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Q14

With reference to the British colonial rule in India, consider the following statements: 1. Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of 'indentured labour'. 2. In Lord Chelmsford's War Conference', Mahatma Gandhi did not support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War. 3. Consequent upon the (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)
Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 1 is true: **Gandhi's** agitation helped end indentured emigration (recruitment stopped 1917; system wound up). Statement 2 is false: at **Chelmsford's Delhi War Conference (1918)** **Gandhi** supported recruiting Indians for the war, he did not oppose that resolution. So 1-and-2 is not the key.

(b) Official key

(b) 1 and 3 only. Statement 1 holds. Statement 3 holds: during the 1918 Ahmedabad mill strike **Gandhi** undertook a hunger strike (fast) when the dispute turned bitter. Statement 2 does not. That 1-and-3 code is the official key.

(c)

(c) 2 and 3 only. Statement 2 is the false one, so this pair is not the key.

(d)

(d) 1, 2 and 3. All-three requires the **War Conference** claim, which reverses **Gandhi's** stand, so it is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (b) 1 and 3 only. **Gandhi** campaigned against indenture and the Government ended fresh indentured labour around 1917. At the 1918 **War Conference** he backed recruitment, hoping cooperation would win post-war rights - so statement 2 is inverted. The Ahmedabad mill satyagraha of 1918 included his fast. Honour the stored letter (b).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Indenture end

Recruitment stopped 1917; last remnants soon after

War Conference

Delhi, 1918, Lord Chelmsford

Ahmedabad 1918

Mill-workers' dispute; Gandhi's fast

Askable twin

Kheda satyagraha, same year

Champaran

1917 indigo; neighbouring satyagraha

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