

Unit - 07

Chapter - 15

Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement

Bal Gangadhar Tilak led National movement in the extremists' era. Mahatma Gandhi took over the charge of Congress soon after his return from South Africa from where he brought the weapon of Satyagraha. Under his leadership Non- Co- operation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement were started successfully. These movements filled the Indian public with the feelings of courage, patriotism and fearlessness. In 1920 Gandhi ji led Indian National Congress, therefore this phase of movement is called 'The Age of Gandhi'

Background of Non- Cooperation Movement

The first movement of this Age was Non- Co- operation Movement. The element 'Non- Co- operation' is necessary to be understood. It didn't occur suddenly but some incidents were behind it.

First World War -

Indian economic condition worsened due to the sending of Indian armies outside during the First World War. Plague, Influenza and famine occurred at the time, made the situation more tense. The more recruitments were made in the initial stage of War, the more critical situation of unemployment arose when they were withdrawn after the war was over.

The report of Montford created resentment in the Indian people. The Indian Government Act of 1919 merely encouraged the policy of Divide and Rule. It expanded communal electorate system which created dissatisfaction among the Indians.

Entry of Mahatma Gandhi in the Indian politics

Gandhi ji returned to India from South Africa in 1915. He established an ashram near Sabarmati in 1915 and studied and observed Indian political situation. Soon he got a chance to participate actively in politics. He applied Satyagraha at Champaran and Kheda for the interests of the farmers and in Ahmedabad for the interests of labourers of the factories. These Limited uses of Satyagraha were merely an introduction to widespread applications.

Rowlatt Act and Satyagraha

In the chairmanship of justic Rowlatt, a committee was constituted and on the basis of its report 'Terrorist and Crime Act' was formulated which is known as Rowlatt Act. This Act was terribly opposed all over India because its aims were to detain any Indian for two years without any cause, to restrict their civil rights and suppress the struggle of the Indians for self- rule.

Mahatma Gandhi warned the Britishers against making this Bill an Act, but they didnot pay any heed to it. Then Gandhi ji decided to protest against it through public strike all over India. The Muslims too gave their support to it. This peaceful public strike was successful in all the cities and the villages all over India. This Satyagraha is called Rowlett Satyagraha. Country wide successful strike and Hindu - Muslim Unity was a great concern for the British Government. In the strike of April 06, Unity was seen in Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus of Punjab.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

The British Government ordered for expulsion of famous leaders - Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Kichlu from Amritsar after their arrest. Even Mahatma Gandhi was prohibited to enter Delhi and Punjab. At that time the Governor - General of Punjab was Michael Dyer. He used to satirise the political ambitions of the Indians. This order of Punjab Government created anxiety in Amritsar. Strike was declared in Amritsar for their release. To control the situation, army was called and on April 10 firing was made on the Satyagrahis.

On the 13th April, several arrests were made and meetings were banned but no information for necessary action was supplied to the public. On April 13 on the day of Vaishakhi, no attempt was made to check the gathering mob at Jallianwala Bagh. When 20 thousand people had gathered here, then without any warning firing started till no bullet was left. This place was surrounded by buildings from all sides, so there was only a single passage to escape. By the orders of Dyer, the sufferers were left groaning throughout the night. But this massacre did not bring any change in the suppressive policy of the British Government.

Military Rule

Military officers declared military rule in the 5 cities of Punjab on April 15. In these cities a lot of atrocities and suppressive actions were taken. Whipping, beating with canes and belts, firing on the farmers and torture non-supply of water and electricity became quite normal every day.

Impact of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

In the protest of this incident, an Indian member of executive council of Governor – General, called Shankaran Nayar, gave his resignation. R.N. Tagore left his title ‘Sir’. From every corner of the country there was the demand for the investigation of the massacre. The Government formed a committee whose president was Lord Hunter. This Committee tried to

demolish the facts of the case. For it Gen. Dyer was highly appreciated by the British Government. The Action taken by the Hunter Committee made the Indians not to believe in the justice of the British Government.

Amritsar Congress (Dec. 1919)

When the Indians’ resentment was at the climax, Gandhi ji did not put any proposal for the organization of public movement in the annual session of Congress. Though Pt. Moti Lal Nehru criticised the British Government bitterly, but Gandhi ji became successful in issuing the proposal in which violence, done by the people, was condemned. Thus, Gandhi ji was still not ready for non - co - operation and protest against the British Government.

