

## **MAIN REASONS FOR FREEDOM STRUGGLE: A BRIEF OVERVIEW**

### **“स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के मुख्य कारण: एक संक्षिप्त अवलोकन”**

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The 1857 movement was India's first organized independence movement. Nationalism and patriotism were not fully prevalent in this movement, but still it was spread over a large part of the country and its leaders tried to drive the foreign rulers out of the country. This movement failed due to lack of organization and practices, but the spark it kept burning evenly and took the form of flames from time to time.

Three notable anti-British movements after 1857 are particularly notable - the Wahabi movement, the Kuka movement and the Birsa movement.

The Wahhabi movement was against both the British and the Sikhs. His aim was to reestablish Muslim rule in India. The British were obstructing the achievement of this objective, so this movement was against the British. Syed Ahmed '1786-1831' of Rai Bareli, the founder of this movement, had the idea that India is a country of enemies. It is necessary for Muslims to destroy the British and Hindus and make them a country of Islam. Syed Ahmed tried to get help from the Nizam of Hyderabad and some Muslim foreign rulers. After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839, the Wahhabis gained possession of a large tract of land on the right bank of the Indus River. But after the British established their power in Punjab in 1847, the Wahhabis were driven out of Punjab. A leader of the Wahhabis, Inayat Ali, tried to organize the Wahhabis and fight the British. There were many small battles between the Wahhabis and the British, but the Wahhabis were crushed.

The Kuka movement was aimed at revealing Sikhism in its pure form. Its leader was Ram Singh. He gave military education to his followers and organized them into sects. In January 1871, 150 Kukaas attacked artillery at Maludh and Kotla. They killed 10 men and injured many. Patiala officials apprehended 68 Kukaas and handed over to the Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana, Mr. Cowan. Cowan blew some with a cannon and hanged some. Kukas leader Baba Ram Singh was arrested and sent to Rangoon. Where he died in 1885.

The Birsa Movement was a tribal movement started by the Birsa of the Munda clan. Birsa also received a little English education. His followers considered him an incarnation of God. The government suspected Birsa and arrested Birsa and some of his associates and sent him to jail. Birsa was released from prison in 1898 and organized his followers and gave them military training. On 7 January 1900, 300 armed divers attacked the Khunti police station. Bullets were fired from soldiers. About 200 shaved men and women were killed. Birsa was captured on 3 February 1900. He died on 2 June 1900. The government strictly suppressed the movement.

The diverse freedom struggle in India began after the establishment of the Indian National Congress in 1885 but there were many reasons for its birth. The British rulers used all kinds of political, military, economic and intellectual measures to maintain their dominance over India. . Some modernization of India was necessary to achieve the colonial goal. The process of modernization gave rise to many trends in India, one of which was nationalism. The British established political unity in India. This unity was stronger than the political unity of the Mauryan rulers, Gupta rulers or Mughal rulers. In the British era, India was divided into two parts - British India and the country of India. British provinces were directly ruled by the British. The British had indirect rule over the princely states. But still the whole of India was under his control, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Assam to Khyber Pass. Common laws, common institutions and common rulers began to mold India in a uniform mold.

One unfortunate result of the Revolutionary War of 1857 was that it created a sense of ethnic enmity between the rulers and the ruled. The British began to understand that they belonged to the upper caste and the Indian low caste. Many British published such books in which many blasphemous were placed on the character of Indians. This also created a feeling of hatred towards the British in the minds of Indians. One natural fruit of this trend was the growth of national consciousness. British rule destroyed the Indian economy. India's cottage industries were destroyed. The economic policies of the British government gave rise to economic nationalism in India. The Industrial Revolution took place in England in the first fifty years of the 19th century. England needed raw materials for its industries. Apart from this, he also wanted a market for his finished goods. India could meet both his needs. There was no shortage of raw materials in India. India was also a huge market for England's finished goods. Although the British wanted to run India's economy on a colonial basis, in the sixth decade of the 19th century, Indian capitalists started setting up their industries. With this the interests of Indian capitalists started to compete with the interests of British industrialists. The government protected the interests of British industrialists. The economic exploitation of the British government resulted in increasing poverty of the people of India. India faced many famines in which millions of crores of people lost their lives. In the second half of the 19th century, there were 24 famines in India, in which about 3

crore people died. The Swadeshi spirit was a direct result of the economic exploitation of India by the British.

The first form of insurgency appeared in Maharashtra. Its leader was Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak. Tilak was a great patriot and made great sacrifices on the altar of freedom. He was the editor of Kesari and Maratha Papers. Tilak started Ganpati festival and Shivaji festival. Through these celebrations, he educated, organized and disciplined the youth of Maharashtra. Tilak received several times in jail. He was a serious scholar, shrewd politician and beloved leader of the public. Tilak's insurgency placed him in the anti-camp of Gopalakrishna Gokhale. The militant movement in Bengal was a result of the partition of Bengal. Bengali extremism took the form of Swadeshi movement. Vipin Chandra Pal, Arvind Ghosh and Ashwini Kumar Dutt were the main leaders of Bengali extremism. Insurgency also flourished in Punjab where Lala Lajpat Rai was its leader. Militant nationalism was different from liberal nationalism. The leaders of the militant movement were biased to actively oppose the British rule. The militants insisted on the use of indigenous goods and boycott of foreign goods. This ideology added a new chapter in the national history of India. Fierce nationalism was closely related to Hindu revival. Therefore, Muslims could not fully join this movement.

