

# NATIONAL STRUGGLE

### Simon Commission (1927-28)

- The Indian Statutory Commission, (commonly referred to as the Simon Commission), was a group of seven British Members of Parliament under the Chairmanship of Sir John Simon. The commission arrived in British India in 1928
- The British Government appointed the Simon Commission to report on <u>India's constitutional progress</u> for introducing constitutional reforms
- The commission was seen as racist and colonialist as it had seven British members of the British Parliament and no Indian members

#### **Recommendations of Simon Commission**

- abolition of dyarchy and the establishment of representative government in the provinces.
- rejected parliamentary responsibility at the centre.
- The Governor-General was to have complete power to appoint the members of the Cabinet.
- separate communal electorates be retained.
- a Consultative Council of Greater India should be established which should include representatives of both the British provinces as well as princely states
- It also suggested that the Indian army should be Indianised, though British forces must be retained.

#### **Anti-Simon Agitation**

- The British action was seen as a violation of the principle of self-determination (strike) and a deliberate insult to the self-respect of the Indians.
- On 3rd February, the day the Commission reached Bombay, an all India hartal strike was organised.
- it was greeted with hartals and black-flag demonstrations under the slogan "Simon Go Back"
- Lala Lajpat Rai died because of brutal lathi charge while leading the Anti-Simon protests.

#### Nehru Report, 1928

- The Nehru report was prepared by a committee headed by Motilal Nehru.
- The committee included <u>Tej Bahadur Sapru, Subhash Chandra Bose, M S Aney, Mangal Singh, Ali</u>
   <u>Imam, Shuaib Qureshi and G R Pradhan</u> as its members

#### Major recommendations of Nehru Report were as follows:

- <u>Dominion status</u> on lines of self-governing dominions.
- Rejection of separate electorates.
- Joint electorates with reservation of seats for Muslims at the Centre and in provinces where they were in minority.
- Linguistic provinces were demanded.
- Nineteen Fundamental Rights including equal rights for women, right to form unions and Universal Adult Suffrage.
- Responsible government at the Centre and in provinces. Full protection of the cultural and religious interests of Muslims.
- Complete dissociation of State from religion

#### Jinnah's Fourteen Points, 1929

- Fourteen demands were made by Mohammad Ali Jinnah in 1929, which are popularly known as Jinnah's fourteen points.
- Federal Constitution with residual powers to provinces
- Provincial autonomy
- No constitutional amendment without state concurrence in Indian Federation
- Adequate representation of Muslims in self-governing bodies and in the services
- 1/3rd representation in Central Legislative Assembly
- 1/3rd representation in Cabinet, separate electorates
- No bills without 3/4th minority consideration
- Territorial distribution not to affect Muslim majority in Punjab, Bengal and North-Western Frontier Provinces (NWFP)
- Full religious freedom to all communities
- Protection of Muslim rights in religion, culture education and language
- Separation of Sindh from Bombay
- Constitutional reforms in the NWFP and Baluchistan Separate electorates

#### Lahore Session of Congress and Poorna Swaraj

- At the Calcutta Session of Congress (1928), the Nehru report was approved. Motilal Nehru was the President of Congress at this session. The first All India Youth Congress also came into being in this session
- Younger leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose and Satya Murthy expressed dissatisfaction at the goal of dominion status.
- Calcutta Session paved the way for the <u>Lahore Session in 1929. Jawaharlal Nehru</u> was nominated as the President for the Lahore session of the Congress (December 1929) mainly due to Gandhi's backing
  - The following major decisions were taken at the Lahore session:
    - The Round Table Conference was to be boycotted. —
    - Complete independence was declared as the aim of the Congress. —
    - Congress Working Committee was authorised to launch a programme of Civil Disobedience including non-payment of taxes and all members of legislatures were asked to resign their seats. —
    - On 31st December, 1929 at midnight on the banks of Ravi river, the newly adopted tricolour flag was hoisted by Jawaharlal Nehru. —
    - 26th January, 1930 was fixed as the first independence, Swarajya Day was to be celebrated everywhere

#### **Civil Disobedience Movement**

- The Indian National Congress authorised Gandhiji to start the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- Gandhi presented eleven demands to the government and gave an ultimatum of 31st January, 1930 to accept or reject these demands.
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#### Gandhiji's Eleven Demands

- 1. Prohibit intoxicants and liquor
- 2. Change the ratio between the rupee and the sterling.
- Reduction in the rate of land revenue,
- 4. Abolition of salt tax
- 5. Reduce the military expenditure,
- 6. Reduce expenditure on civil administration,
- 7. Impose custom duty on foreign cloth,
- 8. Accept the Postal Reservation Bill,
- Abolish the CID Department,
- 10. Release all Political prisoners
- 11. Issue licenses of arms to citizens for self-protection.

