

Indian National Movement

Part - 2

Formation of the Muslim League (1906)

- In December 1906, Muslim delegates from all over India met at Dacca for the Muslim Educational Conference. Taking advantage of this occasion, Nawab Salimullah of Dacca proposed the setting up of an organization to look after the Muslim interests
- Their first achievement was the separate electorates for the Muslims in the Minto-Morley reforms.

The purpose of the Muslim League:

- Protecting Muslim rights.
- Separate Muslims from Congress.
- Aimed at the loyalty of the British to the independence.

Minto - Marley Reforms:

- The Minto-Marley Reform Act was introduced in 1909 to satisfy Muslims. According to the Act, the individuals were given separate sessions. But the congress strongly opposed this.

The First World war 1914 -1918:

- First World War was broke out in 1914. In this war, three countries, Britain, France and Russia, worked together. The Indians were confident that the British would give them their support.

The Home Rule Movement (1916)

- Two Home Rule Leagues were established, one by B.G. Tilak at Poona in April 1916 and the other by Mrs. Annie Besant at Madras in September

1916. The aim of the Movement was to get self- government for India within the British Empire. It was believed that the freedom was the natural right of all nations. Moreover, the leaders of the Home Movement thought that India's resources were not being used for its needs.

- The two Leagues cooperated with each other as well with the Congress and the Muslim League in putting their demand for home rule. While Tilak's Movement concentrated on Maharashtra, Annie Besant's Movement covered the rest of the country. The Home Rule Movement had brought a new life in the national movement. There was a revival of Swadeshi. Women joined in larger numbers.

On 20 August 1917, Montague, the Secretary of State in England, made a declaration in the Parliament of England on British Government's policy towards future political reforms in India. He promised the gradual development of self-governing institutions in India. This August Declaration led to the end of the Home Rule Movement.

The Lucknow Pact (1916)

The Indian National Congress Annual Conference was held in Lucknow in 1916. Two major historical events took place in this conference.

1. The split congress (Moderates and extremists) was one.
 2. Congress and Muslim League signed an agreement to co-operate with each other in self-rule.
- The Lucknow Agreement 1916-- >> Decision taken in favor of Hindu-Muslim unity.
 - Jawaharlal Nehru first met Gandhi in this conference.

August Declaration-1917:

- On August 20, 1917, the UK Foreign Minister Montagu issued a statement in the UK House of commons report on future political reforms in India.
- He promised that autonomous enterprises would be gradually established in India. This August report ended the autonomy movement.

Revolutionary Movement:

- In the first half of the 20th century, revolutionary groups sprang up mainly in Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab and Madras. The revolutionaries were not satisfied with the methods of both the moderates and extremists. Hence, they started many revolutionary secret organizations. In Bengal Anusilan Samiti and Jugantar were established. In Maharashtra Savarkar brothers had set up Abhinava Bharat. In the Madras Presidency, Bharathmatha Association was started by Nilakanta Bramachari.
- In Punjab Ajit Singh set up a secret society to spread revolutionary ideas among the youth. In London, at India House, Shyamji Krishna Verma gathered young Indian nationalists like Madan Lal Dhingra, Savarkar, V.V.S. Iyer and T.S.S.Rajan. Lala Hardyal set up the 'Ghadar Party' in USA to organize revolutionary activities from outside India.

Montague-Chelmsford Reforms (1919):

The Indians gave full support to the British during World War I, and the British succeeded. On the contrary the English parliament passed the Montague-Chelmsford Reform Act in 1919.

According to that Act,

1. The Provincial legislatures were expanded.

2. Double regime was introduced in the provinces.
3. It encouraged the communal, racial and religious interest by allowing Anglo-Indians, Sikhs and European to send their own separate representatives. However, the Indian national congress rejected this.

Annie Besant describes this law as “ungenerous” and not acceptable to India.

