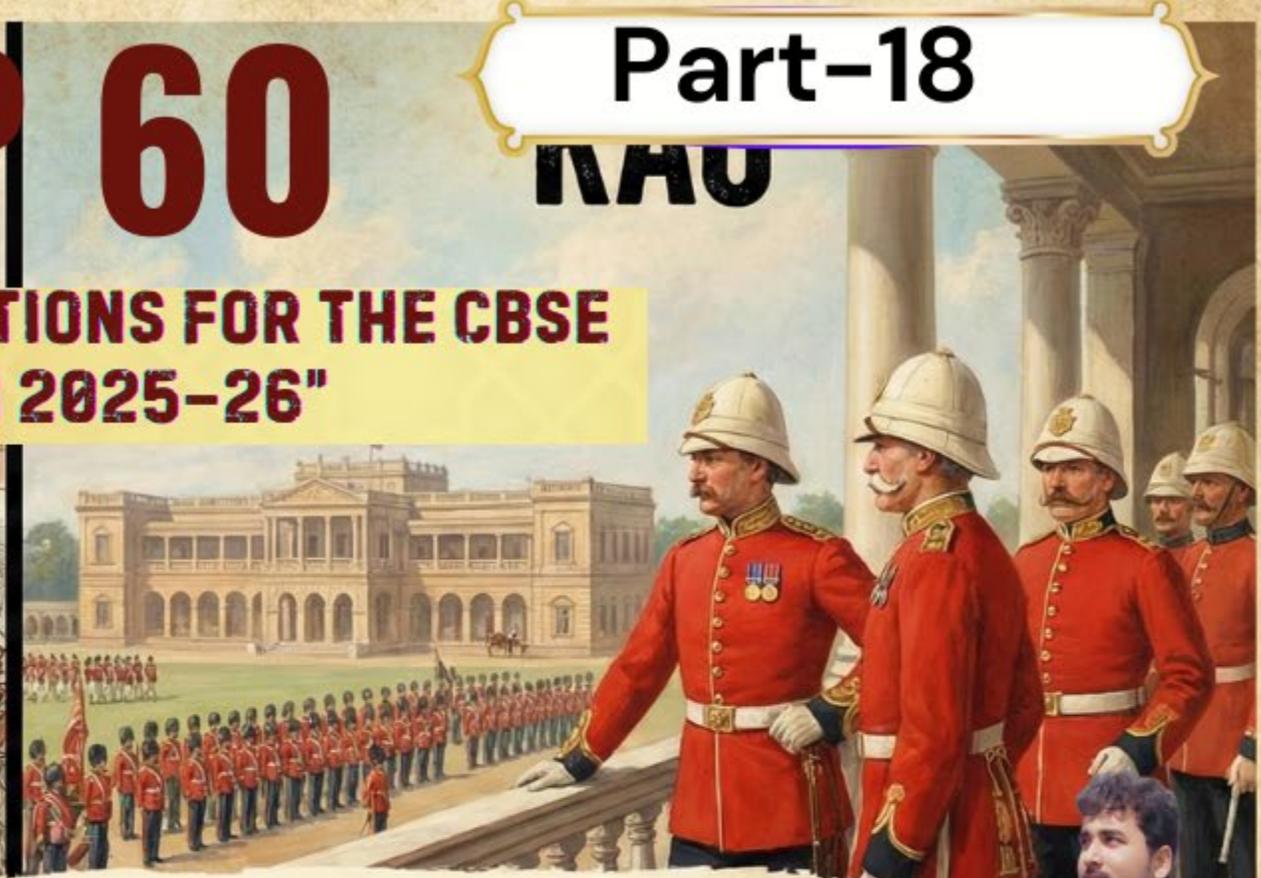


# REBEL TOP 60

Part-18

RAJ

HISTORY QUESTIONS FOR THE CBSE  
EXAM 2025-26"



