in schools and colleges, marching in processions, writing and distributing illegal news sheets (Patrika), and acting as couriers for underground networks.
- Ahmedabad, Bombay, Jamshedpur, Ahmednagar, and Poona workers went on strike.

The Second Phase (Underground Activities)

- Many nationalists fled to the underground and engaged in subversive activities.
- Socialists, Forward Bloc members, Gandhi ashramites, revolutionary nationalists, and local organizations from Bombay, Poona, Satara, Baroda, and other parts of Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, United Provinces, Bihar, and Delhi took part in these activities.
- Rammanohar Lohia, Jayaprakash Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Usha Mehta, Biju Patnaik, Chhotubhai Puranik, Achyut Patwardhan, Sucheta Kripalani, and R.P. Goenka were among the key figures involved in underground activity.

- **Usha Mehta** founded an **underground radio station** in Bombay.
- This phase of underground activity was intended to maintain popular morale by maintaining a line of command and guidance for the distribution of arms and ammunition.

The Third Phase (Parallel Governments)

Parallel governments were established in many places, including

- **Ballia** (for a week in August 1942) under **Chittu Pandey**. Many members of Congress were released as a result of his efforts.
- **Tamluk** (Midnapore, from December 1942 to September 1944) - Jatiya Sarkar worked on cyclone relief, sanctioned school grants, distributed paddy from the rich to the poor, organized Vidyut Vahinis, and so on.
- **Satara** (mid-1943 to 1945) - dubbed "**Prati Sarkar**," it was organized by leaders such as Y.B. Chavan, Nana Patil, and others. Village libraries and Nyayadan Mandals were established, as were prohibition campaigns and 'Gandhi marriages.'
- Businessmen (through donations, shelter, and material assistance), students (as couriers), simple villagers (by refusing to provide information to authority), pilots and train drivers (by delivering bombs and other material), and government officials, including police, all provided active assistance (who passed on secret information to the activists).

5.6 Impact of the Quit India Movement

- Following Gandhi's demand, the British administration arrested all prominent Congress leaders the next day. **Gandhi, Nehru, Patel**, and others were detained.
- As a result, newer leaders like **Jayaprakash Narayan** and **Ram Manohar Lohia** took over the movement.
- **Aruna Asaf Ali**, for example, emerged from the leadership vacuum.
- This movement resulted in the detention of almost 100,000 people. To put an end to the unrest, the authorities used violence. Mass floggings and lathi charges were used.
- Women and children were not exempt from the massacre. In total, about ten thousand persons were killed by police shootings.
- The INC was declared illegal. Its leaders were imprisoned for virtually the whole war. Gandhi was released in 1944 because of ill health.
- The people reacted strongly to Gandhi's demand. However, there were isolated incidents of violence and damage to government property due to the lack of leadership. Many structures were set ablaze, power lines were cut, and communication and transportation links were disrupted.
- Some parties were opposed to the movement. **The Muslim League**, the Communist Party of India, and the Hindu Mahasabha were all against it.
- The League opposed the British leaving India without first splitting the nation. In reality, Jinnah urged more Muslims to join the army.
- Because the British were associated with the Soviet Union, the Communist Party supported the British war effort.

- From outside the nation, **Subhas Chandra Bose** was organizing the **Indian National Army and the Azad Hind government**.
- **C Rajagopalachari**, a member of the INC, resigned because he did not support complete independence.
- The Indian bureaucracy, in general, as opposed to the Quit India Movement.
- Strikes and demonstrations took place across the country. Despite the absence of support from the communists, workers supported the movement by refusing to work in the factories.
- The movement's main focus areas were Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Midnapore, and Karnataka. The uprising continued until 1944.

5.7 Significance

- The campaign continued without the command of Mahatma Gandhi or any other leader, who were all imprisoned when it began.
- People from all walks of life turned out in large numbers.
- Students, workers, and peasants were the movement's backbone, while the upper classes and bureaucracy remained mostly loyal.
- Loyalty to the government has deteriorated significantly.
- This also demonstrated the depths to which nationalism had progressed.
- The movement established the fact that it was no longer possible to rule India without the consent of the Indian people.
- Although a certain degree of the popular initiative had been sanctioned by the leadership itself, subject to the limitations of the instructions, the element of spontaneity was higher than before.
- Furthermore, Congress had spent a long time ideologically, politically, and organizationally prepared for the struggle.
- Following the uprising among the masses, the British began to seriously consider the topic of Indian independence.
- In the 1940s, it changed the nature of political negotiations with the British empire, paving the path for India's independence.
- The movement was significant in that it put the demand for independence on the immediate agenda of the national movement. There could be no India after Quit India.

