

## Chapter-6

# National Movement of Modern India

### Social Movement

The British administrative system impressed amongst Indian society. There was a reaction Indians against the spread of British rule and colonial culture. A new movement was started in Indian social and cultural life in the early half of 19<sup>th</sup> century, which came to be known as Indian Renaissance. While on one hand, efforts were made to put an end to orthodox and beliefs conventions which had crept in socio-religious spheres', with time and on the other, spirit of self-respect was in the minds of Indians by revealing India's glorious past and history. Due to interrelation between social behaviour and religious beliefs, religious reforms were necessary for social change. Social reformers challenged these age long conventions on the basis of logic, practices and reason. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, for instance, in order to ban Sati system, apprised people that this custom did not enjoy any religious approval in the past. Dayanand Saraswati, too, opposed caste system based on birth, on the basis of Vedic texts.

Social reformers were influenced by liberalism and humanitarianism.. The core of social reforms was the educated intellectual middle class. They tried to arouse India by searching for the reasons behind her backwardness and misery. Efforts to reform society and religion were carried out by Brahma Samaj, Arya Samaj and Ram Krishna Mission etc. Following are the main reasons for the rise of social movements:

1. With the advent of British traders, Christian priests and missionaries also started coming to India in a large number. They started converting Indians to Christianity by criticizing Hindu religion Socio-religious movements were considered essential to

protect religion and culture. Efforts were made to eradicate vices from Indian society and prevent these conversions.

2. European scholars like William Jones, Max Muller etc. after studying Indian history religion and literature, declared Indian civilization as the greatest civilization in the world. The Asiatic Society of Bengal undertook the mission to translate many ancient Indian scriptures into English language. A Feeling of self respect and self pride was evoked among the Indians with this knowledge of a proud past.

3. Spread of western culture filled the Indians with doubt. They made efforts to save India from the influence of the western culture. Social reforms inspired the Indian religion and culture.

4. Newspapers and magazines played an important part in Indian renaissance. News of the misbehaviour of the British towards Indians was published. These reforms aroused awareness in society through news papers etc.

5. There was a rise of English educated middle class. They propagated social equality and unity among the Indians by imparting knowledge to them of social changes in western society prevalent at that time.

### Brahma Samaj and Raja Ram Mohan Roy:

The social and religious reform movement from Bengal started in 19<sup>th</sup> century under the leadership of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. He is known as the pioneer of new consciousness, of Indian renaissance, founder of reform movement and Father of Modern Bharat. He had faith in the basic tenets and philosophy of Hindu religion and wanted



to abolish hypocrisy and unnecessary ostentations which had crept into the Indian society and religion over the years. He wanted resurrection of India-socially culturally, politically and religiously by implementing principles of scientific attitude, human dignity, social equality etc. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was born in a Brahmin zamindar family of Radhanagar in Bengal. He deeply studied Hindu, Islamic, Christian religions and their important scriptures. He was a multilingual person with knowledge of English, French German, Latin and Hebrew languages. He initially served with East India Company but resigned later on. To spread his ideas, he wrote *Gift to Monotheists* and *'Precepts of Jesus'* His another work *'Tuhfal-ul-Muhiddin'* was in Persian language. He also published newspapers like *Merat-ul-Akhbar* (Persian), *Samvad Kaumudi* (Bengali) and *Bangdoot* (Hindi).

He founded *Amitya Sabha* in Calcutta in 1814, *Vedanta College* in Kolkata in 1825 and *Brahma Samaj* in Kolkata in 1828 to spread these ideas. *Brahma Sabha* later on came to be known as *Brahmo Samaj*. *Devendra Nath Tagore*, father of *Rabindra Nath Tagore*, was inspired by him and established "*Tatva Bodhini Sabha*" in 1839. After Raja Ram Mohan Roy, he resurrected the *Brahmo Samaj* in 1843. *Keshav Chandra Sen* further made it popular. Tagore wanted to run the institution on principles of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, while *Keshav Chandra Sen* allowed recitation of scriptures of all religions in the *Samaj*. The latter also took deep interest in social reforms which resulted in differences between the two leaders. *Brahma Samaj* was eventually divided into two factions, the one under Tagore was known as "*Adi Brahma Samaj*" *Keshav Chandra Sen* had emphatically opposed child marriage but himself married away his 13 year old daughter to an aged ruler of *Kooch Bihar*. It offended some of his followers who called themselves progressive and they alienated themselves from *Indian Brahma Samaj*. They founded '*Sadharana Brahma Samaj*'. Raja Ram Mohan Roy and *Brahma Samaj* did exemplary work in field of religion and education.

### Social Reforms

Raja Ram Mohan Roy and *Brahma Samaj* opposed evil practices in Indian society. He tried to

prove that many social conventions were against the original Hindu religion as proven through ancient texts. He opposed caste system, untouchability, sati, polygamy, Child Marriage, *Purdah* etc. He led the movement against the practice of sati and tried to prove that this custom had no religious sanctity. He emphasized that a logical human being can never approve of such a practice. He tried to create public opinion against it through newspapers and magazines. As a result of his efforts, the British Governor General *Lord Bentinck*, in 1829 made a law and declared the practice as illegal. Courts were directed to treat such cases as cases of homicides and punish the culprits accordingly. In the beginning, this Act was applicable only in Bengal. It was further extended to *Bombay* and *Madras* presidencies in 1830. Raja Ram Mohan Roy and *Brahma Samaj* also supported widow remarriage to uplift the position of women. They advocated for her financial rights and made efforts for her education. *Brahma Samaj* founded a girls' school.

### Religious Reforms

Raja Ram Mohan Roy advocated monotheism. With his knowledge of *Vedas* and *Upanishads*, tried to prove that the original Hindu scriptures support monotheism. He opposed useless rituals and ostentations. He believed that the *Vedanta* philosophy is based on logic. He believed that if any philosophy, tradition is not true on the touchstone of logic, people should not hesitate to abandon it. He also criticised blind belief in Christianity. He believed in fundamental unity of all sects and traditions of the world.

### Political View

Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a supporter of political liberalism. He contributed in creating political consciousness among the Indians. Credit goes to him for initiating movement on political issues. He advocated for Indianization of senior services, separation of judiciary and executive, equality of justice between Indian and European. Taking interest in interventional events, he supported National Movements of other parts of the world for liberty and democracy *Mughal emperor Akbar II* sent him to England. He was the first Indian to be consulted by the British Parliament on Indian



matters.

### Economic Views

He tried to rescue the common man from economic exploitation, stood against exploitation of farmers by the zamindars of Bengal.

### Contribution Towards Education

Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a supporter of western education system and education in English medium. He believed that modern education was essential for the spread of modern thought. He encouraged English education by establishing schools and college in Calcutta. He translated Vedas and Upanishads in Bangla language, compiled Bangla grammar and did an exemplary work in Journalism. He is known as the pioneer of Indian Journalism.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy and his Brahma Samaj made efforts to bring forward unity and equality in Hindu religion and society by putting an end to the prevalent ill-practices. He encouraged nationalism by awakening political consciousness and protected Hindu religion and society from the missionary zeal of Christianity.

Brahmo Samaj brought forward, for the first time, very effectively the maladies of Indian society. It created an intellectual atmosphere.

After getting inspiration from Keshav Chandra Sen and Brahma Samaj, Atmaram Pandurang formed 'Prarthana Samaj' in 1867. in Bombay, Maharashtra. R.G. Bhandarkar and Mahadev Govind Ranade were its important members. Efforts to reform society carried by Brahma Samaj were taken up by the Prarthana Samaj in Maharashtra.

### Arya Samaj and Dayanand Saraswati

Rise of Arya samaj was a reaction against interference of western ideology and British rule. Arya Samaj was different from its contemporary movements. It worked principally for reforms in Hindu religion and society. Its aim was to reestablish Hindu religion in its true form, as it prevailed in

ancient Vedic religion. Its founder Dayanand Saraswati was born in 1824 C.E. in a Brahman



**Raj Ram Mohan Rai**



**Dayanand Saraswati**

family of Tankara in Maurvi, Gujrat. His childhood name was Moolshankar. His father Abma Shankar was a scholar of Vedas. Dayanand was thoughtful since childhood. He became a disciple of Vajrananda. He travelled throughout the country and held discussions with the scholars. On advice of Bengali social reformer, Keshav Chandra Sen, he started propagating his ideas in Hindi language in place of Sanskrit and expressed his views in the book 'Satyarth Prakash'. He laid foundation of Arya Samaj in Bombay in 1875 and framed its principles and rules which were revised in 1877 in Lahore. Dayanand Saraswati and Arya Samaj served the nation in the following ways:-

### Social Reforms

Arya Samaj talked of social equality and equanimity while working for social reforms. It gave acceptance to varna system based on actions rather than birth, opposed caste system and untouchability, tried to improve women's condition and strived to banish several ill practices like child marriage, purdah system, dowry, polygamy etc. It made efforts to uplift the position of widows and established many widow ashrams. It talked of gender equality and worked for female education. Dayanand Saraswati expounded, on the basis of Vedas, that sudras and women are not denied the right to study Vedas and wear yajnopaveet (the sacred thread). Arya Samaj was of the belief that practices, traditions and conventions not accepted by the Vedas, should be shunned by the society.



### Religious Views and Reforms

Dayanand Saraswati not only made efforts to liberate Hindu religion from its ills but also highlighted the ills of Christianity and Islam. He considered Vedas to be the fundamental structure of Hindu religion. Keeping faith in pure Vedic tradition, he raised the slogan, 'Back to Vedas'. He considered the Vedas to be inspired by God. He firmly advocated that the Vedic mantras should be interpreted in a logical manner. He argued that since the language of the Vedas is very old, commentaries written on them may not be accurate and literal. Dayanand opposed polytheism, anthropomorphism, idol worship, sacrifices, rituals and superstitions. The supreme being formless, omnipotent and omnipresent. Through 'Shuddhi Movement', Arya Samaj readmitted the converted Hindus into their original fold.

### Political Views

Propagating self rule, Dayanand Saraswati said that while a foreign rule may be good, it cannot be beneficial. A bad self rule is far better than a good subordination. He was the first to use the word 'Swarajya' (self rule) and talked of mother tongue (swabhasha) and self Religious (Swadharma).

### Education

Arya Samaj's contribution to education is exemplary. After Dayanand's demise, Dayanand Anglo Vedic School was founded in 1886 in Lahore which was later promoted to Dayanand Anglo Vedic College in 1889. Dayanand Anglo Vedic institutions were gradually set up all over India. Differences later popped up on issue of imparting education through western style. To promote Vedic style of teaching, Gurukul was founded in 1902 in Kangri, near Haridwar. Both, DAV institutions and Gurukul Kangri, raised the spirit of self pride amongst the Indians by exposing merits and achievements of Indian culture. Efforts were made to eradicate superstitions and ill practices through these educational institutions. Apart from this, Arya Samaj also made efforts to establish Hindi as national language.

### Ram Krishna Mission and Swami Vivekanand

The founder of Ram Krishna Mission,

Swami Vivekanand was born on January 12, 1863 in Calcutta. His childhood name was Narendra Nath Dutt. His mother was Bhuvneshvari Devi and father was Vishwanath Dutt. Vivekanand was a graduate from Calcutta University. He came in contact with Ram Krishna Paramhansa due to his religious and spiritual quest. Ram Krishna Paramhansa was a priest of Dakshineswar Temple and had firm faith in Hindu religion. He emphasized on self-less devotion to attain god and believed in fundamental unity of all sects and creeds. Influenced by this thought, Vivekanand became his disciple. In 1886, after the death of Paramhansa, Vivekanand became an ascetic. He visited different parts of the country and studied religious texts deeply. With cooperation from the ruler of Khetri, he went to participate in World Religion Parliament held in 11 September 1893, in Chicago, America. There, he opened his world famous speech as, 'Brothers and Sisters'. He expounded the importance of Indian culture and religion in a very impressive way and proved the intellectual, spiritual and religious richness of India. 'New York Herald reported' 'Vivekanand is undoubtedly the greatest figure in the Parliament of Religions. After hearing him we feel how foolish it is to send missionaries to this learned nation'. Vivekanand propagated Hindu religion and culture in his further visits to America and Europe and founded Vedant Society in New York in 1896.

On 5 May, 1897, he founded Ram Krishna Mission in Belur. Its branches were opened in various parts of India and abroad. Vivekanand propagated his views through this Mission. Teachings of Ram Krishna Mission are mainly based on Vedanta philosophy.

### Social Views and Works

He opposed religious narrowness and ill practices, prevalent in contemporary Indian society. He advocated equality and opposed casteism. He was of the belief that socio religious traditions and beliefs should be accepted only when they are logical. He also professed rights of women. He wanted to put an end to poverty and ignorance. He said, "Till crores of people are hungry and ignorant, I consider that every person a traitor who gains education at their expense, but does not care



for them. To make his view popular, the Mission attached importance to social service and charity. Due to its humanitarian outlook, the Mission became very popular. It opened many schools, colleges, hospitals orphanages and carried out social service through them. It extended support and help to people during famines, floods etc.

### Religious Views

Vivekanand had firm faith in Hindu religion and philosophy. He put forward the basic tenets and fundamentals of Hindu religion and culture along with its qualities before people. He described soul as part of the Supreme Being. He believed that service of the poor and down trodden is also a form of worship to god. Ram Krishna Mission considers service of man as service to god. 'Nara Seva, Narayan Seva' is their motto.



**Swami Vivekanand**

### National Views

Swami Vivekanand contributed in a very significant way to development of nationalism by evolving self confidence and self respect among Indians. This feeling inspired the youth to participate in Indian National Movement. He showed the youth a new direction by talking of liberty, equality and independent thinking. He said, "Rise, Awake and Stop not till the goal is reached." He was touched by India's backwardness, downfall and poverty and opposed blind following of the

West. He gave importance to spiritual development. He believed that a good human being is the basis of all development. He did a commendable job by spreading Hindu religion and philosophy around the world. He propagated old pride of India and talked of an education which would build strong character. Courage and bravery of Humans will inspire to abandon wrong choices. He wrote to Maharaja of Khetri, "Every initiative has to pass three stages-derision, resistance and acceptance. A person who thinks ahead of his times is always misunderstood. But one should be firm and pious with unshaking faith in god."

Theosophical Society was founded in 1875 by an American military officer H.S. Alcot and a Russian lady Helen Petrovna Blavatsaki. in New York, America. Its main aim was to promote humanity and contribute towards ancient religion, philosophy and scientific knowledge. It showed acceptance to ancient Indian religion and philosophy.

'Young Bengal' Movement was led by Henry William Derozio who professed equality and liberty. He insisted on adopting logical and righteous attitude and asked people to shun ostentations.

Akali Movement was prominent in leading reforms in Punjab in 1920-21. Its main aim was to bring reforms in management of Gurudwara.

Apart from these social movements, there were reform movements in Muslims and Persian communities. The founder of Ahmadiya Movement was Ghulam Ahmed Kadiyani. Kadian town of Gurdaspur district of Punjab was the centre of this movement. It emphasized on reestablishing Islamic laws and opposing western influence. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan led a movement in Aligarh which came to be known as Aligarh Movement. He advocated adoption of modern western education. Among the Persian reform movements, Rehnumaye Majdayasan Sabha was prominent. It was founded with the efforts of Dada Bhai Naroji, S.S. Bengali, Naroji Fardonji etc. It opposed ostentations prevalent in Parsi society. Many laws were framed with the help of these movements. In 1829 Sati was declared illegal and in 1856 Hindu Widow Remarriage Act was framed. Ishwar Chand



Vidyasagar's role was prominent in Widow Remarriage Act. He proved the Vedas gave sanction to widow remarriage. He ran a signature campaign in support of widow remarriage. D.K. Karve opened a widows home in 1899 in Poona and a Indian Women University in 1906 in Bombay.

In 1872, Civil Marriage Act was passed, through efforts of Keshav Chandra Sen, which prohibited marriage of girls below 14 years and boys below 18 years of age. An Act to prohibit Child Marriage was passed in parliament in 1891 mainly due to the efforts of Parsi religious reformer B.M. Malbari, The Act came to be known as "Sammati Aayu Adhiniyami" In 1930, Sarda Act was passed prohibiting child with the marriage due to efforts of H.B. Sarda.

Thus, various social reform movements made an important impact on different aspects of life: social, religious, political economic etc. and created a new awareness.

