

- Large scale irrigation schemes like the ones in the Punjab were accompanied by efforts to settle populations there, and these also had a caste dimension.

Dilution of caste system during British Rule:

- For smooth and cheaper **administration**, **anglicized** and **codified** laws were the necessity of time. Therefore, the colonisers invented or constructed Indian social identities using categories of convenience to serve the British Indian government's own interests.
- The **growth of cities** and developed means of **transport and communication** (railway) considerably changed the functioning of castes in India. So, **urbanizing Indian society** led to dilution of caste identities, e.g., emerging industrial cities like Calcutta and Bombay.
- Introduction of **elections and electoral politics** in India empowered the depressed classes and gave them an opportunity to enter in mainstream politics.
- Under British rule, the untouchables and low-caste Indians enjoyed an improvement of their social standings. E.g., with **wealth and education**, they could pass as members of higher castes from some distant area.

Thus, colonialism brought about major changes in the institution of caste. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that the institution of caste underwent fundamental changes during the colonial period.

18. How did the legacy of the national movement shape up the programmes and policies in post-independence India?

(15 marks, 250 words)

Mentor Hint: Indian national movement, while fighting for freedom against British rule, followed certain values such as non-violence and civil liberties. How such values and programmes and policies helped in shaping the post independent India, is the key demand. Writing with specific key aspects and examples (facts) is required.

Answer: Indian freedom struggle was fought on ideals of peace, democracy, equality of caste, class, religion etc., along with mass support. Experiences during our freedom struggle became an integral part of policies and programs of subsequent governments and the legacy has continued even today as shown below:

1. **Universal Adult Franchise:** Long experience of political participation of common masses in freedom struggle and maturity shown esp. during the last phase convinced our policy makers to introduce Universal adult Franchise.
2. **Fundamental Rights and Civil liberties:** The **Karachi Resolution 1931** guaranteed rights of free expression of opinion and freedom of association and these have been enshrined in the Constitution.
3. **Non-violence and pluralism:** Consensus on the practice of non-violence during national movement contributed to creation of **political norm based on discussion, debate, accommodation** of diverse ideas as opposed to use of violence and authoritarianism.