#### Salt Satyagraha: Dandi March

- As there was no positive response from the British government
- Gandhiji decided to launch the Civil Disobedience Movement by making Salt Satyagraha its main theme
- Salt was made an issue, because the government controlled the sale of this indispensable commodity and imposed a tax on it, which was felt mostly by the poor.
- Gandhiji, along with a band of seventy-eight members of Sabarmati Ashram, was to march from his headquarters in Ahmedabad through the villages of Gujarat for 240 miles on 12th March, 1930 till 6th April, 1930.
  - Tamil Nadu C Rajagopalachari
  - Malabar Kelappan known for Vaikom Satyagraha
  - Orissa Gopal Bandhu Chaudhuri
  - Peshawar Badshah Khan also known as Abdul Gaffar Khan organised Khudaikhidmatgars (Red Shirts)
  - In Maharashtra, Sholapur, Sarojini Naidu led the protests.
  - In Manipur and Nagaland, <u>Rani Gaidinliu</u> at the age of 13 years raised the banner against the British.

#### Gandhi-Irwin Pact 5th March - 1931

- In July, 1930, the Viceroy Lord Irwin, suggested a Round Table Conference and reiterated the goal of dominion status
- On 14th February, 1931 pact was signed it is also known as Delhi Pact. It placed the Congress on equal footing with the British government.
- Gandhi on behalf of Congress agreed to suspend the Civil Disobedience Movement to participate in the next Round of Table Conference
- First Round Table Conference (November 1930, January 1931)
- 2. Second Round Table Conference (September-December 1931)
- 3. Third Round Table Conference (November-December 1932)
- The prominent members were <u>Tej Bahadur Sapru and Bhimrao Ramji</u>
  <u>Ambedkar</u> (the only persons to attend all three Round Table Conferences)

#### Communal Award, 1932

- The Communal Award was announced by the British Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, on 16th August, 1932.
- It established separate electorates and reserved seats for minorities (Muslims, Europeans, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians) including the depressed classes.
- Gandhiji saw the Communal Award as an attack on Indian unity and nationalism.

#### Poona Pact, 1932

- It was signed by BR Ambedkar on behalf of the depressed classes on 24th September, 1932 with Gandhiji
- The Poona Pact abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes.
- But the seats reserved for the depressed classes were increased from 71 to 147 in provincial legislatures and to 18% of the total in the Central Legislature.

#### **Revolutionary Activities in Second Phase**

- Bandi Jeewan by Sachin Sanyal, Pather Dabi by Sarat Chandra Chatterjee became popular.
  - Hindustan Republic Association (HRA)
    - It was founded in October, 1924 in Kanpur.
    - Ramprasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee and Sachin Sanyal were its founders.
    - The members of HRA looted the official railway cash at <u>Kakori, Lucknow in 1925</u>.
    - Ramprasad Bismil, Ashafaqullah, Roshan Singh and Rajendra Lahiri were hanged in this case.
  - Hindustan Socialist Republic Association (HSRA)
    - It was formed under the leadership of Chandra Shekhar Azad
    - Its participants were Bhagat Singh Sukhdev, Bhagwati Charan Vohra, Bejoy Kumar Sinha.
    - Saunders who had ordered lathi-charge in Lahore was shot dead by Bhagat Singh,
       Azad and Rajguru in December, 1928
    - Chittagong Bengal Armoury was done by the Indian Republican Army in April, 1930. It was led by Surya Sen.

#### **Revolutionary Books and Newspapers**

Newspaper/ Journal	Year	Founder	
English language newspaper	1905	Aurobindo Ghose	
English political Pamphlet	1905	Aurobindo Ghose	
English journal	1907	Sardar Ajit Singh	
English -language newspaper	1910	Firoz Shah Mehta	
Weekly English newspaper	1911	Maulana Mohammad Ali	
English-language daily newspaper	1914	Annie Besant	
Marathi weekly	1920	BR Ambedkar	
Autobiography	1922	Sachindra Nath Sanyal	
Journal	1936	Tarak Nath Das	
Hindi newspaper	193	MM Malviya	
	English language newspaper English political Pamphlet English journal English -language newspaper Weekly English newspaper English-language daily newspaper Marathi weekly Autobiography Journal	English language newspaper 1905 English political Pamphlet 1905 English journal 1907 English -language newspaper 1910 Weekly English newspaper 1911 English-language daily newspaper 1914 Marathi weekly 1920 Autobiography 1922 Journal 1936	

