

HISTORY NOTES - PART I

1. RAJA RAMMOHAN RAO

Rammohan Rao started a Persian paper called Mirat-ul-Akbhar.

Along with other eminent persons, Roy filed a Petition to Supreme Court for Legal action to be taken against Press Regulations.

Rammohan Roy worked to improve the conditions of poor peasants. He advocated to reduce the Military Budget and increase the budget for health and education

2. JYOTIBA PHULE

Jyotiba Phule was an urban educated from low cast.

He became critical of Hindu religion. He established a school for untouchables and also started an orphanage for the widows. He wanted that people of depressed class get educated to understand their rights and fight for them.

He founded the Satya Shodhak Samaj in 1873 with the aim of securing social justice for the weaker sections of society.

He pioneered the cause of widow remarriage in Maharashtra and also worked for education of women.

3. GROWTH OF PRESS IN 19th CENTURY

The Press played a significant role in carrying ideas to the people. Raja Rammohan Roy's Samvad Kaumudi, Dada Bhai Naroji edited 'Rast Goftar' and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar started 'Shome Prakash' in Bengali in 1858.

The Dailies like 'Times of India (1861), 'Pioneer' (1865) and 'Statesman' (1875)' were helpful to people in knowing the happenings and political development in the country.

People started to know and understand the importance of liberty and freedom.

4. A O HUME

Sir A O Hume, a retired civil servant had addressed a letter to educated Indians of Calcutta. He said, "whether in the individual or the nation, all vital progress must spring from within, and it is to you, her most cultured and enlightened minds.... That your country must look for the initiative.

He further said," if only fifty men good and true can be found to join as founders, the thing can be established, and the future development would be comparatively easy."

5. A O HUME AND INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

The appeal had the desired effect. The Indian National Congress was thus founded, and the first session was held in December 1885 in Bombay.

The Following Objectives were decided for the Congress.

To enable national workers from all parts of India to come to common platform

To promote a feeling of national unity among all members

To present, the common demands of people, to government

To organize the public opinion in the country

To charter the path for the organization

6. GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE (MAY 1886-FEBRUARY 1915)

He was one of the political leaders and a social reformer during the Indian Independence Movement

He was the senior leader of the Indian National Congress

He founded the Servants of India Society

He was the leader of the moderate faction of the Congress party that advocated reforms by working with the existing government institutions.

He studied in Rajaram college in Kolhapur

He became a great admirer of theorists such as John Stuart Mill and Edmund Bruke.

7. DADABHAI NAOROJI (SEPTEMBER 1825-JUNE 1917)

Dadabhai Naoroji was a Parsi intellectual, educator, cotton trader and Indian political and social leader.

He is known as Grand Old Man of India

He was a Liberal Party member of Parliament in the UK House of Commons between 1892 and 1895. He was the first Indian to be British MP.

He played a prominent role in establishing Indian National Congress

His book Poverty and Un-British Rule in India brought attention to the draining of India's wealth into Britain.

8. RASH BIHARI BOSE (MAY 1886-JANUARY 1945)

He was an Indian revolutionary leader against the British Raj.

He was key organizers of the Ghadar Mutiny and later the Indian National Army. The Ghadar Mutiny was a plan to initiate a pan-India mutiny in the British Indian Army in February 1915 to end the British Raj in India

Bose fled to Japan in 1915, under the alias of Priyanath Tagore, a relative of Rabindranath Tagore.

He became Japanese citizen in 1923, living as a journalist and writer

He was instrumental in introducing Indian- style curry in Japan.

9. PHEROZESHAH MEHTA (AUGUST 1845-NOVEMBER 1915)

Sir Pherozeshah Mehta was an Indian political leader, activist and a leading lawyer of Bombay

He was knighted by the British Government in India for his service to law.

His political ideology was moderate.

He founded English News Paper Bombay Chronical 1913

He was responsible for Municipal Act of 1872.

He presided over the 6th session of Indian National Congress

He was vice-chancellor of University of Mumbai.

He helped founding of Central Bank of India.

10. THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION ACT OF 1899

Calcutta Municipal Corporation was established in 1876.

CMC was responsible for the civic infrastructure and administration of the city of Calcutta.

The city was divided into 144 administrative wards

The Corporation maintained schools, hospitals and municipal markets in urban planning

The Calcutta Corporation Act I 1899 was brought in by the Viceroy

The Act gave more representations to the English people in the Corporation

11. THE UNIVERSITIES ACT OF 1904

Indian Universities Act 1904 was for the reconstitution of governing bodies of the Universities.

Size of the Senates was reduced. The number could be minimum 50 and maximum 100.

Each of them to hold office for 6 years.

