

Nationalism in India

Nationalism means a feeling of pride and unity towards one's nation. If necessary, it is also a feeling of sacrificing body, mind and wealth for the nation. The national awareness in India and its factors developed only after the first revolt of 1857 A.D. The origin of modern nationalism was first seen in Europe. Various factors such as new awakening, religious reforms, American and French revolution, Union of Ital and Germany etc. played an important role in propagation of nationalism in Europe. There was British rule in India. As a result of acquaintance with the Britishers, changes were seen in the Indian political, social, religious and economic fronts. Various factors creating modern nationalism arose in India. We felt the need of our own rule in our country and that is 'Self- Rule.' This thought spread in the minds of educated and intelligent people during the British rule in India. The feeling of national unity arose in the minds of people of India. We will study about the various factors that led to the rise of nationalism In India.

1. Political :

Before the British Rule in India, our country lacked political unity. India was divided into big and small states. The Britishers had defeated many kings and had established their rule all over India directly or indirectly. Under the dominance of the Britishers, a uniform administrative system was implemented. Over all experience of British rule was not conducive. Besides there were many other reasons that led to protest against the British rule. Slowly this protest turned into aggression and became more powerful.

2. Economic :

India was ruined due to the economic policy of the Britishers. The Britishers took the raw materials from India to England and then the finished/manufactured goods were sold in Indian market. The duty on the manufactured goods that came to India from England was negligible. While the commodities manufactured in India had to pay more duty and thus the Indian goods became

expensive. The goods manufactured in England could be sold at low price in India. In this cut throat competition the handicraft and cottage industries of India could not sustain themselves. As a result, the artisan class became unemployed. The British policy was to make England prosper at the cost of Indian prosperity and thus, national awareness arose in the people of India.

3. Transport and Telecommunication :

The railway, telegraph, post land and water route etc. were developed in India for military, economic and political reasons. Still, it had some advantages for Indians. Due to speedy development of these facilities, people came closer to each other. The mobility of artists and business class increased and they started exchanging thoughts and opinions. Due to increased communication, the discrimination of caste, community and region became less. The national leaders could spread their thoughts and plans to more number of people around them. Leadership was built at national level instead of regional level. This gave a notable contribution in the achievement of Swaraj.

4. Literature and education :

The rise of Indian nationalism also owes its credit to English education. The doors to western culture opened up due to this education. Most of the literature in the world was in English. The people of our country learnt English language and became familiar with the recent trends of the world. Thus, we were inspired about freedom, equality and brotherhood from French revolution and about democracy from European freedom movement. Faith in oneself increased and people started imagining about a bright future for India. Various novels, acts, stories, poems, songs etc were written in our regional language. This written literature gave the message of national unity and devotion.

Think

Was English education advantageous or disadvantageous for the Indians ? How ?

5. Newspapers :

The newspaper made a vital contribution in spreading national awareness. The newspapers published from Bengal, Mumbai, Madras and other areas criticized the policies of the Britishers and it awakened nationalistic feelings in the hearts of people.



Contribution of newspapers

Think

How did the newspaper make people aware about national unity and feeling of oneness ?

6. Magnificent heritage of India :

Ancient archaeologist Alexander Cunningham and his assistants did the spade work at many ancient places. They discovered many fossils depicting the pride of Indian culture. Indian archeologist like Bhagwanlal Indraji also discovered many fossils and made Indians feel the pride of our magnificent Indian culture. The scholars from the west also tried to find a lot about Indian culture and heritage. Indian scholars were also associated with them in this search. Many books were also written. On account of the literature and various researches done, there arose a feeling of national oneness and unity.

For your knowledge

Western scholars Maxmuller, Wilson, Ferguson, Buhalar, Fleet and other Indian scholars like Rajendralal Mitra, Ramkrishna G. Bhandarkar, Hariprasad Shashtri etc. wrote various articles and their writings made the people realize the significance the Vedas, the Upanishad, the Ramayana, the Mahabharat, the Geeta, the Smriti Puran etc.

Establishment of Indian National Congress :

The above stated factors and other regional organizations had contributed in the establishment of Indian National Congress.

For your knowledge

Regional Organizations prior to India in National Congress :

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| • Bengal British Indian Society | - Kolkata (Calcutta) | • Bombay Association | - Mumbai |
| • Madras National Sabha | - Chennai (Madras) | • Sarvajanik Sabha | - Pune |
| • Indian Association | - Kolkata | | |



A.O Hume

When the British officer Sir A.O. Hume, retired, he had realized that the British Empire was not really secure as it appeared. He was of the opinion that if the dissatisfaction among people would not be reduced, there were many chances of recurrence of revolt similar to that which would happen in 1857 A.D. In order to prevent the aggression of people, he thought of establishing constitutional organization.

