

QUICK REVISION MODULE (UPSC PRELIMS 2024)
MODERN INDIAN HISTORY

RESENTMENT AGAINST THE BRITISH RULE - TRIBAL, PEASANT, CIVIL REBELLION

A. PEASANT MOVEMENTS

I. STATUS OF INDIAN PEASANTRY

STATUS OF INDIAN PEASANTRY UNDER COLONIAL RULE

IMPOVERISHMENT OF PEASANTRY DUE TO

- Colonial economic policies,
- Ruin of the handicrafts leading to overcrowding of land.
- The new land revenue system,
- Colonial administrative and judicial system.

ISSUES IN ZAMINDARI AREAS

- High rents,
- Illegal levies.
- Arbitrary evictions.
- Unpaid labour.

ISSUES IN RYOTWARI AREAS

- Heavy land revenue.
- High interests by Money lenders.
- High debts.

II. EARLY PEASANT MOVEMENT

INDIGO MOVEMENT (1859-60)

Preceding Events

- European Indigo planters in Bengal forced peasants to grow indigo instead of more profitable crops like rice.
- Peasants were intimidated through kidnappings, flogging, attacks on women and children, demolition of houses and crops.

Key Features of the Movement

- Leaders like Digamber Biswas and Bishnu Biswas organised a counter force against the planters' attacks.
- Peasants resorted to rent strike and initiated legal action with the help of Bengal Intelligensia.

Consequences

- An indigo commission was appointed. Based on the reports, the government notified that the peasants could not be compelled to grow indigo.
- Planters closed down the factories and indigo cultivation was virtually wiped out from Bengal by 1860.

PABNA AGRARIAN LEAGUES

Preceding Events

- During 1870s-80s, Zamindars in Eastern Bengal resorted to oppressive practices of tax collection and eviction.
- It included forcible evictions, seizure of cattle and crops and prolonged and costly litigation in courts.

Key Features of the Movement

- The peasants of Yusufshahi Pargana in Patna district formed an agrarian league to organize rent strike.
- The main form of struggle was that of legal resistance; there was very little violence.

Consequences

- Due to official persuasion and fears among the zamindars, many peasants were able to acquire occupancy rights and resist enhanced rents.
- To protect the interests of Zamindars, government passed the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885.
- Intellectuals supporting the movement included RC Dutt, SN Banerjea, BC Chatterjea.

DECCAN RIOTS

Preceding Events

- The ryots of Deccan region of western India suffered heavy taxation under the Ryotwari system.
- In addition to exploitation by the moneylenders, they were under duress due to American Civil War in 1864.

Key Features of the Movement

- In 1874, ryots started social boycott against moneylenders.
- It spread rapidly to the villages of Poona, Ahmednagar, Sholapur and Satara. Soon the social boycott was transformed into agrarian riots with systematic attacks on the moneylenders' houses and shops.

Consequences

- The Government succeeded in repressing the movement.
- As a conciliatory measure, the Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act was passed in 1879.

III. CHANGED NATURE OF PEASANT MOVEMENTS AFTER 1857



- Peasants emerged as the main force in agrarian movements,
- Demands were centred almost wholly on economic issues, not colonialism.
- Directed against immediate enemies — foreign planters, indigenous zamindars and moneylenders.
- Not aimed to end the system of exploitation of the peasants.
- No continuity of struggle or long-term organisation.
- The peasants developed a strong awareness of their legal rights and asserted them in and outside the courts.



- There was a lack of an adequate understanding of colonialism.
- The 19th-century peasants did not possess a new ideology and a new social, economic and political programme.
- These struggles, however militant, occurred within the framework of the old societal order lacking a positive conception of an alternative society.

IV. LATER MOVEMENTS

a) KISAN SABHA MOVEMENT

After 1857 revolt, most of the Avadh Talukdars got back their lands which increased their stronghold over the agrarian society.

Cultivators were subjected to high rents, summary evictions (bedakhali), illegal levies, renewal fees or nazrana.



With the help of Home Rule activists, kisan sabhas were organised in UP. The United Provinces Kisan Sabha (1918) was set up by Gauri Shankar Mishra and Indra Narayan Dwivedi.

Other major Leaders: Madan Mohan Malaviya, Jhinguri Singh, Durgapal Singh and Baba Ramchandra and J.L. Nehru



Kisans were asked to refuse to till bedakhali land, not do unpaid labour and solve their disputes through panchayats.