For the Universities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras the elected members were to be 50 and for the rest of the Universities, the number was fixed 15.

The Act brought the Universities under complete control of British Rule.

For research and better education, a grant of ₹ 5 Lakhs per year for 5 years was also sanctioned.

12. PARTITION OF BENGAL

The decision to affect the Partition of Bengal was announced on 19th July 1905, by the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon
The partition took place on 16th October 1905
He did this to ease the administrative pressures
Partition separated the largely Muslim eastern areas from the largely Hindu western areas.
Hindus were outraged at what they recognized as a 'divide and rule' policy.
Bengal was reunited by Lord Hardinge in 1911.

13. VANDE MATARAM

Vande Matram is a Bengali poem. It was written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1870s.
The poem was included in his 1881 novel Anandmath
The poem was composed into song by Rabindranath Tagore
The first two verses of the song were adopted as the National Song of India in October 1937 by the Congress Working Committee prior to the end of colonial rule in August 1947
It played a vital role in the Indian independence movement, first sung in a political context by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.

14. SPLIT IN CONGRESS

The Indian National Congress was established in 1885
The period 1885-1905 is known as the period of the moderates as moderates dominated the INC
Moderators used petition, prayers, meetings, leaflets and pamphlets memorandum to present their demand. But they got very little success.
This created dissatisfaction among people
There were differences between moderators and extremists
Lokmanya Tilak and his followers formed a separate Extremist Party.

15. BAL GANGADHAR TILAK (JULY 1856-AUGUST 1920)

Was an Indian nationalist, teacher, lawyer and an independence activist.
British colonial authorities called him 'the father of the Indian unrest'
He was conferred with the title of 'Lokmanya' which means accepted by the people as their leader
He was strongest advocate for Swaraj. He was a strong radical in Indian consciousness.
He formed a close alliance with many Indian National Congress leaders including Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai, Aurobindo Ghose, V O Chidambaram Pillai and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

16. BIPIN CHANDRA PAL (NOVEMBER 1858- MAY 1932)

He is known as the 'Father of Revolutionary Thoughts'
At the Madras session of congress held in 1887, he made a strong plea for repeal of the Arms Act
Along with Lala Lajpat Rai and Bal Gangadhar Tilak he belonged to the Lal, Bal and Pal trio that was associated with revolutionary activity.
They were for Purna Swaraj and Swadeshi, Boycot of foreign goods to eradicate poverty and unemployment
Sir Aurobindo referred to him as one of mightiest prophets of Nationalism.

17. LALA LAJPAT RAI

Was an Indian freedom fighter. He played a pivotal role in the Indian Independence movement.

He was popularly known as Punjab Kesari

He was also associated with activities of Punjab National Bank and Lakshmi Insurance Company in their early stages in 1894.

During the protest march in Lahore on 30 October 1928 he got injured. He addressed the gathering and said, "I declare that the blows struck at me today will be the last nails in the coffin of British rule in India."

Bhagat Singh vowed to take the revenge. He joined other revolutionaries Rajguru, Sukhdev Thapar and Chandrashekhar Azad in a plot to kill Scott police officer who had ordered lathi charge.

18. SIMON COMMISSION

The Government of India Act 1919 had the provision of appointment of a Commission after ten years to suggest new steps of constitutional reforms and reviewing the success of measures taken under Act of 1919.

The Simon Commission was formed in 1928 under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon with seven British Members of Parliament.

The Commission arrived in 1928 in Bombay on 3 February.

The Commission was rejected by Indian leaders

In one of the protest Lala Lajpat Rai was critically injured during police Lathi Charge. He died a fortnight later.

19. KRISHAN KUMAR MITRA (1852-1936)

Mitra was an Indian freedom fighter, journalist and leader of the Brahmo Samaj.

He is remembered for his contributions to the Swadeshi movement through his journal Sanjibni.

Sanjibni was launched in 1883.

He wrote many articles on the condition of the Indian workers in the tea plantations of Assam.

He studied Law at the University of Calcutta

He was influenced by his father who led an agitation against oppression by British indigo planters, and his school teacher Girishchandra Ghosh.

He joined Surendranath Banerjee's India Association.

20. RABINDRANATH TAGORE (7th MAY 1861 – 7th AUGUST 1941)

Rabindranath Tagore was a poet, musician and artist.

Author of Gitanjali

He became in 1913 the first non-European to win the Noble Prize in Literature.

He is sometimes referred to as 'the Bard of Bengal'

He denounced the British Raj and advocated independence from Britain.

He founded Visva Bharti University

His works: Gora, Ghare-Baire

His compositions were chosen by two nations as national anthems India, and Bangladesh 'Amar Shonar Bangla'
