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Introduction to Raja Ram Mohan Roy 1772-1833

In year 1828, **Lord Amherst** departed from India and his place was taken by acting Governor General William Butterworth Bayley for some time in 1828. He was succeeded by **Lord William Bentinck whose term was from 1828 to 1835.**

Year 1828 is very special in the history of India. This was the year when a reformist Governor General of Fort Williams came to India who is still cherished for his many reforms. However, year 1828 is also auspicious for the intellectual renaissance of India as in this year **Brahmo Samaj** was established by **Raja Ram Mohan Roy**. Here is a brief intro about him:

Raja Ram Mohan Roy was born in 1772 and died in 1833.

- ✍ He along with Dwarkanath Tagore founded Brahmo Sabha in 1828, which later became Brahmo Samaj.

It was the influential socio-religious reform movement which influenced the contemporary politics, public administration, education and religion of India.

- ✍ The efforts **Brahmo Sabha** led the **Regulation XVII**, via which Lord William Bentinck abolished Sati practice in India.

When Raja Ram Mohan Roy, a Brahmin from Bengal was a young man of 20 years, he came in touch with William **Carey**, an English follower and propagator of Jesus Christ, who wished to translate the Bible into Indian Languages and then propagate the Christianity in India.

- ✍ Raja Ram Mohan Roy was interested in the English Language. He, **William Carey** and one more friend **Hariharananda Vidyabagish**, who was a tantric, published a work on Trantrism known as "**Maha Nirvana Tantra**" in 1897.

This work tried to portray the "One God" of ancient religious texts, wished to link the "Brahma" with "Jesus Christ" but the work could not impress the British who termed it a forgery. In any case, it was a great

-: About this document:-

attempt to revitalize the ancient Hindu law, which was used by the East India Company to work out some disputes in Zamindari.

✍ Later, Raja Ram Mohan Roy joined as a "Writer" in the East India Company and worked as "Munshi" of Registrar of the Appellate Court at Murshidabad.

Atmiya Sabha

✍ In 1815, Raja Ram Mohan Roy established the "**Atmiya Sabha**" a precursor in the socio-religious reforms in Bengal. With this, he was known as a campaigners for the rights of women. He started opposing the Sati system and Polygamy in Hindus. Later he left from East India Company due to some alleged corruption charges which were never proved.

Hindu College

✍ In 1817, Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded **Mahapathshala** (Hindu College) at Kolkata along with some other personalities such as Raja Radhakanta Deb, Maharaja Tejchandra Ray of Burdwan, David Hare, Justice Sir Edward Hyde East, Prasanna Coomar Tagore and Babu Buddinath Mukherjee. This was later renamed as Presidency College in 1855. In 2010, this college has been upgraded to the status of a full university by the Presidency University Act, 2010 passed in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

Sambad Kaumudi and Mirat ul Akbar

✍ In 1821, he established **Sambad Kaumudi**.

✍ In the very next year, he also published a Persian newsmagazine named "Mirat-ul-Akbar ".

✍ In Sambad Kaumudi, he touched the subjects like freedom of press, induction of Indians into High Ranks and separation of executive and Judiciary.

His title "Raja"

The decade of 1820-30 was very important as many religious texts of Hindus were translated in English.

✍ In 1828, when *Brahmo Sabha* was launched he was a well known figure in India.

✍ In 1829 he went to England to plead the cause of the Mughal emperor Akbar II, with an ambassador of the emperor.

✍ The title "Raja" was given to him by Mughal emperor Akbar II to convince the British Government for the "welfare" of the Indian Public and ensure that **the Regulation XVII** is not overturned.

Fact Box: An exposition of the Revenue and Judicial Systems in India

In a pamphlet titled "An exposition of the Revenue and Judicial Systems in India" , Raja Ram Mohun Roy raised some very important questions on the administration system of those times and also urged the Government to separate the legislative and judicial powers.

Please note that it was Raja Ram Mohan Roy was suggested 22 years as minimum qualification age for the appointment to the Civil Services. He advocated the Jury system also.

Death and legacy

Raja Ram Mohan Roy died of meningitis in England in 1833. Thus was our one of the earliest reformers whose legacy is Brahmo Samaj.

-: About this document:-

- ✍ Raja Ram Mohan Roy demanded "property inheritance" rights for women and fought the social evils of the Bengali Society.

Sati, Caste rigidity, polygamy, child marriages etc. were targeted and he led this reform movement personally.

LORD AUCKLAND ERA

Lord Metcalfe 1835-36

In 1835 Sir Charles Metcalfe succeeded Lord William Bentinck, being senior member of council. His short term of office is memorable for the measure which his predecessor had initiated, but which he carried into execution.

- ✍ This was giving entire liberty to the press. It was the Public opinion in India, but there were people at home as well as India who opposed this policy.

"Lord Metcalfe" is called Liberator of India Press but soon he became a victim of party politics in England and was asked to get back to pavilion. He was succeeded by Lord Auckland in 1836.

Arrival of Lord Auckland 1836

Lord Auckland was born in 1784 and was president of the board of trade from 1830 to 1834. His term as Governor General of India was from 1836 to 1842. The last 20 years of general peace were over and now began a new era of wars and conquests. He is best known for his **follies in the Afghan wars**.

Rise of Dost Mohammad Khan in Afghanistan

The Durrani Empire which was founded by Ahmad Shah Abdali ended in 1823 and Dost Mohammad Khan became the Emir of Afghanistan usurping the throne and occupying Kabul & Ghazani. But by that time Peshawar had gone into the hands of Sikhs.

Sikhs under the forces of Maharaja Ranjit Singh occupied and Dost Mohammad's forces, under the command of his son Mohammad Akbar Khan in 1836 defeated the Sikhs at Jamrud, yet could not retake Peshawar.

Dost Mohammed contacted Lord Auckland, the Governor General of British India and this was the first indication of British Intervention in Afghanistan.

Dost Mohammad Khan surrounded by the Sikhs and Persians had tried to win friendship from the British to win back Peshawar from Sikhs. However, British were aware and fearful of the Russian intervention in Persia. There was a fear among the British that Russia could attack India through Persia and Afghanistan. There was a series of 4 Russo-Persian wars in 1722-23, 1796, 1804, 1826-28 and all of them Russia was victorious. Persia had surrendered the territories around the Caspian Sea to Russia and Russia had a dominant position.

The Great Game

Afghanistan which was between the Russia and British India was a cradle of the Great Game, the strategic rivalry and conflict between the British Empire and the Russian Empire for supremacy in Central Asia.

- ✍ The fear of Russian attack, dominant position of Russia made the British try to increase their interference in Afghanistan.

-: About this document:-

However, Dost Muhammad Khan wanted to take Peshawar Back from Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Maharaja Ranjit Singh was a friend of British.

Treaty of Lahore

- ✓ This Anglo-Sikh Friendship was basically based upon the fact that "Enemy's enemy is Friend". There was fear on French attack by a coalition led by Napoleon and Zamanshah.
- ✓ In this treaty both the parties (British and Sikhs) basically agreed to not shelter to each other's enemy and not interfere with each other's affairs. This friendship had lasted till death of Ranjit Singh in 1839.

The dilemma of Lord Auckland was that he could not afford the friendship of Dost Mohammad Khan at the cost of Ranjit Singh. So he had two options.

1. One was to defer all the plans for Afghanistan
2. Other was to attack Afghanistan and force Dost Mohammad Khan out and impose a puppet government in Afghanistan which could hold Russians and Persians Back.

Lord Auckland chose the second option.

The First Anglo Afghan War: 1838-1842

The Great Game involved Britain's repeated attempts to impose a puppet government in Kabul. The British wanted Dost Mohammad to break all contact with the Iranians and Russians. This puppet was Shuja Shah. In 1838 Shuja Shah gained the support of the British and Maharaja Ranjit Singh for wresting power from Dost Mohammad Khan. This was the **Tripartite Treaty** which was signed in June 1838.

Tripartite Treaty 1838:

A tripartite treaty was signed between Ranjit Singh, Shah Shuja and Lord Auckland in June 1838. This tripartite treaty was basically to help each other in the time of need. The terms of this treaty were as follows:

1. Shah Shuja will be reinstated on the Throne
2. Sikh armies will provide army to Shah Shuja
3. Shah Shuja will determine the Foreign Policy with the advice of the British.
4. Ranjit Singh's claim on the right bank of Indus was recognized by Shah Shuja.
5. Shah Shuja gave up claims on Sind.
6. British would remain in the background.

The above hotchpotch of Shah Shuja, British and Maharaja Ranjit Singh triggered First Anglo Afghan War. The outcome of the war was as follows:

1. After some resistance Dost Mohammed Khan surrendered to the British and Shuja was restored to the throne by the British on August 7, 1839.
2. Dost Mohammad Khan was deported as a prisoner to Calcutta.

But Shah Shuja was a traitor. The Afghanis took Shah Shuja as a betrayer and could not accept Shah Shuja as their ruler. So, Shuja ud-Daula, leading the Afghan awam, sent Shah Shuja to hell on April 5, 1842.

The killing of Shah Shuja also burst the balloon of the British Success, which seemed to be an extraordinary initially. The Afghanis rose in rebellion and the victims of their wrath wre the British Political Agents who were cut into pieces.

-: About this document:-

Many British soldiers were killed in adverse cold.

Thus the final outcome of this war was that a humiliating treaty was signed by the British and the British were forced to recognize Dost Mohammad as Emir of Afghanistan.

✍ Thus, the **First Anglo Afghan War** was a stupe project of Lord Auckland which resulted in the death of thousands of British (Indian) soldiers and waste of Crores of Rupees.

The names of the English Commanders murdered during this period were Alexander Burns, Charles Burns, Sir William Macnaughten & General Elpinstone.

The Afghan Policy of Lord Auckland was criticized and he was replaced by **Lord Ellenborough** in 1842.

Lord Ellenborough was a lover of military pomp and to seek an avenge, he ruined Kabul and evacuated Afghanistan. Mohammad Akbar, son of Dost Mohammad secured local control.

Death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh: 1839

During the First Anglo Afghan war, the pillar of the Sikh Empire Maharaja Ranjit Singh died in 1839, after a rule of around 45 years. He left 7 sons with 7 different queens and immediately after his death the Sikhs started disintegrating. This led death of his successors one by one, which is dealt in brief in the later passages of this module.

The Last Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar 1837

On 28 September 1837 , the last Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar who used to write Ghazals and Shayari with his pen name "Zafar" sat on the throne of the Mughal Empire which was now limited to Red Fort of Delhi. He was son of Akbar II.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH ERA

Arrival of Lord Ellenborough 1842

The stupefied Afghan projects of Lord Auckland forced the superiors sitting in England to recall him back to pavilion. He was succeeded by Lord Ellenborough in 1842. Lord Ellenborough remained Governor General of India for 2 and half years till 1844.

This pompous military general type of Governor, who was sent to "restore peace in Asia" ; had actually devastated Kabul on arrival and later conquered Sind for Britain. So **Lord Ellenborough is best known for Conquest of Sind.**

Annexation of Sind 1843

Since 18th century, Sind was being ruled by some Baluchi chiefs collectively known as "**Amirs of Sind**". The East India Company, because of the strategic positions of the Ports of Sind had tried its hand as early as 1775 to open a factory out there. But they abandoned it in 1792.

In 1809, during the times of Lord Minto, an embassy was sent to these Amirs which resulted in the "Treaty of Eternal friendship" of 1809. Once becoming the friends of English, the Amirs stopped allowing French to the Ports of Sind. The British were able to renew this treaty in 1820 and now the foolish Amirs excluded the Americans also from Sind.

-: About this document:-

The story of winning Sind starts from a dispatch of **Charles James Napier** to Sind.

Charles James Napier, a 60 year old British lion was appointed as Major General in the command of the army of the Bombay Presidency. By this time, Lord Auckland had been recalled and Lord Ellenborough, who loved military pomp, had his tastes gratified by sending him to "cure" the Muslim insurrections in this region. The loosely governed Sind, which was repeatedly targeted by the Sikhs in past, fell in the **Battle of Miani & Battle of Dobo**, wherein in which 3000 British troops defeated 12,000 Baluchis in 1843 under Charles Napier.

The Amirs of Sind, their kith and kin were taken prisoners, and then these broken-hearted and miserable men were sent to Burma in exile. Whole of Sind was annexed to British Empire in 1843.

✍ Napier's sent a one word telegram which was a pun after this battle. **The message in the telegram was a Latin word "peccavi" means "I have sinned"**. The meaning of this wordplay was "I have Sind" 😊

Succession of Lord Ellenborough and arrival of Sir Henry Hardinge 1844

In 1844 Lord Ellenborough was recalled by the court of directors. Actually, the Court of Directors differed from him on points of administration, and distrusted his erratic genius. He was succeeded by William Bird in 1844, who remained for a temporary time.

Finally in 1844 only a veteran soldier, **Sir Henry Hardinge**, who had entered the army in 1799, was sent to India as next Governor General of India. This brave soldier had served England in the Peninsular War and the Waterloo campaign, and was knighted in 1815. It was felt in England that after overcoming all kinds of power in the region, the fall of a Great Sikh nation was near.

Successors of Maharaja Ranjit Singh

Maharaja Ranjit Singh died in 1839 and after that Sikhs started disintegrating. Lahore was torn by dissensions between rival princes, generals, ministers, and queens. These foolish successors ousted the skillful European generals, inducted by late Maharaja, from their commands in the Sikh army. The supreme military power of the time got vested in the Panchayats.

Maharaja was **succeeded by his Son Kharak Singh**, who was deposed within months of remaining in power. He was later poisoned to death and was replaced by his son **Nihal Singh**, who was also sent to hell by his close relatives, under mysterious circumstances.

Now the Panchayats had to play their roles. The Hindu Dogras and Sikh Sindhanwalias tried to place their own representatives on the throne. Thus one **Raja Sher Singh** came to power. But within months, he was murdered by his own cousin and the Dogras placed **Jind Kaur**, one of the widows of late Maharaja on the throne. But Jind Kaur ruled as a regent for his son **Maharaja Duleep Singh**, a young lad of 8-9 years, placed on the Throne of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The Sikh Empire was very near to its end.

First Anglo Sikh War 1845-46

Meanwhile, the Sind was annexed and British were teaming with energy. They established a cantt. at Ferozpur. Amid accusations and mutual demands, the British Army invaded Punjab. The war was fought and victory was in the British side. The outcome of this war was a peace pact called **Treaty of Lahore** signed on March 9, 1846.

-: About this document:-

Treaty of Lahore, March 9, 1846

As per the treaty of Lahore signed on March 9, 1846 between **Lord Hardinge** and 7 year old Maharaja Duleep Singh plus 7 members of the Lahore Durbar: -

1. Sikhs lost Jammu, Kashmir, Hazara and some territories in Jalandhar Doab.
2. Thus all claims south of Sutlej River were lost by Maharaja Duleep Singh.
3. Rs. 1.5 Crore was paid to the British as war indemnity.
4. The armies of the Punjab were now to be not more than 20000 horses.
5. King agreed that he would not appoint any European in service without the consent of the British.
6. The following people were recognized as masters of Punjab:
 - i. Maharaja Duleep Singh as King
 - ii. Rani Jind Kaur as Regent
 - iii. Lal Singh as Wazir.
7. A British resident was also kept at Lahore (Major Henry Lawrence).

LORD DALHOUSIE ERA

Arrival of Lord Dalhousie 1848

In 1848, Lord Hardinge returned to England. He was succeeded by Lord Dalhousie, who was the youngest to hold the office of the Governor General of India, at the age of 36. Lord Dalhousie remained in power for 8 years from 1848 till 1856 and was one of the greatest proconsuls to leave footprints in India's history since Lord Clive. This was an imperialistic minded statesman who embarked upon the policy of annexation by "*Doctrine of Lapse*". His campaigns in the Punjab and in Burma ended in large acquisitions of territory; while Nagpur, Oudh, and several minor states also came under British rule.

✍ But he could sniff a great mutiny coming ahead and for this he was scolded till his death.

Second Anglo-Sikh war and Annexation of Punjab 1849

The first major conflict during the early period of Lord Dalhousie was the Second Anglo Sikh war in 1848-49, which ended with annexation of Punjab and end of Sikh Kingdom. After the Treaty of Lahore, Sir Henry Lawrence was appointed at the **Lahore Darbar** to control the policies. He left England due to some disease, and in his place a lawyer named Sir Frederick Currie was appointed at the Lahore Durbar.

Sir Frederick Currie, was a legalist and a puritan, who asked the somewhat independent Governor of Multan, **Diwan Mulraj** to pay arrears of the taxes. When the British officers were sent at the Mulraj's fortress, he revolted, attacked and wounded them. These wounded officers were saved by some people but the angry mob killed them the next day. But the small army of Mul Raj was defeated, but again there was a rebellion. The war prolonged for months and Sikhs were defeated.

- ✍ The whole of Punjab was annexed on 29 March 1849.
- ✓ Rani Jind Kaur was imprisoned and the 11 year old Maharaja Duleep Singh was "abducted" by the British.
- ✓ The "bloody" Kohinoor diamond was taken from him.
- ✓ A few years later , he was later sent to England and was retired on "pension"

-: About this document:-

Now Punjab was under the British. This was a major success under Lord Dalhousie, who not only subdued the rebellions in the region, but also annexed a large territory to the British India. In next few years he had problems with the eastern neighbor Burma.

Second Anglo-Burmese War 1852-53

After the First Anglo-Burmese war, the **Treaty of Yandabu** was signed between Burma and East India Company on February 24, 1826. For next 20 years the relations were normal, but the Burma Kings were chaffed of the English merchants who started flocking in the country and got settled over there.

In 1851, these merchants complained their overlords sitting in Calcutta about the oppression of the Burmese officials at Rangoon. The issue was taken seriously by the East India Company and the Lord Dalhousie asked Burma for compensation. No reply was sent from the other end. The idea was to make it a reason for an imposed war on Burma.

Apart from that there were minor bilateral issues regarding the Treaty of Yandabu. However, exactly under which circumstances, this war was fought was not made public. The war started in April 5, 1852 and as soon as the war started the port of Martaban was taken on the same day. On 12th April Rangoon was annexed and in June **Pegu** was taken. In January 1853, a proclamation of annexation was read out and thus this war ended without any treaty signed. The outcome of this war was that Pegu was annexed to the British Empire and it was **renamed Lower Burma**. British dominion now was from Chittagong to Singapore in the East.

Indian Railway Begins Journey 1853

✓ The first proposals for railways in India were being debated **in Great Britain in the 1840s** and the people out there started entering into lobbying in support of these proposals by banks, traders, shipping companies etc.

The businessmen of England had a strong interest in seeing railways be formed in India. But they wanted the British Parliament to create a Guarantee System.

✍ In the Guarantee System, any company that constructed railways in India was guaranteed a certain rate of interest on its capital investment.

✍ This guarantee was to be honored by the East India Company which then controlled large parts of India.

✍ The railways which were made on this arrangement were called Guaranteed Railways.

✍ The guarantee was for a return of 5% annually, and the right for the railway company to pull out of the venture and get compensation from the government at any time.

✍ Thus Indian Railways started on a Guarantee System.

✍ It was during Lord Dalhousie's time that on **April 16, 1853** at 3:35pm a train with 14 railway carriages and 400 guests left Bombay's Bori Bunder for Thane, with a 21-gun salute.

✍ The three locomotives were **Sindh, Sultan, and Sahib**. This 75 minutes journey was the first Journey of Indian Railway that embarked an era of development thereafter.

But this was a passenger service. Prior to that there is a trace of Railway in India.

✍ In 1851, a steam loco, **Thomason**, was used for transporting construction material in Roorkee for the Solani viaduct, which was a part of the construction in the Salony Valley.

✍ The **locomotive Thomason** was assembled on the spot from parts transported from Calcutta.

Second locomotive to arrive in India was **Falkland** (named for a governor of Bombay), used by the contractors of the GIPR for shunting operations on the first line out of Bombay that was being built.

Telegraph begins in India 1854

✍ The first director general of telegraphs in India was **William Brooke O'Shaughnessy**.

Lord Dalhousie had authorized him to construct an experimental line and in 1852 he was appointed director general of telegraphs and authorized to construct an extensive system.

✍ The 800-mile line from Calcutta to Agra was opened in March, 1854, and two years later 4000 miles were in operation, including lines to Bombay and Madras.

It was "telegraph" that saved India in mutiny of 1857.

✍ Telegraph communication between India and England was opened in 1865 by the Persian Gulf line.

Charter Act of 1853

In 1853, the charter of 1833 was to time out and had to be renewed. It was renewed but no substantial changes were made. However, this was for the first time, that this charter act, unlike other charter acts, did not fix any limit for the continuance of the administration of the company in India. The act provided that the Indian territories will remain under the Governance of the company, until the parliament otherwise directed.

Reduction in Number of Directors

✓ In England, Charter Act of 1853 reduced the number of Directors of the Company from 24 to 18. Out of these 18, six were to be appointed by the crown.

Separate Governor for Presidency of Bengal

✓ The Charter act of 1853 provided for appointment of a separate Governor for the Presidency of Bengal, distinct from the Governor General. However, the court of Directors and the Board of Control were authorized to appoint a lieutenant governor, till the appointment of a Governor was made.

✍ Please note that the Lieutenant governor was appointed in 1854, but no Governor was appointed for Bengal till 1912.

Power to constitute a new Presidency

✓ This act also empowered the Court of Directors either to constitute a new Presidency (In lines of Presidency of Madras or Bombay) or appoint a Lieutenant Governor.

✍ Here it's worth that No new presidency was constituted but in 1859, a new Lieutenant governor was appointed for Punjab.

Expansion of Governor General's Office

✓ Charter Act of 1853 marks the expansion of the Council of the Governor General for legislative purposes. The fourth member (Lord Macaulay) was placed at an equal status with other members. The council of legislative purposes which had 6 members now was expanded to 12 members.