# REBEL AND RAJ

THE GREAT UPRISING OF 1857

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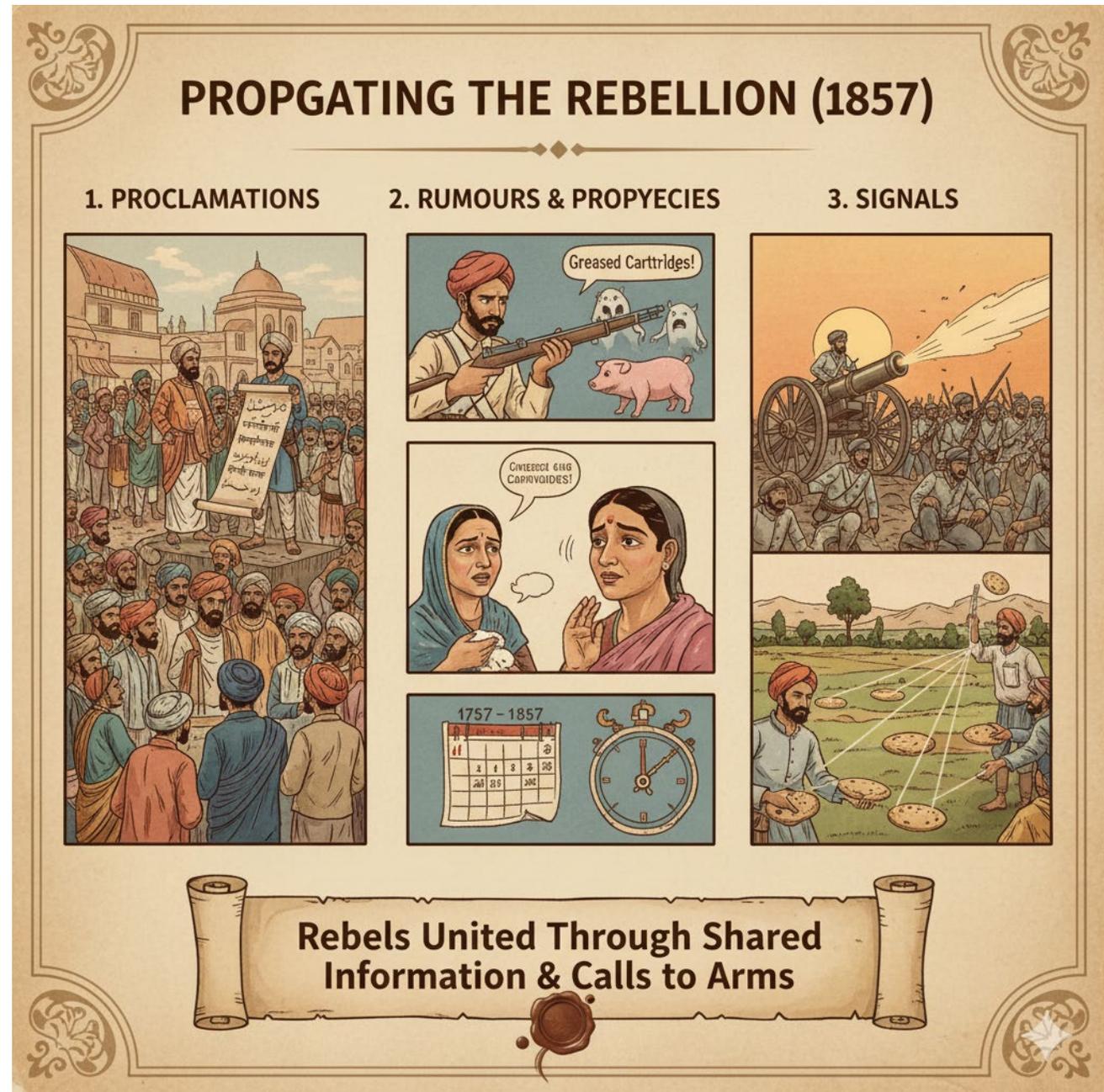
<https://www.youtube.com/@TheSocietalSense>

chapter wise previous year paper

**Q.72 Examine how the rebels of 1857 propagated their ideas. (3 Marks, 2022 Supp - OR)**

**Ans.**

- 1. Proclamations:** Rebels issued proclamations (like the Azamgarh Proclamation) in the name of leaders like Bahadur Shah Zafar, urging all sections (Hindus and Muslims) to unite against the *firangi raj*.
- 2. Rumours and Prophecies:** Ideas were spread through rumours that resonated with people's fears (e.g., greased cartridges, bone dust in flour) and prophecies (e.g., British rule ending after 100 years).
- 3. Signals:** They used signals for coordinated action. In many places, the revolt began with the firing of the evening gun or the sounding of the bugle or The circulation of *chapattis* from village to village.





## Follow up Question

**Q. "Rumours and prophecies played an important part in moving people to action." Support this statement with reference to the Revolt of 1857. (3 Marks)**

**Ans.** Rumours and prophecies were critical in 1857 as they resonated with the deep fears of the people:

**Greased Cartridges:** The rumour that new cartridges were greased with cow and pig fat confirmed sepoys' fears that the British were trying to destroy their religions.

**Bone Dust in Flour:** A widespread rumour that the British had mixed the bone dust of cows and pigs into the flour sold in markets.

**Prophecy:** A prophecy that British rule would end on its 100th anniversary (100 years after the Battle of Plassey in 1757) gave people the confidence to rebel in 1857.

**Q.73 How has the art helped in keeping alive the memory of Rani of Jhansi? Explain. (3 Marks, 2022 Main)**

**Q. "Art and literature highlighted the importance of Lakshmi Bai." Support the statement with suitable examples. (3 Marks, 2023 Main)**

**Ans.** Art and literature have immortalized Rani Lakshmi Bai as a symbol of resistance:

- 1. Nationalist Icon:** She was celebrated as a heroic figure in nationalist poems (like *Jhansi ki Rani* by Subhadra Kumari Chauhan) and paintings.
- 2. Visual Representation:** In nationalist imagery, she is consistently portrayed as a fierce warrior, in battle armour, riding a horse, and wielding a sword.
- 3. Symbol of Resistance:** This imagery, transformed her into an icon for generations to fight against British rule.



