

1 By Himanshu Khatri

Indian Statutory Commission/Simon Commission (1927)

1. This ended the passive phase of INC (*Bardoli Resolution 1922 till 1927)
2. Appointed as per GOI 1919 where there was provision for **review of reforms** after 10 years (*link gradual Swaraj of Montague Statement 1917). However, appointed 2 years in advance (*due to- pressure of Pro Changers, of Revolutionary activity in 1920s, fear of rising communism in 1920s)
3. Headed by **Sir John Simon** & had 7 MPs of Br Parliament.
4. INC opposed it as no Indians in 7 member Simon Commission. This went against principle of self govt promised in Montague Statement 1917 as Indians were not given any say in their future constitution (*ICAs, GOI Acts served legal purposes of a COI)
5. In British Parliament, SoSforIndia- **Birkinhead** challenged Indians (*not INC) to draft a constitution (*believed that Indian leaders can't overcome differences to act unitedly).
6. **1927 INC Madras session** –
 - a. INC rejected Simon Commission & decided to set up All Party Conference (APC) for drafting **Principles** of Constitution (*like a basic structure as actual legal language COI would take years)
 - b. Oct 1928: Simon Commission visited India triggering Anti -Simon commission protests. Here Lala Lajpat Rai was subjected to lathi charge by SP James Scott consequently leading to his death due injuries in Nov 1928 (*this led to assassination of John Saunders by Bhagat Singh which was investigated as Lahore Conspiracy Case 1928)

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Four Delhi proposals (Dec 1927) by ML1906

1. By ML1906 to Motilal Nehru & accepted by INC but later rejected by APC.
2. 1/3RD reservation for Muslims in central legislature (*Muslims=20% population)
3. Create 3 new Muslim Majority Provinces (MMPs) by-
 - a. separating Sindh from Bombay +
 - b. status of full province to Baluchistan & NWFP
 - c. (*Reason=power i.e. to have more MPLAs & Ministers from ML1906)
4. Reservation in proportion to Muslim population in MMPs of Punjab & Bengal
 - a. If above 3 met then ready for joint electorates.
 - b. (*1st & last time ML1906 agreed to joint electorates)

NEHRU REPORT AUG 1928

1. 1928- APC (headed by M.A. Ansari) set up in Delhi
2. May 1928- a committee under APC set up under Motilal Nehru for drafting Principles of Constitution.
3. **Provisions**
 - a. **Dominion status** (**maximum self govt without leaving British empire)-:
 - i. sovereignty of British Crown + Britain can change constitution + Britain to be overall responsible for Defence & Foreign Policy
 - ii. but Self-Government to Indians in domestic sphere (*compare with 565PS where Self Govt to Indian Prince in domestic sphere)
 - b. A **Union of India** having British India & 565PS + **federal relations** between British India & 565PS (**i.e. non-interference in affairs of

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Princely States) + **Unitary structure for British India** i.e. strong center & residuary powers with Centre in relation to Provinces of Br India.

- c. **Linguistic reorganization** of provinces of British India (*Tilaks demand @HRL1916-18 + 1917 INC demand)
- d. SC & Independent Judiciary
- e. Bicameral legislature at Center with 7-year term for upper house & 5-year term for lower house
- f. GG to function on aid & advice of Executive Council
- g. Universal Adult Franchise and Directive Principles for State's Policy (DPSPs)
- h. 19 Fundamental Rights with focus on rights of liberty, education, workers, women, Lower Castes & minorities.
- i. **Communal aspects**
 - i. No separate electorate
 - ii. NWFP & Baluchistan as full provinces
 - iii. Separation of Sindh from Bombay but only after dominion status achieved & only if financially viable
 - iv. No reservation for Muslims in MMPs
 - v. Reservation in Muslim minority Provinces & at center in proportion to % in population (**not 1/3rd).
 - vi. Reservation to non-Muslim minorities in Sindh, NWFP.
 - vii. Reservation only for 10 years & to be reviewed after 10 years
 - viii. No State religion but protection to culture of minorities.

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Three Calcutta Amendments (Dec 1928) by ML1906

1. Dec 1928- APC1928 met in Calcutta where Jinnah proposed Three Calcutta Amendments to Nehru Report (Aug 1928). These were:
 - a. 1/3rd reservation in CLA
 - b. Reservation in MMPs of Punjab & Bengal in proportion to Muslim population until UAF implemented (*with income criteria Muslims may not be in majority in voter list)
 - c. Residual powers to provinces & not to center (*minority or regional party always desires federalism because won't be in power at Centre)
2. All 3 rejected.

INC Calcutta Session (Dec 1928)

1. INC approved Nehru Report (Aug 1928)
2. S.C. Bose's resolution for goal of Purna Swaraj failed. As compromise with young leaders, INC decided that :- **If dominion status not given in one year, then INC goal to be purna swaraj & will launch CDM for it.**
3. Constructive Work (*CW) resolution passed by INC since MG wanted to prepare masses for non-violent satyagraha:-
 - a. Focus on Boycott of foreign cloth & promotion of Khadi & self-reliance
 - b. anti liquor campaign
 - c. anti untouchability campaign
 - d. awareness on women empowerment
 - e. Training in non-violent satyagraha
 - f. organizational work for INC

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Jinnah's 14 points demands (March 1929)

1. Because of failure of 4 Delhi Proposals (Dec 1927), 3 Calcutta Amendments (Dec 1928).
2. It was a summary of all communal demands ever made by any Muslim organisation & became blue print for all future actions of ML1906:
 1. separate electorates
 2. Veto power on bills if 3/4th of minority members against it (*1888INC rule)
 3. 1/3rd Muslims in central legislature
 4. Minimum 1/3rd reservation in cabinet at center & provinces
 5. Reservation in all elected bodies even if Muslims in majority
 6. Reservation in govt services
 7. Reservation in MMPs
 8. New MMPs of Sindh, Baluchistan & NWFP
 9. Federal constitution
 10. Residual powers to provinces.
 11. Provincial autonomy.
 12. No constitutional amendment without consent of Provinces.
 13. No territorial reorganization to negatively affect Muslim majority status in any province.
 14. Protection to culture of Muslims.

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Butler Committee (1927) Report (1929): -

1. examined relationship between Br Crown and 565PS & clarified relationship b/w the two.
2. Report-
 - a. Paramountcy was re-affirmed.
 - b. British paramountcy should remain intact to preserve 565PS and that 565PS should not be transferred without their own consent to a Union of India (*Hence IOA basis in this report)
3. All India State's People's Congress (AISPC1927- INC like organization in 565PS) submitted to Butler Committee that AISPC1927 should be treated as representative of 565PS instead of Princes.

DIWALI DECLARATION / IRWIN STATEMENT (31 OCT 1929) (*Irwin1926-31)

"Dominion status is implicit in Montague Statement 1917 & it is intent of British to give dominion status at a future date & for this purpose Britain will hold Round Table Conference (RTC) in London."

- Therefore, there was no decision & only intent + no timeline & only in future.
- Therefore, INC responded with Delhi Manifesto (Nov 1929)

Delhi Manifesto (Nov 1929)

1. a meeting of national leaders of INC passed it. It demanded that:-
2. RTC should act as a constituent assembly (CA) implementing dominion status i.e. drafting a constitution with dominion status.
3. Majority Indians in RTC should be from INC.

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4. **Amnesty** in case of "Bomb in CLA (1929)" (*not Lahore Conspiracy Case 1928) & in Meerut Conspiracy Case (1929) where many communists were arrested due to rail strikes & attempts of establishing an Indian branch of Comintern & therefore Working Class (*WC) movement was repressed.

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