5.8 Conclusion

The Quit India Movement was a watershed moment in the sense that it established the stage for future Indian politics. The freedom struggle was owned by 'We the People' who fought for India's independence in the Quit India Movement. Throughout this conflict, ordinary people demonstrated unrivalled heroism and militancy. The repression they faced was the harshest, and the circumstances under which they offered resistance were the most adverse.

6. Indian National Army and Subhash Chandra Bose

The **Indian National Army** also known as the **Azad Hind Fauj** was an armed force that was formed by imperial Japan and the Indian Nationalists in the year 1942. This army was formed during **World War II** to help in the independence movement of India against British rule. The Indian Prisoners of War of the British Army that were captured by Japan first formed this army under **Mohan Singh in 1942**. The INA eventually disbanded but was formed again under the guidance of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**. Subhash Chandra Bose, as an Indian Nationalist, made enormous efforts to resist colonialism. He is one of the great freedom fighters who will always be remembered by the nation. In this article, we will discuss the phases of the Indian National Army and the life of Subhash Chandra Bose which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

6.1 Indian National Army-Background

- **Southeast Asia and Japan** were the major refugee nations for the exiled Indian Nationalists before the outbreak of World War II.
- 70,000 Indian troops were stationed along the **Malayan coast** at the start of World War II in Southeast Asia.
- After the Japanese army succeeded in their campaign on the Malayan coast, many Indian soldiers were taken as Prisoners of War. Nearly 45,000 soldiers alone were captured after the fall of Singapore.
- From these PoWs, the first Indian National Army was born. This army was formed under **Mohan Singh** who was an officer in the British-Indian Army captured in the Malayan Campaign.
- The degrading conditions in the camps for the PoWs and the strong resentment towards the British army led to the rise of volunteers that wanted to join the INA.
- An Indian Nationalist, **Rash Behari Bose** was given the overall leadership of the army.
- The INA received whole-hearted support from the Japanese Imperial Army as well as from the people belonging to the Indian ethnicity living in Southeast Asia.
- However, disagreements between the Japanese and the INA (Mohan Singh in particular) led to the disbandment of the INA in 1942

6.2 First Phase

- With the outbreak of the Quit India Movement in India, the INA received a boost.
- The INA's first division was formed in September 1942, with 16,300 men.
- With the Japanese considering an Indian invasion, the idea of an armed wing of the INA seemed more appealing.
- However, serious disagreements soon arose between the Indian Army officers led by Mohan Singh and the Japanese regarding the role to be played by the INA.
- In reality, the Japanese only wanted a token force of 2,000 soldiers, whereas Mohan Singh wanted to raise a much larger army.
- Mohan Singh was apprehended by the Japanese.

6.3 Second Phase

- The second phase began with Subhas Bose's arrival in Singapore. But, before that, in June 1943, Subhas Chandra Bose (**as Abid Hussain**) arrived in Tokyo and met with Japanese Prime Minister Tojo.
- Rashbehari Bose, another great freedom fighter, should also be recognized here. Following the failure of his revolutionary activities, he fled to Japan in 1915.
- Rashbehari Bose eventually became a naturalized citizen of Japan. He worked hard to pique the Japanese interest in the Indian independence movement.
- He became involved in Pan-Asian circles, established the Indian Club of Tokyo, and lectured on the evils of Western imperialism.
- Subhas Chandra Bose influenced him from an early age. Rashbehari Bose was ecstatic when Mohan Singh established the Indian National Army in Singapore, and he immediately left Tokyo for Southeast Asia.
- It was decided at a conference in Bangkok (also under Japanese occupation at the time) to incorporate the INA into an Indian Independence League, the chairman of which would be Rashbehari Bose himself.
- In 1942, he founded the League in Tokyo.
- When the Japanese approached Subhash Bose to lead the INA, he was prepared.
- He traveled to Singapore and met Rashbehari Bose, who gladly handed over control and leadership of the Indian Independence League and the INA to Subhash in July 1943.
- It should be noted that Subhas Bose was able to build the Indian National Army thanks to the organizational work done by Rashbehari Bose.
- On August 25, Subhas Bose was appointed Supreme Commander of the INA.
- Subhas Bose formed the Provisional Government for **Free India** in Singapore on October 21, 1943, with **H.C. Chatterjee (Finance portfolio)**, **M.A. Aiyar (Broadcasting)**, **Lakshmi Swaminathan (Women Department)**, and others.

