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- 
- 
- Home
- UPSC
 - Current Affairs IAS
 -   
 - Quiz IAS
 -   
 - UPSC News Editorial (/Eng)
 - Answer Writing ( /Eng)
 - UPSC Essay (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS 1 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-2 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-3 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-4 ( /Eng)
 - Kurukshetra ( /Eng)
 - Yojana ( /Eng)
 - IAS Strategy for Prelims
 - General Studies
 - CSAT
 - IAS Strategy for Mains
 - IAS GS 1
 - IAS GS 2
 - IAS GS 3
 - IAS GS 4
 - IAS Test Series
- Himachal HPAS
 - Himachal Daily Current Affairs
 -   
 - Daily Himachal GK Quiz

- Himachal News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
- Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
- Himachal Essay (Hindi/Eng)
- Giriraj
 - Magazine
 - Giriraj Quiz
- Himachal
 - Himachal
 - Himachal Himachal
- HP Government Schemes
- Himachal Himachal Himachal Himachal
- Syllabus Prelims Himachal HPAS
 - GENERAL STUDIES
 - CSAT
 - English
 - Hindi
- Syllabus Mains Himachal HPAS
 - English,Hindi,Essay & One Optional
 - HPAS GS 3
 - HPAS GS 2
 - HPAS GS 1
- Himachal HPAS Test Series
- All You need to Know about Himachal HPAS
- HARYANA HCS
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - Himachal Himachal Himachal
 - HCS Quiz
 - Himachal Himachal Himachal
 - Haryana News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
 - Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
 - Haryana Essay (Hindi/Eng)
 - HR Government Schemes
 - Himachal Himachal Himachal Himachal
 - Syllabus Mains Haryana HCS
 - Syllabus Prelims Haryana HCS
 - HCS Prelims Test Series

- [Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab PCS Current Affairs](#)
- [Daily Quiz Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab News Editorial \(Eng\)](#)
- [Answer Writing \(Eng\)](#)
- [Punjab Essay \(Eng\)](#)
- [All you need to know about Punjab PCS Exam 2021](#)
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 - [General Studies](#)
 - [Prelims GS 1](#)
- [Syllabus Mains Punjab PCS](#)
 - [PCS GS 1](#)
 - [PCS GS 2](#)
 - [PCS GS 3](#)
 - [PCS GS 4](#)
 - [Online PUNJAB PCS TEST SERIES 2020](#)
- [CSAT](#)
 - [CSAT English](#)
 - [Punjab PCS CSAT](#)
- [Concept Mindmaps](#)
 - [Polity \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Geography \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Environment \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [History \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Economics \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Science and Technology \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [CSAT Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Maps \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Art and Culture \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [International Affairs \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Punjab PCS Concepts](#)
 - [Himachal HPAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Haryana HCS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Rajasthan RAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
- [Concept Quiz](#)
 - [Polity Quiz \(Hindi/Eng\)](#)

- Geography Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Environment Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- History Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Economics Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Science and Technology Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- CSAT Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Maps Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Art and Culture Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Punjab PCS Concepts Quiz
- Himachal HPAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Haryana HCS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Rajasthan RAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Mains
 - UPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - HPPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Haryana HCS Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Punjab PCS Answer Writing
- Exam Blogs
 - UPSC Exam Blogs
 - Himachal Exam Blogs
 - Punjab exam Blogs
 - Haryana Exam Blogs
 - Rajasthan Exam Blogs
 - E-Magazine
 - E-Magazine for HPAS
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 - E-Magazine for Punjab PCS
- UPCOMING EXAMS
 - National Exams
 - Himachal Pradesh Exams
 - Punjab Exams
 - Test Series Planner
- About US
- Sign Up
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MENU

