



Jammu & Kashmir

Patwari

Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB)

Volume - 1

General Awareness



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5 CHAPTER

The Mass Movement: Gandhian Era (1917-1925)

- **Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi:** Born on 2nd October 1869, in Porbandar, Gujarat.
- **Study:** Law in London and went to Natal in South Africa to work in a law firm in 1894.
- **South Africa:** His ideologies developed and changed when he faced racial discrimination just like other fellows Indians and Africans at the hands of Europeans or the whites.
- **Pietermaritzburg station incident (June 7, 1893)** - during his visit to Pretoria, despite having a first-class ticket, Gandhi was asked to move to a third-class compartment because of his race. On his refusal to comply, he was thrown out of the train at Pietermaritzburg station.
- The train incident left Gandhiji shocked and angered at the racial treatment accorded Asians and Africans.
- He decided to stay in South Africa to organize the Indian workers to enable them to fight for their rights.
- **Jan. 1915:** He returned to India.
- Upon his return, he had earned the reputation of a leading activist, theorist, and community leader.
- On the advice of his political guru, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, he decided to tour the country to oversee the condition of the masses and not to get politically involved in any matter for at least one year.
- Gandhi was not in favor of Home Rule agitation as Britain was in the middle of a war.
- He advocated for a non-violent satyagraha to meet nationalist aims.
- **1917-1918:** He was involved in three struggles—in Champaran, Ahmedabad, and Kheda.

Champaran Satyagraha (1917)

- Gandhiji Ji's first Civil Disobedience in India.
- The European planters forced the peasants of Champaran (Bihar) to grow indigo on 3/20 part of their land (called tinkathia system) and sell that produce of indigo at a fixed price determined by the planters.
- Rajkumar Shukla, a local man, invited Gandhi to look into the problems of the farmers of Champaran.
- Gandhiji along with Rajendra Prasad, Mazharul-Haq, Mahadeo Desai, Narhari Parekh, and J.B. Kripalani reached Champaran to probe into the matter.
- The government appointed a committee to go into the matter and Gandhiji was a member.

- Gandhi convinced authorities that the tinkathia system should be abolished and the peasants should be compensated for the illegal dues extracted from them (only 25% to be compensated).
- Gandhiji won the first battle of civil disobedience in India.
- **Other leaders:** Brajkishore Prasad, Anugrah Narayan Sinha, Ram Navami Prasad, and Shambhusharan Varma.

Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)

- First Hunger Strike of Gandhiji in India.
- **March 1918:** Gandhi took up the cause of workers of the cotton mill of Ahmedabad over the issue of discontinuation of the plague bonus.
 - **Mill owners:** To discontinue the bonus
 - **Workers:** Demanded a rise of 50% in their wages to keep up with the wartime inflation caused by Britain's involvement in the First World War.
- **Result:** The mill owners agreed to a 20% wage hike. The workers went on strike.
- The workers rushed to Anusuya Sarabhai for help. She was a social worker who was also the sister of Ambalal Sarabhai, one of the mill owners and the president of the Ahmedabad Mill Owners Association.
- Anusuya Behn asked Gandhiji to intervene in the matter as he was respected equally by the mill owners and workers
- Gandhiji asked workers to follow the strategy of non-violence while on strike.
- Gandhiji himself undertook a fast unto death (his first) to strengthen the workers' resolve.
- On the fourth day of the strike, the tribunal gave its decision awarding the workers a 35% wage hike.

Kheda Satyagraha (1918)

- First Non-Cooperation of Gandhiji in India.
- Due to drought and subsequent crop failure in 1918, the peasants of the Kheda district in Gujarat were demanding a suspension of revenue tax.
- According to the Revenue Code, if the yield was <one-fourth of the normal production, the farmers were entitled to remission.
- The Government refused the peasant's demand
- Government demanded full collection of tax or else the property of the farmers would be seized.

- **Gandhiji supported the peasants** on this issue and asked the farmers not to pay the taxes.
- The **non-cooperation was led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** along with Narahari Parikh, Mohanlal Pandya, and Ravi Shankar Vyas, who toured the villages, organized the villagers, and **provided them with political leadership.**
- Finally, the government agreed with the farmers and was ready to **recover tax only from those peasants who could afford to pay.**

Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms and Government of India Act, 1919

- Introduced **dyarchy** in the **provinces.**
- **Governor to be the executive head.**
- **Subjects** were divided into **two lists: 'reserved' and 'transferred' subjects.**
 - **Reserved subjects:** Administered by the **governor** through his executive council
 - **Transferred subjects:** Administered by **ministers nominated** from among the **elected members of the legislative council.**
- The **chief executive authority was the governor-general.**
- The **viceroys executive council had eight members (3 Indians).**
- In the **provinces, the reserved subjects** were under the control of the **governor-general.**
- The **governor-general** had the power to **restore cuts in grants,** certify bills rejected by the central legislature, and issue ordinances.
- **Introduced bicameral legislature.**
- **Members:**
 - **Lower house or Central Legislative Assembly:** 145 members
 - **Upper house or Council of State:** 60 members.
- The **Council of State** had a **term of 5 years** and had **only male members.**
- The **Central Legislative Assembly** had a **term of 3 years.**
- **Secretary of State for India** to be paid out of the **British exchequer.**

Rowlatt Act (1919)

- **Government of India Act, 1919:** Led to widespread protests and rallies across India.
- **1919:** The Rowlatt Act was passed officially called the **Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act.**
- The act was recommended by a committee headed by **Sir Sidney Rowlatt,** to investigate the '**seditions conspiracy**' of the Indian people.
- **The act allowed the arrest of Indians without a warrant** on the mere suspicion of treason.

