

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, PURULIA

PHASE – II

SUBJECT – HISTORY

DATE – 27.05.2020

CHAPTER – 2:- Factors Leading to the Growth of Nationalism and Foundation of the Indian National Congress.

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Instructions:- The entire chapter has been prepared for you, keeping in mind the main points to be covered from the chapter. You can read and prepare the chapter from here itself. For future reference, you may also take the print outs of the same.

Introduction:- The given chapter deals with the concept of 'Nationalism' or what we call as 'Patriotism', that arose and emerged in the nineteenth century in India, an urge to fight against the foreign domination, that eventually gave birth to a new India. This also gave birth to the first modern political organization in India, the Congress, which then arose in India as the Indian National Congress. The political organization arose with a strong and definite objective – “ending all racial, religious and provincial prejudices”, thereby promoting a feeling of “national unity among all lovers of the country”. In this chapter, we are going to deal and discuss those factors which led to the birth of the Indian National Congress, and the circumstances that followed thereafter.

A few Nationalistic movements and the growth of New India:-

1. **Movement against the Indigo planters:-** The cultivators of Bihar and Bengal in April 1860, refused to sow Indigo, which they were forced to sow by the British planters. This probably became the first instance of an organized Non-Cooperation movement against the British in the history of Indian Peasantry.
2. **The Kuka Movement:-** This movement in Punjab began as an attempt to purify the Sikh religion. The Kukas attacked the caste distinctions and the consumption of meat and liquors, which by 1863, assumed a Nationalistic political character.

SOCIO-RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS:-

Contributions of Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1772-1833)

Raja Ram Mohan Roy is credited to be the harbinger of the 'Modern Age' in India. His establishment of the Brahmo Samaj in 1828, was not merely a religious movement, but aimed in bringing social and political reforms.

Religious Reforms: (1) He stressed the Unity of All Religions. (2) He stressed on a moral code of every religion, necessary for social peace and happiness.

Social Reforms:- (1) The Brahmo Samaj attacked the caste system, the practice of polygamy, child marriage and *Sati* system. (2) It was his efforts that *Sati* was made illegal in India in 1829. (3) He also protested against the practice of denying women the right to property.

Liberty, Rights and a Free Press:- (1) In spite of the several restrictions on the publication of newspapers, Rammohan Roy started a Bengali Weekly named '*Samwad Kaumudi*' in 1821. (2) Along with a few other eminent

personalities, Roy presented a petition to the Supreme Court for legal action to be taken against the Press Regulations.

Contributions of Jyotiba Phule (1827-1890)

Social Reforms:-

1. Uplifting Lower Castes:- The caste structure was to him, 'Slavery'. Phule strongly felt that the caste system could be wiped out by providing proper education to the people.
2. Gender Justice:- Phule established in 1848 one of the first Girls' school in India. He set up an orphanage in 1854 to provide shelter to the poor widows and their children.
3. Satya Shodhak Samaj :- Phule founded the *Satya Shodhak Samaj* (Society of the Seekers of Truth) in 1873. The society endeavoured to minimize and mitigate the distress and sufferings of dalits and women.

Contributions of other Socio-Religious Reform Movements:-

1. Arya Samaj:- The Arya Samaj was founded in 1875 by Swami Dayananda. He opposed the caste system and encouraged female education and remarriage of widows.
2. The Ramkrishna Mission:- The Ramkrishna Mission was founded in 1896 by Swami Vivekananda. The society believed that service to God is the service of the men.

REVIVALISM AMONG THE MUSLIMS:-

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was the founder of the Aligarh Movement in India, which aimed to instill in the Muslims a desire for Western education and culture. The Anglo-Oriental College was started in Aligarh in 1875, which later grew into a University.

IMPACT OF THE REFORM MOVEMENTS:-

1. All these reform movements rejected untouchability and the rigidities of the caste system. These ideas of brotherhood and equality attracted the attention of the so-called lower castes.
2. At a time when the nation was afflicted with despair and idleness, Dayananda and Vivekananda boldly preached about strength and self-reliance.
3. All these reformers were inspired by the spirits of Nationalism, which eventually instilled into the minds and hearts of the common people too.

INFLUENCE OF WESTERN EDUCATION:-

The advent of the knowledge of English brought in many advantages with itself. Western education instilled in the minds of the educated masses the ideas of liberty and equality. English also provided them with a common language and platform to understand each other and plan a common programme for action. Many young men went to England for a purpose of education, and staying there gave them an intimate knowledge of

the working of free institutions, the Parliament and democratic elections.