Click on Drop Down for Current Affairs

Topics Covered



- Summary about below Editorial:
- Understanding Everything about Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:
 - A Day of Protest Turns Tragic: The Gathering at Jallianwala Bagh
 - Enter General Dyer: A Figure of Ruthlessness
 - The Bloodbath: A Massacre Unfolds
 - Aftermath: Shock, Grief, and a Growing Rebellion
 - Legacy: A Reminder of Colonial Brutality
- The international response to the massacre and how it impacted British rule in India:
 - Impact on British Rule:
 - Long-Term Effects:
 - It's important to note:
- How the Jallianwala Bagh massacre changed the course of India's freedom struggle?
 - How did the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre impact Mahatma Gandhi's approach to the Indian independence movement?
- Did the massacre lead to any changes in British policy towards India?
- Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Timeline:
 - QuizTime:
 - Are you Ready!
- Read the Below Instructions Carefully:

- Please Rate!
- Mains Questions:
 - Question 1:
 - Model Answer:
 - Question 2:
 - Model Answer:
 - Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:
- Prelims:
- Mains:

Summary about below Editorial:

- Rising Nationalism: Post-WWI, broken promises by the British led to increased Indian nationalism and calls for self-rule.
- The Rowlatt Act: The 1919 act allowed detention without trial, sparking widespread outrage and protests in India.
- Massacre Events: On April 13, 1919, General Dyer ordered troops to fire on unarmed civilians at Jallianwala Bagh, resulting in a tragic massacre.
- Aftermath and Legacy: The massacre fueled India's independence movement, eroded trust in British rule, and remains a stark reminder of colonial brutality.

Understanding Everything about Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:

Rising Nationalism and Broken Promises:

- World War I saw millions of Indians fight alongside the British. Propaganda promised self-governance in return for their sacrifice. However, after the war, the British government reneged on these promises.
- This betrayal fueled a growing sense of nationalism in India, with a strong desire for self-rule. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi emerged, advocating for non-violent resistance.

The Rowlatt Act and Public Outrage:

- In 1919, the British government passed the Rowlatt Act, granting them emergency powers to detain individuals without trial. This act was seen as a blatant attempt to suppress nationalist movements.
- Public outrage erupted, particularly in Punjab, a region with a strong nationalist sentiment. Leaders like Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew spoke out against the Rowlatt Act, leading to their arrest.

Punjab in Turmoil:

- The arrests of Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew sparked protests and unrest across Punjab. The situation escalated further with imposed martial law, restricting public gatherings and movement.

Seeds of the Tragedy Sown:

- This volatile atmosphere became the backdrop for the events at Jallianwala Bagh. Many people, unaware of the martial law restrictions, gathered for a peaceful protest on the day of the massacre.

A Day of Protest Turns Tragic: The Gathering at Jallianwala Bagh

- On April 13th, a large crowd gathers at Jallianwala Bagh, a public garden in Amritsar, Punjab. It is Baisakhi, a major harvest festival, and many are unaware of the imposed martial law. News of the arrests has spread, and people have come to peacefully protest.

Enter General Dyer: A Figure of Ruthlessness

- Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, a recently appointed British military commander with a reputation for harshness, arrives at the scene. He orders his troops to block the only narrow passage out of the Bagh, essentially trapping the crowd. Without warning, he commands his troops to fire upon the unarmed civilians.

The Bloodbath: A Massacre Unfolds

- In the ensuing ten minutes, bullets rain down on the unsuspecting crowd. People scramble for cover, some jumping into a well on the Bagh grounds to escape. The firing continues until ammunition runs low. Estimates of the death toll vary, but historians believe it to be in the hundreds, with many more injured.

Aftermath: Shock, Grief, and a Growing Rebellion

- News of the massacre spreads like wildfire, igniting a wave of anger and resentment across India. Public outrage against British rule intensifies. Rabindranath Tagore, a Nobel Prize-winning poet, renounces his knighthood in protest. The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre becomes a pivotal moment in India's freedom struggle, hardening the resolve for self-determination.

Legacy: A Reminder of Colonial Brutality

- Today, Jallianwala Bagh stands as a memorial to the victims of the massacre. Bullet holes mark the walls, a chilling testament to the violence. The massacre serves as a stark reminder of the brutality of colonialism and the sacrifices made in the fight for freedom. It is a story that continues to resonate in India's history, a reminder of the price paid for independence.