Problem of Khilafat

In the First World War, Turkey was with Germany against Britishers, so the Indian Muslims were afraid that after the war Britain would take action against Turkey. In order to get support of the Indian Muslims during the war, the British Prime Minister assured that after the World War Britain would not take revenge on Turkey and its empire would remain intact, but after the War, Britain could not keep its promise. The Turkish empire was destroyed. Not only this, but at the place of Sultan of Turkey, the claims of Sheikh Hasan were accepted and propagated. This betrayal of Britain shocked the Indian Muslims and a mighty Khilafat movement began. Its goal was to maintain the existence of Khalifa as a material and spiritual institution.

Gandhiji and Khilafat

Gandhiji took the issue of khilafat as a golden opportunity to enhance Hindu - Muslim Unity. He supported Khilafat Movement and decided to make Hindu - Muslim Unity the basis of Non - Co - operation movement against the British Government. In sept. 1920 Gandhiji put a Non - Co - operation proposal in the session of congress in Calcutta. Though the old leaders

of Congress like Vipin Chandra Pal, Annie Besant, Chitranjan Das and Lala Lajpat Rai were against this proposal, it was passed with majority. In December 1920, once again, the same proposal was passed with a great majority in Nagpur session. So in both the sessions Gandhiji's proposal was accepted by the Congress.

Non - Cooperation Movement

There were two aspects of the Movement - Negative and Positive. The aim of the negative aspect was to stop the government machinery by Non - Co - operating the government. In this aspect the following programmes were included -

1. Resignation from government posts and Degrees.
2. Boycott of Government Colleges and Schools.
3. Boycott of elections.
4. Boycott of Government Courts.
5. Boycott of foreign goods.

Behind the policy of boycott Gandhiji wanted that when government is run with the support and co - operation of public, the British Government could be forced to provide Swaraj through Non - Co - operation.

Gandhiji returned the title 'Kesar - A - Hind'. Thousands of students boycotted schools and colleges. The learned lawyers gave up their advocacy. The famous lawyers to leave their profession were Lala Lajpat Rai, Deshbandhu Chitranjan Das. Pt. Moti Lal Nehru. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel and Dr. Rajendra Prasad etc. The public of whole India showed incredible enthusiasm in boycotting the foreign goods. Foreign clothes were thrown into fire. Dharmas were made at the liquor shops and at the foreign cloth shops. For the first time in India, the women took part in this movement at a very large scale and they were also imprisoned.

Positive or Creative Programme

It was such an aspect of the movement which gave it a solid platform. In it the following programmes were included -

1. Establishment of National Schools and Colleges.
2. Formation of Personal Panchayat for the solution of mutual conflicts.
3. Extensive propaganda of 'Swadeshi'.
4. Promotion to 'Charkha' and Handlooms.
5. Elimination of Untouchability.

The programme tried to root out the social disparity and to provide a favourable education to the students through educational institutions in the interest of nation. Through Swadeshi, Charkha, Hand woven goods, poverty, unemployment, efforts were made to improve the Indian Economy to get rid of the clutches of British Government.

National Educational institutions were established in Patna, Ahmedabad, Pune, Kashi whose graduates made appreciable contribution in the service of the nation. Congress prepared 30 lakh volunteers and 20 thousand Charkhas (spinning wheels).

Non - Co - operation movement gave a new energy to the whole of India. Seeing such a huge movement, the British government was stunned. British Government found itself in a state of dilemma on this type of strategy of Gandhiji. From 1857 the command of politics was in the hands of Britishers, but now it was with Gandhiji. For the first time thousands of men and women went to jail willingly. The important feature of this movement was Hindu - Muslim Unity.

Suppression of the movement by the government and boycott of Prince of Wales

Non - Co - operation movement became successful beyond hope, so the Government began afflicting atrocities and suppression. The government

applied 'Rajdroha committee Act' openly. At some places the Government made the use of the brutish violence. Leaders of the movement started getting arrested. In it Nankana incident is main. Government arrested the then prominent leaders Ali brothers inspite of giving assurance that they would not be arrested. So their arrest was opposed by the congress in its next convention and to show protest against arrest, it was decided that the whole country would go on strike on the day of the arrival of the Prince of Wales.

