

## NATIONALISM IN INDIA

1.Explain four points about Gandhiji's idea of 'Satyagraha'.

Or

Explain the idea of Satyagraha according to Gandhiji.

Ans :

According to Gandhiji, satyagraha stressed on the power of truth and the need to search for the truth. It advocated that for the struggle against injustice and right cause, the use of physical force cannot be the right way. One can win the oppressor even by appealing to his conscience. Rather than using violence against him, it is important that the oppressor is made to see the truth. According to Gandhiji, Satyagraha is the most effective method of protest. It is certain that the truth always wins.

2.How did Mahatma Gandhi successfully organize Satyagraha movements in various places just after arriving in India? Explain by giving three examples.

Ans :

After returning from South Africa, Gandhiji undertook his experiments with satyagraha in India.

(a) In 1916, he inspired the peasants of Champaran in Bihar against the oppressive plantation system.

(b) In 1917, in support of the peasants of Kheda district in Gujarat, he organised a satyagraha against revenue payment at the time of crop failure and plague epidemic. He demanded relaxation from revenue collection.

(c) In 1918, in Ahmedabad, he organised satyagraha favouring the demands of the cotton mill workers.

3.Why did Mahatma Gandhi decide to launch a nationwide Satyagraha against the proposed Rowlatt Act? Explain any three reasons.

Ans :

- (a) The Rowlatt Act had been hurriedly passed through the Imperial Legislative Council despite the united opposition of the Indian members.
- (b) The Act gave the colonial government enormous powers to repress political activities.
- (c) It allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years. Rallies were organised in various cities, workers went on strike in railway workshops, and shops closed were down. Gandhiji decided to launch a nationwide satyagraha against the proposed act. He wanted a non-violent civil disobedience against such unjust laws.

4. Describe in brief the reactions of the people immediately after Jallianwalla Bagh incident.

Ans :

The news of the Jallianwalla Bagh tragedy spread in the country like a forest fire. The following were the consequences.

(a) Crowds took to the streets in many north Indian towns. Strikes, clashes with the police and attacks on government buildings were witnessed extensively.

(b) The British used brutal repression, seeking to humiliate and terrorise people. People were flogged and villages were bombed.

(c) This violence forced Gandhiji to stop the movement.

5. Why was the Khilafat Movement supported by Gandhiji in 1919? What was his main aim?

Ans :

Though Rowlatt Satyagraha was a widespread movement, it was still limited to certain cities and towns. Gandhiji wanted a more united and broad-based movement especially for bringing the Hindus and Muslims together. In 1919, Gandhiji supported the Khilafat Movement to protest against the humiliation caused to Turkish Khalifa by the British. The Khalifa was regarded as the spiritual head of the Muslims around the world. Gandhiji saw this as an opportunity to gain the support of the

Muslim community. Gandhiji's main aim was to unite Hindus and Muslim for a unified national movement.

6. Mention three main proposals with reference to Non-Cooperation Movement, as suggested by Mahatma Gandhi.

Ans :

Gandhiji suggested that the Non-Cooperation Movement should be carried out in stages. The following proposals were suggested by Gandhiji.

- (a) To begin with, people were asked to surrender the titles awarded by the government.
- (b) Next was to be the boycott of civil services, army, police, courts, legislative councils, schools and foreign goods by the Indians.
- (c) Following these developments, if the government used repression, a civil disobedience campaign would be launched.
- (d) An extensive tour throughout India was another proposal to mobilise popular support for the movement. (any three)

7. Why did some leaders of the Congress oppose the idea of a Non-Cooperation Movement?

Ans :

Some leaders of the congress opposed the idea of Non-Cooperation Movement because of the following reasons.

- (a) They did not want to boycott the council elections of November 1920.
- (b) They thought that the movement would become violent.
- (c) They wanted to oppose the government policies by participating in legislative councils.

8. Explain any three problems faced by the peasants of Awadh.

Or

Describe any three major problems faced by the peasants of Awadh in the days of Non-Cooperation Movement.

Ans :

The following were the problems faced by the peasants of Awadh.

(a) The peasants were burdened with the high rents and a variety of other cesses by the talukdars and landlords.

(b) They were even forced to do begar in the farms of talukdars and landlords.

(c) At the same time, tenants had no security of tenure and were regularly evicted in order to prevent them from acquiring any right over the leased land.