Immediately Viceroy Dufryn was made to understand this and he also supported A.O. Hume's view point. With the efforts of A.O. Hume Indian National Congress was established in December, 1885. Under the presidentship of VyomeshChandra Bonnerjee, the first conference was held on 28th December, 1885 in Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit school of Mumbai. About 72 representatives from different states of India were present in this conference. The main leaders present in the conference were Dadabhai Navroji, Gopalakrishna Gokhale, Firoz Shah Mehta, Badrudin Tayaabji, K.T. Telang, Dinsha Vachha etc. Many problems related to the nation were discussed.



**VyomeshChandra
Bonnerjee**



Indian National Congress, First Conference, Mumbai-1885.

Know this much				
Conference	Place	President	Year	Members
Second	Kolkata	Dadabhai Navroji	1886	432
Third	Madras	Badrudin Tayabji	1887	607

Indian National Congress (1885-1905) in the initial stages

The first step adopted by Indian National Congress was framing the constitution. This Mahasabha had put some demands related to political rights, economic and social developments and for educational progress. These demands were rejected by the British Government. These demands had laid a strong foundation for the future struggle. Various demands were presented before the British Government like more Indians should be included in government service, reduction of expenses on military and other departments, concession in debt on farmers, leading to prosperity of small scale industries like Gruh Udyog etc.

The Maha Sabha (Indian National Congress) had passed many recommendations like keeping 50% elected representatives by expanding the central and regional constituencies. The executive would be responsible for legislation up to desired limits. Due to the demands put forward by Maha Sabha the Britishers relaxed control on newspapers and passed laws of individual freedom and freedom of speech. The members of the Maha Shabha inculcated new energy and awareness in the educated class and gave them political training. This led to preparation of great freedom fighters for future.

Activity

Visit any social organization and know about its working pattern.

Divide and Rule :

Initially, the British rulers had lot of affection and compassion for Indian National Congress but very shortly, they were against it. In the first few conferences held by Indian National Congress, the British Government officials remained present. But later on, the British officials put a ban on attending the meetings. Governor General Curzon took certain steps against nationalism and turned a deaf ear to opinions given by Indians. Lord Curzon adopted the policy of 'Divide and Rule' and partition of Bengal took place in 1905 A.D.

Partition of Bengal (1905) :

Bengal was the biggest province of the British rule. Many areas of Bihar and Orissa were included in it. Its population was more than 7 crore 80 lakhs. It was necessary to divide Bengal as administration of such a big province was becoming difficult. Still, instead of removing the parts of Bihar and Orissa from Bengal, the Muslim dominated East Bengal was cut off from the main province. Bengal was the most awakened province during those times. Viceroy Curzon wanted to develop communal differences between Hindus and Muslims by separating Muslim dominated East Bengal and wanted to weaken the fast growing national political awakening among people. This policy was opposed with full aggression as the wicked plan of the British Government was understood by national leaders and the common people.

Think

What could have been the possible ill effects due to partition of Bengal ?

Bang Bhang Movement :

To prevent this partition which was a symbol of breaking the unity in Bengal, various public speeches were given, slogans were raised and processions were taken out to show protest. Uncountable pamphlets were distributed. 'Vande Mataram' song from 'Anand Math' the written by novel of Bankimchandra Chattopadhyaya became the popular slogan during the protest. A strong wave of national oneness and unity was felt throughout the nation.



Bankimchandra
Chattopadhyaya

The day on which the partition of Bengal started, was considered and maintained as the 'Sad day' in Bengal. Strike was observed all over of Bengal. As per the instruction given by Rabindranath Tagore, that day was also celebrated as the 'Day of unity.'

Swadeshi Movement :

It was decided to make the protest of 'Bang Bhang Movement' more powerful and widespread. This movement was led with three main objectives : (1) To undertake trade for Swadeshi goods. (2) To boycott foreign goods. (3) To acquire national education.

To achieve the above goals, the people of Bengal started a widespread fight and protest. A freedom movement committee was formed. This committee constituted renowned national leaders of congress like Surendranath Banerjee, Bipinbhabra Pal, Arvind Ghos etc. The Indians were persuaded to boycott foreign clothes and goods and use Swadeshi goods. People were made to understand the importance of Swadeshi goods.

The Swadeshi movement was advertised and propagated by the articles in newspaper, procession, public meetings and folk songs. Factories were started which would produce Swadeshi goods. The goods like clothes, salt, shoes, sugar cigarette, tobacco etc. which were being imported from England, reduced drastically and the sale of Indian clothes and commodities increased. The Swadeshi movement was not only limited to Bengal, but it spread in various parts of the country.

Activity

- (1) Assume that you are a student of the year 1905. The Swadeshi movement is active in the country. Make posters persuading people to join the movement.
- (2) Make a list of Swadeshi and foreign goods that you see in your surroundings now a days.