On Nov. 17, 1921 the Prince was welcomed with strike in Bombay. In welcome and boycott of Prince, many were injured and killed in conflicts. Except Gandhiji, almost all the leaders were arrested. The number of jail going people went high up to 60 thousand. According to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, from the time when Britain and India had been in relationship, the anger and enthusiasm of the public did not reach to such an extent.

In Dec. 1921 it was decided that congress would provide an extensive shape to this movement in the convention of Ahmedabad. All rights were kept reserved for Gandhiji. Gandhiji wrote a warning letter to Viceroy on Feb. 01, 1922. At Bardauli, preparations had been made for this movement, but the Chauri Chaura incident of Feb. 05, 1922 changed the whole political situation.

Chauri - Chaura Incident

When the movement was at its zenith, on Feb. 05, 1922 the police tried to stop a procession organised by congress at a place Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur. The mob, pushing the soldiers inside the police station, burnt the police station.

This incident moved Gandhiji's non - violent heart. Due to the use of violence, Gandhiji withdrew the movement. He emphasised the creative aspect of the movement. The government was waiting for this moment and Gandhiji was arrested.

Reaction against the postponement of the movement

All the congress leaders opposed the step taken by Gandhiji. Several men of congress took it as a national insult. Subhash Chand Bose said, "Right was the time when the enthusiasm of the public was at the climax, it was no less than national calamity of the withdrawal of the movement".

Pt. Moti Lal Nehru and Lala Lajpat Rai wrote letters to Gandhiji from jail in which it was mentioned, "Due to the sin of one place, the whole country had been penalised".

For Gandhiji, it had become difficult to prove the appropriateness of the theory of the purity of ends along with means before his followers. Gandhiji assured Nehru that, "If the movement had not been postponed then certainly we would have considered ourselves to lead a violent movement, withdrawal of it will make our struggle prosperous".

Arrest and Imprisonment of Gandhiji

On the second day of the withdrawal of Non - Co - operation movement Gandhiji was arrested and prosecuted on the basis of published articles in 'Young India' for 'Sedition'. Gandhiji said to the court, "Unwillingly. I have arrived at this conclusion that the relation with Britain has made India such a helpless country politically and economically as it was never before, "Ending his statement he told that not to co - operate with evil shows his dutifulness as not to co - operate with goodness. Judge, giving the example of Tilak, announced 6 years imprisonment to Gandhiji.

Weakness of Non - Cooperation movement

The greatest weakness of the movement was the entrance of religion into politics which did not result good in future. Although Gandhiji did this for the sake of Hindu - Muslim Unity, a rift developed later on in Hindus and Muslims. In the leadership of Kamal Pasha

of Turkey, in 1922 with the end of Khilafat, Khalifa was expelled.

Subhash Chand Bose writes, “To promise for achieving Swaraj in one year was illogical and childlike declaration “. Gandhiji postponed the movement only after he considered the small violent incident a necessary part of public minds. If the movement had run for a longer time, it could have become necessary for the government to declare some reforms.

Importance of the movement

The movement made the public fearless. Public got absolutely ready to face the punishments and tortures inflicted by the British government.

Through Non - Co - operation Gandhiji turned this national movement into a people’s movement. Now this movement didnot remain limited to the high class people, but it reached door to door even in the villages. For the first time congress emerged as an inspiring tool of Public Movement. Till now patriotism and nationality were considered heritage of few. Due to the influence of Gandhiji and Non - Co - operation movement it reached the common man of India. Incredible courage and feelings of sacrifice were visible in them. Now Congress had taken the form of a revolutionary institution. Now it was not only a Sabha of consultation, but an organised Sabha which was firmly structured for revolution. Non - Co - operation movement was the first movement which taught the Indians to stand upon their own legs.

During movement, the creative programmes, the opening of national educational institutioans, swadeshi Charkha in place of foreign goods, handlooms etc. benefitted the country. Congress accepted Hindi as a national language. Khadi, now, became a wearing cloth of all congressmen. In the words of Subhash Chandra Bose, “ From one corner to another corner in the country, the similar slogans got started singing, everywhere one similar policy and ideology was visible”.

