



INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT GROUP 4

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India's Struggle for Independence: Indian Freedom Movement

The late nineteenth century saw the emergence of Indian nationalism. Indians felt like one and they tried to overthrow the foreign rule. This led to the Indian freedom struggle and finally independence. Read to know about the exciting history of India's struggle for independence.

Indian Nationalism

- India has been unified under many empires in its history like the Mauryan Empire and Mughal empire. A sense of oneness has been there for ages – even though most of the centralised administration in India didn't last long.
- With the end of Mughal rule, India broke into hundreds of princely states. The British – which were instrumental in the fall of the Mughal Empire – held control over the princely states and created the British Indian Empire.
- However, most Indians were extremely dissatisfied with the exploitative foreign rule.
- The educated Indians realized that the British always gave priority to their colonial interests and treated India only as a market.
- They advocated for the political independence of India.

Foundation of Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885

- The late nineteenth century witnessed the emergence of many political organisations in British India.
- Indian National Congress (also known as Congress Party) founded in 1885 was the most prominent one.
- Initially, its aim was to create a platform for civic and political dialogue between Indians and the British Raj and thus obtain a greater share of government for educated Indians.
- Later, under the leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawarhal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the Congress party played a central role in organising mass movements against the British.

Partition of Bengal (1905)

- Indian nationalism was gaining in strength and Bengal was the nerve centre of Indian nationalism in the early 1900s.
- Lord Curzon, the Viceroy (1899-1905), attempted to ‘dethrone Calcutta’ from its position as the centre from which the Congress Party manipulated throughout Bengal, and indeed, the whole of India.
- The decision to partition Bengal into two was in the air from December 1903.
- Congress party – from 1903 to mid-1905 – tried moderate techniques of petitions, memoranda, speeches, public meetings and press campaigns. The objective was to turn to public opinion in India and England against the partition.
- However, Viceroy Curzon 1905 formally announced the British Government’s decision for the partition of Bengal on 19 July 1905. The partition took effect on 16 October 1905.
- The partition was meant to foster another kind of division – on the basis of religion. The aim was to place Muslim communalists as a counter to the Congress. Curzon promised to make Dacca the new capital.
- This resulted in a lot of discontent among the Indians. Many considered this as a policy of Divide and Rule by the British.
- This triggered a self-sufficiency movement popularly known as the Swadeshi movement.

The Swadeshi Movement (1905-1908)

- From conservative moderation to political extremism, from terrorism to incipient socialism, from petitioning and public speeches to passive resistance and boycott, all had their origins in the movement.
- Swadeshi is a conjunction of two Sanskrit words: swa (—self) and desh (—country).
- The movement popularised the use and consumption of indigenous products. Indians started ditching British goods for Indian products.
- Women, students, and a large section of the urban and rural population of Bengal and other parts of India became actively involved in politics for the first time with the Swadeshi Movement.
- The message of Swadeshi and the boycott of foreign goods soon spread to the rest of the country.

- The militant nationalists led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lajpat Rai and Aurobindo Ghosh were in favour of extending the movement to the rest of India and carrying it beyond the programme of just Swadeshi and boycott to a full-fledged political mass struggle. For them, the aim was Swaraj.
- In 1906, the Indian National Congress at its Calcutta Session presided over by Dadabhai Naoroji, declared that the goal of the Indian National Congress was self-government or Swaraj like that of the United Kingdom or the Colonies.
- There were differences in the ideologies of the congressmen who were popularly known by the names Moderates and the Extremists. They had differences of opinion regarding the pace of the movement and the techniques of struggle to be adopted. This came to a head in the 1907 Surat session of the Congress where the party split (the two factions re-joined later).
- This period also saw a breakthrough in Indian art, literature, music, science and industry.
- It was, perhaps, in the cultural sphere that the impact of the Swadeshi Movement was most marked. The songs composed at that time by Rabindranath Tagore, Rajani Kanta Sen etc became the moving spirit for nationalists of all hues.
- In art, this was the period when Abanindranath Tagore broke the domination of Victorian naturalism over Indian art and sought inspiration from the rich indigenous traditions of Mughal, Rajput and Ajanta paintings.
- In science, Jagdish Chandra Bose, Prafulla Chandra Ray, and others pioneered original research that was praised the world over.
- The Swadeshi period also saw the creative use of traditional popular festivals and melas as a means of reaching out to the masses. The Ganapati and Shivaji festivals, popularized by Tilak, became a medium for Swadeshi propaganda not only in Western India but also in Bengal.
- Another important aspect of the Swadeshi Movement was the great emphasis given to self-reliance or Atma Shakti in various fields meant the re-asserting of national dignity, honour and confidence.
- Self-reliance also meant an effort to set up Swadeshi or indigenous enterprises. The period
- saw a mushrooming of Swadeshi textile mills, soap and match factories etc.
- One of the major features of the programme of self-reliance was Swadeshi or National

Education. In 1906, the National Council of Education was established. The vernacular medium was given stress from the primary to university level.

- Corps of volunteers (or samitis as they were called) were another major form of mass mobilization widely used by the Swadeshi Movement. The Swadesh Bandhab Samiti set up by Ashwini Kumar Dutt was the most well-known volunteer organization of them all.

Reasons for the failure of the Swadeshi Movement

- The main drawback of the Swadeshi Movement was that it was not able to garner the support of the mass. The British use of communalism to turn the Muslims against the Swadeshi Movement was to a large extent responsible for this.
- During the Swadeshi phase, the peasantry was not organized around peasant demands. The movement was able to mobilize the peasantry only in a limited way.
- By mid-1908 repression took the form of controls and bans on public meetings, processions and the press.
- The internal squabbles, and especially, the split in the Congress (1907), the apex all-India organization, weakened the movement.
- The Swadeshi Movement lacked an effective organization and party structure.
- Lastly, the movement declined because of the very logic of mass movements itself they cannot be sustained endlessly.

However, the movement made a major contribution in taking the idea of nationalism, in a truly creative fashion, to many sections of the people. The peasant participation in the Swadeshi Movement, even though less, marked the very beginnings of modern mass politics in India.

The Split in the Congress (1907)

- The main public leaders of the two wings, Tilak (of the Extremists) and Gokhale (of the Moderates) were aware of the dangers of disunity in the nationalist ranks.
- A split was avoided in 1906 by choosing Dadabhai Naoroji as president of INC in the Calcutta session. Also, four compromise resolutions on the Swadeshi, Boycott, National Education, and Self-Government demands were passed. However, the hope of a united Congress was short-lived.

- The Extremists wanted to extend the Swadeshi and the Boycott Movement from Bengal to the rest of the country but the Moderators opposed it.
- The Extremists were fumed by the rumours that the Moderates wanted to scuttle the four Calcutta resolutions. This created friction among them which led to the split at the Congress session held on 26 December 1907 at Surat, on the banks of the river Tapti.
- The Indian National Congress split in December 1907. By 1907, the Moderate nationalists had exhausted their historical role. They failed to meet the demands of the new stage of the national movement and even failed to attract the younger generation.
- Almost at the same time, revolutionary terrorism made its appearance in Bengal.

Britain's policy towards INC

- The British had been suspicious of the National Congress from its inception, but they were not overtly hostile either.
- In 1888 Viceroy Dufferin ridiculed INC as representing only the elite a microscopic minority'.
- Lord Curzon said: —The Congress is tottering to its fall, and one of my greatest ambitions while in India is to assist it to a peaceful demise.
- The intimidating policies of the British towards INC changed once the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement began. The strengthening of the militant nationalist trend alarmed the British.
- A new policy, known as the policy of the carrot and the stick was invoked. It was three-pronged. It was described as a policy of *repression-conciliation- suppression*.
- The Extremists were repressed, though mildly in the first stage. The purpose is to frighten the Moderates. The British also tried to pacify Moderates through some concessions and promises if they disassociated themselves from the Extremists. However, the British always wanted to suppress Extremists.

Minto-Morley constitutional reforms (1909)

The Government of India which was headed by Lord Minto as Viceroy and John Morley as the Secretary of State offered fresh reforms in the Legislative Councils. They began discussions with Moderates within the Indian National Congress regarding this. However,

when the decision was taken, not just Moderates but the country as a whole were disappointed.

Major Provisions:

- The Indian Councils Act of 1909 increased the number of elected members (but most of them were still indirectly elected) in the Imperial Legislative Council and the provincial legislative councils.
- An Indian was to be appointed a member of the Governor-General's Executive Council.
- The Act permitted members to introduce resolutions; it also increased their power to ask questions.
- Voting on separate budget items was allowed.

The real purpose of the Morley-Minto Reforms was to divide the nationalist ranks and encourage the growth of Muslim communalism. For the latter, they introduced the system of separate electorates under which Muslims could only vote for Muslim candidates in constituencies specially reserved for them.

The Ghadar Movement (1914)

- The outbreak of the First World War in 1914 gave impetus to the nationalist feelings of Indians. The Home Rule League by Lokmanya Tilak and Annie Besant were formed during the First World War.
- At the same time, a revolutionary movement gained popularity – The Ghadar Movement. (Note: The word Ghadar means 'revolt')
- The Ghadar Movement was an international political movement founded by expatriate Indians to overthrow British rule in India.
- The early membership was composed mostly of Punjabi Indians who lived and worked on the West Coast of the United States and Canada. The movement later spread to India and Indian diasporic communities around the world.
- The main leader initially was Bhagwan Singh, a Sikh priest who had worked in Hong Kong and the Malay States.
- Later Har Dayal took leadership and played a crucial role in the Ghadar movement. He issued a Yugantar Circular praising the attack on the Viceroy. He urged Indians in the USA not to fight against the US but use their freedom in the US to fight the

British.

- The Ghadar militants toured extensively, visiting mills and farms where most of the Punjabi immigrant labour worked. The Yugantar Ashram became the home and headquarters and refuge of these political workers.

Komagata Maru Incident

- The Komagata Maru incident involved the Japanese steamship Komagata Maru, on which a group of people from British India attempted to immigrate to Canada in April 1914. Most of the ship passengers were denied entry and forced to return to Calcutta (present-day Kolkata).
- There, the Indian Imperial Police attempted to arrest the group leaders. A riot ensued, and they were fired upon by the police, resulting in the deaths of 22 people.
- The British Government passed orders that no passenger be allowed to disembark anywhere on the way — not even at the places from where they had joined the ship
- but only at Calcutta.
- It triggered off a wave of resentment and anger among the Indian community and became the occasion for anti-British mobilization.
- A number of Ghadar leaders, like Barkatullah and Tarak Nath Das, used the inflammatory passions surrounding the Komagata Maru incident as a rallying point and successfully brought many disaffected Indians in North America into the party's fold.

Ghadar's weakness

- Ghadar leaders completely underestimated the extent of preparation needed at every level — organizational, ideological, strategic, tactical, and financial that was necessary before an armed revolt could be organized.
- An almost non-existent organizational structure; the Ghadar Movement was sustained more by the enthusiasm of the militants than by their effective organization.
- The movement failed to generate an effective and sustained leadership that was capable of integrating the various aspects of the movement. Har Dayal's ideas did not form a structured vision but remained a shifting amalgam of various theories that attracted him from time to time.
- Lacking a mass base, despite the remarkable heroism of the individual revolutionaries

who operated in small secret groups, the movement could not withstand suppression by the strong colonial state.

- The Ghadar Movement came to an abrupt end with the arrest of Har Dayal.

The Home Rule Movement (1916-1918)

- The Home Rule Movement under the leadership of Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak was an important political movement that set the stage for India's struggle for independence.
- Annie Besant, who was a proponent of Free Thought, Radicalism, Fabianism and Theosophy, had come to India in 1893 to work for the Theosophical Society.
- In 1914, she decided to enlarge the sphere of her activities. She started a movement for Home Rule on the lines of the Irish Home Rule League.
- She realized that she needs the cooperation of both Moderates and Extremists. In the annual session of the Congress 1915, it was decided that the Extremists be allowed to rejoin the Congress along with the Moderates.
- Tilak set up the Home Rule League in the Bombay Province. The two leagues worked in different areas.
- Tilak promoted the Home Rule campaign which linked the question of Swaraj with the demand for the formation of linguistic states and education in the vernacular medium.
- Members of Gokhale's Servants of India Society, though not permitted to become members of the League, encouraged the demand for Home Rule by undertaking lecture tours and publishing pamphlets.
- During the Lucknow session of the Congress in December 1916, the famous Congress- League Pact was declared. Both Tilak and Annie Besant had played a role in bringing about this agreement between the Congress and the League, much against the wishes of many important leaders, including Madan Mohan Malaviya. This pact is popularly known as the Lucknow Pact where separate electorates for Muslims were accepted.
- The turning point in the home rule movement came with the decision of the Government of Madras in 1917 to place Mrs Besant and her associates, B.P. Wadia and George Arundale, under arrest.
- The Montagu Declaration was introduced by the British government as a sign of a

conciliatory effort. Henceforth, Home Rule or self-government movement was not treated as a seditious activity. However, this did not mean that the British were ready to grant self-government.