6.4 Subhash Chandra Bose and INA

- Despite the fact that Mohan Singh's actions had enraged the Japanese Army Command, they agreed to form a second Indian National Army.
- Mohan Singh himself suggested Subash Chandra Bose for the position of leader.
- Both the Indian diaspora in South East Asia and the Imperial Japanese Army were aware of his reputation as a devoted nationalist.
- As a result, they were more open to the idea of Subash Chandra Bose leading a nationalist army.
- Subash Chandra Bose's activities in India had forced the British authorities to imprison him, but he escaped and arrived in Berlin in 1941.
- Although the German leadership was sympathetic to his cause, logistical issues prevented them from supporting his efforts to raise an army to fight the British.
- However, the Japanese were ready to back him up, and on their invitation, Subash Chandra Bose turned up in Singapore in **July 1943** to take command of the second Indian National Army, now known as the **Azad Hind Fauj**.
- There was a surge of volunteers looking to join the INA after Subash Chandra Bose assumed control of the Azad Hind Fauj.
- The Axis powers recognized this provisional government, which declared war on Britain and the United States.

- Recruits were trained, and funds for the INA were collected. The **Rani Jhansi Regiment**, a women's regiment, was also formed.
- In January 1944, the **INA headquarters** were relocated to Rangoon (Burma), and army recruits were to march from there with the war cry "Chalo Delhi!" on their lips.
- The Japanese army handed over the Andaman and Nicobar islands to the INA on November 6, 1943; the islands were renamed **Shahid Dweep and Swaraj Dweep**, respectively.
- Subhas Bose addressed Mahatma Gandhi as "Father of the Nation" from the Azad Hind Radio on July 6, 1944 (the first person to address Gandhi as "Father of the Nation").
- He sought Gandhi's blessing for "India's final war of independence."
- Although Subash Chandra Bose agreed to the INA remaining subordinate to the Japanese Army, he saw it as a necessary measure towards the ultimate goal of liberating India from the British Empire.
- One INA battalion, led by Shah Nawaz, was permitted to accompany the Japanese Army to the Indo-Burma front and take part in the Imphal campaign.
- However, the Japanese treated the Indians unfairly, denying them rations and arms and forcing them to do menial work for Japanese units, which disgusted and demoralized the INA units.
- Following that, Japan's steady retreat dashed any hopes of the INA liberating the country. The retreat lasted until mid-1945.
- On August 15, 1945, Japan surrendered in the Second World War, and with it, the INA surrendered as well.
- According to reports, Subhas Bose died mysteriously in an **air crash near Taipei (Taiwan) on August 18, 1945.**

6.5 Azad Hind Radio

- This radio station was created to encourage countrymen to fight for freedom under the leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- The radio station used to broadcast news at weekly intervals in various languages like English, Hindi, Tamil, Punjabi, Urdu, etc.
- The main aim of the formation of the Azad Hind Radio was to counter the broadcast of allied radio stations and to fill Indian nationals with pride and motivation to fight for freedom.

6.6 Subhash Chandra Bose - Background

- Subhash Chandra Bose was one of India's most illustrious liberation fighters.
- Born into an affluent family in **Cuttack**, Bengal province, he received his education in Calcutta, where he earned a degree in philosophy.
- Subhash Chandra Bose was chosen for the Indian Civil Services (ICS), but he declined because he did not want to work for the British administration.
- In 1921, Bose became a member of the **Indian National Congress**, which was founded on **December 28, 1885.**
- He also founded the '**Swaraj**' newspaper.
- He was also the Secretary of the Bengal State Congress and the President of the

- All India Youth Congress. He was appointed CEO of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation in 1924 and was elected Mayor of Calcutta in 1930.
- **The Indian Struggle**, written by Bose, recounts the Indian independence movement from 1920 to 1942. The British government outlawed the book.
- He was the one who invented the phrase "**Jai Hind.**"
- Many people were motivated by his charisma and tremendous personality to join the liberation war, and he continues to inspire Indians. He is also famously known as **Netaji**.