### **Jyotirao Govindrao Phule-**

Great social reformer, philosopher and revolutionary activist was born on 11th April 1827 at Poona District Maharashtra. His wife Savitri Bai Phule was too a great social activist. She is regarded as first woman teacher. Phule couple most know for their efforts to educate women, lower cast people and oppressed class. They worked for widow remarriage and improve farmers conditions. Phule couple started a school in 1848. Then two more schools were open in sequence. On 24 September 1873, Phule along with his followers, formed the Satya Shodhak Samaj. (Society seekers of truth). he was the author of two books namely :- 'Sarwanjanik Dharma' and 'Gulamgiri'. Phule couple belonged to the Mali cast (Agriculture Work) traditionally occupied as gardener and considered to be one of the "Shudhra Varna" in the natural ranking system of Hinduism. Therefore they faced lots of troubles which was created by higher class society and higher class society forced their parents to leave their home. After this sad incident of ostracised their friend Usman Sheikh and his sister Fatima Sheikh provided them their home to stay. Usman and Fatima also help to start the school in their premises. later

the Phule started schools for children from the untouchable cast such as mahar and many. It is said that Savitri Bai often travelled to her school carrying an extra Sari because she would be assailed by her conservative opposition with stones, dust and verbal abuse. But they have your goal finally in Phule couple of improvement towards. Dalit uplifting work in the service Fatima Sheikh and her brother Usman Sheikh continued with are. Fatima worked lifelong for the education of Muslim woman. Fatima as also known as the first Muslim woman teacher.

### **Periyar E.V. Ramasamy-**

Erode Venkatappa Ramasamy Periyar (17th September 1879 - 24th December 1973) was born in higher traditional kind family. He was the prominent political leader and Indian social activist of 20th century. In Tamilnadu he organized justice party. This party was against to radical Hindus and only to teaching Hindi as compulsory. In beginning Periyar adopted his family profession to deliver religious sermon and religious songs (Bhajan). The knowledge he received in this center. He experienced that there are contradictory things in the epics and mythologies question the authenticity of the authenticity. Periyar was an atheist throughout his life. he characterized the Varma system, child marriage, Devdasi tradition and people who argue against the protest of widow marriages, against the exploitation of Dalits. In 1904 E.V. Ramasamy went on a pilgrimage to Kashi to visit the Shiva temple of Kashi Vishwanath. However a particular incident in Kashi had profound impact on E.V. Ramasamy's ideology and future work. At the worship site there were free meals offered to guests, which exclusively fed to Brahmins. After this incident his views changed and he became an atheist. He started to oppose Varma system of Hindu religion system and traditions of child marriage, Devdasi system and those people who argue against the protest of widow marriages, against the exploitation of Dalits. E.V. Ramasamy joined the Indian National Congress in 1919, he led the Vaikom Satyagrah movement was struggling to remove the ban on the roads leading to



the temples. Although Pariyer leave the congress party. But his social activist movement was continuous especially to improve the condition of Dalits.

## Revolutionary Movements

### Tribal Resistance

There were many revolts prior to and after the revolt of 1857. Tribal resistance was led by local tribal community led by Kol, Bhil, Santhal, Munda in their respective territories.

The British had to face this resistance at various places. The tribal society was adversely affected by changes in revenue system, administrative and judicial systems after the establishment of British rule. The communities were exploited by police and administration. Under these new system contractors, traders, money lenders etc. started to act as middlemen for the British. The produce of the forests were restricted by control over the forests. Taxes were levied on them. They were bound to provide forced labour (Begar). Christian missionaries began to infiltrate in these areas. The agitated tribals struggled with the British government. When the colonial rule started suppressing these sentiments, the resistance turned into armed revolts.

The tribals never confronted with each other, neither they led any confrontation with sections of society which was closely associated with their economy like ironsmith, carpenter, potter, weaver, barber etc.

Chuar Khasi, Singo, Nagar, Kuki, Khond, Santhal, Munda, Bhumij revolted in East India. Bhils, Ramosis revolted in West India. Kora Malya & Kond Dora tribals rose in South Indian.

### Khasi Revolt

The tribe of Khasi, residing in hilly areas near Assam, revolted in 1829. The British started constructing road which passed through their area. The tribals were forcibly recruited to work for this project which led to resentment. The Khasis revolted under Tirat Singh but were forcibly crushed by the British.

### Kol Revolt

They were dissatisfied with the British administrative system, their policy of exploitation, harsh land revenue system and behaviour of their

local authorities. Thus, revolt which started in 1831 from Chhota Nagpur, soon spread to Ranchi, Hajaribagh, Palamu, Manbhumi, etc.

### Bhumij Revolt

This tribe revolted in Virbhum and Jangal Mahal in 1832 under Ganga Narayan.

### Dhond Revolt

In 1846 this tribe revolted under the leadership of Chand Bisai near boundaries of Orissa.

### Santhal Revolt

The Santhal tribe raised their voice against the British rule. The area from Bhagalpur to Raj Mahal was a Santhal majority area. Their revolt mainly spread to Virbhum, Bankura, Singhbhum, Hajaribagh, Bhagalpur and Munger. The main cause of the revolt was the policy of colonial exploitation. Extraction of exorbitant land revenue, injustice from English courts, atrocities and corruption of police, exploitation by money lenders, problem of debt mainly led to revolt.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 1855, thousands of santhals gathered on Bhaginideeh and resolved to establish a State based on justice and religion in place of foreign rule. Their main leaders were Siddhu & Kanhu. They declared themselves free, declaring the end of the British rule. The leaders claimed that they were sent by god for this work. Every village was sent plates made with leaves (Pattal), sundried rice, oil and turmeric stating that their use will enhance self respect and courage. They attacked the symbolic structures of colonial rule like police stations etc. and looted the rich. Army was called in to suppress them. Siddhu was arrested in 1855 and was killed. In February 1856, Kanhu was captured. Thus the Santhal revolt came to an end in 1856.



Siddhu

Kanhu

Birsa Munda



### **Munda Revolt**

The Munda tribe revolted in 1899-1900 under Birsa Munda. The revolt took place in south of Ranchi. Tribals revered Munda as God. He goaded them for armed revolt against British officials, Christian priests, contractors and Jagirdars. The Mundas attacked Churches and the police. In June 1900, Munda died.

### **Ramosi Revolt**

Amongst the tribal revolts in western India, Chitar Singh led the Ramosi revolt near Satara. He was agitated due to British administrative system.

### **Bhil Revolt**

In 1825 Sevaram led the Bhil revolt. Changes in agricultural system led to dissatisfaction among the Bhils. The British authorities sent police force to suppress them.

### **Kora Malya Revolt**

It broke out in 1900 in south India and was anti-imperialist in nature. Kora Malya declared himself as one of the Pandavas and claimed to possess power to turn bamboos into guns and guns into water. He collected 5000 people and attacked the police station. He also declared that he had driven out the British.

A movement started in Godawari agency against forest regulations and excise. The agitators called themselves as army of Lord Rama and one of the leaders, Rajan Anantayya, claimed himself to be an incarnation of Lord Rama.

### **Konda Dora Revolt**

Tortured by the atrocities of the British government and exploitation of the people, Muthadars (head) of the tribe of Konda Dora revolted. The tribe resided in the mountains of Krishnadeva petta of Vishakapattanam district. It revolted in 1922 under the leadership of the ascetic Ramaraja. Its main leaders were Gautam Dora, Mallu Dora, Angiraj, Eang Dora etc. They murdered British commander Scott and Heitarson. Ramaraja wrote to the president of Koknad Congress session in 1923 that if they were provided thousands of guns, they would end the British rule. These tribes planned to revolt and form a parallel government in Orissa and Andhra. The British government ruthlessly suppressed this revolt in 1924.

Gautam Dora was killed. Ramaraja surrendered in wake of increasing police atrocities but he was shot dead while in custody.

The British officials were armed with modern weapons and received armed help from other quarters, while the tribals fought with bows, arrows, axes, etc. The tribals exhibited exemplary courage with their self confidence. Traders and moneylenders were also attacked. Though the revolts were suppressed but the resistance proved that the tribals were not ready to accept this exploitation. Though these revolts were restricted to certain areas, they forced the British authorities to pay attention to these pockets. Many land reforms were introduced thereafter. Chhota Nagpur Tenancy Act was passed in 1908.

## **Revolutionary Groups and their Activities**

In the revolutionary events that took place in India and abroad, Abhinav Bharat, Anusheelan Samiti, Gadar Party, Hindusthan Socialist Republican Party, Azad Hind Fauj (I.N.A.) etc. played important part in India. Maharashtra, Bengal and Punjab were important centres. London in England, Berlin in Germany and Tokyo in Japan were important centres abroad. These revolutionary movements sought cooperation from Indian army. Cooperation from anti-British foreign powers were also sought, for example, Gadar Party took help of Germany and Azad Hind Fauj sought help from Japan to uproot British rule in India.

In 1905, Shyamji Krishna Verma founded 'India House' in London. It became a centre of revolutionary movement for Indians residing in India. He also started a newspaper 'Indian Sociologist'. Many revolutionaries like Savarkar (leader of Abhinav Bharat), Lala Hardayal (leader of Gadar Party) and Madan Lal Dhingra became its members. Shyamji Krishna Verma is called 'father of revolutionaries', S.R. Rana and Mrs Bhikaji Rustam Kama were active in Paris.

### **Abhinav Bharat**

"Mitra Mela" organization was founded in 1899 in Nasik to celebrate Ganapati festival. Out of this organization, rose a secret society known as 'Abhinav Bharat' under the leadership of Savarkar.



Its aim was to liberate India from foreign authority.

It spread revolutionary ideas through Ganapati and Shivaji festival initiated by Tilak. It prepared youth against the British by giving them physical training. Its branches were opened in Poona and Mumbai and were even extended to Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. Abhinav Bharat collected arms from abroad. Savarkar sent arms to India from London, Pandurang Mahadev Bapat was sent to London by Abhinav Bharat to learn to make bombs. He procured a copy of Russian book 'Bomb Manual' and translated it into English. Abhinav Bharat made relations with many secret organizations.

### **Curzon Wylie Murder Case**

In 1909 C.E., Madan Lal Dhingra murdered Curzon Wylie. Dhingra had gone to London from Amritsar to study engineering. He was agitated due to atrocities of Wylie on Indians. Curzon Wylie was the A.D.C. to the Secretary of the State. Vir Savarkar opposed the condemnation of Dhingra in the mourning meeting of Wylie.

### **Savarkar**

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar stands foremost among the revolutionary leaders of Indian freedom movement. He inspired the youth to participate in revolutionary activities against the British. He was born on 28 May 1883 in Bhagur (Maharashtra) and completed his higher education from Fergusson College, Pune. Here he came into contact with the nationalist leader, Tilak. He protested against the mourning assembly held for Queen Victoria. He declared the coronation assembly of Edward VII as celebration of slavery and treachery against the country and community.

In 1906, he went to London where he spread the spirit of patriotism by organizing anniversary celebrations and symposium on great Men of India in "India House". He declared the revolt of 1857 as the "First War of Independence". He wrote "The Indian War of Independence" which was banned by the British government. The book, however, reached India under different titles like 'The Pickwick Papers', 'Scotts' Papers'.

### **Nasik Conspiracy Case**

The District Magistrate of Nasik, Jackson

was murdered on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1909 by Anant Laxman. This case came to be known as Nasik Conspiracy Case. Anant Laxman, Krishngi Gopal Karve and Vinayak Narayan Deshpande were hanged on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1911.

Browning pistol was used for the murder which was sent from London. Savarkar was arrested and was deported to India. But he escaped on the way, by jumping into the ocean. He was, however, caught. After being tried for Nasik Conspiracy Case, he was sent to cellular Jail of Andaman in December 1910. Sentenced for life; he was tortured by the jail authorities.

He became ill due to the hard work. These suffering from the upset are in the government before the mercy petition sent- First mercy petition was sent on 30th August 1911, second was on 4th November 1913. In this letter Savarkar mentioned himself as a 'Prodigal son'. He mentioned in his letter that he was ready to serve the government in any capacity they like, his third mercy petition was sent in 1917 & fourth mercy petition was on 1st February 1918 after this petition. In 1920 the Indian national Congress and leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar and Patel demanded his unconditional release. In 1924 British government accepted Savarkar's mercy petition & released him from Solikar Jail and 2nd May 1921 under stringent restrictions & sent to Ratangiri and later to the Yerwada Central Jail. The restriction was that he will not participate in politics up to five years. After finally released from jail in 1924 he joined Hindu Mahasabha in 1937 he became president of Hindu Mahasabha. Savarkar compared keeping India to be a Hindu Nation. At the time of second world war he asked Hindus to stay active in the work effort & not disobey the government he gave slogan "Hinduize all political and Military Hinduism." Savarkar urged Hindus to enlist in the armed forces to learn the art of war.

When Congress launched the Quit India Movement in 1942, Savarkar criticized it. He also assailed the British proposal for transfer of power. Assassination of Mahatma Gandhi on 30th January 1948. Savarkar was also arrested on 7th February 1948. He was charged with the murder conspiracy to murder and abetment to murder. But due to lack of evidence Savarkar was acquitted.



Revolutionary activities continued in Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab etc.

### Delhi Conspiracy Case

On 23 December 1912 a bomb was thrown on Viceroy Hardinge in Chandani Chowk. The Viceroy escaped. The main culprit of the case, Ras Bihari Bose, could not be apprehended. Amir Chandra, Avadh Bihari, Bal Mukund and Basant Kumar were hanged in this case, while Hardayal went to London.

### Gadar Party

America was a major center of revolutionary activities abroad. Indians residing in America and Canada realized that they were being discriminated against due to colonial status of India. Many Indians, specially from Punjab, had migrated to U.S.A. or Canada through their hard labour in the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, but did not get recognition.

A major center of Indian revolutionaries in America was Portland. Here Sohan Singh Brakhana founded. "Hindusthan Association of the Pacific Coast", which aimed at protecting rights of the Indians and spread political consciousness to assist India in gaining independence. This organization, later came to be known as "Gadar Party, To lead the Gadar Movement, Lala Hardayal formed the Gadar Party in San Francisco, America. Sohan Singh Bhakhna was its president and Lala Hardayal was its minister other prominent members included Kashiram, Bhai Parmanand, Kartar Singh Sarowa, Ram Chandra etc. The Party had two portfolios, first publicity department and second, military department. Hardayal was in charge of the first while the second was headed by Pandurang Khankhoje. Hardayal and his associates published the paper "Gadar" from San Francisco, initially in Gurmukhi and Urdu and later on, in Gujarati and Hindi. It tried to gather support for Indian Freedom Movement in America and inspired people to contribute to it. For the first time, it planned for a guerrilla warfare. The migrated youth were recruited during the First World War. In the First World War, the Indian armies sided with the Allies and fought wars in Europe. Taking advantage of this

situation, the leaders of Gadar Party planned a revolt in India. They secretly influenced Indian army and instigated them to stand up against foreign rule. They procured weapons and looted government treasury. Ram Chandra a leader of this party, addressed the youth, who were going back to India, to spread the revolt in every corner. You will be provided arms once you reach there. If you can't procure them, loot the police station. Follow your leaders without any hesitation.

With the beginning of Ist World War in August 1914 revolutionaries contacted the ruler of Germany for assistance in India's freedom. Lala Hardayal from America, Jitendra Nath Lahiri, Bhupendra Nath Dutt, Taraknath etc. were sent to Berlin. Bhagwan Singh of Gadar Party was assigned the responsibility of organizing and conducting revolutionary activities in S.E. Asia.

### Kamagatamaru Incident (1914)

Kamagatamaru was a ship hired by Gurudatt from Hong Kong. It reached Vancouver, Canada via Hong Kong, Shanghai and Yakohama. On its arrival, the Canadian government refused its entry and reverted it. It started from Vancouver on 23 July 1914 and reached Budgebuded port of Calcutta on 29 September 1914. The government wanted to send all its passengers to Punjab which resulted in a skirmish between the passengers and the police. Around 20 passengers were killed.

Copies of 'Gadar' the chief newspaper of Gadar Party were found in this ship. According to report, of the British government there was a conspiracy to send arms when the ship anchored in Vancouver. Members of Gadar Party opposed this incident which triggered anti British sentiment among the Indians.



Savarkar



Lala Hardyal



### **Singapore Revolt (February 1915)**

This revolt was caused by the Gadar Party. Mool Chand was sent to Singapore for this purpose. It was decided that Indian soldiers will liberate the German prisoners after the revolt. Later on, the Indian and German soldiers would collectively capture Malaya and drive out the British from East Asia. The German soldiers would further assist in Indian revolt. The Indian soldiers freed all the German soldiers but the latter did not cooperate further according to the plan. Thus the conspiracy to attack the British with German help failed.

Gadar Party sent Agase and Pandurang Khankhoje to Iran. They disguised themselves to procure arms from Baluchistan. Pramath Nath Dutt, Agase were made prisoner. Khamkhoje joined Indian army and fought against the British.

### **Lahore Armed Revolt (21 February 1915)**

Ras Bihari Bose fixed the date of this revolt as 21<sup>st</sup> February 1915 in army. The British authorities believed that at least 8000 Indians came to Punjab from abroad to make the revolt successful. The main leaders like Kartar Singh Sarawa were arrested while Ras Bihari Bose managed to escape.

