

Chapter-2Nationalism in India

Notes:-

- The growth of modern nationalism is intimately connected to the anti-colonial movement.
- People began discovering their unity in the process of their struggle with colonialism.
- The Congress under Mahatma Gandhi tried to forge these groups together within one movement but the unity did not emerge without conflict.

★ The First World War, Tilak and Non-Cooperation:-

- War led to a huge increase in defence expenditure which was financed by cuts in leave and land increase taxes; customs duties were raised and income tax introduced.
- Villages were called upon to supply soldiers, and the forced recruitment in rural areas caused widespread anger.
- According to the census of 1921, 12 to 13 million people perished as a result of famines and

the epidemic.

★ The Idea of Satyagrah:-

- Mahatma Gandhi sought the social regime with a new method of mass agitation, which he called satyagrah.
- The idea of satyagrah emphasised the power of truth and the need to search for truth.
- Mahatma Gandhi believed that this idiom of non-violence could unite all Indians.
- ★ Important satyagrah movement organised by Mahatma Gandhi:-

- 1916 - Champaran (Bihar), Peasants [Against oppressive plantation]

- 1917 - Kheda (Gujarat), Peasants [Against the revenue collect and demanding revenue collection be relaxed]

- 1918 - Ahmedabad (Gujarat) Mill workers

★ The Rowlatt Act

- Emboldened with this success, Gandhiji in 1919 decided to launch a nationwide campaign against the proposed Rowlatt Act (1919).

- It gave the government enormous power to suppress political activities and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.

- Mahatma Gandhi wanted non-violent civil disobedience against such unjust laws, which would start with a 'fast' on 6 April.

- On 10 April, the police in Amritsar fired upon a peaceful procession, provoking widespread attacks on banks, post offices & railway stations.

★ Jallianwala Bagh incident :-

- On 13 April, the infamous Jallianwala Bagh incident took place.

- Dyer entered the area, blocked the exit points and opened fire on the crowd, killing hundreds.

- The government responded with brutal repression, seeking to humiliate and terrorise people.

- Seeing violence spread, Mahatma Gandhi called off the movement.

- At the Amritsar session of the Congress in September 1920, he convinced other leaders

of the need to start a non-cooperation movement in support of Khilafat as well as for Swaraj.

★ Non-Cooperation :-

- In his famous 'Hind Swaraj' Mahatma Gandhi declared that British rule was established in India with the co-operation movement of Indians.

- A boycott movement of civil services, clothes, army, police, courts, foreign goods started.

- At the Congress session at Nagpur in December, a compromise was worked out and Non-Cooperation movement started.

- The Non-Cooperation - Khilafat Movement began in January 1921.

★ The Movement in the Towns :-

- Thousands of students left government schools, colleges, madrasas and teachers resigned.

- The impact of foreign cloth halved between 1921-22, its value dropping for ₹ 102 crore in 1921.

- Khadi cloth was often more expensive than clothes.

* Rebellions in The countryside

- In Punjab, peasants were led by Baba Ramchand a sangai.
- In Bihar, Babha was set up by Jambhwal, Nehru & Bha Ramchand & in the month even 300 branches was set up.

• In the Indian hills of Andhra Pradesh, for instance, a militant guerrilla movement spread in the early 1920's

• The police who came to lead them, Alavi Altham Raja claimed that he had variety of special powers.

• The Indian rebels attacked on British officers, police but Raja was captured and hanged to death in 1924.

* Struggles in the plantations

- In plantations workers, freedom meant the right to move freely in the plantations.
- When strike was called, Gandhi's name they raised slogan 'Swatantra Bharat'.

* Towards Civil Disobedience

- C.R. Das & Motilal Nehru formed Congress Party

• When the Simon Commission arrived in India it was treated by slogan 'Go Back Simon'.

- It was declared that 26 January 1930 would be celebrated as Independence Day but it stopped due to low coming of population.

* The Salt March & Civil Disobedience Movement

- On 31 January 1930, he sent a letter to Viceroy asking stating eleven demands. If the demands were not fulfilled by 11 March, the Congress should launch civil disobedience campaign.

• Gandhi started the Salt March by his 78 trusted volunteers walking about 240 miles in 24 days from Sabarmati to Dandi.

