



Presents

NITMUN 2018

Round Table Conference

Peaceful Separation of States under Dominion
of India.

(Transfer of Power and Partition of state)

Introduction to The Literary Circle

Literary Circle is the club in NIT Durgapur, which gives the college an extra dimension of creative expression in the midst of technical unilateralism and gives the students of the college an opportunity to transcend the ordinary and mundane.

This club conducts Verve, Literary cum Youth Festival of the college and the biggest of its kind in eastern India. The Literary Circle has successfully pulled off 14 editions of Verve. Flagship events in the fest have become the matter of college folklore.

The club also prints its annual literary magazine *Déjà Vu* every year, with over 4000 copies distributed inside the college as well as all over metropolitan cities.

The club is known to be highly selective in its admission of new members, with only about 10 students inducted out of the entire batch of 900 each year.

Great believers of the phrase 'quality over quantity', the members selected every year are the best of the best in the field of expression and creativity.

Come, step into the Circle!

Introduction to NITMUN

NITMUN is a forum convened by the members of the Literary Circle for discussion and analysis of global issues. It seeks to bring out motivated delegates from all over the country for brainstorming over significant international issues. Organised by the Literary Circle, NITMUN promises a challenging yet entertaining time to all delegates. It requires the entire workforce of the club to come up with a topic or a committee that really instigates each and every delegate to ponder. And then, the best executive boards from all over the country are brought together to make sure that every delegate grows and becomes better at the end of the conference. Our greatest goal is to make sure that each delegate learns how to tackle world issues better at the end of the conference as the world is in dire need of young leaders now. Currently in its 7th edition, NITMUN has been extremely successful in providing the perfect experience to each delegate. Over the years, we have entertained more than 800 delegates in total. Delegates arrive from all corners of India for an experience they never forget.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The British Raj is planning to leave the Dominion of India, and the question arises of how India will function as an independent nation. The committee will essentially function for the purpose of deciding if India will stay unified, or whether it would separate based on communal factions. Different states, religions and communities in India strive for their independence and delegates will have to show flexibility in serving everyone's interests. The committee will strive to enact partition better than it actually happened and equip the nations that arise from it.

India's long standing independence movement has grown and gained tremendous momentum. After years of quelling protests, Great Britain must face the realities regarding the widespread impact of the nonviolent movement. At the same time, major questions regarding the Hindu /Muslim conflict, the ownership of the independently run princely states in the region, and the future of the British Empire come onto centre stage. Debate will be driven by these complex and deeply rooted issues, and delegates must guide this debate towards ultimately creating a treaty that will determine the fate of hundreds of millions of lives for the foreseeable future. The delegates will serve as representatives from the Indian National Congress, the All-India Muslim League, and the Princely States. The committee will be chaired by the representatives of the British Raj. These delegates will all convene in a general assembly that will be in charge of building a plan for the future of the Indian subcontinent. Though there are centuries of major differences among the relevant parties, there is great hope that this committee will successfully start the next chapter in history for the long subjugated people of the subcontinent.

