

Nationalism in India

BRIEF RÉSUMÉ

1. Growing anger against the colonial government was bringing together various groups and classes of Indians into a common struggle for freedom in the first half of the twentieth century.
2. Mahatma Gandhi succeeded in channelling people's grievances into organised movements for independence. Through such movements, the nationalists tried to forge national unity.
3. Diverse groups and classes participated in these movements with varied aspirations and expectations. Freedom from colonial rule meant different things to different people. However, a constant effort was made to resolve differences and ensure that the demands of one group did not disappoint another.
4. Very often, unity among different groups suffered a blow and there were phases of disunity and inner conflict.

IMPORTANT DATES

1. **January 1915:** Mahatma Gandhi arrived in India from South Africa.
2. **1916:** Mahatma Gandhi organised Satyagraha movement in Champaran (Bihar).
3. **1917:** Mahatma Gandhi organised Satyagraha movement in Kheda district (Gujarat).
4. **1918:** Mahatma Gandhi organised Satyagraha movement in Ahmedabad.
5. **1918–19:** Distressed UP peasants organised by Baba Ramchandra.
6. **1919:** Government of India Act passed.
7. **1919:** Mahatma Gandhi decided to launch a nationwide satyagraha against the proposed Rowlatt Act (1919).
8. **April 13, 1919:** Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place.
9. **October 1920:** Oudh Kisan Sabha headed by Jawaharlal Nehru set up.
10. **December 1920:** Congress session at Nagpur where the non-cooperation movement resolution was adopted.
11. **January 6, 1921:** Police in UP fired at peasants near Rae Bareli.
12. **January 1921:** Beginning of Non-cooperation and Khilafat movements.
13. **February 1922:** Chauri Chaura; Gandhiji withdrew Non-cooperation Movement.
14. **May 1924:** Alluri Sitarama Raju arrested, ending a two-year armed tribal struggle.
15. **1928:** Simon Commission arrived in India.
16. **April 1929:** Bhagat Singh and Batukeswar Dutta threw a bomb.
17. **October 1929:** Dominion status offered to India by Lord Irwin.
18. **December 1929:** Lahore session of Congress; Congress adopts the demand for Purna Swaraj.
19. **January 26, 1930:** Celebrated as the Independence Day.
20. **January 31, 1930:** Mahatma Gandhi sent a letter to Viceroy Irwin, stating eleven demands.
21. **April 6, 1930:** The Salt March reached Dandi; Gandhi violated the Salt Law.
22. **April 1930:** Abdul Ghaffar Khan arrested.

23. 1930: Sir Muhammad Iqbal, president of the Muslim League, reiterated the importance of separate electorates for Muslims.
24. 1930: Ambedkar established Depressed Classes Association.
25. March 5, 1931: Gandhi-Irwin Pact signed.
26. December 1931: Gandhi participated in the Round Table Conference in London.
27. 1932: Civil disobedience relaunched.
28. September 1932: Poona Pact signed.

IMPORTANT TERMS AND CONCEPTS

1. **Begar:** Labour that villagers were forced to contribute without any payment.
2. **Boycott:** The refusal to deal and associate with people, or participate in activities, or buy and use things; usually, a form of protest.
3. **Communalism:** A belief that religion is the principal basis of community.
4. **Forced Recruitment:** A process by which the colonial state forced people to join the army.
5. **Militant Guerrilla:** An armed underground rebel.
6. **Picket:** A form of demonstration or protest by which people block the entrance to a shop, factory or office.
7. **Satyagraha:** It emphasised the power of truth and the need to search for truth.
8. **Secularism:** A belief that does not discriminate between persons on the basis of religion.