Civil Disobedience Movement – Background Calcutta congress (December, 1928)

In the Nehru report Dominition Status for India was demanded, but Congress leaders were divided over it. In the leadership of Jawahar Lal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose, the youth of congress wanted this proposal to be accepted on the basis of complete freedom, but in the leadership of Moti Lal Nehru, the older people wanted it to be accepted as colonial self rule. He was the President of Calcutta Congress. Through the mediatorship of Gandhiji congress at last, accepted it. Congress also asked the British Government to accept it completely with a warning that if the British Government did not accept the demand of Dominition Status then it would demand for Purna Swaraj, but as it was expected, the British Government did not pay any heed to the suggestions and warning of congress.

Demand for Purna Swaraj

Due to India not being allowed Dominition Status and for other incidents, the Congress’s attitude became harsh in the year 1929. The British attitude clearly showed that till India did not become strong, Swaraj could not be achieved. Thus, in the chairmanship of Jawaharlal Nehru, a Congress convention began in Lahore in December 1929. In this convention, congress had called the goals of Dominition Status determined in the year 1928 full of cowardice. In place of it Purna swaraj was demanded. At midnight of Dec. 31, 1929, near the bank of river Rabi, amidst the slogans of Vande Matram and Inqualab Zindabad, tricolour flag was hoisted . Congress made an appeal that 26 Jan. 1930 should be celebrated as the Independence Day. Afterwards, this day continued to be celebrated as the independence day every year. This is the reason why in order to keep the ever lasting memory of this day, on Jan. 26, 1950, the Constitution of India was implemented in free India.

Internal Condition of the Country

At this time, like the whole world, India too was passing through the period of economic recession. Labourers and businessmen all were discontented. At the same time due to the revolutionarie activities of Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt and prosecution of Lahore Conspiracy trial, resentment and disappointment against British Government in India was increasing. Such was an atmosphere of discontentment in India in the beginning of 1930.

Decision of movement by Congress

After seriously considering the situations a resolution was passed in a meeting of congress working committee held from Feb. 14 to Feb 16, 1930 in Sabarmati and Gandhiji was given all rights to begin Civil Disobedience Movement. In his weekly 'Young India', he asked the Viceroy to accept 11 conditions. If these conditions are accepted, the Civil Disobedience Movement will not be started. The main conditions among them were- end of the tax on salt, reduction of military expenditure to half, less expenditure on administration after reducing the half salary of the officers. Tax should be levied on foreign goods so that the country's industries could be protected. All the political prisoners should be released. Instead of considering these demans, British Government started making arrests of the congress volunteers. In such a situation, no other way but the start of the movement, was left.

Civil Disobedience Movement

Earlier under the leadership of Gandhiji, Congress Started this movement with the goal of Purna Swaraj. But this time the movement was different from the earlier one. The strategy adopted for this movement was completely different. Gandhiji pondered over the starting the movement . This time it was decided to violate the laws for the sake of achieving the goal of Purna Swaraj. In order to express their determination,

the Indian freedom lovers were to make country wide demanstrations and satyagraha movement. No tax was to be paid to government and boycott of foreign goods was to be continued. In brief, it can be said that Indians had to disobey in every way, all methods at all levels so that it could be made difficult for the government machinery to run.

Dandi March

Gandhiji decided to prepare salt without getting the permission of Government at the sea shore of Dandi, and thus to violate the law. On March 11, 1930, 75 thousand Indians took an oath in sabarmati ground that until India got freedom. they would not allow the government to run smoothly and peacefully.

On march 12, 1930, in the leadership of Gandhiji, 200 miles far away from Sabarmati, Vallabh Bhai Patel led the march to prepare the public for the arrival of Gandhiji. On the way, the rural folk in the villages that befell, welcomed Gandhiji with zeal and enthusiasm.

Mahatma Gandhi alongwith thousands of Indians reached the sea shore on April 6. By preparing salt from the sea water, he not only violated the salt law, but also initiated the Satyagrah. Gandhiji said, "Satyagrahis can never get defeat until they give up truth. "After this, salt was prepared all all those places in India where Britishers had been preparing. This salt movement became more aggressive in Cuttack, Puri and Balasor.

