

# History of India

National Movements

Part - 2

# Anti- Simon Agitation

**Outset:-** The Simon Commission was formed in 1927 to review Government of India Reform Act of 1919. The commission had 7 British members of Parliament. As all the members of this commission were European (Whites), Indian Political leaders felt insulted and decided to boycott the commission. The Indian leaders and people started movement against this commission by crying 'Simon Go Back'.

It was while leading a demonstration against the Simon Commission in Lahore, Lala Lajpat Rai was died due to fatal lathi –blow by the British Police Officers.

It was his death Bhagat Singh and his comrades were seeking to avenge when they killed a white police officer Saunders in Dec 1928.

# Civil Disobedience Movement

**Outset:-** Under authorization of the Indian National Congress Mahatma Gandhi started Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930. He issued an eleven point to Lord Irwin (31<sup>st</sup> January , 1930) for administrative reforms.

## **Gandhiji's Eleven Points:-**

- 1) Reduce expenditure on Army and Civil Services by 50%.
- 2) Introduce total Prohibition of alcohol
- 3) Carry out reforms in Criminal Investigation Department (CID).
- 4) Change Arms Act allowing popular control of issue of licenses.
- 5) Release political prisoners.
- 6) Accept postal reservation bill
- 7) Reduce rupee- sterling exchange ratio.
- 8) Introduce textile protection.
- 9) Reserve coastal shipping for Indians
- 10) Reduce land revenue
- 11) Abolish Salt tax and government's salt monopoly.

# Salt Satyagraha /Dandi March

**Outset:-** Mahatma Gandhi started the historic Dandi March on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1930 from his Sabarmati Ashram with 78 followers. After a 24 day long march, he symbolically broke the salt law at Dandi, Gujarat on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1930.

Mahatma Gandhi waited for 41 days for the government's response to his 11 points and getting no response from Government he finally decided to break Salt Law as a part of his Civil Disobedience Movement. Moreover the British Government controlled the sale of this indispensable commodity and imposed tax on it which was felt most keenly by the poor.

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## Salt Satyagraha as a part of Civil Disobedience Movement

The breaking of salt law inaugurated the Civil Disobedience. The movement has started all over the country :

- 1) An activist from Tamilnadu Chakravarti Rajagopalachari led a Salt March from Trichirapally to Vedaranyam on the Tanjore Coast .
- 2) In Malabar The hero of Vaikom Satyagraha K Kelappan walked from Calicut to Payannur to break the Salt Law.
- 3) NO tax campaign was launched in United Province (Uttarpradesh) and Gujarat.
- 4) On 18 April 1930, The Bengal Revolutionaries Army under the leadership of Masterda Surjya Sen led a seizure to the Chittagong armoury and fought battle on Jalalabad hill on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.
- 5) On 21<sup>st</sup> May 1930, a band of 2000 people under guidance of Sarojini Naidu, Imam Sahib and Gandhi's Son Manilal marched towards the police cardon that sealed off the Dharasena Salt Works. Here the British repression was most severe upon the satyagrahis.

Mahatma Gandhi decided to withdraw Civil Disobedience Movement in April 1934.

# Quit India Movement

**Outset:-** The congress in its meeting at Gowaliya Tank , Bombay passed a resolution known as 'Quit India resolution' whereby Gandhi asked the British to quit India and gave a call for 'Do or die' to his countrymen.

However on 9 Aug 1942, all the prominent leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Vallabhbhai Patel were arrested but the rest of the leaders like J.P. Lohiya, Aruna Ashaf Ali, Usha Mehta continued the revolutionary struggle.

Parallel government were established in some places like

- 1) Balia, UP (by Chittu Pandeya) – the first parallel government.
- 2) Tamulak, Midnapur District, Bengal ( by Satis Samant)
- 3) Satara, Maharashtra (by Y.B. Chahvan and Nana Patil) – the longest (term) parallel government.
- 4) Talchar, Orissa

# Naval Mutiny

**Outset:-** on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1946, 1100 Naval Ratings fo HMIS Talwar gave a real grave challenge to the British Raj and went on a strike to protest against.

- 1) Racial discrimination between Indian and white soldiers.
- 2) Unpalatable food
- 3) Abuse of Superior officers
- 4) Arrest of rating for scrawling
- 5) Quit India on HMIS Talwar
- 6) INA trials.

VallabhBhai Patel and Jinnah jointly persuaded the Ratings to surrender on 23 Feb, 1946 and the Mutiny finally came to end But for the first time the Britishers realized that It could not perpetuate its hold on India any more.

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