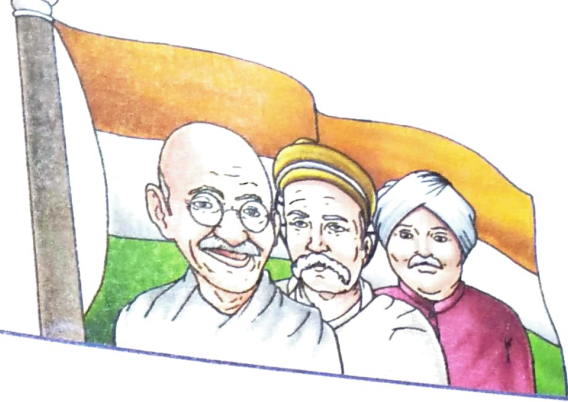


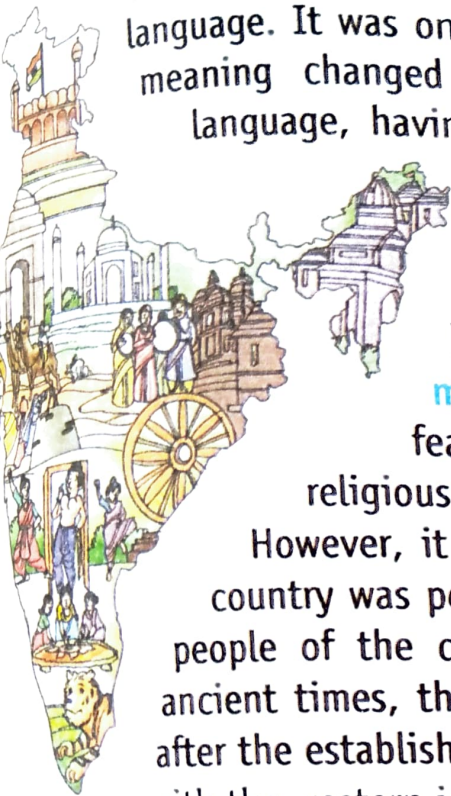
6

Freedom Struggle



THE RISE OF NATION AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

In the past, the word **nation** was used as a synonym of 'race' in the English language. It was only from about the time of the industrial revolution that its meaning changed gradually to include all people speaking a common language, having common cultural traditions and living within a defined geographical area. Thus, the word **nation** gradually came to denote not only the racial, linguistic or cultural but also a geographical and political identity.



India is a vast country with a **multiracial**, **multilingual** and **multireligious** population but with prominent geographical features which separate it from the rest of Asia. Her common religious and cultural traditions too have created a unity in diversity.

However, it was only on a very few occasions in history that the whole country was politically united. Thus, while culturally and geographically the people of the country have been conscious of their Indian identity since ancient times, the awareness of their political identity as a nation grew only after the establishment of the British empire in India when they became familiar with the western idea of **nationalism**.

THE RISE OF NATIONALISM

India's struggle against the British rule started with the outbreak of 1857 revolt followed by **civil disobedience**. At that time Indian Society had firm belief on traditional authority and customs. The western education introduced by the British in India was showing its impact.



Keshab Chandra Sen



Swami Dayanand Saraswati



Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Indian people started acting and thinking independently. Many associations or organisations were formed. Large number of reforms took place. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Keshab Chandra Sen, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

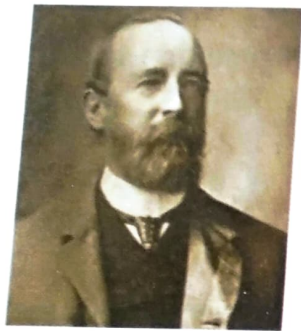
For the Teacher : Explain about the basis and ideas about the rise of nationalism in India. Also explain about factors behind it.

Narayana Guru, Mrs. Annie Besant and Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan were the major reformers who tried to eradicate social evils like **sati**, **child marriage** and **caste system** from the society. They also tried to uplift the status of women in society. They wanted to build a modern society. They began to form their own associations and institutions.



Annie Besant

Traders and businessmen opened modern mills and factories. Indians started their own schools. They held meetings to attract the attention of the rulers to their problems and needs. Everybody wanted freedom from oppressive British rule.



