

## **GANDHI AND NON COOPERATION MOVEMENT**

**INTRODUCTION:-** In the history of the Freedom Struggle movement in British India Mahatma Gandhi played a vital role with the support of mass that made Him an undisputed leader of the National movement. Before the second decade of the 20th century struggle for independence was carried by several leaders by their different ideologies and methods of Programme. In the Gandhian Era which was estimated after the First World War had seen the uniformity of the all section of the society, communities and profession. The philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi that was vested in the ideas of Non-violence and Satyagraha was introduced before the Non-Cooperation movement in the Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad. He also successfully used his ideologies and methods in South Africa against the racial discrimination towards the Indians by the British authorities. Before discussing the programme and course of the movement it is right to see the circumstance and the background of the Indian Politics which were prevailed in the British India. Background of the movement:- Second decade of the 20th century, Indian politics showed a great aggression against the British colonial power especially after the First World War for several reasons. At the time of war the heavy burden was imposed on the Indian industries, the rise of the price which was unbearable and the reduction of the wages of the workers. The most important reason was the assurance which was kept in war time for the development of the democracy and nationalist mode of government now was not fulfilled. The MontaguChelmsford Reforms of 1919 had failed to satisfy the Indian National congress and the discontented mood of the common people, peasants and workers because of the War time sufferings (rise of the price of the commodities even did not change the policy of wages rise). Both the groups of the INC (Extremists and Moderate) had lost creditability as they failed to achieve their stated goals. The Question of the Turkey before the Indian Muslims as a Khilafat against the British Dominance was also a created atmosphere for the National agitation among the Muslim community. The Muslims started the Khilafat movement against the British Government for preservation of the integrity of the Turkish Empire and better treatment of the sultan of the Turkey. Muslim leaders Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Ali brothers (Muhammad and Shaukat), Hasrat Mohani and Hakim Ajmal khan formed the Khilafat committee to carry on a movement in the favour of Turkey at March 1919. The overthrow of the Czarist power in the Russia and the success of the Bolshevik Revolution were responsible for the mind change of people and nationalist leaders in British India. The Rowlatt Act of 1919 and the massacre at the Jallianwalla Bagh on 13 April 1919 also created a lot tension among the Indian people and Nationalist. According to the Official estimate 379 persons were killed and more than 1,000 wounded as a result of firing by the General Dyer's orders. M.K.Gandhi in Political scene before 1920-21:- National movement in the Indian land before the coming of the Mahatma Gandhi (was born 2nd October 1869 at Porbandar in Gujarat) from the South Africa was describe by Judith Brown as "Politics of the studied limitations." The situation which was generated in the contemporary time (mention above) was wholly fruitful for the Gandhi who later gained popularity in the masses. There was seen crop failure in the provinces of United-Province, Bihar, Punjab, Bombay, Central-Province and Orissa during 1920-21. Shekar Bandyopadhyay (From Plassey to Partition) argued with the issue of mass mobilization which was concerned, the Home Rule leagues of Tilak and Annie Besant prepared the ground for the success of the Mahatma Gandhi's initial Satyagraha Movements, it was estimated that sixty thousands souls all over India participated with the Leagues during the movement. The experiments of his philosophy as non-violence and Satyagraha in India were seen in the early Satyagraha Movements in Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad. In the Champaran district of Bihar, the peasantry was forced to cultivate indigo in the 15% of their lands and supply them to the

British officials at fixed rates. Mahatma Gandhi led the movement and the result came with the Champaran Agriculture Act 1919 which gave the relief to the peasantry of the Champaran by abolishing the practice of forced indigo cultivation in their lands. In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi organized a non-violent strike for the textile mill workers at Ahmedabad for the retention of plague bonus which had been introduced since August 1917. He worked as an Arbitrator between two groups Employers and workers which lasted with the workers' demand. In the Kheda district of Bombay, Mahatma Gandhi led the movement for the peasants, demanding remission of land revenue on the ground of failure of crops. As the 3 results of these Satyagraha, Mahatma Gandhi emerged as a leader of the masses on the Indian Political scene in 1919.