4. Indian National Movement (Gandhiji’s Period) (1917-1947)

- The third stage of the Indian National movement is known as Gandhian era. During this period Mahatma Gandhi became the undisputed leader of the National Movement. His principles of non- violence and Satyagraha were employed against the British Government. Gandhi made the nationalist movement a mass movement.
- Gandhi was born on 2nd October 1869. He traveled to England and studied law. Return to India in 1891. He went to South Africa in 1893 and spent 20 years in the struggle against the apartheid policy that existed in India. Finally he came to India in 1915.
- In 1917, he participated in the struggle against the European indigo planters at Champaran in Bihar, where his Gandhi first examined his “Satyagraha Planters” in the Indian soil.
- In 1918, he organized another Sathyagraha struggle in Kheda district of Gujarat. It was during this struggle that Sardar Vallabhai patel became one of Gandhi’s credible disciples. In 1918, Gandhi undertook a fast unto death for the cause of Ahmadabad Mill Workers and finally the mill owners conceded the just demands of the workers.
- On the whole, the local movements at Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad brought Mahatma Gandhi closer to the life of the people and their problems at the grass roots level.

Rowlatt Act (1919):

- The English Government Act of 1919 to the Indian Independence struggle Act,
- A team was appointed in 1917 under the leadership of “ Sir Sidney Rowlett” Rowlett to study conspiracy against the English Government. In March 1919 the central Rest Law was brought into the Federal Assembly.
- A team was appointed in 1917 under the leadership of “Sir Sydney Rowlatt” Rowlatt to study conspiracy against the English Government. In March 1919 the central Rest Law was brought into the Federal Assembly. You can arrest anyone on suspicion; such laws could not be filed or appealed against. The law was considered a Black Frame. On April 6th, 1919, there were picketing protests act across India.
- Mahatma Gandhi was arrested near Delhi. Two prominent leaders of Punjab, Dr Satya Pal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, was arrested in Amritsar.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre 1919:

- The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre took place on 13 April 1919 and it remained a turning point in the history of India’s freedom movement. In Punjab, there was an unprecedented support to the Rowlatt Satyagraha.
- On April 13, a public meeting was held at Jallian Wala Bagh Park on Baisakhi Harvest Day. Dyer marched in and without any warning opened fire on the crowd.
- The shooting lasted 10 to 15 minutes.
- According to official report 379 people were killed and 1137 wounded in the incident.
- There was a nation- wide protest against this massacre and Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood as a protest. The

Jallianwala Bagh massacre gave a tremendous impetus to the freedom struggle.

- Rabindranath Tagore Resigns after the Jallian Wala Bagh massacre – “Knightwood” (VAO Ques in 2014).
- The Jallian Wala Bagh massacre gave the great support to the liberation Movement.

The Khilafat Movement 1919:

- Turkey’s were defeated in the First World War it was a key factor in the Khilafat Movement.
- The Sevres Agreement is an important factor for Muslims.
- Germany and its allies in the First World War were defeated. The Turkish Empire was shattered and Britain and France played their role.
- The whole movement was based on the Muslim belief that the Caliph (the Sultan of Turkey) was the religious head of the Muslims all over the world.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, M.A. Ansari, Saifuddin Kitchlew and the Ali brothers were the prominent leaders of this movement.
- A Khilafat Committee had Jallianwala Bagh Massacre been formed and on 19th October 1919, the whole country had observed the Khilafat day.
- On November 23, a conference of Hindus and Muslims were held. Mahatma Gandhi realized that there is need to unite Hindus and Muslims for the liberation of the country. The khilafat movement then merged with the disobedience movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920.
- After the late 1920s, Balagangadara Tilak became the leader of the congress.

Non-cooperation movement is observed in three stages:

1. The programmes of the Non-Cooperation Movement were:

- Surrender of titles and honorary positions.
- Resignation of membership from the local bodies.
- Boycott of elections held under the provisions of the 1919 Act.
- Boycott of government functions.
- Boycott of courts, government schools and colleges.
- Boycott of foreign goods.
- Establishment of national schools, colleges and private panchayat courts.
- Popularizing swadeshi goods and khadi

Chauri Chaura Incident 1922:

- Gandhi urged nationals not to engage in violence of Gandhi's during non-cooperation movement.
- On February 5th 1922, thousands of farmers held a demonstration in chauri chaura in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh. During the demonstration the guards opened fire on the farmers. The angry farmers attacked against the police station against firearms and burnt them. 22 of them were killed. The Gandians who regretted this dropped out of the collaboration movement on February 11, 1922. Gandhi was arrested on March 30, 1922.

