

MODERN INDIAN HISTORY 1857 - 1947

Sepoy Mutiny - 1857

- Sepoy Mutiny also known as Sepoy Rebellion is considered as India's first war of Independence.
- On 10 th May 1857 AD, this famous rebellion of Indian history was started by Indian local soldiers (Sepoy) of British East India Company against the British Empire.
- Soon it reached to different places and became a widespread movement.
- Although the movement was unsuccessful and ended in 1858 AD, it was the foundation stone of the independence movement of India.

Causes of the rebellion

- There were several reasons which finally led to the major rebellion of Indian soldiers against British.
- The main cause started 10 months prior to the actual outbreak due to General Service Enlistment Act 1856.
- This Act empowered British to deploy Indian Army in overseas assignments.
- Indian Army personnel had to sign a declaration at the time of joining the force that they would work in the overseas assignment of the East India Company if necessary.
- Majority of the soldiers didn't have any wish to work at so far distance.
- There was also unhappiness among the soldiers over the issue of promotions, based on seniority.
- Another reason was garnering recruits from all section of the populations of different castes which initiated the grievance among the high-caste sepoys as it was against the tradition that sons following their fathers into an Army.
- The final and the most vital reason of the rebellion was related to the ammunition "Pattern 1853 Enfield Rifle" used by the force.
- The rifle used paper cartridges which were pre-greased.
- Soldiers had to bite the cartridge to use it.
- There were rumors that the cartridges were greased with animal fat like pork and beef which caused an eruption of anger to the Hindu and Muslim soldiers.
- The rumors caused unrest in Bengal Army.
- On 29 th March 1857, Mangal Pandey of 34 th Bengal Native Infantry regiment attacked his British sergeant at the Barrackpore parade ground, near Calcutta.
- He fired Lt. Henry Baugh but missed his target and instead hit Baugh's horse.
- Mangal tried to commit suicide after the incident and initiated the ignition of nationalism in the hearts of millions of Indians.
- Mangal Pandey got injured and he was captured.
- This incident is termed as the initial stages of the Indian Rebellion of 1857.
- On 8 th April 1857, he was sentenced to death in Barrackpore.
- On 24 th April 1857, Indian soldiers of the 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry refused to accept the cartridges in a fire drill ordered by Lieutenant Colonel George Carmichael-Smyth.

- On 9 th May 1857, 85 policemen were court martialed and most of them were imprisoned for 10 years and few were jailed for 5 years.

The Sepoy Rebellion

- The major outbreak of Sepoy Rebellion started on 10 th May 1857, at the city of Meerut.
- The angry protesters set ablaze some of the buildings and attacked the officers and civilians quarters of British. Estimated 50 Europeans including soldiers, women and children were killed by angry sepoys.
- The angry mob freed their 85 imprisoned comrades from the jail with another 800 other prisoners. The next day the rebels rallied to Delhi.
- Many sepoy refused to obey the British orders to fight against the rebels and instead join the rebellion.
- On 12 th May 1857, Delhi came under the custody of the Sepoys.
- The Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah II agreed to support the rebellion against British.
- Soon the rebellion spread to different regions like Awadh, Lucknow, Bareilly, Agra, Jhansi, Central India, and to other places.
- The rebellion broke out in Awadh. Nana Sahib, the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao along with Tantia Tope led the mutiny in Kanpur of Uttar Pradesh. Rebels seized Kanpur on 5 th June 1857.
- Rani Lakshmi Bai, queen of princely state of Jhansi led the rebellion against the British.
- British Control The Sepoy Mutiny failed to sustain due to lack of leadership and coordination. Finally, the British under Governor-General Lord Canning controlled the first independence movement of India and suppressed the movement.
- On 20 th September 1857, Delhi came under the control of British East India Company.
- The last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II was exiled to Rangoon of Burma.
- In 1862, he died in exile at the age of 87.
- Nana Sahib and Tantia Tope were defeated by British and Kanpur was captured by British force led by General Campbell on 6 th December 1857.
- British East India Company force led by Sir Hugh Rose defeated Rani Lakshmi Bai in March 1858.
- Lucknow was recaptured by East India Company in March 1858.
- After the Sepoy Mutiny, British government took the direct control of the British occupied Indian territories from East India Company.
- British Government passed the "Government of India Act 1858" and the administration of the British occupied India was transferred to the Crown of Queen Victoria.

British Raj

- Introduction The term "British Raj" is used in Indian history to refer the British rule in India. The meaning of the word "Raj" in Indian languages is rule.
- In 1858, after the Sepoy Mutiny (1857 AD), British government took the direct control of the British occupied Indian territories from East India Company.
- British Government passed the "Government of India Act 1858" and the administration of the British occupied India was transferred to the Crown of Queen Victoria.

- Until independence in 1947 AD, India was under the rule of British Crown. The British government ruled a large area including present day India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma. In 1937, Burma was separated out from British India and became a separate colony of British.
- India became the independent nation on 15 th August 1947, one day after Pakistan's independence. Burma got its independence from British on 4 th January 1948.
- Important Facts Even at the time of British rule, there were many Princely States or Native States which were ruled by Indian ruler under indirect control of British. In 1947, when India became independent from British rule, there were 565 princely states which merged into India.

In 1885 AD, Indian National Congress

- a secular political party was founded which is regarded as one of the biggest milestones of independence movement against British raj.
- Gandhiji led three major independence movements to establish the independent India.
- 1. Non-Cooperation Movement (1920 to 1922 AD)
- 2. Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-1934 AD)
- 3. Quit India Movement (1942 AD)
- There were many other famous leaders who fought against British in the independent movement. Finally, in 15 th August 1947, India got independence and it ended the British Raj.
- East India Association was one of the predecessor organizations of the Indian National Congress. In 1866 AD, Dadabhai Naoroji established the organization in England.
- It served as a forum for raising the grievances against the mistreatment of British Government.
- The primary goal of this association was to bring up the Indian point of view before the British public.
- East India Association successfully counter acted the propaganda of London Ethnological Society that Europeans superior to Asians and Africans.
- Dadabhai wanted to show the real picture of the British in India to the British public in England. Different branches of the association were organized in major Indian cities.
- Indian could raise their voice of grievance to Britain through this association.
- This association was able to attract the support of Englishmen and showed a significant influence in the British Parliament.
- Dadabhai Naoroji believed that the British rule was not bad for India and it would be better for India's development.
- He believed that western education was good for India. He was also in support of the reforms and scientific inventions

Arya Samaj

- Introduction Arya Samaj is a Hindu reform movement started by Swami Dayananda Saraswati on 10 th April 1875 in Bombay, present day Mumbai.
- Swami Dayanand outlined a list of 28 rules and regulations for Arya Samaj.