One aspect of militant nationalism was revolutionary nationalism. The revolutionaries did not believe in peaceful movement. He was a follower of the violence program. This movement first appeared in Maharashtra. It was organized by Shyamji Krishna Varma and Savarkar brothers. It exploded in Bengal during the days of Bang-Bhang. Virendra Ghosh and Bhupendra Nath Dutt were its powerful leaders. Around this time, revolutionary committees were also established in Punjab. Indian revolutionaries also worked outside India in Europe and America. The revolutionary movement gradually came to an end when Mahatma Gandhi incarnated in the field of India's nationalist movement.

The non-cooperation movement had two forms: positive and negative. Establishment of national schools and panchayati courts, end of untouchability, Hindu-Muslim unity, spread of Swadeshi and spinning-weaving were the creative aspects of the non-cooperation program. The boycott of government titles, celebrations, school meetings, school-colleges and foreign goods were negative issues of the movement. According to Gandhiji, the movement was to follow the path of truth and non-violence. That was his inspiration, the same policy. In December 1921, the Congress session was held in Ahmedabad. It was decided to intensify the movement in this session. Gandhiji was empowered to start the Civil Disobedience Movement as well. Gandhiji was thinking of further action in this direction, that on February 5, 1922, in rage at a place called Chari-Chara in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh, a raging mob set fire to the police station, in which 22 policemen died. Gandhiji was distracted by this incident of violence. He felt that the country is not yet ready for his non-violent fight. Non-cooperation movement is a milestone in

the development of Indian nationalism. This marked the end of one era of national movement and the beginning of another. Gandhiji had prepared the entire outline of this movement. He also conducted this movement. Under his leadership, the national movement became a revolutionary movement, it became a mass movement. All sections of the country participated in the movement. Wearing Khaddar clothes and going to jail became a matter of pride. There was a feeling of self-respect and sacrifice among the people. There was no respect for public titles in public. Fear of the government kept on going through people's minds. The movement reached every village from village to city without a committee. People's attention was drawn towards the bad condition of the villages. Indian love for foreign education and language was broken. The foundation of the national education system was laid. The importance of native languages began to be accepted. There was a vision of unprecedented unity in the country. Harmony flourished among Hindus and Muslims.

On 11 February 1930, the Congress Working Committee gave the right to Gandhiji to carry out the Civil Disobedience Movement. On 12 March 1930, Gandhiji started his historic Dandi March. He had 78 followers in this journey. Gandhiji completed the 200-mile journey on foot in 24 days. As the journey progressed towards its goal, new life began to pick up in the country. Gandhiji started the Civil Disobedience Movement by breaking the salt law on the seashore at Dandi on 6 April 1930. Gandhiji, with his charismatic personality, made salt the basis of a great mass movement in history. As Gandhiji dissolved the salt law in Dandi, salt laws were disbanded across the country. Now salt started being made openly. Gandhiji included the boycott of foreign liquor in the program of Civil Disobedience Movement. Holi of foreign cloth was lit in many places. On the call of Gandhiji, Indian women also came out of the boundary of the house and went to jail in large numbers.

The failure of the Cripps mission and the successive victories of Japan in the war led to an upsurge in Gandhi's thoughts. They came to the conclusion that the British Empire in India needed to end immediately. The idea of 'Quit India' started taking root in his mind and he developed this idea by writing an article in 'Harijan'. Gandhiji thought that if the British leave India, Japan will not invade India. On 8 August 1942, Congress passed the 'Quit India' resolution in Bombay. The passing of this proposal was the beginning of the Quit India Movement of 1942. The resolution asked the British government to immediately accept India's independence. If he does not accept this demand, then a huge mass movement should be started whose goal is India's independence. This movement will be in a non-violent manner. In the resolution, it was said to remove the suspicion of the minority, especially the Muslims, that when independence will come and power will come in the hands of Indians, it will be for all the countrymen and not just for the Congress. Gandhiji was empowered to start and lead the movement. At this time Gandhiji was 73 years old and this old and young man was once again the leader of the largest mass movement

in history. Gandhi, while presenting the 'Quit India' proposal at the Congress General Committee meeting in Bombay on 8 August 1942, said that he still strongly believed in non-violence and that he was the same Gandhi who was in 1920. Meanwhile, his belief in non-violence has become stronger than before. There is no opposition in the present proposal and in his earlier statements and compositions. The Congress General Assembly's proposal is based on non-violence and the struggle called for in it is also based on non-violence. Today, both I and my non-violence stand the test. The Congress fight is for India's independence. The Congress is not worried about who will rule the country if it gets independence. The power will come in the hands of the people and the people will decide who to entrust. The Congress has kept itself away from communalism since the beginning. He has always thought and acted in the context of the entire nation.

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