- **There was no court of appeal above that panel.**
- The law of **habeas corpus** was suspended as per this act.
- **Restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly were re-imposed** in India.
- Gandhi called the Rowlatt Act the "**Black Act**" and gave a call for a mass protest at an all-India level.
- **February 1919: Gandhiji organized a Satyagraha Sabha** and roped in younger members of Home Rule Leagues and the Pan Islamists.
- **Methods of resistance:** A nationwide hartal (strike) along with fasting and prayer, civil disobedience against specific laws, and courting arrest and imprisonment.
- **April 6, 1919, was fixed as the date to launch the Satyagraha.**

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (April 13, 1919)

- **6th April 1919:** Gandhiji was arrested.
- **9th April 1919:** Nationalist leaders, **Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal** were arrested by the British officials.
- **This caused resentment among the Indian protestors and tensions soared high.**
- **Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer,** imposed **martial law.**
- **13 April:** He issued a proclamation **forbidding people from leaving the city without a pass and from organizing demonstrations or processions or assembling in groups of >three.**
- **On April 13 - Baisakhi day,** people, gathered in the **Jallianwala Bagh**
- **Brigadier-General Dyer** arrived on the scene with his men and ordered his troops to **open fire on the unarmed crowd without any warning.**
- In protest, **Rabindranath Tagore** renounced his knighthood
- **Gandhiji gave up** the title of **Kaiser-i-Hind,** bestowed by the British for his work during the **Boer War.**
- **Gandhiji withdrew the movement on April 18, 1919.**
- **Udham Singh,** who bore the name **Ram Mohammad Singh Azad,** later assassinated **Michael O'Dwyer** in **London in 1940. Udham Singh was hanged for his deed.**
- **October 14, 1919:** Disorders Inquiry Committee/ Hunters commission was formed.
- **Three Indians were among the members of the committee, namely, Sir Chimanlal Harilal Setalvad, Pandit Jagat Narayan, and Sardar Sahibzada Sultan.**
- **The final report of the Committee unanimously condemned Dyer's actions.**

- The **Indian National Congress** appointed its **non-official committee** under the **leadership of Madan Mohan Malviya**.
 - Its members included **Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das, Abbas Tyabji, M.R. Jayakar, and Gandhiji**. Congress criticized Dyer's act as inhuman.

The Khilafat Movement

- **1919-1922: Khilafat movement and the Non-Cooperation movement** were organized to **oppose British rule in India**.
- The movements **adopted a unified plan of action of non-violence and non-cooperation**.

Khilafat Issue

- The **agitation against Rowlatt Act** brought **different sections of the society together** especially the **Hindus and Muslims**.
- **1919: Launched** to protect the **Ottoman Empire of Turkey**, which had been on the verge of collapse after World War I.
- **After the war, the British dismembered Turkey, and the Khalifa was removed from power**.
- **Muslims all over the world demanded that Khalifa should retain control** over Muslim sacred places, and be left with sufficient territories after territorial arrangements.
- **A Khilafat Committee: under leadership of the Ali brothers** (Shaukat Ali and Muhammad Ali), Maulana Azad, Ajmal Khan, and Hasrat Mohani in early 1919.

Development of the Khilafat-Non-cooperation Programme

- **1919: Call to boycott British Goods** at the **All India Khilafat Conference** held in Delhi.
- **Gandhi ji, as the president of the All India Khilafat Committee**, saw this as an opportunity **to bring together Hindus and Muslims against the British**.
- **M.A.Jinaah opposed the Khilafat movement** as it would mix religion and politics, even though the Muslim League was in favor of the movement.

Non-Cooperation Khilafat Movement

- **February 1920: A joint Hindu-Muslim deputation** was sent to the viceroy on the issue of Khilafat.
- **Gandhiji announced that he would soon lead a movement of non-cooperation** in case of failure of a peace treaty in satisfying the Indian Muslims.
- **May 1920: The Treaty of Sevres** was signed which completely dismembered Turkey.

- **June 1920: Gandhiji was asked to lead a program of the boycott** of schools, colleges, and law courts at an **all-party conference in Allahabad**.
- **August 31, 1920: The non-cooperation movement** was formally launched by the Khilafat committee. (Tilak breathed his last on August 1, 1920.)
- **September 1920: At a special session of the Congress in Calcutta, Gandhiji launched the non-violent, non-cooperation movement**. It was approved by Congress.
- **December 1920: Nagpur session** of the Indian National Congress endorsed the program of non-cooperation
- **Gandhiji along with Ali's brothers undertook a nationwide tour**.
- **Thousands of students left government schools and colleges**.
- **Jamia Millia Islamia was established in 1920 at Aligarh, Kashi Vidyapeeth in 1921 along with Gujarat Vidyapeeth and Bihar Vidyapeeth**.
- **Many lawyers like Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, C.R. Das etc gave up their practices**.
- **The Tilak Swaraj Fund was established** to finance the movement and it was oversubscribed, and one crore rupees were collected.
- **Congress volunteer corps were established**.
- **July 1921: Ali brothers asked Muslims to resign from the Army** calling it irreligious.
- **Gandhiji supported the call and a similar resolution was passed** by the Congress committees. The **Ali brothers were arrested for this**.

Chauri Chaura Incident

- **February 5, 1922: The police beat up the leader of a group of volunteers campaigning** against liquor sales and high food prices and then opened fire on a Congress procession of 3000 peasants at **Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **To avenge this, the agitated crowd torched the police station with policemen inside** who had taken shelter there, killing 22 policemen.
- **Gandhi, on witnessing the violent trend of the movement, immediately announced the withdrawal of the non-cooperation movement**.
- **C.R. Das, Motilal Nehru, Subhash Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru did not support the suspension** of the movement.
- In March 1922, **Gandhiji was arrested and sentenced to six years in jail**.

6 CHAPTER

The Struggle for Swaraj (1925-1939)

Revolutionary activity during the 1920s

Hindustan Republican Association/Army (Hindustan Socialist Republican Association)-

- Established in 1924 in Kanpur by Ramprasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee and Sachin Sanyal.
- Aim: To organize an armed revolution against the British.
- 9th August 1925: carried out a robbery k/a the Kakori robbery.

Kakori Conspiracy Case

- The men held up the 8-Down train at Kakori near Lucknow, and looted the treasury.
- Government arrested many leaders of whom 17 were jailed, four were transported for life and four Bismil, Ashfaqullah, Roshan Singh, and Rajendra Lahiri were hanged.
- 1928: The HRA was renamed the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) at Feroz Shah Kotla in Delhi under the leadership of Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh.
- Associated leaders: Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Bhagwaticharan Vohra, Bejoy Kumar Sinha, Shiv Verma, Jaidev Kapur.
- Socialism was adopted as the goal of HSRA.

Saunders Assassination

- 17th December 1928: A police officer named Saunders was shot dead by Bhagat Singh, Azad, and Rajguru (Saunders was responsible for lathi-charging Lala Lajpat Rai in Lahore during the anti-Simon protest, which led to Lala's death).

Bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly

- 8th April 1929: Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly to protest against Public Safety Bill and Trade Disputes Bill to curtail civil liberties.
- No one was harmed since the bombs were aimed at making 'the deaf hear'.
- The objective of the mission was to get arrested and to use the trial court as a forum to make people aware of their movement and ideology.
- 23rd March 1931: Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru were hanged in the Lahore conspiracy case.

- Jatin Das died on the 64th day of his fast.
- Azad was involved in an incident to blow up Viceroy Irwin's train near Delhi in December 1929. Escaped police arrest and was later shot in an encounter in a park in Allahabad in February 1931.

Chittagong Armoury Raid (April 1930)

- Surya Sen: Associated with the Non-Cooperation Movement and was a teacher in the national school in Chittagong.
- He was behind bars from 1926 to 1928 for his revolutionary activity.
- Surya Sen founded the Indian Republican Army.
- Sen, along with Anant Singh, Ganesh Ghosh, and Lokenath Baul, organized armed rebellion
- Planned to attack two main armories in Chittagong to seize and supply arms to the revolutionaries and to dislocate the railway link of Chittagong with the rest of Bengal.
- April 1930: raid was conducted under the banner of the Indian Republican Army Chittagong Branch.
- Raid was successful; Sen hoisted national flag and declared provisional revolutionary government.
- Sen was arrested in February 1933 and hanged in January 1934.
- Women revolutionaries associated with the IRA: Pritilata Waddedar, who died conducting a raid; and Kalpana Dutt who was arrested and tried along with Surya Sen and given a life sentence.

Simon Commission (1927)

- Government of India Act, 1919: A review committee on its working was to be set up after 10 years
- Simon commission: An all-white, 7-member Indian Statutory Commission, popularly appointed by British government under Stanley Baldwin's prime ministership and Sir John Simon as its chairman.
- The commission was tasked to give recommendations to the British government as to whether India was ready for further constitutional reforms and along what lines.
- February 3, 1928: The commission arrived in India, a nationwide hartal was organized and mass rallies were held.
- Commission was welcomed with black flag demonstrations, hartals, and slogans of 'Simon Go Back'.

- The **police came down brutally on demonstrators**; they were lathi-charged, not sparing even the senior leaders.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru and G.B. Pant was beaten up in Lucknow.**
- **Lala Lajpat Rai suffered severe blows on his chest in October 1928.** Later on November 17, 1928, Rai succumbed to injuries.

Recommendations of the Simon Commission

- **Abolition of dyarchy** and representative government in the provinces with autonomy.
- **Governor to have discretionary power** concerning internal security and administrative powers to protect the different communities.
- The number of members of the provincial legislative council is to be increased.
- It **rejected parliamentary responsibility** at the center.
- The **separate communal electorates are retained**
- **No universal franchise.**
- **No federalism as of now**; it suggested **Consultative Council of Greater India** should be established which should **include representatives of both the British provinces as well as princely states.**
- **North-West Frontier Province** and **Baluchistan to have local legislatures**, and the right to be represented at the center.
- **Sindh to be separated** from Bombay, and Burma to be separated from India.
- The **Indian army** should be **Indianized** and British forces must be retained.

Delhi Proposals of Muslim League (1927)

- **December 1927: Muslim leaders met at Delhi for their session and laid down four demands** to be incorporated into the draft constitution.
- These **proposals were accepted by Congress at its Madras session** (December 1927). It came to be k/a the 'Delhi Proposals'. These were:
 - **Joint electorates** in place of separate electorates.
 - **Reserved seats** for Muslims
 - **One-third representation** of Muslims in Central Legislative Assembly
 - **Punjab and Bengal-** Representation of Muslims in proportion to their population
 - Formation of three new Muslim majority provinces— Sindh, Baluchistan, and North-West Frontier Province.

Nehru Report (1928)

- **Given by: Motilal nehru (Not Jawahar Lal Nehru)**
- **Lord Birkenhead**, the Conservative Secretary of State, **justified the matter of exclusion of Indians** from the Simon Commission.

- As an answer to Lord Birkenhead's challenge, **an All Parties Conference met in February 1928** and **appointed a subcommittee** under the chairmanship of **Motilal Nehru to draft a constitution of India.**
- **The report was finalized by August 1928.**
- All the **recommendations of the Nehru Committee were accepted** by the leaders except for one- while the majority favored the "**dominion status**".

Main Recommendations of the Report

- **Dominion status** on lines of self-governing dominions.
- **Rejection of separate electorates**, instead, demand for **joint electorates** with reservation of seats for Muslims at the Centre and in provinces where they were in a minority
- **Linguistic organization of provinces.**
- Demand for **Fundamental rights** including equal rights for women, the right to form unions, and universal adult suffrage.
- **Responsible government** at the Centre and in provinces.
- **Full protection** is to be given to the cultural and religious interests of Muslims.
- **No interference** of the state in religion.

Jinnah's Fourteen Points

- **Federal Constitution with residual powers to provinces.**
- **Provincial autonomy.**
- **Concurrence of states necessary for any constitutional amendment by the center.**
- All legislatures and elected bodies to have **adequate representation of Muslims** in every province.
- Adequate representation to **Muslims in the services and self-governing bodies.**
- **One-third of Muslim representation in the central legislature.**
- In **any cabinet at the center or in the provinces, one-third was to be Muslims.**
- **Separate electorates.**
- **No bill or resolution is to be passed in any legislature if three-fourths of a minority community is not in favor of that bill/resolution.**
- **Any territorial readjustment to not affect the Muslim majority** in Punjab, Bengal, and NWFP.
- **Separation of Sindh from Bombay.**
- **Constitutional reforms in the NWFP and Balochistan.**
- **Full religious freedom to all communities.**
- **Protection of cultural, religious, educational, and linguistic rights of Muslims.**

Irwin's Declaration (October 31, 1929)

- Made **before the Simon Commission report came out.**
- It was the **combined effort of the Labour government and a Conservative viceroy.**
- It **promised Dominion Status to India, without a time scale.**
- **A Round Table Conference was promised after the Simon Commission submitted its report.**

Delhi Manifesto (November 1929)

- **Delhi Manifesto:** Put forward certain conditions for attending the Round Table Conference
- **The purpose of the Round Table Conference should be not to assess** whether or when dominion status was to be given **but to formulate a constitution for implementation of the dominion status.**
- **Congress to have majority representation at the conference.**
- **Pardoning the sentences of political prisoners.**
- **December 1929:** Gandhiji along with Motilal Nehru and other political leaders met Lord Irwin to discuss these demands.
- **Lord Irwin rejected the demands put forward in the Delhi Manifesto.**

Lahore Session of the Congress (1929)

- **Jawaharlal Nehru** was nominated the president for the **Lahore session of the Congress** in December 1929 mainly due to Gandhiji's backing.