A special case was filed under Indian Securities Act. This case become popular as "First Lahore Conspiracy Case" in which Kartar Singh, Vishnu Pingle etc. were hanged. Another attempt for revolt was made in America, This case was known as 'First case of San Francisco'. The Gadar Party was accused of forming a committee in Berlin, purchase of arms, recruitment of people for India and organized conspiracy of revolt in India.

Gadar Party tried for liberation of India through Indian army and spreading revolt among people. It tried to adopt guerrilla warfare, cooperate with Indian army and procure foreign assistance:

### **Interim Government in Kabul**

Raja Mahendra Pratap too tried to liberate India with the help of Germany. In December 1915, an interim government of India was formed in

Kabul whose president was Mahendra Pratap and Prime Minister was Mohammad Barkatullah. It had direct diplomatic relations with Afghanistan.

### **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association**

The revolutionary activities which started in the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> Century slowed down with the end of First World War. Ras Bihari Bose went to Japan, Sachindra Nath Sanyal was awarded life sentence in 1915 in Benaras Conspiracy Case. The youth began to participate in the non cooperation movement started by Gandhi. When he withdrew the movement, the youth was again attracted towards revolutionary activities. Sanyal organized them after his release from prison. A conference of revolutionaries was organized in Kanpur in October 1924. Hindustan Republican Association was formed through efforts of Sanyal. Its main leaders were Manmath Nath Gupta, Ram Prasad Bismil, Yogesh Chatterji, Chandra Shekhar Azad. The organization aimed at defeating the British empire through armed revolt. It recruited the youth and gave them military training. Its military wing was known as Republican Army, The Party published its paper 'Revolutionary' in 1924. Later on, it changed its name to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association.

### **Kakori Case**

The revolutionaries needed money for their activities. Therefore, they conspired to loot the government treasury on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1925; The members of H.R.A. looted a train which carried government treasury at Kakori village near Lucknow. A large number of revolutionaries were arrested and tried including Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Roshan Singh and Rajendra Lahir. Sachindra Nath received life imprisonment. The British government could not, however, arrest Azad who carried on his activities surreptitiously. There were many revolutionary organizations in Punjab, United Province, Agra & Awadh, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Rajputana etc. but they lacked coordination and unity.





**Ramprasad Bismil    Ashfaqullah Khan**

On 8-9<sup>th</sup> September 1928, active revolutionaries of North India met at Firoz Shah Kotla in Delhi where a central committee was formed which included Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, V.K. Sinha, Shiv Verma, Farnindra nath Gosh, Kundan Lal etc. H.R.A. was changed to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (H.S.R.A.) on recommendations of Bhagat Singh. Azad played a prominent role in organizing this association. It aimed to achieve freedom and establish a socialist state. They believed in planned and organized revolutionary activities. It sent Yatindra Nath from Calcutta to Punjab to assist in bomb making.

### **Saunders Murder**

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 1928, leader of Punjab, Lala Lajpat Rai was injured in a lathi charge by Scotts in a protest procession against Simon Commission. He died after one month. To avenge his death, Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad and Raj Guru decided to kill Scotts on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1928, but accidentally killed Saunders.

After this incident, H.S.R.A. issued a poster stating, "Murder of renowned and much loved leader of lakhs of people by a common sepoy was an insult to entire nation. It was the duty of Indian youth to avenge it. We are grieved on the murder of Saunders but he was after all a part of that inhuman and unjust system which we are all trying to destroy. The British government filed Lohare Conspiracy Case for this murder and hanged Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhadev on 23 march, 1931

### **Central Assembly Bomb Case**

On 8<sup>th</sup> April 1929, when the Central Assembly was busy passing a public safety bill and trade union bill, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw bomb on empty benches to register their opposition to these bills.

### **Chandra Shekhar Azad**

He was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1906 in Bhabra Village of Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh. His father was Sitaram and his mother was Jagrani Devi. He left his home to pursue studies in Kashi. He participated in non-cooperation movement during his student life. When arrested and presented in the court, the magistrate asked for his personal information. He boldly replied that his name is Azad, his father's name is Independence and his residence is jail. The magistrate ordered 14 flogging as his punishment. Azad shouted 'Vande Mataram' for each flogging. He was felicitated for his courage in Banaras. He played prominent role in Kakori case and Saunders murder case. The H.S.R.A. under his leadership, also tried to blast the Viceroy's train in December 1930, near Delhi. But the Viceroy escaped.



**Chandrashekhar Azad    Bhagat Singh**

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 1931, in Alfred Park, Allahabad, an informant recognized him while he was conversing with Sukhdev and informed the police. The superintendent Nott Bower surrounded him. Azad faced the combat bravely. But with the last bullet in his revolver he shot himself. The police could not capture him alive.



### Bhagat Singh

He was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1907 in Banga, district Layalpur, Punjab. His father's name was Kishan Singh and his mother's name was Vidyawati Devi. He had inherited patriotism. His uncles Ajit Singh and Swarna Singh were revolutionaries and were imprisoned. Ajit Singh was an inmate of Lala Lajpat Rai in Mandalay prison. The day Ajit Singh was released, Bhagat Singh was born. Considered lucky for the family, he was named Bhagat Singh. He studied in D.A.V. college, Lahore, where he met Sachindra Nath Sanyal and became active in revolutionary activities. Sanyal sent him to Kanpur for training. There he wrote for 'Pratap', a newspaper of Ganesh Shankar Vidhyarthi under the pen name 'Balwant'. In 1926, he founded 'Naujawan Sabha' and establish contacts with the revolutionaries.

He gave the slogan 'Inqalab Zindabad'. He participated in Saunders Murder Case and Central Assembly Bomb case. For Lahore Conspiracy Case, he was hanged along with Rajguru and Sukhdev on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1931 C.E.

When Rajguru of Maharashtra went to Kashi University to attend a lecture of Vir Savarkar, he met Bhagat Singh. Rajguru worked as a physical instructor. He accompanied Bhagat Singh in Saunders' murder case and shot the first bullet. Sukhdev was a childhood friend of Bhagat Singh and deserves the credit for inspiring Bhagat Singh for revolutionary activities.



**Raj Guru**

**Sukhdev**

Revolutionary activities continued in various parts of India. The revolutionaries attacked armory of Chatgaon in East Bengal under Surya

Sen. He was arrested and hanged.

### Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army)

The Japanese had defeated the British army in north Malaya in December 1941 during the Second World War. After this incident, Captain Mohan Singh, in Malaya, thought of constituting Azad Hind Fauj. A captain in British Indian army, Mohan Singh had surrendered before the Japanese forces. In February 1942 after the fall of Singapore, Japanese Major Fajihara handed over 40000 Indian prisoners of war to Mohan Singh.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1942, Indian Independence League was founded in Bangkok under Ras Bihari Bose. It was then decided that Indian National Army should be formed comprising Indian soldiers and Indian citizens of East Asia. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1942, Azad Hind Fauj was constituted comprising Indian prisoners of war. Subhash Chandra Bose reached Japan in a submarine on the invitation of Ras Bihari Bose. In June 1943, he reached Tokyo and announced on Tokyo radio, of armed revolt against the British rule. He, then reached Singapore, where on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1943, Ras Bihari Bose handed over the command of Indian freedom movement in East Asia to Subhash Candra Bose. Subhash becomes the President of Indian Independence League. From Cathall, Singapore, he announced formation of an interim Indian government on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1943. The governments of Japan, Italy, Germany, Burma, China, Thailand, Philipines etc. recognized this government. Bose made an agreement with commander in chief of Japan that Azad Hind Fauj will fight along with Japanese army on Indo-Burma border. He invoked this army with the slogan 'Dilli Chalo' and in his speech said, "You give me blood, I will give you freedom". He used the epithet 'Rastrapita' for Mahatma Gandhi. Bose addressed Gandhi on radio thus, "The last battle for Indian independence has begun. Father of nation!, we need your blessings and good wishes for liberation of India". The head quarter of Indian National Army was in Rangoon and Singapore. Gandhi, Subhash and Nehru brigade were constituted. An all women regiment, 'Jhansi Rani', was also formed.

After taking possession of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the interim government of Azad



Hind Fauj renamed them as Shaheed Dwipa and Swaraj Dweep respectively. Indian flag was unfurled on these islands.

They also captured Kohima with cooperation of Japanese soldiers and reached upto Imphal. After June 1944, the Japanese army could not proceed further and Azad Hind Fauj also faced multiple problems relating to ration, ammunition and medicines. In August 1945, Japan surrendered before the Allies. As Bose boarded a flight from Taiboku airport of Famosa on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1945, a blast took place. According to Japanese sources, he was rushed to hospital, badly injured.

After the defeat of Japan, the officers and soldiers of Azad Hind Fauj were brought to India as prisoners of war. A court case was filed against Shah Nawaz Khan, Gurdial Singh Dhillon and Colonel Sehgal and the proceedings were conducted in Red Fort, Delhi. A movement started in India to set them free. Bhula Bhai Desai, Tej Bahadur Sapru, Kailash Nath Katju, Asaf Ali, Jawahar Lal Nehru etc. fought their case. The military court sentenced them to death. A violent agitation sparked off as a reaction. The then Viceroy, Lord Wavell, sensed this strong discontent and pardoned all of them using his veto powers.

Various factions of Indian Society had participated in this case. Traders, Indian British soldiers, youth etc joined together. Students boycotted classes. The impact was also seen on British navy and infantry. In February 1946, the rebels from navy of Bombay demanded release of Azad Hind Fauj prisoners. Director of secret services (Intelligence Bureau) described this protest movement thus, "Perhaps no other matter attracted the Indian attention so intensely and it would not be wrong to state that no other matter gained so much sympathy."

### **Subhash Chandra Bose**

He was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1897 in Cuttak, Orissa. His father was Jankidas and mother was Prabhawati. He completed his primary education in Cuttak and higher education from Calcutta University. In 1920, he cleared his I.A.S. exam but decided to leave this prestigious service and serve the nation. His political guru was Deshbandhu Chitranjan Das.



**Subhash Chandra Bose**

He actively participated in non cooperation movement. He was arrested in December 1921 and was imprisoned for six months. He expressed his sorrow when Gandhi decided to suspend the movement. When Chitranjan Das and Moti Lal Nehru founded the "Swaraj Party", he canvassed party's ideology. He served as chief executive officer of Calcutta Corporation. Due to his revolutionary activities, he was arrested by the British government and deported to Mandalay prison for three years. In 1928, he opposed Nehru Reports recommendations for demand of Dominion Self Government and instead supported the demand for complete independence. He was elected as Congress President in Tripuri Session of 1939, when he defeated Gandhi's candidate, Pattabhi Sitarammaya, in an unprecedented manner. The Congress executive was backed by Gandhis followers. Bose and Gandhi had ideological differences. Bose resigned from the Congress. Rajendra Prasad became the President of Congress after his resignation. In May 1939, Bose formed a new political party, Forward Party'. He was prohibited to fight any election for any post of Congress party for three consecutive years.

During the Second World War, he appealed the Indians to stop cooperating the British and was in favour of seeking support from anti-British



countries. He was arrested on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1940 under Indian Security Act. When he started fast unto death, he was kept under house arrest on Elgin Road. On 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1941. He escaped in disguise of a pathan, reached Kabul and then fled to Germany via Russia. In Germany, he met Hitler. It was in Germany, that he was popularly called "Netaji". On the invitation of Ras Bihari Bose, he reached Japan and took over the command of Azad Hind Fauj. According to Japanese sources, he died in an air crash on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1945. But his death is still a mystery.

### **Political Movement: (1885-1907)**

#### **Rise and Development of Nationalism:**

Political movements started due to development of nationalism in the later half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Indians waged a long struggle to eradicate British rule.

Following were the reasons of the rise of nationalism:-

#### **Exploitative Economic Policy**

Modern Indian nationalism stood up to meet the challenge of foreign domination. Agriculture traditional industries and handicrafts faced serious challenges as a result of British exploitative economic policies. A change crept in the economic structure of Indian society. Initially, this change in land and agricultural system destroyed the self sufficiency of villages. Land revenue was exorbitant. Agriculture was commercialized. Farmers were now forced to grow specific crops like cotton, jute etc. Traditional forest rights were taken away through forest laws. Indian industries were targeted to benefit British trade. As a result of British policy, the Indian cloth industry perished first of all. Britain transformed India into a source of raw material producing country, for its own industries at home and a market to consume British goods. British industrialists invested capital in tea gardens, coal mines, rails, banks etc. India's poverty soared due to the decline of her indigenous industries.

A new section emerged in Indian society which got united on grounds of common economic, political and social interest. National consciousness spread amongst capitalists, industrialists,

businessmen, intellectual middle class, labour etc.

#### **Administrative Integration**

British government established common legal system to its own advantage. Due to uniform and integrated administrative system the Indians came into contact with each other which resulted in the rise of spirit of nationalism. Development of means of transport and communication, railways etc., contributed in an important manner in bringing people of India together. Though these means of communication were intended for security of British Empire, they contributed in uniting Indians for political movements. Telegraph, posts etc. helped in exchanging views.

#### **Role of Press and Literature**

Press contributed significantly in rise of political consciousness. It imparted political education to people, spread political and economic views, criticized the exploitative and social discriminatory policy of the British. Through press, ideas of democracy, representative government, freedom, reached millions of Indians. National newspapers like Samvad Kanmudi, Son Prakash, Hindu Patriot, Amrit Bazar Patrika, Bengali, Hindu etc. began to be published.

Nationalist literature also played an important role in spreading nationalism. Father of Modern Hindi language, Bhartendu, Harish-chandra, wrote a play, 'Bharat Durdasha' in 1876 in which he displayed misfortune of India. Act of Hussain Hali in Urdu, Bankim Chandra Chatterji in Bengali, Vishnu Shastri Chiplunkar in Marathi were some nationalist writers.

#### **Socio-Religious Reform Movements**

Brahma Samaj of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Arya Samaj of Dayanand Saraswati and Ram Krishna Mission of Sawami Vivekanand accomplished a great task to liberate India from ill practices and uniting India socially. They contributed towards spirit of self respect by unveiling out pride of Indian culture.

#### **Racial Discrimination**

Due to policy of racial discrimination of the British, there was hatred among the Indians for



them. It was commonly observed that the Indians were not allowed to travel with the British in the same compartments of railways. Indians were denied entry into European clubs.

### **Modern Western Education**

Western educated Indians studied the contemporary National Movements of Europe. They were inspired by Garibaldi; Mazzini etc. got acquainted with ideology of Burke, Mill etc. and made efforts to build a strong and united India.

### **Policy of Lord Lytton**

Various Acts passed by Lord Lytton filled the Indians with hatred and discontentment. He organized a grand 'Delhi Darbar' during the severe famine of 1877, in which Queen Victoria was declared Empress of India. He restricted Indian press through Vernacular Press Act of 1878. In the same year, he passed a law restricting Indians to carry arms through Arms Act.

### **Ilbert Bill Controversy**

In 1883, during the governorship of Lord Ripon, the Law member of his council, P.C. Ilbert, presented a bill called the Ilbert Bill in 1883. It provided for trial of Europeans by Indian judges but it could not be passed due to opposition of the British.

### **Various Organisations**

Organisations like East India Association, Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, Indian Association, Madras Mahajan Sabha, Bombay Presidency Association, Indian National Congress were formed which contributed significantly in creating political consciousness

### **Situation Before 1885 and Various Organisations**

Various Political organizations came into existence along with 19<sup>th</sup> century political and social movements. They were mainly formed on the basis of class interest. Zamindars, traders, educated middle class formed various associations to protect their own interests. They played an important role in rise and development of political consciousness.

### **Land Holders' Society**

It was formed in 1838 in Calcutta. It was

basically an organisation of zaminders and was the first political association of India similar to Bourgeois Organisation in Europe. Its prominent members included Prasanna K. Thakur, Radhakant Deb, Dwarkanath Thakur etc. It coordinated with British India Society formed in 1839 in London, which facilitated it to represent its views in British Parliament and to mould British public opinion.

### **British Bengal India Society**

It was formed on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1843 in Calcutta. Its president was George Thompson and secretary was Pyarichandra Mitra. Similar to Land Holders' Society, it was also an organisation of Indians and non-political British. It was through this platform that the Indians first learnt lessons of politics.

### **British Indian Association**

It was founded in 1851. Its president was Radhakant Dev and secretary was Devendra Nath Thakur. It was an organisation of neo-zamindars. Businessmen and intellectuals were represented to make its platform wider. When the charter of East India Company was scheduled for renewal in 1853, this organisation made efforts to run charter movement on all India bases. Memorandaums were given by its branches in all the three presidencies to demand inclusion of Indians in administration of India. It demanded formation of institutions which would work like legislative assemblies and represented by Indians. Its prominent members included Vyomesh Chandra Bannerji (the first president of Indian National Congress), Ramesh Chandra Dutt (later, President of INC), Man Mohan Gosh (First Indian Barrister of Calcutta, High Court).