Programme of Civil Disobedience Movement

Determing the programme of Civil Disobedience Movementt, Gandhiji said, "Every village should come forward to prepare salt. People should give Dharna at the shops of liquor, opium and foreign clothes. Foreign cloth must be burnt".

After Gandhiji had prepared salt, this movement went far ahead with enthusiasm. The salt was also prepared in Joint Province, Madras, Central Province,

Bombay and Bengal. Foreign cloth and goods were boycotted. Dharna was made at liquor shops. Thousands of working government servants resigned and joined the movement. The students left the schools and colleges. The farmers stopped paying taxes. The cotton producing farmers stopped paying lagani (revenue). Several farmers in Bihar stopped paying Octroi. In the tax prevention movement, the farmers of Gujarat played a vital role. The Indian women played a vital role in making boycott, strikes and in the advertisement and propagation of the swadeshi, coming out of the four walls of their houses. In Delhi alone, 1700 women were arrested for these crimes. In this way the salient feature of this movement was wide co-operation of women and farmers.

Arrest of Gandhiji

When Gandhiji made a declaration about the possession of the salt factories in Dharasana, he was confined in 1930. 5000 labourers in Bombay went on strike against it, followed by the Strike of the labourers in the Railways factories. Not only in India, but also in foreign countries, the NRIs and the Europeans opposed the arrest of Gandhiji.

Progress of the Movement

When the Civil Disobedience movement started, the government ridiculed the idea of self rule through the salt making, but the British government did not hope that the movement would proceed so successfully. The movement got an overwhelming support of the women, students, farmers, labourers, traders, and government employees of all the classes in India. Even the tribes in Maharashtra, Bihar, Assam and in the hilly areas of Kangra of Punjab made their contribution to it. Mahatma Gandhi's disciple Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan (Frontier Gandhi) challenged the British at the North-West Frontier Province. Manipur too did not lag. Queen Gaidinliu in Nagaland did this work. The people in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh etc. played an active role in this movement.

Suppression of the movement

As the movement kept on widening, the government started suppressing it mercilessly. It started dispersing the agitations and assemblies mercilessly. 2500 volunteers in Dharasana fell victims to the British attack with sticks when they climbed a salt factory. The peaceful Satyagrahis whether women or children, were beaten mercilessly by the police. Even the firing would be made at several places. More than 90000 Satyagrahis were arrested. With a view to making the movement leadershipless, the leaders like Frontier Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, C. Rajgopalachari were put into jail. In order to destroy the supporters and followers of Frontier Gandhi, bombarding was made by the British through the planes. A Gairwali Platoon refused to shoot the armless Muslims of India. Martial Law was imposed in Sholapur. The British confiscated even the agricultural land, domestic belongings and the cattle of the farmers when they refused to pay taxes, but the British government failed to suppress the movement fully. The Muslim League and its followers did not take part in the movement. On the one hand, when the government was suppressing the Indians, the British government concentrated on the constitutional changes and amendments for declining the importance of the full freedom movement. The moderate leaders of India Dr. Jayakar and Sapru tried their best to bring the Congress and the British Government closer to each other through an agreement, but no such agreement could be made. The failure of the agreement forced the British government to organise the first Round table conference on Nov. 12, 1930 which was presided over by the Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald. The delegates of the various organisations present at this conference, could not be called the representative of the Indian Public because there was no representative of the Congress among them. At this conference, Jinnah made an appeal to accept his 14 conditions. The issue of communalism was left to be resolved by the different

castes. The conference was all unsuccessful because of the non participation of the congress because it lacked the spirit of India.

Gandhi-Irwin Pact

The British government had understood by then that the Indians would accept only the congress approved reforms, therefore, for the sake of establishment of peace and for the solution of this problem, it became obligatory to get the support of congress. In order to create an environment for some agreements Gandhiji and the members of the congress executive committee were released by the government. In the Second Round Table Conference the moderate leaders Dr. Jayakar and Sapru attempted for mediation in order to ensure the participation of the congress. The pact that was made as a result of these efforts, came to be known in history as the Gandhi-Irwin pact. The pact had the following provisions-

1. Other than the political prisoners found guilty of the violent crimes, all political prisoners would be released.
2. The congress would participate in the Second Round Table conference.
3. Mahatma Gandhi would withdraw the civil disobedience movement.
4. The people living at a certain distance from the coast shall be entitled to collect salt without any tax.
5. The confiscated property of the Satyagrahis shall be given back.