Major decisions taken at the Lahore session

- **Boycott of Round Table Conference.**
- **The goal of Congress was Complete independence.**
- **Launch of civil disobedience** including non-payment of taxes and resignation of all members of legislatures.
- **January 26, 1930, was fixed as the first Independence (Purna Swaraj) Day,** to be celebrated everywhere. **(This is the reason why the nationalist leaders chose 26 January 1950 as the date of enactment of the Constitution even when it was completed on 26 November 1949)**
- **On December 31, 1929,** at midnight on the **banks of River Ravi, the newly adopted tricolor flag of freedom** was hoisted by **Jawaharlal Nehru** amidst slogans of 'Inquilab Zindabad.'
- **On January 26, 1930, an Independence Pledge was drafted by Gandhiji.** It was read out in local languages across the country and the national flag was hoisted.

Civil Disobedience Movement (1930)

Gandhi's Eleven Demands

Issues of General Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 50% reduction in expenditure on Army and civil services.● Introduce total prohibition.● Bring out reforms in Criminal Investigation Department (CID).● Change in Arms Act.● Release of political prisoners.● Accept Postal Reservation Bill.
Specific Bourgeois Demands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reduce rupee-sterling exchange ratio to 1s 4d● Introduce textile protection.● Reserve coastal shipping for Indians.
Specific Peasant Demands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reduce land revenue by 50%.● Abolish salt tax and the government's salt monopoly.

Dandi March (March 12-April 6, 1930)

- **02 March 1930:** Gandhiji informed Viceroy Irwin of his plan of action.
- **Gandhiji,** along with **78 members of Sabarmati Ashram,** was to march Sabarmati ashram to **Dandi** through the villages of Gujarat for 240 miles.
- **Started: on March 12,** when Gandhiji along with 78 followers marched from **Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi.**
- **Concluded: on April 6** when Gandhiji **broke salt law by picking up a lump of salt** at Dandi. (240 miles in 24 days).
- **March triggered defiance of salt laws all over the country.**
- **Gandhiji openly asked people to make salt and violate the salt law.**

Spread of Salt Law Disobedience

- **After 6th April, the defiance of the salt laws started all over the country.**
- **Nehru was arrested in April 1930** for defiance of the salt law.
- **The arrest evoked huge demonstrations in Madras, Calcutta, and Karachi.**
- **Gandhiji was arrested on May 4, 1930,** when he had announced that he would lead a raid on Dharasana Salt Works on the west coast.
- **Gandhi's arrest was followed by massive protests** in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, and Sholapur, where the response was the fiercest.
- **After Gandhi's arrest, the CWC sanctioned**
 - Non-payment of revenue in ryotwari areas
 - No-chowkidar-tax campaign in zamindari areas
 - Violation of forest laws in the Central Provinces.

Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931)

- **25 Jan 1935:** With the efforts of Tej Bahadur Sapru, Dr. Jayakar, and S.S.Shastri, **Gandhiji and all other members of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) were released unconditionally and the British agreed to negotiate with Gandhiji.**
- A pact was signed b/w **viceroy Irwin and Gandhi**, in Delhi on February 14, 1931.
- This Delhi Pact, aka the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact**, placed Congress on an equal footing with the government.
- **Irwin on behalf of the government agreed on**
 - Immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted of violence
 - Remission of all fines not yet collected
 - Return of all lands not yet sold to third parties
 - Leniency in treatment to those government servants who had resigned
 - Right to make salt in coastal villages for personal consumption (not for sale)
 - Right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing
 - Withdrawal of emergency ordinances.
- **Gandhiji on behalf of the Congress agreed**
 - To suspend the civil disobedience movement
 - To participate in the next Round Table Conference on the constitutional question.
- **After Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Gandhiji decided to suspend the civil disobedience movement**
- **The youth was disappointed**, as they had participated enthusiastically.
- **Peasants of Gujarat were disappointed** as their lands were not restored immediately.

The Round Table Conferences

- The **Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin, and the Prime Minister of Britain, Ramsay MacDonald, agreed for round table conferences as announced by Lord Irwin on October 31, 1929.**

First Round Table Conference

- The **first conference in which the British and the Indians were treated as equals.**
- **Not attended:** Congress and business leaders.
- **Attended by:** Muslim league, hindu mahasabha, princes, untouchables and sikhs
- **Two women, Begum Jahanara Shahnawaz and Radhabai Subbarayan took part in the conference.**
- **Others that attended:** The Liberals, Indian Christians, Europeans, landlords from Bihar, United Provinces and Orissa, workers, and the Justice Party.
- **The Depressed Classes were represented by B.R. Ambedkar and Rettamalai Srinivasan.**

- The **Government of India** was represented by **Narendra Nath Law, Bhupendra Nath Mitra, C.P. Ramaswami Iyer, and M. Ramachandra Rao.**
- **The conference failed due to the non-attendance of Congress.** Civil disobedience continued in India.

Second Round Table Conference

- **Location:** London b/w September 7, 1931, to December 1, 1931.
- **Congress was represented by Gandhiji at the Conference**
- **A. Rangaswami Iyengar and Madan Mohan Malaviya** also were present at the Conference.
- **Attended by:** The princely states, Muslim League led by Aga Khan III, Hindu Mahasabha, the Liberals, Justice Party, Sikhs, Parsis, Indian Christians, Industry, Labours.
- **The Depressed Classes were represented by B.R. Ambedkar and Rettamalai Srinivasan.**
- **Sarojini Naidu, Begum Jahanara Shahnawaz, and Radhabai Subbarayan represented women at the conference.**
- **Gandhiji put forward the demand for the immediate establishment of a responsible government at the centre as well as in the provinces.**
- **rejected idea of a separate electorate for Muslims and untouchables as they also were Hindus.**
- **Gandhiji returned empty-handed to India** on December 28, 1931.