#### Major Revolutionary Organisations (India)

Organisations	Place	Year	Founder
Vyayam Mandala	Poona	1896-97	Chapekar Brothers
Mitra Mela	Nasik (Later Poona)	1901	Savarkar Brothers
Anushilan Samiti	Midnapur	1902	Pramath Nath Mitra
Abhinava Bharata	Poona	1904	Vikram Damodar (V.D.) Savarkar
Swadesh Bandhav Samiti	Barisal	1905	Ashwini Kumar Dutta
Anushilan Samiti	Dacca	1907	Pulin Bihari Das
Bharat Mata Society	Punjab	1907	Ajit Singh, Sufi Amba Prasad
Hindustan Republican Association Army (HRA)	Kanpur	1924	Sachindra Nath Sanyal
Bharat Naujawan Sabha	Lahore	1926	Bhagat Singh
Hindustan Socialist Republican Association/Army (HSRA)	Delhi	1928	Chandra Shekhar Azad

# 1920 - 1935

#### Indian Revolutionary Organisations (Abroad)

Organisations	Place	Year	Founder
India Home Rule Society (India House)	London	1904	Shyamji Krishna Verma
Abhinava Bharat	London	1906	Vikram Damodar Savarkar
Indian Independence League	California (USA)	1907	Tarak Nath Das
Gadar Party	San Fransico	1913	Lala Hardayal
Indian Independence League	Berlin (Germany)	1914	Lala Hardayal and Virendra Nath Chattopadhyaya
Indian Independence League and Government	Kabul	1915	Raja Mahendra Pratap

#### Major Conspiracy Cases During British Rule

Case	Year	Related Facts
Alipur Conspiracy Case	(1908 AD)	Khudiram Bose and Praffula Chaki threw bomb on Chief Presidency Magistrate DH Kingsford of Muzaffarpur.
Delhi Conspiracy Case	(1912 AD)	Headed by Ras Bihari Bose to assassinate the then Viceroy of India, Lord Hardinge. Basant, Kumar Biswas, Master Amichand and Avadh Behari were convicted and executed.
Lahore Conspiracy Case	Case (1915)	This case was against Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev who killed Saunders mistakenly as the real target was, James Scott, who was responsible for the lathi charge that killed Lala Lajpat Rai. Three were found guilty and executed.
Peshawar Conspiracy Case	(1922-1927 AD)	It was a trial against the Mujahirs, who had tried to enter in India from Russia to start a communist movement in India.
Kakori Conspiracy Case	(1925 AD)	It was a train robbery against the British Indian Government that was organised by Hindustan Republican Association.
		Death sentences were awarded to Ramprasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Thakur Roshan Singh and Rajendra Lahiri.
		Sachindra Bakshi and Sachindra Nath Sanyal were deported to Cellular Jail for life term.

# Indian National Movement Third Phase (1935-47)

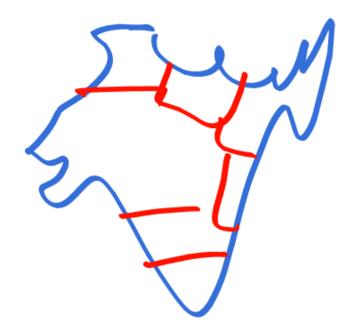
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#### **Provincial Elections**

In its **Lucknow** and **Faizpur sessions** of Congress (1936), it decided to contest the elections under the new Act of 1935.

#### Results of Elections 1937

- The election campaign of the Congress met with massive popular response, even though Gandhiji did not address a single election meeting.
- The elections, held in February 1937, showed that a large majority of Indian people supported the Congress, which swept the polls.
- Congress ministries were formed in July 1937 in seven out of eleven provinces.
- Later, Congress formed coalition governments with two others.
- Only Bengal and Punjab provinces had non-Congress ministries.
- Punjab was ruled by the Unionist Party and Bengal by a coalition of Krashak Praja Party and Muslim League.



1939 - BRt India

### Resignation of Congress Ministries

- In September 1939, the Second World War broke out and Britain declared India's support for war without consulting Indians.
- At the Wardha Congress Working Committee meeting in September 1939, Gandhi's stand was unconditional support to British war efforts.
- Other leaders like Subash Chandra Bose wanted to take advantage of Britain's and start a mass movement.
- The Congress Working Committee (CWC) decided to not support Britain's war efforts and also asked for the Government's aim of war.

## 1. Tripuri Session and Forward Bloc (1939)

- A. Gandhiji retired from Congress in 1934 and Congress came under Jawahar Lal Nehru's leadership.
- B. At the same time Subhash Chandra Bose was chosen unanimously in February 1938 session of Congress at Haripura.