- On 24 th June 1877, at the second Arya Samaj in Lahore, the original list of 28 rules and regulations were simplified and it was reduced to 10 Principles those are currently known around the world.
- Social and Religious Reform Arya Samaj doesn't believe the practices like polytheism (multiple deities), idolatry (worship of an idol), animal sacrifice, priest-craft, ancestor worship and strict rituals of Hinduism.
- It also opposes the ideology of untouchability, caste system and child marriage. Arya Samaj is also notably known for its support to female education, widow remarriage and inter-caste marriages.
- Arya Samaj has also major contribution on spreading education by establishing schools and colleges throughout the country.
- Arya Samaj is also known for its liberal practice of welcoming other religions people to embrace Hinduism.

Ten Principles of Arya Samaj

1. God, the Highest Lord (Parameshwar) is the primary cause of all true knowledge and true science.
 2. God is existent, blissful, formless, merciful, eternal, omniscient, almighty, unborn, endless, unchangeable, the support of all, the master of all, omnipresent, immanent, immortal, fearless, holy and the maker of all. He alone should be worshipped.
 3. Vedas are the scripture of true knowledge. It is the primary duty of all Aryas to read them, teach them, recite them, and listen to them.
 4. Everyone should be ready to accept truth and reject untruth.
 5. Every act should be performed according to the dictates of Dharma, i.e. after due consideration of right and wrong.
 6. The primary objective of Arya Samaj is to do good to the world, i.e. to look into the physical, spiritual and social improvement.
 7. Everyone should be treated with love and due justice as per the dictates of Dharma.
 8. People should promote knowledge (vidya) and dispel ignorance (avidya).
 9. One should not be satisfied only with his/her own welfare but should work for the social upliftment and on the improvement of welfare of all.
 10. People should dedicate themselves for the social welfare and the well being of all subordinating personal interest, while anyone is free in following the rules of individual welfare.
- Arya Samaj in Independence Movement The Arya Samaj took a active participation in the political agitation against British rule.
 - Lala Rajpat Rai, one of the very prominent leaders of Indian Independence Movement was member of the

The Indian National Association 1876

- It is considered as the first nationalist political organization founded in British India.
- Surendranath Banerjee and Anand Mohan Bose formed this organization in 1876 AD.
- Originally it was established as Bharat Sabha.
- The main objectives of this Association were to promote political and intellectual development of people.
- This organization can be considered as the prior step to the Indian National Congress.
- The Indian National Association was mainly concentrated in Bengal and supported by the educated Bengalis.
- In 1885, it merged in Indian National Congress

The Indian National Congress (INC) 1885

- It first convened in December 1885, was an Indian nationalist movement that opposed the British rule in India. Initially the movement was not formed to oppose to British rule but with the objective of obtaining a greater share in government for educated Indians.
- Allan Octavian Hume, Dadabhai Naoroji, Dinshaw Wacha, Womesh Chandra Banerjee, Surendranath Banerjee, Monomohun Ghose, Mahadev Govind Ranade and William Wedderburn were the founders of the Indian National Congress.
- The Congress was founded by Indian and British members, most notably Allan Octavian Hume.
- Womesh Chandra Banerjee was the first President of the INC.
- The first session of the INC was held in Bombay from 28 - 31 December 1885, and was attended by 72 delegates.

Split of NIC 1907

- In 1907 INC split into two factions, one is extremists - Garam Dal (hot faction) and other is moderates Naram Dal (soft faction).
- The hot faction was led by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the soft faction led by Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
- The extremists were termed so because of their extremist attitude against the British rule
- . The hot faction is considered as a trimuvirate comprising apart from Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipinchandra Pal, most commonly known as Lal, Bal, Pal.

Home Rule Agitation 1916

- In 1916 Lokmanya Tilak along with Annie Besant launched the Home Rule League.
- Tilak founded the first League in the city of Pune, Maharashtra. With its national headquarters in Delhi, the main cities of activity were Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.
- The All India Home Rule League was a national political organization to lead the national demand for self-government, termed Home Rule.

- It built a structure of local branches, enabling it to mobilise demonstrations, public meetings and agitations.
- In June 1917 Besant was arrested by British. when government arrested Annie Besant in 1917 the movement actually spread out and made its impact in interior villages of India.
- League spread the political awareness in new areas like Sindh, Punjab, Gujarat, United Provinces, Bihar, Orissa as well as Madras and all stood up for an active political movement.
- The Congress and the Muslim League together threatened to launch protests if she were not set free.
- Besant was freed in September 1917 to great welcome from crowds all over India.
- She became president of INC in December 1917.
- Mahatma Gandhi and Other Leaders Mahatma Gandhi took leadership of Congress in 1920.
- With the rise of Gandhi's popularity and his Satyagraha art of revolution, many leader like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Khan Mohammad Abbas Khan, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Chakravarti Rajgopalachari, Dr. Anugraha Narayan Sinha, Jayaprakash Narayan, Jivatram Kripalani and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad came to the Indian National Congress. Assuming leadership of the Indian National Congress, Gandhi led nationwide campaigns for easing poverty, expanding women's rights, building religious and ethnic amity, ending untouchability, increasing economic self-reliance, but above all for achieving Swaraj the independence of India from foreign domination. Mahatma Gandhi became the President of Indian National Congress in 1924.
- With Gandhi's popularity the Congress became a forceful mass organization in the country, bringing together millions of people by specifically working against caste differences, untouchability, poverty, and religious and ethnic boundaries.
- Gandhiji oversaw three major nationwide movements which achieved varying degrees of success in Non-Cooperation Movement 1920-1922, Civil Disobedience Movement 1930-1934 and Quit India Movement 1942.