A.O. Hume

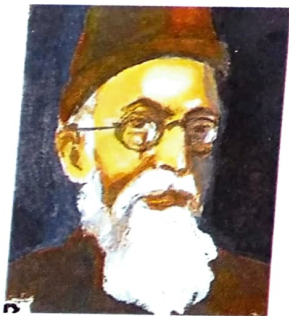
FOUNDATION OF INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

In 1885, Allan Octavian Hume (A.O. Hume), a retired civil servant, with the help of educated Indians, founded the **Indian National Congress**. The first session was held in Bombay under the Presidentship of Sh. W.C. Bonnerjee. The session was attended by 72 delegates. The Congress soon spread all over the country and it became the voice of the entire nation.

Congress in its annual session demanded that Indians be allowed to manage their own affairs. The most important leader of the Congress in early days were Dadabhai Naoroji, S.N. Bonnerjee, G. Subramaniya Aiyer, Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Badruddin Tayabji. Their main goal was to win **Swaraj** or **self rule**.

Till 1905, the leadership of the Congress remained in the hands of men who were **moderate** in their attitude. Moderates believed in methods of patience and persuasion.

But the peaceful methods did not help in solving the problems of the people. Thus strong action was needed. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai and others were against moderate attitude.



Dadabhai Naoroji



Gopal Krishna Gokhale



Lala Lajpat Rai



Bal Gangadhar Tilak



Bipin Chandra Pal

Tilak tried to draw the common people and the youth of the country into the struggle for freedom. He wrote against the British Raj in his paper **Kesari**.

Tilak declared "Freedom is my birthright and I will have it." A number of young people joined this group. They were called **extremists**. Extremists (felt that strong action was needed to make the British understand their problems and desires to be free)

Policy of Divide and Rule

As the years passed, the Congress gained strength and the people from all walks of life supported

CA (Strength and unity of Indians)

~~This~~ created a sense of fear in the British. They used the **Divide and Rule** policy to weaken the united Indians and freedom movement. They planned to divide Bengal in two parts on the basis of Hindu and Muslim population. East Bengal for the Muslims and West Bengal for the Hindus. Therefore in 1905, The **partition of Bengal** was announced.

The Swadeshi Movement

B-3

The protests against the partition were accompanied by the boycott of British goods. It meant using goods made in India only. It was called **Swadeshi Movement**. The students in Bengal took active part in this movement. British clothes were burnt in heaps. The rulers warned the people of extreme measures. The British could not face this movement. They had to abolish the partition and Bengal was reunited in 1911.

Swadeshi and **boycott** changed the tone of the national movement. Women also took part in a big way. They organised processions and asked people not to buy foreign goods.

The Revolutionaries

Peaceful agitations and boycotts did not affect the British rulers. Meeting force with force became a popular way among the youths to gain quick freedom. Such people were called **revolutionaries**. (Two young boys Prafulla Chaki and Khudi Ram Bose fired at a British officer.) Khudi Ram Bose, only 15 years old, was arrested and hanged. Chandrashekhar Azad was a great revolutionary.



Khudi Ram Bose



Chandrashekhar Azad



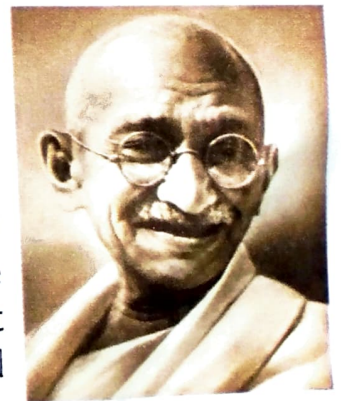
Madam Cama

Some people started working from other countries for the freedom of India. Madam Cama went to Geneva, and published a newspaper called **Vande Mataram**. The people from Punjab who had settled in America formed the **Gadar Party** to help the revolutionaries in India. Narendra Nath Chattopadhyaya in Berlin, Raja Mahendra Pratap and Maulana Barkatullah went to Kabul to guide the freedom movement. Lala Hardayal led the movement in San Francisco, U.S.A.

The British rulers took some steps to appeasing the Indians. They did not give up their policy of divide and rule. They allowed some Indians to join the government. They made religion the basis of electing representatives, which the people opposed.

World War I broke out in 1914. Many Indians helped the government in the war. They thought that the British would feel obliged and grant freedom to India. But this did not happen. The government made strict laws and enforced them very harshly.