TIMELINE

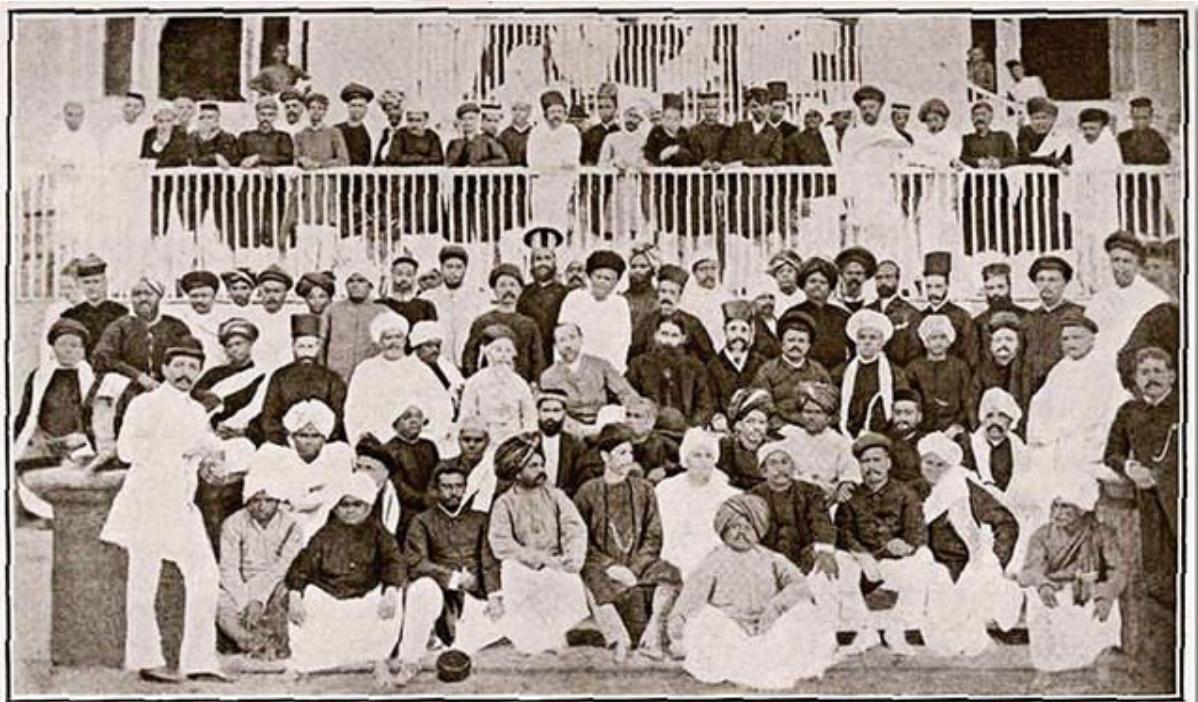
1774 - Warren Hastings was appointed the first Governor-General of Bengal by the East India Company. Having just defeated the existing Mughal governor in the Battle of Plassey (1757), the Company had to develop an immediate form of government. The post was new, and British mechanisms to administer the territory were not fully developed. Regardless of his title, Hastings was only a member of a five-man Supreme Council of Bengal, thus making it difficult to pinpoint the actual constitutional position that Hastings held.

1857 - The Sepoy Rebellion began on May 10th, in the form of a mutiny of sepoys of the Company's army in the garrison town of Meerut, 40 miles northeast of Delhi. It then erupted into other mutinies and civilian rebellions that spread across central India. The rebellion posed a considerable threat to British power in that region, and was contained only with the rebels' defeat in Gwalior on 20 June 1858. On 1 November 1858, the British granted amnesty to all rebels not involved in murder, though they did not declare the hostilities formally to have ended until 8 July 1859. This was the first organized rebellion that had occurred against the existing British government.

1858 - The British government began ruling India via an Indian Viceroy, called the British Raj. The system of governance was instituted in 1858 when the rule of the East India Company was transferred to the Crown in the person of Queen Victoria (who in 1876 was proclaimed Empress of India). This system came as a response to the Sepoy Rebellion, and the British felt disenchanted with Indian reaction to social change. Until the rebellion, they had enthusiastically pushed through social reform. It was now felt that traditions and customs in India were too strong and too rigid to be changed easily. Consequently, no more British social interventions were made, especially in matters dealing with religion, even when the British felt very strongly about the issue.

1885 - Burma became an Indian Province. Previously, Burma had lost Arakan, Manipur, Assam and Tenasserim to the British in the First Anglo-Burmese War (1824–1826). In 1852, the British easily seized Lower Burma in the Second Anglo-Burmese War. King Mindon Min tried to modernise the kingdom, and in 1875 narrowly avoided annexation. The British, alarmed by the consolidation

of French Indochina, annexed the remainder of the country in the Third Anglo-Burmese War in 1885.



THE FIRST INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, 1885.

1885 - The Indian National Congress was formed, and conducted its first session in Bombay from 28–31 December 1885 at the initiative of retired Civil service officer, Allan Octavian Hume. The party's aim was to obtain a greater share in government for educated Indians, and to create a platform for civic and political dialogue between them and the British Raj. Hume took the initiative, and in March 1885 a notice convening the first meeting of the Indian National Union was issued.

