

# Indian National Movement (1929-1947)

## Revolutionaries

- Large number of revolutionary activities took place during early 20th century. Revolutionaries like Madam Cama unfurled the flag of India at Stuttgart Congress.
- Jatin Das died in Lahore Jail after 63 days fast in 1929. Other important Revolutionary activities are given below

Year	Revolutionaries Involved	Event
1897	Chapekar Brother	Committed the first political murder of a European. Murdered Lt. Ayerst accidentally in place of Mr. Ranel (Plague Commissioner).
1908	Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki	Threw bomb on a carriage of Kingford (Judge of Muzaffarpur).
1909	Madan Lal Dhingra	Shot dead Col. William Curzon Whyllie.
1912	Rash Bihari Bose and Sachindra Nath Sanyal	Threw a bomb at Lord Hardinge (Delhi Conspiracy case).
1925	Ram Prasad Bismil Ashfaqualla, Roshan Lal Lahiri	Train was looted at Kakori (Kakori Rail Conspiracy case).
1929	Bhagat Singh, Batukeshwar Dutt	Threw bomb at Central Legislative Assembly.
1930	Surya Sen	He was mastermind behind the raid on Chitagon armoury (Chitagon Armoury case).

## Lahore Session (1929)

- Lahore session under the Presidentship of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, declared Poorna Swaraj as its ultimate goal.
- On 31st December, 1929 the newly adopted tri-colour flag was unfurled and 26th January, 1930 was fixed as the first Independence Day.

### **Dandi March (1930)**

- Gandhiji, along with 78 followers, started his march from Sabarmati Ashram on 12th March, 1930 to Dandi in order to break the salt law. He picked a hand full of salt and inaugurated the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- The Salt Satyagraha sparked off other forms of defiance. In the North-West, the Pathans under Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, popularly known as the 'Frontier Gandhi,' organised the society of 'Khudai Khidmadgars' (Servants of God), also known as Red Shirts.

### **First Round Table Conference (1930)**

- It was held in London on 12th November, 1930, to discuss Simon Commission Report.
- It was the first conference arranged between the British and Indians as equals. INC, Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha boycotted it.

### **Gandhi Irwin Pact (1931)**

- The pact was signed between Gandhiji and Viceroy Lord Irwin on 5th March, 1931.
- Under the pact, INC promised to participate in the Second Round Table Conference and also decided to call off the Civil Disobedience Movement.

### **Second Round Table Conference (1931)**

- Gandhiji represented the INC and went to London to meet British prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald.
- The conference however failed as Gandhiji could not agree with British Prime Minister on his policy of Communal Representation and refusal of the British Government on the basic Indian demand for freedom.

### **The Communal Award (1932)**

- It was announced by the British Prime Minister Ramsay Mac Donald in 1932. It provided for the communal representation of depressed classes other than that for the Muslims, Sikhs and Europeans.

- Gandhiji, while in Yerwada jail started a fast unto death against it. But Dr BR Ambedkar was in favour of this. Finally, Poona Pact was signed between the two which annulled the award.

### **Third Round Table Conference (1932)**

- It was held in 1932, but it proved fruitless since the national leaders were in prison.

### **August Offer (1940)**

- The Viceroy Linlithgow put forward a proposal, popularly known as 'August offer'. It had the following important features:
  - Demand for a post war body to enact Constitution.
  - Establishment of war Advisory Council and dominion status in unspecified future.
  - Expansion of Governor General's Council with representation of the minorities.
- INC rejected these proposals while Muslim League accepted the offer.

### **The Cripps Mission (1942)**

- The British Government with a view to get co-operation from Indians during World War II, sent Sir Stafford Cripps, leader of the House of Commons to settle terms with Indian leaders.
- He offered a draft which contained the following proposals:
  - Dominion status to be granted after the war.
  - Setting up a Constitution-making body for India after the war.
  - It was rejected by the Congress as it didn't want to rely upon future promises. Gandhiji termed it as a 'post dated cheque in a crashing bank'.

### **Quit India Movement (1942)**

- A resolution known as 'Quit India Resolution' or 'Vardha Proposal' was passed by INC on 8th August, 1942, at Bombay. Here, Gandhiji gave the slogan of "Do or Die". It is also known as "Leaderless Revolt".
- On 9th August, 1942, the Congress was banned, all its leaders were put behind the bars and Gandhiji was kept at Aga Khan Palace, Pune.
- The trend of underground activities also started during this phase. Usha Mehta operated an

underground Radio, whereas Aruna Asaf Ali, RM Lohia also established underground networks.