- In 1920 All India Home Rule League changed its name to Swarajya Sabha.
- The main achievement of the Home Rule Movement was that it created a generation of ardent nationalists who formed the backbone of the national movement. In the later years, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian freedom struggle entered its true mass phase.

Champan movement in Bihar (1917)

- Mahatma Gandhi, after his struggle against apartheid in South Africa (racial discrimination against blacks) for almost twenty years, returned to India in 1915. On Gokhale's advice, he spent a year traveling around British India to understand the problems of Indians.
- He initially maintained a distance from political affairs, including the Home Rule Movement that was gathering momentum at this time.
- Mahatma Gandhi began his experiments with Satyagraha against the oppressive European indigo planters at Champaran in Bihar in 1917.
- The Champaran issue had actually begun in the early 19th century when European planters made agreements with Indian farmers that forced them to cultivate indigo on the 3/20th of their holdings (known as the Tinkathia system).
- Resistance kept surfacing within planters and cultivators, because of the exploitation measures adopted by the British behind the indigo cultivation.
- In 1908 Raj Kumar Shukla, a local man persuaded Gandhiji to come to Champaran to investigate the problem. Gandhi reached Champaran but faced resistance from the Commissioner who ordered him to immediately leave the district. Gandhiji refused. He preferred to take the punishment for his defiance of the law. This step was unusual because even Home Rule leaders used to obey the Government.
- The British Indian government didn't want to create a controversy and ordered the local Government to retreat. They allowed Gandhiji to proceed with his enquiry and even nominated him as one of the enquiry members of the Government.
- Meanwhile, Gandhiji started investigating the grievances of peasants along with Brij Kishore, Rajendra Prasad and other members of the Bihar intelligentsia. J.B.

Kripalani toured the villages and recorded the statements of peasants.

- Gandhiji had little difficulty in convincing the Commission that the Tinkathia system needed to be abolished and that the peasants should be compensated for the illegal enhancement of their dues. The Commission found planters guilty of exploitation.
- The commission of enquiry decided to make refunds to the peasants. Gandhi asked for 50%. But the representative of planters offered a refund to the extent of 25%.
- In order to break the deadlock, Gandhiji agreed to a 25 per cent refund to the farmers. For Gandhi, it was not the money but the principles that were of utmost importance. In his belief, the submission of British landlords was more significant than the percentage of refunds.

Ahmedabad Satyagraha in Gujarat (1918)

- In Ahmedabad, a dispute was brewing between workers and mill owners over the question of a 'plague bonus'.
- The employers wanted to withdraw the bonus once the epidemic had passed but the workers insisted it stay.
- The British Collector asked Gandhiji to work out a compromise. Gandhiji persuaded the mill owners and the workers to agree to arbitration.
- The workers demanded a 50% wage hike while the mill owners offered only a twenty per cent wage hike. They threatened to dismiss all workers who did not accept it.
- Gandhiji advised the workers to go on strike. He himself started fasting for workers.
- Gandhiji was peculiar in that workers should get at least a thirty-five per cent increase in wages.
- Finally, the strike was withdrawn after mill owners agreed to a thirty-five per cent increase the workers had demanded.
- Anasuya Behn was one of the main lieutenants of Gandhiji in this struggle.

Kheda Satyagraha in Gujarat (1918)

- The Kheda district of Gujarat was on the verge of famine owing to the failure of the crops.
- The yield had been so low that the cultivators were unable to pay the revenue. But the government insisted that the cultivators should pay the tax.
- Gandhi saw the justice of the cause of the cultivators. Enquiries by members of the

Servants of India Society and Vithalbhai Patel too confirmed the genuineness of the peasants' case.

- Gandhiji advised the withholding of tax payments, and asked the peasants to fight unto death against such a spirit of vindictiveness and tyranny'.
- The peasants of Kheda, already deprived because of plague, high prices and drought, were showing signs of weakness when Gandhiji came to know that the Government had issued secret instructions directing that revenue should be recovered only from those peasants who could pay.
- The Government said that if well-to-do cultivators paid up the poorer section would be granted suspension. This was agreed to and the campaign ended.
- The Kheda Satyagraha marked the beginning of an awakening among the peasants of Gujarat, the beginning of their true political education. In addition, it gave the educated public workers the chance to establish contact with the actual life of the peasants.

Rowlatt Satyagraha (1919)

- During the First World War of 1914-18, the British instituted censorship of the press and permitted detention without trial.
- The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, popularly known as the Rowlatt Act, was passed by the Imperial Legislative Council in Delhi on 18 March 1919, indefinitely extending the emergency measures of preventive indefinite detention, incarceration without trial and judicial review enacted in the Defence of India Act 1915 during the First World War.
- It was enacted in light of a perceived threat from revolutionary nationalists to organisations of re-engaging in similar conspiracies as during the war which the Government felt the lapse of the Defence of India Act would enable.
- This act was passed on the recommendations of the Sedition Committee chaired by Sir Sidney Rowlatt.
- Gandhiji launched Satyagraha against the inhuman Rowlatt Act.
- The protests were particularly intense in Punjab . Gandhiji was detained while proceeding there.

Jallianwala Bagh massacre (1919)

- The passage of the Rowlatt Act in 1919 resulted in large-scale political unrest throughout India.
- A large peaceful crowd had gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab to protest against the arrest of pro-Indian independence leaders Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satya Pal.
- In response to the public gathering, the British Brigadier-General R. E. H. Dyer surrounded the Bagh with his soldiers.
- General Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on the nationalist meeting, killing hundreds. The brutality at Jallianwala Bagh stunned the entire nation.
- This event caused many moderate Indians to abandon their previous loyalty to the British and become nationalists distrustful of British rule.

Non-cooperation Movement (1920)

- Gandhiji called for a campaign of —non-cooperation with British rule. Indians who wished colonialism to end were asked to stop attending schools, colleges, and law courts. They were asked to not pay taxes. In sum, they were asked to adhere to a —renunciation of all voluntary association with the British Government.
- Gandhiji said that if non-cooperation was effectively carried out India would win swaraj within a year.
- When Congress met for its annual session at Nagpur, C.R. Das moved the main resolution on non-cooperation. Many groups of revolutionary terrorists, especially in Bengal, also pledged support to the movement.
- The goal of the Congress, by this time, changed from the attainment of self-government by constitutional means to the attainment of Swaraj by peaceful means.

Khilafat Movement (1919-24)

- The Khilafat movement was a political protest campaign launched by Muslims of British India to restore the caliph of the Ottoman Caliphate, who was considered the leader of the Muslims.
- To further broaden the Indian freedom struggle, Gandhiji joined hands with the Khilafat Movement.
- The movement collapsed by late 1922 when Turkey gained a more favourable

diplomatic position and moved towards Nationalism. By 1924, Turkey abolished the role of the caliph.

- However, the tremendous participation of Muslims in the Non-Cooperation Movement and the maintenance of communal unity, despite the Malabar developments, was in itself no mean achievement.

Chauri Chaura incident (1922)

- On 4 February 1922, at Chauri Chaura (a place in modern Uttar Pradesh), the British police opened fire at a large group of people who were participating in the Non-cooperation movement.
- In retaliation, the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants. The incident led to the death of three civilians and 22 policemen.
- Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the non-cooperation movement on the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of the Chauri Chaura incident.
- In spite of Gandhi's decision, 19 arrested demonstrators were sentenced to death and 14 to imprisonment for life by the British colonial authorities.
- Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Bose, and many others recorded their disagreement on Gandhiji's views.

Bardoli Satyagraha in Gujarat (1928)

- In January 1926, the officer charged with the duty of reassessment of the land revenue demand of the taluq had recommended a 30% increase over the existing assessment.
- The Congress leaders were quick to protest against the increase and set up the Bardoli Inquiry Committee to go into the issue.
- In July 1927, the Government reduced the enhancement to 21.97 per cent. But the concessions were too meagre and came too late to satisfy anybody.
- The constitutionalist leaders now began to advise the peasants to resist by paying only the current amount and withholding the enhanced amount.
- Gradually as the limitations of constitutional leadership became more apparent, Vallabhbhai Patel was invited to lead the campaign.
- The government ignored Vallabhai's request which resulted in the start of Bardoli Satyagraha. The no-tax movement was launched in Bardoli taluka of Surat district in

Gujarati in 1928.

- The main mobilization was done through extensive propaganda via meetings, speeches, pamphlets, and door-to-door persuasion. Special emphasis was placed on the mobilization of women and many women activists were recruited for the purpose.
- Members of the Bombay Legislative Council like K.M. Munshi and Lalji Naranji, the representatives of the Indian Merchants Chamber, resigned their seats.
- The government was forced to conduct an inquiry. The inquiry was done by a judicial officer, Broomfield, and a revenue officer, Maxwell. They came to the conclusion that the increase had been unjustified. The government later reduced the enhancement to 6.03 per cent.

The boycott of the Simon Commission (1927)

- On 8 November 1927, an all-white, Simon Commission was appointed to recommend whether India was ready for further constitutional reforms.
- Indian National Congress boycotted Simon Commission because no Indian was present in the commission. There were protests in many places.
- In Lahore, Lala Lajpat Rai, the hero of the extremist days and the most revered leader of Punjab was hit. He succumbed to the injuries in November 1928.
- Bhagat Singh and his comrades sought to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. They killed the white police official, Saunders, in December 1928.
- Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Bose emerged as the leaders during the Simon Commission boycott movement.

Nehru Report (1928) and the attempt to draft the Indian Constitution

- Britain did not acknowledge the right of Indians to frame their own constitution.
- British policy, until almost the end of the Raj, was that the timing and nature of Indian constitutional development were to be decided exclusively by the British Parliament, but it was assumed that Indians would be consulted as appropriate.
- In December 1927, at its Madras session, the Indian National Congress took two major decisions in response to the setting up the Simon Commission: first, it decided to not cooperate with the Commission; second, it set up an All Parties Conference to draft a Constitution for India.
- The committee of the All Parties Conference to draft the Constitution was chaired by

Motilal Nehru with his son Jawaharlal Nehru acting as a secretary. There were nine other members in this committee.

- The report submitted by the committee in 1928 was called the Nehru Report – which was actually a memorandum to appeal for dominion status and a federal set-up of government for the constitution of India.
- The Nehru Report also rejected the principle of separate communal electorates on which previous constitutional reforms had been based. Seats would be reserved for Muslims at the Centre and in provinces in which they were in a minority, but not in those where they had a numerical majority.
- The Nehru Report also recommended universal adult suffrage, equal rights for women, freedom to form unions, and dissociation of the state from religion in any form.
- However, Jinnah withdrew his support to the report and proposed his Fourteen Points‘ which were basically a reiteration of his objections to the Nehru Report.
- Young and radical nationalists led by Jawaharlal Nehru had objections to the Nehru Report of Motilal Nehru. Their slogan was ‘Complete Independence.’

Purna Swaraj or Complete Independence Campaign (1929)

- In the Lahore session in 1929, Jawaharlal Nehru was made the President of INC. He declared ‘Purna Swaraj’ or Complete Independence as the only honourable goal Indians could strive for.
- On the banks of the river Ravi, at midnight on 31 December 1929, the tricolour flag of Indian independence was hosted.
- The first task that the Congress set itself in the new year was that of organizing all over the country public meetings at which the Independence Pledge would be read out and collectively affirmed on 26 January.

Civil Disobedience Movement and Dandi March (1930)

- The Lahore Session of Congress (1929) authorized the Working Committee to launch a programme of civil disobedience including non-payment of taxes.
- Gandhi’s ultimatum to Lord Irwin, stating the minimum demands in the form of 11 points, had been ignored, and there was now only one way out: civil disobedience. Gandhi selected salt as his main tool of disobedience.

