

# EXPECTED



## Prelims Sure Shot Topics For IAS Prelims 2026

BASED ON **LAST 45 YEARS PYQs** & **LAST 1.5 YEARS CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### MODERN INDIA

Modern India Prelims Sure Shot topics have been meticulously curated through a comprehensive analysis of UPSC Prelims Previous Year Questions spanning the last 45 years, integrated with the most relevant developments from the past 1.5 years of current affairs. It aims to provide aspirants with a list of expected topics which have a very high chance to be reflected in IAS Prelims 2026.

Developed under the academic guidance of **S.A. Majid Sir**, this resource reflects the rigorous research and collective expertise of the content team at RICE IAS.

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## EXPECTED PRELIMS TOPICS - 2026

### BASED ON LAST 45 YEARS PYQs & LAST 1.5 YEARS CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### MODERN INDIA

CHAPTER	EXPECTED THEME	SURE SHOT TOPICS FOR PRELIMS - 2026	JUSTIFICATION
1. EUROPEAN ARRIVAL	Portuguese	Their Impact on Indian Society (Ex-System of Cartaz, Spices trade, introduction of new crops, Spread of Christianity and press)	<b>PYQ:</b> (2010, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)
	English	Early settlements & Factories (Gujarat region, Madras region and Bengal Region)	<b>PYQ:</b> (2022,21,08,09,06,03)
	Dutch	Political impact (Southern region- to be specific Travancore region)	<b>PYQ:</b> (2022) CDS (2023)
2. ESTABLISHMENT OF BRITISH RULE (1757-1857)	Land Revenue Systems	Permanent, Ryotwari, Mahalwari	<b>PYQ:</b> 2024, 2017, 2012, 2011, 2000
	Economic Impact of British Rule	Trade and commerce (Agriculture and Handicrafts) Deindustrialization and Mercantilism	<b>PYQ:</b> 2020, 1999 CDS: 2024
	Charter Acts & Constitutional Developments	1773, 1784, 1813, 1833, 1858	<b>PYQ:</b> 2023, 2019, 2003, 2002
	British Expansion Policies	Subsidiary Alliance, Doctrine of Lapse	<b>PYQ:</b> 2018, 2007, 2000
	Civil Services & Administration	Origin of the ICS, Fort William College, and bureaucratic training.	Civil service reforms in news and it highlights British policies.
	Regional Conflicts	Anglo Mysore war (Treaty of Seringapatam)	<b>In news-</b> Controversy regarding -No Tipu Sultan, no Anglo-Mysore wars in Class 8 NCERT book.
		Battle of Plassey and Buxar-Treaty of Allahabad	<b>In news:</b> Recent changes in NCERT's new Class 8 history textbook have stirred controversy over the portrayal of key historical figures. While Mir Jafar is now explicitly labelled a "traitor," mentions of Tipu Sultan and Haider Ali have been removed, triggering a debate on selective

			representation and historical accuracy.
		Anglo- Maratha War (Treaty of Bassein)	<b>In news:</b> 207th Shaurya Diwas is being celebrated at Koregaon Bhima in Maharashtra
	<b>Trade system</b>	Dadni and dastak	CDS 2023(2 times)
<b>3. THE REVOLT OF 1857</b>	<b>Leaders &amp; Biographies</b>	Uda Devi Pasi	Statue unveiled for Uda Devi Pasi; push to include such figures in textbooks
		Rani Lakshmibai	Frequently in news due to: Cultural events, films, and anniversaries Discussions on women warriors in Indian history.
		Bahadur Shah Zafar	The proposal to bring the remains of Bahadur Shah Zafar to India did not materialize
		Mangal Pandey	'Symbol of courage and patriotism': PM Modi remembers Mangal Pandey on birth anniversary
	<b>Geographical spread</b>	In which part of India Revolt not touched.	168th Anniversary Commemorations
	<b>Social Participation</b>	Impact on India	Conceptual question can be asked in the exam because Peel Commission's and Azamgarh proclamation were asked in other UPSC exam (CDS 2020)
<b>4. EVENTS FROM 1857 TO 1885</b>	<b>Colonial Economy</b>	Economic Critique: Dadabhai Naoroji, R.C. Dutt, and G.S. Iyer's analysis of colonialism and the Drain of Wealth (Home Charges).	200th Birth Anniversary of D Naoroji. <b>PYQ:</b> 2018, 2015, 2012, 2011, 2000
	<b>Executive Governance</b>	Indian Council Act 1861	<b>PYQ:</b> 2002, 2006 Introduction of Portfolio System (MOST IMPORTANT)
	<b>Pre-Congress Organizations</b>	Political Associations (The East India Association, The Indian Association of Calcutta, The Bombay Presidency Association, Madras Native Association, Zamindari Association/Landholders' Society)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2017, 2002
	<b>Legislative Struggles</b>	Vernacular Press Act and the Factories Act (1881)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2017, 2007, 2005 Labour laws in news and its interlinkage with Indians Initiatives during British times.