Significance of the Non-Cooperation Movement

1. It was the real mass movement with the participation of different sections of Indian society such as peasants, workers, students, teachers and women.
2. It witnessed the spread of nationalism to the remote corners of India.
3. It also marked the height of Hindu-Muslim unity as a result of the merger of Khilafat movement.

4. It demonstrated the willingness and ability of the masses to endure hardships and made sacrifices.

Swaraj Party:

- The suspension of the Non-Cooperation Movement led to a split within Congress in the Gaya session of the Congress in December 1922.
- Leaders like Motilal Nehru and Chittranjan Das formed a separate group within the Congress known as the Swaraj Party on 1 January 1923.
- The Swarajists wanted to contest the council elections and wreck the government from within. Elections to Legislative Councils were held in November 1923.
- Motilal Nehru is the party leader in the central legislative assembly and elected the party chairman in the Bengal legislative assembly.
- The swaraj party brought many resolutions against the state's repressive laws.
- When a Committee chaired by the Home Member, Alexander Muddiman considered the system of Dyarchy as proper, a resolution was passed against it in the Central Legislative Council.
- After the passing away of C.R. Das in June 1925, the Swarj Party started weakening.

Simon Commission (1927)

- In 1919, the law was to be reopened after 10 years.
- Two years earlier, the British government appointed a review committee in 1927.
- It was called "Simon Group" by the name of Sir John Simon, He is the chairman of the group.
- The 7 member of the Simon group were Englishmen. Even before an Indian member arrived in India, there were too many protests.
- On the fateful day of 3 February 1928 when the Commission reached

- Bombay, a general hartal was observed all over the country. Everywhere it was greeted with black flags and the cries of 'Simon go back'.
- At Lahore, the students took out a large anti-Simon Commission demonstration on 30 October 1928 under the leadership of Lala Lajpat Rai.
- In this demonstration, Lala Lajpat Rai was seriously injured in the police lathi charge and he passed away after one month.
- Many insurgents including Bhagat Singh were killed by the British.
- In May 1930, the Simon group report was published.
- This report was based on the Indian Government Act of 1935.

Nehru Report 1928:

In meanwhile, the Secretary of State, Lord Birkenhead, challenged the Indians to produce a Constitution that would be acceptable to all.

The challenge was accepted by the Congress, which convened an all party meeting on 28 February 1928. A committee consisting of eight was constituted to draw up a blueprint for the future Constitution of India. It was headed by Motilal Nehru. The Report published by this Committee came to be known as the Nehru Report.

The Report favored:

- Dominion Status as the next immediate step.
- Full responsible government at the centre.
- Autonomy to the provinces.
- Clear cut division of power between the centre and the provinces.
- A bicameral legislature at the centre.

However, the leader of the Muslim League, Mohammad Ali Jinnah regarded it as detrimental to the interests of the Muslims. Jinnah convened an All India Conference of the Muslims where he drew up a list of Fourteen Points as Muslim League demand.

The Lahore Congress 1929:

- In December 1929, congress led by Jawaharlal Nehru was held in Lahore. The purpose of the Indian National Congress was to achieve complete independence in this Conference.
- The Indian Triple Flag was mounted on the Ravi River at the midnight of December 31, 1929 in the song “Vande Mataram”.
- This was followed by the 26 March 1930 anniversary of Liberation Day. So on January 26th, is celebrated as Republic Day.