### **East India Association**

It was founded on December 1, 1866 by Dada Bhai Naoroji in London. It aimed at upliftment of India through justifiable means. It kept informed British people and British parliament of Indian matters. When Naoroji's case to Bhart as Diwan of Baroda State, the association was taken over by British officials. Naoroji was the first economic thinker of India who proved through his works that the main cause of India poverty was economic exploitation of India and transfer of Bhartiya money



abroad. In his book, 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India', he explained his theory of 'Drain of Wealth'. He is known as Grand Old Man of India and chaired the Congress sessions thrice.

### Poona Sarvajanik Sabha

It was founded on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1870 by Ganesh Vasudev Joshi who was also its secretary. Its active members included S.H. Sathe, S.H. Chiplunkar and Mahadeo Govind Ranade. It aimed at working as mediator between government and people. It was recognised as a major progressive organisation in western India. It organised people of Bombay Presidency by spreading political consciousness. Its members exposed the pitiable condition of India and also suggested remedies.

### Indian League

It was formed on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1875 in Calcutta by Shishir Kumar Bose who was also the owner and editor of Anand Bazar Patrika. The working president of the league was Shambhu Chandra Mukharji. It aimed at imparting political education and spread nationalism.

### Indian Association

It was founded on 26 July, 1876 by S.N. Bannerji, and Anand Mohan Ghose in Calcutta. It aimed primarily to build public opinion and unite Indians on the basis of collective nationalism and political interest, maintain cordial relations between Hindus and Muslims and inclusion of common man in political movements. This association effectively staged protest movement against Viceroy Lytton's efforts to reduce civil service age from 21 to 19 years, passing of Vernacular Press Act (1878) and Arms Act (1878). It played a major role in Ilbert Bill case. In May 1883, S.N. Bannerji was arrested after his criticism of the judge in the aforesaid case. He was released after two months, on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1883.

### Madras Mahajan Sabha

On 16<sup>th</sup> May 1884, Madras Mahajan Sabha was founded with P. Rangiya Naidu as its president and V. Raghavachari and Anand Charlu as its secretary. It became a central political institution of Madras presidency. It deliberated over reforms in

legislative assemblies, separation of executive and judiciary, changes in government structure, problems of farmers etc.

### Bombay Presidency Association

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 1885, Bombay Presidency Association was founded in a meeting of residents of Bombay under the president ship Jamrod Jija Bai. Kashinath Trayambak Tailang, Badrudding Tayyubji and Ferozshah played an important role in its formation. It worked in spreading national consciousness.

### Indian National Conference

A meeting called on 29-30 December 1883 CE in Albert Hall, Calcutta, organised various associations working in India under the president ship of Ramtanu Lahiri. It included representatives from Ahmedabad, Madras and north India apart from Bengal. It was first such attempt to constitute an all India organisation. It discussed issues like conducting civil service exams in India increase in age bar for the exam, constitution of representative assemblies etc. Its second session was held on 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> December in Calcutta. At the same time, A.O. Hume had summoned the session of Indian National Congress in Bombay. Thus, S.N. Bannerji could not attend the Congress session on 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.

### Establishment of Congress and its Aims

Various political organizations, before the establishment of congress, had played an important role in spreading political consciousness. The idea of waging a united National Movement by amalgamating various organizations in various parts of India was gaining popularity. Congress was born out of this necessity.

A.O. Hume, on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1883, appealed to the graduates of Calcutta University to form a political organisation of Indians, by writing a letter to them. In May 1885, he met Viceroy Dufferin in Simla and gained his approval after deliberations. It was decided to name this organisation as Indian National Union. Indian National Congress was founded in December, 1885 by a retired English officer Allen Octavian Hume with support of liberal intellectuals.

Its first session was scheduled in Pune, but



due to outbreak of plague there it was held in Mumbai on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1885 in Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit School in Gwalia Tank under the president ship of W.C. Bannerji. Around 72 representatives participated from Bengal, Bombay, Madras presidencies, Punjab, north-west areas and Awadh. It was renamed as Indian National Congress in place of Indian National Union. The word 'Congress' was derived from American history which meant 'group of people.' Major leaders who were attended this session Dada Bhai Naoroji, Firoz Shah Mehta, Kashinath Tailang, Dinesh Wacha etc. Maintaining a liberal attitude, Congress had limited goals initially. To achieve these goals, they adopted the course of constitutional measures. It worked towards educating people politically and organising them.

### Aims of Congress

W.C. Bannerji, the first president, enumerated four goals of congress:

1. To form fraternity and contact between Indians working for national interests in various parts of India.
2. To eradicate ill will regarding caste, religion and province between the patriots and develop and strengthen feeling of national unity.
3. To express views of educated class of India on important political and social issues.
4. To specify policies essential for the future of politicians.

Its major demands included appointment of royal commission, maximum elected representatives in legislative assemblies and council, right to discuss budget in north-west and Punjab councils, holding of civil service exams simultaneously in India and Britain, reduction in army expenses etc. Different major political organizations were requested to support these demands of congress. Its second session was held on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1886 in Calcutta in which A.O. Hume was elected as secretary. If Hume used Congress as a safety valve against increasing discontentment of educated Indians, the liberal nationalists used it as a lightening conductor to save themselves

from the onslaught of British government.

Congress began to hold its session every year in the month of December in various parts of India. The second session was chaired by Dada Bhai Naoroji, third session by Badrudding Tayyabji in Madras (1887). He was the first Muslim president of Congress. George Yule chaired the Congress session of 1888 and became the first European to hold the post. In 1889, William Wedderburn was the president of Bombay session.

### Working of congress from 1885 to 1907 Liberal phase (1885-1905)

The phase of congress between 1885 to 1905 is known as the Liberal phase. Attitude of liberal leaders was reformatory. They presented their demands in constitutional manner through appeals, petitions, memoranda etc. Their main aim was to bring Indian people in the mainstream of nationalist politics. They believed in British sense of justice. The congress also sent representatives to Britain who addressed the British Parliament and the people, presented justification of demands of the Congress.

Congress did not confront the government during this period. Liberals believed that it was not practical at that juncture. Major liberal leaders like Dada Bhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, S.N. Bannerji, Feroz Shah Mehta, Dinesh Wacha strongly criticized the economic policy of the government and raised economic awareness among the Indians. They disclosed the British policy of economic exploitation in agriculture, trade and industries and blamed it for India's poverty and backwardness. They demanded that national economic policy should be framed while keeping in mind interests of India. They raised a movement against the colonial imperialist economic policy and demanded industrialization on modern lines, preservation of Indian industries, reduction in land revenue, extension of irrigation facility etc. Display of industrial exhibition, became a part of every Congress session.





**Dada Bhai Naoroji Feroz Shah Mehta**

They also demanded administrative reforms which included appointment of Indians in Civil Services, Indianisation of civil services, separation of executive and judiciary, suspension of Arms Act, reduction in military expenses etc. They repeatedly demanded reforms in legislative councils. Government passed Act of 1892, which provisioned for an increase of seats of Indian members in central & provincial legislative councils and arranged for an indirect election system. Members were given right to ask questions and debate on budget. The Indians, however, were dissatisfied and demanded more rights. The Liberals made continuous efforts for freedom of speech, expression and forming an organisation. The Congress could not gain much success but made Indians aware of their common political and economic rights. They educated Indians for political activities and spread the ideas of democracy, civil liberty and nationalism.

#### **Policy of British Government towards Congress**

1886, Viceroy Dufferin arranged for a welcome party for representatives of Congress party in Calcutta. By 1888, the government became skeptic towards Congress due to its changed character. In 1888, Dufferin called congress as representative of microscopic minority. Viceroy Curzon desired downfall of Congress. In 1900, he wrote to secretary for India that, "Congress in loitering to fall and it is my earnest desire to contribute its peaceful death." Development of National Movement and increased bond of unity left the government worried. The British now followed the policy of 'divide and rule'. It

encouraged Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and other supporters of British government to initiate an anti-Congress movement. It tried to divide Hindus and Muslims. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan formed 'United Patriotic Association' and brought together anti-Congress factions.

#### **Partition of Bengal**

Viceroy Lord Curzon partitioned Bengal in 1905 to suppress the National Movement. Bengal, then, constituted today's West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and areas comprising present Bangladesh. Its area was about 189000 square miles and was populated by 8 crore people.

Lord Curzon declared it to be a too big a province to be governed efficiently and thus pressed the need to divide it for administrative convenience. At that time Bengal was the centre of National Movement and the British wanted to hamper its progress. Following the policy of divide and rule, Curzon tried to create animosity between the Hindus and the Muslims. He partitioned Muslim populated East Bengal from Hindu populated West Bengal. Secretary of Indian government, Risley, stated that, 'a united Bengal is itself a power. If it is divided, then its every part will follow a different path.'

The government presented its scheme on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1905 before people and implemented it on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1905. Muslim populated Dhaka, Chatgaon and Rajshahi divisions were separated from Bengal and merged with Assam to form a new province of East Bengal. Dhaka and Calcutta became respective capitals of East and West Bengal.

#### **Anti Partition Movement**

Protest against partition of Bengal started on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1905. A large public meeting was called in Town Hall of Calcutta where proposals against partition were passed and decided to continue the movement till the plan would be cancelled.

On 28<sup>th</sup> September 1905, more than 50000 people gathered on the famous Kalighat temple. After a grand worship. The priest appealed to people gathered to worship mother land before worshipping any other god, shun all narrowness, religious differences, bitterness and self interests, to



pledge for service of motherland and to devote entire life in her service. People gathered there pledged to boycott foreign goods as far as possible.

The partition was implemented on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1905. The day was observed as 'mourning day' all over Bengal. People observed fasts. Rabindra Nath Tagore appealed to observe 16<sup>th</sup> October as 'Rakhi Bandhan Day', Prabhat pheris were taken out in morning with chants of 'Vande Mataram'. People went to bathe in the Ganges bare footed. Hindus & Muslims tied rakhis to each other. In the noon, Anand Mohan Bose presided over a large gathering of 50000 people. Tagore's song 'Amar Sonar Bangle' was sung with great enthusiasm. This song later became the national anthem of Bangladesh.

The agitators opposed partition of Bengal by organizing meetings in villages and cities Cobblers of Memansingh and Faridpur refused to mend shoes of British customers. The washer men too decided not to wash their clothes. Cooks in Orissa decided not to work with masters who used foreign goods. Many students refused to appear for exams as the paper of their answer copies was imported. They also staged dharna in front of shops selling foreign goods, roamed in the markets asking for boycott. At last, the government annulled the partition in 1911.

### Beginning of Extremist Nation Movement

Differences began to grow between the Liberals and the Extremists between 1905 and 1907. The Extremists did not favour to restrict the agenda of Swadeshi and boycott to Bengal only, but wanted to extend it in other parts of the country.

A dispute emerged on the issue of chairmanship of Calcutta session of Congress in 1906. Extremists wanted to make Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the president. With the election of Dada Bahi Naoroji as president, the controversy, however, faded away. Due to efforts of Extremists, four proposals regarding Swadeshi, boycott, national education and self rule were passed in this session.

### Swadeshi Movement

Boycott and Swadeshi became major instruments of struggle against British imperialism after anti-partition movement of Bengal. Movements started in Mumbai, Madras and north

India for adopting Swadeshi, boycott of foreign goods and national education. Many non governmental organizations and committees were formed to empower Swadeshi Movement. Foreign clothes, sugar, salt were boycotted. Dharnas were staged outside foreign goods shops. The owners of such shops were socially boycotted. Foreign goods were burnt. People were asked to resign from honorary posts and councils & to pledge for use of Indian goods.

By 1906, Swadeshi Movement soon spread to various parts of the country. In Bombay presidency, it was led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and S.M. Paranjape. In Punjab, Jayapal, Gangaram, Chandrika Dutt and Munshiram (later known as Swami Shraddhnand) were the main leaders.

An important characteristic of this movement was the spirit of self sufficiency. It encouraged local industries. Many cloth mills, handloom industries, national banks, and insurance companies were established. P.C. Rai founded Bengal chemical Swadeshi Store in Bengal. First Indian industrial congress was chaired by R.C. Dutt in December 1905 in Benaras. In the same year, the annual session of Congress was chaired by Gopal Krishna Gokhale. As a result of this movement, there was a sharp fall in consumption of British goods in India.

Nationalist literature and journalism flourished. Ravindra Nath Tagore, Rajnikant Sen, D.L. Rai etc. invoked patriotism through songs. National education was promoted and many institutions were set up in Bengal. A national college was opened in Calcutta with Aurobindo Ghosh as its Principal. Decision to establish National Education Council was taken to impart nationalist, literary and technical education. Youth and women contributed with great favour. Women actively participated in processions and dharnas. Wajid Hussain, Abdul Gaffar, Liyakat Hussain etc. were among many Muslims who contributed in this movement. Many works of social reform were also taken up. Ashwini Kumar Dutt undertook the project of upliftment of village of Barisala through his Swadeshi Bandhan Samiti' Awakening spread to end evil practices like untouchability, child marriage etc.

The British government nursed serious



concerns about the increasing influence of National Movement. It made efforts to confront Hindus against Muslims to weaken the National Movement. With the efforts of the erst while president of Aligarh College, Archibowled and Dunlop Smith (P.S. to Viceroy Lord Minto), about 36 muslims under Agha Khan made a representation to Viceroy on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1906. They demanded representation on basis of their contribution to defence of the empire and their political importance and not on the basis of population. They demanded Muslim electoral boards for legislative councils. Lord Minto appreciated their demands and convinced them that their demands would be met. After this assurance, Salimullah Khan initiated formation of an organization of Muslims.

#### **Establishment of Bhartiya Muslim League**

On 30<sup>th</sup> December 1906, Salimullah Khan founded Muslim League in Dhaka under the presidentship of Nawab Waqui ul Mulk. It aimed at extending support to British government and provide facilities for the Muslims. It wanted to curb the increasing influence of Congress. The League supported partition of Bengal and opposed the boycott and anti partition movement.

### **Political Movements (1907-1919)**

#### **Surat Split (1907)**

The Congress session of 1907 was proposed to be held at Nagpur which was a stronghold of the extremists. The venue was later changed to Surat, on the banks of river Tapti. There was a row between the Extremists and the Liberals on the issue of Presidentship. The former favoured Lala Lajpat Rai, while the latter stood up in favour of Ras Bihari Ghosh. The Extremists wanted to get proposals regarding Swadeshi, boycott, national education and self rule approved. The dispute became so worse that chairs were thrown in the meeting. An unknown person hurled shoe on the podium which hit S.N. Bannerji and Phiroz Shah Mehta. Congress excommunicated the extremists, Tilak made efforts to avert the split, but due to stubborn attitude of Mehta and his followers, it could not be possible. The British government, following the

policy of 'divide and rule', suppressed the Extremists and tried to bring the liberals into its fold. Governor General Minto wrote to India Secretary Morley that downfall of Congress in Surat is one great victory. Annie Beasant recorded that the Surat split was the saddest incident in the history of Congress.



**Lala Lajpat Rai Bal Gangadhar Tilak  
Bipin Chandra Pal**

Major leaders of the Extremist group were Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal and Bal Gangadhar Tilak along with Aurobindo Ghosh. The first trio became popular as Lal, Bal, Pal. Tilak was tried for sedition for anti government article written in his newspaper 'Kesari'. In 1908, he was sent to Mandalay prison for six years. Lala Lajpat Rai went to U.S.A. and Bipin Chandra withdrew from politics, temporarily. Arvind Ghosh continued to propagate patriotism through newspaper 'Vande Mataram'. In 1910, he retired to Pondicherry, shunned politics and embraced spirituality.

#### **Lok Manya Bal Gangadhar Tilak**

Tilak was connected to ordinary people as a leader, organized them politically and activated them. He adopted the path of struggle to obtain Swarajya. He was popular as 'Lok Manya'. Born on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1856 in a Brahmin family of Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, he obtained a degree in law. His ancestors served the Peshwas.

In 1880, he started a school called 'New English School' in Poona with help of his friends. He remained associated with Deccan Education Society and Fergusson College since inception. He published two newspapers Maratha in English (weekly) and Kesari in Marathi (daily) to educate people. In 1893, he started 'Ganesh Utsav' and in 1895, 'Shivaji Utsav' to organize people. For both



physical and moral development of the youth, he opened a Lathi club and anti cow slaughter committees. In 1897, he wrote in his newspaper about the misbehaviour of British officials during plague in Poona and their forced entry into Indian homes. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1897 the Chahpekar brothers, Damodar and Balkrishna, murdered the plague commissioners and Lt. Ayerst. Tilak was arrested on charges of instigation and was sentenced to 18 months of prison.