Reaction against the pact

According to the pact, Gandhiji was again criticised as before for postponing the Civil Disobedience Movement. The youth was depressed and angry to the pact because no change in the sentence to death to Sardar Bhagat Singh and two of his comrades had been made. Gandhiji's only triumph was

that he was recognised as a representative of Indian public. After it in the congress Conference of Karanchi, appreciating the pact, it was said that this movement made a demonstration of the great power of non-violence and played a dominant role in awakening the public of the nation. For the government it was an important triumph because Gandhiji got ready to end the Civil Disobedience Movement which was being violent day by day.

Second Round Table Conference 1931

The Second Round Table Conference was organised in London from Sept. 07, 1931 to 1 Dec., 1931. Gandhiji attended the conference as a delegate of the congress. Gandhiji made all efforts for the communal harmony, but the British Government did not want to solve the Indian problem.

Civil Disobedience Movement (1932-34)

When Gandhiji was in London to attend the second round table conference, the Governor General started an open opposition of the Gandhi-Irwin pact, therefore, no alternative but the re-start of the Civil Disobedience Movement was left. This time the government adopted a harder method for the suppression. The police made all the atrocities on the Indians. Gandhiji was imprisoned and the congress was declared an unlawful organization. Strict restrictions were imposed on the newspapers.

The Communal Award of Mac Donald 1932

On 16th Aug., 1932 the British Prime Minister announced a communal judgement for the Indians which had the provision of separate elections not only for the Muslims and the Sikhs, but also for the Dalit castes. It was a diplomatic trick to divide the Indians and the freedom movement. Gandhiji who was in the Yerwada jail at that time, started observing fast for an indefinite period of time against it. As a result, the public of the whole nation got electrified. In a meeting with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Madan Mohan Malviya and the other

leaders requested him not to emphasise the demand for the separate electorates of the Dalits. It is a trick of the British government of causing quarrels among the Hindus. On 25 Sept., 1932, Ambedkar gave his consent on it, and signed the Pune resolution. The government too accepted it and Gandhiji ceased to observe fast.

Third Round Table Conference, 1932

It started in 1932 but Congress did not participate in it, so this conference too was a failure. Due to the excessive suppression of the government the power of the movement was weakening. So Gandhiji ended his collective movement, and in July 1933 started personal civil disobedience movement. In May 1934 the movement, without any condition was withdrawn. In June 1934, the British Government too lifted ban from congress.

Evaluation of civil Disobedience Movement :-

This movement was the second nation wide important movement. In comparison to non-co-operative movement. In this movement the public participated in a larger number. The movement founded on the issues like salt was successful beyond expectations. It reveals the increasing awareness of the Indian public. The movement included the middle class labourers and farmers. In this way, this movement was the movement of the common man. Although the congress failed to attain its goal, it succeeded in awakening and creating the spirit of nationalism. Now against the policies of the government, the public was more conscious and aware to start and restart the civil disobedience and non-violent movement. Therefore despite facing the atrocities of the police, the public did not make any violent activity. In this way the movement brought no direct profit. In it the public demonstrated its devotion and dedication. The members of different social classes openly took part in the group movement for the first time.

Individual Satyagrah and Quit India Movement :

In the meanwhile on September 1, 1939 second world war erupted. In March 1940 congress working committee declared that, 'Nothing less than complete independence would be acceptable to the people' and very soon civil disobedience movement would be started. The congress again invited Mahatma Gandhi for the guidance. At this time Gandhiji wanted to express the feelings of opposition of the Indians against the government, but did not want to take any undue benefit of the critical situation of the British government. Therefore it was decided to start Individual Civil Disobedience movement at the place of group civil disobedience. The individual civil disobedience movement was only a symbolical opposition. On the 17 Oct., 1940, the Individual Civil Disobedience Movement was started. Vinoba Bhave proved himself to be the first Satyagrahi and this movement started from Panvar. Nehru followed Vinoba Bhave, and in this way, the individual civil disobedience movement turned into a nationwide movement. Despite the fact that congress gave full authority to Gandhiji to start the movement, he used the least effective weapon. The Government sent 30000 satyagrahis to jail for the crime of the Individual Disobedience. Of them were included several great leaders like Vinoba Bhave, Nehru, Rajgopalachari, Sarojini Naidu and Aruna Asaf Ali.

