

Indian National Congress -01

Nationalism

- Nationalism in India has been the fallout of anti-colonialism.
- Also, discarding the dominance of the rigid Hindu brahmanical system that was prevalent in India, Indian nationalism envisages establishing inter-faith tolerance and pluralism.
- This society-centric pluralistic idea of nationalism can be depicted from Mahatma Gandhi's notion of independent India that is, “Free India will not be a Hindu Raj; it will be an Indian Raj, based not on the majority of any religious sect or community”.
- Moreover, it can be depicted in:
 - The Khilafat Movement in India, that was a key manifestation of India's brand of secularism.
 - Khilafat was a platform and a nationalist strategy for much more than a Muslim cause, as it brought to consciousness how the welfare of the peasantry and tolerance was essential to any future ideal of the nation.
 - India's brand of secularism:
 - Indian philosophy of secularism is related to “Sarva Dharma Sambhava” (which means that the destination of the paths followed by all religions is the same, though the paths themselves may be different) which means equal respect to all religions.
 - Thus, India's secularism is called “tossed salad model”, that emphasizes the multicultural nature of Indian society.

Also, the elaborate deliberations of the Constituent Assembly gave India the basis of its civic nationalism that prevailed for many decades.

Civic nationalism is a form of nationalism that emphasizes political allegiance based on a vision of a community of equal citizens, allowing for significant levels of ethnic and cultural diversity.

In the West, the US is a case where the idea of civic nationalism is pursued.

This is one of the greatest strengths of the United States that it doesn't consider itself as a nation based on religion, but a nation of citizens who are bound by ideals and a set of values enshrined in the Constitution.

Colonialism

Colonialism implies domination of people's life and culture. The main goal of colonialism is extraction of economic benefits from the colony. Colonialism results in control over life of natives in political, economic, cultural and social spheres. It is more subtle whereas Imperialism is more formal and aggressive.

Historically, two main types of the colonization can be differentiated.

- Settler colonialism is that type of colonialism wherein a large number of the immigrants, often motivated by religious, political, or economic reasons, settle in a new place and dominate the local indigenous population in economic, political as well as social aspects.
- Exploitation colonialism involves relatively less number of immigrants and predominantly focuses on exploitation of the resources of the colonial country.

Thus colonialism denotes a set of unequal relationships between the colonial power and the colony, and often between the colonists and the indigenous population; relationships in which the colonists acquire benefits (disproportionally), at the expense of the local population.

Factors of Nationalism

- 1. Political and Administrative Unity**
- 2. English Language and Western Education**
- 3. Development of Transport and Means of Communication**
- 4. Emergence of Modern Press**
- 5. Economic Exploitation**
- 6. Revival of Glorious Indian Heritage**
- 7. Impact of International Events**
- 8. Social and Religious Reform Movements**
- 9. Repressive policies and Racial Arrogance of the British**
- 10. Emergence of Conscious Middle Class**

Indian National Congress (INC)

- The INC was established in 1885, by A.O. Hume, a retired civil servant who was staying in Shimla post-retirement.

- He invited many Indian leaders regarding the Indian cause, and he laid the foundation of the 'Indian National Union'.
- But, after the suggestion of DadabhaiNaoroji, its name was changed to 'Indian National Congress.' The word 'Congress' was taken from the American Constitution.

The main aims of the Indian National Congress in the initial stage-

- Found a democratic, nationalist movement;
- Politicise and politically educate people;
- Establish the headquarters for a movement;
- Promote friendly relations among nationalist political workers from different parts of the country;
- Develop and propagate an anti-colonial nationalist ideology;
- Formulate and present popular demands before the government with a view to unifying the people over a common economic and political programme;
- Develop and consolidate a feeling of national unity among people irrespective of religion, caste or province;
- Carefully promote and nurture Indian nationhood.

Moderate Phase INC

- The moderate phase of the Congress (or the national movement) was dominated by the 'moderates'.
- They were people who believed in British justice and were loyal to them.

DadabhaiNaoroji

- Known as the 'Grand old man of India.'
- He became the first Indian to become a member of the House of Commons in Britain.
- Authored 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India' which focused on the economic drain of India because of British policies. This led to an enquiry on the matter.

Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee

- The first president of the INC.
- Lawyer by profession. First Indian to act as Standing Counsel.

G SubramaniaAiyer

- Founded 'The Hindu' newspaper where he criticised British imperialism.
- Also founded Tamil newspaper 'Swadesamitran'.