The international response to the massacre and how it impacted British rule in India:

The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919 sent shockwaves not only through India but also across the international community. Here's how the world reacted and how it impacted British rule in India:

Initial Reactions:

- **Outrage and Condemnation:** News of the massacre sparked outrage worldwide. Newspapers in Britain, the United States, and other Dominions within the British Empire expressed disgust at the brutality.
- **Domestic Divisions in Britain:** The British public was divided. While some supported the actions as

necessary to maintain order, others saw it as excessive and barbaric. Prominent figures like Winston Churchill, then Secretary of State for War, called the massacre “monstrous,” while former Prime Minister H.H. Asquith labeled it “one of the worst, most dreadful outrages in the whole of our history.”

- **Indian Response:** The massacre ignited a firestorm of anger and resentment across India. Public protests erupted, and Mahatma Gandhi called for a nationwide hartal (strike) and a day of mourning. The massacre became a powerful symbol of British oppression, further fueling the independence movement.

Impact on British Rule:

- **Loss of Moral Authority:** The massacre significantly tarnished the image of the British Empire. Their claim to be a civilized and just ruler was severely damaged.
- **Increased Support for Indian Independence:** The international condemnation and domestic dissent in Britain emboldened Indian nationalists. It showed the world the brutality of colonial rule, garnering greater international sympathy for the Indian cause.
- **Round Table Conferences:** Facing growing pressure, the British government attempted to appease Indian sentiments. They initiated the Round Table Conferences in the 1930s, aimed at discussing constitutional reforms and potential self-

governance for India.

Long-Term Effects:

- **Erosion of Trust:** The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre fundamentally eroded trust between the British Raj and the Indian people. It became a defining moment in India's struggle for independence, hardening the resolve for self-rule.
- **Legacy of Colonial Brutality:** The massacre remains a stark reminder of the dark side of colonialism. It continues to shape India's national consciousness and its relationship with Britain.

It's important to note:

- The international response wasn't uniform. Some colonial powers remained silent, unwilling to criticize another.
- While the massacre directly impacted public opinion, it didn't lead to immediate and drastic changes in British policy. However, it played a significant role in the long-term erosion of British control over India.
- The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre wasn't just a local tragedy; it was a turning point in the history of British rule in India. It exposed the brutality of colonialism to the world and fueled the fire of India's independence movement for decades to come.

How the Jallianwala Bagh massacre changed the course of India's freedom struggle?

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919 stands as a pivotal moment that significantly altered the course of India's freedom struggle. Here's how this horrific event reshaped the movement:

From Moderate Nationalism to Mass Uprising:

- Prior to the massacre, the Indian freedom struggle was largely led by moderate nationalists who advocated for gradual reforms within the British Empire. However, Jallianwala Bagh's brutality shattered any remaining faith in British benevolence. It radicalized public opinion, pushing the movement towards a more assertive approach.

Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement:

- Mahatma Gandhi, a prominent leader advocating for non-violent resistance, initially condemned the violence but believed negotiations with the British could still be pursued. However, the massacre's brutality forced him to launch the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920. This movement involved mass civil disobedience, boycotts of British goods, and a call for Indians to withdraw

their cooperation with the colonial administration.

Rise of Militant Nationalism:

- The massacre also fueled the rise of more militant nationalist groups like Bhagat Singh's Hindustan Republican Association. These groups believed armed resistance was necessary to overthrow British rule. While Gandhi remained committed to non-violence, the massacre demonstrated the depth of anger and frustration within the Indian population, creating a space for more radical movements.

International Sympathy and Loss of British Moral Legitimacy:

- The international community's outrage at the massacre exposed the brutality of British colonialism on a global stage. This tarnished the image of the British Empire and garnered sympathy for the Indian cause. The massacre chipped away at the moral justification for British rule, making it increasingly untenable.

Erosion of Trust and Increased Resolve:

- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre shattered any

remaining trust between the Indian people and the British administration. It solidified the idea that the British were not benevolent rulers but willing to use brutal force to maintain control. This deepened the resolve for independence and fueled a stronger sense of national identity.

