

NATIONALISM IN INDIA

INTRODUCTION

- Nationalism is loyalty and devotion to the nation
- This chapter tells the story of 1920 and the study of non-cooperation movement and civil disobedience movements.
- It will help us to know how different social groups participated in the movements.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

- The first world war played an important role in shaping india's freedom struggle and developing new modes of struggle.
- Increase in Defense expenditure due to war led to the increase in taxes, custom duties, prices and introduction to war loan.
- Through the war years prices increased-doubling between 1913 and 1918, leading to extreme hardships for the common people.
- In 1918-19 and 1920-21, crops failed in many parts of India, resulting in acute food shortage. It took a heavy toll on life, created resentment among the people of India against the foreign rule.

THE IDEA OF SATYAGRAHA

- The idea of satyagraha emphasised the power of truth and the need to search for truth. It suggested that if the cause was true, if the struggle was against injustice, then physical force was not necessary to fight the oppressor.
- Without seeking vengeance or being aggressive, a satyagrahi could win the battle through non-violence.
- Mahatma Gandhi believed this dharma of non-violence could unite all Indians.

SATYAGRAH MOVEMENTS BY GANGHI JI

- In 1917, Gandhi ji organised satyagrah movements against the oppressive plantation system in Champaran in Bihar.
- Then in 1917, he organised a satyagraha to support the peasants of kheda district of Gujarat. He demanded relaxation of the revenue tax owing to the poverty experienced by the farmers because of the outbreak of plague and crop failure.
- In 1918, Gandhiji organised a satyagraha against the cotton mill workers in Ahmedabad.

THE ROWLATT ACT

- Gandhiji in 1919 decided to launch a nation wide satyagraha against the proposed Rowlatt act. This act had been hurriedly passed through the Imperial Legislative Council despite the united opposition by Indian members.
- This act gave the government enormous powers to repress political activities, and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.

OPPOSITION AGAINST ROWLATT ACT

- On 6 april,1919 Gandhiji started the non-violent civil disobedience movement against such unjust laws, which would start with a hartal.
- Rallies were organised in various cities, workers went on strike in railway workshops, and shops were closed down.
- On 10 april, 1919 in Amritsar widespread attacks on banks, post offices and railway stations took place.

JALLIANWALLA BAGH MASSACRE

- A number of people had assembled at the Jallianwalla Bagh in Amritsar for attending the annual Baisakhi fair. General Dyer surrounded the park and opened the fire on the crowd, killing hundreds of people.
- AFTERMATH OF INCIDENT- Crowds took to the streets in many places, strike, clashes with the police and attacks on government buildings were extensively witnessed.
- This violence forced Gandhiji to stop the movement.

THE NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT

- Non-cooperation movement was launched under Gandhiji's leadership in 1920. It aimed at protesting against the injustice done to Punjab and Turkey and to attain Swaraj.
- Educated middle class led the movement in towns and cities. Educational institutions, Law courts and foreign goods were boycotted.
- Peasants organised movements against Taulakdars and Landlords in villages under the leadership of Baba Ramchandra.
- Chauri-chaura incident forced Gandhiji to call off the movement.

DIFFERING STRANDS WITHIN THE NON-COOPERATION

➤ MOVEMENTS IN TOWNS AND CITIES

- Educated middle class led the movement in towns and cities. Educational institutions, law courts and the council elections were boycotted.
- Foreign clothes and other goods were burnt in bonfires. People began to use Khadi.
- Government servants resigned their jobs and liquor shops were picketed.

SIMON COMMISSION

- It was constituted by the Tory government under pressure of mass movements in India. Sir John Simon was the chairperson of Simon Commission.
- Sought to look into the demands of the nationalists and suggests changes in the constitutional structure of India.
- Arrived in India in 1928. Congress and muslim league along with other parties received the commission with Black Flag and Slogans such as “GO BACK SIMON”

LAHORE CONGRESS OF 1929

- The congress session was held at Lahore in 1929 under the Presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The congress declared Poorna Swaraj as its aim.
- It was decided to celebrate 26 January every year as Independence Day.
- It was decided to start the Civil Disobedience movement to win Poorna Swaraj.

THE LAUNCHING OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

- Indians launched a powerful struggle against the Simon Commission. The government resorted to repression.
- Great Depression made the life of the people highly miserable. Lahore Conspiracy case and Meerut Conspiracy case created discontent among the Indians.
- Lahore Congress of 1929 declared Purna Swaraj as its aim and decided to launch the civil disobedience movement. Gandhiji inaugurated the movement by breaking the salt law at Dandi.

SALT MARCH

- Gandhiji decided inaugurate the civil disobedience movement by breaking the Salt law.
- Gandhiji and 78 of his followers started a march on foot from Sabarmati ashram to Dandi. On 6 April 1919, they reached Dandi. Gandhiji prepared salt by using sea water, broke the salt law and inaugurated the Movement.
- The government imposed heavy tax on salt. Moreover, the production of salt was the monopoly of the government. So the price of salt was very high. Therefore, Gandhiji opposed the salt law.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NON-COOPERATION AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

- People Refused to co-operate with the government during the non-cooperation movement. People broke the laws during the civil disobedience movement.
- Muslims participated in large numbers in the non-cooperation movement. Muslim participation was less in the civil disobedience movement.
- No tax campaign was not there in the non-cooperation movement. People refused to pay taxes in civil disobedience movement.

LIMITATIONS OF THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

- Dalits did not participated in the civil disobedience movement, because the congress did not give importance to their demands.
- Many Muslims did not participate in it. They thought that the congress was moving close to the Hindu maha Sabha.
- Communal Riots occupied in many places. Disunity between Hindus and Muslims started. Industrial workers participation was minimum.

EFFORTS MADE BY GANDHIJI FOR THE UPLIFTMENT OF DALITS

- He called the Untouchables, Harijans or Sons of gods.
- He organised Satyagraha to get temple entry and access to public wells, tanks, roads and schools for dalits.
- He cleaned harijan, colonies and in his ashram there was no caste feelings.
- He asked the upper caste hindus to give up the inhuman practice of untouchability.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

- Women also participated in the civil disobedience movement in large numbers.
- However, most of the women were from high caste families in the urban areas and from rich peasant households in the rural areas.
- For a long time, the Congress was reluctant to give any position of authority to women within the organisation. The congress was keen on the symbolic presence of women.

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.
- The united struggles for independence helped in building the sense of collective belonging. Additionally, a variety of cultural process also captured the spirit of nationalism.

NATION DEPICTED IN IMAGES

- The identity of the nation is most often symbolised in a figure or image; with which people can identify the nation.
- The image of Bharat Mata was the pictorial representation of the Motherland.
- 'Vande Mataram' the national song was written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1870s. This was sung during the Swadeshi movement in Bengal. Different artists projected their own version of Bharat Mata.

- FOLKLORES-Many nationalist leaders took help of folk tales to spread the idea of nationalism. It was believed that the folk tales revealed the true picture of traditional culture.
- NATIONAL FLAG- A tricolour flag was used during the Swadeshi movement. There were eight loutses on it which depicted the eight provinces of British India. There was crescent moon on the flag which represented Hindus and Muslims. It was designed in 1921.

REINTERPRETATION OF HISTORY

- Many Indians felt that the British had given a different interpretation of Indian history.
- They felt that it was important to interpret the history from an Indian perspective.
- They wanted to glorify the rich past of India so that the Indians could feel proud of their history.

THANK YOU