### 7-Minute Script: Direct Action Day

### Slide 1: Title Slide (30 seconds)

Good [morning/afternoon], everyone.  
Today, I am going to talk about Direct Action Day. This was a very important and tragic event in India’s history. It happened on August 16, 1946, and it showed how serious the tensions were between Hindus and Muslims at that time. This event was a step toward the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan.

Let’s understand what happened, why it happened, and what we can learn from it.

### Slide 2: Introduction (1 minute)

Direct Action Day was organized by the Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The Muslim League wanted to show their demand for a separate country for Muslims, called Pakistan.

Muslims were afraid that they would not get fair treatment in a Hindu- majority India after independence.

The plan was for a peaceful strike, but it turned into a violent event.

This day is also called the Great Calcutta Killings because terrible riots happened in Kolkata (then Calcutta). Thousands of people lost their lives.

### Slide 3: Background (1 minute)

To understand Direct Action Day, let’s look at what happened before it:

By 1946, British rule in India was coming to an end, and the push for independence was very strong.

The Cabinet Mission Plan was introduced to keep India united with some self-governed regions, but it failed to satisfy both the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League.

Feeling ignored, Jinnah called for Direct Action to show the strength of the Muslim League and demand Pakistan.

But at that time, tensions between Hindus and Muslims were already very high, which made the situation worse.

### Slide 4: Events of Direct Action Day (1.5 minutes)

On August 16, 1946, Direct Action Day began with a strike in Kolkata.

**What happened?**

The day started with rallies and marches organized by the Muslim League. These events were supposed to be peaceful.

But very soon, fights broke out between Hindus and Muslims.

Riots spread across the city. People looted shops, set buildings on fire, and attacked each other.

The violence lasted for several days, and over 4,000 people were killed. Thousands of others were injured or forced to leave their homes.

The British government, which still controlled India, could not stop the violence quickly. The situation showed how divided Indian society had become.

### Slide 5: The Role of the British (1 minute)

The British government played a significant role in the events of Direct Action Day.

The British were focused on leaving India quickly and were unable or unwilling to manage the growing tensions.

During the riots, the British administration struggled to maintain law and order. Many areas were left unprotected, worsening the violence.

Critics argue that British policies, like divide-and-rule, deepened the mistrust between communities and led to such conflicts.

### Slide 6: Impact and Aftermath (1.5 minutes)

The events of Direct Action Day had serious consequences:

**More Violence:** After Kolkata, riots happened in other parts of India, like Bihar and Noakhali.

**Partition Became Certain:** The violence made it clear that Hindus and Muslims could not live together peacefully, and the demand for Pakistan grew stronger.

**Criticism of Leaders:** People criticized Jinnah and the Muslim League for not controlling the violence. Congress leaders like Gandhi and Nehru also struggled to stop the communal hatred.

This event was a turning point. It pushed India closer to partition, which finally happened on August 15, 1947.

### Slide 7: Role of Leaders (1 minute)

The leaders of that time played important roles during this crisis:

**Muhammad Ali Jinnah:** Jinnah called for Direct Action to demand Pakistan. He wanted a peaceful protest but did not predict the violence. Many blame his speeches for increasing tensions.

**Mahatma Gandhi:** Gandhi always promoted peace and nonviolence. He tried to calm the situation but could not stop the riots.

**Jawaharlal Nehru:** Nehru condemned the violence and asked the British to act quickly to restore peace.

All these leaders faced great challenges as India moved toward independence.

### Slide 8: Role of the Public (1 minute)

The general public also played a role in the events of Direct Action Day:

Many ordinary people were caught up in the violence, either as victims or participants.

Fear and mistrust between communities grew because of rumors and propaganda.

Community leaders and volunteers tried to help the injured and stop the violence in some areas, but their efforts were not enough to prevent the chaos.

### Slide 9: Significance in History (1 minute)

Direct Action Day is an important event in India’s history:

It showed how fragile communal harmony was under British rule.

The violence made it clear that the demand for Pakistan could not be ignored.

It taught us how dangerous hatred and division can be for any society.

This day changed India forever and remains a powerful reminder of the cost of communal conflict.

### Slide 10: Lessons Learned (30 seconds)

What can we learn from Direct Action Day?

The importance of dialogue and understanding to resolve conflicts.

How dangerous it is when communities are divided by fear and mistrust.

The need for strong leadership to promote peace and unity.

These lessons are still relevant today in our diverse world.

### Slide 11: Conclusion (30 seconds)

In conclusion, Direct Action Day was a tragic event that showed the dangers of division and hatred.  
It also reminds us of the importance of peace, understanding, and unity in a diverse society.

As we reflect on this event, let us learn from history to avoid repeating the same mistakes.

Thank you for listening.