✓ These 12 members were :

1. The Governor General =1

2. The commander in Chief =1
 3. Members of the Governor General's Council=4
 4. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Calcutta)=1
 5. A regular judge of the Supreme court Calcutta=1
 6. Representative members drawn from the company's servants with 10 years minimum tenure and appointed by the local governments of Bengal, Madras, Bombay and North Western provinces=4
- Total =12

Genesis of Indian Civil Services:

The previous charter act of 1833 had laid down that the Court of Directors should nominate annually 4 times as many candidates as there were vacancies, from whom one should be selected by competitive examination. The charter act of 1833 also provided the Haileybury college of London should make quota to admit the future civil servants. However, this system of an open competition was never effectively operated. A The Committee under the chairmanship of Lord Macaulay had prepared the regulations in this context. The report said that

- ☞ Haileybury should cease to be maintained as higher education college for the ICS
- ☞ There should be a broad general education rather than specialized education for the ICS recruits
- ☞ The recruitment should be based upon an open competitive examination to bring out the best candidates and not through mere superficial knowledge
- ☞ The appointments should be subject to a period of probation.
- ✂ Charter Act of 1853 deprived the Court of Directors of its right of Patronage to Indian appointments and now it was to be exercised under the regulations. This was the Birth of Civil Services which was thrown in 1854 for open competition.

New provinces:

By that time, the administrative situation got hard due to annexation of new territories to the company's possession in India.

- ✓ The Charter Act of 1853 empowered the Governor General of India-in Council to take over by proclamation under his immediate authority and management of the territories for the time being.
- ✓ He was authorized to issue necessary orders and directions for its administrations or provide for its administration.
- ✓ This resulted in creation of Assam, the central provinces, and Burma.

About Lord Dalhousie

Lord Dalhousie was able to change the map of British India considerably. It was, he who waged a war against Burma (Second Anglo-Burmese War) without any considerable reasons other than his desire to exclude all other European powers from Burma and expand the territory of the British Empire. The second Anglo Sikh war ended in the annexation of Punjab.

Both of these annexations were made by Proclamations and not by any treaty. Lord Dalhousie reduced the Punjab and planted British standard at Peshawar, and then he became involved with the government of Burma which had always been obstinate and foolhardy in dealings with the foreigners such as Chinese and British.

-: About this document:-

The Burmese could not guess in the war of 1826 (First Anglo Burmese War) that they were practically at the mercy of a very strong maritime power in the Bay of Bengal, which could occupy the whole of their seaboard and penetrate up to the **Irawadi River**. The over intelligent rulers of Burma could understand the military supremacy of Britain only after the second Anglo Burmese War, which ended with the official proclamation of annexation of Lower Burma (Pegu) on December 20, 1852. This conquest made the British Possessions continuous along the Eastern Shores of the Bay of Bengal, from Chittagong to as far as Singapore.

The British settlement in Calcutta led to the conquest of Burma and the first step was to set up Rangoon as capital of British Possessions at the bank of River Irawadi.

Satara and the Doctrine of Lapse 1848

After the victory in the Third Anglo-Maratha War in 1818-19, the British Empire annexed most of the Maratha territory to Bombay Presidency.

However, as we have read in the previous modules, a descendent of Shivaji was brought forward from obscurity and was restored as the titular Raja of Satara by the British. This titular Raja Pratap Singh, ruled in the principality of Satara which was of the same size as of today's Satara District of Maharashtra.

He remained as an obedient British vassal till 1839, when the political intrigues caused him to be deposed. His brother Shahji Raja or Appa Sahib was placed on the throne. In 1848, this prince, died without male heirs in April 1848.

Now a question arose for the British. If no direct male heir of the body having been left by the deceased, should a son by adoption, or a collateral member of the family, be permitted to succeed him, or whether the rights and titles of the principality be declared to be extinct?

The Governor of the Presidency of Bombay was Sir George Clerk. He looked at the Treaty of 1819 in which the following lines were enshrined:

"the British Government agreed to cede in perpetual sovereignty to the Rajah of Satarah, his heirs and successors"

The members of the Council of the Governor of Presidency of Bombay considered it the duty of the British Government to decide what should be done next?

When the matter reached the Governor General of India Lord Dalhousie who had just arrived (he arrived in 1848), he did not hesitate in a practical expression of the policy of annexation, the "**Doctrine of Lapse**". I am reproducing the paragraph written by Lord Dalhousie on 30 April 1848.

The Government is bound in duty, as well as policy, to act on every such occasion with the purest integrity, and in the most scrupulous observance of good faith. Where even a shadow of doubt can be shown, the claim should at once be abandoned. But where the right to territory by lapse is clear, the Government is bound to take that which is justly and legally its due, and to extend to that territory the benefits of our sovereignty, present and prospective. In like manner, while I would not seek to lay down any inflexible rule with respect to adoption, I hold that, on all occasions, where heirs natural shall fail, the territory should be made to lapse, and adoption should not be permitted, excepting in those cases in which some strong political reason may render it expedient to depart from this general rule. There may be conflict of opinion as to the advantage or the propriety of extending our already vast possessions beyond their present limits. No man can more sincerely deprecate than I do any extension of the frontiers of our territory which can be avoided, or which may not become indispensably necessary from considerations of our own safety, and of the maintenance of the tranquility of our provinces. But I cannot conceive it possible for anyone to dispute the policy of taking advantage of every just opportunity which presents itself for consolidating the territories that already belong to us, by taking possession of States that may lapse in the midst of them ; for thus getting rid of these petty intervening principalities, which may be made a means of annoyance, but which can never, I venture to think,

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be a source of strength, for adding to the resources of the public Treasury, and for extending the uniform application of our system of government to those whose best interests we sincerely believe will be promoted thereby. Such is the general principle that, in our humble opinion, ought to guide the conduct of the British Government in its disposal of independent States, where there has been a total failure of heirs whatsoever, or where permission is asked to continue by adoption a succession which fails in the natural line."

✓ The Council of the Governor General accepted at once this doctrine which best favorable to the British advantages.

The result was that **Satara was annexed in 1848**. In the next year 1849- Sambalpur were annexed to the British Empire. Next followed Karauli in 1852.

☞ There were people who protested against this measure as an act of unrighteous usurpation, but it was not until 1857, when this protest took a shape of a fire –The Great Mutiny.

Soon, another great Maratha chief at Nagpur Raghojo Bhosla died. This Raja who died at the age of 47 years succumbed to a number of complications and disorders including debauchery and obstinacy. He had no son and a posthumous son was impossibility. He also had not adopted an heir. The result was that the British Paramount pronounced a fatal sentence of Lapse. Nagpur was annexed in 1854.

Annexation of Jhansi 1854

The above unjust usurpation based upon the alleged right of the British Government to resume, in default of the direct heirs, in favor of the Paramount was again asserted around the same time, but with some diversity of application.

In Bundelkhand, the state of Jhansi was held by a Maratha chief who was actually a vassal of the Peshwa. In 1806, the state was promised "British protection" to the Maratha Chief. But in 1817, the Peshwa in Poona ceded all his rights over Bundelkhand to the British East India Company.

The Raja of Jhansi was Gangadhar Rao, who married to the daughter of Moropant Tambe, a Brahmin , who worked at the court of Peshwa at Bithur. Name of this jovial, beautiful and brave daughter of Moropant was **Manu** who was married to Gangadhar Rao at the age of 13 years. She was given the name of Rani **Laxmi Bai after marriage**. She was largely gifted, possessed great energy and was taught self defense, archery, horse riding and all other things a brave soldier is taught.

In 1853 the Raja of Jhansi Gangadhar died childless and the hand of the despoiler had lashed Laxmibai into a fury which was not to be governed. Under Hindu law she possessed the right to adopt an heir to her husband when he died childless in 1854.

☞ But Lord Dalhousie refused to her the exercise of that right, and declared that Jhansi had lapsed to the paramount power.

In vain did the Rani dwell upon the services which in olden days the rulers of Jhansi had rendered to the British Government, and quote the warm acknowledgments made by that Government. Lord Dalhousie was not to be moved. He had faith in his legions. With a stroke of his pen he deprived this high-spirited woman of the rights which she believed, and which all the people of India believed, to be hereditary.

That stroke of the pen converted the lady, of so high a character and so much respected, into a veritable tigress so far as the English were concerned. For them, thereafter, Laxmibai would have no mercy. There is reason to believe that she entered into negotiations conspirators of the explosion that had to take place in 1857.

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Annexation of Oudh 1856

The Punjab and Pegu were the conquests of war. The states of Satara, Jhansi, Nagpur, and Sambhalpur had fallen in by the "Doctrine of Lapse".

☞ The Kingdom of Oudh was the only great Indian state whose ruler Nawab **Wajid Ali Shah** was dispossessed on the ground of "intolerable misgovernment".

The British alleged that the Nawab who had made a treaty with Lord Wellesley to establish such a system of administration as would be conducive to the "*prosperity of the subjects*" were entirely and continuously neglected and the whole of **Awadh** had fallen into the constantly increasing confusion, violent disorders, tumults, brigandage and widespread oppression of the people.

☞ Awadh was annexed finally in **February 1856 via a proclamation** and before the end of this month, the tenure of Lord Dalhousie ended and he was replaced with the Governor Generalship of Lord Canning.

Other notes about Lord Dalhousie

☞ During the times of Lord Dalhousie, a separate Lieutenant Governor was appointed for the Presidency of Bengal so that it could immediately relieve the Governor General of India from the pressure of local administration. In April 1854, **Fredrick J Halliday** was appointed the First Lieutenant Governor General of Bengal under the **provisions of Charter act of 1853**

☞ The cool hill town of Shimla was made the summer capital of the British Empire.

☞ The Artillery headquarters of the army was moved from Calcutta to Meerut. The army headquarter was shifted to Shimla.

☞ It was during Lord Dalhousie's time that Gurkha regiments came into force.

☞ The Postal system was improved and all important towns were linked by the Telegraph lines.

☞ The important reform during this period was **Wood's Dispatch of 1854**.

Wood's Despatch of 1854

Charles Wood was a British Liberal politician and Member of Parliament. He served as Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1846 to 1852. Later he became the President of the Board of Control of the East India Company. In 1854 he sent the "Wood's despatch" to the Governor General Lord Dalhousie.

As per this despatch:

1. An education department was to be set in every province.
 2. Universities on the model of the London University be established in big cities such as Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.
 3. At least one government school be opened in every district.
 4. Affiliated private schools should be given grant in aid.
 5. The Indian natives should be given training in their mother tongue also.
- ☞ Wood's Despatch is called Magnacarta of English Education in India.
- ☞ In accordance with Wood's despatch, **Education Departments** were established in every province and universities were opened at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras in 1857 on the model of the London University.
- ☞ Later more universities were opened in Punjab in 1882 and at Allahabad 1887.

-: About this document:-

LORD CANNING ERA

Arrival of Lord Canning 1856

Lord Canning sailed to India to fill the vacancy created by return of Lord Dalhousie. Canning had earlier served in the Royal Commission on the British Museum and was known to have good general administrative ability. He entered his office in India at the close of February 1856.

✍ Lord Canning was the last Governor General of East India Company.

Causes of Revolt of 1857

The successive Governor generals appointed by the crown and based at Calcutta expanded the domains of British India over the period of time up to the time of Lord Dalhousie, whose conquests against Punjab and Burma pushed the frontiers of the British India against Afghanistan and Burma.

By this time, the East India Company had evolved from a commercial organization to a Civil and Military administration mammoth handling much parts of the Indian Subcontinent.

By this time, the positive things happened to the Indian society were the general peace, rule of law, better roads, introduction of telegraph and an early stage of Railways, but all of them were actually planned and implemented for the better coordination in the British governance.

The unwelcome attitudes and institutions also entered the society which made the British resented and loathed.

Pathetic Socioeconomic Condition:

Not a shilling was spent from the British treasury on the defense of the India. The severe famines which devoured millions of people remained issues, that were never addressed.

The tenure of Dalhousie was pathetic as far as concerns of the Indian natives are concerned. The feelings of the unrest that was growing among the Indians finally got manifested in the form of revolt of 1857.

The Indian public which does not like sudden changes was applied with the new laws and customs which were anathema to the Indian society. Some of them were allowing the widows to remarry, abolishing practice of Sati (which was considered revered at that time), establishing the land revenue systems which never existed before.

✍ **Widows Remarriage Act was introduced by Lord Dalhousie**, but it was **approved by Lord Canning in 1856**. The Hindus saw it as a sequel to the Abolition of Sati (**Regulation XVII**) and took it as a threat to Hinduism.

Problems of Land Revenue:

The Ryotwari and Mahalwari system demanded the revenue which was exorbitant and methods of collecting the revenue were cruel. In 1852, the **Inam commission** was established which recommended the takeover of the Jagirs on which the revenue was not paid. The result was that twenty thousand Jagirs had been confiscated.

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Destruction of Economy:

The Economic drain also destroyed the Indian Industry, disintegrating the traditional fabric of the country. The Industrial revolution of England made the machines devourers of Indian Raw material and destroyed the Foreign Trade of the country. India was reduced to a mere exporter of the raw materials.

Low position in Administration:

Indians were debarred from the important and high posts in their own country. The notorious signboards 'Dogs and Indians not allowed' were common in the British places of activities in India.

Doctrine of Lapse:

The annexation of Satara, Nagpur, Jhansi, Sambhalpur, Karauli, Udaipur, Baghat etc. by the notorious *Doctrine of Lapse* caused the general hateful sentiments among the Indian public. In Nagpur, there was an open auction of the Royal belongings.

Ill-treatment with Bahadur Shah Zafar

The name of Bahadur Shah Zafar was removed from the coins during the times of Lord Ellenborough. He was ordered by Lord Dalhousie to vacate the Red Fort and shift to the Mahrauli area outside Delhi. By this time the people of India had become nostalgic about the Mughal rule and wanted to see Bahadur Shah Emperor of India. Lord Canning announced that after Bahadur Shah, the Mughal successors would not be called emperor and their status would be reduced to Prince.

Annexation of Oudh:

The annexation of the so far loyal state of Oudh created general panic and disaffection contrary to the British belief that it was done for removing the "misrule and administration irregularities".

Police and Judiciary:

The Judiciary was biased. The British officers were hated and considered aliens in the land of Hindus and Muslims. The people were loathful of the oppressive loot of the officers, including British appointed Indian Daroghas.

Christian Missionaries:

The increased activities of the Christian missionaries were seen with suspicion and mistrust. They tried their best to convert as many people they could and indulged in the false propaganda against the faiths and religions of Hindus and Muslims. The Padres were appointed in the army to "teach" the sepoys about Christianity.

Education:

The education policy was not taken positively in Indian public. They thought that the new schools opened by the British and where the "English" is taught will convert their sons to "Christians".

Discrimination with Sepoys:

The Indian sepoys were victims of discrimination. They were paid low wages and faced constant verbal and physical abuses from their bosses. The annexation of Oudh in 1856 created discontent in the Bengal army.

-: About this document:-

The Indian sepoys were chaffed of the new customs which forbade them putting caste marks on their foreheads, keeping beards and wearing turbans.

Santhal rebellion 1855-56

The Santhal rebellion predates 1857. It was a rebellion of Santhal people led by 4 Murmu Brothers named Sindhu, Kanhu, Chand and Bhairav, in modern Jharkhand (then Bengal Presidency) against the oppressive Zamindari system. The initially launched Guerilla warfare in the Jungles of Jharkhand. The British trapped these outstanding archers and killed them in a battle. The Santhal villages were plundered and the rebellion was brutally subdued.

The cause of Nana Sahib 1854-55

Nana Sahib was the adopted son of Last Peshwa Baji Rao II who had been retired to Bithoor, after the Third Anglo Maratha War. Baji Rao was receiving the pension of Rupees 8 Lakh per annum from the British. When he died, Nana Sahib was to get this pension as heir-presumptive to the throne. But the company stopped the pension on the ground that he was not a natural born heir. Nana Sahib sent his friend and envoy Azimullah Khan to England in 1853 to plead his cause but the British were not convinced. The result was that he conspired against the British and led the revolt at Kanpur.

Azimullah Khan - The envoy to England

So far, Azimullah Khan, who was prime minister to Nana Sahib, was an English lover. But at England, he could not plead the cause of Nana Sahib and while returning from England, he got an opportunity to visit Constantinople, in the Ottoman Empire. He visited the sites of the Crimean war and was able to look at the exhausted British soldiers returning. He also tried to get in touch with the Turkish and Russian spies.

Tantya Tope – The rescuer of Laxmibai

His name was Ramachandra Pandurang Tope and he was friend of Nana Sahib. After the Kanpur was preoccupied by the British, he went to Gwalior, where he rescued Laxmibai. But the forces of British defeated him and executed him at Shivpuri.

January 1857: Introduction of Pattern 1853 Enfield Musket

On the New Year day of 1857, a new Enfield (P 1853) rifle was issued in India to the 60th Queen's Royal Rifles in Meerut.

The cartridges of this rifle had a paper cover that had to be bitten off before loading in the rifle. It was accepted by some British officials that the papers and the grease inside is composed of the beef and pig fat.

This was taken as destroying their religion. On 22 January 1857, at the Dum Dum arsenal near Calcutta the natives expressed concern regarding the use of the greased cartridge required by the new rifle and a consequent threat to Hindu and Muslim religions.

The military drills of the time needed the sepoys to bite off the cartridge, pour the gunpowder from within to down the barrel, then ram the cartridge, which included the bullet, then remove the ram-rod, then bring the rifle to the ready and set the sights and fire. The "user guide" said:

-: About this document:-

"Whenever the grease around the bullet appears to be melted away, or otherwise removed from the cartridge, the sides of the bullet should be wetted in the mouth before putting it into the barrel; the saliva will serve the purpose of grease for the time being" ☺

From January to May, the wave of dissatisfaction touched various British Cantonments. The most awful sentiments were in the cantonments of Meerut, Barrackpur and Ambala.

Use of Chapattis

All of a sudden, the English officials could see passing of the Chapattis, usually by the village chaukidars and watchmen throughout the north India. The first report was issued in February 1857 by Magistrate of Gurgaon that these Chapattis may be a portent of a general disturbance coming up and signify the joining of the people. The magistrate was true in his interpretation, but it was realized later only.

March 1857: Refusal to accept greased cartridge

By 9 March 1857, the Sepoys of the 19th Bengal Native Infantry at Behrampur refused to accept the greased cartridges. A court martial was done and the regiment was disarmed.

✍ On 23 March General Greg Anson, Commander in Chief, India, issued an order suspending the use and firing of the greased cartridges throughout India until a special report is received from Meerut.

29 March 1857 - Mutiny at Barrackpur - Mangal Pandey

At Barrackpur, Mangal Pandey of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry went on a rampage wounding the British Officers. The mutiny was basically a "One Man Show". Mangal Pandey was hanged on 8 April 1857, thus becoming one of the first martyrs of mother India's liberation war that extended 90 years afterwards. One more officer Issurl Pandey was hanged on 11 April for not helping the British during the rampage. One Paltu Khan was promoted for his active duty towards stopping Mangal Pandey creates more havoc.

Mutiny at Meerut - 10 May 1857

85 Sepoys of the 20th and 11th Bengal Infantry regiments and 3rd Indian Light Cavalry mutinied. They broke out in open rebellion, shouted "Delhi Chalo", proceeded to Delhi, overthrew the British Rule, massacred any European that came their way, Proclaimed Bahadur Shah Zafar as Emperor of India. Col. Ripley was killed at Delhi. The public welcomed the soldiers and supported the revolt.

✍ The son of Bahadur Shah Zafar, Mirza Zahiruddin was declared commander in chief, despite no military experience.

✍ Later **the command at Delhi was taken by Bakht Khan**, the nominal commander chief of the rebels at Delhi who later died in the battle in 1859.

The Mutiny Spreads - May 1857

On 12 May 1857, a company of the 81st infantry captured the fort of Govindgarh near Amritsar. The mutiny spread to Lahore where Mian Mir fought the mutineers and saved the Lahore from falling to the Mutineers.

✍ On 14 May 1857, Lord Canning issued orders for the 43rd Queen Regiment and 1st Madras Fusiliers to embark immediately to Calcutta.

Lord Canning **telegraphed** Lord Elphinstone, the Governor of Bombay to send British Forces immediately. He also sent transport to bring the British forces back from Pegu in Burma. On 16 May 1857, 50 Europeans

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rounded up in Delhi were massacred by the crowd. On 16 May, Lord Canning sent a letter to Lord Elgin at Singapore to send troops at Calcutta. The rebellion spread to Lucknow, Allahabad, Kanpur, Bareilly, Banaras, and Jhansi very soon.

The siege of Cawnpore

Siege of Cawnpore is also known as "Bibighar Massacre or "Satichaura Ghat massacre".

Before this event the British had approached Nana Sahib and 'convinced' him to support in case there is a mutiny at Kanpur. By June 1857, the number of the rebellions got 3000. The place was mistaken as safe by the British, European families began to drift into the entrenchment as the news of rebellion in the nearby areas reached them. The entrenchment was fortified. Nana Sahib entered as a friend of the British inside and declared that he was with the rebels. he proceeded with the soldiers to capture Cawnpore. He made the British officers surrender on a promise of safe passage to Allahabad.

Cawnpore was in siege till 15 July 1857 and 200 Europeans including women and children were massacred.

On 16 July the British Forces arrived and Cawnpore was recaptured. Nana Sahib disappeared and then fled to Nepal in 1859.

Mutiny at Lucknow : Begum Hazrat Mahal

Begum Hazrat Mahal was the first wife of recently deposed Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. She led the rebels at Lucknow and was able to siege Lucknow. Her son Birjis Qadra was declared King of Awadh. But when the British were able to destroy the rebels, she fled to Nepal, where she took asylum and died in obscurity in 1879.

Mutiny at Gwalior : Tantya Tope

With the aid of the rebels at Gwalior he was able to compel General Windham hard at Cawnpore on the 27th and 28th of November 1857. But later was defeated by Sir Colin Campbell on the 6th of December. Together with the Rani of Jhansi he was besieged by Sir Hugh Rose in the Jhansi fort, but escaped and collected a force of 20,000 men which Sir Hugh defeated without relaxing the siege. After this he sought refuge in the jungles of Bundelkhand, and later captured and executed in 1859.

Mutiny at Jhansi – Rani Laxmi Bai

Jhansi was relatively calm in 1857, but British troops arrived under Hugh Rose and laid siege to Jhansi on 23 March 1858 and asked Laxmi Bai to surrender. She did not surrender and the fight began which continued for 2 weeks. Later her army was joined by Tantya Tope's troops, but the British were able to capture Jhansi by 31 March. Laxmi Bai escaped over the wall at night and fled from her city, surrounded by her guards. Along with her young adopted son Anand Rao, she decamped to Kalpi. Both Nana and Laxmibai moved on to Gwalior and occupied the fort of Gwalior. But on 17 June, 1858, she died in the battle. The British captured Gwalior three days later. Her father, Moropant Tambe, was captured and hanged a few days after the fall of Jhansi. Anand Rao, was given a pension by the British Raj.