- Parallel Governments were set up at many places like Ballia (UP), Tamulak (Bengal), Satara (Maharashtra) and Talchar (Orissa).

### **Indian National Army (INA)**

- The idea was first conceived by General Mohan Singh in Malaya.
- In 1942, Indian Independence League was formed at Tokyo and Rash Bihari Bose became its President.
- INA was formed by Rash Bihari Bose in 1942 and was later reorganised by Subhash Chandra Bose.
- It had three fighting Brigades named after Subhash, Gandhi, Nehru. Rani Jhansi was its female wing.

### **Wavell Plan (June-July 1945)**

- The plan was given by Lord Wavell.
- It provided that the Viceroy's Executive Council should be so reconstituted that its members, except the Governor General and the Commander-in-Chief, were to be Indians (from various parties).
- Simla Conference was convened in this regard, but was rejected by Jinnah.

### **The Cabinet Mission Plan (1946)**

- Members were Wavell, Patrick Lawrence, Alexander and Stafford Cripps.
- Main proposals
  1. Rejection of demand for a full-fledged Pakistan.
  2. Loose union under a centre with Centre's control over defence and foreign affairs.
  3. Provinces were to have full autonomy and residual powers.
  4. Provincial legislatures would elect a Constituent Assembly.

Both the Congress and the Muslim League accepted it.

### **Mountbatten Plan (also called 3rd June Plans) (3rd June, 1947)**

The plan formulated by Lord Mountbatten outlined that

- India was to be further divided into India and Pakistan.
- There would be a separate Constitutional Assembly for Pakistan to frame its Constitution.
- The princely states would enjoy the liberty to either join India or Pakistan or could even remain independent.
- Bengal and Punjab will be partitioned and a referendum in NWFP and Sylhet district of Assam would be held. A separate state of Pakistan would be erected. Boundary Commission was to be headed by Radcliffe.

### **Partition and Independence**

- All political parties accepted the Mountbatten Plan. Two boundary Commissions were appointed by the British under the Chairmanship of Sir Cyril Redcliff to draw the international boundaries of the two nations.
- After India got Independence, Jinnah became the first Governor General of Pakistan. Lord Mountbatten continued as the Governor General of India. He was succeeded by C Rajagopalachari who became the first Governor General of India.
- By 15th August, 1947, all the states, with a few exceptions like Kashmir, Hyderabad and Junagarh had signed the Instrument of Accession. Goa was with the Portuguese and Pondicherry with the French, which later became the part of India.

S.No.	Viceroy/Governor Generals	Important Facts
1.	Robert Clive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governor of Bengal During 1757-60</li> <li>Established Dual Government in Bengal from 1765-72</li> </ul>
2.	Warren Hastings (1774-85)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Governor General of Bengal (1774)</li> <li>Founded Asiatic Society of Bengal</li> </ul>
3.	Lord Cornwallis (1786-93)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Father of Civil Service in India</li> <li>Introduced Permanent Settlement in India</li> </ul>
4.	Lord William Bentick (1828-33/1833-35)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Father of Modern Western Education in India</li> <li>Abolished Sati, first Governor General of Bengal</li> </ul>
5.	Lord Dalhousie (1848-56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started first Railway Line in 1853 (Bombay to Thane)</li> <li>Started a Public Works department</li> <li>Started a Telegraph Service</li> </ul>
6.	Lord Lytton (1876-80)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed Arms Act (1878), which regulated illegal arms and ammunitions</li> <li>Passed Vernacular Press Act (1882), which put censorship on Indian Press</li> </ul>
7.	Lord Ripon (1880-84)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeal of Vernacular Press Act</li> <li>Appointed Hunter Commission on Education</li> </ul>
8.	Lord Curzon (1899-1905)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed Indian Universities Act (1904), Calcutta Corporation Act (1899), Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Act (1899)</li> </ul>
9.	Lord Hardinge (1910-16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annulment of Partition of Bengal (1911)</li> <li>Transferred Capital from Calcutta to Delhi (1911)</li> </ul>