The 1929 Lahore session

- It was under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru holds special significance as in this session "Poorna Swaraj" was declared as the goal of the INC.
- On 26 January 1930 the Indian National Congress declared the independence of India (Poorna Swaraj Diwas) although British did not recognize that.
- Subhas Chandra Bose was one of the great leaders of Indian Independence movement.
- He became the president of Indian National Congress for two consecutive years in 1938 and 1939.

The post-independence era

- The Indian National Congress is one of the two major political parties in India, the other one is Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

- After the Indian Independence in 15th August 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Prime Minister of India from Indian National Congress Party.
- Nehru led the Congress to consecutive majorities in the elections of 1952, 1957 and 1962.
- Following is the list of Prime Ministers of India from Indian National Congress party
Jawaharlal Nehru (1947-1964) Gulzarilal Nanda (May-June 1964 and in January 1966)
Lal Bahadur Shastri (1964-1966) Indira Gandhi (1966-1977, 1980-1984) Rajiv Gandhi (1984-1989) P.V. Narasimha Rao (1991-1996) Manmohan

Background The Partition of Bengal

- It was the process of separating eastern parts of Bengal from rest of Bengal.
- The British Indian government stated the reason of Bengal partition as a measure to improve the administration efficiency.
- The western region of Bengal comparatively got more focus than that of the eastern region.
- British projected the partition process would help the administration process by
 - 1) Reducing the burden of government of Bengal and form a separate government for the efficient administration of East Bengal and Assam.
 - 2) Promoting the development of Assam by including it under the direct jurisdiction of government which was earlier administered by a Chief Commissioner.
 - 3) Integrating the scattered sections of Orissa under a single administrative umbrella.
- The majority of population in the western part of Bengal was Hindu and the eastern part was mainly dominated by Muslim.
- The Muslims were mostly in favour of the partition whereas the Hindu community opposed the partition of Bengal.

Bengal Partition In 1905 AD,

- the Viceroy of India Lord Curzon carried out the partition although there was a strong opposition from majority of Indians.
- The government announced its final decision on 19 th July 1905 and partition was completed with effect from 16 th October 1905.
- The partition made original Bengal province to two separate provinces, 1) Bengal 2) Eastern Bengal and Assam.
- East Bengal was added with Assam and formed the Eastern Bengal and Assam province.
- Dhaka became the capital of Eastern Bengal and Assam. Chittagong, Dhaka Divisions, Rajshahi Division (excluding Darjeeling) and Malda District were separated from Bengal and transferred to the new province.
- State of Hill Tripura came under Eastern Bengal and Assam province.

Reaction of Indians

- There was a huge reaction mainly from the Hindus against the separation of Bengal.
- Throughout the Bengal a wave of anger became prominent.
- Extremist and Moderate leaders of Indian National Congress launched a massive movement to end the partition.
- People termed it as a policy of Divide and Rule.
- On the day of partition, people of Bengal observed day of mourning.
- Partition initiated a major political crisis and sparked enormous agitation including protests, boycott of British goods, unrest and mass meetings.
- In 1906, Rabindranath Tagore composed the famous song Amar Shonar Bangla which was adopted as the national anthem of Bangladesh in 1972.

Reunite of East and West Bengal 1911

- In 1911, Indian capital was shifted to Delhi from Calcutta and the same year East Bengal and West Bengal were reunited.
- The administration of Assam went to chief commissioner. Bihar and Orissa were separated to form a new province.

Introduction

- In December 1906, at the All India Muhammadan Educational Conference in Dhaka, Nawab Salim Ullah Khan proposed to form a political party to protect the interest of Muslims.
- The All India Muslim League (AIML) was the outcome of the proposal at Dhaka Conference and was formed in that same conference.
- Sir Aga Khan was elected as its first president of All India Muslim League. Lucknow was the headquarters of the new political party.
- The constitution of the League was known as "Green Book" which was written by Maulana Muhammad Ali Jouhar.
- First session of the All India League was held at Karachi of present Pakistan on December 29 and 30, 1907.
- Sir Adamjee Pirbhoy was the president of the Karachi session.

The main objectives of All India Muslim League were:

1. To protect the interests and political rights of Muslims and represent the needs of Muslims to the government.
2. To spread among the Muslims the sense of loyalty to the British government and eliminate any misinterpretation.
3. To stop any unfriendliness sentiment of Muslims with other communities.

Muslim League in the Formation of Pakistan

- The Muslim League played a vital role in the independence movement of Indian and in the formation of Pakistan as a separate independent nation.
- The Pakistan Muslim League formed the first government in Pakistan in 14 th August 1947 and Liaquat Ali Khan as the first Prime Minister.
- Md Ali Jinnah, who is considered as the founder of Pakistan became the first governor-general of independent Pakistan.
- Jana Gana Mana was adopted as the National Anthem of India by the Constituent Assembly on 24 th January 1950.
- The song was originally composed in Bengali by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore and its Hindi version was accepted as the National Anthem of India.
- On 27 th December 1911, "Jana Gana Mana" was first sang at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress.
- The complete song has five stanzas.
- It takes approximately 52 seconds to sing the full version of the National Anthem. Rabindranath Tagore himself translated

Home Rule League

- The All India Home Rule League was a political organization started by Lokmanya Tilak with Annie Besant in 1916 AD to demand for the autonomous self-government within the British Empire.
- The first office of Home Rule League was founded in Pune of Maharashtra.
- The national headquarter was in Delhi and major cities of activity were Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.
- The organization founded different local branches for the ease of arranging public meetings, protests, demonstrations etc at different places.

Lokmanya Tilak

- In 1916, Lokmanya Tilak made a tour in India to get the major support from Indian mass.
- He is famously known for his great quote "Swaraj is my birthright and I will have it".
- The move attracts considerable support from many members of Indian National Congress and the All India Muslim League.
- The one of the major achievement of this movement was to initiate the unification process between the moderate and radical group of Congress also Indian National Congress and All India Muslim League. The move reached its peak in 1917.
- Annie Besant was arrested by British in June 1917 which indirectly helped to spread the movement to interior parts of India.
- The Home Rule League reached to new areas like Punjab, Orissa, Bihar, Gujarat etc. Mahatma Gandhi was elected as the president of the Home Rule League in 1920 AD.