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Mutiny in Arrah - Kunwar Singh

A band of rebels was led by Kunwar Singh at Arrah in Bihar. Despite his old age (near 80) he had a good fight and harried British forces for nearly one year and remained invincible till the end. But he was defeated by William Taylor and Eyre and died in the battle.

Recapturing

- ✍ Bahadur Shah was arrested. British general Hudson shot dead his two sons and he was exported to Rangoon where he died 1862.
- ✍ The imam of Bauli kalandar led the revolt in Panipat. He was captured and hanged.
- ✍ General Hewitt commanded the Forces at Meerut.
- ✍ Delhi was recaptured by Sir John Nicholson.
- ✍ Colin Campbell recaptured Kanpur.
- ✍ General Havelock defeated Nana Sahib.

Role of Princely states

✍ The princely states did not participate in the mutiny and as per Lord Canning, the princely rulers proved to be a barrier to stop this hurricane.

Leaders of Revolt:

- ✓ Delhi : Bahadur Shah Zafar and Bakht Khan
- ✓ Jhansi : Rani Laxmi Bai
- ✓ Bihar : Kunwar Singh
- ✓ Mathura : Devi Singh
- ✓ Meerut : Kadam Singh
- ✓ Faizabad : Muhammad Ullah
- ✓ Kanpur: Nana sahib, Tantya Tope and Azimullah Khan
- ✓ Allahabad : Liaqat Ali
- ✓ Gwalior : Tantya Tope
- ✓ Haryana : Rao Tularam
- ✓ Sambhalpur : Surender Sai
- ✓ Bareilly: Khan Bahadur Khan
- ✓ Satara: Rango Bapuji Gupte
- ✓ Hyderabad : Sonaji pant
- ✓ Karnataka: Maulavi Sayyed Allauddin, Bhimrao Mundargi And Chhota Singh
- ✓ Kolhapur : Annaji Phandnavis and Taty Mohite
- ✓ Madras: Ghulam Gaus and Sultan Baksh
- ✓ Chengalpattu: Annagirian Krishna
- ✓ Coimbatore: Mulbagal Swami

Those who helped British

- ✍ Holkar of Indore remained with the British.
- ✍ Man Singh at Gwalior deceived Tantya Tope and Laxmibai.
- ✍ Nizam of Hyderabad, Gulab Singh of Kashmir, Sikh rulers of Patiala, Nabha and Jind also remained loyal to British. The Sikhs detest towards the Mughals was the main reason behind their remaining against the mutineers.
- ✍ Dinkar Rao of Gwalior and Salar Jang of hyderabad were "praised" by the British for their loyalty to the Government.

-: About this document:-

✍ Zamindars, Land Lords, Money lenders, Big Traders remained loyal to the East India Company. The elite "educated" class of Indians remained indifferent.

✍ Railways, Telegraph and Postal services, which were initiated by Lord Dalhousie saved India for British from the hands of Indians.

Who said what about this mutiny?

- **Charles Raikes:** Merely a mutiny of the soldiers, which took the shape of revolt of the people in certain areas.
- **Sir J.W. Kaye:** A battle of Blacks against the Whites
- **T R Holmes:** A conflict between civilization and barbarism
- **V D Savarkar:** India's planned war of Independence.
- **Karl Marx:** Struggle of soldiers, peasants and democratic combine against the foreign and feudal bondage.
- **Rees:** a war of Fanatic religionists against the Christians
- **R C Mazumadar:** Neither first, nor national nor war of independence.
- **Hutchinson:** It began as a mutiny and became a popular rebellion.
- **J L Nehru:** a feudal outburst headed by feudal chiefs and their followers aided by widespread anti-foreign sentiments.
- **S N Sen:** began with a fight for religion, ended with a war for independence.

After the Mutiny of 1857, Peace was restored in a period of more than one year and the most important outcome was that the Government of India passed from the Company to the Crown.

Queen Victoria's Proclamation - November 1, 1858

✍ On November 1, 1858, a grand Darbar was held at **Allahabad**. Here **Lord Canning** sent forth the royal proclamation which announced that the queen had assumed the government of India. This proclamation declared the future policy of the British Rule in India. The proclamation read:

We hereby announce to the Native Princes of India that all treaties, engagements made with them by or under the authority of the Honorable East India Company are by us accepted, and will be scrupulously maintained, and We look for a like observance on their part. We desire no extensions of Our present territorial possessions; and while We will permit no aggression upon Our dominions or Our Rights to be attempted with impunity, We shall sanction no encroachment on those of others, We shall respect the rights, dignity, and honor of Native Princes as Our own; and we desire that they—as well as our own subjects—should enjoy prosperity, and that social advancement, which can only be secured by internal peace and good government. We hold ourselves bound to the Natives of Our Indian territories by the same obligations of duty, which bind us to all Our other subjects, and those obligations by the Blessing of God, we shall faithfully and conscientiously fulfill....

.....And it is our further will that, so far as may be, our subjects, of whatever race or creed, be freely and impartially admitted to offices in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified, by their education, ability, and integrity, duly to discharge....

Fact Box: Queen Victoria's Proclamation

As per Queen Victoria's proclamation of November, 1 1858, all treaties and agreements made with the Indian native princes under the authority of the East India company did not cease to exist but were there to stay and accepted by the crown. The declaration expressed faith and the rights, dignity and status of the native princes. The Indian public was given an assurance that there would be no extension of the current territorial possessions.

The document was called "Magnacarta of the People of India" and was declared in eloquent words the principles of justice and religious toleration as the guiding policy of the queen's rule. The document also granted amnesty to all except those who had directly taken part in the murder of British subjects. Peace was

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proclaimed throughout India on July 8, 1859. The armies of the East India Company ceased to exist and the forces in India were incorporated as an integral part of the British army.

✍ The most important result was the now onwards the Indian Sepoys were enlisted in the regular service in the British Army and participated in the world wars in the next century.

The Government of India act 1858

✍ This act is coterminous with Queen Victoria's declaration, 1858

The British prime Minister, **Palmerstone had introduced a Bill in 1858** in the parliament for the transfer of Government of India to The crown. However, before this bill was to be passed, Palmerstone was forced to resign on another issue.

Later Lord Stanley introduced another bill which was originally titled as “**An Act for the Better Government of India**” and it was passed on August 2, 1858. This act provided that India was to be governed directly and in the name of the crown.

✓ This act abolished the company rule, abolished the Court of directors and abolished the Board of control.

✍ The act provided the Crown will govern India **directly through a Secretary of State for India**, who was to exercise the powers which were being enjoyed by the Court of Directors and Board of control.

Last Instructions to servants of East India Company

On September 1, 1858, the court of directors held its last solemn assembly and the East India Company issued its last instructions to the servants in the East; and offered to its sovereign an empire in these words:

" let her Majesty appreciate the gift-let her the vast country and teeming millions of India under her direct control, but let her not forget the great corporation from which she has received them, nor the lessons to be learnt from its success"

The First Secretary of State of India

The first Secretary of state was Lord Stanley, who prior to 2 August 1858, served as President of the Board of Control. The Secretary of State was now the political head of the India. Please note the following points:

- ✍ In 1935, the Government of India Act 1935 provided a new Burma Office, in preparation for the establishment of Burma as a separate colony, but the same Secretary of State headed both Departments and was styled the Secretary of State for India and Burma.
- ✍ The first secretary of state for India and Burma was Lord Dundas. The India Office of the Secretary of State for India and Burma came to an end in 1947, when we got independence and now the Secretary of state of India and Burma was left to be Secretary of Burma.
- ✍ Viscount Ennismore was the first and last Secretary of Burma, as Burma got independence in 1948.

Centralization of Administration

✓ The right of appointment to important offices in India was vested either in the crown or in the Secretary Of State of India-in-Council.

✓ This act abolished the Dual Government introduced by the Pitt's India act.

✓ The administration of the country was now highly centralized.

✓ All civil, military and executive powers vested in the **Governor in council**, who was now the Viceroy of India.

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- ✓ The Governor General was now responsible to Secretary of State. There was a provision of creation of an Indian Civil Service under the control of the Secretary of State.

First Viceroy of India - Lord Canning 1858-1862

With the Act of 1858, the Governor-General of India became the "Viceroy and Governor-General of India" and was to be the head of the British administration in India.

- ✍ The office of Governors-General and Viceroys of India remained from 1858 till 1947.
- ✍ Lord Canning was the first Governor-General and Viceroys of India and Lord Mountbatten was the last Governors-General and Viceroys of India. The same office was called Governor-General of the Union of India, 1947–1950, and C Rajgopalachari became the last Governor-General of the Union of India.
- ✍ Thus the office ceased to exist from January 26, 1950, when Dr. Rajendra Prasad took the oath of India's first President.

However, in Pakistan, in 1947, Muhammad Ali Jinnah became the First Governor General of Pakistan. The office remained existing till 1956, and the last Governor General of Pakistan was Iskander Mirza, one of the direct descendants of **Mir Zafar**, the *Gaddar-i-abrar*.

Indian Civil Services Act 1861

A competitive examination was organized in 1853, but the Indians could not seek entry. However, the system of reserving **principal posts** for the members of the covenanted service (means British) was introduced in 1858.

- ✓ The Indian Civil Services Act, 1861, validated a number of irregular appointments which were made in India to meet the exigencies in disregard of the restriction that all offices in the civil cadre of the company's service in India were reserved to the civil services of the Presidency.
- ✓ The recruitment in the civil services was scheduled which also included the number of appointments to be filled "only by the members of the covenanted Civil Service in Future".
- ✓ Thus, the **Principal** posts were reserved for British.
- ✓ The civil services act 1861 laid down that any person, whether Indian or European could be appointed to any of the offices (specified in the schedule annexed), provided that he had resided for minimum of 7 years in India.
- ✓ The person had to pass an exam in vernacular language of the district, in which he was employed.
- ✓ The appointment was also made a subject to departmental tests or other qualifications.
- ✓ All appointments were now to be reported to the Secretary of State and unless Secretary of State approves within twelve months, were declared void.

The Indian Civil Services Act could not fulfill the demand of by the educated Indians to secure employment in the Covenanted Civil Service. Further reforms were made later.

Indian Councils Act 1861

The Governments of Madras and Bombay were deprived of their power of legislation by Charter act of 1833. The Indian Councils Act 1861 restored this power to them. This act is known to have made notable changes in the composition of the Governor General's council for executive & legislative Purposes.

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The council of the Governor General of India performed dual functions of executive and legislature. For executive functions the notable change was that Council of the Governor General was expanded and a fifth member was added. For the purpose of Legislation, the Governor General's Council was restructured. Now the additional new NOT less than 6 and NOT more than 12 members were now to be nominated by the Governor General and they were to hold the office for two years. Out of these, not less than half were required to be Non-Official. This was a beginning towards the establishment of legislative system by adding legislative non official members to the Council of the Governor General.

However, the functions were limited to the legislation and it had not to do any other function except the consideration or enactment of legislative measures.

It was laid down that without the assent of the Governor General a bill relating to the public revenue or debt, religion, military, naval or foreign relations cannot be passed. However, any such act might be dissolved by the crown acting through the secretary of State of India.

The Indian Councils Act 1861 restored the power of legislation to the governor-in-councils of Madras and Bombay in respective matters. The act also laid down the provision for the formation of legislative councils in other provinces.

With the Indian Councils Act for the first time Portfolio system started. Each member of the Council of the Governor General was allocated portfolio of a particular department. Lord Canning was the First to start a Portfolio system.

The Governor General was authorized to exercise a veto and issue ordinances in a situation of emergency.

Indian High Courts Act 1861

By Indian High Courts Act 1861, the Supreme & Sadar Diwani Adalat were amalgamated. The 'Indian High Court Act' of 1861, vested in Queen of England to issue letters patent to erect and establish High Courts of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

- ✍ The High Courts of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay were established by Indian High Courts Act 1861.
- ✍ Indian High Courts Act, 1861 did not by itself create and establish the High Courts in India. The objective of this act was to effect a fusion of the Supreme Courts and the Sadar Adalats in the three Presidencies and this was to be consummated by issuing Letter Patent.

The jurisdiction and powers exercised by these courts was to be assumed by the High Courts.

Composition of the High Court's:

The Indian High Courts Act 1861 had also spelled the composition of the High Court.

- ✍ Each High Court was to consist of a Chief Justice and NOT more than 15 regular judges.
- ✍ The chief Justice and minimum of one third regular judges had to be barristers and minimum one third regular judges were to be from the "covenanted Civil Service".
- ✍ All Judges were to be in the office on the pleasure of the Crown.

The High Courts had an Original as well as an Appellate Jurisdiction the former derived from the Supreme Court, and the latter from the Sadar Diwani and Sadar Foujdari Adalats, which were merged in the High Court.

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- ✍ The Charter of High Court of Calcutta was issued on 14th May, 1862 and Madras and Bombay was issued on June 26, 1862.
- ✍ So, the Calcutta High Court has the **distinction of being the first High Court** and one of the three Chartered High Courts to be set up in India, along with the High Courts of Bombay, Madras.
- ✍ High Court at Calcutta which was formerly known as High Court of Judicature at Fort William was established on July 1, 1862. Sir Barnes Peacock was its first Chief Justice.
- ✍ On 2nd February, 1863, Justice Sumboo Nath Pandit was the first Indian to assume office as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court.
- ✍ The Bombay High Court was inaugurated on 14th August, 1862.
- ✍ Indian High Court Act 1861 also gave power to set up other High Courts like the High Courts of the Presidency Towns with similar powers.
- ✍ Under this power, a High Court was established in 1866 at High Court of Judicature for the North-Western Provinces at Agra on 17 March 1866 by the Indian High Courts Act of 1861 replacing the Sadr Diwani Adalat.
- ✍ Sir Walter Morgan, Barrister-at-Law was appointed the first Chief Justice of the High Court of North-Western Provinces. However it was shifted to Allahabad in 1869 and the name was correspondingly changed to the **High Court of Judicature at Allahabad from 11 March 1919**.

Financial Condition of India in 1858

The revolt and suppression of the revolt increased the debt of the country by 40 million sterling. The changes in the military after the Government of India Act also required an additional annual expenditure of 10 million sterling.

Grappling with this deficit was not an easy task. For this purpose, a distinguished political economist and parliamentary financier, **James Wilson**, was sent from England as financial member of the Council of India.

- ✍ James Wilson was the **founder of the much popular "The Economist"** (weekly news and international affairs publication),
- ✍ James Wilson was also the **founder of modern Standard Chartered Bank**.

James Wilson was sent to India **to establish the tax structure, a new paper currency** and remodel the finance system of India after mutiny. This workaholic personality refused to leave the stifling climate of Calcutta during summers, got some infection and died in office within one year of the job. But still his contribution was great in the initial financial set up of the India.

- ✍ James Wilson is one of the earliest forefathers of India's Income Tax Structure.

The following steps were taken by James Wilson to bring the economy on track:

1. The custom system was reorganized and all export duties were abolished.
2. The import duties were lowered.
3. **A 5% Income tax was imposed on all incomes more than 200 Rupees**
4. License duty of 1, 4 and 10% were imposed on the trades and professions.
5. Tobacco was placed under an internal revenue tax.
6. The business methods of the government, especially in the military department were revised.
7. **A Paper currency commission was set at Calcutta**, which was corresponding with the "Department of Issue of the Bank of England". The branches of this commission were established at Bombay and Madras.

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8. The Paper Currency Commission was authorized to issue notes ranging in value from Rupees 5 till Rupees 1000, which were redeemable in Silver.

But, this outstanding "first" finance minister of India died amid of the splendid task. He was succeeded by another finance member of council named **Samuel Laing**, who endeavored to free the poorest classes from the burden of taxation. He unsuccessfully tried to get the Bengal Tenancy Bill passed. The Bill was passed only after 2 decades as **Bengal Tenancy Act 1885**.

Indian Penal Code 1862

The initial sketch of the Indian Penal Code was drawn by Lord Macaulay in 1830s, but it was finally drafted in 1860 and came into force in 1862. Prior to that, the final draft of Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure was ready in 1861.

✍ Indian Penal code was inherited by Pakistan after separation and was later named Pakistan Penal Code.

✍ The same was adopted by Bangladesh also.

✍ It was also adopted in almost all the British colonies of Asia such as Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

Before 1860, the basis of justice was "The English Criminal Law" which was administered in the Presidency-Towns of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

✍ *The age old penal code and its many articles have become obsolete and needs to be revised. The **Malimath Committee of 2003** is related to the issue of reforms in the IPC.*

LORD ELGIN & LORD JOHN LAWRENCE

Lord Elgin 1861-1863

Lord Canning left India in March, 1862, and died within a month in England. His successor was Lord Elgin. He had already served as Governor of Jamaica from 1842 to 1847 and the Governor General of Canada from 1847 to 1854. In 1857 he was sent as envoy to China to open a trade for the British.

✍ He became viceroy and governor-general of India in 1862 but in the very next year, he died in Dharamasala of a heart attack while crossing a mountain bridge, there he lies buried.

✍ Lord Elgin is known to have abandoned the pomp of the earlier Governor Generals and travelled by train. The Wahabis, a group of turbulent and fanatical Mohammedans in the northwest were suppressed during his time.

He was succeeded by Sir William Denison, the governor of Madras, who became acting governor-general under the Act of 1861. Meanwhile the vicerealty was offered to **Sir John Lawrence**, who had done wonders in Punjab earlier during and after the **first as well as second Anglo Sikh War**.

Lord John Lawrence 1864-1869

Lord John Lawrence was not a new face in India. He had brilliantly organized the supply of the British army in Punjab during the First Anglo Sikh war of 1845-1846 and was made the commissioner of the Jalandhar. In the second Anglo Sikh War, he was appointed as the member of the **Punjab Board of Administration** under his elder brother Sir Henry Montgomery Lawrence. Some reforms such as abolition of internal duties,

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establishment of a common currency and postal system, and development of Punjabi infrastructure made him popular and he was 'by some' people called "the Saviour of the Punjab". He was partially able to prevent the Sikhs enter into mutiny due to his popular image and a general Sikh detest towards the Mughals.

While appointed at Punjab, Lawrence had made an agreement with the Afghan leader Dost Muhammad Khan, but during his tenure as Viceroy, he adopted a **cautious policy** and avoided the conflicts with the Afghans and Persians.

✍ The most important events of his tenure are Bhutan war fought between British India and Bhutan in 1864–1865 and the Orissa Famine

Bhutan War 1864-65

The **Bhutan war** is also known as Duar War and this ended in the defeat of the Bhutanese army. The peace was brought by "**Treaty of Sinchula**" which was signed on 11 November 1865. Bhutan ceded territories in the Assam Duars and Bengal Duars, as well as around 80,000 kilometers of Dewangiri (Deothang) to British in return for an annual subsidy of 50,000 rupees.

Orissa Famine 1866

The Orissa famine of 1866 followed a severe drought and destruction of the Rice Crop. The government imported rice but it reached only when millions of people starved to death. This exposed the inability of the government to deal with the famine situation in Orissa, resulted in a fearful loss of life. The famine was followed by devastating floods. The famine and floods claimed life of around 40-50 Lakh people in 2 years, mainly due to outbreak of cholera and malaria. A similar kind of famine affected Bundelkhand and Rajputana also. The government established the **Famine Commission under Henry Kempbell**. Emphasis was laid down for infrastructure development so that the relief reaches in time.

Policy Towards Afghanistan: The Policy of masterly inactivity

Lord Lawrence was cautious in dealing with the Afghanistan and Persia. On the death of Dost Mohammed, on June 9, 1863, Sher Ali, the third son and acknowledged heir of the Dost, was recognized as Amir of Afghanistan by Lawrence, and his son, Mohammed Ali, as heir apparent. But then there was a long civil war in Afghanistan in which two older sons of the Dost, Afzal and Azum, obtained possession of most of Afghanistan, and were partially recognized as de facto rulers by Lawrence, who at the same time refused to withdraw his recognition from Sher Ali. The latter soon won his way back to power, and in 1869 was able to notify Lawrence that he was once more in complete control. Lawrence's policy had been "*that we will leave the Afghans to settle their own quarrels, and that we are willing to be on terms of amity and goodwill with the nation and with their rulers de facto,*" This is known as policy of masterly inactivity.

Other events during Lord Lawrence's time

- ✍ Submarine telegraphy system started in 1865 between India and Europe via Persian Gulf.
- ✍ The Punjab and Oudh Tenancy acts were passed in 1868.

Sir John Lawrence retired in January, 1869. Lord Mayo succeeded Lord Lawrence in 1869

LORD MAYO 1869-72

Lord Mayo or Lord Naas served as 4th Viceroy of India from 12 January 1869 to 8 February 1872. He had served thrice as chief secretary for Ireland, in 1852, 1858-1859, and 1866-1868. Mayo College, Ajmer 1871

Mayo College

In his relations with the feudatory states Lord Mayo insisted that the native princes should not be guilty of misgovernment. The victim of this policy was raja of Alwar, who was compelled to accept a native council guided by the British political agents. Lord Mayo also encouraged the native rulers in enlightened government and sought to develop an esprit de corps to that end by the education of the heirs to the native principalities.

✍ The result was establishment of the Mayo College at Ajmer for the education of young Rajput princes. It was founded in 1875 and Colonel Sir Oliver St John became its first Principal.

India's First Census

In order to secure permanent improvement in the finances, **Lord Mayo** took the pains to secure and collect statistics regarding the population and the various conditions in each locality. This was because only exact knowledge in these matters could be helpful in both revenue and expenditure regulation.

✍ The result was that in **1871, India's first census of taken by his orders.**

✍ Mayo also **organized the Statistical Survey of India**, which, under the direction of William Wilson Hunter, "produced a printed account of each district, town, and village, carefully compiled upon local inquiry, and disclosing the whole economic and social facts in the life of the people."

✍ This was the most exhaustive work done since the *Ain-i-Akbari*, during the times of the Great Mughal.

The **other important works** done under Lord Mayo were as follows:

1. Setting up of Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce
2. Introduction of the most improved rifle, the Snider, and of rifled guns for the artillery.
3. Improvement in the sanitary conditions for the troops.
4. Lord Mayo is known for infrastructure development in the country by which an immense extension of roads, railroads, and canals was carried out. He refused to make loans for any public works except those that would be productive. He carried out the policy of state control of public works in the promotion of the various enterprises of railroad and canal construction.

