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# **YOJANA MAGAZINE ANALYSIS**

## **(August 2024)**

### **(Part 3/3)**

## **TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

### **PART 1/3**

- **CELLULAR JAIL- THE SAGA OF RESISTANCE**
- **JAMBUDWEEP PROCLAMATION**

### **PART 2/3**

- **UNTOLD STORIES OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE FROM NORTHEAST INDIA**
- **CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN LANGUAGES TO THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT**

### **PART 3/3**

- **YOUTH CONSCIOUSNESS FOR INDIA FREEDOM IN BENGAL**

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# YOUTH CONSCIOUSNESS FOR INDIAN FREEDOM IN BENGAL

## Historical Background:

Bengal was a major center of British colonial rule in India. By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, discontent against British rule was growing among all sections of society, including the youth. The **partition** of Bengal by the British government was a **major turning point**. This decision was seen as an attempt to divide and rule, which sparked widespread protests and helped mobilize youth in Bengal.

## PARTITION OF BENGAL

- **Curzon's Decision:** Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India, partitioned Bengal along religious and communal lines in **1905**. The British Raj, **seeking to improve administrative efficiency** in the large and diverse region of Bengal, decided to split the province into **two separate entities: Eastern Bengal and Assam, and the rest of Bengal (West Bengal and parts of Bihar and Orissa)**. This partition was not just an administrative move but also had deep political and cultural implications.

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## KEY POINTS WRT PARTITION OF BENGAL

- **Rationale and Justification:** The British authorities **argued that the partition would make governance more efficient**, given Bengal's large population and diverse communities. The idea was to create smaller administrative units that would be easier to manage.
- **Political and Social Impact:** The **partition was viewed by many as a divide-and-rule strategy aimed at reducing the political influence of Bengali Hindus**, who were seen as a strong nationalist force. By creating a separate province for **Eastern Bengal, which had a Muslim majority, the British hoped to counterbalance the political dominance of Hindus in the larger Bengal region.**
- **Youth Response:** The partition galvanized the youth, who saw it as an attempt to suppress their cultural identity. This led to increased activism and resistance among the younger generation.
- **Reaction and Protests:** The partition led to widespread protests and **resistance from Bengali Hindus and the Indian National Congress, who saw it as a move to weaken the growing nationalist movement.** The partition was viewed as an attempt to exploit religious and communal divisions to the British advantage.

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- **Reversal:** Due to the intense opposition and unrest, the **British government reversed the partition in 1911. Bengal was reunited**, but the impact of the partition had lasting effects on Indian politics and communal relations.
- **Legacy:** The **Partition of Bengal is often seen as a precursor to the more consequential and traumatic partition of India in 1947.** The 1905 partition and its reversal highlighted the complexities of British colonial rule and the ways in which administrative decisions could have far-reaching political and social consequences..

## ROLE OF YOUTH

- This **group of young revolutionaries embraced the ideals of the Western Enlightenment and became important in the independence movement.** Their **enthusiasm was driven by a desire to challenge British colonial rule.**
- **The Swadeshi Movement:** Initiated in response to the Bengal partition, the **Swadeshi Movement aimed to boycott British goods and promote indigenous products.** The youth played a central role in organizing protests, demonstrations, and advocating for self-reliance.

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## KEY LEADERS OF THE MOVEMENT

- **Raja Ram Mohan Roy:** Known as the “**Father of the Indian Renaissance,**” Roy was a leading figure in the Young Bengal Movement. He **advocated for social reforms, including women’s rights and the abolition of Sati, and promoted rationalism and education.**
- **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar:** A scholar, **reformer, and educator, Vidyasagar supported women’s education and fought against child marriage.** His work to modernize Bengali literature and script had a lasting impact.
- **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee:** A prolific writer whose novel ***Anandamath* and the song “Vande Mataram” became symbols of nationalism,** inspiring resistance against colonial rule.
- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose:** Bose’s leadership of the **Indian National Army (INA)** and his call for revolutionary action with his slogan “**Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom**” deeply resonated with the youth.

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- **Rabindranath Tagore:** A Nobel laureate, Tagore used his literary prowess to evoke nationalism. His composition of the national anthem, “**Jana Gana Mana,**” reflects his **contribution to the freedom movement.**
- **Aurobindo Ghosh:** Aurobindo Ghosh was both a **revolutionary and a spiritual thinker.** His writings advocated for both political struggle and inner transformation, influencing the nation’s consciousness.

## CONCLUSION

The youth of Bengal were instrumental in shaping the Indian National Movement. Their passionate commitment to freedom, along with their intellectual and revolutionary contributions, played a crucial role in the struggle for independence. Their legacy continues to inspire, reflecting their vital role in the fight for India’s liberation.

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