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Mains Practice Questions

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Q. Elucidate the challenges faced by a newly independent India.

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Approach

- Start the answer by briefly mentioning the independence of India.
- Discuss the various Challenges faced by India post independence
- Conclude Suitably.

Introduction

After a long struggle for freedom, India became independent from colonial rule on 15th August 1947. However, independence brought with itself a slew of social, economic and political problems.

Body

Various Challenges faced by India post independence

- **Partition:** Partition was marked with large-scale communal violence. Apart from it, the legacy of Partition is responsible for the origin of the Kashmir problem and consequent war with Pakistan.
Also, India needed to provide rehabilitation of a large number of refugees.
- **Mass Poverty & Illiteracy:** At the time of Independence, the incidence of poverty in India was about 80% or about 250 million. Famines and hunger pushed India to take external help for its food security.
- **Ensuring Unity In Diversity:** A newly independent India, needed to maintain the unity and sovereignty of the country, majorly on account of challenges emanating from assimilation of princely states.
The boundaries of the British Indian provinces had been drawn and redrawn in a haphazard manner without any thought to cultural and linguistic cohesion.
- **Low Economic Capacity:** Stagnant agriculture and poor industrial base. In 1947, agriculture accounted for 54% of India's GDP. At the time of independence, 60% of India's population depended on agriculture for a living.
- **Cold-War Tensions:** Most of the developing countries were band-wagoning either of the two superpowers USA or the Soviet Union.
India followed a policy of Non-Alignment to stay away from cold-war politics and focus on its internal development.

Conclusion

Owing to the socio-economic and political challenges, on the eve of independence, many british scholars predicted that India as a nation will not survive.

However, it was due to India's strong commitment to its constitutional principles that led India to not only survive as a nation but also to emerge as the leader of the newly independent countries.