

GS Foundation Program 2024 | D10 | Benchmark Assignment #109

Subjective Questions:

Q.1) Why did Mahatma Gandhi launch the civil disobedience movement? Analyse the intensity of the movement in different parts of India. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q.2) Present an account of major metallic mineral deposits in India. Why the vast tracts of alluvial plains of India are devoid of minerals of economic use? Give reasons. (15 marks, 250 words)

Objective Questions:

Q.1) Which of the following statements regarding Gandhi and Ambedkar's ideologies are correct?

1. Both believed in Parliamentary democracy as the best form of government.
2. Gandhi believed that India had always been a nation.
3. Ambedkar believed that nationalistic identities were a by-product of colonial legal system.
4. Both believed that education, and not force, would result in lasting social reforms.

Select the correct option using the code given below:

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

Q.2) Consider the following pairs:

Conspiracy cases/Trials	Reasons
1. Kakori Case	Train robbery
2. Delhi conspiracy Trial	Bomb attack on a white Judge, Kingsford
3. Nasik conspiracy case	Jackson, a collector was shot dead

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Q.3) The aim of the Indemnity Act passed by the British Parliament in 1920 was:

- a) To give the Indian members of the Indian civil service the same powers and rights as those enjoyed by their European colleagues.
- b) To empower police to search a place and arrest any person without warrant.
- c) To resolve the East India company's solvency.
- d) To provide protection to the officers who had acted in good faith for maintaining the public order and safety.

Q.4) With reference to the changes in provincial legislature made by the Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms, consider the following statements:

1. The legislative councils could reject the budget.
2. Women were given the right to vote.
3. Ministers were made answerable to the legislature.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.5) Which of the following was **not** a reason for Gandhi to choose salt as the symbol of the Civil Disobedience movement?

- a) It was being exorbitantly taxed making it expensive.
- b) There was no scope of social division on such an issue.
- c) It made the movement stronger by offering a chance to the urban populace to symbolically identify with mass suffering.
- d) More than 80 percentage of salt produced in India was exported to Europe which caused shortage.

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Subjective Questions:

Q.1) Why did Mahatma Gandhi launch the civil disobedience movement? Analyse the intensity of the movement in different parts of India.

Approach:

1. Introduction
2. Discuss the reasons behind launching of Civil Disobedience movement
3. Mention how movement impacted different parts of India
4. Conclude.

Answer: A significant turning point in the Indian Nationalist movement was the Civil Disobedience Movement, which commenced with Mahatma Gandhi's iconic Dandi March. On March 12, 1930, Gandhi, accompanied by 78 other Ashram members, embarked on foot from the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad. After a 26-day journey, they finally reached Dandi on April 6, 1930, marking the beginning of this pivotal movement.

Series of events leading to Civil Disobedience Movement:

1. **Establishment of the Simon Commission:** The British government established the Indian Statutory Commission, popularly known as the Simon Commission, in November 1927. The Commission was tasked with recommending further constitutional reforms in India. Controversially, no Indian was nominated as a member of the Commission, which sparked outrage in India, indicating that Indians were considered unfit to decide on their own constitutional reforms. Demonstrations and strikes erupted across the country wherever the Simon Commission went, demanding Indian representation.
2. **Demand for Dominion Status:** In the December 1928 Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress (INC), the demand for dominion status (Swaraj) was raised. The British Indian government was given a one-year ultimatum to accept the Congress's demands for dominion status. If the demand was not met, the Congress declared that complete independence from foreign rule would become its primary goal. The ultimatum signalled a growing determination to intensify the struggle for self-rule.
3. **Protests Against the Arrest of Social Revolutionaries:** On April 8, 1929, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army (HSRA) were arrested for throwing harmless bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly. HSRA members went on a long hunger strike in jail, demanding better treatment for political prisoners. The death of Jatin Das during the hunger strike led to some of the largest demonstrations in the country, highlighting the issue of political repression.
4. **Shift to Complete Independence:** Nationalist leaders realized that the British government was not sincere in meeting the demand for dominion status. The INC convened an emergency session in Lahore in December 1929, presided over by

Jawaharlal Nehru. The session declared the goal of '**Purna Swaraj**' or Complete Independence as the new objective. Mahatma Gandhi was authorized to launch a comprehensive civil disobedience movement at a time and place of his choosing.