6.7 Role of Subhash Chandra Bose in India's independence

- In 1925, Bose was imprisoned in Mandalay for his nationalist activities. In 1927, he was liberated and became the general secretary of the INC.
- He collaborated with Jawaharlal Nehru, and the two became the Congress Party's young leaders, achieving widespread recognition.
- He campaigned for total Swaraj and supported the use of force to achieve it.
- He disagreed with Gandhi and was not a fan of nonviolence as a means of achieving freedom.
- Bose ran for and was elected president of the party in 1939, but was forced to resign due to disagreements with Gandhi's supporters.
- Bose's ideology was influenced by socialism and leftist authoritarianism. In 1939, he founded the **All India Forward Bloc** as a faction within Congress.
- At the start of World War II, Bose protested the government for not asking Indians before pulling them into the conflict.
- He was arrested after organizing protests in Calcutta against the removal of a monument commemorating the Black Hole of Calcutta. He was eventually released after a few days, but he was under constant surveillance.
- He then fled the country in 1941, making his way to Germany via Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. He'd previously visited Europe, where he met with Indian students and European political leaders.
- He met with Nazi leaders in Germany and hoped to stage an armed struggle against the British to seek independence. He hoped to make friends with the Axis powers because they were fighting his 'enemy,' the British.
- He founded the Indian Legion with the help of approximately 4500 Indian soldiers who were serving in the British army and had been captured by the Germans in North Africa.
- He left Germany for Japan in 1943, disillusioned with Germany's lukewarm support for Azad Hind.
- Bose's arrival in Japan resurrected the **Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj)**, which had been formed with Japanese assistance previously.
- The Provisional Government of Free India, or Azad Hind, was established as a government-in-exile, with Bose as its leader. Its headquarters were located in **Singapore**. Its military was the INA.
- Bose's fiery speeches energized the troops. "**Give me blood, and I will give you freedom!**" he famously said.
- The INA aided the Japanese army's invasion of northeast India and gained possession of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- However, following the Battles of Kohima and Imphal in 1944, British forces forced them to retreat.

6.8 Fate of the Indian National Army after World War II

- After the second world war, the British Colonial government planned to try the surviving members of the INA for treason. The trials were to be held at the **Red Fort**.
- However, the British's choice to make the Red Fort trials public proved to be a severe miscalculation, as it resulted in a new wave of nationalism unseen during the entire Independence Struggle.
- The Indians saw them as patriots fighting for independence, not betrayers to an empire they never wanted to fight for.
- The trial's progress also resulted in mutiny within the British Indian Army, most notably in the **Royal Indian Navy**.
- Despite the fact that the mutiny was quickly put down, the British realized they were losing the support of the very institution that had kept them in power for so long – the army.

6.9 Conclusion

With the launch of the Quit India Movement, the British sought to quicken India's independence, which was the ultimate goal of the Azad Hind Fauj from the start. It is safe to say that the Indian National Army won against its colonial oppressors even in defeat. Subhash Chandra Bose will always be remembered for his courage and heroic activities. The government recently decided to erect a large statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate to commemorate his 125th birthday and as part of the year-long celebrations. On **January 23rd**, his Jayanti is celebrated as '**Parakram Diwas**.'

7. Rajaji Formula of 1944

C R Formula was put forth by C. Rajagopachari, who was a member of the Indian National Congress, with the aim of solving the political deadlocks between the Indian National Congress and the All India Muslim League. The League's position in politics was to prove that Hindus and Muslims of British India were two different nations and therefore, Muslims had the right to demand their own separate nation. This thought of a separate nation by the partition of India disagreed with and hence opposed by the Indian National Congress.

7.1 Background

- In the Second World War, under the Viceroyalty of Lord Linlithgow, the British government announced that any decision that shall be taken for the Indian State would only be implemented if both the parties, All India Muslims League and the Indian National Congress agreed commonly for the decision, else the decision shall be barred.
- There was an increasing demand for a separate nation – Pakistan by the All Indian Muslim League for the betterment of the Muslims, but the thought of partitioning the Indian nation was strongly opposed by the Indian National Congress.
- C Rajagopalachari, the then member of the Indian National Congress, also the close aid of Gandhi had suggested a list of plans which were later named as the C R Formula or the Rajaji Formula.
- The formulas mentioned the agreement of partitioning India and providing the Muslims a separate nation based on the majority of the Muslims in that state.
- The formula was disagreed with and opposed by the members of the Indian National Congress itself. Gandhi tried talking to Jinnah regarding the same, but it was all in vain as Jinnah had rejected the proposals.

7.2 Proposals of Rajaji Formula of 1944

- The All India Muslims League would help the Indian National Congress for achieving freedom from the Britishers and would cooperate information of the Indian government at the centre.
- After the end of the war, there shall be an appointment of a commission that will define the limits of districts having the majority of Muslim populations and a voting system to be held in those districts among all the populations – including the non – Muslim populations as well.
- All the parties will be allowed to give their stand on the partition of India with their views before the voting begins.
- If the majority seeks partition, then there would be a mutual agreement for safeguarding the nation with sensitive information regarding – Defence, Military, Communications, Commerce, and other such details.
- If there exists any population that seeks partition and is transferred to the other nation, it would be solely on a personal and voluntary basis.

- All the above-mentioned proposals will only be put to action and implemented if the British government transfers full authority and power of the Indian Nation to the Government of India.

