



### BENGAL FAMINE OF 1943

- In 1943, during World War II, a severe famine hit Bengal.
- It caused the death of about 3.5 million people, mostly in rural eastern Bengal.
- It was a man-made disaster in that it was not a scarcity of food that caused so many to die but a collapse of the grain marketing system.

### CAUSES

- The background was complicated.
- As Japanese planes repeatedly bombed Chittagong and Kolkata, the British, who had now lost naval control of the Bay of Bengal, panicked and were planning to evacuate.
- As a precaution against a Japanese invasion, they destroyed over 60,000 country boats capable of carrying ten or more people in the coastal districts.
- This boat denial scheme 'deprived hundreds of thousands of peasants of their livings.

#### CYCLONE

- Fishermen could no longer reach their fishing-grounds, cultivators of islandpaddies and sandbars had to abandon their crops, and potters could no longer carry their goods in bulk to markets.
- The authorities drove another 150,000 people off their lands to make room for hastily constructed airstrips and army camps.
- On top of this, in October 1942 a cyclone hit the western Bengal districts of Medinipur and 24-Parganas (now in India), killing 14,000 people and devastating the ripening rice crop.

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• (128) বাংলাতে হিন্দু-মুসলীম দাঙ্গা শুরুতে কি এই দুর্ভিক্ষের হাত ছিল? | BENGAL FAMINE OF 1943 | Labid Rahat - YouTube

# MID-TERM - 30 MARKS (30%)

### **Question format:**

- Broad questions you have to answer two 10-mark questions.
- Short questions you have to answer two 5-mark questions.

You will be given options.

- Discuss why Bangladesh is a land of blessings.
- "River connects both the physiography and the life of people" According to this statement, explain how the river system influences the socio-economic condition of Bengal.

- Write a short note on Gangaridae or the dynasties of ancient Bengal.
- Evaluate the social, cultural, and economic life of ancient Bengal.

- Write a short note on the major Janapads of ancient Bengal.
- Evaluate the Muslim influence on the society of Medieval Bengal.
- Who were the Bara Bhuiyans? Write an essay on the Bara Bhuiyans of Medieval Bengal.

 Briefly describe the administrative system of the Mughal period and its significance in Bengal Society.

• The Bengalis are known as a 'Shankara (সংকর) nation' (Hybrid nation) — focusing on this statement, describe the ethnic origin of the Bengalis. In your opinion, what is the historical significance of the Bengali ethnic group?

- Discuss the consequences of the Battle of Plassey(Polashi).
- Write a short note on the Battle of Buxar.
- Write a short note on the famine of 1770.
- Outline the important features of the Permanent Settlement Act of 1793 and critically analyse the consequences of this British policy during Colonial Bengal.

- Explain the causes of Sepoy Mutiny.
- Discuss what caused the 1905 Bengal Partition and its annulment in 1911.
- What was the significance of the Swadeshi movement?

- Explain the two-nation theory and its significance.
- Discuss the impact of the Lahore Resolution.
- Explain the objectives of India National Congress versus the Muslim League.

- Explain the significance of the 1946 elections.
- Write a short note on the 1946 Hindu-Muslim Riot
- Describe the United Bengal Movement of 1947.

Write a short note on the Bengal Famine of 1943.

## GENERAL QUESTION

 What can we learn from the mistakes of our past to ensure a better and more just future (morally, economically, socially, and environmentally)?

### REFERENCES

- Willem van Schendel (2009). A History of Bangladesh [Cambridge University Press]
- (128) বাংলাতে হিন্দু-মুসলীম দাঙ্গা শুরুতে কি এই দুর্ভিক্ষের হাত ছিল? | BENGAL FAMINE OF 1943 | Labid Rahat YouTube

