



FREEDOM STRUGGLE:

INDIA

LANDMARK EVENTS

ROWLATT ACT & ROWLATT SATYAGRAHA

- Passed in 1919 – The act legalised detention without trial for the period of two years.
- Gandhiji started the non violent satyagraha opposing the act.
- Nation wide hartal observed.
- Shops were closed down, rallies were organised, rail workshop workers went on strike.
- Widespread attacks on banks, post offices and railway stations.
- Government brutally suppressed the nationalists.
- Martial law imposed.



JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE

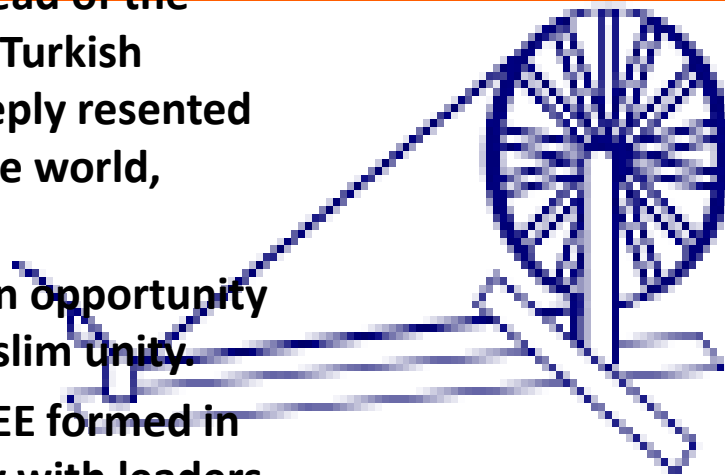
- On April 13th 1919, a number of people assembled at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar for attending the annual Baisakhi fair.
- They were unaware of martial law being proclaimed in the city.
- General Dyer surrounded the park with his troops and open fired on the crowd, killing hundreds of people.

Aftermath of JallianWala Bagh Massacre:

- The British used brutal repression, seeking to humiliate and terrorise people.
- Crowds took to the streets in many north Indian towns
- Strikes and clashes with the police were witnessed.
- The violence forced Gandhi to stop the movement.

KHILAFAT & NON COOPERATION MOVEMENT (1921-22)

- After the First World War, the British sought to overthrow the Khalifa, the spiritual head of the Islamic world and the Turkish emperor. This was deeply resented by Muslims all over the world, including the Indians.
- Gandhi saw this as an opportunity to win over hindu-muslim unity.
- KHILAFAT COMMITTEE formed in March 1919 – Bombay with leaders Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali.
- December 1920 – Congress adopted the resolution to launch the Non Cooperation Movement at Nagpur.
- Twin movements launched.



NON COOPERATION MOVEMENT

Gandhiji declared that the British rule was established in India with the cooperation of Indians and had survived only because of this cooperation.

- If Indians refused to cooperate the British Rule in India would collapse within a year and swaraj would come.
- Gandhii told that movement would unfold in stages.
 1. It should begin with the surrender of titles that the British Government awarded and boycott of civil services, army, police, courts, legislative councils, schools and foreign goods.
 2. In case, the Government used repression, a full scale civil disobedience movement would be launched.



SIMON COMMISSION COMES TO INDIA

In 1928, the Tory Government in Britain appointed a statutory commission under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon. To suggest changes in the constitutional structure of India.

Arrived in India in 1928, Congress and Muslim League and other parties received the Commission with black flags and slogans “Go Back Simon”.

In October 1929, the Commission recommended a 'dominion status' for India in coming future and a Round table conference for discussing a Constitution of India.