In 1915, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi or (Mahatma Gandhi) a lawyer returned to India after a long stay in South Africa. There he helped the Indians and showed them a new way of fighting injustice. He believed that there is always a peaceful way of doing things. For the next 30 years, he led the struggle for freedom.



Mahatma Gandhi

- Nationalism** : a patriotic feeling, feeling of national independence.
Multiracial : many races.
Multilingual : using several languages.
Reformer : person who brings about or advocates reform.
Boycott : Planned refusal of social or commercial dealing.
Revolutionary : person who believes in using violent means to bring about a change.

Let us Revise

- ▶ The meaning of nations includes all people speaking a common language, having common cultural traditions and living within a defined geographical area.
- ▶ India is a vast country with a multiracial, multilingual and multireligious population.
- ▶ India's struggle for freedom from the British rule started with the outbreak of 1857 revolt followed by civil rebellion.
- ▶ Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Keshab Chandra Sen, Swami Dayananad Saraswati, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Narayana Guru, Annie Besant and Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan were the major reformers.
- ▶ In 1885, A.O. Hume, a retired civil servant, with the help of educated Indians, founded the Indian National Congress.
- ▶ Tilak tried to draw the common people and the youth of the country into the struggle for freedom. He wrote against the British Raj in his paper 'Kesari'.
- ▶ The partition of Bengal was announced in 1905.
- ▶ The Swadeshi Movement started against the partition of Bengal.
- ▶ Swadeshi helped the Indians and showed them a new way of fighting injustice.

EXERCISES

A. Multiple choice questions (MCQs).

Choose the correct option from the following :

1. Which of the following were the social reformers of India, who fought against sati system and child marriage ?
- (a) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
(b) Dayanand Saraswati
(c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
(d) All of these

2. Who founded the Indian National Congress ?
 - (a) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
 - (b) Mrs. Annie Besant
 - (c) Allan Octavian Hume
 - (d) W.C. Bonerjee
3. What was the main goal of Indian National Congress ?
 - (a) Industrial revolution
 - (b) Swaraj or self rule
 - (c) Green revolution
 - (d) Extreme wealth
4. It was written by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, against the British Raj.
 - (a) Kesari
 - (b) Daily Tabloid
 - (c) HT
 - (d) Hindu paper
5. Who had published a newspaper called Vande Mataram in Geneva ?
 - (a) Mahatma Gandhi
 - (b) Bhagat Singh
 - (c) Subhash Chandra Bose
 - (d) Madam Cama

B. Very short answer type questions.

1. Where did the first session of Indian National Congress held ? *in Bombay.*
2. Who were the extremists ? *were the people who*
3. What was the Swadeshi Movement ?
4. Who was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi ?
5. Name the two young boys who fired at a British Officer.

C. Short answer type questions.

1. What was the 'divide and rule policy' of the British ?
2. Why was the swadeshi movement started ?
3. What were the social evils of Indian society ? *were Sati, child marriage and caste system.*
4. What were the demands of congress in the early years ? *were to gain Swaraj or self rule.*
5. Distinguish between the moderates and extremists.

D. Fill in the blanks.

1. The Indian National Congress was formed in Bombay.
2. The partition of Bengal was abolished in 1911.
3. Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a moderate.
4. The first session of Congress was held in Bombay.
5. Bal Gangadhar Tilak started the Kesari.
6. The first President of Indian National Congress was W.C. Bonerjee.
7. Boycott of foreign goods was started during swadeshi movement.
8. Dadabhai Naoroji declared that swaraj is our goal.

E. Name any three.

1. Freedom fighters
2. Extremist leaders
3. Social reformers
4. Prominent revolutionaries

F. Correctly match List I with List II.

List I

- (i) Madam Cama
- (ii) Lala Hardayal
- (iii) Raja Mahendra Pratap
- (iv) Chandra Shekhar Azad
- (v) A.O. Hume

List II

- (a) Kabul
- (b) A Civil Servant
- (c) Geneva
- (d) America
- (e) Revolutionary

High Order Thinking Skills

HOTS

1. "India is world famous for its unity in diversity." Explain the statement by giving suitable examples.
2. What is the need of Independence? Is it necessary?

Ans. C-5 Distinguish between moderates and extremists are:

Moderates :- Moderate people believed in methods of patience and persuasion.

Extremists :- Young people who want to take freedom by strong action.



ACTIVITY
Based Exercises