7.3 Gandhi's talk with Jinnah – 1944

Allies saw more victories which made the British have a soft side for the Congress with America pressurizing the British to agree on the demands of India for its self-government. While the other Congress Leaders were still in prison, Gandhi was released on 5th May 1944.

After this release, Gandhi approached Jinnah in September 1944 to present him the proposals and discuss the two-nation theory based on the C R Formula. However, the proposals did not help Gandhi to convince Jinnah for the agreement and reversed as a failure just two weeks after the meeting of Gandhi and Jinnah.

Jinnah objected on the proposals on the following objections:

- Jinnah wanted Indian National Congress to accept the two-nation theory and agree with the partition.
- Jinnah wanted only the Muslim population in the majority areas to vote instead of all the population i. e. no nonmuslim shall vote.
- Jinnah wanted to create separate regions before the Britishers left the nation.

7.4 Causes for the Failure of Rajaji Formula of 1944

- The formulas / the proposals aimed centrally at creating a separate nation – Pakistan but, the population that was to be present was the majority of non – Muslims.
- Jinnah considered that he might run the risk of partitioning Punjab, and Bengal if the vote has been placed.
- The plebiscite was to be considered from all the population which might have caused a disagreement on the partition of the nation, hence Jinnah objected stating that the plebiscite shall be considered only from the Muslim population.
- Jinnah claimed that the formulas dealt mainly with the services, whereas he wanted full partition.
- The proposals dealt with partitioning Punjab, which eventually meant that the Sikh community residing in Punjab would be divided and Sikhs did not hold the majority in any of the districts.

If agreed on partitioning Punjab, it would leave many of the people on the dividing line, which means they shall be residing on both sides. The proposals did not fail mainly because neither Gandhi himself believed firmly in the formulas nor did Jinnah.

8. Cabinet Mission

The **Cabinet Mission** was a high-powered mission sent to India by the **Atlee government** in **February 1946**. Three British cabinet members served on the mission: (**Pethick Lawrence**, Secretary of State for India; **Stafford Cripps**, President of the Board of Trade; and **A.V. Alexander**, First Lord of the Admiralty) to find ways and means for a negotiated, peaceful transfer of power to India. The mission's chairman was Pethick Lawrence.

8.1 Background

- **Clement Atlee**, the British Prime Minister, initiated the formation of the Cabinet Mission.
- It was made up of **three members**: Lord Pethick-Lawrence, AV Alexander, and Sir Stafford Cripps.
- The then **Viceroy Lord Wavell** was involved in the process although he was not an official member.
- The Congress Party and the Muslim League, which were at odds on almost every issue at the time, had fundamental ideological differences that were preventing them from finding common ground.
- Congress desired a strong central government with few powers delegated to the provinces.
- The League sought strong safeguards for the rights of Muslims, the world's largest minority group in India.
- Because both parties had significant ideological differences and were unable to find common ground, the mission issued its own set of proposals in May 1946.

8.2 Objectives

- To reach an agreement with Indian leaders on the creation of a constitution for India.
- Creating a constitution-making body (the Constituent Assembly of India).
- To form an Executive Council with the support of the major Indian political parties.

8.3 Arrival of Cabinet Mission

- On March 24, 1946, the Cabinet Mission arrived in Delhi. It held lengthy discussions with Indian leaders from all parties and groups on the issues of:
 - interim government; and
 - principles and procedures for drafting a new constitution that would grant India independence.
- Because the Congress and the League were unable to reach an agreement on the fundamental issue of India's unity or partition, the mission proposed its own constitutional solution in May 1946.