9.How was the movement against the landlords and talukdars led by Baba Ramchandra?

Ans :

Baba Ramchandra led the movement against the landlords and talukdars in Awadh in the following ways.

(a) Panchayats organised nai-dhobi bandhs to deprive the landlords of the basic services of barbers and washermen.

(b) Oudh Kisan Sabha was set up and several of its branches were organised in the villages and around the region.

(c) In some places, houses of talukdars and merchants were attacked, bazars were looted and grain hoards were taken over.

10.How was the Non-Cooperation Movement taken in the plantations?

Ans :

Workers in the plantations of Assam demanded the right to move freely in and out of the tea estates. They opposed the Inland Emigration Act of 1859 which took away the right to free movement. They were not allowed to maintain their link with their villages. When the Non-Cooperation Movement began, they left the plantations and tried to reach their villages. They were hoping that they soon will be granted land in the villages with the coming of Gandhi Raj. But they were not so fortunate. They were caught, brought back and badly beaten.

11.Examine the significance of the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Or

Evaluate the major contributions of the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Ans :

The Non-Cooperation Movement was significant in the following ways.

(a) It was a large scale mass movement. It attracted common people from all social groups.

(b) Non-Cooperation Movement and Khilafat Movement went together. It promoted Hindu-Muslim unity.

(c) Peasants' and tribals' movements became a significant part of the Indian National Movement.

(d) It was a non-violent movement. So, it popularised the Gandhian idea of non-violent Satyagraha. (any three)

12.Explain the incident which forced Gandhiji to call off the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Or

Why did Mahatma Gandhiji decide to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement in February 1922? Explain the reasons.

Ans :

Gandhiji withdrew the Non-Cooperation Movement because of the following reasons.

(a) The movement became violent in some places. In February 1922, in Chauri Chaura (Uttar Pradesh) people turned violent and set fire to a police station. Twenty-two policemen were killed in the incident.

Gandhiji was against any such act of violence.

(b) The movement slowed down in urban areas.

(c) Gandhiji thought that it was necessary to train people in non-violent Satyagraha.

13.What was the Simon Commission? Why was it opposed?

Ans :

A Statutory Commission under Sir John Simon was constituted by the Tory government in Britain to look into the functioning of the constitutional system in India and suggest changes. But it was opposed by the Indians on the following lines.

(a) All the members of the commission were Englishmen.

(b) It did not provide any hope of Swaraj to Indians.

14.Examine the significance of the Lahore Session (1929) of the Indian National Congress.

Ans :

A Congress session was held at Lahore in 1929 under the presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru. It was significant for many reasons. It was here that the Congress declared 'Purna Swaraj' as its aim. In this session it was decided to celebrate 26 January as Independence Day every year and people were asked to prepare themselves for the struggle for independence. It was after this session that Gandhiji sought to devise ways to relate the idea of independence with the daily issues of the people to make the struggle more practical.

15.What were the aims of the Civil Disobedience Movement? How far was the Congress successful in its objectives?

Ans :

The Civil Disobedience Movement aimed at complete refusal of cooperation to the British and hinder the functioning of the government. It also aimed at refusal to paying taxes, boycotting government institutions and foreign goods. However, the Congress had little success in this initiative. The movement had to be called off because it was turning violent and the government started the use of force to control the situation.

16.Mahatma Gandhi found in salt a powerful symbol that could unite the nation. Discuss.

Ans :

Gandhiji wrote a letter to Viceroy Irwin against the background of some demands which were specific and general in nature. Of all, the demand for abolition of salt tax was the most important one. So Gandhiji thought to raise the demand for the abolition of salt tax with which the society could be brought together. He saw in the act a powerful message that would unite Indians for a mass struggle. Salt was one such common commodity that was used by every section of the society. The British government had imposed tax and acquired monopoly rights to produce salt. It resulted in increase in its price.

17.What was the Gandhi-Irwin Pact?

Ans :

The Civil Disobedience Movement started by Gandhiji faced brutal response from the British. There were large scale attacks on the satyagrahis. Even women and children were not spared and beaten badly. Thousands of the protesters were arrested. The situation forced Gandhiji to call off the movement and sign a pact with Lord Irwin. The pact came to be called as Gandhi-Irwin Pact. According to the pact, Gandhiji agreed to take part in the second Round Table Conference in London. In turn, the government agreed to release all political prisoners imprisoned during the movement.