**Q.74 Who introduced Subsidiary Alliance? Describe the provisions of this Alliance. (3 Marks, 2023 Supp)**

**Q. Critically analyse the 'Subsidiary Alliance System' devised by Lord Wellesley. (3 Marks, 2022 Supp)**

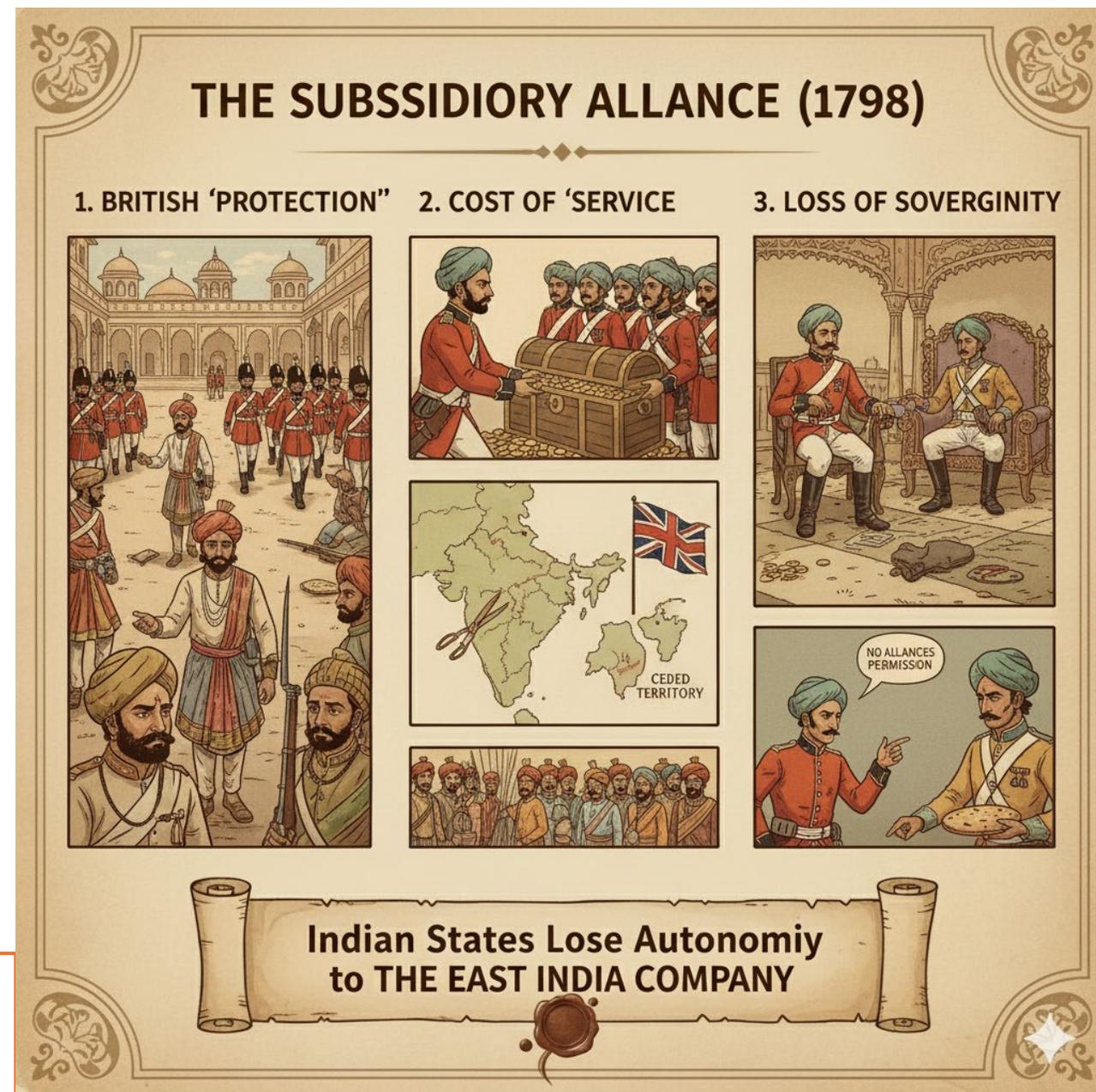
**Ans.**

**Introduction:** The Subsidiary Alliance system was introduced by **Lord Wellesley** in 1798.

**Provisions:**

- The Indian ruler had to disband their own army and accept a British force ("subsidiary force") in their territory.
- The ruler had to pay for the maintenance of this force. If they failed, a portion of their territory was taken by the British.
- The ruler had to keep a British "Resident" in their court and could not make any alliances or declare war without British permission.

**Critical Analysis:** It was a tool for annexation without war. It bankrupted states due to high payments and led to a complete loss of sovereignty.





Simple version

## Subsidiary Alliance. (3 Marks)

- Introduced by **Lord Wellesley**.
- Ruler must to disband their own army pay for **British troops**.
- British **Resident** stays in court, Interfere in the court matters.

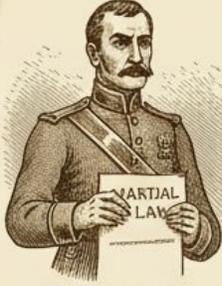
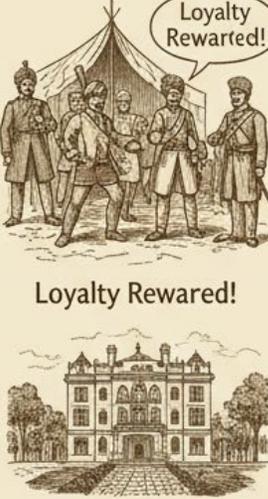
**Q.75 "The British did not have an easy time in putting down the Revolt of 1857." Elucidate the statement with suitable examples. (6 Marks, 2022 Supp)**

**Ans.** The British faced immense difficulty in suppressing the rebellion:

- 1. New Laws:** The British passed several Acts in May and June 1857 and allowed military officers and even ordinary Britons to try and punish rebels without the legal process.
- 2. Military Force:** Britain had to deploy a massive military force. They used a two-pronged attack to retake Delhi.
- 3. Use of Communications:** The British were heavily dependent on the telegraph (to coordinate troop movements) and railways (to move troops quickly).
- 4. Diplomacy:** They used diplomacy like promising to return estates to loyal zamindars and talukdars.