- In every Indian household, salt was indispensable; yet people were forbidden from making salt even for domestic use, compelling them to buy it from shops at a high price. The state monopoly over salt was deeply unpopular. By making salt his target, Gandhiji hoped to mobilise a wider discontent against British rule.
- Gandhi, along with a band of seventy-eight members of the Sabarmati Ashram started to march from Ahmedabad to the coast at Dandi. There he broke the salt laws by collecting salt from the beach.
- On 6 April 1930, by picking up a handful of salt, Gandhi inaugurated the Civil Disobedience Movement – a movement that was to remain unsurpassed in the history of the Indian national movement for the country-wide mass participation it unleashed.
- Like other parts of India, the civil disobedience movement was also launched in North- West Frontier Province (Khyber–Pakhtunkhwa). The local Congress sought help from the Khudai Khidmatgars, the most popular socio-political organization in the province.
- Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan’s Khudai Khidmatgars, popularly known as the Red Shirts, played an extremely active role in the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- The city came under the control of the masses for at least a week and the soldiers of the Garhwal regiment refused to fire at the unarmed crowds of Peshawar demonstrations.
- Nehru’s arrest on 14th April was followed by public protests in Madras, Calcutta and Karachi.

The Salt March was notable for at least three reasons:

1. It was this event that first brought Mahatma Gandhi to world attention.
2. It was the first nationalist activity in which women participated in large numbers. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay had persuaded Gandhi for this issue.
3. It was the Salt March that forced upon the British the realisation that their Raj would not last forever, and that they would have to devolve some power to the Indians.

Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931) and the Round Table Conferences (1930-32)

- The British convened a series of —Round Table Conferences‡ in London to discuss constitutional reforms in India.
- The first meeting was held in November 1930. However, without the pre-eminent political leader in India, it was an exercise in futility.

- Gandhi was released from jail in January 1931. In the following month, he had several long meetings with the Viceroy. These culminated in what was called the —Gandhi-Irwin Pact‘.
- The terms of the agreement included the immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted for violence, the remission of all fines not yet collected, the return of confiscated lands not yet sold to third parties, and lenient treatment for those government employees who had resigned. The Government also conceded the right to make salt for consumption to villages along the coast. They also gave the right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing.
- The Congress‘s demand for a public inquiry into police excesses was not accepted, but Gandhiji‘s insistent request for an inquiry was recorded in the agreement.
- Congress, on its part, agreed to discontinue the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). A second Round Table Conference was held in London in the latter part of 1931.
- Here, Gandhiji represented the Congress. Gandhi opposed the demand for separate electorates for —lower castes. For him, separate electorates to the —Untouchables will ensure their bondage in perpetuity. He thought this would prevent their integration into mainstream society and permanently segregate them from other caste Hindus.
- But Ambedkar was in favour of separate electorates for depressed classes. He believed it is the only path for a community so handicapped to succeed in the struggle for life against the organised tyranny of higher castes.
- During the second Round Table Conference in London, Winston Churchill, leader of the right wing, strongly objected to the British Government negotiating on terms of equality with the seditious fakir‘. He demanded a strong government in India.
- The discussions with Gandhi failed as the British Government refused to concede the basic Indian demand for freedom. Gandhiji resumed Civil Disobedience after reaching back
- The government launched its strike against the national movement by arresting Gandhi. British government promulgated ordinances that gave the authorities unlimited power – the ‘Civil Martial Law.’ Civil liberties no longer existed and the authorities could seize people and property at will.
- In 1934 the inevitable decision to withdraw the Civil Disobedience Movement was

taken by Gandhi.

- However, many political activists were not in favour of stopping the movement. They included Jawaharlal Nehru who was critical of Gandhiji's decisions regarding the timing of the withdrawal of CDM.
- The support that the movement had garnered from the poor and the illiterate, both in the town and in the country, was remarkable indeed.
- Nevertheless, the participation of Muslims in the Civil Disobedience Movement was certainly nowhere near that of the Non-cooperation movement 1920-22.
- For Indian women, the movement was the most liberating experience to date and can truly be said to have marked their entry into the public space.

The Communal Award (1932)

- After the Third Round Table Conference, in November 1932, the then Prime Minister of Britain Ramsay MacDonald gave an order which is known as the Communal Award.
- It was part of Britain's policy of 'Divide and Rule'.
- The award granted separate electorates in British India for the Forward Caste, Lower Caste, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Europeans and Untouchables (Dalits) etc.
- The Congress Party was unhappy at the extension of communal representation but became particularly outraged at the British offer of separate-electorate seats for depressed classes.
- Gandhi viewed the McDonald Award as a nefarious British plot to wean more than 50 million Hindus away from their higher-caste brothers and sisters.
- The idea of a separate electorate for Muslims had been accepted by Congress as far back as 1916 as a part of the compromise with the Muslim League. Hence, Congress took the position it was opposed to separate electorates but not in favour of changing the Award without the consent of the minorities.
- Gandhi demanded that the representatives of the Depressed Classes should be elected if possible by the universal, common franchise. At the same time, he did not object to the demand for a larger number of reserved seats for the Depressed Classes. He went on a fast unto death on 20 September 1932 to enforce his demand.
- In the end, political leaders succeeded in bringing an agreement, known as the Poona Pact.

- In this pact, the idea of separate electorates for the Depressed Classes was abandoned but the seats reserved for them in the provincial legislatures and Central Legislature were increased.
- After being released from prison Gandhiji shifted to Satyagraha Ashram at Wardha after abandoning Sabarmati Ashram at Ahmedabad for he had vowed in 1930 not to return to Sabarmati till Swaraj was won.

Government of India Act (1935)

- The growing demand for constitutional reforms in India led the British Parliament to enact the Government of India Act 1935.
- The Act promised some form of representative government.
- The Act provided the establishment of an All-India Federation based on the union of British Indian provinces and the Princely States.
- Defence and foreign affairs would remain outside the control of the federal legislature, while the Viceroy would retain special control over other subjects.
- Governors, appointed by the British Government, retained special powers. They could veto legislative and administrative measures, especially those concerning minorities, the rights of civil servants, law and order, and British business interests.
- The Governor also had the power to take over and indefinitely run the administration of a province.
- The Act of 1935 was condemned and unanimously rejected by Congress. The Congress demanded the convening of a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of adult franchise to frame a constitution for an independent India.

Resignation of Congress ministries (1939)

- Congress won the elections to the provincial assemblies held in February 1937. Its election manifesto reaffirmed its total rejection of the 1935 Act.
- One of the first acts of the Congress Government was to release thousands of political prisoners and to cancel deportation orders on political workers.
- The difference between the Congress provinces and the non-Congress provinces of Bengal and Punjab was most apparent in this realm. In the latter, especially in Bengal, civil liberties continued to be curbed and they never released prisoners.
- However, Congress could not attempt a complete overhaul of the agrarian structure by

completely eliminating the Zamindari system.

- Later the Second World War broke out. Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru promised Congress support to the war effort if the British, in return, promised to grant India independence once hostilities ended. The offer was refused. Gandhi withdrew support to the British in War.
- The Congress ministries resigned in October and November 1939, in protest against Viceroy Lord Linlithgow's action of declaring India to be belligerent in the Second World War without consulting the Indian people.
- The resignations brought the Left and the Right in Congress closer because of a common policy on the question of participation in the war.

Crisis at Tripuri (1939)

- Subhas Bose had been a unanimous choice as the President of Congress in 1938. In 1939, he decided to stand again — this time as the spokesperson of militant politics and radical groups.
- However, with the blessings of Gandhiji, Sardar Patel, Rajendra Prasad, J.B. Kripalani and other leaders put up Pattabhi Sitaramayya as a candidate for the post.
- Bose accused Patel and other top leaders of Congress as rightists'. He openly accused them of working for a compromise with the Government on the question of the federation. Bose had, therefore, appealed to Congressmen to vote for a leftist and a genuine anti-federationist. ‘
- Nevertheless, in reality, the difference between right' and left' was not very vivid within the Congress and most Congressmen were anti-federationist.
- Subhas Bose won the election on 29 January on the popularity of his militant politics but only by a narrow margin – 1580 votes against 1377.
- But the election of Bose brought the brewing crisis to a head at the Tripuri session of the Congress.
- Gandhiji declared that Sitaramayya's defeat was more mine than his.
- Bose argued in his presidential address at Tripuri for a programme of immediately giving the British Government a six-month ultimatum to grant the national demand for independence and of launching a mass civil disobedience movement if it failed to do so.
- Subhas Bose believed that the Congress was strong enough to bunch an immediate

struggle and that the masses were ready for such a struggle.

- However, Gandhi's perceptions were very different. Gandhi believed the time was not yet ripe for an ultimatum because neither Congress nor the masses were yet ready for struggle.
- The internal strife reached its climax at the Tripuri session of the Congress, held from 8 to 12 March 1939.
- Bose had completely misjudged his support and the meaning of his majority in the presidential election. Congressmen had voted for him not because they wanted to have him as the supreme leader of the national movement – but mainly because of his policies and militant politics. They were not willing to reject Gandhi's leadership or his views. Bose resigned from the presidency. This led to the election of Rajendra Prasad in his place.
- Subsequently, Subhas Bose and his followers formed the Forward Bloc as a new party within Congress.
- As Bose planned a protest against an AICC resolution, the Working Committee removed Bose from the presidency of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee and debarred him from holding any Congress office for three years.

Individual Satyagraha (1940)

- Gandhiji decided to initiate a limited satyagraha on an individual basis by a few selected individuals in every locality. The demand of a satyagrahi was for the freedom of speech to preach against participation in the War.
- The satyagrahi would beforehand inform the district magistrate of the time and place where he or she was going to make the anti-war speech. If the Government did not arrest a satyagrahi, he or she would not only repeat the performance but move into the villages and start a trek towards
- Delhi, thus participating in a movement that came to be known as the 'Delhi Chalo' (onwards to Delhi) movement.
- Vinoba Bhave was to be the first satyagrahi on 17 October 1940 and Jawaharlal Nehru the second.
- Individual Satyagraha served a dual purpose — (1) it gave expression to the Indian people's strong political feelings, (2) it gave the British Government another opportunity to peacefully accept the Indian demands.

Cripps Mission (1942)

- The Cripps Mission was a failed attempt in late March 1942 by the British government to secure full Indian cooperation and support for their efforts in World War II.
- The mission was headed by a senior minister Sir Stafford Cripps, traditionally sympathetic to Indian self-rule.
- However, he was also a member of the coalition War Cabinet led by Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who had long been the leader of the movement to block Indian independence.
- Churchill was persuaded to send Sir Stafford Cripps to India to try and forge a compromise with Gandhiji and the Congress.
- The Declaration promised India Dominion Status and a constitution-making body after the War. He proposed that the Constitutional Assembly members would be elected by the provincial assemblies and nominated by the rulers in the case of the princely states.
- At that time, the demand for a separate nation for Muslims – Pakistan – also got momentum.
- The Pakistan demand was accommodated by the provision that any province which was not prepared to accept the new constitution would have the right to sign a separate agreement with Britain regarding its future status.
- Talks broke down, when Congress objected to the provision for Dominion Status rather than full independence.
- Congress insisted that if it was to help the British defend India from the Axis powers, then the Viceroy had first to appoint an Indian as the Defence Member of his Executive Council.
- After the failure of the Cripps Mission, Mahatma Gandhi decided to launch the —Quit India campaign also known as the August Revolution‘.

Quit India Movement (1942)

- The Quit India Movement was launched at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British rule in India.
- In this struggle, the common people of the country demonstrated unparalleled heroism

and militancy.

- However, the repression that they faced was the most brutal that had ever been used against the national movement.
- At the historic August meeting at Gowalia Tank in Bombay, Gandhiji was particular about complete freedom and no more piece-meal approach from the British.
- He proclaimed: “Do or Die” – which meant either free India or die in the attempt.
- Gandhi asked government servants to openly declare their allegiance to congress and not to resign.
- In the meantime, underground networks were consolidated in various parts of the country. The prominent members of underground activities were Achyut Patwardhan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Ram Manohar Lohia, and Sucheta Kripalani.
- The pattern of activity of the underground movement was that of organizing the disruption of communications by blowing up bridges, cutting telegraph and telephone wires, and derailing trains.
- Congress Radio operated clandestinely from different locations in Bombay city, whose broadcast could be heard as far as Madras. Usha Mehta was an important member of the small group that ran the Congress Radio.
- A significant feature of the Quit India Movement was the emergence of what came to be known as parallel governments in some parts of the country. Satara (Maharashtra) emerged as the base of the longest-lasting and most effective parallel government.
- A significant feature of peasant activity was its total concentration on attacking symbols of British authority and a total lack of any incidents of anti-zamindar violence.
- In February 1943, Gandhiji declared the fast in Aga Khan Palace where he was held in detention, as this was his answer to the Government which had been constantly exhorting him to condemn the violence of the people in the Quit India Movement. Gandhiji not only refused to condemn the people’s resort to violence but unequivocally held the Government responsible for it.
- The resignation of the three Indian members of the Viceroy’s Executive Council, M.S. Aney,
- N.R. Sarkar and H.P. Mody, who never wished Gandhi to suffer, made a severe blow to the British.
- Finally, the Congress leaders were released to participate in the Simla Conference in

June 1945. That marked the end of the phase of confrontation that had existed since August 1942.