The End of the Move The Home Rule League finally merged into the Indian

- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre or Amritsar massacre is considered in Indian History as one of the most infamous and brutal activities by British to suppress Indian.
- The massacre took place in Jallianwala Bagh, a public garden in Amritsar on 13 th April 1919.
- In early 1919 AD, British government passed the Rowlatt Act also known as Black Bill which empowered the police and army to arrest, detain and seize property of any Indian without any evidence.
- There was huge protest by the Indians against this Act.
- On 13 th April 1919 AD, a protest was held in Amritsar against the Rowlatt Act.
- Thousands of Hindu, Sikhs and Muslims gathered in the Jallianwala Bagh.
- The same day was also the traditional festival of Baisakhi.
- Many people didn't know about the protest and came to the place to celebrate the festival.

The violent Massacre

- The Brigadier General E. H. Dyer arrived in the public garden and ordered the troops to fire without giving any warning to the people.
- The British troops fired 10 to 15 minutes into the gathering and performed the most brutal activity.
- Terrified crowd desperately tried to escape the ground and many were trampled.
- Estimated 379 people died due to the police firing and many wounded. Indian National Congress expressed a much higher count.
- Post Incident British formed an enquiry committee known as Hunter Commission headed by William Hunter to investigate the incident.
- The commission submitted the report and declared General Dyer not guilty.
- Gandhiji was extremely hurt and decided to fight against British.
- Udham Singh, a young Sikh who witnessed the massacre vowed to take the revenge.
- On 13 th March 1940, in the Caxton Hall, London he fired five to six shots at the East India Association's meeting and killed Sir Michael O'Dwyer who was the governor of Punjab at the time Amritsar Massacre.
- Udham Singh was hanged at Pentonville jail, London

The Khilafat Movement(1919-1924)

- It was a major pan-Islamic movement started to save the Ottoman Empire and it extended to India against the British power.
- During the World War-I, Turkey helped Germany to war against British.
- Turkish being the founder of Islamic government and the central power of the Muslim unity, the Turkish emperor (Khalifa) was the political and religious leader of all Muslims across the world.
- In 1918, the British and French army occupied Istanbul and the Turkish Empire (i.e. Ottoman Empire) collapsed.

- Muslim leaders started the Khilafat movement to protest the allied act and to save the Ottoman.
- The Muslim populations in India also joined hand and took part in the larger movement and started protesting against the British government.

Khilafat Movement in India

- The Khilafat Movement expanded to South Asia under the leadership of Maulana Muhammad Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali, the two brothers.
- The movement started most parts of North India soon.
- The Ali brothers united the prominent Muslim leaders like Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Ansari, Sheikh Shaukat Ali Siddiqui, Syed Ata Ullah Shah Bukhari and others on support of Ottoman Empire and protest against the British rule in India.
- In India, this movement became a part of the larger Indian independence movement.
- Alliance with Indian National Congress The Khilafat Movement in India got the support of Mahatma Gandhi who started the Non Cooperation Movement against British Indian government in 1920 AD.
- The leaders of Khilafat Movement and Indian National Congress came to together and formed an alliance to support each other.
- Khilafat leaders promised to provide full support to Gandhiji in the Non-cooperation Movement.
- It was a big milestone which united the Hindus and Muslims to fight against the British government as part of Indian independence movement.

End of the Movement

- The movement gradually became weak as the Muslim leaders sub divided into different activities of Indian National Congress, Muslim League and Khilafat movement.
- The movement came to final end in March 1924 when the original movement in Turkey was abolished after the conversion of the Sultanate empire

The Non-cooperation Movement 1919

- It was commonly known as Asahayog Andolan was one of the most important chapters of Indian freedom struggle.
- This famous movement was started and led by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920 AD and supported by the Indian National Congress.
- This movement continued for two years until it was called off by Gandhi due to a violent incident at Chauri Chaura of Uttar Pradesh.
- The main aim of this movement was to oppose the British rule by non-cooperation policy through a complete non-violence (Ahimsa) manner.
- Gandhiji appealed to the Indians to avoid the foreign made goods and use local products, picket liquor shops, reject official posts, boycott of elections, boycott government schools.

- He also urged soldiers, clerks, lawyers and other officials to refrain from duties.

Factors Leading to the Movement

Some of the major causes of the Non-cooperation Movement were:

1. **Rowlatt Act:** In 1919 AD, British government passed the Rowlatt Act which empowered the police and army to arrest, detain and seize property of any Indian without any evidence. There was huge protest by the Indians against this Act. People were already offended after the implementation of the Act.

2. **Jalianwala Bagh Massacre:** On 13 th April 1919 AD, a protest was held in Amritsar against Rowlatt Act. Thousands of Hindu, Sikhs and Muslims gathered in the Jallianwala Bagh. The Brigadier General E. H. Dyer ordered the troops to fire without giving any warning to the protesters. Estimated 379 people died and many wounded. British formed an enquiry committee known as Hunter Commission headed by William Hunter to investigate the incident. The commission submitted the report and declared General Dyer not guilty. Indian people understood British very well and their outlook changed. Gandhiji was extremely hurt and decided to fight against British. (For detail about Jalianwala Bagh Massacre, see the individual section)

3. **Khilafat Movement:** During the First World War, Germany was supported by Turkey to war against British. The British and French army occupied Istanbul and the Turkish Empire (i.e. Ottoman Empire) collapsed. Turkey was the central power of the Muslim nations and the Turkish emperor was the political and religious leader of all Muslims in the world. Muslim leaders formed the Khilafat committee to save the Ottoman. In India also, Muslims took part in the larger movement and started protesting against the British power. Gandhiji got the full support of the Khilafat leaders for the Non-cooperation Movement. (For detail about akhilafat Movement, see the individual section.)

4. **Oppressive Policies of the British:** The British government gradually became very harsh to Indian people. Their negligent attitude towards Indian became very prominent. At the time of famine also farmers were forced to pay tax. Indian people became unhappy and started to find the way to get rid of British power.

5. **Effect of World War I:** The Indian people were not happy with the decision of sending Indian Army to World War I without taking the consent of Indian leaders.

