



CBSE : Grade 10
Class - X

2023-24

Board: CBSE

NATIONALISM IN INDIA

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1. Introduction :

- Modern nationalism → was associated with the formation of nation-states.
- In India like many other colonies → the growth of modern nationalism is connected to the anti-colonial movement.
- People discovered unity in the process of their struggle with colonialism

2. The First World War, Khilafat and Non-Cooperation :

- In the years after 1919 → National movement spreading to new areas → incorporating new social groups and developing new modes of struggle.
- The First World War → created a new economic and political situation
- India faced various problems during war period:
 - ◆ Increase in defence expenditure
 - ◆ Increase in income tax
 - ◆ Prices increased through the war years
 - ◆ Forced recruitment in rural areas
 - ◆ During 1918-19 and 1920-21, crops failure in many parts of India
 - ◆ Hardships did not end after the war was over.

The Idea of Satyagraha -

- ◆ A novel way of fighting the colonial rule in India
- ◆ A non-aggressive, peaceful mass agitation against oppression and injustice.
- ◆ It means insistence on truth.
- ◆ It is a moral force, not passive resistance.
- In January 1915 → Mahatma Gandhi returned to India.
- Gandhiji organised Satyagraha Movements → in Champaran, Bihar (1917), Kheda district of Gujarat (1918) and amongst cotton mill workers in Ahmedabad (1918).

The Rowlatt Act (1919) -

- ◆ This act gave the government enormous powers → to repress political activities and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.

Jallianwala Bagh massacre -

- ◆ On 13th April 1919 → a huge crowd gathered in the enclosed ground of Jallianwalla Bagh.
- ◆ Dyer entered the area → blocked the exit points → opened fire on the crowd, killing hundreds.
- ◆ As the news spread, strikes, clashes with the police and attacks on government buildings started.
- ◆ The government responded with brutal repression.
- ◆ Gandhi called off the Rowlatt satyagraha as the violence spread.



Khilafat Movement -

- ◆ Khilafat Movement was led by two brothers Shaukat Ali and Muhammad Ali.
- ◆ Khilafat Committee → formed in Bombay in March 1919 → to defend the Khalifa's temporal powers.
- ◆ Calcutta session of the Congress in September 1920 → Gandhiji convinced the Congress to join hands with the Khilafat Movement and start a Non-Cooperation movement in support of Khilafat as well as for swaraj.

Why Non-cooperation?

- ◆ Hind Swaraj (1909) → Mahatma Gandhi declared → British rule established in India with the cooperation of Indians
- ◆ December 1920 → Congress session, Nagpur → the Non-Cooperation programme was adopted.
- ◆ Gandhiji proposed → the movement should unfold in stages → should begin with the surrender of titles that the government awarded, and a boycott of civil services, army, police, courts and legislative councils, schools, and foreign goods → Then, in case the government used repression → a full civil disobedience campaign would be launched.

3. Differing strands within the movement :

- The Non-Cooperation-Khilafat Movement began in January 1921 → various social groups participated with its own specific aspiration → All responded to the call of Swaraj → but the term meant different things to different people.

The Movement in the Towns -

- ◆ It started with middle class participation in cities.
- ◆ Students, teachers, lawyers gave up studies, jobs, legal practices and joined movements.
- ◆ Council elections were boycotted.
- ◆ Foreign goods were boycotted.
- ◆ Liquor shops were picketed.

But the movement failed in towns, because → (a) Khadi being expensive could not be afforded by the poor. (b) Indian institutions were slow to come up → so people returned back to the British institutions

Rebellion in the Countryside -

- ◆ Peasants and tribal took over the struggle which turned violent gradually.
- **Peasant Movement in Awadh**
 - ★ The peasants were led by → Baba Ramchandra in Awadh against landlords and talukdars.
 - ★ 1920 → the Oudh Kisan Sabha was set up → headed by Jawaharlal Nehru, Baba Ramchandra and a few others.
- **Movement of Tribals in Andhra Pradesh**
 - ★ Alluri Sitaram Raju → led the guerrilla warfare in the Gudem Hills of Andhra Pradesh → The rebels attacked police stations → Raju was captured and executed in 1924.