Tilak led the extremist-group of congress. He favoured the path of struggle instead of petition to attain Swarajya. He claimed, "Swarajya is my birth right and shall take it". He propagated Swarajya, Swadeshi, boycott and national education. After the Surat split, Tilak disassociated himself with the Congress. He never chaired any congress session, but was widely popular as 'uncrowned king'. Government made efforts to minimize influence of leaders like Tilak. In 1906, when he was sentenced to Mandalay prison, people carried a protest procession. Tilak said, "May be it is god's will. My life's aims are to be fulfilled through my suffering rather than my freedom."

In Mandalay prison he wrote a commentary on Gita, called 'Gita Rahasya'. He also authored, 'Arctic: Home of the Aryans'. In 1914, he was released. He also played an important role in Lucknow Pact of 1916, concluded between Congress and Muslim League. He also played an important role in 'Home Rule Movement' to attain self rule. Valentine Chirol, author of 'Indian unrest' declares him to be 'Father of Indian unrest' Tilak filed a defamation case against him and went to London to prosecute him. The country mourned his death in 1 Aug.1920. His funeral procession was attended by five lakh people.

Many revolutionary events took place during anti-partition movement of Bengal. A revolutionary organization 'Anushilan Samiti' was founded by Varindra Kumar Ghosh and Bhupendra Dutt in 1907. Secret societies like Sadhna Samaj, Shakti Samiti and Yugantar Samiti in Bengal were founded. Magazines like Yugantar and Sandhya propagated armed revolt. On 6<sup>th</sup> December 1907 attempts, on lives of Lt. Governor of Midnapore and first magistrate of Decca were made.

### **Muzaffarpur Bomb Case (1908)**

On 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1908 Revolutionaries tried to assassinate unsuccessfully, the judge of Muzaffarpur Kingsford, who was defamed for passing rigorous punishments against the patriots. An English woman Mrs Kennedy and her daughter were killed instead. In this case, Prafull Chaki and 15 year old Khudiram Bose were held. Chaki shot himself while Bose was hanged.

### **Alipur Conspiracy Case (1908)**

After the Muzaffarpur case, the police raided the centres of revolutionaries at Murari Pakur in Manikhtala from where it confiscated bombs and ammunition. Aurobindo Ghosh, his brother Varindra Nath Gosh along with 34 people were arrested. The case was known as Alipur Conspiracy Case. Varindranath was sentenced for life.

All these activities caused a grave concern for the British government and it passed several Acts to curb them such, Explosive Substances Act (1908); Newspapers Act (crime inspiring (1908); Seditious Gathering prevent Act (1911) etc.

### **The Act of 1909**

This Act is also known as Morley Minto Reforms Act. The then Governor General Lord Minto and Secretary to the State, Morley contributed to it. Indians were unhappy with the Act of 1892. Congress was continuously pressing for extension of legislative councils and for enhancing powers of its members. Anti partition movement had made extremists prominent. To counteract the extremists, the Government tried to pacify the Liberals. It wanted to create a divide by granting special rights to a particular community.

The major characteristics of the Act were:-

1. Executive assemblies of centre and state were extended. Number of their members increased. For the first time, nongovernmental members gained ascendancy in the province.
2. The powers of councils were enhanced. Members were allowed to debate on budget and vote on important issues. They were also given the right to ask supplementary questions.



3. Communal electorate system was introduced. A separate constitutional board was set up for Muslims, zamindars, traders etc.
4. Governor General could now appoint an Indian in his executive council. S.P. Sinha became the first Indian to be included in it.
5. Qualifications for contesting elections were also agreed upon.

This Act is criticized for its indirect election process. The number of Voters was strictly limited. Separate electoral system on basis of religion was very harmful. It paved way for communal politics. Muslims were given more representation than what was due to them. Not only they voted for separate Electorate Board but also for general electorate. Though non-government members were in majority in provincial legislatures, government members still dominated in Governor General's Executive Council. Parliamentary institutions were no doubt established, but the entire exercise did not aim for Parliamentary Administrative System.

## First World War and Bhartiya National Movement

### Home Rule Movement (1916)

It was an intellectual movement which aimed at achieving self rule under the aegis of government through constitutional means. Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Beasant led the movement in 1914, after Tilak was released from prison; he showed his desire to run a movement under the aegis of Congress. But the Congress seemed unwilling to run any movement at that juncture. On April 28, 1916, Tilak started the Bhartiya Home Rule Movement in Balgoan. Its president was Joseph Baptista and N.C. Kelkar was its secretary. Other members included G.S. Kharparde, R.P. Karandikar etc. League founded by Tilak remained active in Maharashtra (except Bombay) Central Province and Berar.

Annie Beasant started Home Rule Movement on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1916 in Adyar (Madras) Its organizing minister was George



**N.C. Kelkar**



**Annie Beasant**

Arundale and secretary was Ramaswami Ayyar and treasurer was V.P. Vadia. The League worked in Madras, Bombay, Bihar, United Province and Bengal. Moti Lal Nehru, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, C.Y. Chintamani, Hussain Imam, Majrul Haq were its prominent members. The organisation encompassed the entire country.

Its programme included publication and sale of books relating to political issues and public awareness, organising debates and speeches on political issues, performance of social work.

Tilak propagated the movement through 'Kesari' and 'Maratha', Annie Beasant made the movement popular through 'Common Will' and 'New India'

### Mahatma Gandhi



Mohandas Karam Chand Gandhi was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1869 at Porbandar in Gujrat. His father Karamchand Gandhi was diwan of Rajkot. His mother was Putli Bai. Gandhi received his



primary education in Rajkot. He got married to Kasturba in 1887, left for England for his higher education and came back to Bharat in 1891 after completing law. Thereafter, he practised in Bombay. In 1893, to fight a case for a Parsi firm, 'Dada Abdulla and Company', he went to South Africa. There, he waged a fight against apartheid. He founded Natal Bhartiya Congress, Tolstoy Farm and Phoenix Farm and published a newspaper 'Indian Opinion'.

It was in South Africa, that he first experimented with civil disobedience. The government had to suspend many discriminatory laws and the Indians received some privileges.

In 1915, he came back to Bharat and toured into various parts to grasp the ground reality. In 1916, he opened an ashram near Sabarmati.

### **Champan Satyagraha**

The first successful satyagraha of Gandhi was in 1917 in Champaran district of Bihar, where the European indigo planters exploited farmers. The latter were forced to grow indigo and sell it on a fixed price. On invitation of farmers, Raj Kumar Shukla, Gandhi along with Rajendra Prasad, Majrul Haq, J.B. Kriplani, Narhari Parikh and Mahadev Desai reached Champaran in 1917. With Gandhi's efforts, the farmers got some relief.

### **Strife Between Mill Owners & Workers in Ahmedabad**

In 1918, Gandhi intervened in the struggle between mill owners and workers in Ahmedabad and provided some concessions to the latter. The mill owners agreed to give 35% dearness allowance.

### **Peasant Movement**

In 1918, Gandhi fought for farmers of Kheda, where the government was extracting heavy land revenue even after the crops failed. Here Gandhi asked the farmers to refuse to pay of revenue. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel cooperated with Mahatma Gandhi in this movement. The British government had to announce remission of revenue.

During First World War, Gandhi was conferred the honour of Kaiser-Hind, which he gave up in protest of JallianWala Bagh tragedy of 13<sup>th</sup> April 1919. In 1920, he led the Non-Cooperation

Movement and Khilafat movement. In 1924, he presided over the Belgam session of Congress.

Mahatma Gandhi aimed at economic and social development of people along with political independence. He worked continuously for village reforms, prohibition, upliftment of untouchables, Hindu-Muslim unity, female education etc. He founded Gramodyog Sangh, Talimi Sangh and Gau Raksha Sangh. He called untouchables as 'Harijan' and founded 'Harijan Sevak Sangh' in 1933. He continuously guided peoples through newspapers like 'Young India', 'Nav Jivan' and Harijan.

### **Rowlatt Act**

During the world war, the British government had suppressed revolutionary activities through Indian Securities Act. To further curb such activities after the war, a British judge of High court, Sir Sydney Rowlatt, on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1917, headed a sedition committee which presented its report in April 1918. On its recommendations, a Bill was presented in central legislature. In spite of opposition of Indians, this bill became a law on March 1919, known as Rowlatt Act.

This law provided for arrest of any person without trial (even on suspicion of sedition) or house arrest. It was known as the Black Law.

There was a sharp reaction against this Act all over India. Satyagraha Sabha was formed by Gandhi in February 1919 to run a campaign against Rowlatt Act. It was agreed to hold a nationwide strike on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1919. Strikes were observed in Punjab, Delhi, Gujrat, Bombay etc.

### **Jallian Walla Bagh Massacre (13rd April, 1919)**



On 6<sup>th</sup> April 1919 Nation wide protests



against Rowlatt Act especially in Punjab, left Lt. Governor O'Dyer much surprised. On 9<sup>th</sup> April 1919 a procession under Dr. Satyapal and Saifuddin Kichloo in Amritsar was carried out. The leaders were arrested on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1919 and interned from Amritsar. When Mahatma Gandhi, on request of Shriaddhanand and Dr. Satyapal started for Punjab, he was stopped in Palwal (Haryana) and sent back to Bombay. Now the government started repression. To oppose Rowlatt Act, repression by Government and arrest of Dr. Satyapal, a meeting was called at Jallian Wala Bagh on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1919. General Dyer assumed the charge of Amritsar.

The Day of 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1919, was also 'Baisakhi' and many villagers had come to Amritsar to take part in the fair of Baisakhi. About 20000 people gathered in the garden including women, children and elderly people. The garden was enclosed with walls and houses on three sides, leaving only one exit on 13 April 1919. At about five in the evening, while the meeting was still in progress, General Dyer surrounded the area with 100 sepoys. He ordered firing without any warning on unarmed crowd. According to statistics 379 people were killed and many were injured. But actual casualties exceeded the number. Dyer simply left the dead and the wounded and away. This event is known as 'Jallian Wala Bagh Massacre.' The country was shocked Martial law was imposed in Punjab. Residents of Amritsar were subjected to atrocity like public flogging, crawling in streets, saluting the British while standing etc. Military Courts arbitrarily dispensed justice.

There were demonstrations in many cities of Punjab against this incident. People destroyed railway bridges and police Stations. Humanitarian poet Rabindra Nath Tagore returned 'Knighthood'. Shankaran Nayar resigned from Executive of the Viceroy.

Sensing a strong resentment, the British government ordered an inquiry on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1919 under Hunter which submitted its report in March 1920. Dyer was only relieved of his duties. On his return to England, he was hailed by the British and was awarded Rs. 20000. His action was justified by the British parliament. Congress too appointed an inquiry commission for this incident which included Madan Mohan Malviya, Moti Lal

Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi. The abhorring character of British imperialism was exposed.

**Act of 1919:-** During the first world war, Indians hoped for some concessions and grant of self rule in some measure. Congress and the League had concluded the Lucknow Pact in 1916. Tilak and Beasant successfully carried out the Home rule Movement and demanded self rule. Extremists began to gain an upper hand in congress. Secretary of India, Montagu declared on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1917 that institutions of self rule would be developed to import a responsible government in gradual steps.

All these circumstances paved way for the background of Montagu Chelmsford reforms. Montagu was the secretary of India and Chelmsford was the Governor General of India. Based on their joint reports, the Act of 1919 was passed with following characteristics:-

1. Dyarchy was introduced in provinces. The provincial subjects were divided into Reserved subjects and Transferred subjects. The former included police, jail security, law and order, justice which the provincial governor conducted with his councils' advice. The latter included local self administration, health and medical services, public works department which the governor conducted with the help of his Indian ministers.
2. The executive council of the governor was not accountable to the assembly but to the governor whereas the Indian ministers were accountable to the assembly. Governor enjoyed the right to nominate and dismiss ministers. He could dismiss the assembly or veto any law passed by it.
3. There was division of powers between the centre and the states. Subjects like defence, foreign policy, railways, communications, Census, public loans, public service commission, currency, matters related to princely states, rested with the centre. The provinces could legislate on matters like public works department, forests, excise, health, local self government, education, irrigation, agriculture, jails etc.



4. For the first time a bicameral legislature was provided for in the centre. Council of States was the Upper House while the lower house was Legislative Assembly.
5. Communal electorate was extended to provincial legislatures. Apart from Muslims, Sikhs, Europeans, Anglo Indians, Indian Christians were also given the right to elect their representatives for electoral board.
6. A post of High commissioner was provided to conduct several cases relating to trade, education of Indians in Britain. High Commissioner was appointed by the emperor on the advice of Indian government.

This Act was mainly criticized for the provision of dyarchy in provinces. Division of powers between Reserved and Transferred subjects was impractical. Education was a transferred subject. Industrial development was a transferred subject while labour was a reserved subject. The core of all administration was finance which was a reserved subject whereas departments like education, public works department which required finance were among the transferred list under Indian ministers. Members administering reserved subjects were not answerable to assembly while Indian ministers incharge of transferred subjects were accountable to the legislatures. Thus there was lack of collective responsibility. The system therefore failed, on fundamental principles.

The Governor General and his council were responsible to secretary of State and British Parliament. He could veto proposal of the assembly. Extended communal electorate retarded the growth of India as a nation.

## Political Movement (1920-1947)

### Non-Cooperation Movement (1920)

Economic crisis after the First World War, Rowlatt Act, Jallianwalla Bagh tragedy, discontentment out of Montague Chelmsford reforms etc. were the major factors in emergence of Non-cooperation Movement. Gandhi merged the demands of congress along with those of the

Khilafat Committee. He demanded the government's apology over the massacre, liberal attitude over Turkey and a new scheme to satisfy political demands of the country. He warned to start non-cooperation movement if these demands were not met. The government did not pay any heed to these demands. Gandhi started the Non-Cooperation movement from August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1920.

Special session of Congress was called in Calcutta in September 1920 under the presidentship of Lala Lajpat Rai which approved the proposal of Non-Cooperation Movement. The session also decided to boycott the forthcoming elections of 1920. Under Montague Chelmsford Scheme. The proposal was again approved in annual session of congress in December 1920 held in Nagpur, chaired by Vijay Raghavacharya. Following programmes were outlined:-

Resignation from honorary posts, government titles, boycott of government and semi-government functions, boycott of schools and colleges and foreign goods. It also included proposals of resignation from government posts and non payment of taxes.

Among the constructive programmes, it included opening of government schools and colleges, empowering panchayats to solve disputes, propagation of swadeshi goods, encouragement and promoting Hindu-Muslim unity, eradication of untouchability etc.

Gandhi assured people that if these programmes are fully implemented, Swaraj will be gained in a year. He gave up his title of 'Kaiser-i-Hind'; J.L. Bajaj gave up his title 'Rai Bhadur'. Inspired by Gandhi, many people followed his example in giving up away titles. M.L. Nehru, Chitranjan Das, Rajendra Prasad gave up their legal practice. Foreign goods were boycotted, foreign clothes were burnt. National schools and colleges were opened like Kashi Vidyapeeth, Gujrat Vidyapeeth, Bihar Vidyapeeth, Jamia Milia University etc.

On Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1921, Prince of Wales arrived in Bombay. Amidst preparation for his welcome, residents of Bombay took a protest procession against his visit. The labourers closed down the factories. Demonstrations at various places were fired at. Many lost their lives. In 1921, there were



almost 396 strikes joined by six lakh workers.

Important leaders like M.L. Nehru, C. Das, Lala Lajpat Rai, Dr. Kichloo, Mohammad Ali, Maulana Shaukat Ali were arrested. The British government tried to mediate through Malviya and Jinnah. In December 1921, a representative group under Malviya met viceroy Reading, but failed to draw any result.

In the meantime, annual session of Congress was held in December 1921 with C.Das as its president. Since he was in prison, Hakim Ajmal Khan presided over the session. Sarojini Naidu read out the address of C. Das. Decision was taken to carry out the resolution of non-cooperation in an effective way. By this time, 30000 people had been arrested on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1922, Gandhi warned the Viceroy of disobedience movement from Barddi if the government did not refrain from repressive measures and release the prisoners.

### **Chauri Chaura Incident (5<sup>th</sup> February 1922)**

On 5<sup>th</sup> February 1922, an incident took place at Chauri Chaura in Devaria district of Uttar Pradesh. When police took stringent action against a peaceful procession, the crowd was instigated. It surrounded the police station and set it on fire. In this incident, one sub-inspector and 21 sepoys were burnt to death. Gandhi decided to call off the movement due to this violent incident. On 12<sup>th</sup> February 1922, in a meeting of Congress working committee in Bardoli, Gandhi announced suspension of the movement.