Simla Conference (1945) and the Wavell Plan

- The Simla Conference of 1945 was a meeting between the Viceroy of India (Lord Wavell) and the major political leaders of British India at the Viceregal Lodge in Simla.
- Wavell proposed a separate representation of Muslims within a united India. Talks, however, stalled on the issue of the selection of Muslim representatives. The All-India Muslim League claimed to be the sole representative of Indian Muslims. The Indian National Congress opposed this claim as the Congress had more Muslims in its support than the Muslim League.
- This scuttled the conference, and perhaps the last viable opportunity for a united, independent India.
- On 14 June 1945 Lord Wavell announced a plan for a new Executive Council in which all members except the Viceroy and the Commander in Chief would be Indians. This executive council was to be a temporary measure until a new permanent constitution could be agreed upon and come into force.

RIN Mutiny (1946)

- The Royal Indian Navy (RIN) revolt started in February 1946 at Mumbai when the naval ratings on HMIS Talwar protested against the poor quality of food and racial discrimination by British officers.
- From the initial flashpoint in Mumbai, the revolt spread and found support throughout India, from Karachi to Kolkata, and ultimately came to involve over 20,000 sailors in 78 ships and shore establishments.
- Karachi was a major center, second only to Bombay. Sympathetic strikes took place in military establishments in Madras, Visakhapatnam, Calcutta, Delhi, Cochin, Jamnagar, the Andamans, Bahrain and Aden.
- A revolt in the armed forces, even if soon suppressed, had a great liberating effect on the minds of people.
- The naval mutiny proved to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India.

- India was seen to be on the brink of a revolution. The mutiny witnessed the demoralization of British officials and the changing loyalties of Indian officials.
- However, communal unity evident in the RIN revolt was limited despite the Congress, League and Communist flags being jointly hoisted on the ships' masts. Muslim ratings went to the League to seek advice on future action for Pakistan.
- The Indian National Congress and the Muslim League condemned the mutiny, while the Communist Party of India was the only party that supported the rebellion.
- The mutiny was suppressed by British troops and Royal Navy warships.
- The revolt was called off following a meeting between the President of the Naval Central Strike Committee (NCSC), M. S. Khan, and Sardar Vallabhai Patel who had been sent to Bombay to settle the crisis.

Mountbatten Plan (1947)

- The legislature representatives of the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League, and the Sikh community came to an agreement with Lord Mountbatten on what has come to be known as the 3 June Plan or Mountbatten Plan. This plan was the last plan for independence.
- The plan announced by the Viceroy Mountbatten on 3 June 1947 included these principles:
 1. The principle of the partition of British India was accepted by the British Government.
 2. Successor governments would be given dominion status.
 3. Autonomy and sovereignty to both countries.
 4. The successor governments could make their own constitution
 5. The Princely States were given the right to join either Pakistan or India, based on two major factors: Geographical contiguity and the people's wishes.
- The Mountbatten plan led to the enactment of the India Independence Act of 1947.

India Independence Act (1947)

- The Indian Independence Act of 1947 passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom divided British India into two new independent dominions; the Dominion of India (*later to become the Republic of India*) and the Dominion of Pakistan (*later to become the Islamic Republic of Pakistan*).

- This Act received Royal Assent on 18 July 1947.
- India and Pakistan became independent on August 15th, 1947.
- India continues to celebrate August 15th as her Independence day, while Pakistan chose to celebrate August 14th as her Independence day as per their cabinet decisions.

Historical Background of Indian Constitution

Before 1947, India was divided into two main entities – The British India which consisted of 11 provinces and the Princely states ruled by Indian princes under subsidiary alliance policy. The two entities merged together to form the Indian Union, but many of the legacy systems in British India are followed even now. The historical underpinnings and evolution of the India Constitution can be traced to many regulations and acts passed before Indian Independence.

Indian System of Administration

Indian democracy is a Parliamentary form of democracy where the executive is responsible to the Parliament. The Parliament has two houses – Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Also, the type of governance is Federal, i.e. there is separate executive and legislature at Center and States. We also have self-governance at local government levels. All these systems owe their legacy to the British administration. Let us see the historical background of the Indian Constitution and its development through the years.

Regulating Act of 1773

- The first step was taken by the British Parliament to control and regulate the affairs of the East India Company in India.
- It designated the Governor of Bengal (Fort William) as the Governor-General (of Bengal).
- Warren Hastings became the first Governor-General of Bengal.
- The Executive Council of the Governor-General was established (Four members). There was no separate legislative council.
- It subordinated the Governors of Bombay and Madras to the Governor-General of Bengal.
- The Supreme Court was established at Fort William (Calcutta) as the Apex Court in 1774.
- It prohibited servants of the company from engaging in any private trade or accepting

bribes from the natives.

- The Court of Directors (the governing body of the company) should report its revenue.

Pitt's India Act of 1784

- Distinguished between commercial and political functions of the company.
- Court of Directors for Commercial functions and Board of Control for political affairs.
- Reduced the strength of the Governor General's council to three members.
- Placed the Indian affairs under the direct control of the British Government.
- The company's territories in India were called —the British possession in India.
- Governor's councils were established in Madras and Bombay.

Charter Act of 1813

- The Company's monopoly over Indian trade terminated; Trade with India open to all British subjects.

Charter Act of 1833

- Governor-General (of Bengal) became the Governor-General of India.
- First Governor-General of India was Lord William Bentick.
- This was the final step towards centralization in British India.
- Beginning of a Central legislature for India as the act also took away legislative powers of Bombay and Madras provinces.
- The Act ended the activities of the East India Company as a commercial body and it became a purely administrative body.

Charter Act of 1853

- The legislative and executive functions of the Governor-General's Council were separated.
- 6 members in the Central legislative council. Four out of six members were appointed by the provisional governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal and Agra.
- It introduced a system of open competition as the basis for the recruitment of civil servants of the Company (Indian Civil Service opened for all).

Government of India Act of 1858

- The rule of Company was replaced by the rule of the Crown in India.
- The powers of the British Crown were to be exercised by the Secretary of State for India
- He was assisted by the Council of India, having 15 members
- He was vested with complete authority and control over the Indian administration through the Viceroy as his agent
- The Governor-General was made the Viceroy of India.
- Lord Canning was the first Viceroy of India.
- Abolished Board of Control and Court of Directors.

Indian Councils Act of 1861

- It introduced for the first time Indian representation in institutions like Viceroy's executive + legislative council (non-official). 3 Indians entered the Legislative council.
- Legislative councils were established in the Center and provinces.
- It provided that the Viceroy's Executive Council should have some Indians as the non-official members while transacting the legislative businesses.
- It accorded statutory recognition to the portfolio system.
- Initiated the process of decentralisation by restoring the legislative powers to the Bombay and the Madras Provinces.

India Council Act of 1892

- Introduced indirect elections (nomination).
- Enlarged the size of the legislative councils.
- Enlarged the functions of the Legislative Councils and gave them the power of discussing the Budget and addressing questions to the Executive.

Indian Councils Act of 1909

- This Act is also known as the Morley- Minto Reforms.
- Direct elections to legislative councils; first attempt at introducing a representative and popular element.
- It changed the name of the Central Legislative Council to the Imperial Legislative

Council.

- The number of members of the Central Legislative Council was increased to 60 from 16.
- Introduced a system of communal representation for Muslims by accepting the concept of ‘separate electorate’.
- Indians for the first time in Viceroy's executive council. (Satyendra Prasanna Sinha, as the law member)

Government of India Act of 1919

- This Act is also known as the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms.
- The Central subjects were demarcated and separated from those of the Provincial subjects.
- The scheme of dual governance, ‘Dyarchy’, was introduced in the Provincial subjects.
- Under the dyarchy system, the provincial subjects were divided into two parts – transferred and reserved. On reserved subjects, the Governor was not responsible to the Legislative council.
- The Act introduced, for the first time, bicameralism at the center.
- Legislative Assembly with 140 members and Legislative council with 60 members.
- Direct elections.
- The Act also required that three of the six members of the Viceroy's Executive Council (other than Commander-in-Chief) were to be Indians.
- Provided for the establishment of the Public Service Commission.

Government of India Act of 1935

- The Act provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of the Provinces and the Princely States as units, though the envisaged federation never came into being.
- Three Lists: The Act divided the powers between the Centre and the units into items of three lists, namely the Federal List, the Provincial List and the Concurrent List.
- The Federal List for the Centre consisted of 59 items, the Provincial List for the provinces consisted of 54 items and the Concurrent List for both consisted of 36 items

- The residuary powers were vested with the Governor-General.
- The Act abolished the Dyarchy in the Provinces and introduced
- ‘Provincial Autonomy’.
- It provided for the adoption of Dyarchy at the Centre.
- Introduced bicameralism in 6 out of 11 Provinces.
- These six Provinces were Assam, Bengal, Bombay, Bihar, Madras and the United Province.
- Provided for the establishment of Federal Court.
- Abolished the Council of India.

Indian Independence Act of 1947

- It declared India as an Independent and Sovereign State.
- Established responsible Governments at both the Centre and the Provinces.
- Designated the Viceroy India and the provincial Governors as the Constitutional (normal heads).
- It assigned dual functions (Constituent and Legislative) to the Constituent Assembly and declared this dominion legislature as a sovereign body.

Points to be noted

- Laws made before the Charter Act of 1833 were called Regulations and those made after are called Acts.
- Lord Warren Hastings created the office of District Collector in 1772, but judicial powers were separated from District collector later by Cornwallis.
- From the powerful authorities of unchecked executives, the Indian administration developed into a responsible government answerable to the legislature and people.
- The development of the portfolio system and budget points to the separation of power.
- Lord Mayo’s resolution on financial decentralization visualized the development of local self-government institutions in India (1870).
- 1882: Lord Ripon’s resolution was hailed as the Magna Carta‘ of local self-government. He is regarded as the ‘Father of local self-government in India’.
- 1924: Railway Budget was separated from the General Budget based on the Acworth Committee report (1921).
- From 1773 to 1858, the British tried for the centralization of power. It was from the

1861 Councils act they shifted towards devolution of power with provinces.

- the 1833 Charter act was the most important act before the act of 1909.
- Till 1947, the Government of India functioned under the provisions of the 1919 Act only. The provisions of the 1935 Act relating to Federation and Dyarchy were never implemented.
- The Executive Council provided by the 1919 Act continued to advise the Viceroy till 1947. The modern executive (Council of Ministers) owes its legacy to the executive council.
- The Legislative Council and Assembly developed into Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha after independence.

Trade Unions – The History of Labour Unions in India

What are trade unions or labour unions? What are the new reforms introduced in the labour domain?

- In a globalised world, it is equally important to protect the interests of workers along with that of industrialists.
- At a time when the Government of India is trying to bring many labour reforms, it is important to know the history of **labour unions**, popularly known as **trade unions**.

What are labour unions or trade unions?

- A trade union can be defined as an organised association of workers in a trade or profession, formed to further their rights and interests. In India, Trade Unions in India are registered under the **Trade Union Act (1926)**.
- Trade unions are interested in the economic and social welfare of the workers. Labour unions may also have political interests in the larger society.

Growth of labour unions in India: 6-phases

- Growth of the Trade union movement in India was an organic process. It started towards the tail end of the nineteenth century and continues to date. It closely follows the development of Industry in India.
- In India, now there are more than 16,000 trade unions with a collective membership of around 1 crore (10 million) labourers.
- The growth of labour unions in India can be roughly classified into six phases.

Pre-1918: The genesis of the labour movement in India

- After the setting up of textile and jute mills coupled with the laying of railways in the 1850s, worker atrocities started to come to light.
- Though the origin of labour movements was traced to the 1860s, first labour agitation in the history of India occurred in Bombay, 1875. It was organised under the leadership of S.S Bengalee. It concentrated on the plight of workers, especially women and children. This led to the appointment of the first Factory commission, 1875. Consequently, the first factories act was passed in 1881.
- In 1890, M.N Lokhande established **Bombay Mill Hands Association**. This was the **firstorganised labour union in India**.

Following this, different organisations were established across India. Features of the labour movements in this era:

- Leadership was provided by social reformers and not by the workers themselves.
- The movements in this era mainly concentrated on the welfare of workers rather than asserting their rights.
- They were organised, but there was no pan India presence.
- A strong intellectual foundation or agenda was missing.
- Their demands revolved around issues like that of women and children workers.