5. **Salt Tax:** One of the major triggers for the movement was the imposition of a heavy tax on salt by the British government. Gandhi saw this as a symbol of British exploitation and sought to challenge the salt laws through nonviolent civil disobedience.
6. **Discontent with the Round Table Conferences:** The Round Table Conferences held in London between 1930 and 1932 failed to address Indian demands for substantial political reforms and self-rule. This led to disillusionment and frustration among Indian leaders, prompting Gandhi to escalate the struggle for independence.
7. **Agricultural Distress:** Farmers in India were facing economic distress due to heavy taxation, inadequate land reforms, and the impact of the Great Depression. Gandhi aimed to address the plight of farmers and rural communities through the Civil Disobedience Movement.
8. **Industrial Workers' Rights:** The movement also sought to address the grievances of industrial workers who were facing poor working conditions, low wages, and lack of labor rights under British rule.

The intensity of the Civil Disobedience Movement varied across different regions of India, with each region witnessing unique examples of protest and resistance:

Gujarat:

1. The Dandi Salt March led by Mahatma Gandhi was a prominent example of civil disobedience in Gujarat.
2. Thousands of people joined Gandhi on the march from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi, making it a massive and impactful demonstration of nonviolent protest against the British salt tax.
3. People across Gujarat engaged in making salt through nonviolent means, openly defying the British salt laws and showcasing their commitment to the movement.
4. The famous Bardoli Satyagraha, led by Vallabhbhai Patel in Gujarat (formerly part of the United Provinces), was another noteworthy example of civil disobedience that gained widespread support from the local farmers.

Bengal:

1. Bengal witnessed strong participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement with widespread protests against the salt tax and other British policies.
2. Non-cooperation and civil disobedience spread rapidly among the people, leading to strikes, boycotts, and hartals (shutdowns) in various parts of the province.
3. The famous Chittagong Armoury Raid led by Surya Sen and his group of revolutionaries was a significant act of defiance in Bengal, aiming to capture arms and inspire rebellion against British rule.

United Provinces (present-day Uttar Pradesh):

1. The Civil Disobedience Movement gained considerable momentum in the United Provinces, with large-scale protests and boycotts of British goods and institutions.

2. Leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Sarojini Naidu played a crucial role in mobilizing the masses and promoting nonviolent resistance against British rule.

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu:

1. In Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the coastal areas witnessed significant participation in the movement due to the focus on salt satyagrahas.
2. People in these regions openly violated the British salt laws and produced salt as an act of defiance.
3. The famous Vedaranyam Salt March led by C. Rajagopalachari in Tamil Nadu saw active participation from people in the coastal regions, symbolizing their resistance against British salt taxes.

Punjab:

1. Punjab played a crucial role in the movement, particularly in areas like Peshawar, Lahore, and Amritsar.
2. The people of Punjab actively joined the civil disobedience campaigns and engaged in various acts of resistance against British rule.
3. The Jaito Morcha, led by Sikhs demanding the return of key religious places, and the Nankana Sahib Massacre, where British forces fired on Sikh protestors, were significant incidents during the movement in Punjab.

Other Regions:

1. The intensity of the Civil Disobedience Movement varied in other parts of India, influenced by factors such as local leadership, British repression, and cultural dynamics.
2. In some regions, the movement faced challenges due to severe British crackdowns, resulting in the suspension of civil liberties and mass arrests.
3. Despite these challenges, efforts were made to strengthen and expand the reach of civil disobedience through awareness campaigns and organizational efforts.

While the intensity of the movement varied due to regional factors, it left an indelible mark on the collective consciousness of the Indian people. The demand for 'Purna Swaraj' or Complete Independence became the unifying aspiration, and Mahatma Gandhi's principled leadership played a crucial role in guiding the nation towards achieving this ultimate goal.

Q.2) Present an account of major metallic mineral deposits in India. Why the vast tracts of alluvial plains of India are devoid of minerals of economic use? Give reasons.

Approach:

1. **Introduction:** Give a description about the distribution of metallic minerals in the country.
2. **Body:** Explain why northern alluvial plains are devoid of metallic minerals.
3. **Conclusion:** As per the context.

Metallic minerals, such as iron ore, copper, and gold, serve as vital sources for metals and are prevalent in India's peninsular plateau, mainly in old crystalline rocks. These minerals are

categorized into ferrous (e.g., iron ore, manganese, chromite) and non-ferrous (e.g., bauxite, copper) types. The peninsular plateau region hosts a significant abundance of these resources, contributing to India's mineral wealth.

Iron Ore:

- a) **Proximity to Coal Fields:** Iron ore mines are strategically located in the north-eastern plateau region, near coal fields, providing a logistical advantage.
- b) **Concentration of Reserves:** Approximately 95% of the total iron ore reserves are concentrated in states such as Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Goa, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

Manganese:

- a) **Geological Association:** Manganese is associated with all geological formations but is predominantly found in the Dharwar system.
- b) **Leading Producer:** Odisha emerges as the primary producer of manganese, with significant contributions from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, and Telangana.