6. **Support of Congress:** Gandhiji got the support from Indian National Congress to start the Non-cooperation Movement against British. Leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Rajendra Prasad provided full support to Mahatma Gandhi however Mrs Annie Besant, Bal Gangadhar Tilak ,Bipin Chandra Pal did not support the Gandhi's idea.

- Nationwide Spread With the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the common people in the entire nation took part in the movement.
- It was a mass movement and got the massive support.

- Thousands of common citizens across the country rallied and joined into Non-cooperation Movement as appealed by Gandhi.
- This movement achieved huge success across India. The main weapon gifted by Gandhi to the nation "satyagraha", became the greatest force of the Indians.
- It was the first such kind of large scale movement in the history of Indian freedom struggle.
- Gandhi Suspended the Movement On 5 thFebruary 1922 ,the Non-cooperation Movement turned into violence.
- Clashes occurred between the protestors and the local police at Chauri Chaura in Uttar Pradesh and three protesters were killed in the violence.
- The angry mob set the police station on fire and killed 22 policemen.
- Mahatma Gandhi called off the movement after this violent incidence.
- On 10 th March, 1922,Gandhiji was arrested and jailed for six years.
- Gandhi was released from jail after 2 years in 1924.

The Swaraj Party 1923

- It was also known as the Swarajya Party was a political party formed by a faction of Indian National Congress including Motilal Nehru , Chittaranjan Das and Chintaman Kelkar.
- The ultimate goal of the party was the self government and the freedom from the British rule.

Background of Formation

- On 5 th February 1922,the Non-cooperation Movement started by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920 turned into violence.
- Clashes occurred between the protestors and the local police at Chauri Chaura in Uttar Pradesh and three protesters were killed in the violence.
- The angry mob set the police station on fire and killed 22 policemen.
- Mahatma Gandhi called off the movement after this violent incidence.
- On 10 th March, 1922,Gandhiji was arrested and jailed for six years.
- A faction of the Indian National Congress including Motilal Nehru, Chittaranjan Das and Chintaman Kelkar were not in the favor of Gandhi's decision in suspending the Non-cooperation Movement.
- While Gandhi was in jail, the said faction formed the new political party "Swaraj Party" in 1923 AD.
- Chitta Ranjan Das was the founder president of the party.

Merge into INC

- Gandhi was behind the bars for 2 years and he was released in 1924 AD for an operation
- After getting release, Gandhiji appealed to the party members of the Swaraj Party to re-unite with the Congress.

- In 1925, Chittaranjan Das died of severe fever.
- In 1926 AD, Motilal Nehru also returned to the Congress.
- Gradually the Swaraj Party became weak and finally merged into the Indian National Congress.

Background Simon Commission 1927

- It was a committee formed by the British Government to examine the Indian constitutional problems and to provide recommendations for reform.
- The existing Government of India Act 1919 was an intermediate and transitional arrangement.
- So the British Government wanted the commission to review the constitutional arrangement and provide the recommendation for future implementation.
- The commission was announced on 26 th November 1927 with a seven members team.
- Sir John Simon was the Chairman of the commission.
- None of the members of this committee was Indian.
- The Indian National Congress, Muslim League and other political and social organizations rejected the committee and termed it as "All White Commission".

Simon Commission in India 1928

- In February 1928, the Simon Commission arrived in India.
- The political parties in India called for strikes and the entire country observed strike.
- People greet the commission with slogan "Simon Go Back, Simon Go Back" and demonstrated the black flags.
- Government tried to control the peaceful demonstrators rudely and many people were beaten up by the police.
- The Simon Commission reached Lahore on 30 th October 1928.
- There also the Congress Party showed demonstration against the commission. Lala Lajpat Rai led the non violent demonstration in Lahore and he was critically beaten up by police.
- In November 1928, Lala Lajpat Rai died due to the due to the injury caused by police assault. Lajpat Rai was commonly known as Punjab Kesari (The Lion of Punjab).

Simon Report

- Salient Features In 1930 AD the committee published the "Simon Report". The important points of Simon commission are as follows.
1. Commission recommended the structural change in the 1919 Act. It suggested a Federal type of government at the centre with maximum autonomy of province.
 2. It envisaged the federal union, including both British India and the Princely States would be the long term solution.
 3. Commission suggested to lapse the Dyarchy system and recommend the provincial administration to be handed over to ministers responsible to the legislature.

4. The Lower House member of the Federal Assembly should be elected by the Provincial Councils.
5. The Upper House would continue as the council of state.
6. The Governor was to hold the special powers for the safety of the province and safeguard of the minorities.
7. In regards to creating two new provinces Sindh and Orissa, commission suggested for further detail examinations and postponed the subject.
8. Recommended Burma to be separated from British India.
9. It recommended the creation of Indian Police Service.
10. Continuation of Present Status of North West Frontier Province.

Members of the Commission

- The commission consisted of seven British members.

They were.

- 1 . Sir John Simon (Chairman of the commission)
- 2 . Donald Howard
- 3 . Vernon Hartshorn
- 4 . Clement Attlee
- 5 . Harry Levy Lawson
- 6 . Edward Cadogan
- 7 . George Lane-Fox

Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) 1928

- It was a revolutionary organisation, also known as Hindustan Socialist Republican Army established in 1928 at Feroz Shah Kotla New Delhi by Chandrasekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and others. Before 1928, it was known as the Hindustan Republican Association, Bhagat Singh declared socialism as their ultimate goal and that their party's new name should reflect that.
- The group is also considered one of the first socialist organisations in India. Azad was appointed as the Commander-in-chief and Bhagat Singh placed in charge of ideology.
- Hindustan Socialist Republican Association was always in the forefront of revolutionary movements in the northern parts of India.
- The group possessed ideals, which were directly opposite to Mahatma Gandhi's Congress.
- The HSRA decided to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai in a police lathi charge in November 1928 by assassinating J A Scott, the Superintendent of Police, Lahore who had ordered the lathi-charge.
- Accordingly the assassination plan was made but at the execution of the plan the team misidentified J. P. Saunders, the Assistant Superintendent of Police as Scott.
- Saunders was shot dead by Bhagat Singh and Raj Guru. A head constable was also killed while trying to chase the shooters.