ROLE OF PRESS AND INDIAN LITERATURE:-

1. Role of Press:

- (i) Raja Ram Mohan Roy's '*Samwad Kaumudi*' in Bengali, Dadabhai's paper '*Rast Goftar*' in Gujarathi and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's journal '*Shome Prakash*' in Bengali assumed nationalist character.
- (ii) English dailies, such as 'The Times of India' founded in 1861, the 'Pioneer' in 1865 and the 'Statesman' in 1875 supported the policies of the government, and kept the people informed about the rapid political changes in the country.
- (iii) The Amrit Bazar Patrika started as the Anglo-Bengali weekly in 1867. Later it was converted into an English daily. Great was the influence of these papers in fostering patriotism and the ideas of liberty and justice in our country.

2. National Literature:-

This period also witnessed some of the outstanding works in Literature, like Bhartendu Harishchandra's play *Bharat Durdasa* and Bankim Chandra's novel *Anandmath*. Our national song *Vande Mataram* was also taken from this book, and sung for the first time in the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.

ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION:-

1. The Peasants' Suffering:-

- (a)** Under the 'Zamindari System', the Indian farmers were left completely at the mercy of the landlords, who could drive them off their lands at any time.
- (b)** The Indian Peasants had to sell their produce at cheap prices to satisfy the greed of the money lenders, the *Zamindars* and the British Officials.
- (c)** Export cash crops like indigo, opium, jute and tea became serious rivals of the food crops.

2. Destruction of Handicrafts:-

- (a)** Heavy duties were imposed on the goods exported into England from India.
- (b)** The British goods were imported into India, with very little or no taxes, since we were left at the mercy of our foreign masters.
- (c)** The resulting lower prices of the British goods damaged and ruined the Indian goods and handicrafts completely.

3. Dissatisfied Educated Indians:-

- (a)** The better paid higher jobs were always kept reserved for the British. This resulted in heavy dissatisfaction and unrest among the Indian educated youths.
- (b)** Even if an Indian holding such high post, like Surendranath Banerjea, an ICS official was dismissed from his post on superficial grounds.

4. Poverty, Unemployment and Workers' Exploitation:-

- (a)** The progress of the Indian industries had been very slow.

- (b) With the evolution of a new pattern of economy, poverty and unemployment also increased at a massive scale.
- (c) The workers were exploited by the mill owners, who were mostly Englishmen.

REPRESSIVE COLONIAL POLICIES:-

1. Age-limit for the Civil Service Examination:- In 1877, the maximum age to qualify for the Civil Service Exam was reduced from twenty one to nineteen. This calculated move ruined the aspects of the Indians to qualify for the exam.
2. The Imperial Durbar:- The lavish and luxurious Imperial Durbar was held in Delhi in 1877, at a time when millions of people in South India were affected by a terrible famine. This resulted in deep anguish in the minds of the Indians.
3. The Press Regulations:- The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 crushed the freedom the vernacular papers, as it instructed the editors to publish nothing that would excite dissatisfaction against the British Government. Also, the Arms Act in the same year made it a criminal offence for any Indian to possess arms without license.
4. Ilbert Bill Controversy:- According to the the-then existing measures, no European could be tried for a criminal offence, except that of an European judge. Ilbert, the Law Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council tried to reduce this absurdity, by passing a bill against the existing measure. As a result, there was a large scale agitation by the Anglo-Indian community, as a result of which the bill had to be withdrawn.

PRECURSORS OR THE FORERUNNERS OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS:-

1. **The East India Association:-** Founded by Dadabhai Naoroji, in London in 1866, aimed at providing the members of the British Parliament information regarding India's genuine grievances.
2. **Poona Sarvajanic Sabha:-** Started in 1870, under the leadership of Justice Ranade, asked the people to take *khadi* (hand woven cloth), and not to send a penny out of the country.
3. **The Indian Association:-** Founded in 1876, by Surendranath Banerjea in Kolkata, primarily aimed to unite the Indians on the basis of common political feelings, and to promote brotherly feelings between the Hindus and the Muslims.

THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS:-

The birth of the Indian National Congress was an event of very great significance in the history of India. The Indian National Congress was founded by A.O.Hume, a retired civil servant, and its first session was held in December in 1885, in Bombay, under the Presidentship of W.C.Banerjea. A.O.Hume is also considered as the Father or the Founder of the Indian National Congress.

Objectives of the Congress:-

1. To enable national workers from all parts of India and to become personally known to each other.
2. To end all racial, religious and provincial prejudices and to promote a feeling of national unity among all the lovers of the country.

3. To train and mobilize public opinion all over the country.
4. To decide upon the political tasks and jobs to be undertaken during the ensuing year.

Demands of the Congress in its Infancy:-

1. Expansion of the Legislative Councils.
2. Reduction of military expenditure.
3. Holding of the Civil Service Examinations both in England and India.
4. Wider employment of the Indians in the higher services.
5. Spread of both general and technical education.

The gathering together of people from Punjab, Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and all other regions was, by all means, a significant matter.

HOMEWORK AND ASSIGNMENT:-

Short Answer Questions: Page No 122: Question Numbers – **A- 1 to 25.** (2 marks answer each) (To be done in the copy, along with the questions also to be written)

Thank You.