Third Round Table Conference

- **Duration:** b/w November 17, 1932, and December 24, 1932.
- **Not attended by the Indian National Congress or Gandhiji.**
- **The Princely states took part in the conference.**
- **Muslim League led by Aga Khan III, Depressed Classes led by B.R. Ambedkar, took part in the conference.**
- A **White paper** was published in March 1933 containing the recommendations of the conference.
- **A Joint Select Committee was formed** to study the recommendations and formulate a new Act for India.
- Based on the recommendations of the committee, a **draft Bill was produced** in February 1935 which was enforced as the **Government of India Act of 1935.**

Communal Award and Poona Pact

- **Announced by the British prime minister, Ramsay MacDonald, on August 16, 1932.**
- **The award was based on the findings of the Indian Franchise Committee (Lothian Committee).**

- The **award provided for separate electorates and reserved seats** for minorities, including the depressed classes which were granted seventy-eight reserved seats.
- **The Congress considered this award as another British weapon of divide and rule.**

Main Provisions of the Communal Award

- **Separate electorate for:** Muslims, Europeans, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, depressed classes, women, and even the Marathas.
- **Such an arrangement for the depressed classes was to be made for 20 years.**
- **Communal representation of seats** at provincial legislatures.
- **Doubling of existing seats** of the provincial legislatures.
- **3% of seats were to be reserved for women** in all provinces except in the Northwest Frontier Province.
- The **depressed classes are to be declared a minority.**
- The **depressed classes were to get 'double vote'**, one to be used through separate electorates and the other to be used in the general electorates.
- **Allocation of seats was to be made for laborers, landlords, traders, and industrialists.**

Gandhi's Response

- **Rejected the Communal award** as it attacked Indian unity and nationalism.
- Demanded a **joint electorate** in place of a separate electorate through the universal franchise.
- **20 sept. 1932:** Gandhiji undertook a **fast unto death** to oppose the award.
- A **deadlock was created b/w Gandhiji and Ambedkar**, who was in favor of separate electorates for depressed classes.

Poona Pact

- **Signed b/w: Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** (on behalf of the depressed classes)

- It **abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes** and instead **seats reserved for them in provincial legislatures were increased from 71 to 147.**
- The **Central Legislature had to reserve 18% of all seats** for members of depressed classes.
- A **joint electorate** b/w Caste Hindus and the Depressed Classes.
- The government accepted the Pact.
- **Even after signing the Poona Pact, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar continued to denounce the Poona Pact till 1947.**

Government of India Act, 1935

- It **called for the formation of an All-India federation** with provinces and princely states as components.
- The **federal list, provincial list, and concurrent list were used to apportion powers between the centre and the units.** The Viceroy was given residuary powers. This union, however, never came to fruition because princely states refused to participate.
- It **ended dyarchy in the provinces and replaced it with "provincial autonomy."**
- The **legislation established responsible government in the provinces**, requiring the governor to act on the advice of ministers who were accountable to the provincial assembly.
- It **called for the establishment of dyarchy at the centre. This clause, however, was never implemented.**
- **Bicameralism was introduced** in six provinces, Bengal, Bombay Madras, Bihar, Assam, and the United Provinces.
- **Separate electorates were also established for the poor, women, and labour.**
- The **1858 statute that constituted the Council of India was repealed.** Instead, the secretary of state was given a staff of advisers.
- The **Federal Public Service Commission, Provincial Public Service Commissions, Joint Public Service Commissions, Federal Court, and Reserve Bank of India were all established under the legislation.**

7 CHAPTER

Towards Independence (1940-1947)

Lahore Resolution of the Muslim League (1940)

- **March 1940:** The Muslim League passed the “Pakistan Resolution” and put forward its demand for a separate autonomous region for Muslims.
- It demanded to group of all those areas where Muslims were in majority.
- Earlier, Sir Muhammad Iqbal had suggested grouping NWFP, Baluchistan, Sindh and Kashmir into an autonomous Muslim state within the federation.
- He was the one who inspired the movement for a separate nation for Muslims.
- The credit for coining the term “Pakistan” goes to Chaudhary Rehmat Ali, a student of Cambridge University.

August Offer (1940)

- **Germany’s success under Hitler** after the Second World War and the consequent fall of Belgium, Holland and France put England in a pacifying mood.
- As the war in Europe was changing, Congress was in a dilemma whether to support or take advantage of the British in the war.
- **Gandhiji and Nehru** were strongly against the idea of taking advantage of Britain’s position.
- The Congress, ready to compromise, asked the Government to let it form an interim government during the war period.
- The Government refused to accept the offer and came up with an alternate solution to get the cooperation of India in the war.
- **Linlithgow** made an offer known as the **August Offer on 8th August 1940** to gain the support of Indians in the war.

Proposals

- India is to be granted **dominion status**.
- **Expansion of the viceroy’s executive council** which would have a majority of Indians (drawn from major political parties)
- **Setting up a constituent assembly** after the war where mainly Indians would frame the constitution.
- **Consent of minorities** must be adopted for the future constitution.
- **Establishment of a war advisory council**

Individual Satyagraha (1941)

- Launched by Gandhiji upon the failure of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- The British's claim of India’s support during the war angered the Congress.
- Britishers issued ordinance after ordinance taking away the freedom of speech and that of the press and the right to organise associations.
- Gandhiji gave a call for limited satyagraha.
- The satyagrahi would demand the right to freedom of speech expressing his anger against the war.
- Came to be k/a the ‘Delhi Chalo Movement’.
- **Vinoba Bhave** in 1940 was the first to launch individual Satyagraha at Wardha, Maharashtra and **Nehru** was the second satyagrahi followed by **Brahma Datt**

The Cripps Mission (1942)

- After the failure of the August Offer, a mission headed by **Stafford Cripps** was sent to India in March 1942, to seek Indian support in the war.
- The reverses suffered by Britain in South-East Asia and the **Japanese threat to invade India** made the British conscious.
- There was pressure on Britain to seek Indian cooperation in the war.
- **Stafford Cripps** had actively supported the Indian national movement. He was a left-wing Labourite, the leader of the House of Commons and a member of the British War Cabinet.
- **Main proposals**
 - **Dominion status** for India after the war
 - **India is free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth**, the United Nations and other international bodies.
 - After the **end of the war**, a **constituent assembly** consisting of members of British India, as well as the Princely States, was to be convened to frame a new constitution.
 - Members of the assembly were **partly elected** by the provincial assemblies and **partly nominated** by the princes.
 - **Any province not willing to join the Union could form a separate Union**

- Until the constitution was prepared, **Defence of India** to remain in British hands and **the governor-general's powers would remain intact.**
- The proposals of **Cripps mission differed from the proposals** put forward by the British in the past as now-
- The Constitution-making power was rested solely in **Indian hands** (and not 'mainly' in Indian hands—as contained in the August Offer).
- Provinces were given the **freedom to remain independent** and have **separate constitutions.**
- Option to decide its relations with the Commonwealth.

