

MAHESH PUBLIC SCHOOL ,JODHPUR

CLASS – X (Social Science)

Nationalism In India (short notes)

(Part II)

Salt March

1. On 31 January, 1930 Mahatma Gandhi sent a letter to Viceroy Irwin listing eleven demands, one of which was the demand to abolish Salt Tax.
2. Salt was an essential item consumed by rich and the poor alike, and a tax on it was considered an oppressive act on the people by the British government.
3. Mahatma Gandhi's letter was an ultimatum, and his demands were not fulfilled by March 11, he had threatened to launch a civil disobedience movement.
4. So, Mahatma Gandhi with his 78 trusted followers started his famous Salt March. The march was over 240 miles, from Gandhiji's ashram in Sabarmati to the coastal town of Dandi in Gujarat.
5. He reached Dandi in April 6, and ceremonially violated the law, manufacturing salt by boiling sea water. This marked the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Civil Disobedience Movement

1. Under this movement, people were asked not only to refuse cooperation with the British but also to break colonial laws.
2. Foreign cloth was boycotted, and people were directed to picket liquor shops.
3. Peasants were told to refuse payment of revenue and chaukidari taxes.
4. Students, lawyers and village officials were asked not to attend English medium schools, colleges, courts and offices.

Participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement

1. In rural areas, the rich Patidars of Gujarat and Jats of Uttar Pradesh were active in the movement. As rich communities were very hard hit by the trade depression and falling prices they became enthusiastic supporters of the civil Disobedience Movement.
2. Merchants and industrialists supported the movement by giving financial assistance and also by refusing to trade in foreign goods. Railway workers and dock workers participated in protest rallies and boycott campaigns.

3. Participation of deprived classes in the movement was limited because of Ambedkar's Demand for separate electorate, and Poona Pact of 1932.
4. There was Lukewarm response by some Muslim political organizations.

Poona Pact of 1932 :

1. Poona pact was signed between Dr. Ambedkar and Gandhiji.
2. It gave depressed classes reserved seats in central provincial councils, but they were to be voted by the general electorate.

The Sense of Collective Belonging

1. Although nationalism spread through the concept and experience of united struggle yet there were also variety of cultural processes which caught the imagination of Indians, and promoted a sense of collective belongingness.
2. This image of Bharat Mata was first created by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1870 when he wrote 'Vande Mataram' for our motherland. In Bengal, Rabindranath Tagore and in Madras, Natesa, Sastri collection of folk tales and songs, which led the movement for folk revival.
3. Nationalist started collecting and using folklores and tales, which they believed true picture of traditional culture that had been corrupted and damaged by foreign influence.
4. Carrying the Tricolour flag and holding it aloft during marches and public gathering became a symbol of defiance and promoted sense of collective belonging.
5. People of India began looking back into the past to rediscover the glorious developments in ancient time in the field of art, science, mathematics, religion, culture