1918-1924: The early trade union phase

- This period marked the birth of the true trade union movement in India. It was organised along the lines of unions in the industrialized world.
- The deteriorated living conditions caused by the first world war and the exposure with the outside world resulted in heightened class consciousness amongst the workers. This provided fertile ground to the development of the movement. This period is known as the early trade union period.
- Important unions: Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association (1917) led by Smt. Anasuyaben Sarabhai, All India Postal and RMS Association, Madras Labour Union led by B.P Wadia etc.
- **AITUC**, the oldest trade union federation in India was set up in **1920**. It was founded by Lala Lajpat Rai, Joseph Baptista, N.M Joshi and Diwan Chaman Lall. Lajpat Rai was elected the first president of AITUC.

Factors that influenced the growth of the movement

- Spiraling prices during the War and the mass entrenchment of workers that followed led to low living standards. Also, the wretched working conditions added to their woes. Hence, they sought collective bargaining power through unionisation.
- Development of Home Rule, the emergence of Gandhian leadership and the socio-political conditions led to the nationalist leadership taking interest in the worker's plight. Workers, in turn, were looking for professional leadership and guidance.
- Russian revolution and other international developments (like setting up of the International Labour Organisation in 1919) boosted their morale.

1925-1934: Period of left-wing trade unionism

- This era was marked by increasing militancy and a revolutionary approach. It also saw multiple split-ups in the movement. Leaders like N.M Joshi and V.V Giri were instrumental in moderating the movement and further integrating it with the nationalist mainstream.
- AITUC split up multiple times paving way for the formation of organisations like National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) and All India Red Trade Union Congress (AIRTUC).
- However, the need for unity was felt and they all merged with the AITUC in the next phase.
- The government was also receptive to the trade union movement. Legislations like the **Trade Unions Act, 1926** and the **Trade Disputes Act, 1929** gave a fillip to its growth. It bestowed many rights to the unions in return for certain obligations. This period was marked by the dominance of the left. Hence, it may be referred to as the period of **left-wing trade unionism**.

1935-1938: The Congress interregnum

- This phase was marked by greater unity between different unions. Indian National Congress was in power in most of the provinces by 1937. This led to more and more unions coming forward and getting involved with the nationalist movement. In 1935, AIRTUC merged with AITUC. Different legislations were passed by provincial governments that gave more power and recognition to the trade unions.
- The approach of Congress ministries was that of promoting worker interests while

protecting industrial peace. Reconciliation of labour with capital was seen as an aim, with ministries working towards securing wage rise and better living conditions. However, many ministries treated strikes as law and order issues. They used colonial machinery to suppress it. This led to considerable resentment from the unions.

1939-1946: Period of labour activism

- The Second World War lowered the standard of living for the workers further and this led to the strengthening of the movement. The question of war effort created a rift between the Communists and the Congress. This, coupled with other issues, led to further split in the movement. However, the movement as a whole got stronger due to the compounding issues. This included mass entrenchment post-war and the massive price rise that accompanied it.
- Legislations like **Industrial Employment Act, 1946** and **Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946** contributed to strengthening the trade union movement. In general, the movements got more vocal and involved in the national movement.

1947-present: Post-independence trade unionism

- It was marked by the proliferation of unions. **INTUC** was formed in May **1947** under the aegis of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Since then, the AITUC has come to be dominated by the
- Communists. Hind Mazdoor Sabha was formed in 1948 under the banner of Praja Socialist Party. Later on, it came under the influence of Socialists. Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh was founded in 1955 and is currently affiliated to the BJP.
- Post-independence, trade unions became increasingly tied with party politics. Rise of regional parties has led to a proliferation in their numbers with each party opting to create its trade union. However, their influence has been somewhat reduced after the liberalisation post-1991. Issues like labour code reforms and minimum wage remains a political hot potato due to the opposition from the trade union leadership.
- Post-independence, India has also witnessed different unions coming together to address a common issue. These include the crippling railway strike of 1974 and the Great Bombay textile strike, 1982. However, such strikes are seen to get less public support post-1991.
- There is also an increased focus on informal labour. This is due to the particularly vulnerable situation of unorganised labour. All major trade unions have registered an

increase in their membership from the unorganised sector.

Problems faced by the labour movement post Independence

- **Uneven growth:** They are concentrated in the metropolises, largely catering to the organised sector. Rural Agricultural labour and small scale labour are grossly underrepresented.
- **Low membership:** Trade union membership is growing, but the vast majority of India's labour is not part of any trade unions. This reduces their collective bargaining power.
- **Weak financial position:** Membership fees are set too low (25 paise) by the Trade Union Act, 1926. They are particularly disadvantaged against corporate lobbying groups that are flush with cash.
- **Political leadership:** Careerist politicians and vested political agenda mean that worker interests are sidelined. Since the leadership may not be from the labour force, they are held captive to party politics. This leads to further exploitation.
- **The multiplicity of unions:** Bargaining power is diluted and it is easy for employers to divert the attention of the labour.
- **Inter-union rivalry:** There are conflicts of interest and party politics between the unions.
- **The problem of recognition:** Employers are under no obligation to give them recognition. This means that docile unions get recognition and genuine ones may be sidelined.
- **Diverse nature of labour:** Most unions don't have properly differentiated organisational structure to cater to different classes of labour. Eg: Differences between agricultural, formal and informal labour.
- **Lack of public support:** Especially post 1991, trade unionism is looked down as an impediment to growth and development. This has led to a general ebbing of the movement across the country.

Major Labour Unions and their Political Affiliation

1. All India Trade Union Congress – Communist Party of India.
2. Indian National Trade Union Congress – Indian National Congress.
3. Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh – Bharatiya Janata Party.

4. Centre for Indian Trade Unions – CPI(M).
5. Hind Mazdoor Sabha – Samajwadi Party.
6. Self Employed Women's Association – Unaffiliated.

The Significance of Trade unions in a Capitalist Society

- India's decisive shift towards market-led growth post-1991 has raised a lot of questions about the role of labour unions. Often, they are seen as an impediment to industrialisation and investment. However, their role is indispensable in balancing workers' interests with that of investors. They also keep a check on the sustainability of business practices, including ethics.
- Hence, they play an important role in getting support for worker interests from the larger society. They also mobilise opinions in favour of labour. They are also instrumental in organising democratic protests and avoid movements getting overly militaristic. Democratic trade unionism is also a must in avoiding workers coming under the influence of radical and anti-national elements. This is particularly important in the environment of rising socio- economic inequality post liberalization.

Ease of Doing Business vs Competitiveness of the labour market

- The Government of India is focussed on attracting investments by making the nation business- friendly.
- India had moved 14 places to be **63rd among 190 nations** in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Rank 2020. However, it failed to achieve the government's target of being at 50th place.
- **The competitiveness of its labour market** is a major area of worry where India is currently ranked **103 out of 141** countries by the World Economic Forum.

Labour Reforms

- There are numerous labour laws in India – more than 40. As part of labour reform initiatives, the labour ministry has decided to amalgamate **44 labour laws** into **four labour codes** — on wages, industrial relations, social security and safety, health and working conditions.
- These are a slew of legislation aimed at reforming and simplifying the labour law regime in the country. According to the government, all major labour unions were consulted in the process.

- The plan is to replace 44 labour laws that dealt with different issues with four comprehensive bills. With this, we will have just four simplified laws in place of these laws.

The New Labour Codes - The Proposed 4 Bills

- The new 4 codes will deal with wages, social security, industrial safety and welfare, and industrial relations.

Labour Code on wages

- Code on wages will subsume legislations like The Minimum Wages Act, the Payment of Wages Act, the Payment of Bonus Act, the Equal Remuneration Act. It aims to provide a national floor for minimum wage. It also has provisions to consider regional variations like geography, economy etc.

Labour Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions

- Code on Industrial safety and welfare will replace legislation like the Factories Act, the Mines Act and the Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act. This will put in place a uniform regime across the nation to ensure industrial safety.

Labour Code on Industrial Relations

- The Labour Code on Industrial Relations will combine the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The focus here is to set the stage for the way labour unions can protect labour interests. It also seeks to abolish deadlocks and promote worker welfare while promoting investment.

Labour Code on social security

- Code on social security will merge important legislations like Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, Employees' State Insurance Corporation Act, Maternity Benefits Act, Building and Other Construction Workers Act and the Employees' Compensation Act
- Note: The Labour Code on Wages was approved by Parliament in August while the Labour Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions have been referred to the standing committee on labour.

Conclusion

- A vibrant and responsible trade union environment is the requisite for inclusive growth to any economy. It checks growing inequality and falling living conditions of the working class.
- Recent years have seen an erosion of powers of most labour unions. Though labour reforms are the need of the hour, every reform should strike a perfect balance between labour welfare and investment-led development.

Press in British India: The History of Indian Journalism

How did the modern press take birth in India? What was the history of the press and journalism during the British rule in India? What were the landmark events that shaped the press in India? Read to know all about it.

- The British are attributed to introducing independent press or participatory journalism in India during the colonial period.
- But the British administration put more effort into curbing the Indian press to restrict the nationalistic sentiments propagated through them.

History of Press in India during British rule

- Here is a brief history of the development of the press before independence.
- **1780:** James Augustus Hickey started '**The Bengal Gazette**' also known as '**Calcutta General advertiser**'. This was the first newspaper published in India which was later stopped because it carried critical articles against the company.
- **1799:** Governor-General **Richard Wellesley** enacted the **Censorship of Press Act, 1799** to stop the French from publishing anything against the British. This act brought all the newspapers under Government scrutiny before their publication. This act was later extended in 1807 and covered all kinds of Press Publications newspapers, magazines, books, and Pamphlets. The rules were relaxed in 1818 when **Francis Hastings** (1813-1823) assumed office.
- **1823: Licensing Regulation** ordinance was brought out by **acting Governor-General John Adams**. This regulation made press without a license a penal offence. The restriction was directed mainly at **Indian-language newspapers** or those edited by the Indians. This caused Raja Ram Mohun Roy to repeal his Persian journal '**Mirat-ul-akhbar**' started in 1822.

- 1824: Raja Ram Mohun Roy protested against the restriction on freedom of the press.
- **1835: Press act or Metcalfe act**, repealed the Licensing regulations of 1823. Gov.Gen. **Metcalfe** came to be known as the '**liberator of the press**' in India. The act required a printer/publisher to give a precise account of the premises of a publication and cease functioning if required by a similar declaration. The result of a liberal press policy was therapid growth of newspapers.
- **1857: Licensing act** was enacted by **Gov. Gen Canning (later Viceroy in 1858)** after the **Revolt of 1857** to impose stricter restrictions on the press. The right to stop the publication and circulation of any book, newspaper or printed matter was reserved with the Government.
- **1867: The registration act** replaced the Metcalfe act of 1835. The act was said to introduce regulations and no restrictions on the press. The print media now was made to contain the name of the printer, publisher, and place of publication and a copy had to be submitted to the government.
- **1878: Vernacular Press act** by **Viceroy Lytton** was enacted to curtail the freedom of Indian language newspapers (*this law did not apply to English language papers*). This was the result of the racial bitterness that has grown between Indians and Europeans after the incidents of 1857.
 1. The district magistrate was given powers to make the printer and publisher of any vernacular newspaper enter into a bond with the Government stating not to cause disaffection against the government or antipathy between persons of different religions, caste, and races through published material.
 2. The printer and publisher could also be required to deposit security which could be seized if the above offences reoccurred.
 3. The magistrate's action was final and no appeal could be made in a court of law.
 4. A vernacular newspaper could get an exemption from the operation of the Act by submitting proof to a government censor.
- 1882: The pre-censorship of the Vernacular press act was repealed by Viceroy Ripon.
- **1908: Newspaper (incitement to offence) Act** gave the magistrates power to confiscate press property that published objectionable material likely to cause incitement to murder or acts of violence. This act was triggered by the Extremist nationalist activity during and after the **Swadeshi movement of 1906**.
- **1910: Indian press act** was a revision of the Vernacular Press Act that empowered

the local government to demand a large amount of security at registration from the printer/publisher and forfeit/deregister of newspapers that considered anti-government, and the printer of a newspaper was required to submit two copies of each issue to local government.

- **1921:** The acts of 1908 and 1910 were repealed on the recommendation of the **Press committee chaired by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru.**
- **1931: Indian Press (emergency powers) Act** was enacted in the wake of the **Civil disobedience movement.** It gave powers to the provincial government to suppress propaganda writings in support of the Civil Disobedience movement.