			Factories act was asked in NDA
<b>5. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESS TO SPLIT OF CONGRESS (1885-1907)</b>	<b>Foundation of INC</b>	Key Figures in Early Sessions: Not just the President, but the <i>venue</i> and <i>resolutions</i> passed (e.g., the 1886 resolution on the Poverty of India) (Naraji, Tyabji, Sarojini, C.R.Das,)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2015, 2011, 2008, 2004, 2000 1999
	<b>Moderate Phase</b>	Moderate Ideology	Recent historical discussions and anniversary events (2025–26) are focusing on early leaders of the INC in the context of: Founding principles of Indian nationalism <b>PYQ:</b> 2008, 1997, 1996
	<b>Partition of Bengal (1905)</b>	Education & Science: The establishment of the Bengal Institute of Technology, National Education, and the role of P.C. Ray (Bengal Chemicals).	The 164th birth anniversary of the eminent scientist, chemical educator, and founder of India's first modern chemical industry was celebrated in Khulna <b>PYQ:</b> 2023, 2016, 2014, 2010, 2009
		Methods of Struggle (Adoption of 'Swadeshi' and 'Boycott' + 4 resolutions)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2019, 2016, 2002
	<b>Extremist Phase</b>	Extremist Ideology: Aggressive means vs. constitutional ways,	<b>PYQ:</b> 2015, 2008, 1998
<b>The Split (1907)</b>	Main reasons for the rift between Moderates and Extremists	<b>PYQ:</b> 2016, 2015, 2010, 1998	
<b>6. FREEDOM STRUGGLE BEFORE GANDHI (1908-1917)</b>	<b>Nationalist Movements</b>	Home Rule Movement	<b>PYQ:</b> 2018, 2013 2005, 2006, 1998
	<b>Revolutionary Activities</b>	Ghadar Party Movement (Members: Sohan Singh, Rashbehari Bose, Vishnu Ganesh Pingle, Tarak Nath Das)	Scholars and journalists are discussing a recent book, <i>The Ghadar Movement: A Forgotten Struggle</i> , which highlights the significance of the Ghadar Movement <b>PYQ:</b> 2005, 1998
		1908 (Muzaffarpur Incident)	West Bengal CM criticizes Kesari Chapter 2 for misrepresenting Bengali revolutionaries, honors Khudiram Bose's legacy. <b>PYQ:</b> CDS

	<b>Communal &amp; Constitutional Evolution</b>	1909 Act	The separate electorate system <i>institutionalised communal identity in legislative politics</i> — a factor that later fed into communal tensions in the 1920s–30s and the politics leading up to <i>Partition</i>
<b>7. EARLY PHASE OF GANDHIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE (1917-1925)</b>	<b>Constitutional Reforms</b>	G.O.I Act 1919	<b>PYQ:</b> 2022, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2012, 1995
	<b>Early Satyagrahas</b>	Champaran+ kheda	<b>PYQ:</b> 2018, 2011, 2010, 2007, 2005, 2000
	<b>Nationalist Agitations</b>	Rowlatt Satyagraha (1919)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2015, 2012, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2001, 1999, 1996
		Khilafat & Non-Cooperation (1920-22)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2025, 1998, 1996
<b>8. CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT AND OTHER EVENTS</b>	<b>Nationalist Agitations</b>	Simon commission	<b>PYQ:</b> 2013, 2010
		Lahore Session (1929)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2014, 2012, 2006, 2005, 1997
		Karachi Session (1931) and its output	<b>PYQ:</b> 2010, 2005
	<b>Civil Disobedience (1930-31)</b>	Dandi March & Salt Satyagraha	<b>PYQ:</b> 2025, 2019, 2015, 2009, 1997, 1995
		The Gandhi-Irwin Pact	<b>PYQ:</b> 2020, 2019, 2003
	<b>Social Issues</b>	Poona Pact (1932)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2025, 1997 Mostly covered by other exams in many times
	<b>Regional &amp; Mass Movements</b>	Bardoli satyagraha	India recently observed the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
<b>9. EVENTS FROM 1933 TO 1939</b>	<b>Constitutional Landmarks</b>	G.O.I Act 1935	<b>PYQ:</b> 2024, 2018, 2012, 2009, 2005, 2004, 2000
	<b>Nationalist Movements</b>	Congress Socialist Party (CSP)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2015, 1996 Ongoing Ideological Debate on 'Socialist' in Constitution
	<b>Provincial &amp; Regional Politics</b>	Princely States: The All India States' Peoples' Conference (1939 + Praja Mandal movement.	<b>PYQ:</b> 2002, 2001 Tributes to Praja Mandal Freedom Fighter-In news
<b>10. LAST PHASE OF BRITISH RULE (1940-1950)</b>	<b>Wartime Proposals</b>	August Offer (1940) & Individual Satyagraha	<b>PYQ:</b> 2009, 1998 Multiple events Can be asked in chronological way
		Cripps Mission (1942)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2022, 2016, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2003
	<b>National freedom Movement</b>	Quit India Movement (1942)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2021, 2017, 2013, 2011, 2009, 2005, 1998

		Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Mutiny (1946): role of Sardar Patel in negotiating the surrender	150 <sup>th</sup> Birth anniversary. of Sardar Patel.
		INA Trials	'His Ideals Continue to Inspire Generations': PM Modi remembers Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose On His Birth Anniversary
		Underground Activity: Usha Mehta and the Secret Congress Radio during the Quit India Movement	<b>PYQ:</b> 2011
	<b>Constitutional Transition</b>	Cabinet Mission (1946) + Constituent Assembly (development-Members and committees)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2024, 2013, 2005, 2004, 1996
	<b>Independence &amp; Partition</b>	Indian Independence Act 1947	CDS 2023
<b>11. SOCIAL REFORMS AND REFORMERS IN MODERN INDIA</b>	<b>Pioneering Reformers and Organization</b>	Brahmo Samaj+ Derozio + swami vivekanda + Vidyasagar	<b>PYQ:</b> 2025, 2012, 2005, 2001
	<b>Caste &amp; Dalit Movements</b>	Jyotiba Phule & Satya Shodhak Samaj	<b>PYQ:</b> 2020, 2016, 1995 Phule was asked in 2025 mains.
		Dr. B.R. Ambedkar	Debate on Bharat Ratna & Dalit Leadership
	<b>Spiritual &amp; Social Synthesis</b>	Arya Samaj	On its 150th foundation anniversary, noteworthy events like <i>International Arya Samaj Sammelans</i> attracted political and civic dignitaries,
<b>12. LITERATURE IN MODERN INDIAN HISTORY</b>	<b>Nationalist Novels &amp; Plays</b>	Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay: Vande Mataram	<b>PYQ:</b> 2018, 2008, 2006, 1999, 1996 Debate over Vande Mataram vs National Song
<b>13. REVOLUTIONARIES AND REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN MODERN INDIA</b>	<b>Secret Societies &amp; Groups</b>	Abhinav Bharat: Organized by V.D. Savarkar	Marked <b>60th death anniversary of V.D savarkar</b> <b>PYQ:</b> 2000, 1999, 1996
		Anushilan Samiti: Associated with Aurobindo Ghosh and Barindra Kumar Ghosh in Bengal and Virendranath Chattopadhyaya's Berlin Committee.	<b>PYQ:</b> 2000, 1996
		Chittagong Armoury Raid: Organized by Surya Sen; associated with female revolutionaries like Kalpana Dutt.	<b>PYQ:</b> 2001, 2000, 1997