A Symbol of Oppression and Martyrdom:

The Jallianwala Bagh site became a potent symbol of British oppression and the sacrifices made in the fight for freedom. It served as a constant reminder of the brutality faced by Indians and fueled the determination to achieve independence.

Long-Term Impact:

- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre left an indelible mark on the Indian psyche. It radicalized the freedom struggle, pushed for a more assertive approach, and served as a constant reminder of the need for self-rule. Even after India achieved independence, the massacre remains a powerful symbol of the struggle and the injustices faced under colonial rule.

In conclusion, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre stands as a turning point in India's freedom struggle. It radicalized public opinion, fueled the rise of militant movements, eroded British moral legitimacy, and solidified India's resolve for self-rule. It left a lasting scar on the nation's history,

reminding future generations of the sacrifices made in the fight for freedom.

How did the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre impact Mahatma Gandhi's approach to the Indian independence movement?

The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919 had a profound impact on Mahatma Gandhi's approach to the Indian independence movement. Here's how:

Shift from Gradualism to Non-Cooperation:

- Prior to the massacre, Gandhi advocated for Swaraj (self-rule) through non-violent resistance and cooperation with the British Raj. He believed in dialogue and gradual reforms within the British system.

Shattered Faith and Rise of Non-Cooperation Movement:

- The horrific violence at Jallianwala Bagh shattered Gandhi's faith in the British government's willingness to act justly. He saw the massacre as a blatant disregard for human life and a symbol of colonial brutality.

- In response, Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920. This movement marked a significant shift in his strategy. It called for mass civil disobedience, boycotts of British goods, and a withdrawal of cooperation with the British administration.

Non-Violence Still at the Core:

- It's important to note that Gandhi remained committed to his principle of non-violence. He believed that non-cooperation, strikes, and boycotts could effectively pressure the British without resorting to violence.

A Turning Point for the Freedom Struggle:

- The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre became a turning point for the Indian independence movement. It pushed Gandhi towards a more assertive approach, demonstrating the need for stronger action to achieve self-rule.

Impact on Public Opinion:

- The massacre radicalized public opinion in India. Gandhi's call for non-cooperation resonated with the anger and frustration felt by many Indians. It provided a peaceful outlet for their discontent and mobilized a larger segment of the population in the freedom struggle.

Long-Term Significance:

- The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre marked a crucial shift in Gandhi's strategy and the broader Indian independence movement. It ushered in a period of mass civil disobedience and non-violent resistance that ultimately played a key role in India's path to self-rule.

Additional Considerations:

- While Gandhi's approach changed, he continued to believe in dialogue and reconciliation. He suspended the Non-Cooperation Movement after a violent incident in 1922, highlighting his commitment to non-violent methods.
- The massacre also fueled the rise of more militant nationalist groups. However, Gandhi's non-violent approach remained a significant force in the movement, inspiring millions of Indians to participate in the struggle for independence.
- In essence, the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre forced Gandhi to adapt his approach while still upholding his core principles of non-violence. It marked a turning point towards a more assertive form of non-cooperation that ultimately played a pivotal role in India's freedom struggle.

Did the massacre lead to any changes in British policy towards India?

The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919 did not lead to immediate and drastic changes in British policy towards India. However, it had a significant long-term impact that gradually eroded British control and contributed to the eventual independence movement. Here's a breakdown of the short-term and long-term effects:

Short-Term Response:

- **Public Inquiry and Condemnation:** The British government faced immense public pressure, both domestically and internationally. They ordered an inquiry led by Lord Hunter, which ultimately condemned General Dyer's actions but offered little comfort to the victims.
- **Symbolic Gestures:** General Dyer was relieved of his command, though some in Britain hailed him as a hero. This further inflamed tensions in India.

Long-Term Impact:

- **Loss of Moral Legitimacy:** The massacre severely tarnished the image of the British Empire. Their claim to be a civilized and just ruler was undermined, exposing the brutality of colonialism.