Important journals or newspapers vs their authors:

- Bengal gazette – J.A Hickey
- Maharatta (English), Kesari (Marathi) – Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- Hitavada – Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- Sudharak – Gopal Ganesh Agarkar
- Voice of India, Rast Goftar – Dadabai Naororji
- Vande Mataram, Paridasak – Bipin Chandra Pal
- Mook Nayak, Janata, Bahishkrit bharat – Dr. B.R Ambedkar
- Prabuddha Bharata – Aiyasami, B. R. Rajam Iyer, G. G.Narasimhacharya, and B. V. Kamesvara Iyer (on behest of Swami Vivekananda)
- Independent – Motilal Nehru
- Punjabi – Lala Lajpat Rai
- The leader, Hindostan, Abyudyaya, Maryada – Madan Mohan Malviya
- New India, Commonweal – Annie Besant
- Mirat-ul-Akhbar, Sambad kaumudi – Raja Ram Mohun Roy
- Navajeevan, Young India, Harijan, Indian opinion (South Africa) – M.K Gandhi
- Indian mirror – Devendra Nath Tagore
- Som Prakash – Eshwar Chand Vidyasagar
- The Hindu, Swadesamitran – G. Subramaniya Aiyar
- The Bengalee – Surendra Nath Banerjee
- Amrita Bazar Patrika – Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh
- Madras courier – Richard Johnson

Education in British India: The History of Indian Pedagogy

The British established the modern education system still followed in India. They replaced age-old systems of education in the country with English ways. Read here about the policies that paved the way for modern education systems.

- The education system that existed in ancient and medieval India was prominently that of the ‘Gurukula’ type. In this system, students lived with the teacher or ‘guru’ in the same house. However, even at that time, India was reputed for many global universities like Nalanda.
- The colonial conquest led to the fall of the education system in India. For the initial sixty-odd years, the British did not pay any heed to advancing the education system in the country. As their territory increased and they started to control the revenue and administration, the need for educating the Indians in English became a necessity to procure manpower.
- Later, the British started on a mission to abolish the ancient gurukul system and sowed seeds for the cultural and linguistic upheaval of the country.

History of Education policies in British India

- The History of Education policies in British India can be classified into two – before 1857 (under the English East India Company) and after 1857 (under the British Crown).

Education policies in India under the English East India Company

- 1781: Governor-General of Bengal, Warren Hastings established Calcutta Madrasa for Islamic law studies. It was the first educational institute established by East India Company (EIC) governance.
- 1784: Asiatic Society of Bengal was founded by William Jones to understand and study the history and culture of India. During this period Charles Wilkins translated Bhagwat Gita to English.
- 1791: The resident of Benares, Jonathan Duncan founded the Sanskrit college for the study of Hindu laws and philosophies.
- 1800: Governor-General Richard Wellesley founded the Fort William College in Calcutta to train the civil servants of EIC in Indian languages and customs. But this college was closed in 1802 due to disapproval of the British administration in England on Indianising the English civil servants.

The Charter Act of 1813

- This was the first noted step towards modern education in the country by the British. This act set aside an annual sum of Rs.1 lakh to be used in educating the Indian subjects.
- During all this time the Christian missionaries were active in mass educating the people but they concentrated more on religious teachings and conversions.

Macauley's Minutes / The English Education Act of 1835

- Governor-General William Bentick's tenure saw more funds being allocated to education, and the policies were based on the recommendation of Macauley's minute.
- We have to remember that Thomas Macauley had no knowledge or value for Indian and oriental literature and considered western science to be superior to all. He had famously said that —*a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia*”.

The gist of the minute is:

1. Government should spend resources for teaching western sciences and literature in English alone.
 2. English should be made the medium of education in schools and colleges.
 3. Elementary schools were not given importance, rather more schools at district levels and colleges were suggested to be opened. Hence, mass education was neglected.
 4. Downward filtration theory: The British decided to educate a small section of upper and middle-class Indians who would be the bridge between the masses and the government. And this education would spread western education to the masses gradually.
- Adam's report on vernacular education in Bengal and Bihar was published in 1835, 1836, and 1838 which pointed out the defects in the system of vernacular education.
 - 1843-53: James Jonathan experiment in North West province where he introduced one model school in each tehsil where the vernacular language was used for teaching. There was also another school for training the teachers for these vernacular schools.

Wood's Despatch of 1854

- It is also known as the 'Magna Carta of English education in India' was the first comprehensive plan to envisage mass education in India.

- It prompted the government to take responsibility for education and suggested grants in aid to encourage private enterprises to invest in education.
 1. Vernacular languages should be used in primary schools in villages.
 2. Anglo-vernacular high schools
 3. Affiliated college at the district level
 4. Universities in presidency towns
 5. Gave impetus to female education and vocational training.
 6. Laid down that there should be secular education in government schools. Viceroy Mayo's term saw the establishment of Rajkot college in Kathiawar in 1868 and Mayo college of Ajmer in 1875 for the political training of the Indian princes and elites.

Education policies in India under the Royal Crown of British

- Under the British Crown, various commissions like Hunter, Raleigh, Saddler etc submitted recommendations for the reforms in the Indian Education system.

1882: Hunter Commission on Indian Education

- It recommended more government efforts for the improvement of mass education through vernacular languages.
 1. Transfer of control of primary education to the new district and municipal boards.
 2. Encourage female education outside presidency towns also.
 3. Secondary education should be divided into 2 categories-
 4. Literary (leads to university through entrance exam)
 5. Vocational (for commercial jobs)

1902: Raleigh Commission

- Viceroy Curzon believed that universities were the factories producing students with revolutionary ideologies; hence he constituted the commission to review the entire university education system in India.
- The recommendation of the commission led to the universities act of 1904.

1904: Indian Universities Act

- The Act brought all Indian universities under the control of the government. The key provisions of the act were-

1. More attention to study and research in universities rather than revolutionary activities
 2. The number of fellows were reduced and were to be nominated by the government
 3. The government acquired veto power against university senate decisions.
 4. Stricter affiliation rules.
- 1906: The princely state of Baroda introduced compulsory primary education in its territories.

1913: Government Resolution on Education Policy

- The government refused to adhere to the demand by leaders of the national movement to introduce compulsory primary education in British India; they did not want the responsibility of mass education.
- But announced a future policy for the removal of illiteracy.
- Provincial governments were asked to take responsibility to provide free elementary education to poorer and backward classes.
- Quality of secondary education and private efforts to be improved.
- One university is to be established in each province.

1917-19: Saddler University Commission

It was originally set up to study and report the causes behind the poor performance of Calcutta University, however it ended up reviewing all the universities in the country.

1. It said that the improvement of secondary education is necessary for the improvement of university education.
 2. School should be completed in 12 years-
 - Students enter university after the intermediate stage (not matric) for a 3- year university degree.
 - This would better prepare students for university and make them at par with university standards.
 - It will provide collegiate education to those not taking up university degrees.
 3. Separate board for secondary and intermediate education.
 4. University should function as a centralized and resident teaching autonomous body.
 5. Focus on female education, applied scientific and technical education, teachers training.
- 1916-21: 7 new universities came up at Mysore, Patna, Benares, Aligarh, Dacca,

Lucknow, and Osmania.

- 1920: The Saddler commission recommendations were handed over to the provincial government as education was shifted under provinces in the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms. This caused a financial crunch in the education sector.

1929: Hartog Committee

1. Provide primary education but not need a compulsory education system.
2. Only deserving students should be allowed to study in high schools and intermediate stages whereas average students should be diverted to vocational courses.
3. Restricted admissions in university to improve standards.

1937: Wardha Scheme of Basic Education By The Indian National Congress (Inc)

- Congress organized a national conference on education in Wardha and formulated a committee under Zakir Hussain for basic education.
- The scheme focused on —learning through activity which was based on Gandhi's ideas published in Harijan.
 1. Basic handicrafts should be included in the syllabus
 2. First 7 years of school to be free and compulsory
 3. Hindi as medium till class 7 and English from class 8 onwards.
- These ideas were not implemented due to the resignation of the congress ministries due to the start of World War II.

1944: Sergeant Plan of Education by The Central Advisory Board of Education

1. Free primary education for 3-6 years age group.
2. Compulsory education for 6-11 years age group
3. High school to selected students of 11-17 years age group.
4. Improve technical, commercial, and arts education
5. Focus on teachers' training, physical education, and education of mentally and physically handicapped.

Land Revenue Systems in British India Zamindari, Ryotwari and Mahalwari What were the differences among the major land revenue systems in British India i.e. Zamindari, Ryotwari and Mahalwari?

- For UPSC, Land Revenue Systems in British India is always a hot topic for Prelims

and Mains.

- As per the new syllabus ‘land reforms in India’ is specifically mentioned for GS Mains, and the relevance just got multiplied.
- Now let’s have a quick look at the different methods of land revenue collection systems that existed in India.

Land Revenue Systems Before British Rule

- Tax from the land was a major source of revenue for the kings and emperors from ancient times. But the ownership pattern of land had witnessed changes over centuries.
- During Kingship, the land was divided into Jagirs, Jagirs were allotted to **Jagirdars**, these Jagirdars split the land they got and allocated to subordinate **Zamindars**.
- Zamindars made **peasants** cultivate the land, in return collecting part of their revenue as tax.

Land Revenue Systems in British India

Three major systems of land revenue collection existed in India. They were – Zamindari, Ryotwari and Mahalwari.

1. Zamindari System (Permanent Land Revenue Settlement)

- The Zamindari System was introduced by Cornwallis in 1793 through the Permanent Settlement Act.
- It was introduced in the provinces of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Varanasi.
- Also known as the Permanent Settlement System.
- **Zamindars** were recognized as the **owners** of the lands. Zamindars were given the rights to collect the rent from the peasants.
- While the zamindars became the owners of the land, the actual farmers became tenants.
- The tax was to be paid even at the time of poor yield.
- The tax was to be paid in cash. Before introducing this system, the tax could be paid in kind.
- The realized amount would be divided into 11 parts. 1/11 of the share belongs to Zamindars and 10/11 of the share belongs to East India Company.

2. Ryotwari System

- The Ryotwari System was introduced by Thomas Munro in 1820.
- This was the primary land revenue system in South India.
- Major areas of introduction include Madras, Bombay, parts of Assam and Coorg provinces of British India.
- In the Ryotwari System the **ownership rights** were handed over to the **peasants**. The British Government collected taxes directly from the peasants.
- The revenue rates of the Ryotwari System were 50% where the lands were dry and 60% in irrigated land.
- Though ownership of land was vested with the farmers, excessive tax impoverished them. Furthermore, the tax rates were frequently increased.

3. Mahalwari System

- The Mahalwari system was introduced in 1822 by Holt Mackenzie. Later, the system was reformed during the period of William Bentick (1833).
- This was the primary land revenue system in North-West India.
- It was introduced in Central Province, North-West Frontier, Agra, Punjab, Gangetic Valley, etc of British India.
- In this system, the land was divided into Mahals. Each Mahal comprises one or more villages.
- The entire village (Mahal) was considered as a single unit for tax collection.
- The village headman or village committee was assigned the responsibility to collect tax.
- **Ownership rights** were vested with the **peasants**.
- The tax rate was excessive in this system too.
- The Mahalwari system had many provisions of both the Zamindari System and Ryotwari System.

Problems created by the British Land Revenue Policies

- The land revenue policies implemented by the British affected the agricultural sector.
- When the farmers were unable to pay tax in the form of money before the deadline, they had to take a loan from moneylenders at a high rate of interest. The loans were obtained by mortgaging agricultural land. The agricultural land of the farmers, who could not pay back the loan and interest, was seized by the money lenders.

Land Reforms in India After Independence

- **Zamindari Abolition Act** was passed by UP, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, etc. Surplus lands were confiscated from zamindars.
- Later the Land **Ceilings Act** was passed by different states, fixing an upper limit for private landholdings.

Freedom Struggle in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu stands tall in resisting the British Colonial rule. Palayakarars of the late 18th century made various attempts to establish freedom in Tamil Country.
- After the defeat of Palayakarars, Indian sepoys and officers made an uprising in Vellore Fort in 1806 that reflected the feelings of several contentments of South India.
- Due to Western Education and middle class educated Indians, the struggle took the constitutional path
- The freedom battle in Tamil Nadu was special on the grounds that from the earliest starting point. It was not just a battle for freedom from the English Crown but additionally a battle for freedom from social evil forced by the caste framework.

Role of Tamil Nadu in the Freedom Struggle

- By the early 19th century, educated, white-collar class people started to raise their voices for public issues. These white-collar people started the Madras Native Association and Madras Mahajana Sabha.