Bauxite:

- a) **Tertiary Deposits:** Bauxite is mainly found in tertiary deposits and is closely associated with laterite rocks, prevalent in plateau and hill ranges of peninsular India, as well as coastal tracts.
- b) **Leading Producer:** Odisha holds the position of the largest producer of bauxite in the country.

Copper:

- a) **Geographic Concentration:** Copper deposits are primarily located in Singhbhum district (Jharkhand), Balaghat district (Madhya Pradesh), and Jhunjhunu and Alwar districts (Rajasthan).
- b) **Regional Distribution:** The distribution of copper resources reflects the geological characteristics of specific districts across states.

Alluvial Plains in North India:

- a) **Lack of Economic Minerals:** The vast alluvial plain tract in north India is characterized by a scarcity of minerals with economic significance.
- b) **Geological Variations:** These regional variations result from differences in geological structures, processes, and the time involved in mineral formation.

Formation of Mineral Fuels:

- a) **Organic Matter Transformation:** Mineral fuels, such as coal, are formed through the transformation of organic matter, particularly under conditions of high pressure and temperature over an extended period.
- b) **Geological Processes:** The origin of mineral fuels highlights the geological processes that contribute to the development of economically valuable resources.



Vast Alluvial Plains of India: Devoid of Minerals of Economic Use:

1. Geological Factors:

Alluvial Formation: The alluvial plains, primarily in North India, are formed by the deposition of sediments carried by rivers over extended periods.

Mineral Leaching: The continuous water movement through these plains often leads to leaching, causing the removal of minerals from the soil.

2. Erosion and Redistribution:

Erosion of Minerals: The geological processes responsible for the creation of alluvial plains often result in the erosion of minerals from the original source rocks.

Redistribution: While erosion occurs, the minerals may be redistributed in a way that concentrates them in specific regions, leaving the alluvial plains relatively depleted.

3. Lack of Primary Rocks:

Source of Minerals: Alluvial plains are typically formed from the weathering and erosion of existing rocks, but they lack primary rocks that are rich in economically valuable minerals.

Mineral Concentration Elsewhere: Minerals, being heavy, tend to concentrate in specific geological formations rather than being uniformly distributed across alluvial plains.

4. Absence of Geological Processes:

Transformation Mechanisms: Alluvial plains lack the geological processes conducive to the transformation of raw materials into economically valuable minerals, such as the intense pressure and heat required for the formation of metallic ores.

The plains were formed in the Pleistocene (around 3 million years) and Holocene during the Quaternary era and are the **most recent geological unit of India**. The rivers cut various channels across mountains, valleys and **transport a mixture of rocks, sand, sediments and clay, depositing it on the floor of the plains**. Minerals take shape under prolonged heat and pressure, and when enough time is available for rocks to consolidate from lava cooling, all minerals are sourced. **As these conditions are not met in northern plains, mineral availability is negligible in this geological region.**

Objective Questions:

Q.1) Which of the following statements regarding Gandhi and Ambedkar's ideologies are correct?

1. Both believed in Parliamentary democracy as the best form of government.
2. Gandhi believed that India had always been a nation.
3. Ambedkar believed that nationalistic identities were a by-product of colonial legal system.
4. Both believed that education, and not force, would result in lasting social reforms.

Select the correct option using the code given below:

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect: In 1909, Gandhi wrote in the Hind Swaraj: Parliamentary democracy as **“a costly toy of the nation”**. **Gandhi's unequivocal belief that the parliamentary form of democracy was ill-suited for India** was clearly evident when he wrote in the Hind Swaraj, “I pray to God that India may never be in that plight”.

He preferred governance through the **old system of village panchayats**.

Ambedkar had **modern political ideas** and believed that parliamentary democracy involving the masses would **put pressure on those in power** to act for the **welfare** of the people.

Statement 2 and 3 is correct: Gandhi was very **proud of Ancient India's heritage** and felt that Indians always had a **sense of brotherhood** and unity and saw themselves as a distinct identity, a distinct nation. Ambedkar was more rational in this matter, and **did not regard the similarities in culture or existence of ancient pan Indian empires** as proof of nationalistic identities in the modern political sense. He believed that **oppressive British policies**, and **uniform legal and administrative system** had helped create united **national identity against this foreign tyranny**.

Statement 4 is correct: Both did **not believe** in **using force** to create social changes. Both felt that changing **social attitudes** slowly by **persuasion and education** was the only way to ensure lasting and **sustainable social reforms**.