Quit India Movement (1942)

- **Launched by Gandhi and congress** after the failure of the Cripps mission.
- The **CWC met at Wardha on July 14, 1942**, and accepted the idea of a struggle.
- The failure of the **Cripps Mission exposed the unchanged attitude of the British** on constitutional advance.
- The British evacuation of South-East Asia, leaving the people to their destiny, broke white prestige and exposed the rulers' discriminatory mentality.
- The masses became more dissatisfied as prices rose and supplies of rice, salt, and other essentials became scarce.
- The '**Quit India**' resolution was passed by the **All-India Congress Committee on 8th August 1942, at Gowalia Tank in Bombay.**
- The resolution was **proposed by Jawaharlal Nehru and seconded by Sardar Patel.**
- **Gandhiji gave** the slogan of Quit India in August 1942 and on the night of 8th August, he gave the slogan "**Do or Die**".
- **The resolution aimed at-**
 - **End to British rule** in India
 - **Forming a provisional Government** of India after British withdrawal.
 - **Launch of civil disobedience movement against British rule.**
 - **A commitment of free India to defend itself against all types of Fascism and imperialism.**
- The day after the resolution was passed, the Congress Working Committee, the **All-India Congress Committee and the Provincial Congress Committees were banned under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908.**
- All **prominent leaders like Patel and Nehru were arrested** and taken to unknown destinations.
- **Public meetings were prohibited.**
- The **major leaders behind bars**, a young leader **Aruna Asaf Ali** presided over the Congress committee session on August 9 and hoisted the flag.

- **Masses attacked vital government institutions** such as police stations, post offices, railway stations, telegraph lines, etc. and hoisted national flags on public buildings.
- **Government buildings were burnt and communication lines disturbed.**
- **United Provinces and Bihar witnessed the maximum protests.**
- **Many nationalists** like Rammanohar Lohia, Jayaprakash Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Usha Mehta, Biju Patnaik, Chhotubhai Puranik, Achyut Patwardhan, Sucheta Kripalani, **went underground and took to subversive activities.**
- **An underground radio was started by Usha Mehta in Bombay.**

Parallel governments

- **Ballia** (in August 1942 for a week) under **Chittu Pandey**, Congress leaders released.
- **Tamluk** (Midnapore, from December 1942 to September 1944) under **Jatiya Sarkar**, Cyclone relief work.
- **Satara** (mid-1943 to 1945)—named "**Prati Sarkar**", was organised under leaders like Y.B. Chavan, Nana Patil, etc. and in Talcher (Orissa).
- **10 Feb to 3 March 1943: Gandhiji started a fast** (21 days- longest fast of Gandhiji) **against his unlawful detention by the Government.**

Rajagopalachari Formula (1944)

- **Named the C.R. Formula** after its proponent, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari.
- He prepared a formula for **Congress-League cooperation in 1944.**
- **The formula was a tacit acceptance of the League's demand for Pakistan.**
- **Gandhiji supported the formula.**
- **The main points in the CR Plan**
 - **Appointment of a commission to demarcate the boundaries** of the Muslim majority regions in North-west and Eastern India.
 - **Muslim League to accept Congress demand for independence** and support them in the formation of an interim government.
 - After the war, the entire population of **Muslim majority areas** in the North-West and North-East India to **decide by a plebiscite**, whether or not to form a **separate sovereign state.**
 - In case of acceptance of partition, a **joint safeguard** for defence, commerce, communications, etc.
 - The above **terms are to be operative only in case of full transfer of power to India.**

Desai-Liaquat Pact (1945)

- Resolve the League - Congress deadlock
- **January 1945: Bhulabhai Desai and Liaquat Ali Khan drafted a proposal for the formation of an interim government at the centre:**
 - Congress and League nominates equal members in the central legislature.
 - 20% reserved seats for minorities (including Sikhs and Scheduled Castes)
 - The Government of India Act, 1935 will serve as a guideline for the formation of Government.
- No settlement reached b/w Congress and League.

Wavell Plan (1945)

- The Japanese threat forced the Conservative government in Britain led by Churchill to solve the constitutional deadlock in India.
- The viceroy, Lord Wavell was made to negotiate with Indian leaders who had just been released from jail on 1st June 1945.
- **Shimla Conference: June 1945-** 21 Indians were convened by the viceroy, Lord Wavell to discuss the wavell plan at Shimla.
- **The main proposals**
 - Except the governor-general and the commander-in-chief, all executive council members to be Indian.
 - Hindus and Muslims to have equal representation in the Executive council.
 - Council to function within the framework of the GOI Act 1935.
 - Veto power of the governor general to be exercised on the advice of ministers.
 - Future channels for negotiation kept open for negotiations on a new constitution once the war was finally won.
 - Muslim League was not entitled to nominate all the Muslim representatives.

Subhash Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army (INA)

- S.C Bose passed the Indian Civil Services examination but resigned from the service in 1921 and joined Congress to fight for freedom.
- Chittaranjan Das was his political guru.
- **1938:** Set up National Planning Committee with Jawaharlal Nehru as the President.
- **1939:** He defeated Pittabhi Sittaramaiyya (supported by Gandhiji) and became the president of the Congress for the second time.
- **Ideological differences:** Resigned from the post of Congress Presidentship at the 1939 session of INC held at Tripuri (Madhya Pradesh).