Because of the Second World War, the American president requested the British government to release the satyagrahis in India and to create an environment of harmony. Therefore, the Satyagrahis were released. The congress executive committee too decided to postpone the Civil Disobedience Movement considering the war emergency.

Mahatma Gandhi gave the world-renowned slogan of 'Do or Die' while calling for Quit India Movement on August 8, 1942. On his call, the Quit India Movement became a national movement of the mass in India. It was a major part of civil disobedience

movement. Its goal was that India should be independent at the earliest. After the failure of the Cripps Mission, Mahatma Gandhi decided to run its third major mass movement against the British Government. On the evening of 8th August, 1942 in the Bombay Session of the All India Congress Committee, the movement was named 'British! Quit India'. Gandhiji was at once arrested, but youth activists across the country continued to carry out agitation through the actions of strikes and subversion operations.

All members of the Congress Working Committee were arrested before the day on 9th August, 1942 and the Congress was declared an unlawful organization. The Nightingale of India, Sarojini Naidu with Gandhiji was confined in Aga Khan Palace of Yerwada, Pune; Rajendra Prasad was detained in Patna jail and all other members in Ahmednagar's Fort. According to official statistics, 940 people were killed in this mobilization, 1630 injured, 1800 detained in DDR and 60229 were arrested. These statistics of crushing the movement were presented by the Honorable Home Member in Delhi's Central Assembly.

In the Congress, socialist members like Jayaprakash Narayan were most active in underground resistance activities. Independent government, counter-government was established in many districts like Satara in the west and Medinipur in the east. The British adopted a very strict attitude towards the movement but it took the government more than a year to suppress this rebellion.

The revolutionary slogan 'Do not die, but kill' was given by Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1942. This slogan added fuel to fire in the freedom struggle. On 9th August, 1942, the influential revolutionary Lal Bahadur Shastri gave a tremendous form to this movement. On the 9th August, Lal Bahadur Shastri was arrested on 19th August, 1942. Seeing England overindulged in the second world war, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose gave the slogan 'March to Delhi' to the Azad Hind Fauj.

The major principle

The Quit India Movement was a mass movement in which millions of common Hindus were involved. This movement attracted a large number of youth to towards it. Every young man left the study and teaching in the schools, colleges and universities, and took the path of jail. At the same time, when all the agitators were in jail, Jinnah and Muslim League and their companions were trying to propagate themselves in their areas. During these years the Muslim League got an appropriate opportunity to establish its identity and influence in Punjab and Sindh. Before this, there was no special effect of the Muslim League.

In June 1944, Gandhi was released from jail. After leaving prison, he discussed with Jinnah many times to end political discrimination between the Congress and the League. In 1945, the Labor Party government was elected in Britain. This government was favored for Indian independence. The then Viceroy Lord Wavell organized several meetings and talks for the sake of maintaining coordination and sympathy between representatives of Congress and Muslim League.

Indian Public Opinion

In early 1946 Elections were held through the new process for the provincial legislative assemblies. Congress got huge success in the general category. The Muslim League also got an overwhelming majority on seats reserved for Muslims. The process of political polarization had been completed.

In 1946, the Cabinet Mission came to India. This mission tried to persuade the Congress and Muslim League to form such a federal system in India as could ensure a limited autonomy to different provinces. But this attempt of the cabinet mission was unsuccessful. After the failure of talks and contemplation-meditation, Jinnah made an appeal for a direct action day in support of the League demand for the establishment of Pakistan

on August 16, 1946. A bloody conflict started in Calcutta on the same day. This violence spread from Calcutta to rural Bengal, Bihar and the United Provinces and Punjab. At some places, the Muslims, while at the other places the Hindus were made victims of violence and exploitation.