National Education :

The movement of 1905 which was associated with social boycott and propagation of Swadeshi had its third important characteristics and that was national education. Students took and showed active participation in the Bang Bhang movement. As a result of it, students were punished in groups and they were dismissed from colleges and schools. Such harsh steps were taken. Consequently, as a part of alternative education, national schools were started. In 1907 A.D., there were 25 national secondary schools and 300 national primary schools in Bengal. Rabindranath Tagore started Vishwabharati School in Shanti Niketan in 1901 A.D. The British Government failed in preventing the fight that had started for Bang Bhang Movement. Finally, the British Government had to cancel the partition of Bengal in the year 1911 A.D. It was a historical victory and a memorable victory for people of Bengal that was achieved through peaceful and non-violent steps.

For your knowledge

The Vastwabhharati started in Shanti Niketan by Rabindranath Tagore, got the status of Central Vastwabhharati university in the year 1951 A.D. Here, the students and became self reliant.

Rising of Extremists :

Leaders like Dadabhai Navroji, Surendranath Banerjee, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Ferozshah Mehta made efforts to acquire their political rights through constitutional method. At that time, they adopted moderate attitude and thus, they came to be known as 'Moderates.' The moderate leaders prepared a strong background for national awakening by bringing the middle class educated people together. They showed seeds of self-rule, equality, democracy, freedom in the minds of Indians. The result of their work was positive and the awakened young group of Indians were full of confidence, interest and enthusiasm.



Dadabhai Navroji



Surendranath Banerjee



Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Moderate leaders

In contrast to the moderates idealgy, there were a group of three (triplet leaders) namely Lala Lajpat Rai (Lal), Bal Gangadhar Tilak (Bal) and Bipin Chandra Pal (Pal) – Lal, Bal and Pal. These leaders wanted to take the self-rule not as a prize but as their right. They believed in aggressive revolution and they were good determined and came to be known as 'Extremists.'

The Extremists :

Lokmanya Tilak (1856-1920) :

Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who became famous as Lokmanya Tilak was the main and prominent leader of 'Extremists' group. He gave a slogan that – 'Swaraj is my birth right and I will attain it surely.' He started the celebrations of 'Ganesh Chaturthi' and 'Shivaji Jayanti.' He started two newspapers namely 'Kesari' in Marathi language and 'Marathi' in English. Its impact was noteworthy. He played an important role in the 'Home Rule Movement' in 1961 A.D.



Lokmanya Tilak

Think

Why did Lokmanya Tilak start the celebration of 'Ganesh Chaturthi' and 'Shivaji Jayanti' ?

Lala Lajpat Rai (1866-1928) :

Lala Lajpat Rai came to be known as 'Sher-e-Punjab.' He started two newspapers namely – 'The Punjabi' and 'The Pupil.' He strongly protested against Simon Commission. When he was beaten by sticks, he said that each blow on him would result in the grave for the British empire.' He was admitted to hospital where he died.



Lala Lajpat Rai

Bipin Chandra Pal (1858-1932) :



Bipin Chandra Pal

The third national leader in the triplet group of Lal, Bal and Pal was Bipin Chandra Pal. Initially, he came in touch with Brahmo Samaj. He started a weekly 'New India' and a newspaper 'Vande Mataram.' The British government accused him of provoking the youngsters in violent activities. He was in favour of acquiring Swaraj through aggressive revolution.

Establishment of Muslim League (1906) :

The Britishers had adopted the policy of 'Divide and Rule.' The rise of nationalism was spreading strongly. This was the time when Britishers decided to break the national unity. The Britishers were successful in explaining the above Muslim group. As a result, 'Muslim League' was formed in Dhaka in 1906 A.D. The religious head of Muslim, Agha Khan, Nawab of Dhaka, Salim Ullah, Viceroy Minto and his private minister Dunlop Smith played a vital role in the establishment of Muslim League.

Home Rule Movement (1916) :

Bal Gangadhar Tilak established 'Indian Home Rule League' in Pune in April, 1916. Tilak announced, 'Swaraj is my birth right and I will attain it surely.' He wrote articles in 'Kesari' and 'Maratha'. He delivered speeches and gained public favour and positive opinion. During this time Tilak was given the honour of 'Lok Manya'. Annie Besant established 'Home Rule League' in Madras in April, 1916. Both the organizations had the objective of attaining the Home Swaraj (Home Rule) through constitutional way. Annie Besant wrote various articles in the weekly 'The Common Will' and



Annie Besant

in daily 'New India.' Annie Beasant pleaded with the British Government to give away a 'responsible state' administration and 'Home Rule' as early as possible. Congress and Muslim league supported the Home Rule Movement. Annie Beasant was imprisoned in Uttarakhand, at various places, associations and processions were taken out as a part of protest against her imprisonment and they wanted Annie Beasant to be set free. Finally, the British Government had to set her free.