Madras Native Association

- The Madras Native Association (MNA) was one of the oldest associations formed in South India. It is founded by Gazulu Lakshminarasu, Srinivasanar, and their associates
- Formed in 1852, the Madras Native association was mostly composed of merchants.
- The association's main motive was for **individual and business benefits** and their primary aim was to decrease the taxes imposed on their business. Then it also challenged the support of the Britain government to the Christian missionaries.
- Sometimes they also voiced the needs of the people. One of the important things done by the association was their legal battle against the government for the ill-treatment of the laborers by tax authorities.
- This legal battle led to the foundation of the Torture Commission and the cancellation

of the Torture Act which is the collection of tax by torturing the farmer or laborers.

- The existence of the Madras Native Association ended in 1862.

Beginnings of the Nationalist Press The Hindu and Swadesamitran

- The first Indian Judge of the Madras High Court, T. Muthuswami was appointed in 1877. His appointment as Judge was widely criticized by the Press during Madras presidency.
- Thereby people came to know the entire press was controlled by the Europeans. As a result, native people started newspapers to communicate their points of view. By this, G. Subramaniam,
- M. Veeraraghavachari, and several others started the newspaper named —**The Hindu**” in 1878.
- Swadesamitran, a Tamil patriot magazine started by G. Subramaniam in 1891 and it was turned into a daily in 1899.
- The establishment of the **Hindu and Swadesamitran** gave hope to other newspapers and magazines such as **Indian Patriot, South India Mail, Madras Standard, Deshabhimani, Vijaya, Suryodayam, and India.**

Madras Mahajana Sabha

- Madras Mahajana Sabha (MMS) was the earliest association in South India that had a clear nationalist aim. The founder is **M. Veeraraghavachari, P. Ananda Charlu, P. Rangaiah.**
- The demands of Madras Mahajana Sabha are:
 - The conduction of Civil Service Exams in India
 - Cancellation of Council of India in London
 - The cancellation of high taxes
 - Reducing the army expense of the British from the Indian revenue. These demands are then taken by the **Indian National Congress**, as their agenda.

Moderate Phase

- Madras Mahajana Sabha prompted the development of an All India Association, the Indian National Congress from various parts of India went to a few gatherings before the arrangement of the congress.
- The Theosophical Society in Madras, the gathering was held in December 1884 and

this meeting was attended by Dadabhai Naoroji, K.T.Telang, Surendranath Banerjee, and other leaders.

Nationalists of Tamil Nadu in the Moderate stage

- The early patriots accepted in constitutional ways, by exercising Public Hall meetings and debating the issues of the nation in the English language.
- These views were conveyed to the administration through petitions. During the partition of Bengal, Tilak and others made mass open gatherings, and vernacular dialects to address the masses. These early leaders were known as **Moderates**.
- Tamil Moderates are V.S.Srinivasa Sastri, P.S.Sivasamy, V.Krishnasamy, T.R. Venkatramanan, G.A.Natesan, T.M.Madhava Rao, and S.Subramaniam. The main meeting of the Indian National Congress was held in 1885 in Bombay.
- Out of 72 representatives, 22 individuals were from Madras. G. Subramaniam by his compositions inspired patriotism in many. G. Subramaniam with Naoroji and Gokhale for his commitment to the comprehension of the financial abuse of India by the British.
- The subsequent meeting of the Indian National Congress was held in Calcutta in 1886, with Dadabhai Naoroji. The third meeting was held at Makki's Garden, presently known as the Thousand lights, in Madras in 1887 with Badruddin Tyabji as president.
- Out of the 607, all India representatives 362 were from Madras Administration.
- Tamil Nadu was then part of the Madras Presidency which included present-day Andhra Pradesh (Coastal areas and Rayalaseema), Karnataka (Bengaluru, Bellary, South Canara), Kerala (Malabar), and even Odisha (Ganjam).

Swadeshi Movement

- In 1905, Bengal was Partitioned which ignited the Swadeshi Movement and changed the path of the freedom struggle.
- Many new leaders arrived and particularly a number of leaders came from Bengal, Punjab, and Maharashtra.
- The Calcutta Congress session called the nationwide Swadeshi movement and asked people to boycott foreign goods and promote national education. The swadeshi movement also had its impact on Tamil Nadu.

Swadeshi Movement in Tamil Nadu

- The important leaders of Tamil Nadu are V.O.Chidambaram, V.Chakkaraiyar,

SubramaniaBharati, and Surendranath Arya.

- Numerous public meetings were conducted all over Tamilnadu. A number of magazines and newspapers were started to inspire Swadesi feelings.
- Noticeable journals are India and Swadesamitran. Bipin Pal visited Madras and addressed the youth to participate in the Swadeshi Movement.

Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company

- Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company was started by V.O. Chidambaranar at Thoothukudi. He bought two ships. VOV ship's name is S.S.Gallia and S.S.Lavo and started transport between Thoothukudi and Colombo.
- Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company went bankrupt due to double standards by the Government and strong competition from other European companies.

Tirunelveli Uprising

- V.O.C got together with Subramania Siva in arranging the factory laborers in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli. In 1908, he led a strike in the European Coral Mills. It coincided with the release of Bipin Chandra Pal.
- V.O.C and Subramania Siva organized public meetings to praise the arrival of Bipin and were arrested. The two chiefs were accused of rebellion and condemned to thorough detainment.
- V.O.C. was given a severe sentence of two life imprisonment. The updates on the capture started revolts in Tirunelveli prompting the torching of the police headquarters, court, and municipal office.
- It prompted the killing of four individuals in an open fire. V.O.C. was dealt with rigorous punishment in jail and was made to pull the oil press.
- Others captured are G. Subramaniam and Ethiraj Surendranath Arya. To keep away from police imprisonment Subramania Bharati ran away to Pondicherry which was under French rule.
- Bharati's model was tried by numerous different patriots, for example, Aurobindo Ghosh and V. Subramanianar. The merciless attack on Swadeshi leaders practically brought the Swadeshi Development to halt in Tamil Nadu.

Revolutionary Activities in Tamil Nadu

- The Swadeshi movement inspired the youth. Many youths took the revolutionary path.

Pondicherry provided a safe place for revolutionaries.

- Many revolutionaries in Tamil Nadu were trained at India House in London and in Paris. M.P.T.Acharya, V.V.Subramanianar, and T.S.S.Rajan were famous among them.
- Revolutionary literature was distributed by them in Madras through Pondicherry. Radicanpapers such as India, Vijaya, and Suryodayam came out of Pondicherry.
- Such revolutionary papers and Bharathi poems were banned. These activities in Pondicherry intensified with the arrival of Aurobindo Ghosh and V.V.Subramanian Iyyarin 1910. These activities continued till World War-I.

Ashe Murder

- In 1904, Nilakanta Brahmachari and others started the Bharata Matha Society, a secret society. Their objective was to kill British officials and kindle patriotism among the people.
- Vanchinathan of Sengottai was influenced by the organization. Vanchinathan shot Rober WDE Ashe, Collector of Tirunelveli in Maniyachi Junction, and shot himself. These people failed to inspire people.

Annie Besant and the Home Rule Movement

- Moderates were disappointed with the Minto-Morley reforms as they did not provide a responsible government. Despite this, congress extended its support to the British in WorldWar.
- Annie Besant, an Irish Lady, and leader of the Theosophical Society proposed the Home Rule Movement on the model of the Irish Home rule league. Starting in 1916, carried a demand for home rule all over the country.
- G.S.Arundale, B.P.Wadia, and C.P.Ramaswamy assisted her. Annie Besant wrote a newspaper called **New India and Commonweal**. She remarked, —Better Bullock Carts and Freedom than a train deluxe with Subjectionl.
- Under the Press Act of 1910, Annie Besant asked to pay a hefty amount as security. Annie Besant wrote two books namely, How India Wrought for Freedom and India: A Nation, anda pamphlet on self-government.
- Many students joined the Home Rule classes, and formed into boy scouts and volunteer troops. Annie Besant and her followers were prohibited from making public

speeches.

- Annie Besant was elected the president of the congress session of 1917. Members of the Home Rule movement such as B.P.Wadia played a key role in organizing the working classes by forming trade unions.
- They succeeded in improving their working conditions and made them part of the freedom struggle. The rise of Gandhi as National leader, Annie Besant, and the Home rule leagues were eclipsed.

Non-Brahmin Movement and the Challenge to Congress

- Education grew rapidly during the Madras presidency. There was an increase in the number of educated non-Brahmins. Political and social discussions were done by educated non-brahmins.
- They raised issues such as caste discrimination, unequal opportunities in government employment, and representation in elected bodies that were dominated by brahmins. Further, Congress was fully composed of Brahmins.

(a) The South Indian Liberal Federation(SILF)

- The Non-Brahmins organized political organizations. C.Natesanar a.k.a C. Natesa Mudaliar founded the Madras Dravidian Association in 1912.
- In June 1916 he established the Dravidian Association Hostel for non-Brahmin students. He also played a key role in uniting two big non-brahmin leaders T.M.Nair and P.Thyagarayar.
- Both of them were earlier part of congress and sidelined by congress. On 20 November 1916, a meeting was held at Public Hall in Chennai under the leadership of PT.Thyagaraya, T.M. Nair, and C.Natesan with about 39 Non-Brahmins.
- SILF was founded to promote the interests of the non-Brahmins. The newspapers published by the South Indian Liberal Federation are Justice (English), Dravidian (Tamil), and Andra Prakasika (Telugu).
- The South Indian Liberal Federation was later known as the Justice Party after its English Daily named Justice.

(b) Demand for Reservation

- The non-Brahmin manifesto was released. Reservation of jobs for non-brahmins in government service, and seats in representative bodies. Non-brahmins feared that the

Home rule movement was a brahmin and might give more powers to the brahmins. It also criticized the Congress party controlled fully by brahmins.

- Montagu's announcement of political reforms of 1917 intensified political discussions in Tamil Nadu. The Justice party demanded communal representation.
- The Madras government was also supportive of the Justice Party. The Justice party believed that English rule was conducive to the development of the non-brahmins. The act of 1919 provided reservation of seats to non-Brahmins, a move welcomed by the Justice party and criticized by congress.

(c) Justice Ministry

- Congress boycotted the elections of 1920. Find out why? The Justice party won 63 out of 98 seats in the Legislative Council. A. Subbarayalu of the Justice Party became the first Chief Minister.
- After the 1923 election, Raja of Panagal of the Justice Party formed the ministry. The Justice party introduced reservations for non-brahmins in appointment in local bodies and educational institutions.
- They established the Staff Selection Board which later became the Public Service Commission. They enacted the Hindu Religious Endowment Act and Madras State Aid to Industries Act.
- They abolished the devadasi system. Muthulakshi Reddy proposed this bill in the 1930s. But this bill was passed during the Premiership of O.P. Ramaswamy Reddiyar called Omandur Reddy.
- The abolition of the devadasi system is referred to as the Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act or the Tamil Nadu Devadasis Act. This act was enacted on 9 October 1947.
- Periyar E.V. Ramasamy was part of the Devadasi abolition bill and suggested passing it as a Private Bill rather than Public Bill. They allotted the Poramboke Land (Waster Government Lands) to the poor for housing.
- Primary education to the depressed classes through fee concessions. Scholarship and mid-day meals programme for students.

Government's Repressive Measures

1. Rowlatt Act

- After World War-I, the British passed a draconian Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act popularly known as the Rowlatt Act. The act was named after Sir Sidney Rowlatt, who died in 1919.
- According to the Rowlatt act, anyone could be imprisoned on charges of terrorism without judicial process. Gandhi went against the Rowlatt act by the non-violence method known as the Satyagraha that he used in South Africa.
- Rowlatt Satyagraha on March 18, 1919 Gandhi addressed a meeting on Marina Beach. On 6 April 1919 hartal was organized to protest against the —Black Act. Protest demonstrations were held in several parts of Tamil Nadu.
- Processions from many areas of the city gathered at Marina Beach. The large gathering devoted the whole day to fasting and prayer on the marina beach.
- Madras Satyagraha Sabha was formed. Rajaji, Kasturirangar, S. Satyamurti, and George Joseph addressed the meeting. A separate meeting of workers was addressed by V. Kalyanasundaram a.k.a Thiru. V. Ka, B. P. Wadia and V. O. C.
- The important feature of this movement was that a large number of students, women and working-class people participated.

2. George Joseph

- George Joseph, a barrister, and good speaker led from the front for the cause of the Home rule league in Madurai. Born in Chengannur, Alappuzha district, Kerala, and practiced as a lawyer.
- He led Vaikom satyagraha in Kerala and championed the cause of the —criminal tribes of Tamilnadu.
- He was affectionately called —Rosaappu Durail by the people and helped Harvey Mill workers of Madurai to set up the Madurai Labour Union in 1918. The initial struggles of the union resulted in higher wages and reduced work hours.