• When Abdul Gaffar Khan, a devotee of Mahatma Gandhi was arrested in April 1930 and after a month later when Gandhi ji himself arrested the people attacked on police.

* A pact with British on 5 March 1931 is called Gandhi - British Pact

- In December 1931, when Gandhi ji went to London, when he returned, Pt Jambhwal, Nehru & Gaffar Khan was in jail, then they launched Disobedience movement, but in 1934, it lost its momentum.



* How participants saw the movements:

- In the countryside, such peasant communities like the Patidars of Gujarat & Jats of Uttar Pradesh were active in the movement.
- The refusal of the government to reduce the revenue demand led to widespread resentment.
- These communities were deeply disappointed when the movement was called off in 1931 without the revenue rates being revised.
- So when the movement was restarted in 1932, many of them refused to participate.
- For the poorer peasantry and small tenants, Congress was unwilling to support 'no rent' campaigns in most places.
- So the relationship between Congress & poor peasants remained uncertain.

* Business class relations to civil disobedience movement:-

- During the 1st World War, Indian merchants & industrialists had made huge profits and became powerful.
- Keen on expanding their business, they wanted protection against imports of foreign goods.

- To organise business interests, they joined the Indian Industrial & Commercial Congress in 1920 & the Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industries (FICCI) in 1927.

- The industrial working classes did not participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement in large numbers.

- This movement was supported by industrialists like Eversheddon Shukradas & J. D. Birla.

- There are strikes by railway workers in Chotanagpur mines where Gandhi caps & participated in protest rallies and boycott campaigns.

* The limits of Civil Disobedience:-

- Not all social groups were moved by the abstract concept of swaraj.

- One such group was the nation's 'untouchables' who from around the 1930s had begun to call themselves Dalits or oppressed.

- Gandhi declared that swaraj would not come for a 100 years if untouchability was not eliminated.

- He called the 'untouchables' 'harijan', or the children of God.



- He himself persuaded the upper castes to change their vote and give up 'the sin of untouchability'.

- Dr. Ambedkar, who organised the dalits into the Depressed Classes Association in 1930, clashed with Mahatma Gandhi as 2nd Round Table Conference by demanding separate electorates for dalits.

- Dr. Ambedkar ultimately accepted Gandhi's position and result was the Poona Pact of September 1932, that gave depressed classes reserved seats in provincial and legislative councils.

- The Congress and Muslim League made efforts to negotiate an alliance and in 1937 it appeared that such a unity could be forged.

- This negotiations over the question of representation continued till all hope of resolving the issue at the All Parties Conference in 1928 disappeared when Mr. Jayaprakash of the Hindu Mahasabha strongly opposed efforts at compromise.

★ The sense of Collective Belonging -

- Nationalism spreads when people begin to believe that they are all part of the same nation, when they discover some unity that binds them together.
- History and fiction, folklore and songs, popular prints and symbols, all played a part in the making of nationalism.

- The identity of India came to be visually associated with the image of Bharat Mata and it was first created by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

- In the 1870s the words 'Vande Mataram' as a hymn to the motherland later, it was included in his novel Anandamath and widely sung during the Swadeshi movement in Bengal.

- Devotion to this mother figure came to be seen as evidence of one's nationalism.

- In late nineteenth-century India, nationalism began according folk tales sung by bards, they turned villagers to gather folk songs legends.

- In Bengal, Rabindranath Tagore himself began collecting folk songs, nursery rhymes and myths, and led the movement for folk revival.



- Dr. Madhusudan Malhotra published a massive four-volume collection of Tamil folk tales, the *Goldmine of Southern India*.

- During the Swadeshi movement in Bengal, a tricolour flag (red, green, yellow) was designed.

- It had eight lotuses representing eight provinces of British India and a crescent moon, representing Hindus and Muslims.

- By 1921, Gandhi had designed the *dharmraj* flag. It was again a tricolour (red, green & white) and had a spinning wheel in the centre, representing the Gandhian ideal of self-help.

- The British saw Indians as backward and primitive, incapable of governing themselves.