- The next major action HSRA carried out was the bombing of the Central Assembly in Delhi. This was done to protest the introduction of the Public Safety Bill and the Trade Disputes Bill.
- On April 8, 1929 Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw bombs at the empty treasury benches. Nobody got killed.
- The hall got filled with smoke. Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt started crying out "Long Live Revolution" (Inquilab Zindabad) and "Down with Imperialism" (Samrajyavad ko nash ho). Singh and Dutt were arrested. On April 15, 1929 police raided the HSRA's bomb factory in Lahore and arrested Kishori Lal, Sukhdev and Jai Gopal.
- On 23 March 1931, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were hanged for their actions. Their death penalty gave birth to tremendous agitation throughout the country.
- Phanindrananth Ghosh was a key figure of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. By turning into an approver, he betrayed the cause of the party. Baikuntha Shukla was given the charge to execute Phanindrananth Ghosh as an act of ideological revenge.
- He completed it in a successful manner on 9th November 1932. As a result Baikuntha Shukla was arrested and tried for murder. On May 14th 1934, Baikunth was convicted and hanged in Gaya Central Jail only at a young age of 28.
- By 1931, most of the HSRA's main leaders were either dead or in jail. On 27 February 1931, Chandrasekar Azad shot himself during a gunfight with the police at Alfred Park.
- However, the British reported that he was killed in the police encounter by a troop lead by John Reginald Hornby Nott-Bower. With the death of Chandrashekar Azad and the hanging of its popular activists, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, the fate of the association was indecipherable.
- The organisation split into various regional groups and they carried out bombings and attacks on Indian officials without any central coordination. In December 1931 another attempt was made to revive the HSRA at a meeting in Meerut. However this attempt failed with the arrests of Yashpal and Daryao Singh in 1932.
- This effectively ended the HSRA as a united organization though the various regional factions kept up their armed struggle
- Background In 1928 AD, a revolutionary organization Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) formed by Chandrasekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and others became very prominent in the freedom struggle movement.
- This group believed in the revolutionary movement and drastic action against British to overthrow them from India.

Indian freedom struggle movement

- The Indian freedom struggle movement rooted everywhere and everyone including the common people, workers took part in activities like strikes, protests etc.
- The British government introduced a Trades Disputes Act which made the sympathetic strike as illegal activity.
- In addition, another bill Public Safety Bill was passed which provided more power to government to control Indian workers in their struggles.

- Bombing at Central Assembly To protest against the Trades Disputes Act and Public Safety Bill, the Socialist Republican Association prepared a bombing plan at the Central Assembly in Delhi.
- As per plan, on 18 th April 1929, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt went to Central Assembly and threw bombs at the treasury benches.
- It was one of the major actions performed by that group. Immediately after throwing the bombs, they shouted the slogans Inquilab Zindabad (Long Live Revolution) and Samrajyavad Ko Nash Ho (Down with Imperialism).
- Both of them were arrested by the police. In this incident nobody died, the hall filled with thick smoke.
- On 15 th April 1929,police arrested other members of the group Kishori Lal, Sukhdev and Jai Gopal in a raid. On 23 rd March 1931,Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, three of the greatest revolutionaries of India were hanged at the Lahore Jail for their actions. Batukeshwar Dutt was sentenced to life imprisonment.
- After the death penalty, a massive protest took place throughout the country. The government approver Phanindrananth Ghosh was murdered by Baikuntha Shukla. Phanindrananth Ghosh was a member of HSRA and knew about the plan and became the government approver. On 14 th May 1934,Baikunth was tried for murder and hanged in

Purna Swaraj 1930

- Introduction The 'Purna Swaraj' declaration was a campaign by Indian National Congress (INC) for the complete independence of India.
- In December 1929,at the Lahore session of Indian National Congress, the president of INC Jawaharlal Nehru declared the 'Purna Swaraj' as the final goal of the party.
- He asked all the party members to refrain from the participation in the elections and to resign from the legislatures.
- In the session it was decided to observe Independence Day on 26 January.
- Congress also decided to start a nationwide Civil Disobedience Movement with the ideology to disobey some laws implemented by British.
- Purna Swaraj Observation On 31 st December 1929, Jawaharlal Nehru hoisted the Indian flag at Lahore and the INC members publicly hoisted the flag across India.
- On 26 th January 1930,Indian National Congress observed the first independence day of India. In support of the Purna Swaraj, 172 Indian members resigned the legislatures.
- Mahatma Gandhi started the nationwide Civil Disobedience Movement by initiating the Salt Satyagraha on 12 th March 1930.
- The Civil Disobedience Movement gained the massive support in entire India and the non-violence protest started everywhere.

Salt March 1930

- Background and Introduction The Salt March,also known as Salt Satyagraha or Dandi March was a protest against the British law of Salt Tax.
- It was one of the most significant movements against the British rule after the non-cooperation movement led by Mahatma Gandhi during 1920 to 1922 AD.

- The British government implemented a hefty tax on the production and sell of salt. By implementing the law, British made it illegal to sell or produce salt without paying the heavy tax.
- For the common people it became illegal to freely collect their own salt from the coasts of India which compelled them to buy salt even though they couldn't really afford.
- It affected every Indian as salt is a prime ingredient in daily diet. On 12 th March 1930, Mahatma Gandhi started the Salt March with the ideology to disobey the British law on Salt Tax.
- It was a non-violent protest. Mahatma Gandhi with his follower made the journey to the sea coast near the village of Dandi to produce salt without paying the tax.
- Gandhi broke the British Law by picking a small chunk of salt from the sea coast.
- The Salt March On 12 th March 1930, Mahatma Gandhiji with 78 followers started the Salt March to the village of Dandi.
- He started his journey at Sabarmati Ashram of Gujarat and completed at the sea coast of village of Dandi which took 23 days to complete the total distance of 390 km.
- On 15 th April 1930, Gandhiji and other satyagrahis reached the sea coast. He offered a prayer and spoke to a large crowd.
- After delivering the speech, he picked a small chunk of salt from the sea coast and thus broke the law.
- Immediately the civil disobedience movement stretched in entire India. In the Salt March, Gandhi requested women not to take part in the protest.
- But eventually women's contribution in the civil disobedience movement was enormous as they started manufacturing and selling salt throughout India.
- Mahatma Gandhi was arrested by British after the march. On 21 st May 1930, Sarojini Naidu led another march to the Dharasana