Indian Evidence Act 1872

Lord Mayo took interest in the Prison reforms, especially the convict settlements at Andaman Islands.

The most important legal reform during his time was the passage of the **Indian Evidence Act in 1872.**

✍ The act was drafted by the law member of council, **James Fitzjames Stephen.**

Prior to this act, the rules of evidences were based upon the traditional legal systems of different social groups and communities. They were different for different persons depending on his or her caste, religious faith and social position. The act removed this anomaly and differentiation, and introduced a standard set of law applicable to all Indians.

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Assassination of Lord Mayo

The splendid vigor of Lord Mayo defied the climate and distances in the country. He anxiously studied the wants of the farthest provinces of the empire, but his life was cut short by an assassin Sher Khan, a convict at Andaman Islands, while he was inspecting the conditions in the convict settlement of the Andaman Islands in 1872.

THE TRIBAL UPRISINGS

In the 19th century and early 20th century, the tribals in different parts of our country stood against the British Administration. These uprisings played a very significant role in the freedom struggle of the country. Apparently, these tribals lived an isolated life away from the mainstream of the modern civilization, yet they had belongingness with the common national cause of India.

These revolts were sometimes against the landlords and feudal lords and at other times against the oppressive British government officials. The nature of these revolts was agrarian and forest based because, agriculture and forests was their everything. Their anger was against the exploitation by moneylenders and the petty government officials, normally over the land and forest rights. The British Administration never took positive interest to uniformly develop their standard of living.

The tribal societies were influenced by the then socio-political circumstances as well. Some leaders of the tribal societies took part in creating the wave of nationality and patriotism.

Most tribal movements occurred in North & North-East India and some occurred in the isolated regions of the South India. But due to the problem of non availability of the study materials, lack of interpretation, lack of combined methodology etc., the study of these tribal uprising very limited.

Still, on the nature of the revolts, these uprising can be divided into reactionary, conservative and revolutionary. The reactionary movements were against the measures by the contemporary government which compelled them to give up the elements (evil elements too) of their society. The conservative were also against those measures, as an attempt to protect their socio-cultural fabric. The revolutionary movements were against all kinds of oppressions these people suffered. A further classification divides them into **Ethnic movements, Agrarian movements and Political Movements**.

A brief detail about all those uprisings is given in the following pages.

Sanyasi Rebellion

- ❖ **Name of Uprising:** Sanyasi Rebellion
- ❖ **Area:** Murshidabad and Baikunthapur forests of Jalpaiguri, in West Bengal
- ❖ **Leader :** various Sanyasis

Sanyasi means Ascetics and Sadhus. In this rebellion, the Sanyasis or Fakirs including the Hindu and Muslim ascetics stood up against the oppressive tax collection post Bengal famine of 1770. The British had got the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar & Orissa in 1765. Till that time, the Zamindars used to oblige these Fakirs when they visited the holy places. Once British started collecting taxes, the Fakirs were not given any alms / money and numerous restrictions were placed on them, as the British took them as looters. The result was that these Sanyasis started raiding the government treasuries. They were suppressed and this suppression included massacre of 150 Fakirs in 1771.

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✍ *Anandamath*, written by India's first modern novelist **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**, from which the song *Vande Mataram* was taken and declared to be India's National Song, is the best reminder of the **Sanyasi Rebellion**.

Chuar rebellion 1799

- ❖ **Name of Uprising:** Chuar Rebellion
- ❖ **Area:** Midnapore, Bakura districts of West Bengal
- ❖ **Important Leader :** Durjan Singh

The Famine, enhanced taxes, oppressive demands and economic distress caused the revolt in the Midnapore and Bakura district of West Bengal for several times. In 1799-1800, there was a revolt under Durjan Singh, who was a former Zamindar. His 1500 followers created a havoc. The rebellion was suppressed with utmost cruelty.

Birsa Movement

- ❖ **Name of Uprising:** Birsa Movement
- ❖ **Area:** Bihar and Jharkhand
- ❖ **Important Leader :** Birsa Munda.

The Mundas were the frustrated tribal people who resorted to rebel several times in 1789, 1807, 1812, 1819 and 1832 in Bihar & modern Jharkhand. These revolts were because of the undue interference by the administration and the attitude of the landlords. This led to the emergence of Birsa movement under the leadership of **Birsa Munda**.

The name of Birsa Munda (1875-1900) is cherished in India as one of the great freedom fighters. He raised the voice against the transformation of the tribal agrarian system into the feudal state around the Chhotanagpur area. In 1900, at the age of 25, he was captured by British and put into prison. He died most probably because of the torture in prison.

✍ Today, Birsa Munda is a venerated figure in Bihar and Jharkhand. His name decorates the airport of Ranchi and Birsa Institute of Technology, Ranchi.

✍ The followers of Birsa Munda are called **Birsait**.

"Aranyer Adhikar" which means "Right to the Forest" was a novel of Mahashweta Devi Published in 1977. This novel was based upon the Munda Rebellion and Mahashweta Devi got "Sahitya Akademi Award" for Bengali in 1979 for this work.

Santhal rebellion 1855-56

The Santhal rebellion predates 1857. It was a rebellion of Santhal people led by 4 Murmu Brothers named Sindhu, Kanhu, Chand and Bhairav, in modern Jharkhand (then Bengal Presidency) against the oppressive Zamindari system. The initially launched Guerilla warfare in the Jungles of Jharkhand. The British trapped these outstanding archers and killed them in a battle. The Santhal villages were plundered and the rebellion was brutally subdued.

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Ahom's Revolt 1828

Ahom's Revolt took place in Assam region after the First Anglo Burmese War. The rebellion was against the annexation of the territories under British Empire in 1828.

✍ The leader of this movement was Gomdhar Konvar.

The revolt was suppressed by the British military.

Khonds Uprising 1846, 1855

Khond Uprising took place in Orissa in 1846 and 1855.

✍ The Khond people were led by **Chakra Bisoi**.

Khasi Uprising 1833

The Khasi uprising took place in 1833 in the regions between the Khasi hills and Jaintia Hills, against a planned British Road in that area.

✍ The leader of this uprising was Tirath Singh.

Pagal Panthi Revolt 1825-1850

Pagal Panthis were a mixture of the Hinduism, Sufism and Animism, which became prominent in Bengal (Now in Bangladesh).

✍ The sect was founded by Karam Shah, and his son Tipu Shah led these people to uphold the religion and rights of the peasants in Bengal.

He captured Sherpur in 1825, after standing up against oppressive taxes and laws imposed by the Zamindars and the British. The rebels kept disturbed the area for more than 2 decades. Tipu Shah died in 1852, but the resistance movement continued.

Paiks Rebellion 1803-1806

The Paiks Rebellion took place in Orissa between 1803-1806. Paikis was a militia class under the Zamindars, led by Baxi Jagbandhu.

Singhpos Revolt 1830

Singhpos revolt took place in 1830 in Assam and continued till 1839, when it was suppressed by the British.

Kachnagas Revolt 1882

Kachnagas revolt took place in Cachar region of Assam in 1882. The leader of this revolt was Sambudhan. The revolt was crushed brutally by the British.

Faraizis Revolt 1838-1857

This sect was founded by **Haji Shariatullah in Bengal**. Haji Shariatullah advocated the radical changes in religious, political and social changes in Bengal, because the Islam got degraded because of the British Influence. He organized a small armed force to attack the Zamindars and tried to establish a parallel

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government. Even established Khalifas as Commissioners of each village, to raise funds, and settle disputes between villagers. After Haji Shariatullah, his son Dadu Mian led this rebellion and was several times prosecuted by the British but convicted because of no evidences. The movement ended with Dadu Mian's death in 1860.

Indigo Revolt 1856-57

Indigo planting started in Bengal as early as 1777. It was first planted by one British Louis Bonard. When the British Power expanded, the Indigo planting was emphasized because of a high demand of the Blue Dye in Europe.

The peasants were compelled to plant Indigo rather than the food Crops.

- ✍ The peasants were provided loans called "**dadon**" for indigo planting which was at a very high interest rate. The loan made the people indebted and resulted in a rebellion.
- ✍ The leaders were Digambar and Bishnu Bishwas.
- ✍ The condition was depicted in the newspaper *Nil Darpan*.

Bhil Uprising 1817-19

This uprising took place in Khandesh region of Maharashtra under the leadership of Sewaram due to the agrarian hardships. The trouble again erupted in 1825, 1831 & 1846.

Koli Uprising 1829, 1839

Koli community is an ethnic group mostly found in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh. The rose against the British rule for dismantling the forests and a new order of administration in 1829 & 1839.

Kutch Rebellion 1819

The people in Kutch rose against the British when in 1819, they deposed Rao Bharmal and placed his infant son on the throne. The masses got violent and the British had to opt for conciliation.

Other Revolts of West India

- ✍ **Waghera Revolt** : 1820
- ✍ **Ramosi Revolt** : 1825-26 under Chittur Singh around Satara Area of Maharashtra
- ✍ **Satara Revolt** : Under Dhar Rao in 1840. This was a follow up of the Ramosi revolt because the ruler of Satara Pratap Singh was deposed by the British.
- ✍ **Bundela Revolt**: In 1842 Under Madhukar Shah. The revolt was subdued and Madhukar Shah was executed.
- ✍ **Gadkari Revolt**: It took place in Kolhapur area.
- ✍ **Naikada Revolt**: Naikada Revolt took place under Roop Singh and Joria Bhagat.

Revolt under Vasudev Balwant Phadke

A revolt was led by Vasudev Balwant Phadke in 1877-78 in the Vashi & Panvel area of Maharashtra.

- ✍ Phadke is known as father of the armed struggle for India's independence.

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He created a group called *Ramoshi*, which was the group of Ramoshis, Kolis, Bhils and Dhangars communities in Maharashtra and the actually the "*organized political dacoits*". He was captured and imprisoned in 1879 and died in 1883.

Uprisings in Karnataka

The "Doctrine of lapse" gave rise to dissent and resistance from princely states across the country. Major centers prior to 1857 were under Kittur Chennamma, Sangolli Rayanna in 1830s. The centres of uprising were Supa, Bagalkot, Shorapur, Nargund and Dandeli. These rebellions - which coincided with the 1857 war of independence - were led by Mundargi Bhimarao, Bhaskar Rao Bhave, the Halagali Bedas, Raja Venkatappa Nayaka and others.

Rebel by Velu Thampi Dalawa 1806

Dalwa means Prime Minister. Velu Thampi Dalawa was the Prime Minister of the local Raja of Travancore between 1802 and 1809. He rose in rebellion against the proposed reduction in the allowances, under the subsidiary alliance treaty with the Travancore. He raised the army known as Nair Battalion. The Rebellion was quelled with a large army of the British.

Rampa Rebellion 1879

Rampa Rebellion of 1879 was a full scale rebellion against the British in the hill tracts of Vishakhapatnam against the oppressions of a Zamindar. The rebel was suppressed and a large number of people were sent to "Kala Pani".

From the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, the rapid disintegration of the Mughal Empire had left the country in political confusion, till the complete establishment over it by the British. In 1858, India came under the central authority of the Crown and this was the "political unification" of the country after a long period. Now there was a uniform system of administration in place and Indian were brought under the British Law.

The assumption by the Queen Victoria of the direct government of India under the Crown in 1858, is the date which draws a single line as a whole between the ancient and modern India. The heat of the violent conflagration of 1857 had fused all the elements of the society and welded together the different parts of the country into a loose unity that became compact in the years to come. The 1858, accession of India marks the end of the long series of wars and that followed 50 years of tranquility. During this period, the role of the British Government was to occasionally punish the individual chiefs, and determining authoritatively on the conflicting claims to succession in the princely states.

LORD NORTHBROOK 1872-1876

In 1872, Lord Mayo was assassinated by a convict in Andman Island while he was on a visit to the cellular jail. He was followed by an acting viceroy and Governor General John Strachey. John Strachey was followed by another acting Viceroy Lord Napier in the same year 1872. Between 1872 and 1876, India's Viceroy was Lord Northbrook.

Deposition of Gaekwad of Baroda 1875

Till 1870, Baroda was under the popular Raja "Sir" Khanderao Gaekwad. After his death, he was supposed to be succeeded by Malharrao, his brother as he had no male heirs. But after his death, his wife was due to give birth to a posthumous child. But the Child was a girl, so all speculation null and void, Malhararao ascended

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the throne. But this man was a foolish and lavish spender and a gross tyrant. So, the paramount British came in action and by the orders of Lord Salisbury, he was deposed in 1875 and was exiled to Madras. Later he died in obscurity in 1882. This was one illustration of the use of paramount power in instances to punish acts of excessive or criminal misconduct committed by a chief or his ministers.

Kuka Movement 1872

Kuka Movement was another important event during the tenure of Lord Northbrook.

✍ The movement was originally started by Bhagat Jawar Mal in the 1840s.

Bhagar Jawar Mal was also known as **Sian Sahib** and the headquarters of the Kukas was Hazro (now in Pakistan). These people used to emit cries (kooks) when chanting hymns and that is why they were called Kuka. The tenets of the Kuka Movement were as follows:

1. One true guru "Guru Govind Singh".
2. Removal of caste distinctions in Sikhism.
3. Oppose the worship of idols, tombs and ascetics.

Thus the origin of this movement had its roots in the purification of the Sikhism. The movement became popular among the Namdhari Sikhs.

When they rose against the British Rule in 1870s, they were termed terrorists. The movement became violent in 1872 under Ram Singh, who was captured and deported to Rangoon in 1872 itself.

Prince of Wales Visit to India 1876

The Prince of Wales, eldest son of Queen Victoria visited India in 1876 with a large suite. He arrived in Bombay and then travelled to Madras, Ceylon and finally Calcutta. The intent of this visit was to inspire the local princes' loyalty to the British Empress and affirm their central role in the maintenance of the empire. Wherever he went, he was showered with valuable gifts by the "loyal" Indian feudatories. He collected so much in 6 months that one of the ships was filled with the jewels, paintings, antique weapons, live animals, embroideries brocades and all kinds of contemporary art works. He returned and the gifts went on an exhibition in England for 6 months.

✍ In return the Prince of Wales gave Indian Princes a copy of Rig-veda translated by Max Muller.

Orissa Famine of 1872

India was attacked by two great famines during the times of Lord Northbrook. One was the Bihar famine of 1873-74. Surprisingly, in this famine the British Government resorted to an extensive relief effort, organized by the Bengal government, so there was no casualty in this famine. But soon after, the 1876-78 saw another Great Famine in Southern India during **Lord Lytton's times**. This famine affected Madras and Bombay, Mysore and Hyderabad. 10 million people perished and no number was recorded for the princely states.

Indian Meteorological Department 1875

IMD was established at Kolkata on 15 January 1875. After that it was shifted to Shimla, then Pune and Finally New Delhi.

-: About this document:-

LORD LYTTON 1876-1880

✍ Lord Lytton, who remained the Viceroy of India from 1876-1880 used to write poems with the Pen name of "Owen Meredith".

Royal Titles Act 1876

The Royal Titles Act of 1876 was one of Disraeli's famous imperialistic measures. The act was passed with the understanding that the British imperial title should be used only in India. Thus, the Queen began to use it in her signature in 1878 and in 1893 it appeared on the British coins.

✍ The title empress of India was officially translated as Kaiser-i-Hind, was decorated on her in 1877 Delhi Durbar.

Delhi Darbar 1877

A few months after his swearing in as India's Viceroy, a Grand Darbar was organized at Delhi on January 1, 1877, in which Queen Victoria was proclaimed empress of India. After this the Queen conferred upon him the honor of the Grand Cross of the civil division of the Order of the Bath.

✍ Queen Victoria was proclaimed with title "**Kaisar-i-Hind**" at this Darbar.

When the princes of Indian princely states were flocking to participate in this gorgeous scene of **Delhi Darbar**, the shadow of **famine** was darkening over southern India.

Great Famine of 1876

The monsoons of 1876 had failed to bring their due supply of rain, and the season of 1877 was little better. This long-continued drought stretched from the Deccan to Cape Comorin, and subsequently invaded northern India, causing a famine more wide-spread than any previously known in Indian history.

The Poet Viceroy Lord Lytton was so uncompromising in implanting the British trading policies that was called directly responsible for the death of 10 million people in the Famine of 1876 -77 by some historians. The government is known to have spent 11 million sterling, but actually the lack of supply and efforts from the government caused the loss of life from starvation and a train of diseases that followed, taking the toll to a lamentable number.

Vernacular Press Act 1878

The latter half of the 19th century saw a remarkable growth in the Vernacular Press of the country and newspapers played a role of catalyst in the new socio-political consciousness.

Earlier, the newspapers were being published in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Allahabad only but later the newspapers started getting published from smaller places also. Since, most of the newspapers published from smaller places, they all were in vernacular languages. In 1878, when this act was passed, the number of English Newspapers was 20 and Vernacular newspapers were 200. These vernacular newspapers made the people aware of the political affairs and now the people slowly started asking questions for their rights.

So, in the best interest of the Government, **Lord Lytton passed the Vernacular Press Act in 1878.**

-: About this document:-

✍ By this act, the magistrates of the districts were empowered, without the prior permission of the Government, to call upon a printer and publisher of any kind to enter into a Bond, undertaking not to publish anything which might “rouse” feelings of disaffection against the government.

✍ The magistrate was also authorized to deposit a security, which could be confiscated if the printer violated the Bond.

✍ If a printer repeated the violation, his press could be seized.

Thus the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 gagged the press and result was some proceedings against some vernacular press people. There was now a popular protest against this act. The act was later repealed by Lord Ripon, who followed Lord Lytton.

Second Anglo Afghan War 1878-80

In the winter of 1878, the affairs of Afghanistan again forced themselves into notice. The First Anglo Afghan war had ended in 1842, in a humiliation for the British and this failure kept haunting them for many years.

✍ The successive governments in Britain remain calm, but when **Lord Disraeli became PM**, he sent **Lord Lytton** to India to increase the influence in Afghanistan.

On this side, under Akbar Khan, the son of Dost Mohammed, Afghanistan once again became independent and Dost Mohammad Khan came back to power in 1843. Akbar Khan died in 1845.

Treaty of Peshawar

In 1855 Treaty of Peshawar between Dost Mohammad and British reopened the diplomatic relations. After a series of incidents, Russia established a fixed boundary between Afghanistan and its territories in 1873. But within a period of 5 years the rivalry turned back. This was because of an uninvited diplomatic mission sent by the Russians to Kabul. The ruler Sher Ali Khan, son of Dost Mohammad Khan wanted to stop them, but failed. The British too wanted to send a mission, but Sher Ali refused. A diplomatic mission was ordered by Lord Lytton, the viceroy of British India, and the Mission was turned back. This triggered the Second Anglo Afghan War.

Treaty of Gandamak

In the second Anglo Afghan war, much of Afghanistan was occupied by British. Sher Ali was defeated and he fled towards Turkistan. Sher Ali's Son, Mohammad Yaqub Khan signed a treaty of Gandamak in May, 1879 to prevent British Invasion in rest of the country. However, he paid the price by relinquishing the Control of Afghan Foreign Relations to British. British Control was thus extended to much of the country. He also agreed to receive a British Resident at Kabul.

The treaty of Gandamak was signed in May, 1879, but in the same year in September, the British Resident Major Cavagnari was murdered. This again triggered the war and Kabul was occupied. Yakub Khan surrendered and he was sent to Dehradun as a Prisoner.

Attempt to Murder and Resignation of Lord Lytton

At this crisis of affairs, there was a general election in England, which resulted in the defeat of the Conservative Ministry of Lord Disraeli. Lord Lytton also resigned simultaneously. Prior to that in 1879 an attempt was made to assassinate him, but he happily escaped uninjured. After his resignation, **Lord Ripon** was sent to India.

-: About this document:-

- ✍ Muhammedan Anglo-Oriental College) was founded by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, the leader of Muslim renaissance in Indian subcontinent, in 1875 at Aligarh during the tenure of Lord Lytton. It later became Aligarh Muslim University.
- ✍ Lucile was a verse novel written by Lord Lytton, published in 1860.
- ✍ The Indian Arms Act of 1878 was legislated during Lord Lytton's time. By this act, no Indians could keep unlicensed arms. However, the English people could hold arms without license.
- ✍ Lord Lytton also was responsible for the economic distress caused by abolishing the Tax on the foreign cotton coming to India, to safeguard the British Traders.
- ✍ The maximum age to enter in to the Civil Services Examination was reduced from 21 years to 19 years.

LORD RIPON 1880-84

Lord Ripon remained India's Viceroy from 1880-84. This liberal politician is known for many reforms in the internal administration of India. The most important events during this time were as follows:

- ✓ The Vernacular Press Act **was repealed** in 1882
- ✓ A **Resolution in 1882** set off the institution of local self-government in India.
- ✓ **Hunter Commission** came in 1882 for the purpose of education reforms.
- ✓ The age for entry in the Civil Services was once again raised to 21 years.
- ✓ The **First factory Act** was enacted in 1881
- ✓ Introduction of **Ilbert Bill** in severely compromised state.
- ✍ The years 1882 and 1883 are memorable for these great measures. One important one was the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act, which was passed by his predecessor Lord Lytton in 1878.

Thus, he set free the native journals from the last restraints on the free discussion of public questions. In 1882, he granted freedom to the Press.

The Afghan Affairs

Immediately after the Second Anglo Afghan War, Abdur Rahaman, the male heir of the Dost Muhammad stock was made the Amir of Afghanistan. The British Viceroy Lord Ripon withdrew the policy of disintegrating the Afghanistan and accepted it as a Buffer state (between British and Russian/ Persian territories), which later culminated in Durand Line. However they retained the rights to handle the foreign relations of Afghanistan. In 1885, a military skirmish occurred and the Russian encroached the Merv Oasis and an Afghan territory south of the Oxus River around an oasis at Panjdeh. (It is now in Turkmenistan). Later, possible war was averted with diplomacy of Lord Dufferin, who managed to secure a settlement. As per this settlement Russia kept the Merv Oasis, but relinquished further territories taken in their advance, and promised to respect Afghan territorial integrity in the future.