- **1939:** He laid the foundation of Forward Bloc.
- **1940:** Bose convened an Anti-Compromise Conference at Ramgarh to give a call to the people to not help the Imperialist War with any resource—men, money or materials.
- **For this, Bose was arrested in July 1940.**
- **Following a hunger strike, he was released from prison in December 1940, and placed under house arrest.**
- **January 1941:** Bose had escaped to Germany via Afghanistan.
- **April 1941:** He met Hitler under the pseudonym, Orlando Mazzotta.
- **Bose was called 'Netaji' by German and Indian officials.**
- Gave the famous slogan, 'Jai Hind' from the Free India Centre, Germany.
- **1942:** Established the "Azad hind radio" in Germany.
- **Jan. 1943:** He left Germany and reached Singapore in July of the same year and assumed the charge of Supreme Commander of the Indian National Army which was raised by Captain Mohan Singh in 1942.
- **Oct. 1943:** Laid the foundation of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind.
 - Headquarters at Rangoon and Singapore.
- Gave the slogan "You give me blood, and I will give you freedom" in Burma.

Origin of the Indian National Army

- **Raised by Captain Mohan Singh** from amongst Indian prisoners of war (POWs) in 1942.
- **Sept. 1942:** The first division of INA was formed with 16,300 men.
- **Conference in Bangkok:** Decided to place the INA under an Indian Independence League under the chairmanship of Rashbehari Bose.
- **The League was established in 1942 in Tokyo.**
- **1943:** Rashbehari Bose transferred the control and leadership of the Indian Independence League and the INA to Subhash Chandra Bose.
- **25th August 1943:** Subhash Bose became Supreme Commander of the INA.
- **Rani jhansi Regiment:** A women's regiment formed within INA.
- **INA headquarters was shifted to Rangoon (in Burma)** in January 1944, and the army recruits were to march from there to Delhi shouting the war cry "Chalo Delhi".
- **November 6, 1943:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands were renamed Shahid Dweep and Swaraj Dweep respectively after the Japanese army gave these islands to the INA.

- **March 1944:** The Azad Hind Fauz crossed the Burma border and stood on Indian soil
- **May 1944:** INA conquered Imphal and Kohima. The battalion was led by **Shah Nawaz** accompanied by the Japanese army.
- **6 July 1944:** Bose addressed Mahatma Gandhiji as the 'Father of Nation', from the Azad Hind Radio.
- **15 August 1945:** Japan surrendered in the Second World War resulting in INA surrender.
- **18 August 1945:** Subhash Bose died mysteriously in an air crash at Taipei (Taiwan).

INA Trials at the Red Fort (November 1945)

- The INA officers court martialed at Red Fort in Delhi.
- Initially **Prem Kumar Sehgal (a Hindu), Shah Nawaz Khan (a Muslim), and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon (a Sikh)** charged with treason were trialed.
- **Bhulabhai Desai:** The chief defence advocate of the INA prisoners.
- **Other defendants:** Tej Bahadur Sapru, Kailash Nath Katju, Jawaharlal Nehru, Jinnah and Asaf Ali.
- **Found guilty:** Officers were court-martialled but widespread agitation resulted in the suspension of their sentences.
- **Supporters of INA:** Muslim League, Communist Party, Unionists, Akalis, Justice Party, Ahrars in Rawalpindi, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Hindu Mahasabha and the Sikh League.

General Elections (1945-46)

- **Lord Wavell** announced the Central legislative assembly and the Council of State election on 19th September 1945, however, held in December 1945.
- **The Congress won 59 out of 102** total seats in the Central Assembly and 91% of non-Muslim votes.
- **In the provincial elections, it got a majority in most provinces except in Bengal, Sindh and Punjab.**
- **Muslim League got 86.6% of the Muslim votes.**
 - It won the 30 reserved seats in the Central Assembly and claimed the majority in Bengal and Sindh.
- Unlike in 1937, now the League established itself as the dominant party among Muslims.
- The leaders did not campaign just for seeking votes but used elections as an opportunity to lead the final action for India's freedom.

Three Upsurges—Winter of 1945-46

- **November 21, 1945**—Calcutta over the INA trials.
- **February 11, 1946**—Calcutta against the seven-year sentence to INA officer Rashid Ali.
- **February 18, 1946**—Bombay, a strike by the Royal Indian Navy ratings.

The Cabinet Mission (1946)

- **February 1946:** Labour party under Clement Attlee announced to send a high-powered mission to India for a negotiated and peaceful transfer of power
- **Members:** Pethick Lawrence, Secretary of State for India; Stafford Cripps, and A.V. Alexander.
- **Chairman:** Pethick Lawrence.
- **24 March 1946:** The Cabinet Mission reached Delhi and met Indian leaders of all parties and groups on the issues of an interim government, and the principles and procedures for framing a new constitution.

Objectives

- To obtain an agreement with the Indian leaders as to the framing of a constitution for India.
- To formulate a constitution-making body (the Constituent Assembly of India).
- To establish an Executive Council with the support of the major Indian parties.

Main Points of the plan

- Rejected the demand for a full-fledged Pakistan.
- Three-tier government at provincial, section and union levels.
- A constituent assembly of 389 members (292- from provincial assemblies, 93 from princely states and 4 from chief commissioner's provinces) was to be elected by provincial assemblies by proportional representation.
- A separate constitution for provinces by each group separately, and a common Union Constitution to be framed by all three sections together.
- Common control of defence, communication and external affairs.
- A federal structure for India.
- Provinces vested with residual powers.
- Princely states were no longer to be under the paramountcy of the British government and were free to enter into an arrangement with successor governments or the British government.
- An interim government was to be formed from the constituent assembly.
- **Congress Reaction:** The Cabinet Mission Plan was against the creation of Pakistan since grouping was optional.
- The Muslim League believed Pakistan to be implied in the compulsory grouping. (The Mission later clarified that the grouping was compulsory.)
- The Muslim League on June 6 and the Congress on June 24, 1946, accepted the Cabinet Mission Plan.
- **July 1946:** Elections were held in provincial assemblies for the Constituent Assembly and on July 29, 1946, the League withdrew its acceptance from the plan and gave a call for "direct action" from August 16 for the creation of Pakistan.

Interim Government

- Formed on September 2, 1946.
- Muslim League joined the Interim Government on October 26, 1946, on the insistence of Wavell. It, however, refused to join the Constituent Assembly.
- Interim government: Entrusted with the task of assisting the British Government in the transfer of power to India.
 - To act as an administrative body for the period b/w 1946-1947.
- The interim government was composed of princely states, presidencies and provinces.