Lajpat Rai, C.Das and M.L. Nehru wrote protest letters to Gandhi about this decision. Subhash Chandra Bose and J.L. Nehru were also agitated. The repression of government did not, however, halt even after suspension of the movement. On 10<sup>th</sup> March 1922, Gandhi was arrested on charges of sedition, sentenced for six years but released in February 1924. Gandhi, thereafter, concentrated fully on propagation of Khadi, abolition of untouchability etc.

The movement is criticized on the ground that it failed to gain Swarajya, as promised. Question of Khilafat also faded away. It could not promote Hindu-Muslim unity and rather encouraged communalism. The wrongs of Punjab could not be remedied.

The movement, however, gained success in sphere of constitutional methods. Important milestones were touched in the field of national education, spinning, Khadi, adoption of swadeshi etc. It gave a new direction to Congress party and imparted it a character of a mass movement. It made Indians desirous of obtaining self rule and to become an organized force.

### **Khilafat Movement**

The main aim of the movement was to oppose division of empire of Turkey and maintain the post of Khalifa. The movement was reactionary in character. Muslims all over the world considered the sultan of Turkey a Khalifa i.e. supreme religious teacher. British prime minister Lloyd George had assured the Indian Muslims that the government of Turkey would not be dismembered, but after the victory in the first world war, Britain's attitude towards Turkey took a sharp turn. Muslims were apprehensive about security of their religious places. After the defeat of Turkey, Britain with its allies started to dismember Turkey. Discontentment spread among the Indian Muslims and they started a protest movement to create a favourable public opinion in favour of Khalifa. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr. M.A. Ansari, Hakim Ajmal Khan, Maulana Shaukat Ali, Maulana Mohammad Ali, Hasrat Mohani etc. were the prominent leaders of this movement. Branches of Khilafat committee were set up in different parts of India.

On 22-23<sup>rd</sup> November 1919, the All Bharat Khilafat conference decided that if their demands remain unaccepted non-cooperation movement would be initiated. Gandhi was invited as special guest in this conference who advised the conference to pass non-cooperation resolution against the government. This proposal was accepted by the committee in June 1920 in Allahabad unanimously and gave all rights to Gandhi to lead the movement. In August 1920, non cooperation was started on the question of Khilafat. Programmes like resignation from government posts and surrender of titles, nonpayment of revenues were carried out. Gandhi saw this movement as an opportunity to cement Hindu-Muslim unity. He weighed the question of Khilafat as more important than issues like Punjab



wrongs or constitutional reforms. In 1920, almost 18000 Muslims left India as they considered living under British rule as heathenism.

Ali brothers were arrested. Soon the question of Khilafat became redundant. People of Turkey rose in revolt under Mustafa Kamal Pasha in 1922 and dethroned the ruler of Turkey. Pashas labored to transform Turkey as a secular state. In 1924, when Pasha abolished the post of Khalifa, not a single voice protested in India.

Congress lent its support to Khilafat question under the strategy of gaining muslim support for National Movement. Instantaneously, many Muslims joined the National Movement. But when communal consciousness got mixed with politics, it only encouraged communalism. Gandhi was criticized for aligning these two questions i.e. Khilafat issue with National Movement. After the suspension of Khilafat movement, Muslim leadership alienated from Congress. Moplah Muslims revolted in Kerala and local Hindus were the main victims who had to suffer loss of men and money.

### Incidents from 1922 to 1930

#### Swaraj Party

After the suspension of Non-cooperation movement, Congress stood divided over its future course especially over the question of participation in assembly elections proposed in 1919 Act. C.Das, Moti Lal Nehru, Vithal Bhai Patel and Hakim Ajmal Khan were in favour of participation in the elections in view of the changed political atmosphere. They were in favour of opposing the government from within the government. They came to be known as Radicals. On the other side were non-radicals like Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Babu Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Ansari and Raj Gopalachari who opposed participation in elections. The non-radicals insisted on running constructive programmes like spinning, prohibition, removal of untouchability, unity between Hindus and Muslims etc. In Gaya session of Congress in December 1922, sharp differences arose on the question of elections. In spite of efforts of C. Das, the President of the session, proposal related to entry into the council was defeated.

The Radicals called an all India meeting of its supporters in Allahabad in March 1923 and

founded Swaraj Party. Its president was C. Das and secretary was M.L. Nehru. It was decided that pressure will be built on the British government in assemblies by contesting the elections. They supported the constructive work of congress.

The party gained success in election in assemblies held in November 1923. Vithal Bhai Patel was elected President of the Central Legislature in 1925. The members expressed loopholes in the Act of 1919. By pointing out the failure of dyarchy in provinces, they rallied to form a committee for suggesting remedies. Thus Mudiman committee made an enquiry into this provision. They demanded a round table conference to deliberate for establishment of a responsible government. The party received a huge blow with the death of C.Das in June 1925. The party did not gain much success in elections of 1926 and gradually its influence faded away.

#### Simon Commission

In November 1927, the government deputed Simon Commission (Indian Statutory Commission) under Simon. It had no Bhartiya member. It was asked to give its opinion on feasibility of a responsible government and dyarchy in provinces. Indians took it as an insult that not a single Indian member was part of this commission.

In its Madras session of December 1927, the Congress, chaired by Dr. Ansari, decided to boycott the commission. Hindu Mahasabha, Liberal Federation and Muslim league also opposed the Commission.

The Commission reached Bombay on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1928. A large all India protest movement started. An all India strike was observed in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras etc. Commission was greeted with black flags and slogans of 'Simon go Back'. The central legislative also did not accord welcome to the Commission.

When the Commission reached Lahore, a large crowd under Lala Lajpat Rai protested. In the Lathi charge by the police, Lajpat Rai was injured and later succumbed to his injuries. Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant and J.L. Nehru were also injured during protest in Lukhnow. The British government arranged crowd to welcome the Commission in



Patna, but this crowd soon went away with the protestors when they arrived in Patna. Workers, farmers and youth contributed significantly in this protest. Various parties and leaders untidily planned an alternative scheme of constitutional reforms to give a just answer to the challenge of Simon Commission.

### Nehru Report (1928)

Secretary to Bharat, Lord Birkenhead challenged the Indians to form a constitution acceptable to all parties and factions. When Simon Commission was opposed all over the country, In May 1928, All India party meet in Bombay constituted a committee under Motilal Nehru to frame a constitution. The main aim was to frame the future constitution of India. The report submitted by this committee came to be known as Nehru Report. Its members included Tej Bahadur Sapru, Sardar Mangal Singh, N.S. Anne. G.R. Pradhan and Shoyeb Qureshi. Main features of the Report were:-

1. India to be given the status of Dominion state under the British Commonwealth.
2. A charter of rights to be declared, to impart political and religious freedom to Indians
3. Communal electorate system to be suspended though seats may be reserved for Muslims in both central and provincial legislatures.
4. Bicameral legislative to be provisioned for in the centre.
5. Provinces to be granted greater autonomy.
6. Central legislature to be made answerable to Indian government. Only matters of defence and foreign relations to be left in British hands.

Nehru Report was published in July 1928. The Congress in its Calcutta session of December 1928, under M.L. Nehru, gave an ultimatum to the British government that if Nehru Report is not implemented by 31<sup>st</sup> December 1929, Congress would start a peoples' movement. Muslim League opposed Nehru Report and Jinnah instead presented his own 14 points.

### Proposal of Complete independence (December 1929)

On 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1929 the deadline for

implementing the Nehru Report passed and the Congress reiterated its demand for complete independence more boldly. In its Lahore session of December 1929, under J.L. Nehru, Congress put forward the demand for complete independence. Swarajya was interpreted as complete independence. The Bhartiya flag was unfurled on the banks of river Ravi at midnight of 31<sup>st</sup> December 1929. Congress celebrated complete Independence Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1930 and the day continued to be celebrated every year till Bharat gained freedom.

### Civil Disobedience Movement (1930)

In 1930, Civil Disobedience movement started which proved to be a major mass movement. There was a wide spread agitation among Indians after the rejection of Nehru Report and denial of Colonial Dominion Status. Election and hope filled the hearts of Indians when the Lahore session declared complete independence as its objective. Gandhi in his newspaper 'Young India', presented 11 demands before the government and decided to start the Civil Disobedience Movement in case they were not met. These demands included reduction in land revenue, reduction in military expenses, suspension of salt tax, reduction in exchange rate of rupee, control over import of foreign clothes, implementation of prohibition, release of political prisoners etc. When Irwin gave no heed to these demands, path of civil disobedience was adopted. The Congress Working Committee put Gandhi in charge of the movement.



### Namak Styagrah

On 12<sup>th</sup> March 1930, Gandhi with his chosen 78 followers started 240 mile march for Dandi from Sabarmati which was completed in 24 days. On 6<sup>th</sup>



April 1930, Gandhi reached Dandi and broke the Salt Law by picking up a handful of salt. It was symbolic that the British laws were no longer respected in India. Salt Law was broken in many parts of India. Bose compared Dandi march to Napoleon's march from Elba to Paris.

The programme of this movement included violation of Salt Law and manufacture of salt, picketing of liquor shops, opium shops and foreign cloth shops, spinning, burning of foreign clothes, dropout from government schools and colleges, resignation from government jobs and abolition of untouchability.

Youth, women, farmers and workers participated actively through demonstrations, strikes, boycott, dharmas etc. Thousands of satyagrahis like J.L. Nehru, Sardar Patel, Gandhi were imprisoned. Forest laws were violated in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Central India. People of Bihar refused to pay 'Choukidari'. A no revenue campaign was conducted in United Province. The Garhwali sepoys refused to open fire on demonstrators in Peshawar on appeal of Chandra Singh Garhwali and thus exhibited their patriotism. The agitators in Sholapur unfurled national flag and formed parallel governments. Sholapur remained in their hands for one week. In north-east border area, the Nagas under Yadunang raised a fight against the British. Yadunang was hanged later on. The movement after his death was led by the Naga queen Rani Gidlu. This young queen was sentenced for life and was released only after independence. Participation of Muslims in this movement, as compared to non-cooperation movement, remained low. Abdul Gaffar Khan of North West province and his organisation 'Khudai Khidmatgar' played a prominent part in this movement.

In spite of rigorous suppression, the movement continued to spread. In the meantime, the First Round Table Conference was organized in London to discuss constitutional reforms for India in November 1930. The Congress did not participate. The British government, however, released the leaders of Congress along with Gandhi for deliberations.

#### **Gandhi-Irwin Pact (5<sup>th</sup> March 1931)**

After long deliberations, Gandhi-Irwin pact

was concluded for the first time, Congress was treated at par with the government. It is also known as 'Delhi Pact'. The government agreed to free all the political prisoners (except those arrested for violence) and release their confiscated properties. It also granted the right to manufacture salt for local consumption to people living in coastal areas. Government officials who had resigned from their jobs were to be treated liberally. Indians were given right to peaceful 'Dharna'. In exchange of these assurances, Congress withdrew the Civil Disobedience Movement and agreed to participate in the Second Round Table Conference.

Gandhi went to London to participate but did not find any proposal acceptable. Therefore, he returned in December 1931. The government violated the Gandhi Irwin pact and continued its suppression.

Mahatma tried to start negotiations with the new viceroy Wellington but failed. Faced with such a situation, the Congress restarted the movement on January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1932. The Congress also did not participate in the Third Round Table Conference. Gandhi was imprisoned and he started his fast unto death. Sensing his ill health, the government released him. After his release, Gandhi for some time stayed away from politics and devoted his time to constructive programmes. On 18<sup>th</sup> May 1934, in a meeting of Congress in Patna, Civil Dis-obedience Movement was suspended without any condition.

This movement made a large section of people politically aware and the British authorities were taken a back. The I.G. of Bengal police stated, "I never had an idea that the congress would muster cooperation of the rustic and uneducated." The way the farmers of Awadh, tribals of Maharashtra, Central India and Karnataka & labourers of Maharashtra, showed their active involvement, it was remarkable. Its economic impact was phenomenal. Import of foreign cloth fell to one-third.

#### **Round Table Conferences (1930-1932)**

To discuss the recommendations of Simon Commission and constitutional deadlock in India Conferences of representatives of various parties were called in London. These conferences came to be known as Round Table Conferences.



### First Round Table Conference

It commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1930. Political parties of Bharat representatives of Princely states and those of British government participated in it. Representatives of British government included the British Prime minister Ramsay MacDonald, those from Bharat included Tej Bahadur Sapru, M.R. Jayakar, C.Y. Chintamani, Agha Khan Mohammad Ali Jinnah and from princely states included rulers of Bikaner, Baroda, Kashmir, Bhopal, Hyderabad and Mysore. Congress did not participate since it was running a civil disobedience movement in India and hence was declared illegal by the British government. Matters such as Indian Federation in centre, establishment of responsible government with some reservations, complete autonomy to provinces etc. were discussed. Without Congress, the conference was declared incomplete. The conference closed on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1931.

### Second Round Table Conference

Commenced from 7<sup>th</sup> September 1931 Mahatma Gandhi participated in it as Congress representative. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Pt. Malviya also attended it. Question of communal representation proved to be the toughest issue. Ambedkar also demanded a separate electorate for depressed class. Difference of opinion prevailed over issues like responsible government in centre and division of powers between centre and states. Gandhi returned disappointed in December 1931.

After the Conference was over, the British P.M. Ramsay MacDonald announced Communal Award on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1932 which recognized the depressed class/untouchables apart from the Hindus and gave the former a separate representation. Clearly, the government followed the policy of 'Divide and Rule'.

Mahatma Gandhi went on a fast unto death to oppose the Award. Madan Mohan Malviya, Rajendra Prasad, C.Rajgopalachari met Ambedkar in Poona and with their efforts, Gandhi and Ambedkar reached for a pact called the Poona Pact on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1932. It was approved by the British government. According to the Pact, seats for

the untouchables were reserved in legislature in Hindu quota. Number of their seats in Poona Pact were more than provisioned in Communal Award.

### Third Round Table Conference

It commenced from 17 November 1932. The Congress did not participate. Decisions on the basis of recommendations of sub-committees of the Second Conference were taken which were incorporated in the Act of 1935.

### The Act of 1935

It was an elaborate Act and formed the most important and the last constitutional arrangement by the British for India. There were several reasons to introduce the Act. The Act of 1919 failed to fulfill the aspirations of Indians. They had boycotted the Simon Commission. Civil disobedience movement had intensified the anti British sentiment. The British government issued a 'White Paper' after the three conferences which included some reforms. After making some amendments in it, the British Parliament passed the Indian Administrative Act 1935. Its major recommendations were:-

1. Dyarchy in provinces was abolished and the provinces were granted complete autonomy.
2. Bicameral legislatures were provisioned in six provinces of Bengal, Madras, Bombay Central Provinces, Assam and Bihar. Upper House was called Legislative Council and the lower house was Legislative Assembly.
3. An all India federation was also proposed to include Indian provinces and princely states. However, it was subjected to the consent of the constituent states.
4. Dyarchy in centre was introduced.
5. All subjects were divided into three lists- Central, Provincial and Concurrent lists. Subjects were also divided among these 3 lists.
6. A Federal court was also established and some of its decisions could be challenged in Privy Council in England.
7. The India Council, established under the Act of 1858, was abolished and advisors were appointed to Secretary to the State.
8. Separate communal electorate was extended



and it now included the untouchables.

9. A central bank, known as Reserve Bank of India, was also provided for.
10. A federal Railway Board was provisioned for to control, constant, maintain and execution of railways.
11. Burma was separated from India. Two provinces of Sindh and Orissa were formed. (British India now had 11 provinces)

Though responsible governments were formed in the provinces, yet they were restricted by veto power of the governor. Due to lack of required number of states, the plan of an All India Federation failed. The Federal Court was also not set up as the last court for justice.

A major part of this Act became a part of Indian constitution. All its provisions except the one on Federal System were implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1937. Though the Congress criticised it, yet it participated in the provincial elections provisioned for in this Act and formed governments.

### Provincial Governments

The Act of 1935 was implemented in provinces on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1937 and elections were accordingly held. Congress gained majority in six provinces of Madras, Bombay, Central Provinces, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. By July 1937 Congress had formed government in six out of 11 provinces, along with two coalition governments, one in Assam and North West Frontier Provinces. A coalition government was formed in Bengal under Fazal ul-Haq with Praja Krishak Party and Muslim League as constituent parties.

Unionist party under Hayat Khan formed government in Punjab. Only three states had a non-congress party government. Performance of Muslim League, even in Muslim populated areas, was disappointing.

These governments did exemplary work in field of civil liberties and equal rights. People accused in Chauri-Chaura incident and Moplah rebels were freed from prison. Restrictions on political institutions were lifted. Securities and Bonds charged from newspapers were returned and they were granted political advertisements.

Programmes of social and economic reforms were implemented. A part of debt of farmers in Madras was waived off through Debt Relief Act. Important issues like prohibition, upliftment of Harijans, rural development, education were accorded importance.