Later the movement declined due to government repression and passage of the Awadh Rent (Amendment) Act.

b) SOME MAJOR MOVEMENTS

| Name | Place of Origin | Events | Outcome |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| Ekka Movement | ➤ Northern districts of the United Provinces—Hardoi, Bahraich, Sitapur | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Peasants were discontent due to high rents, oppression of thikadars and practice of share rents. ➤ Peasants decided to pay only recorded rents, give up forced labour. ➤ Major leader: Madari Pasa. | ➤ By March 1922, severe repression by authorities brought the movement to an end. |
| Mapilla Revolt | ➤ Malabar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mapilla peasants resented Hindu land lords due to high rent and lack of security of tenure. ➤ They revolted against the British authority and unpopular landlords. ➤ Declaration of martial law gave the revolt a communal color. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Due to communal overtones, leaders of khilafat dissociated from the revolt. ➤ By the end of 1921, the revolt ended. |

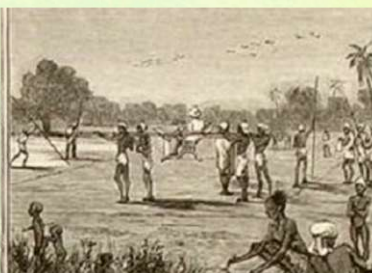
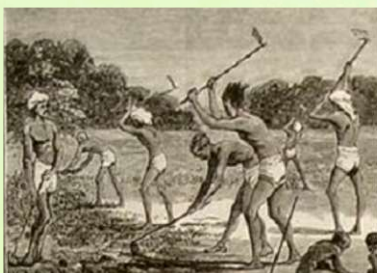
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|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| Bardoli Satyagraha | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bardoli taluqa in Surat. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The movement started after authorities increased the land revenue. ➤ Bardoli Inquiry Committee found the revenue hike to be unjustified. ➤ Vallabhabhai Patel led the movement. ➤ The women of Bardoli gave him the title of “Sardar”. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Government looked for graceful withdrawal. ➤ It set the condition that first the enhanced rent be paid by all the occupants (not actually done). ➤ Gov. appointed committee also found the hike unjustified. |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|

c) ALL INDIA KISAN SABHA/CONGRESS

- Founded in Lucknow in April 1936 with Swami Sahjanand Saraswati as the president and N.G. Ranga as the general secretary.
- A kisan manifesto was issued and a periodical under Indulal Yagnik started.
- The AIKS and the Congress held their sessions in Faizpur in 1936.
- The Congress manifesto (especially the agrarian policy) for the 1937 provincial elections was strongly influenced by the AIKS agenda.

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V. MOVEMENT IN THE POST WAR PHASE

| Movement | Origin | Organization | Outcome |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| Tebhaga | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In September 1946, the Bengal Provincial Kisan Sabha gave a call to implement Flood Commission recommendations of tebhaga—two-thirds' share—to the bargardars (share-croppers). ➤ The bargardars worked on lands rented from the jotedars. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The communist cadres went to the countryside to organise the bargardars with the slogan of “nij khamare dhan tolo”(sharecroppers to take paddy to their own threshing floor). ➤ Storm centre of movement was north Bengal, principally among Rajbanshis. Muslims also participated in large numbers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The movement dissipated soon, due to sop of Bargardari Bill, intensified repression, Hindu Mahasabha's agitation for a separate Bengal and renewed riots in Calcutta |
| Telengana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Biggest peasant guerrilla war of modern Indian history affecting 3000 villages and 3 million population. ➤ Hyderabad under Nizams was marked by domination of small Urdu speaking Muslim elite, total lack of political and civil liberties, grossest forms of forced exploitation by deshmukhs, jagirdars, doras (landlords). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In 1946, communist-led guerrillas uprising started in Nalgonda and soon spread to Warrangal and Khammam. ➤ Peasants organised themselves into village sanghams. ➤ They attacked using lathis, stone slings and chilli powder. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In villages controlled by guerrillas, vethi and forced labour disappeared. ➤ Agricultural wages were raised. ➤ Illegally seized lands were restored. ➤ An improvement in the condition of women was witnessed. ➤ Led the way to formation of Andhra Pradesh on linguistic lines. |