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheSocietalSense>

## SUPPRESSING THE GREAT REVOLT (1857): THE BRITISH STRUGGLE

 <p><b>1. NEW LAWS &amp; BRUTAL PUNISHMENT</b></p>  <p>No Due Process, Instant Justice</p>	 <p><b>2. MASSIVE MILITARY FORCE</b></p>  <p>Two-Pronged Delhi Delhi Attack</p>	 <p><b>3. VITAL COMMUNICATIONS</b></p>  <p>Telegraph &amp; Railways</p>	 <p><b>4. DIPLOMACY &amp; REWARD</b></p>  <p>Loyalty Rewarded! Loyalty Rewarded! Estates for Loyal Landowners</p>
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**Conclusion: A Difficult & Resource-Intensive Campaign for British**



Simple version

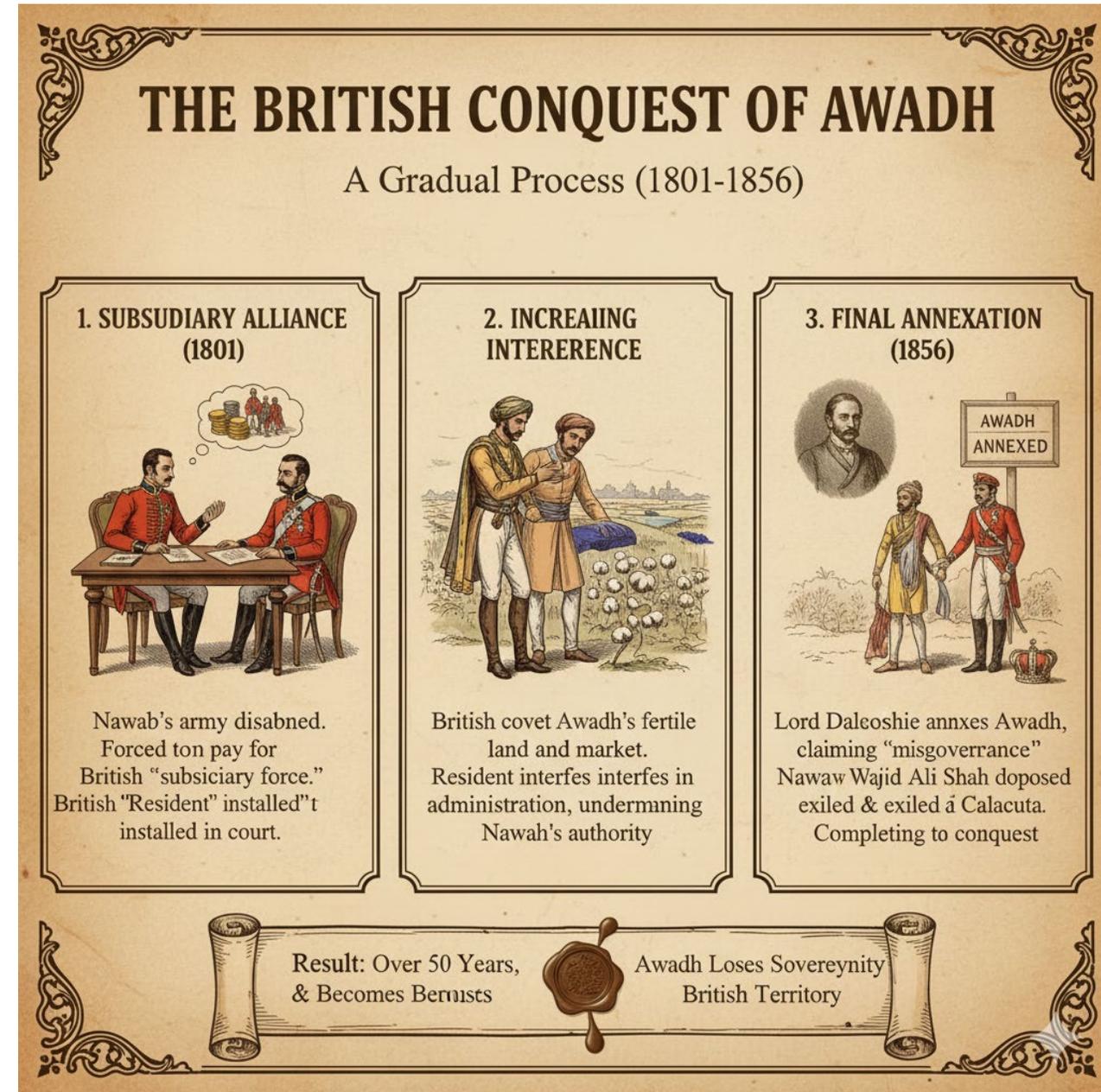
## **Difficulty in suppressing Revolt. (6 Marks - Write 8 points).**

- Passed **Laws** to try rebels without court.
- Ordinary Britons given power to **punish**.
- Brought huge **troops** from Britain.
- Attacked Delhi from **two sides**.
- Used **Telegraph** for communication.
- Used **Railways** to move soldiers.
- Promised **land back** to loyal landlords.
- Reconquest took **over a year**.