### Second World War and India

Lord Linlithgo announced participation of India in the war without her consent. On this issue the provincial governments resigned.

Muslim league spread false stories about atrocities of Congress government over the Muslims in its Pirpur report. It celebrated 'Mukti Diwas' when the Congress government resigned.

### August Offer (8 August 1940)

Congress proposed to the British government in July 1940 that if the latter is willing to grant independence to India and to form an Interim Government in centre, the Congress would cooperate in the war. British P.M. Churchill replied, "I have not become her Majesty's Prime Minister to preside over liquidation of British Indian empire." Viceroy Linlithgo, to break the dead lock, put forward the following proposals on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1942:-

1. A body constituting Indians will be formed to frame structure of constitution after the War.
2. Executive Council of Viceroy will be extended to include more Indians.
3. A War Advisory council to be formed which will include representatives of Indian states and Indians in general.
4. Aim of the British government is to establish dominion self rule.
5. Government will not make any constitutional amendment without the approval of minorities.

Congress did not accept the proposal. Minorities were given more weightage than due. Important provision of this Proposal was that it accepted that Indians have the right to frame their own constitution. Individual Satyagraha (October 1940) Gandhi launched Individual Satyagraha with the



aim to gain freedom of expression. It was a symbolic movement very limited in its scope. The members were to provide prior information to the police about their satyagraha and to read the speech written and provided by Gandhi ji.

On 17<sup>th</sup> October 1940 individual satyagraha started from Pavwar in Maharashtra Vinoba Bhave was the first satyagrahi, who was arrested for anti-war speech. J.L. Nehru was the second one. Soon the government started arresting the satyagrahis as soon it received a prior notice from them. In 1941, the government released all the prisoners in view of Britain's vulnerable condition in II world war.

### **Cripps Mission (1942)**

The urge to gain independence became more prominent among Indians. The Allies faced problems at the war front. At this juncture, American president Roosevelt, Chinese president Chang Kai Shek and Australian foreign minister pressurized the British government to prepare for the transfer of power to the Indians to solicit Indian cooperation in the war. Japan soon reached up to Indian borders. Panicked at this situation, Britain sent Cripps Mission to India on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1942 under Sir Stafford Cripps. The Mission proposed the following:-

1. Bharat to be given the status of Dominion Self Rule after the war. She had right to opt out of British Commonwealth.

2. A constituent assembly was to be framed immediately after the war to frame constitution of India.

3. If any princely state disagrees with the new constitution, it will have the right to keep status quo and stay outside the Indian Federation.

4. Responsibility of Indian security remains with great Britain till the war lasts and a new constitution is framed.

The Mission did not transfer any real powers to Indians. Gandhi called it a 'Post-dated cheque'. Congress disapproved it due to the freedom granted to princely states to remain independent, if they wished so. It indirectly accepted the demand for Pakistan. All the parties including Congress, Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha, and also the Sikhs, Dalits Liberals etc. rejected its recommen-

dations.

### **Quit India Movement 1942**

It was a popular movement which shook the foundations of the British Empire and gave a new direction to attain freedom. The Cripps Mission had disappointed people. Discontent was simmering among the Indians due to rise in prices and scarcity of essential commodities during the Second World War. Britain had to recall its forces from Burma, Malaya and Singapore which were occupied by Japan. At this juncture, Gandhi appealed Britain to quit India in his newsletter 'Harijan'. He stated that presence of British governments in India is an open invitation to the Japanese army to attack India. He asked Britain to leave India in the hands of either God or anarchy. He decided to commence a non-violent movement against the British government. Abul Kalam Azad and Nehru were not in favour of this movement and considered it impractical. Gandhi said, "We will raise from the sands of India a movement which will be bigger than congress itself". The Congress working committee on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1942 in Wardha approved of the non-violent struggle of Mahatma Gandhi on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1942. In a meeting of All India Congress committee, a proposal was introduced, which was approved on August 8, 1942. The same day, Gandhi, in a historical meeting in Gwalior Tank, gave the slogan 'Do or Die'. He said, "I am giving you a mantra. I want you to keep it close to your hearts and repeat it with your every breath. This mantra is 'Do or Die. Either we will free India or die in this effort but will not live to see our bondage". Gandhi gave two weeks' time to viceroy to approve the proposal. Before the Congress could initiate any move, Gandhi and other congress leaders were arrested on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1942. Congress was declared unconstitutional. Gandhi and Sarojini Naidu were detained in Agha Khan Palace in Poona while other leaders were imprisoned in Ahmad Nagar fort. Rajendra Prasad was not in Bombay, so he was kept under house arrest in Patna. The movement did not adhere to any fixed plan. With these arrests, people were left clueless and leaderless.

Public unrest was rampant with these arrests. Large processions were taken out in



Bombay, Ahmedabad, Poona, Delhi, Kanpur Allahabad, Patna. Strikes were observed in schools, colleges and factories. There were spontaneous up risings. People resorted to violent means. They attached the symbols of British authority like police stations, post offices, courts, railway stations etc. Tricolour was unfurled over public places. Railway tracks were damaged, bridges were destroyed. Government officials, political authorities and informers were attacked.

Socialists like Achyut Patwardhan, Jai Prakash, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya, Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali went underground and contributed from there. J.P. was detained in Hyderabad prison. On 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1942, he escaped with five inmates. They formed "Azad Dasta" to carry out the movement. People gave them refuge. Sumati Moraji arranged a new car for Patwardhan to help him to dodge the police and escape. Ram Manohar Lohiya continued to air his address. Aruna Asaf Ali was active in Bombay and she unfurled tricolor flag in Gwalia Tank Ground.

Parallel governments were formed at many places. One such government was formed under Chittu Panda in Balia. Assuming all the powers of a Collector, he released prisoners from jail. A National Government was formed in Melnapur in Bengal from 17<sup>th</sup> December 1942 to September 1944. It established courts for solving mutual differences gave grants to schools and conducted many reform works. The parallel government at Satara functioned the longest. Napa Patil was its chief.



**Bheemrao Ambedkar**



**Mahatma Gandhi**

On 10 February 1943, Gandhi started his fast. The British government forced him to issue an apology and condemnation over the violence during

the Quit India Movement. Gandhi begged to differ. He believed that the violence was result of police atrocities. There were demands for his release. Three members of Viceroy's Executive Council, M.H. Ane, N.R. Sarkar and H.P. Modi resigned. Gandhi was released on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1944 on medical grounds.

Congress leaders did not own the responsibility for violence during the Quit India Movement. Government Committed atrocities to crush the movement. Demonstrators were fired upon. Prisoners were tortured. A heavy fine was levied on villages who participated in the movement. By the end of 1942, more than 60000 people were arrested. About 10000 people died in police and military firing.

Muslim League remained aloof during the movement. Muhammad Ali Jinnah appealed to Muslims to stay away from the movement. When majority of Congress leaders were in prison, he asked the Muslim League to celebrate Pakistan Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1943. Communists asked congress to call off the movement and cooperated with the British.

Devoid of leadership, this movement is a unique example of struggle and sacrifice of the people. Its comprehensiveness convinced the British that their days in India were numbered. Peasants of East United Provinces Bihar, Bengal, Maharastra, Gujrat, Andhra and Kerela actively participated. Among the big zaminadars, the Raja of Darbhanga refused to cooperate with the British and extended help to the ones arrested. Women like Sucheta Kriplani remained underground to run this movement. Usha Mehta formed a part of the group which canvassed through Radio. Role of workers was also important in this movement. Factories in Ahmedabad, Bombay, and Jamshedpur etc. were closed. A major achievement of this movement was that the demand for freedom became a priority of the ongoing National Movement. Talks were centred on only over transfer of power.

### **Wavell Plan and Simla conference (1945)**

Britain was in vulnerable position in Second World War when Azad Hind Fauj reached the boundaries of Indian along with Japan. Labour



Party was gaining ascendancy in Britain. In view of the upcoming elections, P.M. Churchill wanted to end the deadlock.

Viceroy Wavell presented a scheme of constitutional reforms in June 1945 which came to be known as Wavell Plan. According to it:-

1. A new executive of Governor General will be formed with equal number of Hindu and Muslim members. All the members, except for the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief were to be Indians.
2. Responsible coalition governments to be formed in provinces.
3. These proposals would not affect in any way the framing of the future constitution of India. Which will be framed by Indians.

Wavell summoned a conference on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1945 in Simla to discuss these proposals in which Muslim League and Congress were required to nominate five members from their respective parties. When Congress nominated Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Muslim League objected to it and claimed right to nominate all Muslims. After Muslim League rejected Wavell Plan, the Simla Conference came to an end.

In 1945, Labour Party came into power in England. Elections for assemblies were held in India, where the Congress came to power in non-Muslim majority areas. Only the Muslim seats in N.W.F.P were gained by it.

#### **Revolt of Navy (February 1946):-**

On 18<sup>th</sup> February, 1946, the Bhartiya soldiers on the ship 'Talwar' revolted. They went on a hunger strike on issues of poor food quality and racial discrimination against them. By next day, the strike spread to 22 more ships. A hartal committee was formed under M.S. Khan. Major demands included good quality of food to Bhartiya navy men, parity in salary, acquittal of Azad Hind Fauj officials, recall of Bhartiya soldiers from Indonesia.

About 20000 people participated in these strikes directly or indirectly. Residents of Bombay came forward in support and arranged for food and clothing for navy men. On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1946, mills of Bombay were closed down. These strikes came to

an end only after leaders like Vallabh Bhai Patel asked them to call these strikes off.

#### **Cabinet Mission (1946):**

The British could no longer trust the Indian army. Power of Britain in international arena had weakened. At this stage, P.M. Attlee sent a delegation called Cabinet Mission to resolve the issue.

The Mission reached Delhi on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1946. It comprised three members Petrick Lawrence (Secretary to the State), Sir Stafford Cripps (president of Board of Trade) and A.V. Alexander (Naval Chief) The Mission deliberated with Kings, Nawabs, the Congress party, Muslim League and others for three weeks. After consultations with the Viceroy and the British cabinet, the Mission proposed the following on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1946:-

1. An Indian Federation to be formed constituting the British and Indian Princely states. It should shoulder responsibility for subjects like defence, foreign relations and communications.
2. Provinces to enjoy right of forming separate groups.
3. A Constituent Assembly to be formed for framing constitution. Its members to be elected indirectly from the provincial assemblies. One representative on every 10 lakh population was to be chosen.
4. An interim government to be formed including members of major Indian political parties.

#### **Partition and Independence**

Cabinet Mission provided for a weak federation and made efforts to satisfy both Muslim League and the princely States. Provision of grouping of provinces was ambiguous. Both Congress and Muslim League accepted the longterm plan of the Mission but had differences over the formation of Interim Government.

Elections were held, Congress demanded right to nominate one nationalist Muslim in the



Interim Government, which the League rejected. On 29<sup>th</sup> July 1947, Muslim League withdrew its support for the Mission. Wavell invited Congress to form Interim Government but could not succeed.

### **Direct Action Day (August 1946)**

Muslim League decided for a direct action for attaining Pakistan and fixed 16<sup>th</sup> August 1946 as the day. It was a direct action against the Hindus. Slogans like “We shall take Pakistan, we will fight to take Pakistan” were raised and shouted. Calcutta was the first city to celebrate this day where Muslim League under Suharwardi ruled. Riots broke out in Noakhali and Tipperdah. Bengal government took no action to prevent it. Thousands of Hindus were looted and massacred. These riots spread further in Bengal, Bihar, U.P. Bombay, Punjab etc.

### **Interim Government (September 1946)**

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1946, J.L. Nehru formed an Interim Government along with Vallabh Bhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Raj Gopalachari, Jag Jivan Ram, Asaf Ali, Sharad Chand Bose, Sardar Baldev Singh, Dr. John Mathai, Sir Safat Ahmad Khan, Sayyied Ali Jalni and C.H. Bhamra. Muslim League Announced to join the government to follow its own agenda. Its five members joined the government in October 1946 primarily to make the government dysfunctional. Liaquat Ali of Muslim League became the finance minister. While presenting the budget, he levied exorbitant taxes on industrialists and traders. While the members of the League did not cooperate with the government, it became clear that the two parties could not work together compatibly.

On 9<sup>th</sup> December 1946, the first meeting of Constituent Assembly was held and Sachidanand Sinha was declared as the Interim President on basis of seniority. On 11<sup>th</sup> December 1946, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as president of the Constituent Assembly.

### **Attlee's Declaration (February 1947)**

Sensing the deteriorating political condition of India, the British Prime Minister Attlee decided to declare a date to leave India.

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 1947, he announced in the House of Commons that the British Government

will transfer power to India by June 1948. A new Viceroy Lord Mountbatten was appointed to accomplish the task. Both Congress and the Muslim League welcomed the decision.

### **Mountbatten plan (3<sup>rd</sup> June 1947)**

On 24<sup>th</sup> March 1947, Mountbatten arrived as the new Viceroy of India and held deliberations with various political parties and leaders. Mountbatten reached to the conclusion that the only remedy for all the ills of India was partition of India and formation of Pakistan. He gained consent of Pt. Nehru and Sardar Patel on this matter. Azad and Gandhi did not approve of it. Gandhi ji stated, 'If Congress accepts partition, it will do so only over my dead body. I will never agree for division of India and if I have my way, I will not allow Congress to accept it.' He met Mountbatten and advised him to offer to Jinnah to form the government and choose his ministers. Gandhi backed out when both Nehru and Patel opposed this proposal.

Sensing the situation, Gandhi now accepted the inevitability of partition. Mountbatten went to London to communicate the plan of partition. British government published the Mountbatten Plan for India's partition on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1947. Its major features were:-

1. India to be partitioned into two parts-India and Pakistan.
2. Constitution approved by the Constituent Assembly was not mandatory for portions which disapprove of it.
3. Before the partition, boundaries of Punjab and Bengal would be demarcated. The Hindu and Muslim Majority districts of Bengal and Punjab were to call a meeting to vote for the feasibility of partition.
4. A referendum will be held in North West Frontier Province and district of Assam to ascertain their position. Question of partition in Sindh province shall be put to vote in the legislature.
5. The princely states of India will decide their own future. If they disagree to join any faction, they would be free and shall enjoy status quo in their relations with Great Britain.

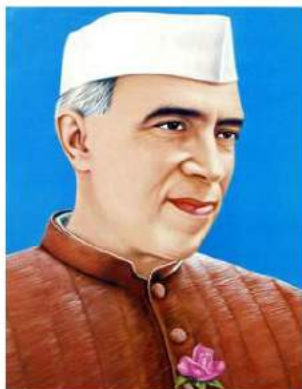


Azad supported the Congress decision for partition thus, "Although this decision of Congress Working Committee is not righteous, but Congress has no option" The plan for partition was opposed by Chauth Ram Midwani a leader of Sindh, Dr. Kichloo, President of Punjab Congress, Purshottam Das Tandon and Maulana Hafizurrahman. Leaders of North West Frontier Province were not taken into confidence before the decision of partition was taken. Abdul Gaffar Khan, while opposing the partition said, "If the congress surrenders Khudai Khidmatgars before jackals, Frontier province will treat it as a treachery."

Abdul Gaffar Khan did not participate in the referendum and boycotted it. Taking advantage of it, Muslim League incorporated the North West Frontier province into Pakistan. East Bengal, West Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and Silhet district of Assam formed a part of Pakistan. The non-Muslim residents of Punjab and Bengal voted in favour of India.

### **Bharat Independence Act (4<sup>th</sup> July 1947)**

The Bharat Independence Act bill was passed in British Parliament on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1947 which became an Act on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1947 with the approval of the British Emperor. Two nations were formed India and Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah became the Governor General of Pakistan with Liyakat Ali as its Prime Minister. In Bharat Lord Mountbatten assumed the office of Governor General with J.L. Nehru as Prime Minister.



**Jawahar Lal Nehru**



**Abdul Kalam Aazad**

The first meeting of the Constituent

Assembly of Indian Federation was held at midnight of 14<sup>th</sup> August 1947 which was addressed by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru., "Years ago me made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure but very substantially. At the stroke of midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A Moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance."

### **Causes of partition of Bharat**

India attained independence after years of struggle but partition was a tragic episode in history. Following were the reasons for India's partition:-

1. Muslim League and role of Jinnah:- Both the League and Jinnah had a major role in the partition of India. Muslim league demanded formation of Pakistan on the basis of 'Two Nation Theory'. According to them would include Punjab, North West Frontier Province, Kashmir, Sindh and Baluchistan. Bengal and Assam, unified, would form Bang-e-Islam while the princely state of Hyderabad was to be renamed as Usmanistan. Muslim League did not gain majority in provincial elections of 1937 and the Congress refused a coalition government with Muslim League after a huge success in elections of 1937. In order to attract Muslims into Congress, Jawahar Lal Nehru started a large public relation campaign which was opposed by the League as it considered itself the role representative of all the Muslims. League and Jinnah adopted a separatist policy. It blamed Congress for suppression of Muslims and encourages communalism. When Congress ministers resigned on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1939, the League celebrated it as Day of Deliverance. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1940. in its Lahore session, the League passed the proposal approving formation of Pakistan.