B. TRIBAL AND CIVIL UPRISINGS

A. BENGAL AND EASTERN INDIA

| NAME | Origin | Organization | Outcome |
|--|---|--|---|
| Sanyasi Revolt (late 18th Century) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In Murshidabad and Baikunthapur forests of Jalpaiguri.➤ Restrictions imposed on visits to the holy places on the Sanyasis. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sanyasis raided company's factories and state treasuries. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Prolonged military action by Warren Hastings to control the revolt. |
| Chuar Uprising (also called Revolt of the Jungle Mahal) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In Midnapore district between 1776 – 1772 and 1795 – 1816. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Famine, enhanced land revenue demands and economic distress forced Chuar tribesmen to take up arms.➤ The most significant uprising was under Durjan Singh in 1798. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The revolt was brutally suppressed by the British. |
| Kol Uprising (1831) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ At Chhotanagpur | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Large-scale transfers of land from Kol headmen to outsiders like Hindu, Sikh and Muslim farmers and money-lenders.➤ British judicial and revenue policies affected traditional social conditions of the Kols. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Large-scale military operations were done to restore order. |
| Ho and Munda Uprisings (1820-1837) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Singhbhum | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Raja of Parahat organised Ho tribals to revolt against occupation.➤ Later in 1831, they joined Mundas to protest against new farming revenue policy and entry of Bengalis. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The revolt was extinguished in 1832, but Ho operations continued till 1837. |

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| Santhal Rebellion (1855-56) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rajmahal Hills. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Money-lenders with support of police and zamindars subjected peasants to oppressive exactions and dispossession of lands. ➤ Under Sidhu and Kanhu, two brothers, the Santhals proclaimed an end to Company rule, and declared the area between Bhagalpur and Rajmahal as autonomous. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prolonged military action by Warren Hastings to control the revolt. |
| Khond Uprising (1837-1856) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Odisha to Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chakra Bisoi, a young raja, led the Khonds to oppose the suppression of human sacrifice, new taxes, and the entry of zamindars into their areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Later with Chakra Bisoi's disappearance, the uprising came to an end. |
| Ahom Revolt (1828) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ British did not fulfil their promise to withdraw after First Burma War (1824-26). ➤ Instead they tried to incorporate Ahom territories. ➤ Rebellion sparked under the leadership of Gomdhar Konwar in 1828. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Company took conciliatory approach and restored parts of Assam to the king. |
| Khasi Uprising (1833) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Garo and Jaintia Hills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ British wanted to develop a road which led to influx of labourers from outside. ➤ The tribes organized themselves under Tirath Singh. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ English military suppressed the revolt. |
| Pagal Panthis (late 18th Century) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bengal Region. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Karam Shah was the founder of this religious sect. ➤ His son Tipu took the cause of tenants against Zamindars. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The area remained disturbed in 1830s and 1840s. |

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| Farazi Revolt (1838-1857) | ➤ Easter Bengal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Farazi sect was founded by Haji Shariat Allah. ➤ His son Dadu Mian organized his followers against English. | ➤ Most of the farazis joined wahabis. |
| Munda Revolt (1899-1900) | ➤ Chhotanagpur | ➤ The rebellion began as a religious movement but gathered political force for fight against feudal, zamindari tenures, and exploitation by money-lenders | ➤ Most of the farazis joined wahabis. |
| Munda Revolt (1899-1900) | ➤ Chhotanagpur | ➤ The rebellion began as a religious movement but gathered political force for fight against feudal, zamindari tenures, and exploitation by money-lenders | ➤ In 1900, their leader Birsa Munda was captured and died in same year. |