**Q.76 Explain the stages of conquest of Awadh by the British from 1801 onwards. (6 Marks, 2022 Main)**

**Ans.** The British conquest of Awadh was a gradual process spanning over 50 years:

- 1. Subsidiary Alliance (1801):** This treaty dismantled the Nawab's army, forced him to pay for British troops ("subsidiary force") stationed in the kingdom, and placed a British "Resident" in his court.
- 2. Increasing Interference:** They were interested in Awadh's fertile land (for cotton and indigo) and its market. The British Resident began interfering in the administration.
- 3. Final Annexation (1856):** Finally, Lord Dalhousie annexed Awadh completely. The pretext used was "**misgovernance**" and the (false) claim that the Nawab, Wajid Ali Shah, was unpopular. He was deposed and exiled to Calcutta, completing the British conquest.





Simple version

## **Conquest of Awadh. (6 Marks - Write 8 points).**

- **Subsidiary Alliance** imposed in 1801.
- Nawab's **army disbanded**.
- British **Resident** placed in court.
- British wanted **fertile land** (Indigo/Cotton).
- British assumed **administration** slowly.
- Nawab Wajid Ali Shah **deposed** (1856).
- Reason given was "**Misgovernance**".
- Nawab sent to **exile** in Calcutta.

**Q.77 Why did the rebel proclamations in 1857 appeal for unity to all sections of the population? Explain. (3 Marks, 2024 Main - OR)**

**Q. Explain any three aspects of the vision of unity reflected in the 1857 Revolt. (3 Marks, 2024 Supp)**

**Q. "The rebellion of 1857 was seen as a war in which both Hindus and Muslims had equally to lose or gain." Analyse the statement. (3 Marks, 2025 Main)**

**Ans.** The rebel proclamations consistently appealed for Hindu-Muslim unity against their common enemy, the British:

**Common Enemy:** Both Hindus and Muslim feared their religion and way of life were being destroyed by the British (e.g., the greased cartridges).

**Appeals to All:** Proclamations by Bahadur Shah Zafar, appealed to all sections to join the fight.

**Respect for Sentiments:** The rebels made symbolic gestures.

For example, proclamations invoked both "Muhammad" and "Mahavir," and the slaughter of cows was often banned to respect Hindu sentiments.





Simple version

Why was unity important in 1857? (3 Marks)

- To fight the **common enemy** (British).
- Proclamations appealed to both **Hindus and Muslims**.
- Rebels banned **cow slaughter** to respect Hindus.

**Q.78 Imagine you have been tasked with writing a comprehensive history of the Revolt of 1857. What sources would you use for it? Explain. (3 Marks, 2025 Supp)**

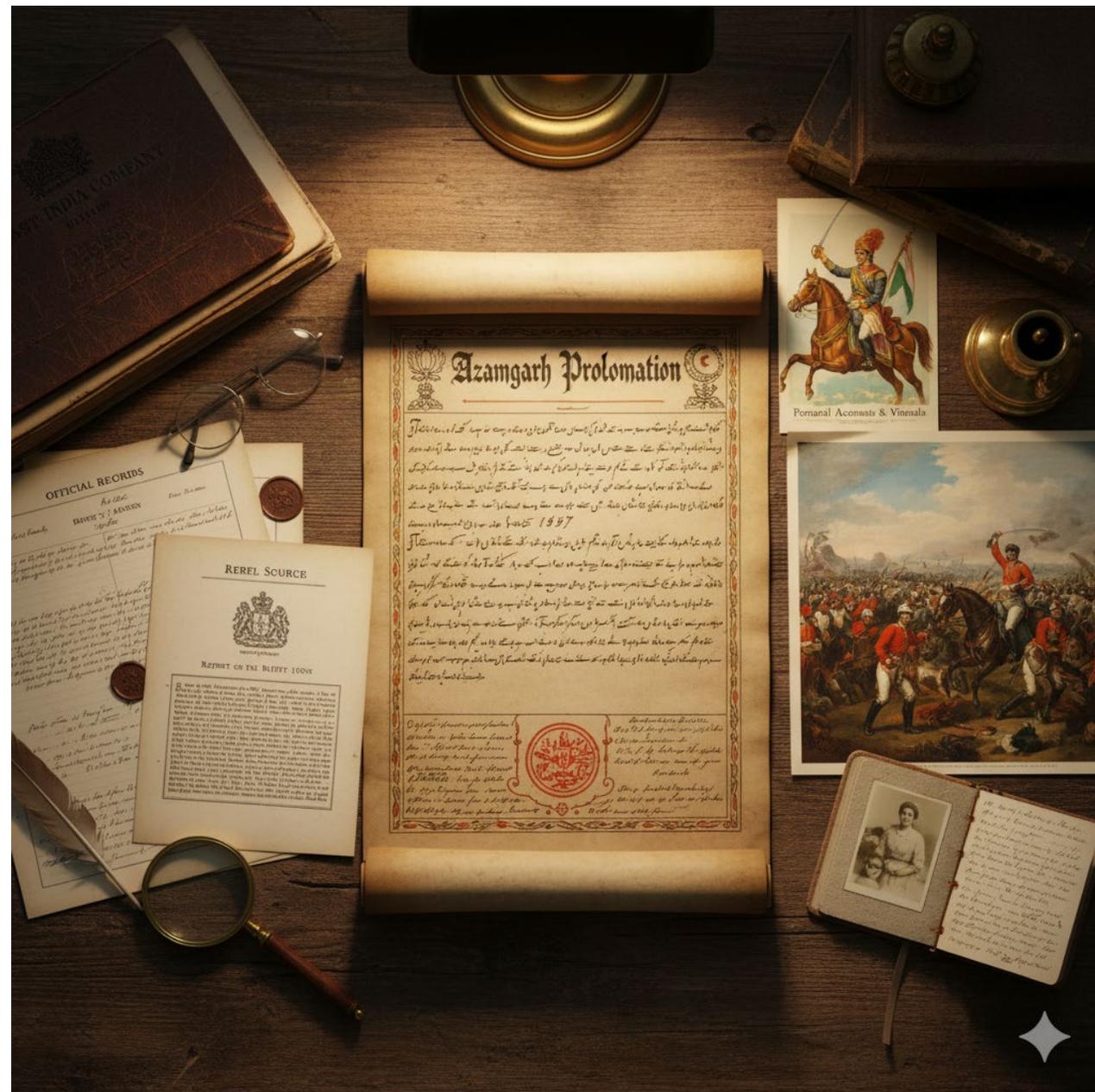
**Ans.** To write a history of 1857, one would use:

**Official Records:** British records, letters, despatches, and reports. These provide the official perspective and the British mindset.