2. British policy of Divide and Rule:- Following the policy of Divide and Rule, the British government encouraged separatism. It favoured the Muslims and neglected other sects. Morley Minto



Reforms of 1909, introduced communal electorate, where the Muslims were given more seats in proportion to their population.

In 1945, the Executive Council of Wavell included five members each from the Congress and the League, dispute the fact that the Congress represented more people than the League. Jinnah insisted that all Muslim members should be nominated by the League. Wavell dismissed the Simla Conference when the League disapproved of its decision.

3. **Policy of appeasement:-** Considering Hindu, Muslim unity essential for freedom of India, policy of appeasement was adopted towards Muslims. In the Lucknow Pact of 1916, Congress accepted separate electorate in and reservation of their seats more than their proportion in number. It was a blunder. From 1923 to 1933, the Hindu Mahasabha made efforts to amend these provisions of Lucknow Pact. Gandhi made deliberations with Jinnah on C.R. formula (1944 C.E.) according to which in return for League's support for Independence referendum was to be held in North West Frontier Province and North East for their inclusion in India or not. Gandhi repeatedly tried to appease Jinnah. Mohammad Ali Jinnah took advantage of these situations and became politically more powerful. He was known as Quid-i-Azam (great organiser).

4. **Failure of Interim Government:-** League joined the interim government to strengthen the demand for Pakistan and to weaken the Congress. League sent its second grade leaders as representatives to hamper working of Congress ministers. With this experience, it became clear that it was impossible to run a coalition government.

5. **Communal riots:-** For the formation of Pakistan Muslim League started "Direct Action Day" from 16<sup>th</sup> August 1946, which resulted in communal riots across the country. The Bengal government of League assisted the rioters sensing the enormity and severity of the situation, Gandhi, Nehru and Patel accepted the partition of India. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel said, "If we do not accept the partition of India, India will be divided into small fragments and will perish." Govind Vallabh Pant stated, "Congress has to either accept Pakistan or to

commit suicide". Mountbatten played an important role in preparing Nehru and Patel for acceptance of partition. Pt. Nehru said, "Definitely it is our flaw and we will have to pay for the weakness. But I shall never forgive what the British officials have intentionally done to divide Bharat. All other wounds will heal but this will seep for a long time."

### **Causes of British Departure and Contributing Factors in Bharat's Independence**

Bharat's independence was an outcome of a long struggle of Indians and their sacrifices. All the sections of society contributed towards it, intellectuals, farmers, workers, capitalists, traders, Zamindars, youth, students, teachers etc. Following factors contributed towards British departure and Independence of India:-

#### **1. Weak Position of England after Second World War:-**

Though Britain had emerged victorious in the war along with the Allies, it now became a secondary power after the war. America and U.S.S.R. emerged as new super powers. Britain's economic and military power deteriorated. America and U.S.S.R. pressed hard for transfer of power to India. And it became impossible for Britain to ignore world opinion. Increasing influence of Communism also caused a concern. Russia too, sympathized with newly independent countries.

**2. Labour Government in England:-** In elections of 1945, Labour Party formed government in England. It had promised solutions to the Indian problem in its manifesto. Britain knew that it could not rule for long now in India. Therefore, Prime Minister Attlee declared in parliament that his government was ready to transfer power by June 1948.

**3. Rebellion in Indian Army:-** Nationalism surfaced prominently in Bhartiya army. Soldiers of Azad Hind Fauj fought for Indian independence with the Japanese army. On 1<sup>st</sup> February 1946, army revolted in Bombay. It convinced Britain that they could no longer depend on the army to rule India. Morale of British bureaucracy was sinking and the Indian bureaucrats shifted their allegiance.

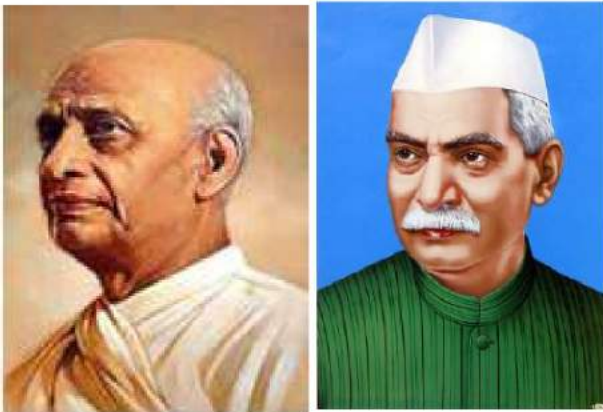


**4. Communal riots:-** The league which was favoured by the British to foster communalism could no longer be controlled by its masters. Owing to the widespread communal riots, it was difficult for the government to maintain law and order. Administration, police and military were in grip of communal ideology. In such a situation, the British government postponed the date fixed for transfer of power to 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947.

Due to the deteriorating condition of India, nationalism among the Indian army and inability to curb nationalism, Britain transferred authority to Indians.

#### **Merger of Princely States into India (with special reference to Junagarh, Hyderabad and Kashmir)**

The India independence Act of 1947 provisioned that the treaties concluded between the British government and princely states of India will be annulled. Thus British paramountcy came to an



**Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Dr. Rajendra Prasad** end. It also contained a clause that the princely states were free to join either India or Pakistan or remain free.

Two documents were prepared for merger of Indian states. One was Instrument of Accession which provided for surrender of three subjects of communication, defence and foreign affairs to central government. Second was 'Stand Still Agreement', according to which status quo of Indian States prior to independence was maintained.

Position enjoyed by the British government

prior to independence will be similar for the Indian government in the federal structure. There were 562 princely states at the time of independence.

The merger of those principal states took place in two phases, in both the phases, the temptation and the pressures of public were included in the threatening and clever policy. Hyderabad, Junagadh and Kashmir playing stiff policy and announced that they did not intend to join either dominion. That's why government of India adopted a strong policy towards native states. In condition of other states the Nawab of Bhopal State Hamidulla Khan given resignation from the post of chairman chamber of princes in June 1947. With it he declared that they intended to remain independent. Along with ruler of Bhopal Yashwant Rao Holkar, Kashmir, Hyderabad and Travancore too declared their intended to remain independent. Junagadh ruler did accede to Pakistan, with the support of Bhopal and Dholpur rulers Muhammad Ali Jinnah to endeavour to attract Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner to intended with Pakistan. But Bikaner and Jaisalmer leave the association with Jodhpur and Dholpur, after getting security assurance from Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. In May 1948 Holkar of Indor also declared to intended with Indian federation. It was difficult for both states to remain hostile for long time due to the policy of Indian Government. Yet, Jodhpur Maharaja was still stout with his decision. Even there was one incident while to that extent of the mid-peace negotiation between Lord Mount Batten and secretary of state department P.V. Menon, Maharaja Hanuman Singh turned pistol towards Menon and said- "I am not going to bend you under pressure." But after sometime Jodhpur fell alone in his fight and due to the pressure of Sardar Patel, in the end the Jodhpur became part of greater Rajasthan and joined the union of India. Sardar Patel announced in a public meeting at Udaipur on 14th January 1949 about the merger of Jodhpur.

Jodhpur and Junagarh States were geographically surrounded by India. The People of Junagarh expressed their intention to join India, but



the nawab decided otherwise and declared his intention to merge his territory into Pakistan. People of Junagarh formed an independent interim government in disregard to Nawab's decision. The nawab fled to Pakistan. In February 1948, a referendum was held in Junagarh which went in favour of India and Junagarh was thus merged into India.

The Nizam of Hyderabad, too, ruled a majority of Hindu population, being a Muslim himself. He kept everyone in confusion regarding his decision to join India.

In November 1947, he had signed the Standstill Agreement but avoided the process of merger. His muslim Razakars began to harass people through murders, arson and looting. Many Hindus were forced to flee. Leader of the Razakars, Kasim River, even threatened to take hold of entire Indian and unfurl Hyderabad's flag over Red Fort. Condition of the State deteriorated continuously, but the Nawab refused to pay heed to the advice of Patel and V.P. Menon. As a last resort, the Indian army conducted an operation and included Hyderabad in Indian Union on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1948.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the ruler, Hari Singh, was a Hindu, while his subjects were mostly Muslims. The boundaries of his state touched both India and Pakistan. Pakistan followed the policy of economic blockage towards Kashmir. It laid restrictions on commodities like salt, petrol, food grains etc. The Pakistani forces attacked Kashmir on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1947 under the disguise of Kabailis (Tribesmen). On 24<sup>th</sup> October, Hari Singh sought military help from Indian government. It was agreed that Kashmir would become a part of India. On 26<sup>th</sup> October 1947 Hari Singh signed the papers of merger (Instrument of Accession) and Kashmir became a part of India. On 27<sup>th</sup> October 1947, Indian army started a military operation against Pakistani infiltration.

In the meantime, India took this matter to the U.N. cease fire was declared on the recommendations of a committee constituted by

U.N. A part of Kashmir was left in Pakistan which is known as Pak Occupied Kashmir (POK).

Kashmir is a part of Indian states mentioned in article 1 of the Indian constitution. It is the 15<sup>th</sup> state in First Schedule. Its area extends to all land as it was under its ruler on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. Under article 370, It has been granted a special status. This arrangement was temporary. Article 370 was included in part 21 of the constitution under the title, 'temporary, transitional and super provisions.

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel played an important role in the integration of India Since from 2014, 31<sup>st</sup> oct. his birthday is celebrated as "National Unity Day".

### Points to remember

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy is known as Father of Indian Renaissance. He founded Atmiya Sabha and Brahma Samaj.
- Arya Samaj was founded in Bombay by Dayanand Saraswati in 1875.
- The slogan "Back to Vedas" was given by Dayanand Saraswati.
- Vivekanand founded Ram Krishna Mission in the memory of his guru Ram Krishna Paramhansa in 1897.
- Vivekanand went to America in 1893 to participate in World Religion Conference.
- Santhal revolts broke out in 1855-56. Its leaders were Kanhu and Siddhu.
- 'Abhinav Bharat' was founded by Vir Savarkar.
- Gadar Party was founded by Lala Hardayal in San Francisco, America in 1913.
- Slogan of "Inqalab Zindabad" was given by Bhagat Singh.
- Subhasa Chandra Bose said, 'Give me blood and I will give you independence.'
- Indian National Congress was founded by A.O. Hume in 1885.
- The first woman president of I.N.C. was Mrs. Annie Beasant.
- Governor General Lord Curzon partitioned Bengal to curb National Movement in 1905.



- In its Surat session of 1907, Congress was divided into two parts -liberals and extremists.
- Separate electorate was adopted in the Act of 1909.
- Non cooperation movement was started under Mahatma Gandhi in August 1920.
- Due to Chauri Chaura incident, Gandhi suspended the movement.
- Swaraj Party was founded in Allahabad by C.Das and Moti Lal Nehru in January 1923.
- Simon comission came to Bharat in February 1928. No one, out of its Seven member, was Bhartiya.
- Congress in its Lahore session of 1929, adopted the resolution of complete independence under the presidentship of Jawahar Lal Nehru.
- Gandhi started his famous "Dandi March" on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1930 from Sabarmati ashram with 78 followers.
- Khan Abdul Gaffar is known as "Frontier Gandhi".
- Gandhi participated in the Second Round Table Conference as the sole representative of Congress.
- The Act of 1935 contained the provision of an All India Federation.
- Muslim league celebrated "Mukti Diwas" on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1939, when the Congress governments resigned from the provinces.
- Quit Indian Movement was started on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1942. Parallel governments were formed in Satara, Balia & Midnapur.

### Questions for Exercise

#### Multiple choice questions

(Choose the correct option):-

1. Who founded Brahma Samaj ?
  - (a) Swami Dayanand Saraswati.
  - (b) Swami Vivekanand.
  - (c) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
  - (d) Atmaran Pandurang
2. Who founded Ram Krishna Mission ?
  - (a) Ramkrishna Paramhansa
  - (b) Mahadev Govind Ranade
  - (c) Swami Vivekanand
  - (d) None of the above
3. Where did Vivekanand go to attend world Religion Parliament in 1893.
  - (a) San Francisco
  - (b) New York
  - (c) Chicago
  - (d) Bristol
4. Where did Raja Ram Mohan die?
  - (a) London
  - (b) Bristol
  - (c) Chicago
  - (d) Calcutta
5. During whose governorship was sati banned with efforts of Raja Ram Mohan Roy?
  - (a) Warren Haslings
  - (b) Lord william Bentenok
  - (c) Lord Dalhousie
  - (d) Lord Ripon
6. Who gave the slogan 'Back to Vedas'?
  - (a) Ram Mohan Roy
  - (b) Swami Vivekanand
  - (c) Swami Dayanand Saraswati
  - (d) Keshav Chandra Sen
7. Who gave the slogan 'Jai Hind'?
  - (a) Bhagat Singh
  - (b) Savarkar
  - (c) Subhash Chandra Bose
  - (d) Chandra Shekhar Azad
8. When were Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru and Sukhdev hanged?
  - (a) 31<sup>st</sup> December 1929
  - (b) 26<sup>th</sup> January 1930
  - (c) 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1931
  - (d) None of the above



9. Who was the First President of Congress?
  - (a) A.O. Hume
  - (b) W.C. Bannerji
  - (c) S.N. Bannerji
  - (d) Dada Bhai Naoroji
10. Who presided over the Surat Session of Congress in 1907?
  - (a) Dada Bhai Naoroji
  - (b) Ras Bihari Bose
  - (c) S.N. Bannerji
  - (d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
11. During which movement did Gandhi promised Swaraj within a year?
  - (a) Champaran Satyagraha
  - (b) Non Cooperation Movement
  - (c) Civil Disobedience Movement
  - (d) Quit India Movement
12. Which Act implemented Dyarchy in Provinces?
  - (a) 1909 Act
  - (b) 1919 Act
  - (c) 1935 Act
  - (d) None of the above
13. Which Act provided for a separate electorate for Muslims following the principle communal representation in elections?
  - (a) 1909 Act
  - (b) 1919 Act
  - (c) 1935 Act
  - (d) None of the above
14. In which round Table Conference did Gandhi participate as a representative of congress?
  - (a) First Round Table Conference
  - (b) Second Round Table Conference.
  - (c) Third Round Table Conference.
  - (d) All the three round table conferences.

#### Very Short Questions (Answer upto two lines)

1. Who first used the word 'Swarajya'.
2. Where did Swami Dayaand Saraswati die?
3. Who wrote Satyarth Prakash?

4. Who is considered as father of Indian nationalism and Indian Renaissance?
5. Who started "Shuddhi Movement"?
6. Give me blood and I will give you independence who said it?
7. Who founded Bharatiya Independence League and when?
8. Who was Birsa Munda?
9. Who founded Indian Association and when?
10. Who founded Congress and when?
11. When was Bengal partitioned and under whose tenure as Governor General it was partitioned?
12. Which Congress session divided the Congress into two?
13. When did Jallian walla Bagh massacre take place?
14. Which event prompted Gandhi to suspend the Non-Cooperation movement?
15. When & with how many followers did Gandhi take the "Dandi March"?
16. Which Act provided autonomy to provinces?
17. When and where did Gandhi give the slogan of 'Do or Die'?

#### Short Questions (Answer in eight lines)

1. Explain the causes of rise of nationalism.
2. Explain the teachings of Arya Samaj.
3. Write a short note on Chandra Shekhar Azad.
4. What was Santhal revolt explain? Explain.
5. What do you know about Gadar Party?
6. Explain about Abhinav Bharat.
7. Explain the aims and programmes of Congress.
8. Write a short note on Partition of Bengal. Why was Bengal partitioned?
9. What was Khilafat Movement?
10. Explain important features of Act of 1919.
11. What do you know about Swaraj Party?
12. Enumerate Gandhi-Irwin Pact.
13. Explain main features of Mountbatten Plan.
14. Explain main features of Act of 1935.

#### Essay type questions (Answer in three pages)

1. Explain the ideas of Swami Vivekanand. Explain his contribution towards national awakening.
2. Explain social and religious contribution of



Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

3. What was the contribution of Azad Hind Fauj in Indian National Movement?
4. Explain the causes, main programme and importance of Non-Cooperation movement.
5. Enumerate the programme and importance of Civil Disobedience movement.
6. Which circumstances contributed in Quit India Movement? Explain its importance

**Answers (Multiple choice)**

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (b)

6. (c) 7. (c) 8. (c) 9. (b) 10. (b)

11. (b) 12. (b) 13. (a) 14. (b)

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