## Practice Exercise

- Who committed the first Political murder of a European in India?
  - Bhagat Singh
  - Madan Lal Dhingra
  - Chapekar Brothers
  - Surya Sen
- Surya Sen was associated with which of the event during Indian Freedom Struggle?
  - Chittagong Armoury Raid
  - Kakori Conspiracy
  - Civil Disobedience Movement
  - Home Rule Movement
- Choose the incorrect statement.
  - Madan Lal shot dead Col. William Curzon
  - Khudiram Bose threw bomb on a carriage of kingsford
  - Rash Bihari Bose was involved in the Kakori Rail Conspiracy Case
  - Bhagat Singh threw bomb at Central Legislative Assembly
- Who was the President of Lahore Session of INC?
  - MK Gandhi
  - Jawaharlal Nehru
  - Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan
  - Nawab Salimulla
- Who was popularly known as 'Frontier Gandhi'?
  - Sir Sayed Ahmad Khan
  - Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan
  - Nawab Salimulla
  - VD Savarkar

- 6.** Which Round Table Conference was held to discuss Simon Commission Report?  
 (a) 1st Round Table (b) 2nd Round table  
 (c) 3rd Round Table (d) None of these
- 7.** Choose the incorrect option.  
 (a) Gandhi Irwin Pact-1931  
 (b) 3rd Round Table Conference-1932  
 (c) Dandi March-1930  
 (d) Lahore Session-1933
- 8.** Under whose Viceroyalty 2nd Round Table Conference was held ?  
 (a) Lord Cornwallis (b) Lord Willingdon  
 (c) Lord Wellesley (d) Lord Amherst
- 9.** Who gave the term Pakistan in 1933 ?  
 (a) Iqbal  
 (b) Sikandar Hayat Khan  
 (c) Chaudhary Rehmat Ali  
 (d) M Ali Jinnah
- 10.** How many Provinces INC formed the Ministry in 1937, election ?  
 (a) 8 (b) 6 (c) 5 (d) 12
- 11.** Which of the statement(s) is/are correct?  
 I. The Viceroy Linlithgow put forward the August offer  
 II. It established a War Advisory Council.  
 III. Expanded the Governor General's Council.  
 IV. INC accepted the August offer.  
 (a) Only I (b) I, II and III  
 (c) I and III (d) Only IV
- 12.** Which movement was known as Vardha Proposal ?  
 (a) Pakistan Resolution  
 (b) August Offer  
 (c) The Cripps Mission  
 (d) Quit India Resolution
- 13.** Who formed INA in 1942 ?  
 (a) General Mohan Singh  
 (b) Rash Bihari Bose  
 (c) Subhash Chandra Bose  
 (d) VC Savarkar
- 14.** Who was elected as the 1st President of Constituent Assembly?  
 (a) Dr Rajendra Prasad  
 (b) Jawaharlal Nehru  
 (c) BR Ambedkar  
 (d) Mahatma Gandhi
- 15.** Choose the incorrect statement  
 (a) 15th August, 1947 was the date fixed for handing over power to India and Pakistan  
 (b) The British Government passed the Indian Independence Act in July, 1947  
 (c) Lord Mountbatten put forward his plan on 3rd June, 1947  
 (d) Constitutional Assembly for Pakistan and India are combined
- 16.** Who was appointed as the Chairman of Boundary Commission?  
 (a) KC Biswas  
 (b) Cyril Radcliffe  
 (c) Sir Mac Mohan  
 (d) SA Rahman
- 17.** Which of the following is incorrect?  
 (a) Warren Hastings - 1774-85  
 (b) Lord Cornwallis - 1788-98  
 (c) Lord William Bentick - 1828-35  
 (d) Lord Dalhousie - 1848-56
- 18.** Regulating act was passed in the year?  
 (a) 1772 (b) 1773 (c) 1770 (d) 1780
- 19.** Which act made Governor General of Bengal as Governor General of India?  
 (a) Government of India Act of 1858  
 (b) Indian Council Act of 1909  
 (c) Charter Act of 1883  
 (d) Charter Act of 1833
- 20.** Montague-Chelmsford reforms was the name given to  
 (a) Government of India Act, 1935  
 (b) Indian Independence Act, 1947  
 (c) Government of India Act of 1919  
 (d) Indian Council Act of 1909

## Answers

1	(c)	2	(a)	3	(c)	4	(b)	5	(b)	6	(a)	7	(d)	8	(b)	9	(c)	10	(a)
11	(b)	12	(d)	13	(b)	14	(a)	15	(d)	16	(b)	17	(b)	18	(b)	19	(d)	20	(c)