- Co-founded the Madras Mahajana Sabha.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

- Regarded as Mahatma Gandhi's political guru.
- Founded the Servants of India Society.

Sir Surendranath Banerjee

- Also called 'Rashtraguru' and 'Indian Burke'.
- Founded the Indian National Association which later merged with the INC.
- Cleared the Indian Civil Service but was discharged due to racial discrimination.
- Founded newspaper 'The Bengalee'.

Other moderate leaders included Rash Behari Ghosh, R C Dutt, M G Ranade, Pherozeshah Mehta, P R Naidu, Madan Mohan Malaviya, P. Ananda Charlu, and William Wedderburn.

Sessions

- **First Session:** held at Bombay in 1885. **President:** W.C. Bannerjee
 - Formation of Indian National Congress.
- **Second Session:** held at Calcutta in 1886. **President:** Dadabhai Naoroji
- **Third Session:** held at Madras in 1887. **President:** Syed Badruddin Tyabji, first Muslim President.
- **Fourth Session:** held at Allahabad in 1888. **President:** George Yule, first English President.
- **1896:** Calcutta. **President:** Rahimtullah Sayani
 - National Song 'Vande Mataram' sung for the first time by Rabindranath Tagore.
- **1899:** Lucknow. **President:** Romesh Chandra Dutt.
 - Demand for permanent fixation of Land revenue

- **1901:** Calcutta. **President:** Dinshaw E. Wacha
 - First time Gandhiji appeared on the Congress platform
- **1905:** Benaras. **President:** Gopal Krishan Gokhale
 - Formal proclamation of Swadeshi movement against government
- **1906:** Calcutta. **President:** Dadabhai Naoroji
 - Adopted four resolutions on: Swaraj (Self Government), Boycott Movement, Swadeshi & National Education
- **1907:** Surat. **President:** Rash Bihari Ghosh
 - Split in Congress- Moderates & Extremist
 - Adjournment of Session
- **1910:** Allahabad. **President:** Sir William Wedderburn
 - M.A Jinnah decried the separate electorate system introduced by act of 1909
- **1911:** Calcutta. **President:** B.N. Dhar
 - First time recital of Jan-Gan-Man in Congress session
- **1915:** Bombay. **President:** Sir S.P. Sinha
 - Constitution of the Congress was altered to admit the delegates from the extremist section
- **1916:** Lucknow. **President:** A.C. Majumdar
 - Unity between two factions-Moderates and Extremists of Congress
 - Lucknow Pact signed between Congress and Muslim League to build political consensus
- **1917:** Calcutta. **President:** Annie Besant, First Woman President of Congress
- **1918 (Special session):** Bombay. **President:** Syed Hasan Imam

- The session was convened to deliberate the contentious Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms Scheme
- **1919:** Amritsar. **President:** Motilal Nehru
 - Congress extended support to Khilafat Movement
- **1920 (Special Session):** Calcutta. **President:** LalaLajpatRai
 - Mahatma Gandhi moved the Non cooperation resolution
- **1920:** Nagpur. **President:** C. Vijayaraghavachariar
 - Reconstitution of Working committees of Congress on Linguistic basis
 - MA Jinnah left the Indian National Congress
- **1922:** Gaya. **President:** C.R. Das
 - CR Das and other leaders broke away from INC
 - Formation of Swaraj Party
- **1924:** Belgaum. **President:** M.K. Gandhi
 - Only Session presided over by Mahatma Gandhi
- **1925:** Kanpur. **President:** Sarojini Naidu, First Indian Woman President
- **1927:** Madras. **President:** Dr. M.A. Ansari
 - Passed a resolution against the use of Indian troops in China, Iran and Mesopotamia.
 - Passed a resolution against boycott of Simon Commission
 - Adoption of resolution on PurnaSwaraj
- **1928:** Calcutta. **President:** Motilal Nehru
 - Formation of All India Youth Congress
- **1929:** Lahore. **President:** JawaharLal Nehru
 - Passed the resolution on 'PoornaSwaraj.'