1905 - Partition of Bengal; first attempted splitting of a province of India by the British colonial government. This was a response to the primarily Bengal-based rising nationalist movement that was challenging the colonial rule. A new Muslim-majority province of 'East Bengal and Assam' was conceptualised alongside the existing province of Bengal. Partition along religious lines led to the development of Muslim separatism. In the following years, this was facilitated by hopes of greater employment opportunities for middle-class Muslims and by class antagonisms between a predominantly Muslim poor peasantry and a primarily Hindu landlord class, specific to Bengal. However,

nationalist campaigns increased in intensity, spread for the first time to a major portion of the rest of the country and lead to the annulment of partition and the reunification of Bengal in 1911. The Partition of Bengal led to a massive upsurge among the people, and a call for *swadeshi* goods, leading to a boycott of British-manufactured goods. The Congress eventually called for Swaraj (self-rule).

1906 - All-India Muslim League founded in Bengal by 'men of property and influence' from North India, with the primary aim of securing adequate Muslim political representation based on separate electorates for Muslims and Hindus. Separate electorates conceded by the colonial government in 1909.

1911 - Bengal Partition annulled, announcement that the capital of India to shift from Calcutta to Delhi.

1914 - World War I. The Indian Army fought against the German Empire in German East Africa and on the Western Front. Indian divisions were also sent to Egypt, Gallipoli and nearly 700,000 served in Mesopotamia against the Ottoman Empire. While some divisions were sent overseas others had to remain in India guarding the North West Frontier and on internal security and training duties. The Indian Army contributed a large number of divisions and independent brigades to the European, Mediterranean and the Middle East theatres of war in World War I. Over one million Indian 6 troops served overseas, of whom 62,000 died and another 67,000 were wounded. In total at least 74,187 Indian soldiers died during the war.

1914-18 - Congress and Muslim League, now radicalised by a new leadership drawn from the intelligentsia, join forces and make a joint demand for a significant devolution of political power to Indians after the war in exchange for supporting the Allies in the war against Germany. As the contribution of Indian soldiers to the defence of the British Empire is recognised by the British Cabinet in London, campaigns for Indian 'home rule' intensify and many Muslim leaders, including Jinnah, become members of both political parties.

1915- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi returned to India from South Africa where he set up an ashram in Ahmedabad, which would shift to the site of the Sabarmati ashram two years later.

1919- Britain seeks to introduce the Rowlatt Act, imposing severe curbs on civil rights. Indians protest. Massacre at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar; 400 men, women and children, who had gathered to protest peacefully against the Act, are brutally murdered.

1920 - Mohandas Gandhi became the leader of the Indian independence movement and the Indian National Congress. After the First World War, the party became associated with Gandhi, who remained its unofficial spiritual leader and icon. He formed an alliance with the Khilafat Movement in 1920 to fight for preservation of the Ottoman Caliphate, and rights for Indians using civil disobedience or satyagraha as the tool for agitation. As a result of prevailing nationalism, Gandhi's popularity, and policies aimed at eradicating caste differences, untouchability, poverty, and religious and ethnic divisions, the Congress became a forceful and dominant group. Although its members were predominantly Hindu, it had members from other religions, economic classes, and ethnic and linguistic groups.

1919-1922 - Gandhi launches the Civil Disobedience Movement, calls for boycott of British goods. Calls off movement a year later due to Chauri Chaura killing where a mob killed policemen. Attempt at forging a permanent Hindu-Muslim nationalist political alliance, led by Gandhi who is now the dominant force within Congress. With post-war constitutional reforms offered by the British falling well short of home rule and dominion status, combined with increased repression of the nationalist movement, Gandhi launches his first campaign of 'non-cooperation' with British rule with the objective of attaining *swaraj* (home rule) within a year. It involves non-payment of taxes and boycott of the new 'reformed' councils and of the civil service, police and army, as well as of British goods, and reaches out for the first time to the rural peasantry. Crucially, he secures the participation in the civil disobedience movement of significant sections of the Muslim population by supporting their religious leaders' demand for defeated Turkey's continuing control over the Muslim sacred places in the Middle East (the *Khilafat* issue). However, Jinnah views this approach as too radical, breaks with Gandhi and resigns from Congress. In 1922, Gandhi calls off the campaign, viewed by the British as an existential threat to colonial rule, following outbreaks of violence in defiance of

his insistence on peaceful, non-violent agitation. He is promptly arrested and sentenced to six years' imprisonment.