**Rebel Sources:** The few available rebel sources, such as the *Azamgarh Proclamation*, are crucial for understanding the rebels' vision, demands, and their appeal for unity.

**Personal Accounts & Visuals:** Diaries, letters, and memoirs of British officials (and their families) provide personal fears and attitudes.

Visuals, including British paintings (e.g., "Relief of Lucknow") and later nationalist art (Rani of Jhansi), show the different interpretations of the event.

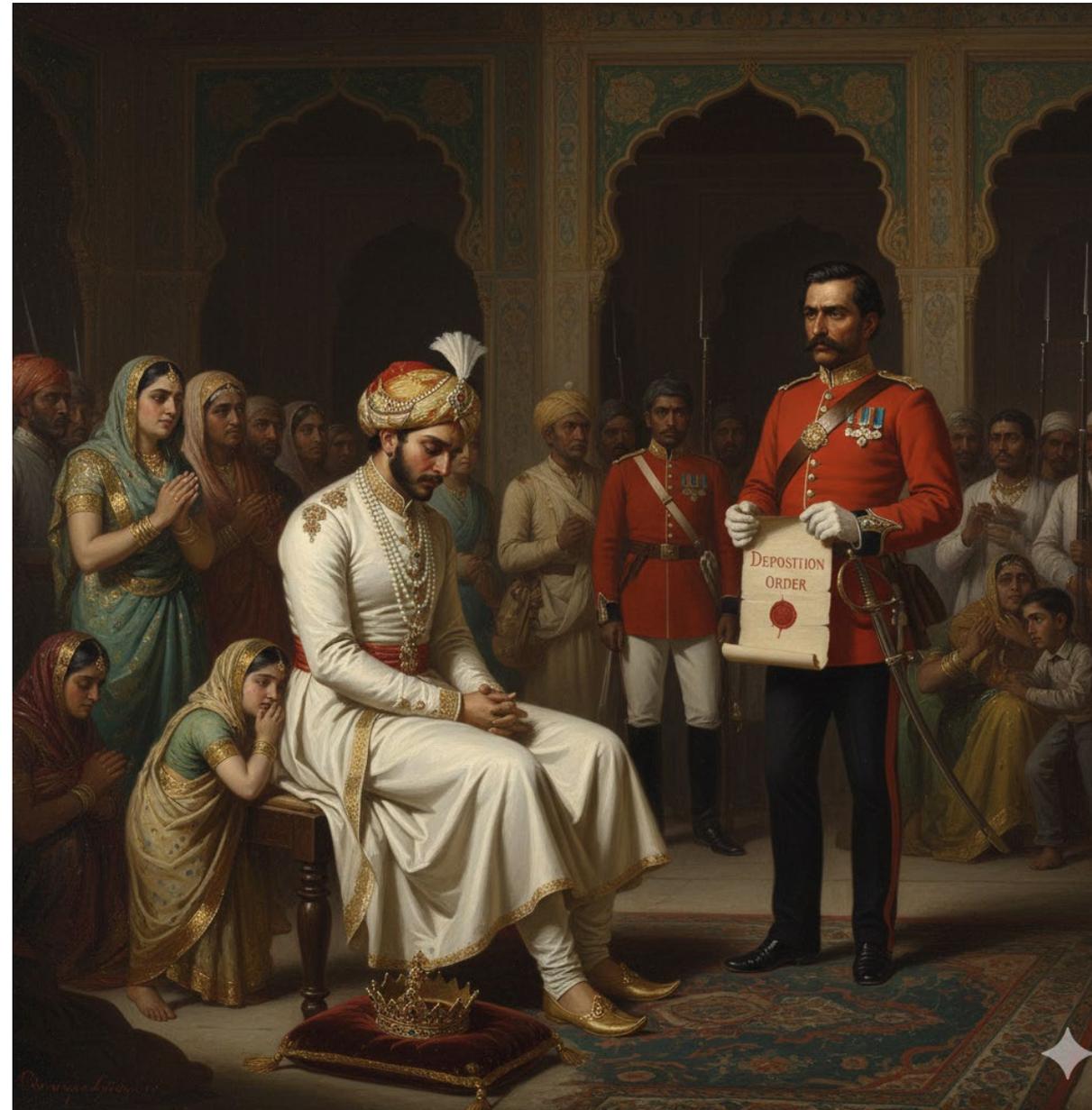


**Q.79 “A chain of grievances in Awadh linked the prince, talukdars, peasants, and sepoys to join hands in the revolt of 1857.” Examine the statement. (8 Marks)**

**Q. Why was the Revolt of 1857 specially widespread in Awadh? Explain. (3 Marks, 2024 Main)**

**Ans.** The revolt in Awadh was a widespread popular uprising because British policies had alienated every section of society:

**The Prince (Nawab):** The British annexed Awadh in 1856 and deposed the Nawab, Wajid Ali Shah. This was seen as a betrayal.