Swaraj in the Plantations -

- ◆ For the plantation workers → Swaraj means moving freely.
- ◆ They protested against the Inland Emigration Act (1859) → which prevented them from leaving the plantation without permission.
- ◆ Each group interpreted the term swaraj in their own ways.



4. Towards Civil Disobedience :

- February 1922 → Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur → a peaceful demonstration in a bazaar turned into a violent clash with the police → after the incident, Mahatma Gandhi called a halt to the Non-Cooperation Movement → felt the movement was turning violent in many places and satyagrahis needed to be properly trained before they would be ready for mass struggles.
- Many leaders such as → C. R. Das and Motilal Nehru → formed the Swaraj Party within the Congress → to argue for a return to council politics → but Younger leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose pressed for more radical mass agitation and for full independence.

Factors that shaped Indian politics towards the late 1920s -

◆ The Worldwide Economic Depression

- ★ Agricultural prices collapsed after 1930 as the demand for agricultural goods fell and exports declined.

◆ Simon Commission

- ★ It was constituted by the Tory government of Britain to look into the demands of the nationalists and suggest changes in the constitutional structure of India.
- ★ The Commission arrived in India in 1928.
- ★ The Congress protested against this commission.

- ◆ In December, 1929 → under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru, → the Lahore session of Congress formalized the demand of → Purna Swaraj

5. The Salt March and the Civil Disobedience Movement :

- Gandhiji chose → Salt as the medium → that could unite the nation as it is consumed by all the sections of the society.

Salt March -

- ◆ March 12, 1930 → Salt or Dandi March began from Sabarmati Ashram
- ◆ 6th April 1930 → Gandhiji reached Dandi → a village in Gujarat → and broke the Salt Law by boiling water and manufacturing salt → Thus, began the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- ◆ Different from Non-Cooperation Movement → as people were now asked not only to refuse cooperation but also to break colonial laws.
- ◆ Boycott of foreign goods, non-payment of taxes, breaking forest laws were its main features.
- ◆ The British Government followed a policy of brutal repression.
- ◆ British government arrested all the leaders including Gandhiji and Nehru.
- ◆ Mahatma Gandhi called off the movement.

Gandhi-Irwin Pact -

- ◆ 5th March 1931 → Lord Irwin, then Viceroy, signed a pact with Gandhi.
- ◆ December 1931 → Gandhiji went to London for the Second Round Table Conference but returned disappointed.
- ◆ Gandhi launched the Civil Disobedience Movement → but by 1934 it lost its momentum.



How Participants saw the Movement?

- ◆ Rich peasants → expected the revenue demand to be reduced → when the British refused to do so → they joined the movement → They did not re-join the movement as the movement was called without revising the revenue rates.
- ◆ Poor Peasants → wanted rents of lands to be remitted → The Congress was unwilling to support the “no rent” campaigns due to the fear of upsetting the rich peasants and landlords.
- ◆ Business Classes → after the war → their huge profits were reduced → wanted protection against import of foreign goods → To organise business interests → they formed the Indian Industrial and Commercial Congress in 1920 and the Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) in 1927
- ◆ Women → also participated in protest marches, manufactured salt, and picketed foreign cloth and liquor shops → Congress was reluctant to allow women to hold any position of authority within the organisation.

Limits of Civil Disobedience -

- ◆ The Dalits or the Untouchables did not actively participate in the movement → they demanded reservation of seats, separate electorates.
- ◆ Dr B.R. Ambedkar → the leader of the Dalits →. Formed an association in 1930 → called the *Depressed Classes Association*.
- ◆ Poona Pact → between the Gandhiji and B.R. Ambedkar (1932) → gave reserved seats in Provincial and Central Councils but were voted by general electorate.
- ◆ The leader of the Muslim League M.A. Jinnah wanted reserved seats for Muslims in Central Assembly.
- ◆ Large sections of Muslims did not participate in the Civil disobedience movement.

6. The Sense of Collective Belonging :

- The sense of collective belonging came partly through the experience of united struggles.
- History and fiction, folklore and songs, popular prints and symbols → all played a part in the making of nationalism.
- By 1921 → Gandhiji had designed the Swaraj flag → was again a tricolour (red, green and white) and had a spinning wheel in the centre.