* Conclusions:-

- The Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi tried to channel people's grievances into organised movements for independence.
- Although such movements the nationalists tried to forge a national unity.
- The Congress continuously attempted to resolve differences and ensure that the demands of

- One group did not alienate another.
- In other words, what was emerging was a nation with many voices wanting freedom from colonial rule.

Key Events:-

- 1) Non-cooperation Act:- The act through which the British government got extensive rights to censor reports and editorials in the vernacular languages.

- 2) Indian Emigration Act:- It was an act through which plantation workers were not permitted to leave the tea gardens without permission.

- 3) Khilafat Movement:- It was a movement organised by the famous Shi'ite cleric, Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali to protest against the injustice done to Turkey after the war.

- 4) Gandhi - Simon Pact:- It was an agreement signed in March 1931 under which the *Round Table Conference* movement was called off.

- 5) Poona Pact:- It was a pact which was signed between Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The pact gave the depressed classes reserved seats in provincial and central legislative councils.

Questions & Answers:-

Q.1 What was satyagraha? Name any two places where satyagraha was launched by Gandhiji.

Ans. Satyagraha was a non-violent method of mass agitation against the oppressor. The idea of satyagraha emphasised the power of truth and the need to search for truth.

Q.2 Champaran (1916): Gandhiji launched the satyagraha to inspire the peasants to struggle against the oppressive plantation system.

Q.3 Kheda (1917): He launched the Kheda satyagraha to support the peasants who were not in a position to pay the revenue due to crop failure.

Q.4 What was the impact of the Tirah Ulehd war on India?

Ans. The war created a new economic and political situation:

i) It led to a huge increase in defence expenditure, which was financed by war loans and increasing taxes, customs duties were raised and income tax introduced.

ii) Though the war years, prices increased - doubling between 1913 and 1918 leading to

extreme hardships for the common people.

iii) Villagers were called upon to supply soldiers, and the forced recruitment in rural areas cause widespread anger.

Q.3 Why did Gandhiji decide to launch a nation wide 'satyagrah' against the proposed Rowlatt Act 1919? Explain any three reasons.

Ans. i) After arriving in India Mahatma Gandhiji successfully organised satyagraha movements in various places.

ii) Also taken in 1919 the British Government passed Rowlatt Act i.e. decided to launch a satyagraha against the black act.

iii) The Act was passed despite the united opposition of the Indians.

Q.4 What was Rowlatt Act? How did the Indians show their disapproval towards this Act?

Ans. Rowlatt Act was an oppressive act introduced by the British Government in 1919. It gave the government enormous powers to suppress political activities and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.

Indian Disapproval:-

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Mahatma Gandhi reacted sharply and decided to launch a non-violent civil disobedience against such unjust law.

ii) Strikes were organised in various cities. workers went on strike in railways, workshops and shops closed down.

iii) Peaceful protest meeting were organised at All India Congress Committee.

Q5. Mention three main proposals with reference to the Non-cooperation Movement as suggested by Mahatma Gandhi.

Ans. A number of titles, honours and honorary posts.

i) Boycott of legislative councils.

ii) Boycott of law courts by the lawyers.

Q6. "The effects of Non-cooperation on the economic front were more dramatic." Analyse the statement.

Ans. i) All the imports of foreign goods were boycotted, liquor shops picketed, & foreign cloth burnt in large bonfires. The import of foreign cloth valued between 1921 and 1922, its value dropping from ₹ 102 crore to ₹ 57 crore.

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ii) Boycott of foreign goods - In many places merchants and traders refused to trade in foreign goods or finance foreign trade.

iii) Boast for Indian industry - As the boycott movement spread, and people began discarding imported clothes and wearing only Indian ones, production of Indian textile mills and handlooms went up.

Q7. Why did the Non-cooperation Movement gradually slow down in the cities? Give reasons.

Ans. i) Expensive Khadi - The Khadi cloth was often more expensive than the mass produced mill cloth and poor people could not afford to buy it.

ii) No alternative - The boycott of British institutions posed a problem. For the movement to be successful, alternative Indian institutions had to be set up so that they could be used in place of the British institutions but these were slow to come up.

iii) Local movements with different interpretations - Workers, industrialists, peasants, traders had their own interpretation of Gandhi's notion of 'swaraj'. They started using violent methods for their demands. All this was not approved by Gandhi and the Congress. As the movement started losing its shine.

