

### Working class movement

- Modern worker appeared in India in 2nd half of 19th century with growth of modern industries like railways , telegraphs , textile mills etc
- Emergence as all India organised class is linked with growth of INM and inclusion of workers in INM
- Educated middle class began associating with workers at end of 19th century .
- Before this there were strikes by workers but unorganised and only for short term goals like wage increase etc
- 1870 - Working Mens Club and a monthly journal “ Bharat Shramjeevi” set up by Sasipada Bannerjee, a Brahmo Samajist reformer
- 1880 - Narayan Lokhande started Anglo Marathi weekly “DeenBandhu” + in 1890 he started “Bombay mills and mill hands association”

### Attitude of moderates of inc :

- Paid very little attention to questions of working class. However supported workers of foreign enterprises but not of Indian enterprises. enterprises
- Reasons :
  - Did not want any division and class conflicts among Indians when INM itself was in early stage
  - 1886 inc session - Dada Bhai Naorojee made a rule that INC will take up only political issues and not (social issues and class issues) and take up questions common to all Indians to prevent disunity among Indians
  - Example : if inc takes pro- peasants stand then peasants can become more militant against zamindars
- Indian industry was at nascent stage under high competition from British imports and British businesses in India + no support from government to Indian capitalists
- However INC had favourable attitude towards Indian workers of foreign enterprises as here oppressor was foreigner .
- Overall moderates believed only capitalism can modernise India and hence did not strongly support issues of workers example moderates opposed Factory acts of 1881 and 1891 as they decreased hours of work for workers therefore hurt interests of Indian manufacturers. While moderates gave huge support to workers Assam tea gardens in 1881 - 82 as here the employer was foreigner
- 1899 - first organised strike = Signaller's strike in GIP railways ( great Indian peninsular railways) and INC supported as employer was foreigner
- By the end of 19th century due to rise in members of WC (WORKING CLASS) INC extremists like Lal, Bal, Pal , Aurobindo Ghosh argued that INC should take up issues of all workers for strengthening INM.
- Important workers strikes led by CR Das , BC pal , Liaquat Hussein in foreign enterprises @ **swadeshi movement**.

- Also first attempt at forming All India Union of workers was made during swadeshi movement ( failed )
- Therefore **workers were made part of INM during Swadeshi** and got exposed to wider political questions instead of just working class questions for first time.
- During Muzaffarpur conspiracy case **1908 there was trial of Tilak** on sedition charges when he wrote article in Kesari in favour of Prafulla Chaki and Khudiram Bose and there was one of the biggest WC demonstration in support of Tilak
- Inspired by good WC participation in **Russian Revolution 1905** , extremists thought of strengthening INM by including workers in INM. This was also beginning of small socialist influence within inc

With **decline in INM after Swadeshi Movement**, there was decline of WC movement ...

**WC movement now rose during and after WWI as**

- Due to war inflation workers suffered as had low wages
- Russian Revolution 1917 inspired WC movement
- Good worker participation in HRL Movement + Ahmedabad mill strike led by MG that also led to setting up of Textile Labour Association in Ahmedabad 1920
- Workers were main participants in Rowlatt Satyagrah 1919
- They participated in NCM (1920 - 1922 )
  - Example : strikes in Assam led by J.M. Sen Gupta in railways , steamer services and tea plantation + strike by workers @ visit of Prince of Wales in November 1921 therefore WC got into mainstream politics during and after WW1
- Most important development was formation of AITUC 1920 ( all india trade union congress ) under leadership of Lala Lajpat Rai as first all india organisation of workers
- AITUC 1920 represented India at ILO ( international labour organisation ) of League of Nations
- Now stronger and longer strikes by workers in 1920s
- LL Rai was first Indian to link imperialism with capitalism therefore highlighted important role of WC in fighting combo of imperialism and capitalism
  - [ imperialism : so colonial power is able to have a colony which will act as source of cheap and assured supply of raw material and act as an export market for capitalists of colonial power ]

**INC Gaya session 1922 :**

- CR Das successfully argued that workers and peasants issues must be taken up by INC and made part of INM demands otherwise they will start independent class movements leading to disunity among Indians [ \* wc vs capitalist class + peasants vs landlords ]
- Also inc welcomed formation of AITUC therefore after 1922 INC supported issues of peasants and workers
- Also MG gave idea of trusteeship and arbitration to prevent class conflict

### Communist party of India : CPI

- After October revolution in 1917 in Russia there was rise of communist parties in different parts of world
- CPI was first setup in Tashkent 1920 by MN Roy & then again setup in India in 1925
- There was emergence of left wing within INC in 1920s in form of leaders like Bose and Nehru
- WPPs - Workers and Peasants Parties were set up at provincial level within inc by early 1927 under S.A. Dange a communist
- And in 1928 All India WPP was setup therefore communist influence within INC increased
- High WC participation in anti Simon agitations of October 1928

### Setback to WC movement =

- Repression by British in form of Public safety bill 1929 which gave power of deportation to government + Trade dispute bill 1929 that curbed freedom of workers by giving draconian powers to government
  - (\* link bomb in CLA 1929 by Marxist Bhagat Singh )
- **Meerut Conspiracy case 1929** where many communists including foreigners were arrested on grounds of “attack on sovereignty of King” (Section 121A of IPC1860). Reason was ongoing rail strikes & attempts to establish branch of Comintern in India.
- Therefore British repression as above hurt communist and workers movement

### Self inflicted damage :

- When CPI took anti INC stand due to directions from 6th World Congress of Comintern in 1928 where decision was to oppose all non communists forces
- Therefore CPI declared INC as party of bourgeoisie and Nehru and Bose as agents of bourgeoisie. Thus alienated themselves from INC and thus easily suppressed by British
- CPI opposed CDM 1930 - 34 and called the goal of Swaraj a sham and argued Gandhi Irwin pact of 1931 as a proof of INC betraying INM
- Then in 1934 communists ended WPPs in INC
- On other hand INC declared during CDM that workers are hands and feet of INC therefore workers participated in CDM but not upto potential.
  - E.g. in 1930 textile workers in Sholapur did violent strikes after MG arrest in may 1930 and British had to apply martial law.
  - GIP railway men satyagrah @cdm where workers lay on tracks to stop trains
- CSP 1934 - Congress Socialist Party setup by young left wing leaders within INC ( JP. Narayan , Minoo masani , Acharya Narendra Dev) to change INC from within as disappointed with MG and INC leadership due to withdrawal of CDM but also disagreed with CPI for opposing INC.
- 1935 : 7th world congress of Comintern

- With rise of Hitler, now Comintern directed that all anti fascist forces should be supported by communists therefore under P.C. Joshi communists became pro INC and joined INC to change INC from within
- From 1936-42 communists started powerful peasant movements in Kerala , Andhra , Bengal , Punjab and regained their popular image .
- In 1936 All India Kisan Sabha was setup under Swami Sahjanand in Bihar and under Kisan Manifesto demanded that landownership be given to actual cultivator.
- 1937-39 INC ministries rule led to rise in WC movement + INC was supported in elections by AITUC
- In June 1941 Germany attacked USSR therefore CPI declared ww2 as peoples war and now supported British and therefore opposed QIM movement. Still many communists and workers participated in INM
- In December 1945 elections small parties did bad and INC and ML dominated the results
- Huge participation of CPI and workers in INA agitations + CPI gave call to Bombay workers to go on strike in support of naval ratings
- Communists and workers participated in popular agitations in those provinces which refused to sign IOA (Instrument of Accession) e.g. Travancore, Junagarh, and Hyderabad therefore contributed to integration of these princely states into India