1923-28 - Suspension of non-cooperation leads to renewed competition between Hindu and Muslim political elites for seats in the new provincial councils and to a deterioration of relations at all levels most visibly expressed in increasing communal riots. Muslim leaders begin to move away from Congress as it comes under mounting pressure from Hindu-interest organisations not to make concessions to Muslim political demands. As the prospect for further constitutional reforms emerges, Congress adopts a report calling for an end to separate electorates and for limiting Muslim representation in any future central government assembly to a quarter, rather than a guaranteed 'weightage' of a third as demanded by Muslim political organisations.

1924 - Moplah riots between Hindus and Muslims.

1927 - The British government appoints the Simon Commission to recommend political reforms in India; no Indian is part of the Simon Commission. The Commission is boycotted when it visits India the following year.



The Dandi March

1930 - Gandhi leads the Salt Satyagraha to protest against the British government's monopoly on salt, forcing the government to amend the law. The Congress boycotts the First Round Table Conference in London.

1931 - Second Round Table Conference leads to the Gandhi-Irwin pact that ends the civil disobedience movement and grants some political rights to Indians.

1932- Gandhi concludes the Poona Pact with Dr B R Ambedkar that does away with separate electorates for 'Untouchables,' but reserves some electoral seats for them.

1930-33 - Gandhi launches further all-India Civil Disobedience campaigns, now based on the demand for *purna swaraj* (full independence from British rule). This time Muslim participation is very low compared to 1919-22, with the exception of the North West Frontier Province where the radical *Khudai Khidmatgar* (Servants of God) movement of the local Pashtuns enthusiastically endorses civil disobedience. A day of peaceful protest in Peshawar is met with considerable violence from the British military resulting in over 200, predominantly Muslim, civilian deaths.

1935 - The Government of India Act was enacted, and granted of a large measure of autonomy to the provinces of British India (ending the system of diarchy introduced by the Government of India Act, 1919). It called for the establishment of a "Federation of India" to be made up of both British India and some or all of the "princely states". The degree of autonomy introduced at the provincial level was subject to important limitations: the provincial Governors retained important reserve powers, and the British authorities also retained a right to suspend responsible government. The parts of the Act intended to establish the Federation of India never came into operation, due to opposition from rulers of the princely states. The remaining parts of the Act came into force in 1937, when the first elections under the act were also held.

1939 - The United Kingdom declared war on Germany and World War 2 began. Viceroy unilaterally declared India's participation in the war, leading to Congress ministries and the Congress boycotting the British in protest.

1940 - The leader of the Muslim League, Muhammad Ali Jinnah demanded that a new country be formed from India for the Muslims, which would be called Pakistan. During the Second World War, the Muslim League gained strength while leaders of the Congress were imprisoned, and in the elections held shortly after the war, it won most of the seats reserved for Muslims.

1941 - Subhas Chandra Bose escapes from India, joins hands with the Axis powers in fight against the British.

1942 - The British War Cabinet announces the Sir Stafford Cripps Mission to negotiate India's political status after the war. Gandhi meets Cripps, but call his proposals a 'post-dated cheque.' Congress rejects the proposals. The Congress leaders meet in Bombay and pass the 'Quit India' resolution calling for complete independence from the British rule. The Congress leadership is arrested; Gandhi is jailed at the Aga Khan Palace in Poona. Revolts break out across India as people defy the British and call for independence. Six hundred demonstrators lose their lives in clashes with the police.

1945 - World War II ended when United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

November, 1945— Committee

PAST RESOLUTIONS

Round Table Conference: In response to the inadequacy of the Simon Report, the Labour Government, which had come to power under Ramsay MacDonald in 1929, decided to hold a series of Round Table Conferences in London.