Q.5 Why was the Non-Cooperation Movement initiated by Gandhi in February 1920? Explain the reasons.

Ans. At Chauri-Chaura in Gandhinagar a peaceful demonstration in a bagan turned into a violent clash in which more than 20 policemen were killed.

ii) Gandhi felt that the satyagrahis needed to be properly trained before they would be ready for mass struggle.

iii) Within the Congress, some leaders were tired of mass struggle and wanted to participate in elections to the provincial councils, which were set up under the Government of India Act 1919.

Q.6 Explain the reasons for the latest decision of the Congress in 1931 to be called the 'Amritsar Session'.

Ans. The Lahore Congress leaders formalised the demand of Poona Pledge as full independence for India.

ii) It was decided that 24 January would be celebrated as the Independence Day when people were to take pledge to struggle for complete independence.

iii) Indian leaders pledged to serve the British constitution.

Q.10 Why did Mahatma break the promise 'salt is a powerful symbol that unite the nation'?

Ans. Salt was something venerated by the rich and the poor alike, and it was one of the most essential items of food.

ii) The free salt and the government monopoly over its production, awarded the most oppressive form of the British rule.

iii) Salt was chosen to give the movement a wide base.

Q.11 Explain the attitude of the Indian nationalists and the industrialists towards the 'Civil Disobedience Movement'.

Ans. During various organisations to organise business interests, they formed the Indian Industrial and Commercial Congress and the Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) and the Indian Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industries (IACCI).

ii) In spite of Civil Disobedience Movement, nationalist industrialists like Birlas, Tata, and IIT, the industrialists and IIT, the industrialists attacked colonial control over the economy and supported the Civil Disobedience Movement.

movement when it was first launched.

iii) Role of working class: The industrial working class also participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement. In 1930 thousands of workers in Changanasserai participated in protest rallies and boycott campaigns.

Q.12 Why was the Civil Disobedience Movement called off by Gandhiji?

Ans.) When Indian leaders were arrested, angry crowds demonstrated in the streets of Lahore, facing armoured cars and police firing. Many were killed.

ii) A month later, when Gandhiji himself was arrested, industrial workers attacked police posts, government buildings, law courts and railway stations and all structures that symbolised the British rule.

iii) To break the deadlock between Congress and the government, Lord Curzon invited Gandhiji for a peace pact i.e. Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

Q.13 What type of flag was designed during the 'Swadeshi Movement' in Bengal? Explain its main features.

Ans.) It was a tricolour (red, green, white).

ii) It had eight stars representing eight provinces of British India, and a crescent moon representing Hindus & Muslims.

iii) People used to carry the flag, holding it aloft, during marches.

Q.14 How did 'Non-Cooperation Movement' spread in villages across the country? Explain its effects on the economic front.

Ans.) The movement in the cities: Thousands of students left government-controlled schools & colleges, teachers and teachers resigned, lawyers gave up their legal practices.

iv) Boycott of council elections: The council elections were boycotted in most provinces except Madras (Chennai).

v) Swadeshi: Swadeshi goods, especially cloth, got a great impetus. Foreign goods were boycotted, liquor shops picketed, and foreign cloth burnt in huge bonfires.

vi) Impact on industry: The increase in demand of Indian textile mills and handlooms provided a big relief to the vanishing textile industry of India.

vii) Movement in the countryside: Though people in the countryside interpreted the idea of 'Swadeshi'.

in their own way but they participated in the movement on large scale.

Q 15 Analyse any five features of Jundem rebellion of Andhra Pradesh.

Ans: i) The Jundem rebellion spread in response to the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1921.

ii) In the Jundem Hills of Andhra Pradesh, a militant guerrilla movement spread in the early 1920s under the leadership of Alluri Sitaram Raju against forest laws.

iii) The rebels proclaimed that he was an incarnation of God as he could make correct astrological predictions and heal people.

iv) Raju talked of the greatness of Mahatma Gandhi and was inspired by Non-Cooperation Movement, and persuaded people to wear Khadi and give up drinking.

v) The Jundem rebels attacked police station, attempted to kill British officials and carried on guerrilla warfare for achieving Swaraj. Raju was arrested and executed in 1924.