IMPORTANT PERSONS

1. **Abanindranath Tagore:** Painted the famous image of Bharat Mata.
2. **Abdul Ghaffar Khan:** A devout disciple of Mahatma Gandhi.
3. **Alluri Sitarama Raju:** Led the hill people in revolt in the Gudem Hills of Andhra Pradesh.
4. **B.R. Ambedkar:** Organised the dalits into the Depressed Classes Association in 1930.
5. **Baba Ramchandra:** A sanyasi, who had earlier been to Fiji as an indentured labour, led the Awadh peasants movement.
6. **Bal Gangadhar Tilak:** A secularist to the core, stood for unity among all sections of the community.
7. **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee:** Wrote 'Vande Mataram' as a hymn to the motherland.
8. **Batukeswar Dutta:** A revolutionary; threw bomb in the Legislative Assembly in April 1929.
9. **Bhagat Singh:** A revolutionary; threw bomb in the Legislative Assembly in April 1929.
10. **C.R. Das:** Formed the Swaraj Party.
11. **General Dyer:** Commander of the British forces that opened fire on the enclosed gathering at Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 1919.
12. **Jawaharlal Nehru:** Worked hand in glove with Mahatma Gandhi in the nationalist movement. He became the first Prime Minister of independent India.
13. **Lord Irwin:** Viceroy of India.
14. **M.R. Jayakar:** Belonged to the Hindu Mahasabha. He strongly opposed reserved representation of Muslims in the Central Assembly.
15. **Mahatma Gandhi:** Successfully led the nationalist movement to help India attain independence.
16. **Motilal Nehru:** Formed the Swaraj Party.

17. **Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali:** Both brothers, Muslim leaders in India, supported the Khilafat Movement.
18. **Muhammad Iqbal:** President of the Muslim League in 1930 who fought for separate electorate for the Muslims.
19. **Natesa Sastri:** Published a four-volume collection of Tamil folk tales, *The Folklore of Southern India*.
20. **Rabindranath Tagore:** A nationalist who led the movement for folk revival.
21. **Sir John Simon:** Headed the statutory commission set up by the British government to look into the functioning of the constitutional system in India and suggest changes.
22. **Subhash Chandra Bose:** A leading figure in the nationalist movement.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

1. **All Parties Conference:** It was held in 1928 to negotiate the representation of Central Assembly of Muslims in proportion to the population in the Muslim-dominated provinces (*i.e.*, Bengal and Punjab). The negotiations failed.
2. **Chauri Chaura Incident:** It took place in 1922 in Gorakhpur. A peaceful demonstration turned into a violent clash with the police resulting in the death of 22 policemen. Hearing of the incident, Mahatma Gandhi called off the Non-cooperation Movement.
3. **Civil Disobedience Movement:** People were asked not only to refuse to cooperate with the British, but also to break colonial laws.
4. **Gandhi-Irwin Pact:** It was signed on March 5, 1931. Gandhiji consented to participate in a Round Table Conference that was organised at London.
5. **Jallianwala Bagh Incident:** It took place on April 13, 1919. Martial law had been imposed in the city. General Dyer opened fire on unarmed civilians gathered in the enclosed ground of Jallianwala Bagh, killing hundreds.
6. **Khilafat:** Ottoman Turkey was defeated in the First World War. There were rumours that a harsh peace treaty was going to be imposed on the Khalifat, the Ottoman emperor and the spiritual head of the Islamic world. To defend the Khalifat's temporal power, the Khilafat Movement was started. Congress decided to support the movement.
7. **Lahore Session of Congress:** It was held in December 1929 under the presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru. The Congress formalised the demand of 'Purna Swaraj' or full independence for India.
8. **Militant Guerrilla Movement:** It spread in the early 1920s in the Gudem Hills of Andhra Pradesh.
9. **Non-cooperation Movement:** It started in January 1921. Initially it began in cities. Schools, colleges and courts were boycotted; council elections were boycotted; foreign goods were boycotted, liquor shops were picketed and foreign cloth burnt in huge bonfires. In the rural areas, it drew in its fold the struggles of peasants and tribals.
10. **Oudh Kisan Sabha:** It was set up in October 1920. The movement here was against talukdars and landlords.
11. **Poona Pact:** It was signed in September 1932. It gave the depressed classes (later to be known as Scheduled Castes) reserved seats in provincial and legislative councils.
12. **Second Round Table Conference:** The second Round Table Conference was organised in London in December 1931. Gandhiji participated in it, but with no results.
13. **Salt March:** Held by Mahatma Gandhi, it reached Dandi on April 6, 1930. Gandhiji violated the Salt Law here.
14. **Statutory Commission:** It was set up under Sir John Simon to look into the functioning of the constitutional system in India and suggest changes. When the Simon Commission arrived in India, it was greeted with the slogan 'Simon Go Back'.