**Programme and Course of the Non-Cooperation Movement:-** The Allahabad conference of the central Khilafat Committee which was conducted on June 1920 decided to launch the movement in four stages: Boycott of titles, civil services, police and army and finally non-payment of taxes. On 1st August, 1920, the day on which the dead body of Bal Gangadhar Tilak was carried for his funeral, Mahatma Gandhi began his Non-Cooperation campaign. He surrendered the Kaiser-i-Hind medal, which had been awarded to him by the British for his services during the war. In an article in Young India he announced that through this movement he would bring Swaraj within one year. A special session of the Congress was held at Calcutta on 4-9 September, 1920. In that Mahatma Gandhi's resolution on Non-Cooperation was approved by which the programs were decided, surrender of Govt. titles, boycott of schools, court and councils and foreign goods, encouragement of National schools, arbitration courts and khadi. In December 1920, the annual session of the Indian National Congress, held at Nagpur, confirmed the Non-Cooperation Resolution already passed at Calcutta. But Bipin Chandra Pal, Annie Besant, M.A.Jinnah and G.S.Khaparde didn't approve the Non-Cooperation and left Congress. This was also the period of labor unrest and trade unionism, marked by a major strike in the Bombay textile industry in January 1919, appearance of the Madras labor union in 1918, some 125 new trade unions and finally the formation of the All India Trade Union Congress in Bombay in November 1920. About 14,582 delegates attended the Nagpur session and they supported Mahatma Gandhi for the national movement. All section of the Indian society, communities and professions joined the Non-Cooperation movement. A large numbers of Indian youth lefts the schools and colleges and cooperated with the movement. Many lawyers from the different part of the India such C.R.Das, Motilal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajgopalchari and S.S. Iyenger gave up their profession and joined the Movement. Many educated youths resigned from services viz. Subhas Chandra Bose resigned from his Indian Civil Service post. Nation schools and colleges sprang up throughout the country. National Universities like Jamia Islamia of Aligarh, Gujarat Vidyapith, Kashi Vidyapith and Bihar Vidyapith. Boycott of the courts replaced by the introduction of the Panchayats for amicable settlement of disputes. Boycott of the foreign goods showed a remarkable fall in the import of the foreign cloths. Economic boycott was more intense and successful as the value of imports of foreign cloths dropped from 10 billion rupees in 1920-21 to 570 million in 1921-22, about of half of fall down import of foreign goods. Foreign cloths were burnt in a large number throughout the India. More than 10 million rupees (Tilak Swaraj Fund) was raised and 5 million were enrolled the Congress during the period which was earlier decided in the meeting of the All India Congress Committee in March 1921 at Bezwada. The 17th November 1921, the Prince of Wales landed at Bombay for undertaking a countrywide tour but it was boycotted by the Natives of the Bombay. On the day of his Arrival at Bombay, Mahatma Gandhi addressed a large gathering and a big heap of foreign cloth was burnt out as an aggression towards the British supremacy by indigenious or natives of the "Land". The industrial workers were not far behind this boycott as it was recorded

that in the cities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras organized strikes were held which showed their solidarity with the non-cooperator. The peasantry whom were led by Baba Ramchandra in Oudh extended their support to the movement. The Moplahs revolted against their landlords, being guided and influenced by Khilafat activists. Mahatma Gandhi also appealed to the millennial dreams of the Indian tribal population who got involved increasingly in the wider politics of the nation. In the Gudum Hills of Andhra, local leader Alluri Sita Ram Raju impressed by Gandhi and preached among the hill men his message of temperance and Khadi. In December 1921, Indian National Congress at Ahmedabad session Authorized Gandhi to launch a mass civil disobedience movement which had motive behind that "non-violent violation of unjust laws in obedience to the higher laws of morality." Mahatma Gandhi had been planning to start the Civil Disobedience Movement in Bardoli of Gujarat. But in the meantime the incident of the chauri-chaura was happened. On the February 5th 1922, in the village of chauri-chaura in Gorakhpur district of the United Provinces a violent mob showed their reaction against Police firing and revolutionary killed 22 5 policemen. On this violent activity Mahatma Gandhi suspended his idea of starting of the civil disobedience in 11th February 1922. It was estimated a big mistake which was generated by the Gandhi and he lost his popularity as a result of the suspension of the movement. It was a good opportunity before British Government and they proved it by arresting Mahatma Gandhi on 10th March 1923 and sentenced to six years' imprisonment with the suspension of the proposed Civil Disobedience Movement, the Non-cooperation movement came to an end. Estimate-: The objectives which were defined by Mahatma Gandhi as Swaraj and preservation of Khilafat came to an end and Mahatma Gandhi who was already arrested. In the year of 1922 a secular government was formed in Turkey under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Pasha and the issue of Khilafat was abolished in 1924. The Non-Cooperation movement strengthened the cause of nationalism by making the Congress party a mass organization and rousing an unprecedented awakening among the masses.