Legal Movement or Salt Satyagraha 1930-1934:

- Gandhi launched the 1930 Act of Disobedience, aiming at full freedom.
- The British government levied tax on salt being used by millions of people.
- Against this, Gandhi launched the Dandi Yatra on March 12, 1930.
- With the help of Gandhi including Sarojini Naidu with 79 disciples, Gandhi started from the Sabarmati Ashram of Ahmadabad at 400 Kms. On April 5, 1930, the shore came to Dandi, on the coast of the Gujarat.
- This is known as Dandi Yatra or Salt Satyagraha.
- Gandhi was arrested from Dandi on April 6 for violating the Salt Law.

In violation of Salt laws:

- Production of salt in villages.
- Alcohol stores, Sedan and foreign clothing shops
- People made clothes like Ropes and Cloths.
- He asked people not to pay taxes to the government.

Soon this movement spread throughout the country. All of the workers, including migrant workers, participated in Salt Satyagraha.

The volunteers in Tiruchirapalli headed by C. Rajagopalachariya in Tamil Nadu took the Pada Yatra and recovered the salt laws in Vedaranyam in Thanjavur Beach.

Round Table Conferences:

- First Round Table Conference (1930 November)
- Gandhi- Irwin Deal 1931 8th March
- Second Round Table Conference 1931 September
- Communal Reports and the Pune Agreement -1932
- Third Round Table Conference -1932

1. First Round Table Conference -1930 November

The English Government was not able to control the lawlessness movement so the English government was engaged in a solution to Indian political issues. This led to the first round table conference in London in 1930.

The first round table conference failed because congress did not attend the congress party because of the ongoing movement in India.

2. Gandhi – Irwin pact

No decision has been made since the first round table conference failed, so the British government sent the Lord Irwin to India to meet Gandhi.

Talks between Gandhi and Lord Irwin were held. At the end of March 8, 1931 Gandhi -Irwin was signed.

According to the Gandhi Irwin Agreement:

To abandon the lawless Movement

He also agreed to attend the second round table conference

In turn, the English government agreed to release all those involved in the struggle and to obtain salt laws.

3. Third Round Table conference – 1931 September

- The second Round Table conference was held in London in September 1931.
- Gandhians Participated in this conference as per Gandhi-Irwin Agreement.
- There was no solution to the issue of freedom of the whole class like this issue. So the Gandhians returned to the country after the disillusionment.
- Leaders like Gandhiji , Sardar Vallabhai Patel were arrested along with their return to the country. The congress was banned in January 1938 by the Civil Disobedience Movement.

4. Communal Award and Poona act:

- By 1930, Dr. Ambedkar emerged as a national leader who fought for the disadvantaged masses.
- Speaking about the true position of the lower castes at the first round table conference, Ambedkar said they should exclude the separate constituency.
- On August 16, 1932 Prime Minister Ramsey McDonald announced his class.
- Accordingly, the depressed population was considered to be a separate group and they were asked to separate the blocks.
- Mahatma Gandhi protested against the Communal Award and went on a fast unto death in the Yeravada jail on 20 September 1932.
- Finally deal between Dr. Ambedkar and Gandhi was known as the Poona pact.

- Congress has allocated 148 seats in various provincial constitutions as per the government's decisions to cut the Pune agreement.
- The seat was allocated to 71 seats for lower castes.

5. Third Round Table conference:

The third Round table conference 1932 was held in London. Congress leaders were not participated in this conference. Finally it was a failure.

However in March 1933, the British government issued a white paper.

The government of India Act of 1935 was passed on the basis of the decisions of the Simon Committee and the three Roundtable conferences.

Autonomous provinces were introduced.

The downtrodden functioning in the provinces was abolished.

The federal government was formed in the middle.

The federal court was set up to solve the problems of the state.

The Establishment of the Federal Reserve Bank.

Second World War and National Movement:

In 1937 elections were held under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935. In this election, the congress party set up a winning cabinet in 8 states. The 1st world war began on the first day of September 1939. In this case, the English government did not consult congress leaders in the Second World War. The Muslim League celebrated that day of the **Deliverance Day**. In March 1940 the Muslim League demanded the creation of Pakistan.