

Mahatma Gandhi and the National Movement.

Introduction

- Mahatma Gandhi has been regarded as the father of Nation.
- He plays a very important role in the Indian freedom struggle movement.
- Gandhi was the most influential and revered of all the leaders who participated in the freedom struggle movement.
- The freedom struggle during period of 1915-1948 was inspired and led by him.
- He interacted with the different section of the society.

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Mahatma Gandhi

- Born on 2nd Oct. 1869
- Birth Place –Porbandhar in Gujarat
- PARENTS- Karamchand Gandhi and Putlibai.
- Spouse -Marriage with Kasturbha.
- Sons- Harilal, Manilal, Ramadas, Devadas
- Education -Rajkot And To England for Higher studies

A Leader announces himself

- Mahatma Gandhi is the most influential and revered of all the leaders who participated in the freedom struggle of India.
- In January 1915, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi returned to India after spending two decades in South Africa.

- It was in South Africa he first focused the distinctive techniques of non violent protest known as **Satyagraha** and promoted harmony between religions.
- On Gopal Krishna Gokhale's advice, he spent one year travelling around British India to know the land and its peoples.
- His first major public appearance was at the opening of the Banaras Hindu University in February 1916.
- Here in his speech, Gandhiji charged the Indian elite with a lack of concern for the labouring poor.
- Gandhiji speech was at the opening of BHU was a statement of intent to make Indian nationalism more properly.
- Many of them venerated Gandhiji, referring to him as their "**Mahatma**".
- He successfully organized **Satyagraha at Champaran** (Bihar in 1917) to ameliorated the condition of the peasants who cultivated indigo.
- In 1918, he started a satyagraha to increase the wages of **Ahmadabad mill workers** by 35 per cent
- In 1918, he also organised a peasant movement to remit the revenue in **Kheda**.
- In 1919, Gandhiji called for a countrywide campaign against the "Rowlett Act".
- It was the **Rowlett Satyagraha** that made Gandhiji a truly national leader.
- The Rowlett Satyagraha-
- In 1919, Gandhiji started Satyagraha movement against the Rowlett Act that the British had just passed.
- In April, 1919 there were a number of demonstrations and hartals in the country against this act.
- The *Jallianwall Bagh* atrocities in Amritsar on Baishaki Day were a part of this repression.
- On learning about the massacre, Rabindranath Tagore expressed the pain and anger of the country by renouncing his *Knighthood*.
- During the Rowlett Satyagraha the participants tried to ensure the Hindus and Muslims were united in the fight against British rule.
- **Non co-operation movement-**
- After the massacre and protest Gandhiji called for a campaign of "non-cooperation" with British rule.

- Indians who wished colonialism to end were asked to stop attending schools, colleges and law courts, and not pay taxes.
- To further broaden the struggle he had joined hands with the Khilafat Movement that sought to restore the Caliphate.
- In Sept. 1919 under the leadership of Ali Brothers an All India Khilafat committee was formed and it

Constructive Programmed

- Encouragement of national schools and institutions.
- Promotion of indigenous goods.
- Popularization of charka and Khadi.
- Prohibition of liquor.

Boycott Programme-

- Surrender of honors and titles.
- Non payment of taxes.
- Boycott of elections.

Knitting a Popular movement-

- Gandhi hoped that by coupling non cooperation with Khilafat, India's two major religious communities Hindu and Muslims could collectively bring an end to colonial rule.
- Khilafat 'agitation was led by two brothers, Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali.
- Gandhi supported their call and urged Congress campaign against Jallianwall massacre, the Khilafat wrong and demand *Swaraj*.
- During the year 1921-1922 the Non-Cooperation Movement gained momentum.
- Non-Cooperation Movement and Khilafat agitation led Hindu-Muslim unity.
- Thousands of students left government schools, lawyer left practices. Government titles were surrendered to support Non - Cooperation Movement.

A people's Leader-

- Gandhiji made the freedom struggle and National Movement representative of masses.
- Movement transcended from elite to peasants, working class and encompassed every section of society.
- People started venerating Gandhiji referring to him as 'Mahatma'. People started appreciating the fact that Gandhiji lived like them, dressed like

them, spoke their language, stand with them, empathize with them, and identified with them.

- Gandhiji went among the people in simple dhoti or loincloth.
- He spent some part of each day working on Charkha and encouraged other nationalist to do likewise.
- The act of spinning helped in breaking traditional caste system and distinction between mental labour and manual labour.
- Gandhiji appealed to peasants as savior who can save them from oppressive taxes, officials and restore dignity and autonomy to their lives.
- Gandhiji ascetic lifestyle and love of working with hand, a deep empathy for poor and peasant won him followers irrespective of caste, creed and religion.
- A series of Praja Mandal were established to promote the nationalist creed in the princely states.
- Gandhiji stressed the use of mother tongue in communication, as the provincial Congress Committees were based on linguistic region.
- Many industrialists, entrepreneurs, businessmen started supporting Congress and Gandhi.
- Mahatma Gandhi was released from prison in 1924 and now chooses to devote his attention to the promotion of home spun Khadi and the abolition of untouchability.
- He believed that India need to be free from evils of untouchability, child marriage, to cultivate a genuine tolerance for one another and religious harmony.
- He stressed the Indian's need to be self-reliant on the economic front, so he promoted Khadi and was against mill-made clothes.

Salt Satyagraha-

- In year 1928, there was Anti-Simon Commission Movement in which Lala Lajpat Rai was brutally lathicharged and later he succumbed to it.
- In year 1928, another famous Bordoli Satyagraha took place. So again by the year 1928 political activism started brewing in India.
- In 1929, Congress session was held at Lahore and Nehru was elected as its President. In this session "Purna Swaraj" was proclaimed as motto, and on 26th January, 1930 Republic day was observed.