3. Khilafat Movement

- After World War-I, the Caliph of Turkey was humiliated, and all its power was taken away. To restore the Caliph the Khilafat movement was started.
- In Tamil Nadu, Khilafat Day was observed on 17 April 1920, with a meeting led by

Maulana Shaukat Ali. Another conference was held at Erode. Vaniyambadi was the epicenter of Khilafat agitation in Tamil Nadu.

4. Non-Cooperation Movement

- Tamil Nadu was active during the non-cooperation movements. C.Rajaji and E.V.Ramaswamy provided leadership to the non-cooperation movement in Tamil Nadu.
- Rajaji worked with Yakub Hasan, and founded the Madras branch of the Muslim League. Congress volunteers distribute pamphlets, maintaining order in public meetings. They played an important role in picketing liquor shops.

5. No Tax Campaigns and the Temperance Movement

- As a part of the non-cooperation movement, cultivators refused to pay taxes. The No-Tax Campaign took place in Thanjavur. Councils, schools, and courts were boycotted.
- Foreign goods were boycotted. The worker announced strikes. One of the important features of the movement in Tamil Nadu is a movement against liquor that is called the Temperance Movement.
- Toddy shops were picketed. The agitation by communities against the Criminal Tribes Act. In November 1921, November, it was decided to organize civil disobedience.
- Rajaji, E.V.Ramasamy (Periyar), and Subramania Sastri were arrested. The Visit of the Prince of Wales on 13 January 1922 was boycotted. Two were killed and many were injured by Police repression. The Non-Cooperation movement was withdrawn in 1922 after the Chauri Chaura Incident which killed 22 policemen.

6. E.V.R. and the Constructive Programme

- He campaigned for the promotion of the sale of khadi and opposed the consumption of liquor. Then Periyar cut down the entire coconut grove owned by him.
- Also, Periyar, played a key role in Vaikom Satyagraha, in Travancore. In those days, so-called low-caste people couldn't even walk on the road near the temple. After several leaders of Kerala were arrested, Periyar went to Kerala to make the Vaikom Satyagraha.
- For leading the Vaikom Satyagraha he was imprisoned for a month. Even after their release, he was arrested again for making inspiring speeches and he was imprisoned for six months.

- After their release, he was arrested again for the speeches to promote Khadi. In June 1925, the ban on the roads around the temple in Vaikom was lifted. For his contribution to Vaikom Satyagraha, he was hailed as a ‘Vaikom Hero’.

7. Cheranmahadevi Gurukulam Controversy

- By this time EVR, dissatisfied with the Congress, felt it was promoting the interest of the Brahmin alone. Cheranmahadevi Gurukulam’s controversy and opposition to communal representation with the congress led EVR to leave the congress.
- For the cause of National Education, a Gurukulam was established in Cheranmahadevi by V.V.Subramanianar and it received funds from the congress. But the students were discriminated against on the basis of caste.
- Brahmin and Non-Brahmin students were made to dine separately and the food served too was different. The issue was brought to the notice of EVR who criticized it along with Dr.P.Varadarajulu.
- In the Kanchipuram Conference of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee that was held on 21 November 1925, he raised the issue of representation for non-brahmins in the legislature.
- His resolution was defeated, and EVR left the conference with other non-brahmin leaders. Soon EVR left congress and started a self-respect movement.

8. Swarajists–Justicites Rivalry

- Congress was divided after the withdrawal of the non-cooperation movement. The division was between the people who want to quit the councils and people who want to continue in the council and contest for elections.
- Rajaji and other Gandhian followers opposed the council’s entry. Rajaji, Kasturirangar, and M.A. Ansari advocated the boycott of the councils.
- Opposition to this led to the formation of the Swaraj Party within the congress by Chittaranjan Das and Motilal Nehru. In Tamil Nadu, the Swarajists were led by S.Srinivasanar and S.Satyamurti.

9. Subbarayan Ministry

- In the election, the Swarajists won the majority in 1926. But it refused to accept the congress policies. Instead, they supported an Independent P.Subbarayan to form the ministry.

- The Swarajists did not contest in elections held in 1930. That made the justice party wineasily and justice stayed in office till 1937.

10. Simon Commission Boycott

- Sir John Simon, under him a statutory commission was formed to review the Act of 1919. The disappointment was, the commission was full of white members and there were no Indians in it.
- As a result, congress boycotted the commission. In Madras, the Simon Boycott Propaganda Committee was set up with S.Satyamurti as President.
- There was widespread agitation against the Simon Commission. The arrival of the Simon Commission in Madras on 18 February 1929 was greeted with demonstrations and hartals, Black flags were shown against the commission.
- The police force suppressed the protest. Agitation for the removal of the Neil statue in 1927, Protesters came all over the Madras Presidency and were led by S.N.Somayajulu of Tirunelveli.
- **Neil statue satyagraha** of 1927, in madras presidency, to remove Neil Statue who was a war hero of English during the revolt of 1857. Somayajulu and Swaminatha Mudaliar were arrested,
- K. Kamaraj became the leader of the agitation in September 1927.
- Gandhi gave support to the agitation. The statue was finally moved to Madras Museum when C. Rajaji formed the government in 1937.

Civil Disobedience Movement

(a) Towards Poorna Swaraj

- In 1920, under the leadership of Gandhi, Tamil Nadu was transforming into a broad-based movement. The Madras session of the India National Congress declared complete independence as its goal in 1927.
- It appointed a committee under Motilal Nehru to frame the constitutional reforms in opposition to the Simon Commission. In 1929, at the Lahore session of the Congress, Poorna Swaraj, which was for complete independence, was adopted on 26 January 1930.
- And the National Flag was hoisted by Jawaharlal Nehru on the banks of river Ravi as the declaration of independence.

(b) Salt March to Vedaranyam

- The Viceroy did not accept the demands forwarded by Gandhi, he launched the Civil Disobedience Movement by setting on a salt satyagraha with a march to Dandi on 12 March 1930.
- Tamil Nadu was at the forefront of the Civil disobedience movement. In Madras city, foreign goods were boycotted. Rajaji led a salt satyagraha march to Vedaranyam.
- The salt satyagraha started from Tiruchirappalli on 13 April 1930 and reached Vedaranyam in Thanjavur district on 28 April. A special song was composed for the march by Namakkal V. Ramalinganar with the lines, —**A War is ahead sans sword, sans bloodshed...Join this march.**
- On reaching Vedaranyam 12 volunteers under the leadership of Rajaji broke the salt law by picking up salt. Rajaji was arrested.
- T.S.S. Rajan, Rukmani Lakshmi pathi, Sardar Vedarathnam, C. Swaminathar, and K. Santhanam were among the prominent leaders who participated in the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha.

Widespread Agitations in Tamil Districts

- T. Prakasam and K. Nageswara Rao set up camp at Udayavani near Madras. The police arrested them which led to hartal in Madras.
- On 27 April 1930 Police clashed with the protesters, leaving three dead. The protesters who offered Salt Satyagraha in Rameswaram were arrested. Similar protests in Uvari, Anjengo, Veppalodai, Thoothukudi, and Tharuvaikulam were arrested.
- Mill workers and women participated. **Rukmani Lakshmi pathi was the woman to pay a penalty for violating the salt laws.** Bhashyam popularly known as Arya hoisted the national flag in Fort St. George on 26 January 1932.
- Satyamurti picketed a shop which sells foreign goods, and distributed pamphlets. N.M.R. Subbaraman and K. Kamaraj played an important role in these protests.

Kodikatha Kumaran Martyrdom of Tirupur Kumaran

- O.K.S.R. Kumaraswamy, popularly known as Tirupur Kumaran, carried the National flag and was brutally beaten by Police in Tirupur.
- He fell dead carrying the National flag. This made a large number of people participate in the Civil disobedience movement from all sections.

First Congress Ministry

- Provincial Autonomy was introduced by the Government of India Act of 1935. The Council of ministers was made responsible to the Legislature, which administered the provincial subjects.
- The Governor had the power to advise the elected government. Congress won the 1937 elections and the justice party was defeated.
- Rajaji formed the first congress ministry and introduced a prohibition on an experimental basis in Salem. To compensate for the loss of revenue he introduced a sales tax.
- Rajaji opened temples to the so-called — Untouchables. The serious efforts of T. Prakasam led to the appointment of a committee to enquire into the condition of the tenants in the Zamindari areas.
- No measures were implemented to reduce indebtedness. Congress resigned the government due to pulling India into the second world war without consulting the elected congress ministries.
- A temple entry programme into Madurai Meenakshi Amman was organized by Vaidyanathar, L.N.Gopalsamy, President and Secretary of Madurai Harijan Sevak Sangh respectively on 9 July 1939.
- The Temple Entry Authorisation and Indemnity Act was passed in 1939 for the removal of social evils against the depressed classes.

Anti-Hindi Agitation

- Rajaji introduced Hindi as a compulsory language in School. It was considered as Aryan and North Indian imposition on Tamil Language and culture.
- E.V.R led a massive campaign against the Hindi imposition and organized an anti-Hindi conference at Salem. The Scheduled Castes Federation and the Muslim League extended their support to anti-Hindi agitation.
- Thalamuthu and Natarajan, two agitators died in prison. A rally was organized from Tiruchirappalli to Madras and more than 1200 protestors including E.V.R were arrested.
- After the resignation of the congress from the ministry, the governor took over the power and removed Hindi as a compulsory subject.

Quit India Struggle

- The failure of the Cripps mission made people uncomfortable. Gandhi passed the Quit India Resolution on August 8, 1942, and gave the slogan Do or Die. The total congress leadership was arrested.
- K. Kamaraj escaped from being arrested while returning from Bombay and then organized the underground Quit India Movement in the South.
- Rajaji and Satyamurti were arrested while distributing the pamphlets. The movement was widespread in Tamilnadu and there were many incidents of violence such as the cutting of telegraph lines, stopping railway traffic, and setting fire to the post office.
- A large number of strikes in Buckingham and Carnatic mills, Madras Port Trust, Madras Corporation, and the Electric Tramway. Telegraph and telephone lines were cut and public buildings were burnt at Vellore and Panapakkam.
- College students also participated in the protest. The airport in Sullur was attacked and trains derailed in Coimbatore. Congress volunteers clashed with the military in Madurai.
- There were several instances of police firings at Rajapalayam, Karaikudi, and Devakottai. Many young men and women also joined the INA. The Quit India Movement was suppressed with brutal force.
- The Royal India Navy Mutiny, the negotiations initiated by the newly formed Labour Party Government in England gave India independence and the country was partitioned into India and Pakistan.

Vellore Mutiny (1806)

- The British administration prohibited Hindu soldiers from smearing religious marks on their foreheads. Ordered the Muslims to shave their beard and trim their mustache.
- This created great anger among soldiers. The soldiers were instigated by the sons of the Tipu Sultan to revolt against the British.
- On 9th July 1806, One of Tipu Sultan's daughters was to be married in Vellore. The revolting soldiers gathered at the fort like attending a wedding.
- The soldiers surrounding the fort killed most of the Europeans and unfurled the flag of Tipu over the fort. Tipu's second son Fateh Hyder was declared the ruler. But the great British army crushed the revolt.

Subramaniya Siva

- Subramaniya Siva born in Vathalagundu in Dindigul District. He was a creative writer and a freedom fighter. He was arrested many times between 1908 and 1922 for his anti imperialist activities.
- While serving prison he suffered from leprosy and was shifted to Salem Jail. When Siva was unable to walk due to leprosy, the British Government enacted a law for Siva, stating that leprosy patients should not travel by train.
- He traveled foot through and his whole body was covered with sores. He died of the disease on 23 July 1925.

S.Satyamurti

- He was born in Thirumayam, Madras Presidency on August 19, 1887. He started practicing as a lawyer prior to joining the National Movement.
- At a young age, he emerged as the foremost leader of the Indian National Congress. He was the political mentor of K.Kamaraj. Rajagopalachar nominated Satyamurti to succeed him as the President of the India National Congress in Tamil Nadu in 1930.
- He was also mayor of Madras in 1939, leading a campaign to restore public education, improve water supply, etc. In 1919, Congress selected him as its representative to join the Parliamentary committee to protest the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms and the Rowlatt act.
- To honor him, the Headquarters of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee was named after Satyamurti Bhavan. He participated in the Swadeshi Movement and Quit India Movement and was imprisoned several times, eventually he passed away on 28th March 1943.