Civil Disobedience 1930

- Background and Introduction The Civil Disobedience Movement was one of the biggest milestones of the Indian freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi.
- This non violence movement was formed in 1930 AD with the main ideology of disobeying laws, demands and commands of government with respectful disagreement.
- The movement was started with the Salt Satyagraha or the Salt March on 12 th March 1930 led by Gandhi. By implementing enhanced Salt Tax, the British made it illegal to sell or produce salt without paying the hefty tax which affected every Indian as it is necessary in daily diet.
- In the Salt March, Gandhi with his follower covered 390 km in 23 days and reached the sea coast near the village of Dandi to produce salt without paying the tax. Gandhi broke the British Law by picking a small chunk of salt from the sea coast.

Factors Leading to Civil Disobedience Movement

1. Social and Political Situation:

- The unrest social and political situation helped in launching the Civil Disobedience Movement.

2. Anti Simon Commission:

- This commission which was formed by the British Government in 1927 AD to formalize the constitution of India, included fully the British members.
- Indian National Congress and other political and social organizations rejected the commission and termed it as 'All-White Commission'.

3. Nehru Report Rejection:

- In 1928 AD, a memorandum of proposed new constitution was prepared by a committee headed by Motilal Nehru.
- At the Calcutta Session in December, 1928, The Indian National Congress demanded the British government to accept the Nehru Report and British government was threatened if India was not provided the dominion status, a Civil Disobedience Movement would be started.

4. Lord Irwin

- the Governor General of India declared that the main objective of the constitutional reforms was to grant dominion status to India.
- After the declaration, Gandhi and other national leaders suggested a Round Table Conference and requested to adopt a liberal attitude to solve the constitutional crisis. They also requested to release the political prisoners.
- The Congress launched the Civil Disobedience Movement when British government didn't respond to any of their demands positively.
- Civil Disobedience Movement Facts On 12 th March 1930, with the initiation of Salt Satyagraha is considered as the starting point of Civil Disobedience Movement and it is remembered as one of the important days in Indian history.
- Mahatma Gandhi was arrested by British after the march. On 21 st May 1930, Sarojini Naidu led another march to the Dharasana Salt Works.

Gandhi-Irwin Pact 1931

- On 5 th March 1931, the Gandhi-Irwin Pact was signed by Mahatma Gandhi and the Governor General of India Lord Irwin.
- The two main important clauses of the pact were

1. Congress would participate in the round table conference

2. The Civil Disobedience Movement would be stopped. After the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Gandhi attended the second round table conference with Smt. Sarojini Naidu.

- The second round table conference was unsuccessful without any positive output.
- Another important clause of Gandhi-Irwin Pact was that Government would withdraw all orders issued to control the Congress.
- But Governor General Lord Willingdon violated the clause and adopted the policy to the suppression of the Congress.
- The Congress leaders took the decision to resume the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- In January 1932, Gandhi restarted the Civil Disobedience Movement and requested the Indians to join in the movement. On 8 th May 1933, Gandhi started his twenty one days fast in protest against British domination in India.
- On 14 th July 1933, Gandhi withdrew mass satyagraha and the Civil Disobedience Movement was suspended. The movement ended completely

Government of India Act – 1935

- Background and Introduction After the failure of third round table conference, the British Government founded a joint select committee to prepare an Act for the administrative set up in India.
- The committee consisted of sixteen members from the House of Commons, sixteen members from House of Lords, it included twenty members from British India and seven representatives from the princely states.
- Lord Linlithgow, the viceroy of India was the president of the committee. The committee prepared the draft of the Bill on 5 th February 1935.
- The new Act was designed to establish a new system of government on the basis of federal central government and provincial autonomy for the provinces.
- After rounds of discussion in different houses, the King finally signed the Bill and it became the Government of India Act - 1935.

The main features of the Act were:

1. A Federation of India was promised consisting of both provinces and states. If more than 50% of the Princely States decided to join then only it was supposed to go into operation. As it didn't happen so the central government continued and was function based on 1919 Act. Only a part of the 1935 Act were functioning.
2. The Governor General was the head of the central government and he enjoyed vast powers related to administration, legislation and finance.
3. To place a finance bill in the Central Legislature, the approval of Governor General was made must.
4. The Federal Legislature was to consist with the Council of State (Upper House) and the Federal Assembly (Lower House).
5. There were 260 members in the Council of State, out of these 156 members to be elected from the British India and 104 members to be nominated by the rulers of princely states.

6. There were 375 members in Federal Assembly, out of which 250 members to be elected by the Legislative Assemblies of the British Indian provinces and other 125 members to be nominated by the rulers of princely states.
7. The Central Legislature held the right to pass any bill. The approval of the Governor General was must to convert a Bill to become a Law.
8. To assist the Secretary of State, few advisers were nominated instead of the Indian Council.
9. The Secretary of State was prevented from interfering the matters of Governor dealt with the help of Indian Ministers.
10. The provinces were given autonomy with respect to subjects assigned to them.
11. Diarchy was abolished at provinces which was established by the Act of 1919. But it was introduced at the Center.
12. Sindh and Orissa, two new provinces were created.
13. In the Central Legislature, the one third Muslim representation was assured.
14. Suggested to setup eleven autonomous provincial governments where ministries would be responsible to legislatures.
15. Burma and Aden were no longer part of from India.
16. The Reserve Bank of India was established.