8.4 Proposal for Cabinet Mission

- Rejection of the demand for a full-fledged Pakistan because:
 - such a formation of Pakistan would include a large non-Muslim population— 38% in the North-West and 48% in the North-East;
 - the very principle of communal self-determination would demand separation of Hindu-majority western Bengal and Sikh- and Hindu-dominated Ambala and Jalandhar divisions of Punjab.
 - deep-rooted regional ties would be jeopardized if Bengal and Punjab were partitioned;
 - partition would cause economic and administrative problems, such as the problem of communication between Pakistan's western and eastern regions; and
 - the division of the armed forces would be dangerous.
- The provinces would be divided into three sections/groups:
 - **Group A** includes Madras, the Central Provinces, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, and Orissa.
 - **Group B** consists of Punjab, Sindh, the NWFP, and Baluchistan.
 - **Group C** consists of Bengal and Assam.
- At the provincial, section, and union levels, there is a three-tiered executive and legislature.
- **Provincial assemblies** were to elect a constituent assembly through proportional representation (voting in three groups: general, Muslims, and Sikhs).
 - This constituent assembly would consist of 389 members, with provincial assemblies sending 292, chief commissioner's provinces sending 4, and princely states sending 93.
- Members of groups A, B, and C were to sit separately in the constituent assembly to decide the constitution for provinces and, if possible, groups as well.
- The entire constituent assembly (all three sections A, B, and C combined) would then convene to draft the union constitution.
- A centralized command would be in charge of defense, communication, and external affairs. India was to have a **federal structure**.
- In the central legislature, communal questions were to be decided by a simple majority of both communities present and voting.
- Provinces were to have full autonomy and residual powers, and **princely states** would no longer be subject to the British government's supremacy. They would be free to enter into an arrangement with successor governments or the British government.
- After the first general elections, a province would be free to leave a group, and after 10 years, a province would be free to call for a reconsideration of the group or the union constitution.
- Meanwhile, the constituent assembly was to form an **interim government**.

8.5 Reaction of the Parties

- The Cabinet Mission's long-term plan was accepted by the **Muslim League on June 6, 1946**, and by **Congress on June 24, 1946**.
- Elections for the Constituent Assembly were held in provincial assemblies in July 1946.

- Nehru stated on **July 10, 1946**, "We are not bound by anything except that we have decided to go into the Constituent Assembly".
 - It implied that the Constituent Assembly was sovereign and would decide the rules of procedure.
- The likelihood is that there will be no grouping because the NWFP and Assam would object to joining sections B and C.
- **On July 29, 1946**, In response to Nehru's statement, the League withdrew its acceptance of the long-term plan and issued a call for "**direct action**" beginning on August 16 to achieve Pakistan.

Congress Reaction

- The Cabinet Mission Plan, according to the Congress, was opposed to the creation of Pakistan because grouping was optional; only one constituent assembly was envisaged, and the League no longer had a veto.
- Provinces should not have to wait until the first general election to break away from a coalition. They should be able to choose not to join a group in the first place.
- Compulsory grouping runs counter to the frequently stated insistence on provincial autonomy.
- The absence of a provision in the constituent assembly for elected members from the princely states (they could only be nominated by the princes) was unacceptable.

Muslim League Reaction

- Pakistan, according to the Muslim League, was implied in the compulsory grouping.
- Sections B and C should be forced to form solid entities in preparation for future secession into Pakistan.
- The League expected Congress to reject the plan, prompting the government to invite the League to form an interim government.

8.6 Reasons for Failure of Cabinet Mission

- The Congress was opposed to the idea of provinces being divided into groups based on the Hindu-Muslim majority and competing for control at the center. It was also contrary to the concept of a weak center.
- The Muslim League did not want the proposals changed.
- Since the plan was rejected, the mission proposed a **new plan in June 1946**. This plan proposed dividing India into two parts: a Hindu-majority India and a Muslim-majority India, later renamed Pakistan.
- A list of princely states that could join the union or remain independent was also compiled.
- The **second plan was rejected by Jawaharlal Nehru's Congress Party**. Instead, it agreed to be a constituent assembly member.
- The Viceroy convened a meeting of 14 men to form an interim government. There were five members from the Congress, five from the League, and one each from the Sikh, Parsee, Indian Christian, and scheduled caste communities.

- The League and the Congress were both given the authority to appoint five members to the Viceroy's interim council.
 - The Congress nominated Zakir Hussain as one of the members, which the League objected to, claiming that the League only represented Indian Muslims and no other party. It was boycotted by the Muslim League.
- The Congress leaders joined the viceroy's interim council, and Nehru became the leader of the interim government. The new government began the task of writing the country's constitution.
- In most provinces, including the NWFP, Congress-led governments were formed. The League formed governments in Bengal and Sind.
- The new central government was opposed by Jinnah and the League. He vowed to agitate for Pakistan and urged Muslims to demand it by any means necessary. **On August 16, 1946**, he called for a "**Direct Action Day.**"
- This call sparked widespread communal rioting across the country, with 5000 people killed on the first day in Calcutta alone. Riots erupted in a number of other areas, most notably Noakhali and Bihar.
- As a result of the riots, there was a call for the country to be partitioned. **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** was among the first Congress leaders to recognize the inevitability of partition as a means of putting an end to the brutal violence.

8.7 Conclusion

Congress and the Muslim League, respectively, accepted the Cabinet Mission on June 24, 1946, and June 6, 1946, respectively. The League then withdrew from the agreement and urged direct action to secure Pakistan's independence. Following the collapse of Cabinet Mission 1946, Atlee issued a statement in which he set a date for the transfer of power and evacuation from India.

