



THE REVOLT OF 1857



1. INTRODUCTION



- The **Revolt of 1857** was a major uprising against the rule of the British East India Company.



- It is also known as the **First War of Independence in India**.



- The revolt began on **10 May 1857** at Meerut.

- The rebels declared **Bahadur Shah Zafar** as their leader.



2. MAJOR CAUSES OF THE REVOLT

POLITICAL CAUSES



- The British **Doctrine of Lapse** led to the annexation of several states.
- Satara, Jhansi and Nagpur** were annexed by the British.
- The annexation of **Awadh in 1856** also caused widespread discontent.

ECONOMIC CAUSES



- Heavy land **revenue** was imposed on farmers.
- Indian artisans and handicrafts suffered due to British policies.
- The rights of landlords and traditional landholders were affected.

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS CAUSES



- Indians feared interference in their religious traditions.
- There was growing resentment over the activities of Christian missionaries.

MILITARY CAUSES

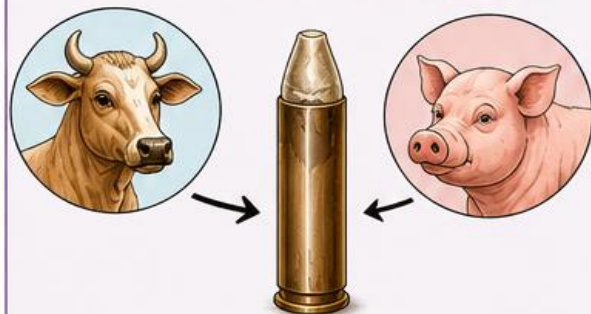


- Indian soldiers faced discrimination.
- Opportunities for Indians in higher military positions were limited.
- There was inequality in pay and other facilities.

3. IMMEDIATE CAUSE



- The introduction of the **Enfield rifle cartridges** created controversy.
- The cartridges were reportedly greased with **cow and pig fat**.
- The cartridges had to be bitten before being loaded into the rifle.
- This caused anger among both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.



4. INITIAL EVENTS



- Mangal Pandey** revolted against British officers at Barrackpore.



- Indian soldiers revolted at **Meerut**.



- The rebels reached **Delhi**.



- Bahadur Shah Zafar** was declared the leader of the revolt.

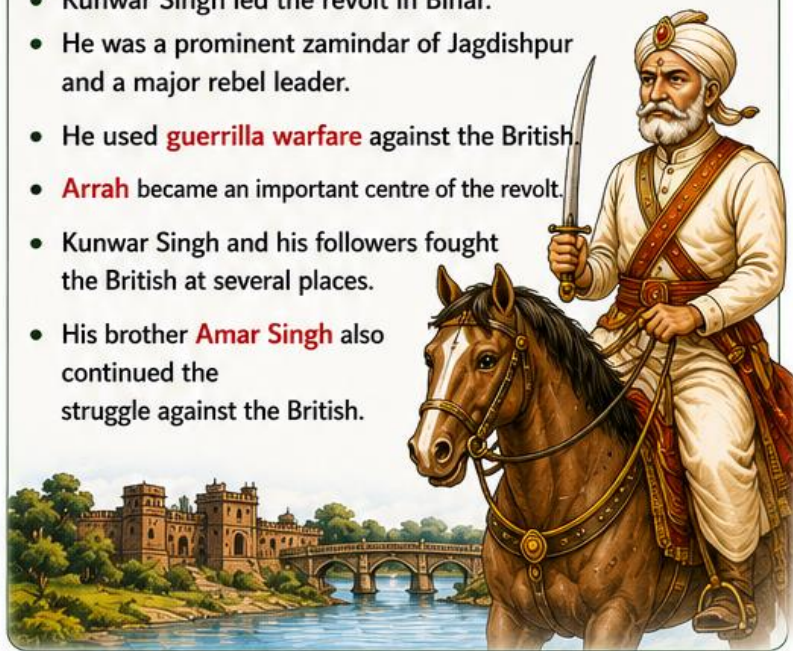


5. MAJOR CENTRES AND LEADERS

CENTRE	MAJOR LEADER
 Delhi	Bahadur Shah Zafar
 Kanpur	Nana Sahib
 Jhansi	Rani Lakshmibai
 Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal
 Bihar	Kunwar Singh
 Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan
 Faizabad	Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah

6. ROLE OF BIHAR IN THE REVOLT

- Bihar was an important centre of the Revolt of 1857.
- Kunwar Singh led the revolt in Bihar.
- He was a prominent zamindar of Jagdishpur and a major rebel leader.
- He used **guerrilla warfare** against the British.
- **Arrah** became an important centre of the revolt.
- Kunwar Singh and his followers fought the British at several places.
- His brother **Amar Singh** also continued the struggle against the British.



7. MAJOR REASONS FOR THE FAILURE

-  • The revolt did not spread throughout India.
-  • There was a lack of unified leadership.
-  • The rebels lacked proper organisation and coordination.
-  • They lacked sufficient weapons and resources.
-  • Several Indian rulers supported the British.
-  • The British had superior military strength and resources.

8. MAJOR RESULTS

-  • The rule of the East India Company ended in 1858.
-  • India came directly under the authority of the British Crown.
-  • The office of the Viceroy was established.
-  • British policies towards Indian princely states were changed.
-  • Major changes were made in the organisation and recruitment of the Indian army.
-  • The British became more cautious about interfering in Indian religious traditions.

9. IMPORTANT FACTS FOR EXAMS

 10 Beginning	: 10 May 1857 — Meerut
 Immediate Cause	: Greased cartridges
 Barrackpore	: Mangal Pandey
 Delhi	: Bahadur Shah Zafar
 Kanpur	: Nana Sahib
 Jhansi	: Rani Lakshmibai
 Lucknow	: Begum Hazrat Mahal
 Bihar	: Kunwar Singh
 Major Centres in Bihar	: Arrah and Jagdishpur
 Brother of Kunwar Singh	: Amar Singh
 End of Company Rule	: 1858
 Rule of India	: British Crown