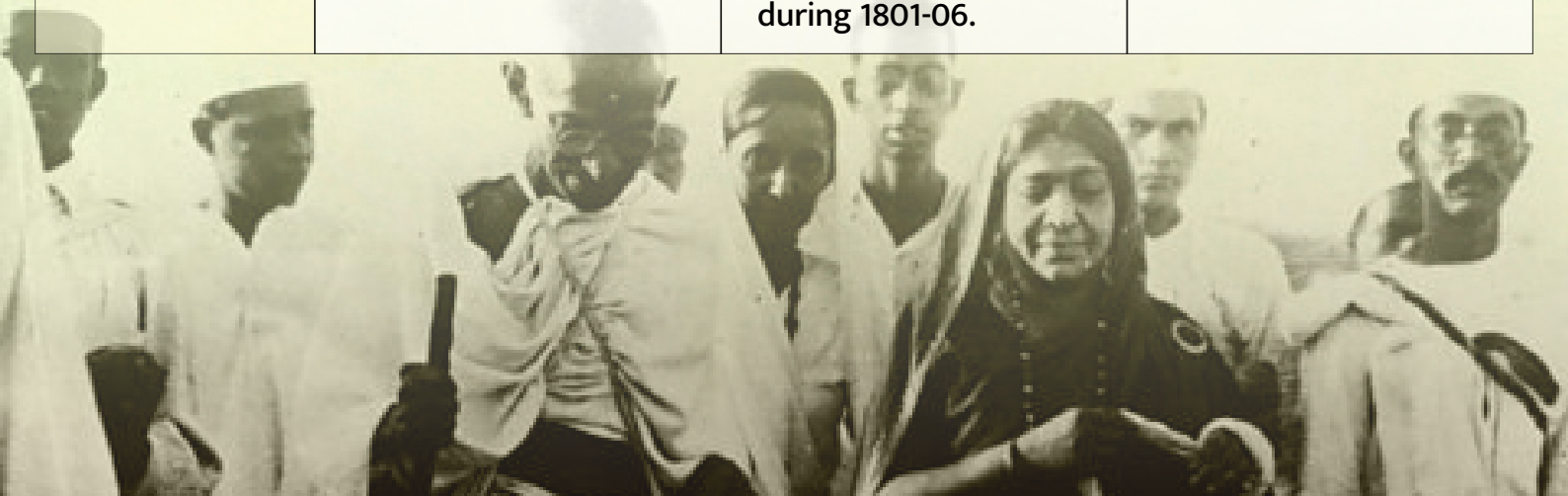
B. WESTERN INDIA

| NAME | Origin | Organization | Outcome |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Bhil Uprising (1817-1846) | ➤ Khadesh region | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They revolted against EIC fearing agrarian hardships. ➤ They were led by Sewaram. | ➤ Revolted started in 1817 and continued episodically till 1846. |
| Cutch Rebellion (1816) | ➤ Cutch region | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Due to British interference in the internal feuds of Cutch. ➤ Huge resentment due to a British resident. ➤ Chiefs revolted to restore Bharmal as the King. | ➤ British has to adopt conciliatory approach. |
| Waghera Rising (1818-1820) | ➤ Okha Mandal. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Due to alien rule and exaction of Gaekwar of Baroda. ➤ Waghera chiefs of Okha Mandal took up arms. ➤ They made inroads into British territory. | ➤ A peace treaty was signed in 1920. |

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| Koli Rising (1829) | ➤Maharashtra | ➤Kolis rose against company's rule in 1829, 1839 and then in 1844-48. | |
| Ramosi Risings (1822) | ➤Western Ghats | ➤They rose under Chittur Singh in 1822. | ➤ British used force to suppress the revolt. |
| Surat Salt Agitations (1844) | ➤Surat | ➤By local population against rise in salt duty. | ➤ The government withdrew the duty. ➤ Introduced Bengal Standard Weights and Measures. |
| Kolhapur and Savantvadi Revolts (1838) | ➤Maratha Region | ➤Gadhkaris who garrisoned the Maratha forts faced unemployment as garrisons were disbanded. ➤Similar revolt in Savantvadi areas. | |

C. SOUTH INDIA

| NAME | Origin | Organization | Outcome |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Revolt of Raja of Vizianagaram (1794) | ➤Northern Sarkar | ➤People revolted because the Raja was asked to disband his army. ➤The raja died in a battle in 1794. | ➤ The company offered the estate to Raja's son and reduced the demand of the peasants. |
| Poligars Revolt (1799) | ➤Dinigal region of Madras and Malabar. | ➤The poligars rose up against the oppressive land revenue system during 1801-06. | ➤ Sporadic rising continued in Madras till 1856. |



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| Diwan Velu Tampi's Revolt (1805) | ➤ Travancore region. | ➤ Harsh conditions imposed under subsidiary alliance caused resentment. | ➤ A large military operation had to be undertaken to restore peace. |
| Rampa Revolt (1879) | ➤ Coastal Andhra . | ➤ Against the depredations of government supported mansabdar and new restrictive forest regulations. | ➤ Large military operation was undertaken to defeat the rebels. |

D. NORTH INDIA

| NAME | Origin | Organization | Outcome |
|--|---------------------|---|--|
| Wahabi Movement (19th Century) | ➤ United Provinces. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It was an Islamic revivalist movement founded by Syed Ahmed. ➤ He advocated a return to pure Islam and condemned western influence. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The movement played an important role in spreading anti-British sentiments. ➤ Military operations were carried on the Wahabi base at Sithana. |
| Kuka Revolt (1840) | ➤ Western Punjab | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Movement was founded by Bhagat Jawahar Mal. ➤ After British occupation of Punjab, the movement transformed from a religious purification campaign to political one. ➤ It was social reforms oriented. | ➤ In 1972, one its leaders was deported to Rangoon. |

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