- Civil Disobedience movement for complete independence to be launched
- 26 January to be observed as 'Independence Day'.
- **1931: Karachi. President: Vallabhbhai Patel**
 - Resolutions on Fundamental Rights and National Economic Programme
 - Endorsement of Gandhi-Irwin pact
 - Gandhi nominated to represent INC in the Second Round Table Conference to be held in London
- **1934: Bombay. President: Rajendra Prasad**
 - Amendment in the Constitution of Congress
- **1936: Lucknow. President: JawaharLal Nehru**
 - Push towards socialist ideas by JawaharLal Nehru
- **1937: Faizpur. President: JawaharLal Nehru**
 - First Session to be held in a village
- **1938: Haripura. President: Subhas Chandra Bose**
 - National Planning Committee set up under JawaharLal Nehru.
- **1939: Tripuri. President: Rajendra Prasad**
 - Subhas Chandra Bose was re-elected but had to resign
 - Rajendra Prasad was appointed in his place
 - Subhash Chandra Bose formed Forward Bloc
- **1940: Ramgarh. President: AbulKalam Azad**
 - Civil Disobedience movement to be launched at appropriate time and circumstances.
- **1941-45: This Period is marked by events i.e. Quit India movement, RIN Mutiny & INA trials.**

- Phase of constitutional negotiations such as Cripps Mission, Wavell Plan and Cabinet Mission.
- On account of these events during this phase o no congress session was held.

1946: Meerut. President: J.B Kripalani

- Last session before independence
- J.B Kriplani was the president of INC at independence

Demand of INC

Some of the demands of Indian National Congress in its early years were:

- To form 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.
- Congress demanded 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.
- Higher jobs in the army for the Indians
- The Congress leaders wanted an inquiry into India's growing poverty and famines, reduction in military expenditure and home expenditures

ARTICLE 19:

Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech etc:

1. All citizens shall have the right

- a) To freedom of speech and expression;
- b) To assemble peaceably and without arms;
- c) To form associations or unions;
- d) To move freely throughout the territory of India;
- e) To reside and settle in any part of the territory of India; and
- f) Omitted by the 44th Amendment Act
- g) To practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business

2. Nothing in sub clause (a) of clause (1) shall affect the operation of any existing law, or prevent the State from making any law, in so far as such law imposes reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right conferred by the said sub clause in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

3. Nothing in sub-clause (b) of the said clause shall affect the operation of any existing law in so far as it imposes, or prevent the State from making any law imposing, in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India or] public order, reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right conferred by the said sub-clause.

4. Nothing in sub-clause (c) of the said clause shall affect the operation of any existing law in so far as it imposes, or prevent the State from making any law imposing, in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India or] public order or morality, reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right conferred by the said sub-clause.

5. Nothing in sub-clauses (d) and (e)] of the said clause shall affect the operation of any existing law in so far as it imposes, or prevents the State from making any law imposing, reasonable restrictions on the exercise of any of the rights conferred by the said sub-clauses either in the interests of the general public or for the protection of the interests of any Scheduled Tribe.

6. Nothing in sub-clause (g) of the said clause shall affect the operation of any existing law in so far as it imposes, or prevent the State from making any law imposing, in the interests of the general public, reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right conferred by the said sub-clause, and, in particular, nothing in the said sub-clause shall affect the operation of any existing law in so far as it relates to, or prevent the State from making any law relating to the professional or technical qualifications necessary for practicing any profession or carrying on any occupation, trade or business, or the carrying on by the State, or by a corporation owned or controlled by the State, of any trade, business, industry or service, whether to the exclusion, complete or partial, of citizens or otherwise].

B. EXPLANATION WITH LANDMARK CASES:

1. Freedom of Speech and Expression: Article 19 of the Constitution provides freedom of speech which is the right to express one's opinion freely without any fear through oral/written/electronic/broadcasting/press. Freedom of expression includes Freedom of Press. It covers the blogs and websites too.

2. Freedom of Assembly: The constitution guarantees right to hold meetings and take out processions. The processions and meetings should be unarmed and peaceful. This right may be restricted in the interest of the public order or sovereignty and integrity of the country. This Article has also been reviewed and interpreted by the Supreme Court many times.

3. Freedom of Association: The Constitution declares that all citizens will have the right to form associations and unions.

4. Freedom of Movement: The freedom of Movement is guaranteed by the Constitution and citizens can move from one state to another and anywhere within a state. A person free to move from any point to any point within the country's territories. There are certain exceptions such as Scheduled Tribe areas and army areas.

5. Freedom of Residence: An Indian citizen is free to reside in any state except from Jammu & Kashmir. Again this is subject to certain restrictions.