**The Talukdars:** These traditional landlords were dispossessed by the *Summary Settlement* (1856). The British destroyed their forts, disbanded their armies, and removed them from the land. They lost their power and social status.

**The Peasants:** Under the British, revenue demands became rigid and inflexible (70% increase in some places). They lost the protection of the talukdars and faced severe hardship.

**The Sepoys:** Awadh was the "nursery of the Bengal Army," and the sepoys were just "peasants in uniform." They were outraged by the annexation of their homeland (*janpad*) and the high taxes on their families (the peasants). The greased cartridge issue was the final spark.



# Follow up Question-1

**Q. Examine the participation of the Talukdars of Awadh in the Revolt of 1857. (3 Marks)**

**Ans.**

**Dispossession:** The British *Summary Settlement* of 1856 dispossessed them, reducing their control over villages from 67% to 38%.

**Loss of Power:** They lost their forts, their private armies (*lathiyals*), and their autonomy, which had been the basis of their social status.

**Joining the Revolt:** As a result, most talukdars joined the forces of Begum Hazrat Mahal in Lucknow to fight the British and reclaim their lost lands and power.

# Follow up Question-2

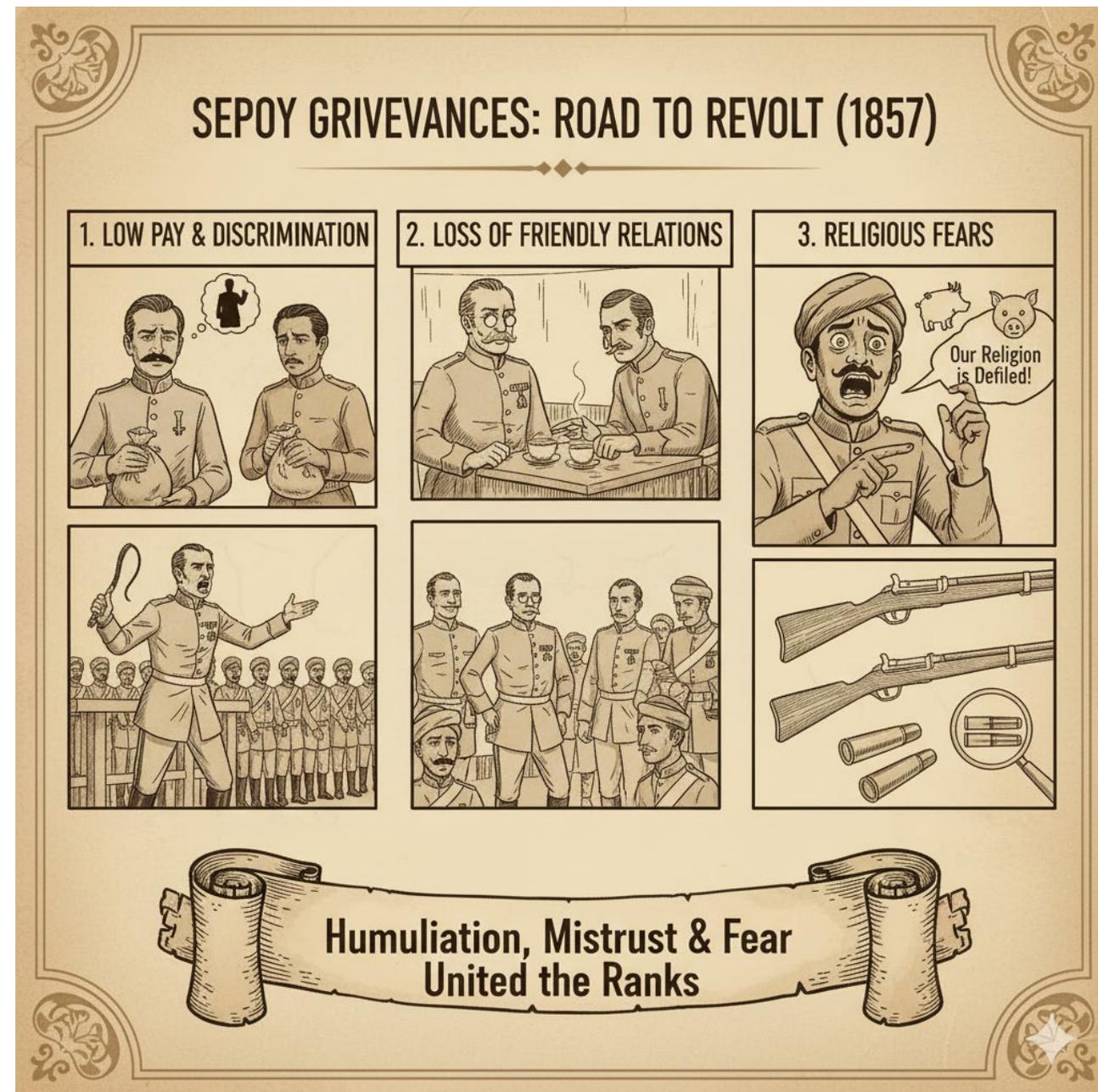
**Q. Explain the grievances of the Indian sepoys against British rule before the Revolt of 1857. (3 Marks)**

**Ans.**

**Low Pay and Discrimination:** Sepoys were paid far less than their British counterparts, had poor promotion prospects, and were often treated with racial contempt, abuse, and physical violence by white officers.