Local Self Government (Resolution of 1882)

Lord Ripon is known to have granted the Indians first taste of freedom by introducing the Local Self Government in 1882. His scheme of local self government developed the Municipal institutions which had been growing up in the country ever since India was occupied by the British Crown. He led a series of enactments in which larger powers of the Local self government were given to the rural and urban bodies and the elective people received some wider rights.

- ✍ Lord Ripon is known as Father of Local Self Government in India.
- ✍ This was not enacted by any act, it was a resolution that was passed in 1882.

-: About this document:-

First Factory Act 1881

A committee was appointed in 1875 to inquire into the conditions of factory work in the country. This committee had favored some kind of legal restrictions in the form of factory laws.

✍ During Lord Ripon's time, the first Factories Act was adopted in 1881.

Following this act, a Factory Commission was appointed in 1885. There was another Factories Act in 1891, and a Royal Commission on Labor was appointed in 1892. The result of these enactments was the limitation on the factory working hours. This was an answer of the Government to the pathetic conditions of the workers in the factory, wherein, only when a laborer exhausted, new laborer was to take his / her place.

Hunter Education Commission 1882-83

In 1882, Lord Ripon organized the Hunter Commission under William Wilson Hunter.

✍ William Wilson Hunter was the statistician, a compiler and a member of the Indian Civil Service, who later also became Vice President of Royal Asiatic Society.

✍ He was appointed as a Magistrate in the Bengal Presidency in 1862, and from there only he started compiling the local traditions and records.

✍ He published "The Annals of Rural Bengal" and "A Comparative Dictionary of the Non-Aryan Languages of India" but his **best known work is "The Imperial Gazetteer of India"** on which he started working in 1869.

✍ This work was delegated to him by Lord Mayo. The work appeared in 9 volumes in 1881.

In 1882 as a member of the Governor General in Council he was appointed he chairman of the Commission on Education. In 1886, he was also elected as Vice Chancellor of the Calcutta University. The Hunter Commission brought out the neglect to the primary and secondary education in the country. The commission recommended that the responsibility for the Primary Education must be given to the Local Boards and Municipal Boards. The important recommendations were as follows:

1. The government should take special care to extend the primary education.
2. There should be literary and vocational training in secondary education.
3. The commission brought out inadequate facilities available for the female education in the country.

The recommendations were partially implemented and there was a slow growth in the number of the secondary schools in the country.

Ilbert Bill 1884

✍ Ilbert Bill is named after Courtenay Peregrine Ilbert, who was appointed as legal adviser to the Council of India.

The bill was introduced in 1883 by Viceroy Ripon, who actually desired to abolish the racial prejudice from the Indian Penal Code. Ripon had proposed an amendment for existing laws in the country and to allow Indian judges and magistrates the jurisdiction to try British offenders in criminal cases at the District level.

It was never allowed before.

-: About this document:-

So naturally, the Europeans living in India looked it as a Humiliation and the introduction of the bill led to intense opposition in Britain as well as India (by the British residents). So it was withdrawn but was reintroduced and enacted in 1884 in a severely compromised state.

✍ The amended bill had the provisions that the Europeans would be conferred on European and Indian District Magistrates and Sessions Judges alike. However, a defendant would in all cases have the right to claim trial by a jury of which at least half the members must be European.

Thus, this enactment held that Europeans criminals would be heard only by the Indian Judges "helped by the European Judges".

✍ The passage of this bill opened the eyes of the Indians and deepened antagonism between the British and Indians.

✍ The result was wider nationalism and establishment of Indian National Congress in the next year.

✍ The amended Ilbert Bill was passed on 25 January 1884, as the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Act 1884.

✍ It came into force on May 1, 1884.

PRE CONGRESS ORGANIZATIONS

It took over a 100 years to the Indians to understand the true nature of the colonist British rule as an exploitative, alien rule. The Nationalism in India certainly grew after the foundation of Indian national Congress in 1885, but prior to that there were some secular political organizations that came up with some primitive ideas about independence. The first among them was British India Society.

British India Society 1839-43

In 1831, Dwarkanath Tagore had established the "Landholders Society" along with Prasanna Kumar Tagore, Radhakanta Deb, Ramkamal Sen and Bhabani Charan Mitra. The Landholders society was known as the first organization of Bengal with distinct political object. It was followed by British India Society in 1839.

✍ British India Society was founded in 1839 in England with the efforts of William Adam, one of the friends of Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

William Adam had come to India and got in touch with Raja Ram Mohan Roy and when he returned England, he took up India's cause along with George Thompson, William Ednis, and Major General Briggs.

The result was organizing meetings at several places and creating awareness about the conditions in India.

✍ In 1841, this society started printing a newspaper "**British Indian Advocate**".

In 1842, Dwarkanath Tagore went to England along with Chandramohan Chatterjee and Paramananda Maitra. He returned from England with George Thomson.

✍ With the efforts of George Thomson, Bengal British India Society was founded on 20 April 1843.

The idea was to secure the welfare, and advance the interests of all classes, in pure loyalty to the government of the reigning sovereign of the British dominions.

British Indian Association 1851

British Indian Association was created after amalgamating the "Landholders Society" and "British India Society" on 31 October 1851.

- ✍ This was the first political organization that brought the Indian Together.
- ✍ The President of the first committee of this organization was **Raja Radhakanta Deb**, while Debendranath Tagore was its secretary.

The newspaper of this society was "**Hindu patriot**" which adopted a strongly critical political tone. Its editor **Harish Chandra Mukherjee** wrote in the Hindu Patriot on 14 January 1858, the following lines:

"Can a revolution in the Indian government be authorized by Parliament without consulting the wishes of vast millions of men for whose benefit it is proposed to made? The reply must be in the negative. The time has nearly come when all Indian questions must be solved by Indians"

In the wake of the upcoming charter act (of 1853) in 1852, this organization sent a delegation to England, pleading for separation of Judiciary with executive, higher posts and pays for Indians, abolition of salt duty and inclusion of Indians in the legislative councils. But all expectations were negated by the **Charter Act of 1853**.

Bombay Association (1852) & Madras Native Association (1852)

In Bombay and Madras, there were two important first political organizations.

- ✍ The first political organization of the Bombay Presidency was the **Bombay Association** which was started on 26 August 1852, to vent public grievances to the British.
- ✍ The first organization in the Madras Presidency to vent for the rights of Indians was the Madras Native Association which was established by *Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty* in 1849.

However, both of them were essentially local in character and so got disbanded in a few years.

East Indian Association 1867

✍ The "Grand Old Man of India" Dadabhai Naoroji initiated establishment of East India Association, at London.

It was one of the predecessor organizations of the Indian National Congress in 1867. The idea was to present the correct information about India to the British Public and voice Indian Grievances. In 1869, this organization opened branches in Bombay, Kolkata and Madras. It became defunct in 1880s.

National Indian Association 1870 (Mary Carpenter)

Mary Carpenter was an English educational and social reformer who came to India in 1866, to fulfill her long cherished desire to, after she met Raja Ram Mohan Roy in 1833. During this visit she went to Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. She could see the pathetic condition of the female children in the country. She met Keshab Chandra Sen, the leader of Brahma Samaj, who asked her to form an organization in Britain to improve communication between British and Indian reformers. In 1870 she established **National Indian Association**. It was different than the Indian National Association.

-: About this document:-

Indian National Association 1876 (Surendra Nath Banerjee and Anand Mohan Bose)

Indian National Association was the first declared Nationalist Organization founded in British India by Surendranath Banerjee and Anand Mohan Bose in 1876. It was originally established as Bharat Sabha and held its first annual conference in Calcutta. It merged in INC in 1885.

Surendranath Banerjee

Surendranath Banerjee is also known as RastraGuru. He was born in 1848 and in 1868, he competed in the Indian Civil Service Examination along with RC Dutt. He cleared the exam in 1869, but was debarred because of age dispute. Later he cleared the exam in 1871 and got appointed as Assistant magistrate in Bengal. Later he established the Indian national Association which was Pro-British. He remained the leader of the INC and in the evening of his life supported the British empire. He was knighted by the Government and also served as minister for local self-government from 1921 to 1924. He was an open critic of Mahatma Gandhi, who was then only in rising stage of his political career.

LORD DUFFERIN

Arrival of Lord Dufferin 1884

In 1884 Lord Dufferin came to India as Next Viceroy. The main events of this period were:

1. Third Anglo Burmese war that led to annexation of Upper Burma.
 2. Tenancy acts were passed in some provinces
 3. Congress took birth in 1885.
- ✓ Lord Dufferin sought to pursue a middle path in contrast with the imperialism of Lord Lytton and overzealous policy of Internal administration reforms of Lord Ripon.

But this was the time for serious problems in the foreign relations. In North West Russia was renewing its policy of aggression, in east, in the Indo-China France had started upon an aggressive policy.

Birth of Durand Line 1884 - 1893

In Afghanistan, Abdur Rahaman was made the Amir in 1880.

By this time, the British had accepted the policy of disintegrating the Afghans and accepted it as a Buffer State between the two countries. The advocates of a British forward policy in Afghanistan and on the North West frontier of India regarded "**Herat**" as the gate of India. But British still retained the rights to handle the foreign relations of Afghanistan. In 1885, a military skirmish occurred and the Russian encroached the **Merv Oasis** and an Afghan territory south of the Oxus River around an oasis at Panjdeh. (It is now in Turkmenistan).

✓ Thus the occupation of Merv placed Russia in a easy striking reach of Herat. So, this was a great alarm for the Russophobes.

Immediately negotiations were opened between London and St. Petersburg. A possible war was averted with diplomacy and Lord Dufferin managed to secure a settlement. As per this settlement Russia kept the **Merv Oasis**, but relinquished further territories taken in their advance, and promised to respect Afghan territorial integrity in the future.

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Later, in 1893 during times of Lord Lansdowne, Abdul Rahman accepted to let a mission headed by the British India Foreign secretary, Sir Mortimer Durand, demarcate the territories as joint Afghan Frontier Commission.

- ✓ This was the birth of Durand Line, which now defines the territories of Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- ✓ Durand Line is also known to have established the "Great Game" buffer zone between British and Russian interests in that region.
- ✓ The Durand line agreement carved out of a new province called North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) out of annexed areas from Afghanistan.
- ✓ They are currently part of Pakistan but Afghanistan did not recognize them.
- ✓ In 1895, Afghanistan's northern Border was fixed and Guaranteed by Russia.

Third Anglo-Burmese War and Annexation of Burma

On the eastern front, there was an unrest caused by the French activities in Indo-China, which led the British to poke their nose in the affairs of independent Burma. The King Thebau was alleged of persistent ill treatment with the British subjects. There was a succession crisis and British resident was thrown out of Burma. The result was a war in which a force under General Harry North Dalrymple Prendergast invaded upper Burma. In two weeks, the King surrendered and was sent as a prisoner to Madras.

- ✓ On January 1, 1886, the territories of Burma were annexed in British India and on September 25, 1886, Lower Burma was annexed as province of British India under Sir Charles Bernard as the first chief commissioner.

Thus this annexation was a result of Imperialism, rather than justice. But this annexation aroused the Burmese people. They started seeking independence by protracted guerrilla warfare. The series of expensive campaigns against these Guerilla warriors was led and they were suppressed brutally. But this annexation was not even welcome in India. This was because of the increased expenses which were now to be at the Cost of Indian Subjects. So, Indians prayed to make the Burma a crown colony as Ceylon.

Birth of Congress 1885

Back home, the need for the formation of an all-India political organization had become an objective necessity. The pre-congress organizations were limited in scope and objectives. This led to development of some basic needs and objectives before the leaders. It was said that the Indians need to be welded together for their political advancements.

It was Allan Octavian Hume, who embarked on an endeavor to start an organization of select alumni of the University of Calcutta in 1883. By May 1885, he was able to secure the Viceroy's approval to create an "Indian National Union", which would be affiliated with the government and act as a platform to voice Indian public opinion.

In Britain, there was a general election in 1885. A. O. Hume *et al* published an "*Appeal from the People of India*" to the electors of Great Britain and Ireland. This appeal asked the British Voters to support the candidates who were sympathetic to the Indian public opinions. However, there was no substantial result of this appeal. The major issues raised by these people were:

1. Spending Indian taxpayer's money on British Indian campaigns in Afghanistan
2. Legislative reforms on India for greater participation of the Indian people.
3. Increased pressure on India by annexation of Burma.

-: About this document:-

On 28 December 1885, the Indian National Congress was founded at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College in Bombay, with 72 delegates in attendance.

Please note that the first meeting was scheduled to be held in **Pune**, but due to a plague outbreak there, the meeting was later shifted to Mumbai. The first Session of INC was held from 28-31 December 1885, and was attended by 72 delegates.

- ✓ A O Hume assumed office as the General Secretary.
- ✓ Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee of Calcutta was elected President.

The additional British Members were **William Wedderburn** and Justice John Jardine. All others were the Hindus from Calcutta and Madras Presidency.

Fact Box: First session of Congress

In the First session of the Congress, it adopted a resolution expressing the dissatisfaction on the current system of Governance and demanded reforms in the Councils. After this resolution, Lord Dufferin had established a committee for the reforms in the councils and it was this act which introduced the principle of representation. This act authorized the universities, District Boards, Municipalities, Zamindars and Chambers of Commerce to send members to Provincial councils. Indian Councils act 1892 was enacted partially due to efforts of Indian National Congress. For the first time, Indian Councils Act had authorized the universities, District Boards, Municipalities, Zamindars and Chambers of Commerce to send members to Provincial councils. The Indian Councils act 1892 increased the number of the additional members in case of the council of the governor general to maximum of 16. In case of Bombay and Madras 8-20 and In case of the Bengal 20 and In case of North Western province and Oudh 15.

Safety Valve Theory

Indian National Congress was founded by a Retired Civil Servant and not by any Indian.

- ✍ It was said that the INC was started by Viceroy Lord Dufferin with the help of an ex Civil Services member as a "Safety Valve" against the popular discontent. This is termed as "Safety Valve Theory".
- ✍ This theory says that A O Hume and other British thought that *the educated Indians may become leaders of the Indian public and organize a rebellion against the government*. So if the Government itself provides them a platform to raise their voice, it may be possible to stop such nuisance.

Safety Valve Theory

The concept of Safety Valve Theory says that the British had seen the political situation in the country leading to another rebellion on along the lines of the War of Independence of 1857, and wished to avoid such a situation. So, they wanted to provide a platform to the people, where they could discuss their political problems. A O Hume was a retired British Civil Servant and had a series of meetings with Lord Dufferin, the Viceroy. He also lobbied with some other people such as **Sir James Caird**, Lord Ripon, John Bright etc. A large number of British in India such as Sir William Wedderburn, **George Yule**, Charles Bradlaugh etc, supported AO Hume.

This theory has been discarded now. But still, the contribution of British cannot be disregarded in creation of first all India political front in which majority of the people were Hindus. The Muslims took congress negatively in the beginning but there were leaders such as Badruddin Taybji who were active leaders. The

-: About this document:-

contribution of British in foundation of this organization was accepted and verbalized by Gopal Krishna Gokhle in 1913 as follows:

"No Indian could have started the Indian National Congress...if an Indian had come forward to start such a movement embracing all Indians, the officials in India would not have allowed the movement to come into existence. If the founder of the Congress had not been an Englishman and a distinguished ex-official, such was the distrust of political agitation in those days that the authorities would have at once found some way or the other to suppress the movement"

The second session of Indian National Congress met at Calcutta in December 1886. The president was Dadabhai Naoroji. Now the number was 436 and these delegates were elected by different local organizations and groups. Most of these were the educated class of India consisting of lawyers, journalists, traders, industrialists, teachers, and some of them were landlords.

- ✓ The success of second INC session led the leaders decide to meet every year in December in different parts of the country.
- ✓ By 1889, the number of the delegates rose to 2000.

Early Years of Congress: the Demands

During the early years, Congress passed the resolutions on the related to political, administrative and economic public grievances.

- ✓ The main political demand was the reform in the legislative councils so that the Indians get wider powers such as discussion on Budget, so that they work as representatives of the people.
- ✓ There was a demand of local self-government at a wider level.
- ✓ They wanted reforms in the Civil services and through a simultaneous ICS examination at India as well as England, so that the administration becomes more responsive to the needs of the Indian People.
- ✓ The other demand was separation of Judiciary with the executive.
- The other demands were:
 - ✓ Repeal of the arms act
 - ✓ Higher jobs in the army for the Indians
 - ✓ Rising of an Indian volunteers force.

Similarly, the economic issues were based upon the drain of wealth from India to England.

- ✓ It was documented and published by Dada Bhai Naoroji as "Poverty and un-British Rule in India".
- ✓ The Congress leaders wanted an inquiry into India's growing poverty and famines, reduction in military expenditure and home expenditures
- ✓ They wanted more funds for technical education to promote Indian industries.
- ✓ Another demand was to put an end to unfair tariffs and excise duties imposed on Indian traders very discriminately.
- ✓ They wanted extension of permanent settlement to other areas.

Early Congress and British

The idea behind these reasonable demands was to put a national character to the British Government of India. The methodology of the early Congress leaders was limited to pass resolutions and prepare petitions to be sent to England.

-: About this document:-

✓ The British Committee of INC was founded in 1889 and in 1890; this committee started a journal called India.

Thus we see that initially the Indian National Congress wished to achieve the Indian Objectives within the British Empire. But in the due course, Congress became the focus and fulcrum of Indian Nationalist aspirations and it was in 1929, when independence was kept above all the other goals.

Initially the objectives were limited and it worked with the constitutional limits. But still it was being looked with suspicion with the by the British.

✍ When Congress was formed, the secretary of state for India was Earl of Kimberley, who served in this capacity from December 1882 to 9 June 1885. But when the Congress met for the first time on 28 December 1885, the Secretary of State for India was Lord Randolph Churchill, whose tenure was from 24 June 1885 28 January 1886, just 6 months.

✍ After that Earl of Kimberley again became secretary of state for India and served in this capacity from 6 February 1886 to 20 July 1886. *This question has been asked many times in examinations.*

The demands of the Congress were ridiculed in the British Media. But it was Earl of Kimberley, the Secretary of State for India who somewhat supported the reasonable demands.

Lord Dufferin initially did not take Congress much seriously. Then, there was a blast and all of a sudden a Pamphlet appeared titled "**The Rising Tide**". Another pamphlet appeared titled "**An Old Man's Home**". These were against the British and Lord Dufferin took no time to react and express objection to these mischief.

✓ He initially called Congress as representative of "**microscopic minority of India**" but later in the fourth session of Allahabad, the Government servants were disallowed to take part in the proceedings of the Congress.

Thus was the beginning of the movement of Independence in India.

LORD LANSDOWNE

Arrival of Lord Lansdowne 1888

The **Marquis of Lansdowne** (Lord Lansdowne) succeeded Lord Dufferin in 1888 and ruled India till 1894. This was the time when the North West frontier of India was strengthened and secured against the possible invasions.

✓ The Durand line was demarcated which served as India-Afghanistan Border.

✓ This was the time of improving railroad communication between the frontier and the military base in India.

This time was used by the British in strengthening the select position by making strong fortifications of great cantonments. For defense of the Khaibar, Rawalpindi was selected as the base for the defense, thus strong posts at Rawalpindi, Peshawar Attock defended the Indus. During his time, **Indian Councils Act 1892** was passed.

-: About this document:-

Indian Councils Act 1892

Indian Councils Act 1892 was the beginning of the parliamentary System in India. Before this act was passed, the Indian National Congress had adopted some resolutions in its sessions in 1885 and 1889 and put its demand.

The major demands placed were as follows:

- ✓ A simultaneous examination of ICS to be held in England and India
- ✓ Reforms of the legislative council and adoption of the principle of election in place of nomination
- ✓ Opposition to the annexation of Upper Burma
- ✓ Reduction in the Military expenditure.

The second demand mentioned above reflected the dissatisfaction of the Indian National Congress over the existing system of governance. The Indian leaders wanted admission of a considerable number of the elected members. They also wanted the creation of similar councils of North western Province and Oudh and also for Punjab

- ✓ The Indian leaders also wanted a right to discussion on budget matters.

Viceroy Lord Dufferin set up a committee. The committee was given the responsibility to draw a plan for the enlargement of the provincial councils and enhancement of their status. The plan was drawn, but when it was referred to the Secretary of State for India, he did not agree to introduction of the Principle of election.

The Indian Councils Act 1892 gave the members right to ask questions on Budget or matters of public Interest.

- ✓ But none of them was given **right to ask supplementary questions**.
- ✗ The act was 1892 can be said to be a First step towards the beginning of the parliamentary system in India, where the members are authorized to ask questions.
- ✗ At least, they were enabled to indulge in a criticism of the Financial Policy of the Government.

The Indian Councils act 1892 can also be said to introduce the principle of representation. This act authorized the universities, District Boards, Municipalities, Zamindars and Chambers of Commerce to send members to Provincial councils.

The Indian Councils act 1892 increased the number of the additional members in case of the council of the governor general to maximum of 16. In case of Bombay and Madras 8-20 and In case of the Bengal 20 and In case of North Western province and Oudh 15.

Reaction to Indian Councils Act 1892

Contrary to the Congress faith in the policy of petition, prayer and protest, the Indian Councils Act did not satisfy the public demand. The congress way of demand was seen as a weakness by the British Government. This was evident from the **following note by BG Tilak**:

".....political rights will have to be fought for. The moderates think that these can be won by persuasion. We Think that they can only be obtained by strong Pressure..."

This was the beginning of the militant nationalism in India.

-: About this document:-

LORD ELGIN

Arrival of Lord Elgin 1894

In January, 1894, Lord Elgin succeeded Lord Lansdowne. By this time, the financial reforms and tax reductions by Lord Ripon's administration had started creating problems for the revenue. The Burma War cost Rs. 40 Lakh, the military campaigns in North West cost Rs. 20 Lakh and the increased army needed an expenditure of Rs. 15 Lakh per annum. To meet these expenses, the income tax was revived in 1886 and Salt Tax was increased in 1888 and a 5% custom duty was imposed in 1894. When Lord Elgin came, the custom duty was imposed on Cotton Goods and was extended to Manchester Cotton Cloths of finer qualities.