This loss of moral authority weakened their position in India.

- **Increased Support for Independence:** The international condemnation and domestic dissent in Britain emboldened Indian nationalists. It demonstrated the brutality of colonial rule, garnering greater international sympathy for the Indian cause. This bolstered the movement for self-rule.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Timeline:

1914: World War I begins. Millions of Indians fight alongside the British, promised self-governance in return for their sacrifice.

1919:

- **February:** The Rowlatt Act is passed by the British government, granting them emergency powers to detain individuals without trial. This sparks outrage and protests across India, particularly in Punjab.
- **April 10th:** Nationalist leaders Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew are arrested for their anti-war speeches, further inflaming tensions. Protests erupt in Amritsar.
- **April 13th (Baisakhi):**
 - A large crowd gathers at Jallianwala Bagh, a public garden in Amritsar, unaware of the imposed martial law. Many have come to celebrate Baisakhi,

a major harvest festival.

- Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, known for his harshness, arrives with troops and orders them to block the only narrow passage out of the Bagh, essentially trapping the crowd.
- Without warning, General Dyer commands his troops to fire upon the unarmed civilians.
- The shooting continues for approximately 10 minutes until ammunition runs low.
- **Aftermath:**
Estimates of the death toll vary, but historians believe it to be in the hundreds, with many more injured.
- News of the massacre spreads like wildfire, igniting a wave of anger and resentment across India. Public outrage against British rule intensifies.
- Rabindranath Tagore, a Nobel Prize-winning poet, renounces his knighthood in protest.

1920:

- Mahatma Gandhi launches the Non-Cooperation Movement in response to the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre and the Rowlatt Act. This movement promotes mass civil disobedience and boycotts of British goods.

1922: The Non-Cooperation Movement is suspended by Gandhi after a violent incident.

1930s: The Round Table Conferences are initiated by the British government to discuss constitutional reforms and potential self-governance for India.

1947: India gains independence from British rule.

Present Day:

- Jallianwala Bagh stands as a memorial to the victims of the massacre. Bullet holes mark the walls, a chilling testament to the violence. The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre continues to be a significant event in Indian history, serving as a reminder of the brutality of colonialism and the sacrifices made in the fight for freedom.



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 - Scroll down - Check out Solutions too.
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1 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre serves as a reminder of:

- The success of British colonial rule in India.
- The importance of maintaining dialogue between rulers and ruled.
- The brutality of colonialism and the sacrifices made in the fight for freedom.
- The effectiveness of violent resistance movements.

Prev

Finish

Next

2 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

Consider the following statements about the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:

- (a) It occurred in 1919 during the celebration of Diwali.
- (b) It was a result of rising public anger against the Rowlatt Act.
- (c) The massacre led to the immediate resignation of the Viceroy of India.
- (d) Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood in protest.

Choose the correct answer:

- (a) & (d) only
- (b) & (c) only
- (b) & (d) only
- (c) & (d) only

Prev

Finish

Next

3 / 5

Category: General Studies

Which of the following best describes the long-term impact of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre on British rule in India?

- It led to a complete breakdown of law and order in the country.
- It resulted in an immediate withdrawal of British troops from India.
- It significantly eroded trust between the British and the Indian population.
- It strengthened the support for the British administration in India.

Prev

Finish

Next

4 / 5

Category: General Studies

Bhagat Singh, a prominent revolutionary leader, was:

- Directly involved in the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
- Inspired by the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre to fight for independence.
- A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi.
- A supporter of British rule in India.

Prev

Finish

Next

5 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement was launched in response to:

- The partition of Bengal.
- The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
- The imposition of the Salt Tax.
- The imprisonment of Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

Prev

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Mains Questions:



**Below Mains
Question**

Write in Comment Section

Question 1:

The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919 remains a defining moment in India's struggle for independence. Analyze the factors that led to the massacre and assess its long-term consequences for British rule in India.(250 words)

Model Answer:

Factors Leading to the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:

- Rising Nationalism and Broken Promises: World War

I saw heightened expectations among Indians for greater self-rule. However, the British government's reneging on promises of self-governance fueled a sense of nationalism and resentment.