Council of Ministers Under Interim Government	
Office	Name
Viceroy and Governor-General of India	Lord Mountbatten
Commander-in-chief	Sir Claude Auchinleck (Britain)
Vice President of Executive Council	Jawaharlal Nehru
Home Affairs, information and Broadcasting	Vallabhbhai Patel (INC)
Agriculture and Food	Rajendra Prasad (INC)
Commerce	Ibrahim Ismail Chundrigar (Muslim League)
Education and Arts	C. Rajagopalachari
Defence	Baldev Singh
Finance	Liaquat Ali Khan (Muslim League)
Health	Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Muslim League)
Industries and Supplies	Dr John Mathai
Labour	Jagjivan Ram
Law	Jogendra Nath Mandal (Muslim League)
Posts and Air	Abdur Rab Nishtar (Muslim League)
Railways and Communications	Asaf Ali
Work, Mines and Power	C.H. Bhabha

- The Constituent Assembly held its first meeting on 9th December 1946 in which the Muslim League did not participate.
- The League even refused to attend the informal meetings of the cabinet to make decisions.
- They were critical of the appointments made by the Congress members.
- Liaqat Ali Khan as the finance minister restricted the functioning of other ministries.
- When the League joined the Interim Government, Congress demanded that the British get the League to change its attitude in the Interim Government or quit.

- February 1947: Nine Congress members wrote to the viceroy demanding the resignation of League members and threatening the withdrawal of their nominees.
- As a result, the League demanded the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly.

Formation of Constituent Assembly (1946)

- 9 December 1946: First meeting with Dr Sachidanand Sinha as the President.
- 11th December 1946: Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected the President of the Assembly.
- The League did not attend the Constituent Assembly.
- 13 committees were formed to draft the constitution. Dr B.R.Ambedkar was appointed the President of the Drafting Committee.
- 13 December 1946: The 'Objectives Resolution' drafted by Jawaharlal Nehru was placed before the assembly and it was passed on 22nd January 1947.
 - This Objectives Resolution was later incorporated into the Constitution as the "Preamble of India".
- Separate Assembly to frame the constitution of Pakistan.
- The constitution thus framed by the assembly was passed on 26 November 1949 and it came to force on 26 January 1950, establishing India into the Sovereign Republic.

Clement Attlee's Statement

- Clement Attlee (British prime minister) made a statement on February 20, 1947.
- The Main Points of Attlee's Statement
 - June 30, 1948, was fixed as the date for the transfer of power to India even if the Indians were not ready.
 - The British would transfer power either to some form of central government or to the existing provincial governments if the Muslim majority provinces did not join the Constituent Assembly.
 - British paramountcy over the princely states would lapse with the transfer of power, but these would not be transferred to any successor government in British India.
 - Mountbatten would replace Wavell as the viceroy of India.
- The date for transfer of power was fixed by the Government to avoid any constitutional crisis as the British's authority had declined after the war and it did not have sufficient resources to colonize much longer.
- Congress accepted the provision of transfer of power to one centre as it meant that the existing assembly could go ahead and frame a constitution for the areas represented by it.

- The League did not support the statement and launched a civil disobedience movement to overthrow the coalition government in Punjab.

Mountbatten Plan (3rd June 1947)

- **24 March 1947:** Mountbatten was appointed as viceroy of India.
- **3rd June 1947:** Mountbatten arrived in India and undertook the task of the final transfer of power from Britain to India.
- **Objective of his arrival:** To explore the options of unity and division till October 1947 and then advise the British government on the form of transfer of power.
- **The important points of the plan were as follows**
 - Punjab and Bengal Legislative Assemblies to meet in two groups, Hindus and Muslims, to vote for partition.
 - If a simple majority of either group voted for partition, then these provinces would be partitioned, in which case, **two dominions and two constituent assemblies would be created.**
 - Sindh would take its own decision.
 - Establishment of a **boundary commission** in case of partition.
 - **Referendums in NWFP and Sylhet district of Bengal** to choose whether to join India or Pakistan in case of partition.
 - **Independence for princely states was ruled out.** They either had to join India or Pakistan
 - **Independence for Bengal ruled out**
 - **Accession of Hyderabad to Pakistan was ruled out.**
 - **Transfer of power to take place on August 15, 1947, not in June 1948 as mentioned in Attlee's statement.**
- The plan was accepted by the British Parliament and it led to the passing of the Indian Independence Act on 5th July 1947, which received royal assent on 18 July 1947.
- **In favour of Partition:** legislative assemblies of Bengal and Punjab.
- **Remained with india:** East Bengal and West Punjab joined Pakistan; West Bengal and East Punjab.

- Sylhet joined East Bengal and in NWFP, the followers of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan boycotted the referendum, and the rest of the population decided in favour of Pakistan.
- Balochistan and Sindh decided to go with Pakistan.
- All the princely states signed the instrument of accession with India. However, four princely states namely, Manipur, Junagadh, Hyderabad and Kashmir decided to remain independent.

Indian Independence Act, 1947

- **July 5, 1947:** The British Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act based on the Mountbatten Plan, which received royal assent on July 18, 1947, and it was implemented on August 15, 1947.

Provision of the Act

- The Act provided for the **partition of India** and the creation of two independent dominions of India and Pakistan with effect from August 15, 1947.
- The boundary for the two dominions was fixed as per the recommendations of the **Boundary Commission (headed by Sir Cyril Radcliffe).**
- A common governor-general for both the dominions if so agreed by them. However, after the partition, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was appointed the Governor-General of India while **C. Rajagoplachari was made the Governor-General of Independent India.**
- The governments of the two dominions would function per the Government of India Act, 1935 until the **new constitution was drafted.**
- **British paramountcy and suzerainty over the Indian states as well as all its treaties and agreements would lapse on August 15, 1947.**
- **No bill to be reserved for the British Crown in future.**
- The office of **Secretary of State for India to be abolished.**
- The **constituent assembly of each new dominion would function as the legislature** of that dominion, and the existing Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of States would automatically dissolve.
- **As per the provisions of the Act, Pakistan became independent on August 14 while India achieved its freedom on August 15, 1947**