9. Mountbatten Plan (June 1947)

In June 1947, **Lord Mountbatten** (India's last viceroy) proposed a plan in which provinces would be declared independent successor states with the authority to choose whether or not to join the constituent assembly. Long before Mountbatten arrived in India, the **freedom-with-partition formula** was becoming widely accepted. One major innovation (actually proposed by **V.P. Menon**) was the immediate transfer of power based on the grant of **dominion status** (with a right of secession), eliminating the need to wait for a constituent assembly agreement on a new political structure. In this article, we will discuss the Mountbatten Plan in detail which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

9.1 Background

- Lord Mountbatten arrived in India as the last Viceroy and was tasked by then-British Prime Minister **Clement Atlee** with ensuring a smooth transfer of power.
- Mountbatten proposed in May 1947 that the provinces be declared independent successor states and then given the option of joining or not joining the constituent assembly. The '**Dickie Bird Plan**' was the name given to this strategy.
- When informed of the plan, Jawaharlal Nehru (born November 14, 1889) vehemently opposed it, claiming that it would lead to the country's **Balkanization**. As a result, this plan was also known as **Plan Balkan**.
- The viceroy then devised another plan known as the **June 3 Plan**. This was the final strategy for Indian independence. The Mountbatten Plan is another name for it.
- The principles of partition, autonomy, sovereignty for both nations, and the right to write their own constitution were all included in the June 3 Plan.
- Above all, princely states such as Jammu and Kashmir were given the option of joining either India or Pakistan. The consequences of these decisions would have long-term consequences for the new nations.
- Both Congress and the Muslim League agreed to this plan. Congress had also acknowledged the partition's inevitability by that point.
- The **Indian Independence Act 1947**, which was passed in the British Parliament and received royal assent on July 18, 1947, put this plan into action.

9.2 Provisions

- British India was to be divided into two countries: India and Pakistan.
- The Constituent Assembly's draft constitution would not apply to Muslim-majority areas (as these would become Pakistan). These provinces would decide on the issue of a separate constituent assembly for Muslim-majority areas.
- The legislative assemblies of **Bengal and Punjab** met and voted for partition in accordance with the plan. As a result, it was decided that these two provinces would be divided along religious lines.
- Sind's legislative assembly would decide whether or not to join the Indian constituent assembly. It made the decision to travel to Pakistan.
- The **NWFP (North-Western Frontier Province)** was to hold a referendum to decide which dominion to join. While Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan boycotted and rejected the referendum, the NWFP decided to join Pakistan.

- Since the Congress had conceded a unified India, all of their other demands would be met, namely:
 - independence for princely states was ruled out—they would join either India or Pakistan;
 - independence for Bengal was ruled out;
 - accession of Hyderabad to Pakistan was ruled out (Mountbatten supported the Congress on this);
 - freedom would be granted on **August 15, 1947**; and
 - a boundary commission would be established if partition was to be effected.
- The **Boundary Commission**, chaired by **Sir Cyril Radcliffe**, was established to fix the international boundaries between the two countries. The commission was tasked with dividing Bengal and Punjab into two new countries.
- The princely states were given the option of remaining independent or acceding to either India or Pakistan. The British sovereignty over these kingdoms ended.
- The British monarch would no longer address himself as "Emperor of India."
- Following the creation of the dominions, the British Parliament was unable to enact any legislation in the territories of the new dominions.
- Until the new constitutions were established, the Governor-General would assent to any law passed in His Majesty's name by the constituent assemblies of the dominions.
- The Governor-General was elevated to the status of the constitutional head.

9.3 Response to Mountbatten Plan

- The dominions of Pakistan and India were established at midnight on the 14th and 15th of August, 1947, respectively.
- **Lord Mountbatten** was appointed as the first **Governor-General of independent India**, and **M.A. Jinnah** was appointed as the first **Governor-General of Pakistan**.
- Acceptance of partition was merely the culmination of a series of incremental concessions to the League's advocacy of a separate Muslim state.

9.4 Conclusion

The League's demand was met to the extent that Pakistan would be formed, and the Congress' position on unity was taken into account in order to keep Pakistan as small as possible. Mountbatten's plan was to divide India while maintaining maximum unity. The peaceful transfer of power was attempted, but the horror of partition remains, which could have been avoided. India recently declared August 14 to be **Partition Horror Remembrance Day**.

10. Independence Act 1947

The **Indian Independence Act**, based on the **Mountbatten Plan**, was passed by the British Parliament on **July 5, 1947**, and **received royal assent on July 18, 1947**. The Act went into effect on **August 15, 1947**. This act divided British India into two new sovereign republics, India and Pakistan. This is an important topic for the UPSC Exams since with this act India's struggle for independence came to an end and India finally became an independent nation.