**Loss of Friendly Relations:** In the 1840s, the older, friendly relations between officers and sepoys were replaced by a sense of racial superiority, arrogance, and distance.

**Religious Fears:** The introduction of the greased cartridges (Enfield Rifle) convinced sepoys that the British were trying to defile their religion and caste.





Simple version

## **Causes of 1857 Revolt. (8 Marks)**

- **Doctrine of Lapse** took away kingdoms (Jhansi).
- **Annexation of Awadh** angered the people.
- **Heavy taxes** ruined the peasants.
- **Greased Cartridges** hurt religious feelings.
- Sepoys faced **low pay** and racism.
- Fear of **Christian missionaries** converting people.
- Rumours about **bone dust** in flour.
- Prophecy that British rule would end in **100 years**.

**Q.80 Examine the visual representations of the revolt of 1857 that provoked a range of different emotions and reactions. (8 Marks)**

**Ans.** Visual representations of 1857, mostly by British artists, were designed to provoke specific emotions in Britain:

- **Celebrating Saviours:** Paintings like Thomas Jones Barker's "**The Relief of Lucknow**" (1859) celebrated British heroes. The painting shows the British commanders (Campbell, Outram, Havelock) as powerful and triumphant, standing in the centre, while the foreground is littered with the dead, symbolizing British victory over chaos.



- **Stirring Anger (The "Innocent" English):** Joseph Noel Paton's "**In Memoriam**" depicted English women and children huddled in a circle, looking terrified. It was painted to evoke sympathy and anger in Britain, justifying brutal "vengeance" against the "savage" rebels, who are not even shown.



- **Demand for Vengeance:** Illustrations in British magazines like *Punch* were explicitly brutal. "**The British Lion's Vengeance on the Bengal Tiger**" showed the British lion pouncing on and destroying the rebel tiger, expressing the public's demand for savage retribution.
- **Nationalist Imagery (Indian):** In contrast, later Indian art and literature created their own images. **Rani Lakshmi Bai** was portrayed as a heroic warrior on horseback, a goddess of liberty who fought for her people, inspiring the nationalist movement.



- **Nationalist Imagery (Indian):** In contrast, later Indian art and literature created their own images. **Rani Lakshmi Bai** was portrayed as a heroic warrior on horseback, a goddess of liberty who fought for her people, inspiring the nationalist movement.



Fig. 11.18  
Films and posters have helped  
create the image of Rani Lakshmi



Simple version

## Visual Representations of 1857. (8 Marks)

- **"Relief of Lucknow"**: Shows British as heroes/saviours.
- **"In Memoriam"**: Shows English women terrified (Sympathy).
- **Punch Magazine**: Shows British Lion attacking Tiger (Vengeance).
- Paintings justified **brutal revenge**.
- Rebels showed as **demons**.
- **Nationalist Art**: Rani Jhansi as warrior.
- Shows her fighting for **freedom**.
- Created a symbol of **resistance**.

**Q.81 With specific examples, examine the nature of Indian leadership that emerged in the revolt of 1857. (8 Marks)**

**Ans.** The leadership of the 1857 revolt was from different social backgrounds and joining for various reasons:

- **Traditional Rulers:** The sepoys first turned to the old Mughal emperor, **Bahadur Shah Zafar**. He was reluctant but eventually accepted the nominal leadership of the revolt.
- **Dispossessed Rulers:** **Rani Lakshmi Bai** of Jhansi fought because her adopted son's claim was rejected (Doctrine of Lapse).
- In Kanpur, **Nana Sahib**, the adopted son of the last Peshwa, joined the revolt after his pension was stopped.
- **Awadh's Leadership:** In Awadh, **Begum Hazrat Mahal**, the wife of the deposed Nawab, fought in the name of her young son, Birjis Qadr. She was supported by the dispossessed *talukdars*.
- **Local and Popular Leaders:**
  - Local leaders emerged. **Kunwar Singh**, an 80-year-old zamindar in Arrah (Bihar), became a key rebel leader.
  - In Barout (UP), **Shah Mal** mobilized the villagers.
  - In Chotanagpur, **Gonoo**, a tribal cultivator, became a rebel leader.

## LEADERS OF THE REVOLT



Mangal Panday



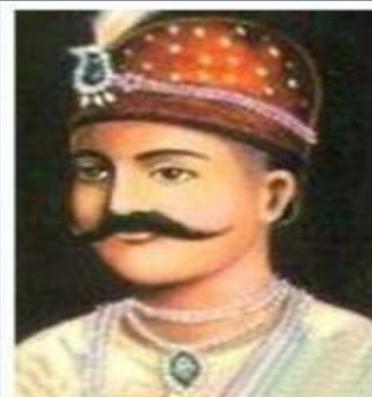
Bahadur Shah Safar



Rani Laxmibai



Kunwar Singh



Tantia Tope



Nana Saheb



Simple version

## **Nature of Leadership in 1857. (8 Marks)**

- **Bahadur Shah Zafar:** Symbolic head (Reluctant).
- **Rani Lakshmi Bai:** Fought for her adopted son.
- **Nana Sahib:** Fought for his pension.
- **Begum Hazrat Mahal:** Fought for her son in Awadh.
- **Kunwar Singh:** Local Zamindar (Bihar).
- **Shah Mal:** Mobilized villagers in UP.
- **Gonoo:** Tribal leader in Chotanagpur.
- Leaders came from **Royalty and Commoners.**