- The Rowlatt Act: The imposition of the Rowlatt Act in 1919, granting emergency powers to detain individuals without trial, sparked outrage across India, particularly in Punjab, a region with strong nationalist sentiments.
- Leadership Arrests: The arrest of nationalist leaders Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew further inflamed tensions and led to protests in Amritsar.
- Imposed Martial Law: Awareness of the imposed martial law restricting public gatherings was limited, leading a large crowd to gather at Jallianwala Bagh on Baisakhi, unaware of the danger.

Long-Term Consequences for British Rule:

- Loss of Moral Legitimacy: The brutality of the massacre tarnished the image of the British Empire. Their claim to be a civilized and just ruler was severely damaged.
- Increased Support for Independence: International condemnation and domestic dissent in Britain emboldened Indian nationalists. The massacre garnered sympathy for the Indian cause and strengthened the resolve for self-rule.
- Erosion of Trust: The Jallianwala Bagh incident fundamentally eroded trust between the Indian people and the British administration. It solidified the idea that the British would use brutal force to maintain control.
- Rise of Militant Nationalism: The massacre fueled the rise of more militant nationalist groups like

Bhagat Singh's Hindustan Republican Association, advocating for armed resistance.

- **Seeds of Change Sown:** While immediate policy changes were limited, the massacre marked a turning point. The British recognized the need for some concessions, leading to the Round Table Conferences in the 1930s, which ultimately couldn't contain the growing demand for independence.

Question 2:

Critically examine the impact of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre on Mahatma Gandhi's approach to India's freedom struggle. (250 words)

Model Answer:

Shift from Gradualism to Non-Cooperation:

- Prior to the massacre, Gandhi advocated for Swaraj (self-rule) through non-violent resistance and cooperation with the British Raj. The horrific violence at Jallianwala Bagh shattered his faith in the British government's willingness to act justly.

Rise of Non-Cooperation Movement:

- The massacre marked a turning point for Gandhi. He launched the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920, a more

assertive approach involving mass civil disobedience, boycotts, and withdrawal of cooperation with the British administration.

Non-Violence Still at the Core:

- However, Gandhi remained committed to non-violence. He believed non-cooperation could effectively pressure the British without resorting to violence.

Impact on Public Opinion:

- The massacre radicalized public opinion in India. Gandhi's call for non-cooperation resonated with the anger and frustration felt by many, mobilizing a larger segment of the population in the freedom struggle.

Long-Term Significance:

- The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre forced Gandhi to adapt his approach while still upholding his core principles of non-violence. It marked a shift towards a more assertive form of non-cooperation that ultimately played a pivotal role in India's path to self-rule.

Remember: These are just sample answers. It's important to further research and refine your responses based on your own understanding and perspective. Read entire UPSC Current Affairs.

Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:



Prelims:

- **GS Paper I: History** Modern Indian History (from about the middle of the 18th century until the present): This section broadly covers the major events and movements that shaped modern India. The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, occurring in 1919, falls within this timeframe. While not explicitly mentioned, understanding this event can help answer questions related to the rise of nationalism, the freedom struggle, and the changing relationship between the British Raj and the Indian population.

Mains:

- **General Studies Paper I (History)** Modern Indian History (from about the middle of the 18th century until the present): This section covers major events and movements that shaped modern India. The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919) falls within this timeframe. While not explicitly stated, understanding this event strengthens your grasp of:
Rise of Nationalism:
The massacre fueled public anger and anti-

colonial sentiment, contributing to the growth of Indian nationalism.

Freedom Struggle: It became a turning point, pushing for more assertive methods in the fight for independence.

British Raj and Indian Population: The massacre exposed the brutality of colonial rule and shattered trust between the British and Indians.

- **History (Optional):** You may encounter optional subjects in the Mains exam that cover the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in greater detail. Options like History (Optional) or Indian History (Optional) might delve deeper into the specifics of the massacre and its impact on the freedom struggle.



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Option 3



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