The first Round Table Conference convened from 12 November 1930 to 19 January 1931. Prior to the Conference, M. K. Gandhi had initiated the Civil Disobedience Movement on behalf of the Indian National Congress. Consequently, since many of the Congress' leaders were in jail, Congress did not participate in the first conference, but representatives from all other Indian parties and a number of Princes did. The outcomes of the first Round Table Conference were minimal: India was to develop into a federation, safeguards regarding defence and finance were agreed and other departments were to be transferred. However, little was done to implement these recommendations and civil disobedience continued in India. The British Government realized that the Indian National Congress needed to be part of deciding the future of constitutional government in India.

Lord Irwin, the Viceroy, met with Gandhi to reach a compromise. On 5 March 1931 they agreed following to pave the way for the Congress' participation in the second Round Table Conference: Congress would discontinue the Civil Disobedience Movement, it would participate in the second Round Table Conference, the Government would withdraw all ordinances issued to curb the Congress, the Government would withdraw all prosecutions relating to offenses not involving violence and the Government would release all persons undergoing sentences of imprisonment for their activities in the Civil Disobedience Movement.

The second Round Table Conference was held in London from 7 September 1931 to 1 December 1931 with the participation of Gandhi and the Indian National Congress. Two weeks before the Conference convened, the Labour government had been replaced by the Conservatives. At the conference, Gandhi claimed to represent all people of India. This view, however, was not shared by other delegates. In fact, the division between the many attending groups was one of the reasons why the outcomes of the second Round Table Conference were again no substantial results regarding India's constitutional

future. Meanwhile, civil unrest had spread throughout India again, and upon return to India Gandhi was arrested along with other Congress leaders. A separate province of Sind was created and the interests of minorities were safeguarded by MacDonald's Communal Award.

The third Round Table Conference (17 November 1932 - 24 December 1932) was not attended by the Indian National Congress and Gandhi. Many other Indian leaders were also absent. Like the two first conferences, little was achieved. The recommendations were published in a White Paper in March 1933 and debated in Parliament afterwards. A Joint Select Committee was formed to analyse the recommendations and formulate a new Act for India. The Committee produced a draft Bill in February 1935 which was enforced as the Government of India Act of 1935 in July 1935.

Rowlatt Act: Also known as the Black Act, it vested the Viceroy's government with extraordinary powers to quell sedition by silencing the press, detaining the political activists without trial, and arresting without warrant any individuals suspected of sedition or treason. In protest, a nationwide cessation of work (*hartal*) was called, marking the beginning of widespread, although not nationwide, popular discontent.



Simon Commission Report: It proposed the abolition of dyarchy and the establishment of representative government in the provinces. It also recommended that separate communal electorates be retained, but only until tensions between Hindus and Muslims had died down.

Nehru Report: The Nehru Report of 28-30 August, 1928 was a memorandum outlining a proposed new dominion status constitution for India.

Jinnah's Fourteen Points: The Fourteen Points of Jinnah were proposed by Muhammad Ali Jinnah drafted by C Rajagopalachari as a constitutional reform plan to safeguard the political rights of Muslims in a self-governing India. A comparison of the Nehru Report (1928) with Jinnah's Fourteen points had a political gap between the Muslims and the Hindus in India. Jinnah's aim was to get more rights for Muslims. He therefore gave his 14 points. These points covered all of the interests of the Muslims at heated time and in this Jinnah stated that it was the "parting of ways" and that he did not want and would not have anything to do with the Indian National Congress in the future. The League leaders motivated Jinnah to revive the Muslim League and give it direction. As a result, these points became the demands of the Muslims and greatly influenced the Muslims thinking for the next two decades till the establishment of Pakistan in 1947.

Poona Pact of 1932: The Poona Pact refers to an agreement between B. R. Ambedkar and M. K. Gandhi on the reservation of electoral seats for the depressed classes in the legislature of British India government.

Delegates are advised to be well versed with these resolutions to have a fair idea and basic knowledge as to what their role in the committee is.