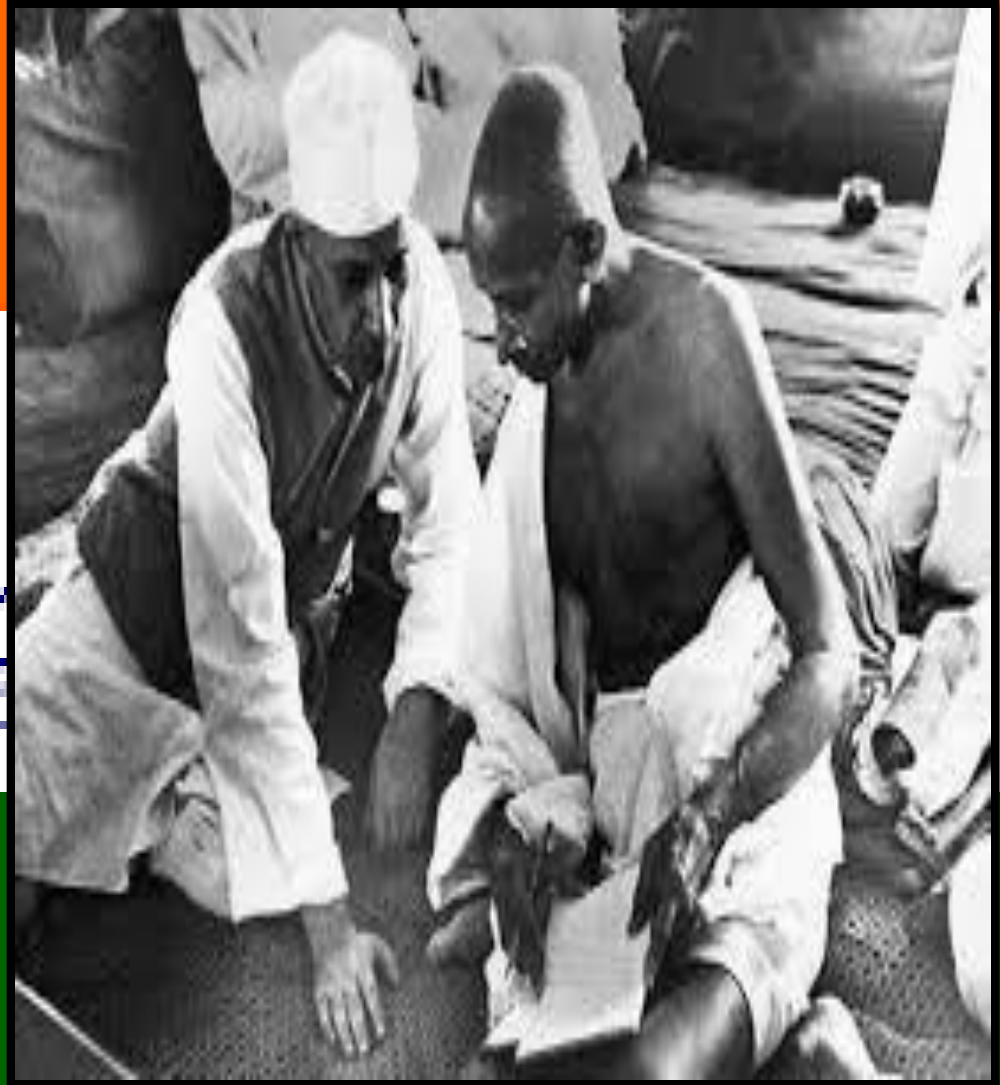
LAHORE SESSION OF CONGRESS -1929

- The session was presided over by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru.

- The demand of Swaraj was changed to Poorna Swaraj.

- Launching the Civil Disobedience movement under the leadership of Gandhi.

- Celebrating 26th January 1930, as Independence day throughout the country.



CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

The British government acquired monopoly over manufacture and sale of salt. It led to increase in the price of salt. Therefore, Gandhiji opposed the salt law.

On 31st January 1930, Gandhi sent a letter to Viceroy Irwin, demanding abolition of salt tax. The Government was asked to accept the demands by 11th March.

Government's refusal marked the beginning of the Gandhi's historic march from Sabarmati to the coast of Dandi, in Gujarat, where he violated the salt law by manufacturing salt from sea water.

Soon the movement spread to the entire nation.

- Peasants refused to pay the revenue and chaukidari taxes.
- Violated forests laws by going into reserved forests for collecting wood.
- Liquor shops were picketed

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

In 1942 August,
Congress in its session
in Bombay resolved
to launch the Quit
India Movement.

Gandhi raised the
slogan of “do or die”.

India was now not
willing to settle for
anything less than
complete freedom.



INDEPENDENCE AND PARTITION



India was partitioned on August 14th 1947, giving birth to the new nation Pakistan. India became a free nation on 15th August 1947. Freedom was accompanied by bloodshed on both the sides of border.



MAP OF NEWLY INDEPENDENT INDIA



— Boundary of British Indian Empire (1939)

— Union of India

— Pakistan (1948)

— Large princely states not acceding to either country upon independence

★ Inter-communal conflict

→ Movements of Hindu and Sikh refugees

→ Movements of Muslim refugees