Opium Commission 1893

In 1893 a royal commission was issued to inquire into the results of using opium in India, and the possibility of prohibiting it. This commission examined many witnesses and finally reported in 1895. The result was as follows:

- ✓ The result of Opium use in India is much less harmful than it was supposed.
- ✓ Opium rarely sends any criminal to the Jails, as Alcohol sends criminals to English Jails as a cause of crime and death in England. It is used by the holy saints of India.
- ✓ Opium is not associated to any disease and it is widely used as a remedy in Malaria and Fever. ☺

The result was that the Government happily accepted the recommendation of this commission and shelved the idea of imposing a ban on Opium.

A similar parliamentary commission was asked to inquire into the impact of Bhang, Ganja and other "desi" drugs and the commissions found that if Bhang and Ganja are prohibited, the consumption of alcohol will increase in India, and that would cause more problems for their subjects in India.

At that time, Opium was cultivated by only licensed cultivators and they were required to sell all of the produce to the Government, which used to "export" it. About 90 % of this Opium was sent to China and Government earned two third of the profit. Opium was rarely smoked in India but the people of Burma were used to living in Opium Smoker's paradise. But the commission's reports were criticized by some parliamentarians of England like Henry Joseph Wilson, who did not approve the "studies" of the commissioners.

Bubonic Plague of Bombay Presidency 1896-97

The last five years of the 19th century were disastrous for India, which brought an array of misfortune and distress.

In October, 1896, the Bubonic plague, which was part of the Third Pandemic, was certified to exist in the Bombay presidency. It was endemic in some localities like Mesopotamia and some central Asian places but from there it spread to China causing 50 thousand deaths and then in Hong Kong causing 10 thousand deaths.

✍ The Plague was studied at the Pasteur Institute in Paris and the studies were done by a Russian Bacteriologist **Waldemar Haffkine**.

✍ Waldemar Haffkine had also developed an anti-cholera vaccine which he tried out successfully in India.

-: About this document:-

✍ He was the first microbiologist who developed and used vaccines against cholera and bubonic plague. He tested the vaccines on himself and was acclaimed as "a savior of humanity".

The plague spread rapidly in the Bombay Presidency and people started fleeing from Mumbai, Pune and other places. In 1897, the death started dancing in Pune and the government decided to take drastic steps against the killer disease.

There were riots in various locations due opposition to government policy of sanitary measures. The government had decided to take drastic action against the Plague and as per the Special Plague Committee's recommendations 893 officers and men both British and native were placed under the command of Mr. WC Rand and Lieutenant Ayerst. The soldiers started house searching and the social taboos took it as a kind of oppression. The people got irked and Tilak also opposed this way of the Government's suppression of the disease. He wrote inflammatory articles in "Kesari" his newspaper. The result was that these two officers were shot dead by some Pune youngsters.

After this, a series of trials began and some people including Tilak were charged of sedition. Tilak was sentenced to 18 months rigorous imprisonment. In the court he declared:

"Swaraj ha maza janmasidha adhikar aahe ani to mi milavinach"

Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it."

This made Tilak a national Hero and when he returned from Jail, Mother India had found herself given birth to a true hero.

The last five years of the 19th century were disastrous for India, which brought an array of misfortune and distress. In October, 1896, the Bubonic plague, which was part of the Third Pandemic, was certified to exist in the Bombay presidency. It was endemic in some localities like Mesopotamia and some central Asian places but from there it spread to China causing 50 thousand deaths and then in Hong Kong causing 10 thousand deaths. In Pune there were riots in opposition to the Government sanitary measures and the irked people shot two British officers dead. The plague also gave India's first Swarajist Bal Gangadhar Tilak who declared that *"Swaraj ha maza janmasidha adhikar aahe ani to mi milavinach"*

✓ The opposition of the Government policy in the Indian Press that led to the series of sedition trials. The result was that a new **Press Regulation was adopted in 1898.**

The Bubonic Plague spread from Bombay Presidency to other parts of the country such as Punjab, Bengal, United Provinces and in 1905 its traces were seen in even Burma. By 1901, 4 Lakh people had died; the death toll reaches over 10 Lakh by 1905. It was on its height when in the last week of April 1905, fifty eight thousand people were reported to have killed. However, since then the number of deaths fell.

But this was just a part of the misfortune for India. The same time was of severe famine attacks affecting several parts of India.

Chhappania Akal 1899-1900

In 1896, the rainfall was less than the normal rainfalls.

✓ This was an El Niño year, the years in which the monsoon rainfall was considerably less than average, because of the El Niño.

-: About this document:-

In 1897 the rains were sufficient but in the next year 1897-98, the rains were profuse, but again 1899 was an El Niño year. This was the worst year in which rainfall fell to 60-65%. (Normal rain 45 Inch, this year rains 33 Inches, deficiency 11 Inches).

The result of these **two El Niño Years 1896 & 1899** was that in October 1897 Three Lakh square miles of the population of the Agra, Oudh, Bengal and the Central Provinces got affected. In November 1900, the Bombay Presidency, Central Provinces, Rajputana, etc. got caught in the grip of the famine. This was three and half times of the area affected previously. The famine claimed **90-100 Lakh** lives, most severely affected were Bombay Presidency as per the official figures and Rajputana as per the unofficial figures.

✓ **Since the famine of 1899-1900 was in the Vikrami Samvat 1956, it is known as Chhappania Akal or Chhappania Kal.**

The El Niño year follow by El Niño+1 year in which the normal rainfalls are higher. The result was the famine was followed by epidemic , malaria & cholera and the severity of the famine was so bad that the tribals of Rajputana, Madhya Pradesh (central Provinces) , Gujarat (Bombay Presidency), Hissar and other places died in thousands. The tragedy is still sung in the folk songs of these areas.

The famine relief in the British Provinces was organized by the Government of Lord Curzon and around 25% of the affected people were relieved as per the official figures, but the native princes of Rajputana and Gujarat who were autonomous failed to curb the death toll.

The Government spent Rs. 170 Lakh and Rs. 130 Lakh in the famines of 1897 and 1900.

✓ This **Chhappania Akal** is the most widespread recorded in Indian history. Though, it was not as acute as the Orissa famine of 1866 or as fatal as the terrible Bengal famine of 1770, yet the progress of the media, invention and spread of Photography and the means of communication made it the most popular famine of India.

LORD CURZON

Arrival of Lord Curzon 1899

Viceroy of this famine torn India was Lord Curzon who had come to take office in 1899. He remained India's viceroy till 1905. The British records claim that the efforts of Lord Curzon were able to feed 3-5 million people in the British Indian provinces. Lord Curzon Said:

"If any man is in any doubt as to whether he should subscribe, I would gladly give him a railway Ticket to a famine district....He might go with a hard heart, but he would come back with a broken one".

But, this calculative person wanted to spend as little money as he could do. It is evident from the following statements he made :

"any government which imperiled the financial position of India in the interests of prodigal philanthropy would be open to serious criticism; but any government which by indiscriminate alms-giving weakened the fibre and demoralized the self-reliance of the population, would be guilty of a public crime"

The British initiatives were inadequate grossly --

✓ The authorities did not do anything to do an intervention in the market to control the grain prices.

-: About this document:-

- ✓ The Famine Relief Commission received millions of Pounds of money and Grain from the private sources but the efforts reached too late.
- ✓ The Government policy was devoid of any humanitarian consideration.
- ✓ India owed an enormous debt to her Colonial masters and this led Curzon to remain stringent in his economics.

Thus was the fate of the Indian subjects under the colonial power. There was another famine of such kind in 1943 too.

Inauguration of North West Frontier Provinces 1901

In 1897-98, there was a rising in the North West. After long consideration it was decided, at the close of 1901, to create a **Northwest Frontier Province** under a chief commissioner directly subordinate to the government of India. Thus a policy of conciliation was mingled with forceful suppression. Now, the new province contained the territories lying between the newly defined frontier of Afghanistan and the upper course of the River Indus. The military bases were connected with the frontier posts by a system of light railroads.

Irrigation Commission 1901

After the disastrous famine period of 1896-1900, there was an emphasis on pushing for more internal administration reforms with greater vigor. In this context, construction of irrigation works in accordance with the broad plans was outlined by an **Irrigation Commission** under Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff.

- ✓ This commission was appointed by Lord Curzon.

The most important part of these undertakings was Punjab, which comprised of 2714 miles of main canal. A project to cover all the areas was developed, which would construct smaller canals and link them with the main canal thus practically completing the possible development of irrigation in the Punjab. However, this work was later authorized in 1905 and it took more than 2 decades to get completed.

Punjab Land Alienation Act 1900

One of the most important events that had a greater impact on the people was the **Punjab Land Alienation Act of 1900**.

- ✓ By this act, there was a 15 years limitation was placed on all land purchases and mortgages.
- ✓ Thus this bill cancelled the *Zamindar's* right to sell or mortgage a land.
- ✓ The basic objective of this bill was to impose a check on the alienation of land from Agriculture to nonagricultural class, thus discouraging the moneylenders.

The idea was to protect the Zamindars. These Zamindars borrowed money from the Money Landers and then either sold or mortgaged their lands. This also stopped the Urban Professionals and traders to enter into any kind of land transaction with the peasants.

The peasants were on the brink of the agitation due to economic oppression and the Government wanted to give some "relief" to them.

The Bill was opposed by the Indian Leaders and the Press. They said that this bill has nothing serious measures to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of the peasantry.

-: About this document:-

- ✓ The Indian National Congress passed a resolution against this act in 1899 Lucknow Session.

This act made the moneylenders, shopkeepers, professionals and the trader class against the Government. The act was called as an intrusion to private property and the moneylenders thought that they shall be made the scapegoat. This was a point when the trader class of Punjab (Including Punjab in Pakistan) to come close to Congress.

Cooperative Credit Societies Act, 1904

One impact of the Punjab Land Alienation Act of 1900 was that the Money Landers started not giving any loans to the Agriculturalists, because now they could not keep their land as mortgage. So now there was a need to establish agriculture and rural Banks.

The earliest act regarding the rural credit was the **Land Improvements Loans Act of 1883**. But this act had many defects in its functioning.

- ✓ In 1892, the Government appointed a committee under **Fredrick Nicholson** to advise the government on the starting of Agricultural banks and land Banks in Madras Presidency.
- ✓ The committee submitted its report in 1895 and 1899. The committee made strong recommendation of introduction of the rural banks on cooperative lines.

Prior to that in state of Baroda, an '*Anyonya Sahakari Mandali*' was organized in 1889, which is said to be India's first cooperative arrangement.

In 1904, Cooperative Credit Societies Act, was enacted. This act gave the impetus to the Cooperative Movement in India.

- ✓ Soon after India's first "**urban cooperative credit society**" was registered in Kanjivaram in the Madras Presidency in October, 1904.

The others that followed were as follows:

1. Pioneer Urban Cooperative Society in Bombay (1905)
2. No.1 Military Accounts Mutual Help Co-operative Credit Society in Poona (1906).
3. Cosmos Cooperative Society Pune (1906).

The act was later amended in 1912 and in 1915, the Maclagan Committee was appointed to review their performance and suggest measures for strengthening them.

Some more important step taken by Lord Curzon were as follows:

- ✍ He established a Agriculture Research Institute in Pusa (Bihar - Bengal Presidency)
- ✍ He passed the ancient Monuments Protection Act and established an Archeological department in 1901.
- ✍ He also established a Police Commission under the chairmanship of Andrew Frazer in 1902.
- ✍ In each province, a criminal investigation department was set up.
- ✍ In 1901, Imperial Cadet Corps was launched.
- ✍ A University Commission was set up under the chairmanship of Sir Thomas Raleigh.
- ✍ Indian Universities Act 1904 was passed.

The most important bombshell was the partition of Bengal in 1905.

-: About this document:-

Partition of Bengal 1905

Despite of the works mentioned above, Lord Curzon was unpopular. His tenure was termed "Curzonshahi" which was compared to the "Nadirshahi". The large number of Nationalists- in and outside Congress had learnt the art of protests and agitation and now the Curzon's unpopularity gave them an opportunity to initiate mass movements for the first time.

The question in Bengal was of effective administrative control. In 1874, Bengal had become too large unit to be administered as a single unit. Initially some districts were set off under the Chief commissioner of Assam, but this aroused a public outcry. But the government wanted to solve the problem permanently. It was thought that Assam should be extended and it should include some eastern districts of Bengal.

The question was under consideration for several months and finally on **October 16, 1905**, the Bengal was partitioned and the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam came officially into existence.

1. Eastern Bengal and Assam
2. Rest of Bengal (Western Part)

✍ **The partition was opposed by Henry John Stedman Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Assam 1896-1902.**

✍ The Chief Commissioner of Assam, J. B. Fuller, became lieutenant-governor of the enlarged province.

But, Curzon thought as if he was dividing an American county for better administration☺. The Lord Curzon, who had once written to the Secretary of State for India that:

"I would dig the grave of the Indian National Congress before leaving office.....One of my greatest ambitions in India is to assist it (Congress) to a peaceful demise..."

✓ The over intelligent Viceroy could not understand that Congress would cash it as a "political opportunity" and would lay the foundation of the tomb of the British Empire.

The eastern part was thought to be under governed. The Government had the idea that by splitting Bengal, the eastern districts would be governed effectively, however the politico-economic motive behind this was something different which created a havoc.

The Eastern Bengal roughly comprised of Manipur, Assam, Chittagong. Dhaka, Rajshahi (Now Bangladesh) with its capital at Dhaka. The administration was left under a lieutenant-governor with a legislative council and board of revenue, but the jurisdiction was under the high court of Calcutta.

The two provinces had no racial or linguistic difference but the only difference was that western part was dominated by the Hindus and Eastern Part by the Muslims. But still there was a loud outburst of Bengali patriotism against the partition of their "country".

Why they must split Bengali from Bengali? Every Bengal asked.....Government have its own reasons but this was explained by the Bengali Leaders and Congress to the masses. They insisted that the main political motivation of the British was that Government wanted to deprive Calcutta of its position. Chittagong was a harbor much smaller but at almost same locational advantage as Calcutta. So now, Chittagong would prosper at the cost of Calcutta, because the trade of the eastern part would pass on to Chittagong.

So, this was a golden opportunity for Congress to take the matter effectively which it did.

-: About this document:-

Congress insisted that the Government could separate the **Non Bengali speaking areas** (Bihar or Orissa) rather than splitting the Bengali speaking area. The new Western Bengal made the Bengali people minority in their own country because now the population of Hindi and Oriya speaking people was 37 Million while the population of Bengali Speaking people was only 17 Million!

The educated Indians and the Indian National Congress made an effort to create the waves at all India level and they were successful in that.

- ✓ The partition of Bengal was now dubbed a "**political intrigue**" of Lord Curzon to break India in pieces.
- ✓ This was the most notable manifestation of the political activity in India. **Vang Bhang** (Partition of Bengal) was seen as an intrigue to divide Hindus and Muslims. It was seen as dividing the Bengalis from Bengalis.

It was not acceptable. The result of this political wave was "Boycott" and "Swadeshi Movement".

The agitation had started months before the Government formally announced the partition. In July 1905, the Government had shown intention of dividing Bengal. The Bengali patriots carrying flags of "United Bengal" and slogans of "Unity is strength" marched through the streets of Calcutta and they reached Town hall. On 7 August 1905, the huge meeting was organized in the Town Hall in Calcutta. In this meeting the partition was denounced as arbitrary. The resolution was passed criticizing the manner of partition. A principle of "Boycott" of the British goods was adopted. The resolution said that until the Government annuls the partition, agitation shall continue.

- ✓ The *Vande Mataram*, which is now our national song became the symbol of this agitation.

The India was on the right path of national awakening. On the date of partition, Gurudev Rabindranath declared that *it should be observed as a day of unity*, people should tie threads to each other's wrists.

On that particular day, every Bengali kept a fast and took bath on the holy river of Ganges. The streets of Calcutta echoed **Bande Mataram** and **Amar Sonar Bangla Amey Tomay Bhalobashi**. The Boycott of British Goods was urged by all the newspapers.

Swadeshi and Boycott

Please note that these are two faces of the same coin. When we say Swadeshi, it means adopting indigenous products. When we say Boycott, it means we reject foreign made products.

The initial protest was as Boycott and later it became Swadeshi. It was actually a tool of political purpose for Congress to turn the wave into a popular agitation. The British Government had no problem with Swadeshi but Boycott was something which must be denounced!

The tool of Boycott was first of used in 1870s when the Manchester cloth was boycotted widely. But it was made a political tool only after partition of Bengal.

- ✓ The Extremist Nationalism also swung up after this event. It was announced as a Boycott in August 1905 in the Town hall of Calcutta but the same thing was given a new term Swadeshi in the 1906 Banaras session of the Indian National Congress under Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

The result was that the British cloth, sugar, and other goods were boycotted. Those using these things were socially boycotted. The shopkeepers who sold the imported items were picketed. Public burning of the foreign cloths started. The new school and college students were proactive in this amazing

-: About this document:-

movement. The boycott soon started in other parts of the country. Tilak spread the movement in Bombay presidency and Lala Lajpat Rai took it to Punjab. Syed Haidar Raza took the movement in western parts. There was an active participation of the people in Delhi, Lahore, Rawal Pindi, Kangra, Jammu, Multan, Peshawar, Pune, and Bombay and all of a sudden a nationwide wave was seen in India.

Rise of Extremists

✓ The first activity of militant nationalism was seen in Pune during the Bubonic plague of Bombay presidency when the **Chapekar brothers** shot two officials Mr. Rand and Lt. Ayerst dead in 1897.

This group of people hated the British due to their apathy, discrimination and irresponsible administration during the famine and plague.

Lord Curzon, who wanted to make England's stronghold more strong in India actually did some political blunders as follows:

- ✓ In 1899 the political powers of Calcutta Corporation was curtailed down.
- ✓ The University act of 1904 reduced the number of Indian elected members.
- ✓ The Official secrets act 1904 tightened the security and
- ✓ The police reforms increased the power and expense of the Police Force.

There was considerable unemployment in the country and these unemployed youths started getting attracted towards the anti-Government radical politics.

- ✓ These youths were aware of the **Russophobia of British**.
- ✓ They could understand what was happening in Japan.
- ✓ They knew about the Chinese boycott of American goods.
- ✓ They knew about the struggle of British in the Boer war.

These news that came from across the border was enough to boost their self confidence and slowly the inferiority complex of Indians was getting washed away.

Around 1 million people were reading newspapers now. The Bengal, the Punjab and the Presidency of Bombay were ripe for rise of the militant nationalism.

✓ These youngsters did not like the congress mendicancy. They had the *Atma shakti* and wanted to fight for their rights.

The father of this extremism was Bal Gangadhar Tilak who started Ganapati festival from 1894 and developed this religious method of mass contact into a patriotic and historic cult and a symbol of nationalism. In 1896 he started organizing Shivaji festival. For him, the congress was *a frog that croaked once a year*. ☺

He believed in Swaraj and not in administration reforms.

✓ He was a Lion who was able create mass unrest by writing articles in his *Kesari in Marathi and Mahratta in English*.

LORD MINTO

Resignation of Curzon and Arrival of Lord Minto 1905

Meanwhile Lord Curzon became sick. When he was on the sickbed, on August 12, 1905 he telegraphed his resignation to London. The news of his resignation was published in newspapers in a few days and this gave new zeal to the agitators. But the new Viceroy and Governor-General of India **Lord Minto**, and the new secretary of state for India, **John Morley** upheld Lord Curzon's measure. Bengal partition was now in operation. Lord Minto remained Viceroy till 1910.

The first thing for the new Viceroy was to crackdown on the people who made the hue and cry. The victims were the school and college boys.

They were asked whether they wanted grants, scholarships and affiliation or not? The students were fined, expelled, arrested, beaten and repressed. Now, one could listen the *Vandemataram* in every street.

The government went crazy when it started pulling down the houses on which *Bande mataram* was written! Police was now more open to use the *lathicharge* to dismiss the public meetings !

Calcutta session 1906 and Resolution of Swaraj

The extremists wanted to extend the boycott to all over India and refuse cooperation so that task of administration becomes impossible. The main extremist leaders were Lala Lajpat Ray, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal. They were called Lal Bal Pal. They had become so popular that British got alarmed. The slogan was "Swaraj is my Birthright"

They wanted to disobey the unjust laws; they wanted to kick the loyalists out of the society. They wanted all that Gandhi would take up in future minus non-violence. This was the first phase of the passive resistance.

The moderates were moderates. They did not like these new techniques of struggle. They even thought of using the Boycott in only special circumstances.

The extremists were far more popular than the moderates. *Before this session, the extremists would have taken over congress had they elected a leader among them.* But it was not done. The moderates were politically intelligent. In 1906, the session at Calcutta was presided by Dada Bhai Naoroji. The moderates chose Dada Bhai Naoroji to preside the Congress. Dada Bhai Naoroji, *the Grand Oldman of India* was respected by the moderates and extremists alike. But, in this session, the congress was compelled by the extremists to adopt following resolutions which were accepted by the moderates with half heart. These were as follows:

1. Resolution on Partition of Bengal
 2. Resolution of Self Government (Swaraj)
 3. Resolution on Swadeshi
 4. Resolution on Boycott.
- ✓ Thus in Calcutta session of 1906, under the leadership of Dadabhai Naoroji, Congress adopted Swaraj as the Goal of Indian people.

But here a bit of politics was played by the Moderates. They, by no means wanted to be tagged as radical. The toned down the resolution in a compromised state and made it "*self government means that obtaining the self governing British Colonies*". Thus the whole meaning of Swaraj of the extremists was changed. The

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extremists were defeated in this politics and the difference became apparent. Congress was now bound to split.

Surat session and Split in Congress 1907

The Congress was on the brink of split. The 1907 session was to be held at Nagpur. But Nagpur was the stronghold of Bal Gangadhar Tilak. The moderates were aware that the local delegates would raise the issues in favor of the extremists. So, Gopal Krishna Gokhle got the venue changed and the new venue was Surat which was a stronghold of the Congress.

- ✓ The 1907 Surat session was held at the bank of the Tapti river in Surat.
- ✓ The Extremist camp was led by Lal Bal and Pal and the moderate camp was led by Gopal Krishna Gokhle.
- ✓ The president of the Surat session was presided by Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh.

The congress met in an atmosphere of anger and resentment in this session. Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh was elected but the extremists had an objection to this election. Initially the extremists dominated the session but soon they accepted Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh as president and offered to cooperate. But the session was suspended. Congress got split.

By the time, the next session of Congress was held in Madras in 1908 under Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh, it was the extremist camp that was facing the Lathis and arrest by the British Government who was now in its comfortable position as Congress was divided.