Know this much

Annie Beasant was the first female president selected in congress conference held at Kolkata in December 1917.

Lucknow Pact (1916) :

Joint conference was held by congress and Muslim League in Mumbai in 1915 A.D. After one year, Congress and Muslim League held the annual conference in 1915 A.D., in Lucknow. The extremists and moderate, group were separated in Surat conference of congress in 1907 A.D. Now, they became united. It came to be known as 'Lucknow Pact.' With this pact, the Congress and Muslim league started giving importance to national well being as political parties. The fight for Swaraj got momentum.

Subhash Chandra Bose and Azad Hind Fauz

Subhash Chandra Bose was born on 23rd January, 1879 in Cuttack, Orissa. His mother's name was Prabhavati and father's name was Janakinath Bose. He was very intelligent since childhood. He secured fourth position in I.A.S. exam in London in 1920. After coming to India, he joined Indian National Congress. He participated in the freedom struggle movements. He was caught as political prisoner eleven times. He became the president of Congress in Haripura Congress Conference in 1938 A.D. Again he became the President for the second time in Tripura Congress Conference held in 1939 A.D. Certain oppositions and differences in opinion forced him resign from the presidentship.

In May 1939, Subhash Chandra Bose formed a new political party namely Forward Block. The Second World War started in Europe. Forward Block started anti war propaganda through advertisements. Subhash Chandra and his companions were arrested and imprisoned. Subhash Chandra Bose started fasting. Due to severe illness, he was set free from prison. He was out under house arrest.

On 17th January, 1941, Subhash Chandra Bose evicted himself from this house imprisonment given by the Britishers. He disguise



Subhash Chandra Bose

himself and reached Berlin via Peshwar, Kabul and Moscow. He reached Berlin and the Britishers were shocked to hear his speech on radio. From there he went to Japan via Sumatra

For your knowledge

Germany and Japan were enemies of the British. Taking advantage of this, Subhash Chandra Bose started his communication with German leader, Hitler and Japan's Prime Minister Tojo. Japan would be helpful, so Subhash Chandra Bose decided to start the fight with the help of another Asian country.

As the captain of Azad Hind Fauz :

An Indian soldier from British army whose name was captain Mohansingh formed 'Azad Hind Fauz' with the help of Indian soldiers who had gone to Japan for help. Due to differences of opinions between Japanese government and Rasbihari Bose, Mohansingh had to resign. The future of 'Azad Hind Fauz' became indecisive and uncertain for quite a period of time. With unanimous decision, Rasbihari Bose appointed Subhash Chandra Bose as the supreme leader of 'Azad Hind Fauz' on 4th July, 1943. The whole authority was given to him. Subhash Chandra Bose took charge of leader of Azad Hind Fauz in July 1943. He was given the honour of 'Netaji.' Netaj gave the slogan 'Chalo Delhi' to the Fauz. He gave the mantra of 'Jai Hind' to the country.

He toured the whole of South-East Asian countries and persuaded Indians over there to sacrifice everything for the freedom of the country. He said to people – 'You give me blood and I will give you freedom.' With this slogan he added fuel to the fire of freedom struggle.



Subhash Chandra Bose and companions of Azad Hind Fauz

Activity

Make a list of various slogans which became famous during various revolutions in India.

Acting Government :

Subhash Chandra Bose Acting Government established Aarzi Hukumat Azad Hind in Singapore in October, 1943. He took charge as supreme head of the fauz. This government declared war against England and America.

Works of Azad Hind Fauz :

Azad Hind Fauz was re-planned by Subhash Chandra Bose after he became the head of Arzi Hukumat Azad Hind. Strict training was given to the soldiers. Subhash Chandra Bose prepared various battalions in Azad Hind Fauz.

Know this much

Four battalions were prepared in Azad Hind Fauz by Subhash Chandra Bose. The names given to these teams were Gandhi, Subhash, Nehru and Azad. A special and separate battalion was constituted only of females. The team of female battalion was led by captain Laxmi Sehgal.

Azad Hind Fauz acquired victory in various areas of East India like Aarakan and Imphal. Later on, due to less supply of food and excessive rain, the Fauz had to move back. Japan dropped atomic bomb on America. Japan was defeated. The situation of war changed and the future of Azad Hind Fauz became hazy. Four thousand soldiers became unemployed and 25,000 soldiers were arrested.

Think

Imagine if 'Azad Hind Fauz' had achieved complete success ?

Netaji had taken a vow that he would not step in to India without freedom. Netaji left Rangoon and Bangkok and moved forward by airways. According to Japanese sources, the plane took off from Taipai airport of Formasa on 18th August, 1945. This plane crashed due to fire and Netaji, being seriously injured, died.