- Due to differences between <u>Gandhi and Bose, Gandhiji fielded Pattabhi Sitaramayya as</u> candidate. But he was defeated and Bose re-elected.
- Later, Bose stepped down from the Presidency in Tripuri Session and he formed Forward Bloc in 1939 within the Congress.

August Offer, 1940 - vice ray - Lin Lithgow

- Dominion status
- Viceroy's executive council
- Setting up of a Constituent Assembly after the war where mainly Indians would decide the Constitution.

### **Reaction to August Offer**

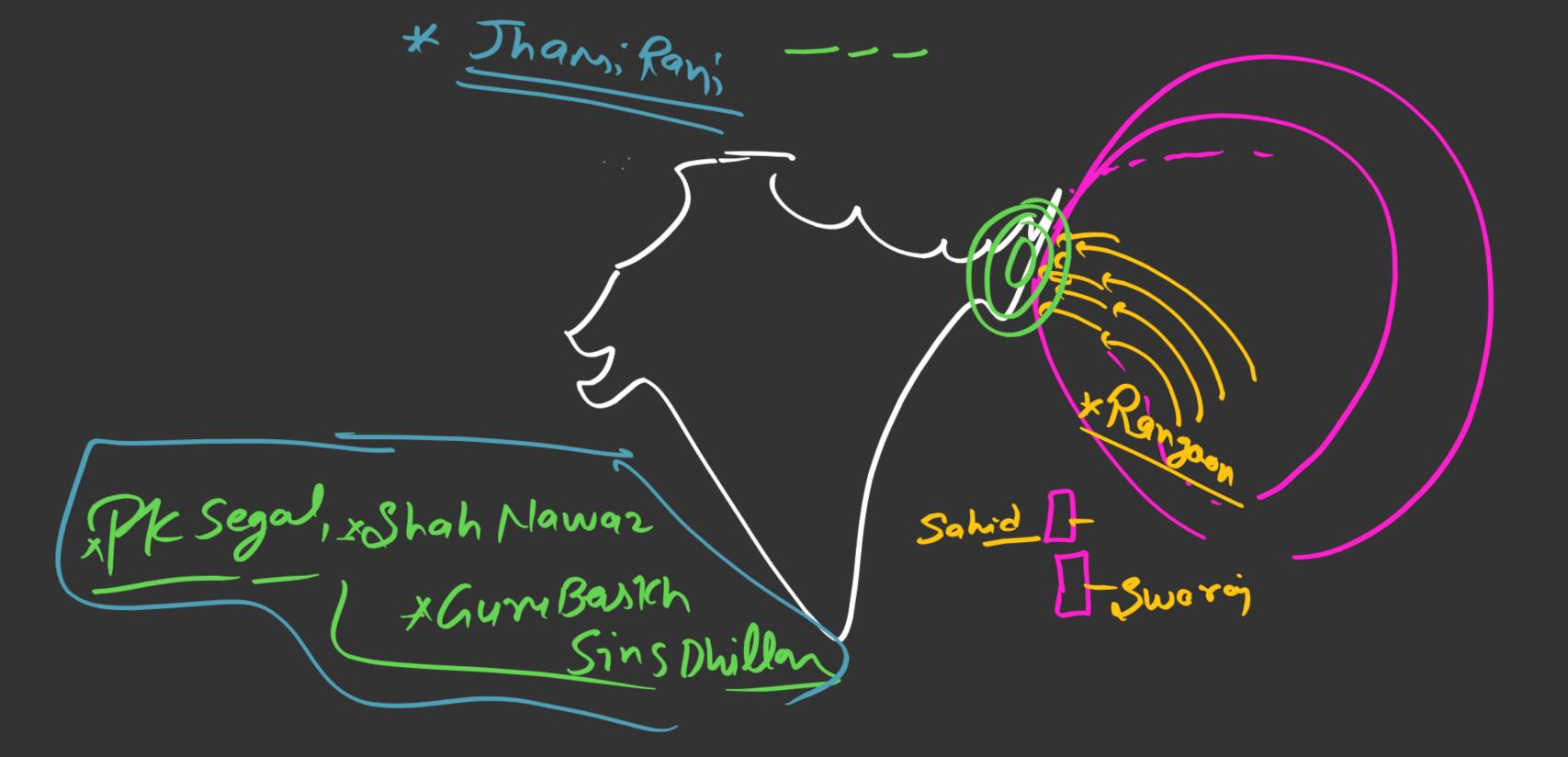
Nehru rejected it saying, "Dominion Status concept is dead as a doornail".

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