The Quit India Movement 1942

- Introduction and Background The Quit India Movement is one of the major milestones of Indian freedom struggle, started by Gandhiji in August 1942.
- Mahatma Gandhi organized this civil disobedience movement and demanded immediate independence of India.
- It is also commonly known as the Bharat Chodo Andolan or the August Kranti. The Quit India Movement was started at the time of World War II.
- The British government used the Indian soil for the war purpose without discussing with Indian People which led a massive anger in Indian mind.
- A delegation team under Stafford Cripps was sent by British government which is also known as Cripps' Mission to discuss with the National Congress to get the support during the war. The talk was unsuccessful as it failed to address the demand of the National Congress for a timeline of self-government and handover of power.
- The Quit India Movement On 8 th August 1942, at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee a resolution was passed for the Quit India Movement.
- Gandhi requested every Indian to follow the non-violent civil disobedience and advised the masses to act as an Independent nation. Next day on 9 th August 1942, the British government arrested Gandhi and many other National Congress leaders and imposed ban on the Congress party.
- Mahatma Gandhi, his wife Kasturba Gandhi and his secretary Mahadev Desai were placed in Aga Khan Palace in Pune and other leaders including Jawaharlal Nehru, Abul Kalam Azad and Sardar Patel were jailed in Ahmednagar Fort of Maharashtra.
- This action hurt the sentiment of Indian and despite of the absence of big leadership the huge masses joined the movement and started protests and strikes.
- It stretched to entire India and got a massive support from everywhere.

- The British reacted immediately and thousands of demonstrators were arrested nationwide. Hundreds of innocent people lost their lives due to police and army firing.
- The congress leaders were put on jail for over three years. In February 1944, Gandhiji's wife, Kasturba Gandhi died in bronchitis at Aga Khan Palace and within a short span his personal secretary Mahadev Desai while in prison.
- Gandhi's own health was also failing. Due to the deteriorating health of Gandhi, British released him on 6 th May 1944. British kept the other leaders in jail until 1945.
- Although the Quit India failed because of heavy suppression, the British government realized the power of Indian mass and understood that it would be difficult for them to rule India for longer time. It initiated their thinking for the graceful exit from India.

Indian National Army (INA) 1942

- Introduction and Background During the World War II in 1942, the Indian National Army (INA) also known as Azad Hind Fauj was created by Indian nationalists in Southeast Asia.
- It was an armed force and was formed with the ultimate goal to overthrow British from India. The initial group failed to sustain and ended in the same year.
- Netaji and Indian National Army Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, one of the greatest leaders of Indian freedom struggle revived the Indian National Army in 1943.
- Netaji was a very bold and courageous leader and he believed that the British could be ousted from India through military struggle.
- Before reviving the Azad Hind Fauj, Netaji founded the Forward Bloc in 1939 and later he was placed under house arrest in Calcutta by the British. On 19 th January 1941, he escaped from house arrest and went to Germany through Afghanistan and Soviet Russia. Netaji managed to get a passport in the name of an Italian nobleman "Orlando Mazzotta" to fly to Moscow from Afghanistan.
- He went to Germany from Soviet Russia and spent almost three years in Berlin.
- In May 1943, he left for Tokyo of Japan from Germany via ocean route. In Tokyo, he got the assurance of help from the Japanese leader including prime minister Hideki Tojo in funding and cooperation of a new military army in Southeast Asia.
- In July 1943, he reached Singapore by flight and started reorganizing the Azad Hind Fauj. Netaji became commander of the Azad Hind Fauj and head of the Free India provisional government.
- Many Indian prisoners of war from Singapore and Indian civilians joined the force headed by the great leader Subhas Chandra Bose and its strength grew to 50,000.
- Netaji is remembered by every Indian for his leadership and bravery and his unique style of Salutation and slogan of 'Jai Hind' is immortal.
- His famous quote "Give me blood, I will give you freedom" encouraged the freedom fighters. He was the author of the famous book "The Indian Struggle".
- It is believed that on 18 th August 1945, Netaji died in a flight crash of a Japanese plane in Taiwan en route to the Soviet Union.
- His death is very controversial and disputed subject in India as there

National Flag

- National Flag and its Significance The current form of the Indian National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on 22 July 1947 which was proposed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The flag is rectangular in shape and divided into three colours of equal height horizontally.
- The topmost colour is deep saffron, the middle strip is white and the bottom portion is dark green.
- At the centre of the flag within the white portion, the Ashok Chakra with 24 spokes is printed with navy blue colour.
- The saffron color represents the courage and sacrifice, the white stands for the truth and purity and the green colour signifies the peace and prosperity.
- The Ashok Chakra represents the Laws of Dharma.
- Laws and Guidelines By Law, the Indian National Flag should be made of Khadi, a special type of hand-spun cloth of cotton or silk. Mahatma Gandhi made the Khadi cloth most popular in India through his freedom struggle.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards defined the specific guidelines and specifications in the manufacturing process of the flag.
- There is also specific guidelines for the usage of the National Flag which is governed by the Flag Code of India.
- Originally, as per the guideline of the Flag Code, the usage of National Flag by private citizens was prohibited except on national days like the Independence Day and the Republic Day.
- Later, the law was amended by the government of India as per the direction of Supreme Court and limited usage was allowed after appeal from a private citizen Naveen Jindal in 2002 AD.

Indian Independence Act 1947

- Background India was under British rule for more than two hundred years before achieving its independence.
- Under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi the Indian freedom struggle reached its peak. In the early of 1947, British could envisage that it would be difficult for them to rule India anymore because of strong freedom struggle movement.
- Britain decided to provide independence to India before June 1948. On 4 th June 1947, Lord Mountbatten preponed the earlier date and announced to provide independence to India on 15 th August 1947.
- This plan is also known as Mountbatten Plan or 3 rd June Plan. On 18 th July 1947, the British Parliament passed an Act known as "Indian Independence Act 1947" for separation process and transfer of power from British to Indian authority.

Independence Day 1947

- Independence Day On August 15th , 1947 India achieved its freedom and became an independent country.
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru became the first prime minister of India and Lord Mountbatten remained as the viceroy of independent India and became the first Governor General of independent India.
- On 14th August 1947, Pakistan became an independent nation and Muhammad Ali Jinnah sworn in as its first Governor General.
- Every year on 15th August, Independence Day is celebrated throughout India.
- This day is observed as the national holiday in India. All the schools, colleges, offices of the nation hoist the national flag to symbolize the stature of the national flag as nation's pride.
- The Prime Minister of India addresses the Nation after hoisting the national flag and announces the country's achievements of the year, reveals the major issues and says the future plans for the progress of the country.
- Independence Day is a national holiday and it is celebrated by every citizen of India of each caste, faith and religion.