Q.2) Consider the following pairs:

Conspiracy cases/Trials	Reasons
1. Kakori Case	Train robbery
2. Delhi conspiracy Trial	Bomb attack on a white Judge, Kingsford
3. Nasik conspiracy case	Jackson, a collector was shot dead

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Pair 1 is correctly matched. Kakori robbery case. The most important action of the HRA was the **Kakori robbery**. The men held up the 8-Down train at Kakori, an obscure village near Lucknow, and looted its official railway cash. Government crackdown after the Kakori robbery led to arrests of many, of whom 17 were jailed, four transported for life and four—Bismil, Ashfaqullah, Roshan Singh and Rajendra Lahiri—were hanged. Kakori proved to be a setback.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched. Delhi conspiracy trial was carried out to investigate the assassination attempt of Viceroy Hardinge while he was making an official entry into new capital of Delhi by Rashbehari Bose and Sachin Sanyal.

Pair 3 is correctly matched. Nasik conspiracy case was charged for killing AMT Jackson, a collector of Nasik by Anant Lakshman Kanhere, a member of Abhinav Bharat.

Q.3) The aim of the Indemnity Act passed by the British Parliament in 1920 was:

- a) To give the Indian members of the Indian civil service the same powers and rights as those enjoyed by their European colleagues.
 b) To empower police to search a place and arrest any person without warrant.
 c) To resolve the East India company's solvency.
 d) To provide protection to the officers who had acted in good faith for maintaining the public order and safety.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Option d is correct. The British Parliament had passed an **Indemnity Act in 1920 (or white washing bill) for the protection of its officers**. The Act deals with the indemnity granted to persons who have carried out duties for the purpose of maintaining discipline and order, and

have done other executive acts; side by side with that the Bill proposes to validate certain acts of courts and of regulations made in various parts of the world. The Act also deals with the question of compensation.

No action or other legal proceeding whatsoever, whether civil or criminal, shall be instituted in any court against a person belonging to the naval, military, Air Force, or civil, or by any other person acting under the authority of a person. If the act is done in good faith for the defence of the Britain interest or the public safety.

Q.4) With reference to the changes in provincial legislature made by the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, consider the following statements:

1. The legislative councils could reject the budget.
2. Women were given the right to vote.
3. Ministers were made answerable to the legislature.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Important provisions introduced in provincial legislature by the **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms or Government of India Act, 1919:**

1. Provincial legislative councils were further expanded and 70 per cent of the members were to be elected.
2. The system of communal and class electorates was further consolidated.
3. **Women were also given the right to vote.**
4. The legislative councils could initiate legislation but the governor's assent was required. The governor could veto bills and issue ordinances.
5. **The legislative councils could reject the budget but the governor could restore it, if necessary.**
6. The legislators enjoyed freedom of speech.

Statement 3 is correct. The ministers were to be responsible to the legislature and had to resign if a no confidence motion was passed against the by the legislature. **Thus, ministers were made answerable to the legislature.**

Q.5) Which of the following was **not** a reason for Gandhi to choose salt as the symbol of the Civil Disobedience movement?

- a) It was being exorbitantly taxed making it expensive.
- b) There was no scope of social division on such an issue.
- c) It made the movement stronger by offering a chance to the urban populace to symbolically identify with mass suffering.
- d) More than 80 percentage of salt produced in India was exported to Europe which caused shortage.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement a is correct: Salt was an **item of daily usage** consumed by the **urban and the rural**, by the **rich and poor**. Not allowing Indians to manufacture salt and forcing them to buy it, made an essential item like salt **unaffordable to many poor people**, as it was **expensive due to increasing taxation** by the British government on one hand and **ban on private manufacture** on the other hand. So, this was a good example of British government creating **harassing policies** for **selfish reasons without any care for the hardships** of the people.

Statement b is correct: Since salt was a **non-religious, non-class, non-caste based item** of consumption, there was **no social disagreement** on it which could allow the British to **play off one section of Indians against another** to **weaken** the resistance. Choosing this as the symbol allowed Gandhi to create the **most strong and united front against British rule**.

Statement c is correct: Like khadi, salt offered to the urban populace the opportunity of a **symbolic identification with mass suffering**. This made the movement stronger by **forging unity** in the otherwise disparate rural and urban interests and concerns, thus **improving chances of success** against the British.

Statement d is incorrect: Salt manufacture was **not only an emotional issue** of self-help, but also an **economic issue of affordability** for the poor, and a **means to earn money/ living** for the rural poor.