

EVENTS OF 1932

MacDonald Award or Communal

Award

- British PM Ramsay Macdonald announced in 1932 that depressed class (Dalits) is a minority and will get separate electorate like Muslims, Sikhs etc.
- This was a long demand of depressed class leader B.R. Ambedkar as the depressed classes had no chance of entering the assembly as election was based on limited franchise.
- Congress leadership was not happy.
- Gandhi was in deep shock and opposed separate electorate. He wanted to restart civil disobedience movement.
- The reasons for this opposition was:-
 - British government was dividing Indians
 - This would lead to great damage to community
- Gandhi was lodged in the Yerwada Jail. He went on fast unto death in opposition of Macdonald Award.

Poona Pact

- Due to Gandhi's fast unto death, there was huge pressure on B. R. Ambedkar.
- He agreed to meet Gandhi for negotiations
- After the meeting pact was signed, and its features were:-
 - No Separate electorate for depressed classes
 - Instead of separate electorate reservation of seats would be given
 - Candidates would be from depressed class but voters from all communities will vote for electing one of the candidates

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

- Round Table conference signifies that all the participants are equal.
- It is symbolic that every group will be treated equally
- Participants of these conferences were – All political parties of India, Representatives of India Princely states
- It was held in Buckingham Palace in London
- Purpose of this meeting according to British was that they wanted to understand demands and grievances of Indian Leadership from different social backgrounds
- Nationalist interpreted it as a mere eyewash

First Round Table Conference

- It was held in 1930 -1931
- It was held during the civil disobedience movement
- Congress did not participate in the conference

Second Round Table Conference

- It was held in 1931
- Congress participated in this conference as it was a part of Gandhi-Irwin Pact
- Gandhi represented Congress in this conference
- This conference turned aggressive between Gandhi and rival nationalist group leaders.

Third Round Table Conference

- It was held in 1932
- Congress boycotted this conference
- Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha and Princely states participated
- There were no significant outcomes of this conference

LEFT GROUPS IN INDIA – 1934

- Congress Socialist Party was formed at Bombay
- Acharya Narendra Dev was the President and Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan was the secretary
- The movement originated from 1917 October Revolution.
- In 1920, Bhartiya Communist Party was set up at Tashkent (now in Central Asia)
- In 1925, Communists assembled in Kanpur to form Communist Party of India and it included many famous names

Origin of the Movement

- Congress had to satisfy every section of society
- Gandhi evolved philosophy of Trusteeship which came which was not idealistic and was very difficult to implement.
- All this lead to Congress v/s Communist verbal fights.
- Communist labelled Congress as a party of Bourgeoisie (middle class)
- Congress termed Communists as “Russian satellite”
- As congress had mass support, communist party weakened.

Purpose of Movement

- This movement was started as Congress did not do much about peasants’ and workers’ plight.
- Number of worker and peasant organizations emerged but did not join Congress movement
- Real issues of peasants were not addressed thus this job was left to communist and socialist

Methods of Mobilization

- Strikes in urban areas

- Communist party in India largely formed and supported peasants/worker organisations
- Peasant/workers were main target groups
- In 1928 Local association joined to form Workers and Peasants Party

Communist Party could not become influential as it suffered from two sides.

These are:-

1. From Society
 - Peasants did not connect
 - The Ideas of the party were very radical
 - Communism failed to penetrate rural majority
 - Members against revolution formed Socialist group in 1934
2. From Government
 - Americans, French supported capitalism
 - Govt suppressed communist movement
 - CPI was banned and members were arrested. Meerut Trial and Kanpur

- Writers published journals
- Pamphlets were issued

Contribution of Left Movement

- Considerable contribution was made in the field of Literature and Art
- Influenced the entire planning system in India
- It influenced theatre and cinema
- It has been active in student movements

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT 1935

➤ **Background**

1. Simon Commission
2. Failure of Round table Conference
3. Demands made I Nehru Report
4. Issue of paper by Government of England
5. Pressure from Nationalists

➤ **Provisions**

1. Autonomy to the provinces
2. End of Dyarchy from provinces
3. All – India Federation would be formed
4. Federal court was set up in 1936 (Called supreme court of India later on)
 - To settle dispute between Union Government and Provincial Government
 - To settle disputes between two provinces
5. Burma was separated from British India
6. Orissa was separated from Bihar. Cuttack was made its new capital
7. Sind was separated from the state of Bombay. Karachi was made the capital

➤ **Significance**

1. This act became the basis of free India's Constitution and had great impact on the modern Indian federal structure.
2. Modern Federal Court Structure was taken from this act.
3. This act gave more powers to our legislators

Criticism of the Act

1. It gave too much power to the governors of provinces
2. All India Federation clause could not be implemented

All India Kisan Sabha, 1936

- All India Kisan Sabha was set up in Lucknow
- It was initially known as All India Peasant Union
- First President was – Swami Sahajanand Saraswati and the first Secretary was N.G. Ranga
- Lot of peasant organisations were found at provincial level, district level and micro level which came together at Lucknow and formed Kisan Sabha

Objectives

- They wanted that the Zamindari system must end which the Congress never demanded
- They wanted reduction in taxes at some places
- They demanded security of land holding
- Another demand was institutionalization of credit market

Methods of Mobilization

- Peasant organization called various sorts of public meetings
- Pledges such as No Tax Movement were taken
- Peasant organisations took radical stand which even turned violent sometimes

Outcomes/Achievements

- These sabhas politicised peasants of rural India
- It made them aware of their rights
- No tax movement was started at several places
- They attacked houses of several zamindars and mahajans
- It led to rise in consciousness in 20th century peasants

Zamindars used religious symbols for dividing the peasants on the basis of caste and community. They converted the peasant struggle into caste/communal struggle

1937 – ELECTION IN THE PROVINCES

➤ Provinces where election was held

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|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Assam | 3. Orissa | 5. Central Province (C.P.) | 7. Bombay | 9. Punjab | 11. North-West Frontier Province |
| 2. Bengal | 4. Bihar | 6. United Province (U.P.) | 8. Madras | 10. Sindh | |

➤ Political Parties

- National Level Parties
 - Indian National Congress
 - Muslim League
 - Hindu Mahasabha
 - Justice Party
- Regional Level Parties
 - Bengal – Krishak Praja Party
 - Punjab/Sindh – Unionist Party
- Independent candidates

All Political parties claimed that they were superior to one another and would provide better government.

Gandhi stayed away for these elections. Nehru proactively took part in the election rallies.

Muslim League's manifesto confirmed that it did not defer much from INC in those days.

There was no demand of Pakistan or Partition