	<b>Conspiracy</b>	Kakori Conspiracy	<b>100 years of kakori train robbery</b>
		Meerut Conspiracy Case.	<b>100 YEARS OF CPI</b>
<b>14. DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEM IN MODERN INDIA</b>	<b>Foundational Institutions</b>	Early Establishments: Calcutta Madarsa Sanskrit College at Banaras, Fort William College, Asiatic Society and Hindu College	<b>PYQ:</b> 2020, 2018, 2009, 1996
	<b>Colonial Policy Frameworks</b>	Wood's Despatch, Macaulay's Minute (1835).	<b>PYQ:</b> 2018, 2003, 1997, 1996
		Srirampore Mission	CDS 2022 <b>Srerampore was in news due to its old heritage building restoration.</b>
<b>Women's Education</b>	Bethune Female School (Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar served as Secretary).	<b>The 205th birth anniversary of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was celebrated on September 26, 2025.</b>	
<b>15. TRIBAL AND PEASANT MOVEMENTS IN MODERN INDIAN HISTORY</b>	<b>Tribal</b>	Birsa Munda's Revolt	Observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (15 November, Birsa Munda's birth anniversary) <b>PYQ:</b> 2020
		Santhal rebellion	President Murmu Pays Tributes To Tribal Warriors On Hul Diwas <b>PYQ:</b> 2018
		Kol rebellion	Can be asked in the exam pair wise along with other tribal revolt.
	<b>Peasant</b>	Deccan riots 1875	CDS: 2016, CAPF 2014
		Tebhaga Movement (initiated in Bengal by the All India Kisan Sabha)	<b>PYQ: 2013</b>
		Paika rebellion	Paika Rebellion & why its 'omission' in NCERT books has triggered political slugfest in Odisha
Sannyasi Rebellion		<b>PYQ:</b> 2006, 2008	
<b>16. WOMEN ROLE IN FREEDOM MOVEMENT</b>	<b>Freedom Fighter</b>	Parbati Giri	PM Modi Pays Tribute to Odisha's Freedom Fighter Parbati Giri Ahead of Her Birth Centenary
		Matangini Hazra, Kanaklata Barua, Bhikaji Cama	Independence Day 2025: Unsung Women Heroes Who Shaped India's Freedom Through Courage and Sacrifice

		Ahilyabai Holkar	300th birth anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar
	<b>Constituent Assembly</b>	<p>Ammu Swaminathan → Advocated gender equality</p> <p>Annie Mascarene → Worked on federalism and integration</p> <p>Qudsia Aizaz Rasul → Promoted secularism and inclusive identity</p> <p>Dakshayani Velayudhan → Opposed untouchability, supported marginalized rights</p> <p>Durgabai Deshmukh → Advanced social welfare and women's education</p> <p>Hansa Mehta → Strengthened fundamental rights and gender justice</p> <p>Rajkumari Amrit Kaur → Built India's public health framework</p> <p>Sarojini Naidu → Advocated civil liberties</p> <p>Sucheta Kripalani → Focused on labour rights and governance</p> <p>Vijayalakshmi Pandit → Promoted international cooperation</p>	<p>On the occasion of International Women's Day, a significant publication of the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law &amp; Justice, titled "<b>The Life and Contributions of the Women Members of the Constituent Assembly</b>"</p>
		kamaladevi chattopadhyay	CDS 2021
<b>17. NEWSPAPER AND JOURNALS</b>		Navjivan	CDS-2022, 2013
		Mahratta	<b>PYQ:</b> 2007
		Bengalee	
		Voice of India	
		Young India	
		Shome Prakash	
		Bharat Shramjeevi	
		Vanguard	100 years of CPI
<b>18. IMPORTANT COMMITTEES AND COMMISSION DURING BRITISH RULE</b>		Strachey Commission (Famine)	<b>PYQ:</b> 2017
		Hunter Commission (Education)	
		Butler Committee (Princely states)	
		Aitchison Commission (Civil service)	
		Hilton Young (Currency reform)	
		Whitley Commission (labour reforms)	

<b>19. POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND LABOR MOVEMENT IN COLONIAL INDIA</b>	<b>Early Communist Groups</b>	Indian Socialist Labour Party, The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)	UPSC APFC-2023
	<b>Formation of Workers' and Peasants' Parties (WPP)</b>	Labour-Swaraj Party (Bengal, 1925-26), Kirti Kisan Party (Punjab, 1926)	UPSC APFC- 2023
	<b>Growth of Trade Union</b>	AITUC, Trade Disputes Act (1929),	CDS 2020, CSE 2017
	<b>Regional Formation</b>	Madras Labour Union, Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association (TLA), Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh	UPSC APFC-2023

**We are conducting a Simulator Test based on these topics to help you practice for the IAS Prelims 2026.**

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**Tests Details:**

SIMULATOR TEST DATE	DAY	9:30 A.M- 11:30 A.M	2:30 P.M- 4:30 PM
11 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Saturday	General Studies	CSAT
19 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Sunday	General Studies	CSAT
26 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Sunday	General Studies	CSAT
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2026	Sunday	General Studies	CSAT
10 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Sunday	General Studies	CSAT

Attempt the Prelims Exam 10 TIMES before the actual day.

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