10.1 Background

- The legislation was developed by **Clement Attlee's** Labour Government. It was entirely based on the **Mountbatten Plan**, also known as the 3rd June Plan, which was established after the leaders of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League agreed to Viceroy Lord Mountbatten's recommendations.
- On February 20, 1947, the British Prime Minister said that British India would be granted self-government by June 1948 at the latest.
- The British government suggested a proposal that was implemented on June 3, 1947.
- The Independence Act was the implementation of the Mountbatten Plan.
- The Act declared India and Pakistan independent on August 15, 1947, with effect from that date.
- The **Boundary Commission** drew the new boundaries of the dominions. The suzerainty of the British over the princely kingdoms came to an end.
- These countries were asked to decide whether to join both India and Pakistan or remain independent.
- Over 560 states made it clear that they want to join India.
- Until the new dominions' constitutions become operative, the heads of state will be the respective Governor-Generals, who will be able to continue to assent to laws passed in the name of the monarch through the Constituent Assemblies.
- The Royal Assent was given to this Act on July 18, 1947, and it went into effect.

10.2 Provisions

- On the fifteenth of August, 1947, the British authority left India.
- On this day, India separated into two sovereign provinces, India and Pakistan, and each of these states became sovereign.
- The powers that the British government in India used to have were to be transferred to each of those states.
- A border commission led by Mr. Redcliff partitioned Punjab and Bengal and determined its boundaries.
- The Secretary of State for India's office will be abolished.
- Every territory was to have a Governor-General, who would be appointed by the Queen of England at the Dominion government's request. He was not to act on his judgment or discretion, but rather as the state's constitutional head of state.
- The regulations must be enacted by a sovereign legislature in each Domain. There would be no automatic application of any legislation approved by the British Parliament to India.

- Both countries will have a Constituent Assembly that will serve as a legislative body.
- Until a Constituent Assembly in any dominion formulates a Constitution, it will function as closely as practicable with the 1935 Act.
- Provincial governors will serve as the provinces' constitutional heads.
- The practice of reserving Secretary of State positions should be abandoned. After the handover of authority to both dominions, government employees who desire to quit must do so.
- On August 15, 1947, British rule over India's states and tribal regions came to an end. In this arrangement, power will be passed to states rather than dominions, and states will be free to choose whether to participate in India or Pakistan.
- The UK government's engagement with India will now be managed through the Office of Commonwealth Affairs.
- The title of King and Emperor of India was surrendered by the King of England.
- East Bengal, West Pakistan, Sindh, and British Baluchistan are all Pakistani provinces.
- If the NWFP votes to join Pakistan in a referendum, this territory will join Pakistan as well.

10.3 Impact

- The enactment of the Indian Independence Act of 1947 was a watershed moment in the country's constitutional history.
- It was "the climax of a protracted chain of events," as Attlee described it, "the accomplishment of the British mission" in India.
- In the House of Lords, **Lord Samuel** described the Law as "a peace treaty without war."
- The Act's passage was applauded by Indian politicians as well. **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, for example, stated that "the time of British dominance over India ends today," and that "our relationship with the United Kingdom will continue to be built on equality, kindness, and mutual understanding."
- The law represented the start of a new period of freedom in India, but it did not satisfy a vast number of people and politicians.
- As **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad** put it, "August 14 for Muslims in Pakistan is a day of grief for Hindus and Sikhs."
- Despite these flaws, it cannot be denied that the Indian Independence Act of 1947 signified the end of British control in India and the start of a free India.

10.4 Repeal of the Act

- Both provinces were given the authority to revoke any act of parliament that affected them, including the Indian Independence Act.
- By adopting their respective constitutions, India and Pakistan later abrogated the 1947 Independence Act.
- The Indian Independence Act of 1947 was effectively **repealed by Section 395** of the Indian Constitution and Section 221 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1956.
- The position of dominion was dissolved with the passage of the Indian Constitution, and India became a republic.

- The British Parliament, however, has failed to contribute to the repeal of the 1947 Indian Independence Act.
- Even though the new constitution lacks the legal authority to repeal legislation, this is done to break the chain of law and establish the constitution as an independent legal system.

10.5 Conclusion

The enactment of the Indian Independence Act of 1947 was a watershed moment in the country's constitutional history. The law signalled the start of a new period of freedom in India, although many Indians were dissatisfied with it. Despite these flaws, there can be no doubt that the Act brought an end to British rule in India.
