

- **Western ideas:** Most of their ideas such as equality, liberty, democracy etc. were dependent upon western political thoughts and failed to attract masses initially.

However, moderate leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, Romesh Chandra Dutt, Gopal Krishna Gokhale and others gave birth to **economic nationalism in India** by carefully analysing the political economy of British rule in India. They **exposed** the true character of British rule in the following ways:

- **Drain of wealth:** Drain of wealth was conceived as the **unilateral transfer** of resources from India to Britain without any corresponding economic and commercial gain. The moderate leaders, especially Dadabhai, put forward the “**drain theory**” to explain British exploitation of India.
 - He exposed the direct drainage of Indian wealth that was happening due to **home charges, military charges and guaranteed interest payments on railway investments.**
- **Agriculture:** From 1888 to 1903, INC passed resolution on the ‘land revenue demand’ every year. They continuously appealed to the government to decrease its land revenue demand and exposed how the government policies were draining capital out of the agriculture and preventing investment in land leading to pauperization of agricultural population and recurrence of famines.
- **Underdevelopment of industry:** They highlighted the **de-industrialization of India**, which was once a manufacturing country and exported its goods to all of Asia and Europe. They explained how the bad tariff policies of British reduced India to a supplier of raw materials and an importer of finished goods.
- **Poverty of Indian people:** In 1886, the Congress picked up the resolution to highlight starvation in India even after 100 years of British Rule. The **problem of poverty was made a common national issue** to be discussed at every available platform and a plank for unity of all classes in the Indian society.

By such analyses, critiques and demands, the moderates were able to create an all-India public opinion that British rule in India was the major cause of India’s poverty and economic backwardness.

6. *The huge strides India took towards modernisation under Lord Dalhousie were borne out of necessity rather their benevolence. Examine. (150 words) 10*

Approach:

- Mention the steps taken by Lord Dalhousie for modernisation of India and briefly highlight the unintentional benefits of these measures.
- Explain how these were in British’s interests at the cost of India.
- Conclude briefly.

Answer:

Lord Dalhousie was the **Governor-General of India from 1848-56**. He introduced a number of reforms, which **paved the way for the modernisation of India**, such as:

- **Railway reforms:** The first railway line connecting Bombay with Thane was laid down in 1853 during his period. Besides facilitating trade and commerce, it minimised the travel time to cover distances across India, thereby uniting the country.
- **Telegraph system:** In 1852 Dalhousie introduced the Electric Telegraph System in India. The first telegraph line from Calcutta to Agra was opened in 1854, covering a distance of 800 miles. By 1857, it was extended to Lahore and Peshawar.
- **Postal reforms:** In 1854 a new Post Office Act was passed. Later, a postal department was established for the whole country and the people were benefited by the modern postal system.
- **Public works department:** A separate Public Works Department was established by Lord Dalhousie to construct roads, bridges and government buildings.
- **Social reforms:** Dalhousie abolished female infanticide and the practice of human sacrifice and also promoted vernacular education through the Wood’s Despatch.