Suppression of Extremists

By this time (1907-08), not less than 7 acts were passed by the British Government in a hurry. The objectives of these acts are evident from their titles. Some of these were:

1. Prevention of Seditious Meetings act : it was passed in 1907
2. Explosive Substance Act : it was passed in 1908
3. The Newspaper (Incitement to Offences) Act 1908: This act was passed and provided to confiscate the press if it published anything against the Government and incited the public outrage.

The result was that the Extremists were suppressed. They were not in position to organize a strong political party in that time.

- ✓ Arubindo Ghosh, one of the extremists left the ground and went to Pondicherry.
- ✓ Bipin Chandra Pal also left the politics temporarily.
- ✓ Lala Lajpat Rai went to England.

The idea of extremist nationalism was put down temporarily. It later rose as Militant Nationalism.

Indian Councils Act 1909 (Morley Minto reforms) & Communal Representation

In 1905, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman who is first man to be given official use of the title 'Prime Minister' became Prime Minister of England. When he formed his cabinet he appointed John Morley as Secretary of State for India.

Both the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India decided to work out some scheme to reform the Legislative councils. This culminated as Indian Councils act 1909 or Minto-Morley reforms. The idea was to

give locals some more power in the legislative affairs. The act was passed in 1911. A provision was made for the expansion of legislative councils at the both the levels viz. central as well as provincial.

- ✓ It introduced separate and discriminatory electorate. This was for the first time that, electorate for returning to the representatives to the councils was decided on the basis of class & community.
- ✓ For the provincial councils a provision of three categories was made viz. general, special and chambers of commerce.
- ✓ For the central council, **one more category Muslims was added**. This was for the first time that, the seats in the legislative bodies were reserved on the basis of religion for Muslims. This is called **Communal representation**.

The Minto Morley reforms are known to envisage a separate electorate for Muslims and this had a long lasting impact on India's polity.

This was for the first time that Muslim community was recognized as a completely separate section of the Indian nation and this triggered "A Cancer" in India called "Hindu-Muslim Disharmony" which later culminated in India and Pakistan.

Separate constituencies were marked for the Muslims and only Muslim community members were given the right to elect their representatives.

The number of members of the legislative councils at the center was increased from 16-60.

the number of the members of the provincial legislatures was also increased and it was fixed 50 for Bengal, madras and Bombay and 30 for rest of the provinces.

Some other features:

1. The act empowered the members to discuss the budget and move resolutions before it was approved finally
2. The members were given rights to ask supplementary questions and move resolutions to on matters related to loans to the local bodies.
3. The members given right to discuss matters of the public interest but please note that the House was not binding on the government.

In The Lahore Session of Indian National Congress, 1909, strong disapproval was expressed against the separate electorate formed on the basis of religion.

Now, under the separate electorates, Muslims could vote exclusively for the Muslim candidates in constituencies specially reserved for them. The idea was to establish that the political, economic and cultural interests of the Hindus and Muslims were distinct. The unity between Hindus and Muslims is a illusion and this act sowed the seeds of the Muslim Communism.

The Congress which was now under moderates met once again in the Lahore Session, 1909 and expressed strong disapproval against the separate electorate formed on the basis of religion.

The period for 1900 to 1916 saw three important viceroys viz. Lord Curzon, Lord Minto and Lord Hardinge. This period saw the rise of extremists and then in **1907 Surat session**, the congress got split between the Moderates and Extremists.

This followed a series of suppressive acts and trials; the extremists were suppressed and Congress was now dominated by the moderates.

Lord Curzon, whose period was tagged as *Curzonshahi* tried to make India a British stronghold, but his endeavors could not do any wonders.

But this seasoned politician introduced reforms in almost all departments of the Government, though most of the efforts and reforms were based upon imperialistic designs and did not afford any self rule to Indians. This was 20th century and Indians could not accept such measures, the result was that Lord Curzon became very unpopular.

MacDonnell Commission 1901

The relief work organized for the **Chhappania Kal** tried to relieve the people in the British provinces, but the way Government organized the relief was sufficient to make him unpopular. When the people were dying out of starvation and diseases, a **MacDonnell Commission** was appointed by Lord Curzon in 1901 which submitted its report in the same year. This commission came out with a "Moral Strategy", distribution of advances and loans to the peasants and **setting up a Famine Commissioner in the famine affected provinces.**

✍ The MacDonnell Commission was the famine commission appointed by Lord Curzon, after a long period of 20 years, when Lord Lytton had tried to formulate the general principles of dealing with such famines.

During the period of **Lord Lytton**, a **Strachey Commission of 1880** was created to develop a general strategy and principles to deal with the famines. The **Strachey Commission** came out with the recommendation on whose basis a Famine Code was developed. However, in due course of time, the Famine Code was forgotten and remained defunct till the next attack of famine occurred in India.

The **MacDonnell Commission** also stressed the better transport facility, opening of agricultural banks etc. But this was not adequate and timely measure. The Punjab Land Alienation Act made him unpopular in North India.

Police Intelligence Reforms, Introduction of CID 1902-03

In 1902-03, a **Police Commission** was established for the Police reforms under **Sir Andrew Frazer** and Lord Curzon got much success in the Police intelligence.

✍ It was the rule of Lord Curzon, in which the basic structure of Indian domestic intelligence got developed and remained so till 1947, when India Became independent.

He attached Department of Criminal Intelligence to the Government of India at the Center. The result was that this DCI became the central domestic and foreign intelligence agency. At the province level, the **Criminal Investigation Departments (CIDs)** were established in all provinces of British India.

✍ In 1903, the "*Thugee and Dakaiti Department*" was abolished by the Police Commission, because it was now thought that Thugee no longer exists even in the princely states.

It is claimed that the CIDs were introduced by Lord Curzon, because he could foresee the growing nationalism in India.

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But it is not correct to say so. Lord Curzon saw Congress as an easy target and not a serious threat. It was only after 1905, when Congress became a mammoth organization. The Congress was not even mentioned in his deliberations of the Police Commission in 1902-03. At that time, it was thought that Congress is not involved in fomenting the violent opposition of the Government. The early nationalists were loyal to the Government.

Educational Reforms – Raleigh Commission

The Viceroy filled with imperialistic design was not in favor of giving any power to the Indians. He concluded the *Indian Universities and the colleges were slowly becoming cradle of Propaganda against the Government*. So, with an idea to bring the Universities under control, Lord Curzon appointed **Raleigh Commission** under Sir Thomas Raleigh.

- ✍ The Raleigh Commission had only one Indian member, Syed Hussain Belgrami.
- ✍ But when the Hindus protested about this, Justice **Guru Das Banerjee** was called from the High Court of Calcutta and made a member.

This commission submitted its report in 1902 and this followed introduction of a Bill called **Raleigh Bill**. The **Raleigh Bill** when became an act, it was called **Indian Universities Act 1904**.

Indian Universities Act 1904

- ✓ The first provision of this act was that the governing bodies of the universities were to be reconstituted and the **size of the Senates was reduced**. Now the number in the senate could be **minimum 50 and maximum 100**.
- ✓ Each of them would hold the office for 6 years.
- ✓ For the Universities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, the elected fellows were to be 50 and for rest of the universities, the number was fixed 15.
- ✓ This act allowed the Government to appoint a majority of the fellows in a university.
- ✓ The Governor General was now empowered to decide a University's territorial limits and also affiliation between the universities and colleges.

The Indian Universities Act made the universities and colleges completely under the Government control.

- ✓ However, for better education and research a grant of Rs. 5 Lakh per year for 5 years was also accepted.

This was the beginning of university grants in India which later became a permanent feature in the structure of India education.

Hunter Commission vs. Raleigh Commission

The Hunter Commission of 1882 which was appointed by Lord Ripon left the University education completely and emphasized upon the primary education. On the contrary, the Raleigh Commission excluded the primary education completely and emphasized upon the Higher Education only.

Ancient Monuments Preservation Act 1904

One of the most remarkable acts passed during the times of Lord Curzon was the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1904. This act made any injury to the protected monuments an offence punishable under

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the law. This act also established the Archeological Department which was to collect the historical documents and importance, conduct excavations and bring the ancient historical information into light.

Imperial Cadet Corps 1904

In November 1904, the form of Commission for Imperial Cadet Corps was signed and approved by Secretary of State for India and thus Imperial Cadet Corps came into being for the first time under the direct surveillance of Lord Curzon. Major D H Cameron was made its commandant and Maharaja Pratap Singh of Idar was made its Honorary commandant. The selected youths between 17-20 years were to be admitted as Imperial Cadets and their education was to be at one of the Chief's college at Rajkot, Indore, Lahore or Ajmer. The selected cadets had to join the corps at Dehradun.

Impact of the Swadeshi Movement

The Boycott of the foreign products was successful. In 1906, there was a 22% fall in the customs at Calcutta in the Cotton Goods. The worst affected was cotton yarn which reported around 40% fall. The handlooms, silk weaving and traditional handicrafts started booming. There was a significant revival of handlooms, silk-weaving and other traditional artisan crafts.

India House

The Surat split of 1907 followed suppression of the extremists and the slow development of *atma shakti* lost its appeal. But at the same time in London, numerous informal nationalist organizations were working. The most important among them was the **India House**.

The India House was based in London and was established by **Shyamji Krishna Verma** to promote the nationalist views among the Indians of Britain. It published a newspaper "**The Indian Sociologist**" which used its subtitle -*An Organ of Freedom, and Political, Social, and Religious Reform*.

Several revolutionaries got associated with the India house and most important ones are V D Savarkar and Madan Lal Dheengra. Others were V.N. Chatterjee, Lala Har Dayal, V. V. S. Aiyar, M.P.T. Acharya and P.M. Bapat. All of them later laid the foundation of militant nationalism in India. The newspaper was later banned for sedition.

Sacrifice of Madan Lal Dheengra 1909

On July 1, 1909, the Indian National Association was observing its annual day function. In London, many Indians and British had gathered to attend the function and here one of the early murders by the Indian Nationalists was carried out. Sir Curzon Wylie was shot dead by Madan Lal Dheengra, in order to give the British a clear message to free India. He wished to commit suicide but was arrested. He was tried and hanged on 17 August 1909. The sacrifice of Dheengra not only inspired the Indians but also the Irish, who were struggling at that time for autonomy.

Anushilan Samiti 1902-1908

As early as 1902, the three societies came together under a single umbrella of Anushilan Samiti.

- ✓ The Anushilan Samiti was established by Pramathanath Mitra, a barrister from Calcutta.

The people associated with this samiti were Sri Aurobindo, Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das, Surendranath Tagore, Jatindranath Banerjee, Bagha Jatin, Bhupendra Nath Datta, Barindra Ghosh etc.

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Out of them Bhupendra Nath Datta was brother of Swami Vivekananda. Barindra Ghosh was sent to Paris to learn the science of Bomb Making and here he came in touch were Madam Kama. Madam Kama was already associated with the India House and the Paris India Society.

Alipore Bomb Case 1908

In 1908 a revolutionary conspiracy was intrigued to kill the Chief Presidency Magistrate D.H. Kingford of Muzaffarpur. The task was entrusted to Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki. They threw the bombs on a vehicle coming out of the magistrate's home on April 30, 1908. The magistrate could not be killed as he was not in the vehicle, but two British ladies were killed in the attack. Prafulla Chaki committed suicide after cornered by the Police and Khudi Ram Bose was arrested.

The Indian policewalla Nandalal Bannerjee, who had arrested Khudi Ram Bose was later shot dead by Narendranath Bhattacharya.

Alipore Conspiracy Trial 1908-1909

Prior to this trial, there were raids on the members of the Anushilan Samiti. The documents such as letters were seized from the house of Arubindo Ghosh and he was arrested and lodged in Alipore Jail. Khudi Ram Bose was meanwhile arrested. The trial continued two years and finally Khudi Ram was hanged.

- ✓ Chitranjan Das, one of the prominent barristers of the day defended and saved **Sri Arubindo**.

Barindra Ghosh and Ullaskar Dutt were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment and they were released in 1920.

The above series of bombing, shooting and trials had started the era of revolutionary terrorism in the country. The focus of these revolutionaries was to kill and send to hell to those British and Indian Officers who were oppressive. For fund raising, they resorted to Dacoity, which was called Swadeshi Dacoity.

Nasik Conspiracy Case 1909

Abhinav Bharat Society was launched in 1904 by V D Savarkar. One member of this organization Anant Lakshaman Karkare shot dead the district magistrate of Nasik. On 21st of December, 1909, A M T Jackson the magistrate at Nasik was enjoying a theater where a drama was staged in his honor on the eve of his transfer. A young man of Abhinav Bharat Society named Anant Laxman Karkare shot this indologist and "pandit" Jackson dead, in the theatre. This sensational murder is known as Nasik Conspiracy Case. 27 members of the Abhinav Bharat Society were convicted and punished. Ganesh Savarkar, brother of VD Savarkar was sent to Kala Pani.

LORD HARDINGE

Arrival of Lord Hardinge 1910

From 1910 to 1916, Lord Hardinge served as India's Viceroy. He had entered the diplomatic service in 1880 and had served in Tehran as first secretary and Ambassador to Russia. But his administrative experiences were next to nothing.

This young viceroy was sympathetic towards the Indians and wished to win their goodwill. The important event during his tenure was the Delhi Durbar of 1911.

Delhi Durbar of 1911

-: About this document:-

In 1910, there was a succession in England where **King George V** ascended the throne. In 1911 he paid a visit to India. Darbar was held to commemorate the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary as Emperor and Empress of India. The Darbar brought back the pomp and show of the Mughals once again in Delhi. The King and the Queen attired in the coronation robes with thousands of diamonds and precious gems appeared in the **Jharokha** of the red fort to give Darshan to 5 Lakh Indian people who gathered to greet the sovereign couple.

- ✓ The Congress passed a resolution condemning the pomp and show of this Darbar at the cost of the poor Indians.
- ✓ In this Darbar, the King declared that Capital of India will be transferred from Calcutta to Delhi.
- ✓ In the same Darbar it was also declared the Partition of Bengal is cancelled.

This was a striking change. In the same year, another Census of India was carried out.

Delhi conspiracy case 1912

One of the outfits of Bengal on the lines of **Anushilan Samiti** was **Yungantar**, which had started in the guise of a fitness club. It was also established by the revolutionaries like Arubindo Ghosh, his brother Barin Ghosh, Raja Subodh Mallik, Khudiram Bose Prafulla Chaki etc.

After the Alipore Bomb Case trials, many of the members were lodged in the Jails and sent to *Kala Pani*, from where they were released only under a general amnesty in 1920 after First World War.

One of the important members of this outfit was **Ras Bihari Bose**, who is best known for his association with the Indian National Army. After the Alipore Bombay Case, he left Bengal and worked in Dehradun as a clerk in the Forest Research Institute. It is said that the Delhi Conspiracy was hatched by **Ras Bihari Bose**, but was never proved.

- ✓ On 23 December 1912, a Bomb was thrown at the Viceroy Lord Hardinge when his procession was moving from Chandni Chowk. The Viceroy wounded in the attempt, but his Mahavat (driver and keeper of an elephant) was killed.

The government strengthens its efforts to destroy the underground activities. **Ras Bihari Bose** went underground and successfully fled to Japan, where he lived till he died a few years before the conclusion of the Second World War. Before fleeing to Japan, he involved in the Ghadar Conspiracy.

- ✓ In the trial of this Delhi Conspiracy Case, Basant Kumar Biswas Amir Chand and Avadh Behari were convicted and executed.
- ✓ Please note that Delhi Conspiracy Case is also known as Delhi Lahore Conspiracy Case or Hardinge Bomb Case.

Other Early Militant Revolutionaries

Before we move ahead, let's have a look on different outfits / members of these outfits at that time for freedom of mother India through revolutionary activities:

✍ **Ras Bihari Bose** served as a link between the revolutionaries of Punjab and Bengal. He was not only a brain behind the Delhi Conspiracy Case but also planned an armed mutiny at Delhi. He fled to Japan and founded Indian Independence League out there.

✍ **Sakharama Ganesh Deshkar** provided a Link between the revolutionaries of Bengal and Bombay Presidency.

-: About this document:-

- ✍ In the Madras Province, Nilkantha Brahmachari and Vanchi Aiyer founded the secret Bharat Mata Association.
- ✍ In Saharanpur, J M Chatterjee founded Bharat Mata Society
- ✍ The Dacca Anushilan Samiti was established by Pulin Bihari Das. It was able to create 500 branches in East Bengal.
- ✍ Bipin Bihari Ganguly founded Atmonnuti Samiti.

B.H.U. Act 1915

In 1915, under Lord Hardinge, BHU act was passed by which Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya established the Banaras Hindu University.

The idea of this university was mooted as early as 1904. Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya was a barrister from Allahabad, but his *Karmabhoomi* was Varanasi.

- ✍ In 1907, Annie Besant had also mooted as idea of establishing the "University of India" at Varanasi and she also submitted a memorandum for grant of Royal charter.
- ✍ In April 1911, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and Annie Besant decided to unite their forces and work for a common Hindu University at Varanasi. This culminated in the "The Hindu University Society".
- ✍ Thus BHU started as a registered society in December 1911 and its president was Maharaja of Darbhanga Sir Rameshwar Singh Bahadur.
- ✍ However, to carry out the scheme, a sum of Rupees 50 Lakh was required. This target was achieved by 1915.

The Central Hindu College was made the part of the University. This was followed by a Bill in the Imperial Legislative Council in March, 1915 by **Sir Harcourt Butler**. This Banaras Hindu University Bill was passed in October 1915 and on February 4, 1916, Lord Hardinge, laid the foundation stone of the University.

Islington Commission 1912: Development of Civil Services

Background:

In 1912, the **Royal Commission on Public Services in India** under **Lord Islington** came, which is known as **Islington Commission**. Prior to this commission, the following important happenings had taken place regarding the civil services:

- ✍ The Practice of appointment of the Civil Servants by the Court of Directors of the East India Company had been discontinued by the Charter act of 1853, which provided for a competitive examination for selection to these posts. The competition was thrown open to Indians as well.

✍ **Macaulay Committee 1854**

In 1854 the Macaulay Committee was set up to suggest measures to give effect to the provisions of the Charter Act of 1853. The recommendations that were accepted by the Board of Control were as follows:

1. An open Competition system was adopted for recruitment to the Civil Services
2. Age of candidates was from 18-23 years.
3. The competitive exam was to be held in London.
4. A probationary period was kept for training of the successful candidates.
5. Abolition of the East India College at Hailleybury.
6. The exam should be of High Standard.

✍ **First Competitive Examination**

-: About this document:-

First Competitive Examination was held in London in 1855 under the Board of Control. In 1855, the British Civil Services Commission was set up and the above responsibility was later transferred to this commission. The first Indian to pass the exam was Satyendranath Tagore, but he could enter the service only in 1864.

✍ **Indian Civil Services Act 1861**

In 1861, the Indian Civil Services Act was passed which provided the reservation of the certain principle posts for members of the covenanted service. In 1870, there was Civil Service Act which provided for Indianization of the services.

✍ **Aitchison Commission 1886**

In 1886, a Public Service Commission under Charles Aitchison was appointed. This commission had to provide suggestions to devise a full justice to the Indian claims of higher employments. This commission made the following recommendations which were largely accepted:

1. It provided that the two tier system of covenanted and uncovenanted services should be replaced with a three tier classification i.e. *Imperial, Provincial and subordinate*.
2. The maximum age should be fixed to 23 years.
3. The competitive exam should NOT hold at India and England simultaneously.
4. Certain percentage of the posts should be filled by promotion of the members of the Provincial services.
5. The statutory civil service should be abolished.

As per these recommendations the **statutory civil services were abolished in 1892.**

✍ **Islington Commission 1915**

The Islington Commission came during the times of Lord Hardinge. This commission submitted its report in 1915 as follows:

1. The commission though accepted that the recruitment to the top posts should be made partly in India and partly in England, yet it was not in favor of a simultaneous exam in India and England.
2. It recommended that 25 % of the top posts should be filled by the Indians partly by exam and partly by promotion.
3. It categorized the Government services into Class I and Class II.
4. It recommended probation of 3 years for ICS pass outs and 2 years for direct recruits.

This commission's report was published in 1917 and it was the peak time of the World War I. So no consideration was given to this report.

Foundation of Ghadar Party 1913

The founding **president of Ghadar Party was Sohan Singh Bhakna** and Lala Hardayal was the co-founder of this party.

It was after 1910, when the activities of India House had declined and the cradle of activities shifted from Europe to America. Lal Hardayal was in India till 1909, when he moved to Paris and associated himself with a newspaper *Vande Mataram* over there.

In 1911 he settled in San Francisco and indulged in Industrial Unionism. In 1912, when **Basant Kumar Biswas** threw Bomb on Lord Hardinge, he was in America and was very much impressed with this.

✍ In 1913, **Pacific Coast Hindustan Association** was founded by Lala Hardayal with Sohan Singh Bhakna as its president, which was called Ghadar Party.

✍ The members of this party were the immigrant sikhs of US and Canada.

-: About this document:-

✍ The first issue of The Ghadar, was published from San Francisco on November 1, 1913.

In 1914, after the **Komagata Maru tragedy**, Lala Hardayal fled to Europe following an arrest by the United States government for spreading anarchist literature.

The Komagata Maru Tragedy 1914

From 1900 onwards there was continuous flow of Sikhs from India to Canada and US. The circumstances were not in favor of Indian / Sikh immigrants and they were subject to all kinds of racial / political / procedural discriminations. One of the main incidence was Komagata Maru Incidence, which was one of the first Indian challenge to colonist British beyond the pacific Coast.

Gurdit Singh, a Sikh from a small village in Punjab was a son of a small time farmer near Amritsar. The farmers were struggling with the problems and due to difficulty in getting their livelihood; father of Gurdit Singh left Punjab and went to Malaysia. He became a small time contractor over there. In 1885, Gurdit Singh joined him.

Gurdit Singh established a steamship company in Malaysia and leased a Japanese steamship **Komagata Maru**. This ship left Hong Kong in 1914 to Canada.

Those days the authorities in Canada had established a "**Continuous Passage Act**" to stop the immigrants particularly from India and they called them "brown Invasions". The continuous immigration of Indians, particularly Sikhs had already irked the Canadian natives and authorities. It was a fear that Indians would take their jobs. The "Continuous Passage Act" was a bizarre law, which required that the immigrants must travel Nonstop to their country of the birth. At that time there was no direct ship from India. The journey of the Komagata Maru was set to circumvent this law.