Foundation of Patition

In February 1947 Lord Mountbatten was appointed Viceroy to replace Wavell. They called for a final round of talks. When the attempt for reconciliation also failed, they announced that the British India would be given independence but it would also be divided. The day of August 15, 1947 was fixed for formal power transfer. On that day people made celebrations in different parts of India. In Delhi, when the Speaker of the Constituent Assembly started the meeting giving

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi the title 'Father of the Nation', there was constant clapping. The crowd outside the assembly was shouting slogans of Mahatma Gandhi.

Attainment of Independence

Mahatma Gandhi was not involved in the festivities of the 15th August 1947 in the capital. At that time, he was in Calcutta. There he neither participated in any programme nor hoisted flag anywhere. Gandhiji observed fast for 24 hours that day. The freedom that they had fought for so many days was not an unimaginable and profitable for the future. The nation of Gandhiji and our own nation was divided (India-Pakistan). The Muslims and the Hindus were beating and killing each other. The author of Gandhiji's biography D.G. Tendulkar wrote "in the months of September and October Gandhiji was giving relief to the victims, in hospitals and refugee camps. He made a passionate appeal to the Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims to forget their past and to focus on their brotherhood towards each other rather than concentrate on their suffering.

Secularism

On Gandhi's influence and insistence, Nehru passed a resolution on the rights of minorities from the Congress. Gandhiji never accepted the two nation theory. Even when India had to accept the partition against its will, Gandhiji had a firm belief that India is a country of many religions and many races, and it should be maintained like this. India will be a democratic secular nation where all citizens will get complete rights. Without discrimination on the basis of religion, everyone will have the right to protection from the state. The Congress assured that it would protect the infringement of the minorities' civil rights in every possible way. From the current political and socially unbalanced atmosphere in Pakistan the great cult of the holistic goal of absolutism and the all-round development the Indians can be traced.

Important Questions

Objective questions

1. When did the Chauri-Chauri scandal occur?
(A) September 4, 1920
(B) 4th Feb., 1922
(C) 8 August 1942
(D) 6 December 1922
2. When did Mahatma Gandhi initiate the Non-Cooperation Movement?
(A) September 1920
(B) 8 August 1942
(C) March 13, 1922
(D) 26 Nov. 1949
3. Who gave the revolutionary slogan "Do not die, but kill"?
(A) Lal Bahadur Shastri

- (B) Mahatma Gandhi
- (C) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (D) Savarkar

4. When did the Kankori scandal occur?
 - (A) 9th August, 1925 (B) 9th August, 1942
 - (C) 14 August 1947 (D) January 26, 1950
5. Which slogan did Gandhiji give on August 8, 1942?
 - (A) Delhi
 - (B) Do or die
 - (C) The British left India
 - (D) B and S

Very short questions

1. Explain the meaning of non-cooperation movement.
2. What is the Chauri-Chaura incident? Explain.
3. Where did the Jallianwala Bagh massacre take place?
4. What bans are associated with Rowlatt Act?
5. When did Prince of Wales come to India?
6. What was Young India?
7. What is the importance of August 9, 1942?
8. Who gave the slogan "Do not die but kill"?
9. Who gave the slogan "Move to Delhi"?
10. Who gave the slogan "Do or die"?
11. Who is called the Nightingale of India?
12. When did the Cabinet Mission come to India?
13. Who addressed Gandhiji with the title of Father of the Nation?

Short Questions-

1. Explain the meaning of non-cooperation movement.
2. Throw light on the Chauri Chaura scandal.

3. What was the Rowlett Act? Give details.
4. What did Gandhiji do in Kheda and Ahmedabad.
5. Write short note on Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
6. What was the Khilafat movement?
7. Explain Gandhiji's Swaraj.
8. Whose biography was written by Louis Fitcher?
9. Where and when did the Prince of Wales come to India?
10. Write short note on Young India.
11. Write the meaning of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
12. Explain the Kankori scandal.
13. Write short note on the Cabinet Mission.
14. When was Lord Mountbatten appointed Viceroy of India?
15. Under what scheme was the division of India made?

Essay type Questions

1. Describe Gandhiji's role in Non-Cooperation Movement.
2. Analyze the role of Gandhiji in the Quit India movement.
3. Explain the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
4. Explain the Chauri-Chaura scandal.
5. Explain the role of Gandhiji in the Indian National Movement.

Answers (Objective Questions) :

1 (B), 2 (A), 3 (A) 4 (A), 5 (D)