



# Lecture-29



# Non Cooperation Movement

## Causes of Non-Cooperation Movement

- **Resentment at the British after the war:** Indians thought that in return for the extensive support of manpower and resources they had provided to Britain during the First World War, they would be rewarded by autonomy at the end of the war. But the Government of India Act 1919 was dissatisfactory. In addition, the British also passed repressive acts like the Rowlatt Act which further angered many Indians who felt betrayed by the rulers despite their wartime support.
- **Home Rule Movement:** The Home Rule Movement started by Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak set the stage for the non-cooperation movement. The extremists and the moderates of the INC were united and the Lucknow Pact also saw solidarity between the Muslim League and the Congress Party. The return of the extremists gave the INC a militant character.
- **Economic hardships due to World War I:** India's participation in the war caused a lot of economic hardships to the people. Prices of goods began to soar which affected the common man. Peasants also suffered because the prices of agricultural products did not increase. All this led to resentment against the government.
- **The Rowlatt Act and the Jallianwala Bagh massacre:** The repressive Rowlatt Act and the brutal massacre at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar had a profound effect on the Indian leaders and the people. Their faith in the British system of justice was broken and the whole country rallied behind its leaders who were pitching for a more aggressive and firm stance against the government.
- **The Khilafat Movement:** During the First World War, Turkey, which was one of the Central Powers, had fought against the British. After Turkey's defeat, the Ottoman caliphate was proposed to be dissolved. Muslims regarded Sultan of Turkey as their Caliph (religious head of the Muslims). The Khilafat movement was launched under the leadership of Ali Brothers (Maulana Mohammed Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali), Maulana Azad, Hakim Ajmal Khan, and Hasrat Mohani. It got the support from Mahatma Gandhi to persuade the British government not to abolish the caliphate. The leaders of

this movement accepted the non-cooperation movement of Gandhiji and led a joint protest against the British.

### **Why was the Non-Cooperation Movement suspended?**

- Gandhiji called off the movement in February 1922 in the wake of the Chauri Chaura incident.
- In Chauri Chaura, Uttar Pradesh, a violent mob set fire to a police station killing 22 policemen during a clash between the police and protesters of the movement.
- Gandhiji called off the movement saying people were not ready for revolt against the government through ahimsa. Several leaders like Motilal Nehru and C R Das were against the suspension of the movement only due to sporadic incidents of violence.

### **Significance of Non-Cooperation Movement**

- Swaraj was not achieved in one year as Gandhiji had told.
- However, it was a truly mass movement where lakhs of Indians participated in the open protest against the government through peaceful means.
- It shook the British government who were stumped by the extent of the movement.
- It saw participation from both Hindus and Muslims thereby showcasing communal harmony in the country.
- This movement established the popularity of the Congress Party among the people.
- As a result of this movement, people became conscious of their political rights. They were not afraid of the government.
- Hordes of people thronged to jails willingly.
- The Indian merchants and mill owners enjoyed good profits during this period as a result of the boycott of British goods. Khadi was promoted.
- The import of sugar from Britain reduced considerably during this period.
- This movement also established Gandhiji as a leader of the masses.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS:

**1. Who among the following presented the main resolution on Non-Cooperation Movement during the annual session of the Congress in Nagpur of 1920?**

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru
- B. JM Sengupta
- C. MK Gandhi
- D. CR Das

**Ans: D**

**2. Who among the following formed communist group in Calcutta under the influenced of M.N. Roy and Nalini Gupta?**

- A. Purushottamdas Tandon
- B. Premchand
- C. NC Bardaloi
- D. Muzaffar Ahmad

**Ans: D**

**3. Which of the following leader announced himself as a 'King of Salon' and initiated no-taxes movement?**

- A. Shah Naim Ata
- B. MN Roy
- C. Bhagwan Ahir
- D. Ramchandra Das

**Ans: A**

**4. Who was the pioneer of Chauri Chaura incident?**

- A. Shah Naim Ata
- B. MN Roy
- C. Bhagwan Ahir
- D. Bhairo Nath

**Ans: C**

**5. Who had given the Non-Cooperation Movement as Capitalist Autocracy?**

A. Singaravelu Chettiar

B. NC Bardaloi

C. Thiru Vika

D. Duggirala Gopalkrishnayya

**Ans: A**