Komagata Maru sailed from Hong Kong to Vancouver in 1914, aboard 376 passengers including 240 Sikhs, 24 Muslims and 12 Hindus. The ship arrived on 23 May 1914 at Vancouver. The Canadian authorities refused to allow the passengers to go ashore. Gurdit Singh was pressurized to pay the charter dues in one go. He said he would do so after selling the cargo but the ship was not allowed to unload its cargo.

The Indians in Vancouver agitated for the release of the ship. There was no sympathy shown by the Viceroy of India. After a bit confrontation, finally 24 passengers were admitted and the ship was forced back to India. Necessary arrangements were done by the Indian community over there for the return journey. The Komagata Maru docked at Hooghly's Budge Budge harbor. The news of the Canadian adventures had already reached India and the British took the passengers as rebels. The ship was searched. The Sikhs were herded in a special train to send them to Punjab. Some of them refused and protested. The police opened fire on the procession carrying the Holy book "Guru Granth Sahib" killing 18 people. 200 people were herded in jails. Gurdit Singh escaped the Police and he surrendered in 1921, after 7 years.

Rise of Separatist Trends and Origin of Muslim League

The seeds of Muslim communalism were sown by **Syed Ahmed Khan**, who remained loyal to the British in 1857 mutiny. He was suspicious of the Indian National Movement under Congress and called the Muslims to remain loyal to the British Raj.

He was of the belief that the Muslim share in administrative posts and in various professions could be increased if Muslims are imparted modern education. For this purpose he needed protection of the British and so he projected the British loyalty as safeguards to the interests of the Indian Muslims.

-: About this document:-

However, he did not create a political organization to counter the Indian National Congress and suggested the Indian Muslims to remain passive, politically.

It was Badruddin Tayyab Ji, third President of Congress, who brought many prominent Muslims of Bombay and Bengal under the banner of Congress. These leaders supported the idea of Swadeshi and Boycott. But the movement was later colored in Hindu color and British and Pro-British started using anti-congress propaganda to poison the minds of the Muslims.

✍ In 1906, the **All-India Muslim League** was founded at Dhaka by a lobby of big Zamindars, ex-bureaucrats, and upper class Muslims.

✍ **Aga Khan III** was its first Honorary President.

✍ This party supported the partition of Bengal, because Muslims in East Bengal were in majority.

✍ Its Headquarters was later located at Lucknow.

The All-India Muslim League raised the slogan of separate Muslim interests, and demanded special protection for the Muslims in government services.

✍ Under Lord Minto, a branch of Muslim League was established at London by Amir Ali.

Thus by 1910, this organization started convincing Muslim educated people to refrain from joining congress. They were against the congress and Hindus but not against the British. They provided a tool to the British to fight with the rising wave of Nationalism in India.

✍ When the partition of Bengal in 1911 was announced, the Muslim lobby got a rude shock. The declaration of Delhi as capital of British India was also a shock to them.

✍ This disorientation was further added by British refusal to help Ottoman Empire in the Italian and Balkan War (1912).

The ruler of Turkey was the Caliph of all Muslims and all Muslim shrines were within the Ottoman Empire. Thus by 1912-13, the Muslims did not have a firm ground neither in support of British nor in Congress. A body of young Muslims arose during that time which somewhat continued its militia activities parallel to the Congress.

✍ It was in 1913 when Mohammad Ali Jinnah joined the All India Muslim League and changed the course of History.

Early Career Mohammad Ali Jinnah 1875-1913

Mohammad Ali Jinnah was born in Karachi in either 1875 or 1876. The school records mention his date of Birth 1875, while Sarojini Nayudu, who wrote his First Biography, records his date of Birth as December 25, 1876.

✍ His ancestors were Hindu Rajputs from Kathiawar in Gujarat and his grandfather had converted to Islam.

✍ He was a Shiya Muslim.

✍ He was educated in Karachi and Bombay.

✍ In 1892 he was sent to England to get apprenticeship in the Graham's Shipping and Trading Company, the company in which his father had dealings.

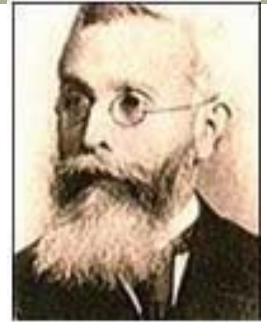
✍ He studied law and became youngest Indian ever to be invited to the Bar of England at the age of 19 years.

In 1896 he returned to India and settled at Bombay. Here he became Lawyer and practiced in the Bombay High Court.

✍ Jinnah defended Bal Gangadhar Tilak in the sedition trial in 1908, but he could not win the case and Tilak was sent to Mandalay.

✍ He had close relations with Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Pherozeshah Mehta and Surendranath Banerjee since 1896.

✍ He won a case representing Sir Pherozshah Mehta in Bombay High Court in 1905. This case is known as **Caucus Case**.



In 1906, he joined Indian National Congress. He also did not favor the outright independence.

✍ Initially he avoided the All India Muslim League, because it was too much orthodox. It was in 1913, when he joined the Muslim League and became its president in the Lucknow session of 1916.

Begin of World War I June 1914

On 28 June 1914, **Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, the prince of Austria and the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated by a **Yugoslav nationalist** and this triggered the First World War.

This was the immediate reason; the long term reasons were the imperialistic policies of the great powers of Europe viz. the German Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Russian Empire, the British Empire, France, and Italy.

On the one side were the belligerents were such as France, British Empire, Russian Empire, United States, Italy, Japan, Belgium etc and on the other side were the central powers viz. German Empire, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria.

✍ On 4 August 1914, England declared war against Germany. India naturally became a belligerent in the war. The Viceroy Lord Hardinge announced:

The war was none of our seeking, but it has been thrust upon us as a wicked and wanton manner.....

The British Government sought support of the Indians and most sections of the Indian society were with the empire. The moderates supported the war because, who knows their demands of self Government may be fulfilled after the war.

COMPENDIUM 1 : ACTIVITS, EXTREMISTS & FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Dadabhai Naoroji

- ✓ Dadabhai Naoroji was a intellectual and parsi cotton trader who served as a Member of Parliament (MP) in the British House of Commons between 1892 and 1895, and the first Asian to be a British MP.
- ✓ He is known as mentor to both Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ He was paternal uncle of J. R. D. Tata.
- ✓ His work Poverty and Un-British Rule in India (1891) brought attention to the draining of India's wealth into Britain.
- ✓ He also taught in Gujarati at University College London

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- ✓ Dadabhai Naoroji was a member of the Indian National Association founded by Sir Surendranath Banerjee. The two groups later merged into the INC, and Naoroji was elected President of the Congress in 1886.

Fact Box: The Drain of Wealth Theory of Dadabhai Naoroji

Dadabhai Naoroji was the first to decipher the complex mechanism of drain of wealth by the way of the following:

1. Remittances to England by European employed for the support of their families and education of their children.
2. Remittances of savings by employees of the company
3. Remittances for the purchases of British goods in India.
4. Government purchase of stores manufactured in Britain.
5. Interest charges on public debt held in for productive loans.
6. Drain through council bill.
7. **Drain via Home Charges:**

The Home Charges included the the expenses of the office of secretary of states, Pensions of the British Indian officers and army officials, Cost of waging wars at Home and Abroad, army training, transport and campaigns outside India but charged on Indian revenue.

Womesh Chandra Banerjee

- ✓ He was the first President of Congress.
- ✓ Womesh Chandra Banerjee was the *first Indian to contest elections to the British House of Commons.*
- ✓ He was twice elected as president of INC in 1885 and 1891.
- ✓ He was moderate in politics.

Badruddin Tyabji

- ✓ Third President of the Indian National Congress.
- ✓ He was succeeded by George Yule.
- ✓ In 1902, he became the first Indian to hold the post of Chief Justice in Bombay.

George Yule

- ✓ George Yule was a Scottish businessman in India who became the fourth President of the Indian National Congress in 1888, the first non-Indian to hold that office.
- ✓ He was succeeded by Sir William Wedderburn.
- ✓ He was the chief of the well-known Andrew Yule and Co. in Kolkata; was also Sheriff of Kolkata for sometime and President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Sir William Wedderburn

- ✓ William Wedderburn was born in 1838 in Edinburg in a well to do family. He entered the Indian Civil Service in Bombay in 1860. In 1874 he became District Judge and Judicial Commissioner in Sind, and later acted as secretary to Bombay Government, Judicial and Political Departments; and from 1885 acted as Judge of the High Court, Bombay.

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- ✓ He retired when acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay in 1887. During his service in India, his attention was on the abject poverty, famines, and indebtedness of the farmers. He was aware of the ancient village Panchayat system and wished to revive this system.
- ✓ These were some of the few reasons that he came in close with those who were laying foundation of the Indian National Congress. He headed the fourth session of Congress in Bombay in 1889 and was a good friend of Dadabhai Naoroji as well as Mahadev Govind Ranade.
- ✓ In 1893, Sir William Wedderburn entered the British Parliament as a liberal member and sought to voice India's grievances within the house. In the same year, he formed the "Indian Parliamentary Committee" with Dadabhai Naoroji and other Indian sympathisers. He remained chairman of this Indian parliamentary committee till 1900.
- ✓ He was also an editor of journal "India". In 1895, Sir William Wedderburn represented India on the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure.
- ✓ He joined the Indian Famine Union of 1901 to investigate the famines. In 1904, he again came back to India to attend the 20th session of Indian National Congress, which was presided by Sir Henry Cotton. Along with Allan Octavian Hume he was a founder of the Indian National Congress and served as its president in 1889 and 1910.

Sir Pherozshah Mehta

- ✓ Known as Lion of Mumbai, this Parsi businessman became the Municipal commissioners of Bombay Municipality in 1873 and remained its president for 4 times.
- ✓ In 1890, he became president of Indian National Congress.
- ✓ He started **Bombay Chronicle**, an English-language weekly newspaper.

Panambakkam Anandacharlu

- ✓ Panambakkam Anandacharlu became the president of Indian National Congress in 1891 Nagpur session.
- ✓ He founded *Triplicane Literary Society* and the *Madras Mahajana Sabha in 1884*. He was a moderate nationalist who remained so till Congress split in 1906.

Surendranath Banerjee

- ✓ *Rashtraguru* Surendranath Banerjee had founded Indian National Association, prior to INC and later he became the senior leader of the Congress.
- ✓ He had applied and went to compete the Indian Civil Services Examination but was debarred from the exam due to age dispute. Later he was appointed a magistrate in Sylhet, which he refused.
- ✓ In 1876, he along with **Anand Mohan Bose** established the National Association.
- ✓ In 1879, he founded the newspaper "*The Bengalee*".
- ✓ The book "**A Nation in Making**" was his widely acclaimed work.
- ✓ He later supported the empire and Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909.
- ✓ He also opposed Mahatma Gandhi's idea and way of civil disobedience. In the evening of his career, he headed the Calcutta Municipal Corporation and finally a minister in the Bengal Government.

Romesh Chunder Dutt

- ✓ Romesh Chunder Dutt is one of the best known historians of those times.

-: About this document:-

- ✓ He was a Civil Servant who had gone to England along with Surendra Nath Banerjee to compete successfully the ICS exam.
- ✓ He served as Dewan of Baroda state and also became a member of the Royal Commission on Indian Decentralisation in 1907.
- ✓ In Bengal his contribution to literature and art is still cherished.

Gopal Krishna Gokhle

- ✓ Gopal Krishna Gokhle is best known as **founder of Servants of India Society**.
- ✓ He associated himself with Congress in 1889 and a protégé of **Mahadev Govind Ranade**.
- ✓ He had a split of ideas with Tilak on Age of consent bill of 1891-92 (discussed later).
- ✓ In 1905 he was elected as president of Indian National Congress and in the same year on June 12, 1905, at Pune, he founded Servants of India society.
- ✓ The Publication of this society was "**The Hitavada**" which started getting published from 1911 onwards. The paper is still published.

Mahadev Govind Ranade

- ✓ Mahadev Govind Ranade was one of the founding members of INC.
- ✓ He was one of the earliest Judicial officers of India who first got an appointment in 1871 as fourth judge of the Bombay Small Causes Court in 1871.
- ✓ In 1893 he was uplifted to the Bombay High Court.
- ✓ He established **Poona Sarvajanic Sabha in 1870** as a pre-INC organization.
- ✓ He was an early opponent of Bal Gangadhar Tilak and a Guru of Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

Fact Box: Mahadev Govind Ranade & Welfare State

Definition of Welfare State was first given by Archbishop William Temple during the Second World War and was first implemented by Bismarck. In modern India, it was Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade who is accepted to be the first thinker who gave the idea of a welfare state. He said that the state now is more and more recognized as the national organ for taking care of the national needs in all matters in which individual and cooperative efforts are not likely to be effective as nation's effort.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- ✓ Bal Gangadhar Tilak joined Congress in 1890.
- ✓ He is "**Father of Indian Unrest**" who first of all demanded complete "Swarajya".
- ✓ He can also be called father of militant nationalism in India. He opposed the moderate attitude and fought for self government.
- ✓ In 1891, **the Age of Consent Bill** was opposed by Tilak. This bill rose the minimum marriage age of a girl from 10 years to 12 years. The other leaders supported the bill, but Tilak opposed it, taking it as interference to Hinduism.

Fact Box: Tilak's View regarding Social Reforms

1. Tilak favored the idea of coeducation for boys and girls in Pune schools and colleges.
2. Tilak was of the view that proper legislations can accelerate the process of social reforms in India

-: About this document:-

3. Tilak stood against the Moneylenders, and supported legislation by the Government which prohibited the mortgage of land and its transfer on that basis.

When in 1888, the social reformers in Pune proposed coeducation for boys and girls in schools and colleges, Tilak opposed the proposal on the argument that women spent most of their time at home engaged in household activities, so they need a different curriculum. For this he was of the view that there should be separate schools for boys and girls. Tilak was never in favor of imposing reforms through legislation because he favored spontaneous changes springing from within the society, as only then such reforms would be effective. He never wanted the alien government to interfere in the religious matters of the Indians.

The third view given above is linked to the Agricultural Relief Act of 1879, which was legislated to provide relief to the peasants who were being exploited not only by the landlords but also by the money-lenders. Via this act, the government prohibited the mortgage of land and its transfer on that basis. But this act was not supported by Tilak and he stood on the side of the money-lenders, because, in his view, holding moneylenders responsible for the problems of peasants was not a good and just idea at all.

Madan Mohan Malaviya

- ✓ Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya also known as Mahamana was from Allahabad and a moderate nationalist, who served as President of INC for three terms, founded Banaras Hindu University in 1916 and founded Scouting in India.
- ✓ He published the newspaper "The Leader" from Allahabad.

Ashutosh Mukherjee

- ✓ The name of Ashutosh Mukherjee is linked to the establishment of Bengal Technical Institute (1906), Calcutta University College of Science (1914) and Calcutta Mathematical Society (1908).
- ✓ We should know that the First Indian Science Congress was held in 1914 at Kolkata and was presided by Ashutosh Mukherjee, and Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta from 1906 to 1924.
- ✓ Ashutosh Mukherjee is best known for establishing the Bengal Technical Institute (1906), Calcutta University College of Science (1914) and Calcutta Mathematical Society (1908).
- ✓ He was the father of Syama Prasad Mookerjee and people called him out of respect "Tiger of Bengal".

Margaret E. Cousins

- ✓ Margaret E. Cousins was born in 1878 in Ireland, and came to India in 1915 and since then made India her home.
- ✓ She organized many institutions like the Madras Seva Sadan and Children's Aid Society. She organized a women's deputation to Mr. E.S. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, at Madras, which made the first demand for franchise for women in India.

Begum of Bhopal

- ✓ In 1916, the Begum of Bhopal is known to have formed the All India Muslim Women's Conference. This conference passed some resolutions on reforms and educations.

-: About this document:-

Abu Begum

- ✓ Abu Begum is known to have proposed a resolution against polygamy during British era.

Shanti Ghosh and Suniti Chaudhary

- ✓ Shanti Ghosh and Suniti Chaudhary were the two young ladies who walked up to the Magistrate of Tipper in his office and shot him dead, mainly because of his taking advantage of power to harass women.

Mary Carpenter

- ✓ Mary Carpenter was an English educational and social reformer, who came to India in 1866 to meet Raja Rammohun Roy, this was her long cherished desire.
- ✓ But in India, she met Keshab Chandra Sen, the leader of Brahmo Samaj, who asked her to form an organization in Britain to improve communication between British and Indian reformers. In 1870 she established National Indian Association.

Pandit Sohan Lal Pathak

- ✓ Pandit Sohan Lal Pathak, was a leader of Ghadar party. He was hanged in Mandalay jail on February 10, 1916 for inciting rebellion against the British Government

Jatindranath Mookherjee

Jatindranath Mookherje was the leader of Ghadar Party in Bengal and Orrisa.

Alfred Webb

Alfred Webb (1834 – 1908) was an Irish Parliamentary Party politician and MP, who is best known for his role in every major nationalist organization from Butt's Home Government Association to the United Irish League. In India, he became the third non-Indian to preside over the Indian National Congress, at Madras in 1894. Webb was a supporter of "Anti-Caste", Britain's first anti-racism journal which started in 1888. Dadabhai Naoroji co-signed a letter with Webb and others to request support for a new association: 'The Society for the Furtherance of Human Brotherhood'.

Rahimtulla M. Sayani

- ✓ Rahimtulla M. Sayani was "Second Muslim" to become the "President of Indian National Congress" after Badruddin taiyyabji.
- ✓ He was a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation and was the Sheriff of Bombay in 1885, also elected as President of the Corporation in 1888.

C. Sankaran Nair

- ✓ C. Sankaran Nair was the President of the Indian National Congress in 1897 held at Amraoti, the first and probably only Keralite to be so. In 1902, the Viceroy, Lord Curzon appointed him Secretary to the Raleigh University Commission.
- ✓ He became a member of the Viceroy's Council in 1915 with the charge of the Education portfolio. As member, he wrote in 1919 *two famous Minutes of Dissent in the Despatches on Indian Constitutional Reforms*, pointing out the various defects of British rule in India and suggesting reforms. For an

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Indian to offer such criticism and make such demands was incredible in those days. The British government accepted most of his recommendations.

Dinshaw Edulji Wacha

- ✓ Sir Dinshaw Edulji Wacha (1844-1936) was one of the founders of the Indian National Congress, and its President in 1901. He was President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber in 1915.

Lalmohan Ghosh

- ✓ Lalmohan Ghosh (1849-1909) was the sixteenth President of the Indian National Congress, elected President of the Madras session (1903).
- ✓ He believed in importance of Western education for the people of India as a force to unite the people into one nation. He is best known for his plea for compulsory primary education in India in his Presidential address at the Madras session of the Congress.

Sir Henry Cotton

- ✓ Sir Henry Cotton (1845 - 1915) was a member of Indian Civil Service, during which he was sympathetic to Indian nationalism. After returning to England, he served as a Liberal Party Member of Parliament (MP) for Nottingham East from 1906 to January 1910.
- ✓ While serving at Chuadanga, he witnessed the great flood of 1871. Cotton supported Indian Home Rule and served as President of Indian National Congress in 1904. He led the opposition to Curzon's invasion of Tibet and partition of Bengal.

Gopal Ganesh Agarkar

- ✓ Gopal Ganesh Agarkar (1856-1895) belonged to a Chitpavan Brahmin family of Maharashtra. He was one of the founders of the Deccan education society (24 October 1884) and the Fergusson college, Pune (2 January 1885).
- ✓ He also became the principal of the Fergusson college in 1892 and held that office till his death in 1895.
- ✓ He was the editor of the English weekly the Mahratta and the Marathi weekly the Kesari. In 1888 he started his own weekly the Sudharak, the Marathi columns of which were written by him and the English ones by G.K. Gokhale.

Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan (1817-1898):

- ✓ Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan is considered to be a Muslim social reformer, who served as a judicial officer under the East India Company. After retirement he was knighted and he worked from Aligarh. In 1875 he established Muhammadan Anglo-oriental college (which was raised, in 1920, as Aligarh Muslim university).
- ✓ He had also founded the Muhammadan educational congress, known since 1895, when it was referred to as the Muhammadan Anglo-oriental educational conference.
- ✓ The aim of this conference as a non-political organization, was to promote liberal education among the Muslims. However, Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan was **NOT prepared at that time to let Muslims go for technical education or permit higher education for women.**
- ✓ He was a staunch British loyalist and was fully convinced of the usefulness of British Rule in India. For him, the best course was to be loyal to the British rule. He was a bitter opponent of the Indian

-: About this document:-

national congress, whereby in 1888, he founded the **United Indian Patriotic Association** to inculcate a sense of loyalty towards the British.

Amir chand (1869-1915)

- ✓ A revolutionary, he was arrested in connection with the Lahore bomb and Delhi conspiracy cases (The later an alleged plot to kill the viceroy lord Harding's) in February 1914. He was sentenced to death and executed on may 8, 1915.

Charles Ferrer Andrews (Dinabandhu Andrews) (1871-1940)

- ✓ An English missionary and a teacher at St. Stephen's college, Delhi. Had deep sympathy for India and wanted to be an Indian in every respect. Closely associated with Rabindranath Tagore , G.K. Gokhale , Mahatma Gandhi. With Gandhiji, he lived with at the Phoenix Ashram in south Africa actively participated in trade union activities and was twice elected president of the trade union congress, in 1925 and 1927. He joined the vaikam satyagraha in 1925 and worked with Dr. Ambedkar in formulating the harijan demands in 1933. Gandhi called him Dinbandhu.

Kumaran Asan(1873-1924)

- ✓ A renowned social reformer, scholar and poet from Kerala. His spiritual guide was Sri Narayana Guru. An acknowledged leader of the Ezhava community, a pioneer in social reforms and a great malayali poet.

Asur Singh (1872-1916)

Active in killing of the policemen and sabotaging railway lines. Played vital role in Delhi conspiracy case. He remained underground for 18 month. He died at Lahore jail in December 1916.

Bhai Balmukand (1891-1916)

A great follower of Lala Lajpat Rai and Lala Hardayal. Joined the revolutionary movement of the first phase and was a close associate of Rasbihari bose of the Hardinge Bomb case. He was arrested in connection of Harding bomb case in 1912 and was hanged at the age of 25.