Q 16 Describe any five features of the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930.

Ans: i) In the countryside, rich peasant communities like the Patidars of Gujarat and the Jats of UP were active participants.

ii) They participated in the Movement because they suffered the most due to economic depression. As their cash income disappeared, they found it impossible to pay the government's revenue demand.

iii) Rich landlords participated in the boycott programmes, and refused to pay revenues. For them, the fight for Swaraj was a struggle against high revenues.

iv) But they were deeply disappointed when the movement was called off in 1931 without the revenue rates being revised.

v) The poor peasantry also participated on a large scale in a hope that their unpaid rent to the landlords will be remitted.

Q 17 Describe the main features of 'Poona Pact'.

Ans: i) Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar was nominated as a delegate of the oppressed classes for the second Round Table Conference.



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ii) In that Round Table Conference, he clashed with Mahatma Gandhi by demanding separate electorates for the dalits.

iii) When the British government accepted Ambedkar's demand, Gandhi began a fast unto death. He believed that separate electorates for dalits would slow down the process of their integration into society. The issue was eventually resolved through the Poona Pact of September 1932.

iv) It gave the Depressed Classes reserved seats in provincial and central legislative councils, but they were to be voted in by the general electorate.

Q-18. "Ideas of nationalism also developed through a movement to revive Indian folklore." Explain.

Ans: i) History and fictions, folklore and songs, popular prints and symbols all played a part in the making of nationalism.

ii) In the late nineteenth century India, nationalists began recording folk tales sung by bards, and they toured villages to gather folk songs and legends.

iii) This was done to promote the traditional culture that had been corrupted and

damaged by the western forces.

iv) To revive the folklore, Rabindranath Tagore himself collected ballads, nursery rhymes & myths and led the movement for the folk revival.

v) A massive four-volume collection of Tamil folk tales, 'The Folklore of Southern India' was published by K. M. Sastri.

Q-19. How did a variety of cultural processes and play an important role in developing a sense of nationalism in India? Explain with examples.

Ans: i) United struggle: The most important factor responsible for arousing the sense of nationalism among the Indians was the united struggle among the Britishers.

ii) Cultural processes: History and fictions, folklore and songs, popular prints and symbols, all played a part in the making of nationalism.

iii) Bharat Mata: The identity of India came to be visually associated with the image of Bharat Mata, which was created in 1876 by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay who wrote 'Vande Mataram' as a hymn to the Motherland.



10) Revival of Indian Folklore:- In late-nineteenth century India, nationalists began recording folk tales sung by bards and they toured villages to gather folk songs and legends.

11) Reinterpretation of History:- The British saw Indians as backward and primitive, incapable of governing themselves. In response, Indians began looking into the past to discover India's great achievements.

Q.20 What are the limitations of Civil Disobedience Movement? Explain.

Ans 20) Problem of depressed classes:- For long, the Congress had ignored the dalits or depressed classes for fear of offending the conservative high caste Hindus.

ii) Wedge between Hindu-Muslims:- From the mid 1920s the Congress came to be more visibly associated with openly Hindu religious nationalist groups like the Hindu Mahasabha. So a large section of Muslims started keeping away from it.

iii) Separate electorates and two nations theory:- Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the leader of the Muslim League, demanded separate electorates for the Muslims as he feared that the culture and identity of minorities would be submerged under the domination

of a Hindu majority.

iv) Muslim leaders:- Muhammad Iqbal proposed a two nation theory under which it was presumed that both communities belong to different nations.

v) Formation of Muslim League:- Muslim League was established in 1920. The formation of Muslim League gave a vital blow to the united struggle.

Q.21 How did the Non-Cooperation Movement spread to the countryside?

Ans 21) Participants:- In the countryside, the movement was led by the peasants, tribals and the local leaders. For example in Awadh, it was Baba Ramchandra sanyasi, who had earlier been to Fiji as an indentured labourer.

ii) The talukdars and landlords were demanding very high rents and a variety of other taxes.

iii) Peasants had to do begar and work at the landlord's farms without any payment.

