

PRABHA IAS IPS COACHING ACADEMY



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS (15/06/2026)

Q1. The Revolt of 1857 marked a turning point in the history of British rule in India. Discuss the causes, nature and significance of the Revolt of 1857. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q2. Communalism continues to pose a challenge to social harmony and national integration in India. Discuss the causes of communalism and suggest measures to address it effectively. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

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MODEL ANSWERS

1) Introduction

The Revolt of 1857 was the first major armed uprising against British rule in India. Beginning at Meerut in May 1857 and spreading across northern and central India, it involved soldiers, peasants, zamindars, artisans, and dispossessed rulers. Historians have variously described it as a Sepoy Mutiny, a Popular Revolt, and the First War of Indian Independence.

Body

Causes of the Revolt

1. Political Causes:

- Annexation of states through the Doctrine of Lapse.
- Awadh's annexation and displacement of traditional ruling elites.

2. Economic Causes:

- Exploitative land revenue policies.
- Decline of traditional industries and artisan livelihoods.

3. Social and Religious Causes:

- Fear of interference in religious and social customs.
- Resentment against missionary activities and social reforms.

4. Military Causes:

- Discrimination against Indian soldiers.
- Introduction of the Enfield rifle cartridges allegedly greased with cow and pig fat.

Nature of the Revolt

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- It began as a military rebellion but soon acquired a broader popular character.
- Participation varied across regions and social groups.
- Absence of unified leadership and a common national programme limited its reach.

Significance

- Ended the rule of the East India Company and transferred power to the British Crown through the Government of India Act, 1858.
- Led to administrative and military reforms.
- Strengthened the policy of non-interference in religious matters.
- Inspired later nationalist movements and anti-colonial struggles.

Conclusion

Although the Revolt of 1857 failed to overthrow British rule, it exposed widespread discontent against colonial policies and laid the foundation for the growth of Indian nationalism in the decades that followed.

2) Introduction

Communalism refers to the political and social ideology that places the interests of a particular religious community above broader national interests. It undermines social cohesion, constitutional values, and national integration.

Body

Causes of Communalism

1. Historical Factors:

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- Colonial policies such as 'Divide and Rule' encouraged religious divisions.

2. Political Factors:

- Vote-bank politics and communal mobilization by political actors.

3. Socio-Economic Factors:

- Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, and unequal development create social tensions.

4. Role of Media and Social Media:

- Spread of misinformation, fake news, and hate speech aggravates communal sentiments.

Impacts

- Threatens national unity and social harmony.
- Leads to communal violence and loss of life and property.
- Hampers economic development and democratic functioning.

Measures to Address Communalism

- Promote constitutional values of secularism and fraternity.
- Strengthen education for tolerance and cultural understanding.
- Ensure strict action against hate speech and communal violence.
- Encourage interfaith dialogue and community participation.

Conclusion

Addressing communalism requires coordinated efforts by the government, civil society, media, and citizens to build an inclusive, harmonious, and democratic society.