



## The Freedom Struggle

- The Indian National Congress was founded on 28 December 1885 by Allan Octavian Hume.
- The first meeting was scheduled to be held in Pune but due to a plague outbreak there, the meeting was later shifted to Bombay.
- Womesh Chandra (W.C.) Bonnerjee was the first President of the INC.
- The first session of the INC was held from 28-31 December 1885, and was attended by 72 delegates.
- The decision to effect the Partition of Bengal was announced in July 1905 by the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon.
- The partition took place in 16 October 1905 and separated the largely Muslim eastern areas from the largely Hindu western areas.
- Bengal was reunited in 1911.
- Surat Split is mainly known for separation of Congress partymen into moderates and extremists at the Surat session of Congress in 26 December 1907.
- The extremists were led by Lokmanya Tilak, Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal, and the Moderates were led by Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Pheroze Shah Mehta and Surendranath Banerjee.
- The divided Congress re-united in the crucial Lucknow session of Congress in 1916.
- The Indian Councils Act 1909, commonly known as the Morley-Minto Reforms, was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that brought about a limited increase in the involvement of Indians in the governance of British India.
- The act was formulated by John Morley, secretary of state for India (1905-10).
- Lord Minto was the Viceroy of India [1905-10).
- The Act amended the Indian Councils Acts of 1861 and 1892.
- The Swadeshi movement started with the partition of Bengal by the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, 1905.
- It was the most successful of the pre-Gandhian movements. Its chief architects were Aurobindo Ghosh, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai, V O. Chidambaram Pillai, Babu Genu.
- The All-India Muslim League was founded on 30 December 1906.
- The founding president of Ghadar Party was Sohan Singh Bhakna and Lala Hardayal was the co-founder of this party.
- The members of this party were the immigrant Sikhs of US and Canada.
- In 1914, after the Komagata Maru tragedy, Lala Hardayal fled to Europe following an arrest by the United States government for spreading anarchist literature.
- In 1916, two Home Rule Movements were launched in the country: one under the leadership of Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the other under Annie Besant.
- The objectives of the Home Rule League were: Establishment of self-government for India in British Empire,





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- Lucknow Pact, [December 1916), agreement made by the Indian National Congress headed by Maratha leader Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the All-India Muslim League led by Muhammad Ah Jinnah.
- The pact dealt both with the structure of the government of India and with the relation of the Hindu and Muslim communities.
- August Declaration (1917) After the Lucknow Pact, the British policy was announced which aimed at "increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration for progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British empire". This came to be called the August Declaration.
- The Montague-Chelmsford reforms or the Act of 1919 was based on this declaration.
- The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, 1919 popularly known as the Rowlatt Act.
- The Rowlatt Act was passed by the Imperial Legislative Council in Delhi on March 21, 1919.
- This act effectively authorized the government to imprison any person suspected of terrorism living in the Raj for up to two years without a trial, and gave the imperial authorities power to deal with all revolutionary activities.
- Two leaders of the Congress, Dr. Satya Pal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, were arrested and taken to an unknown place.
- On April 13, 1919 people from neighbouring villages gathered for Baisakhi Day celebrations in Amritsar, which led to the infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919. On the orders of Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, the army fired on the crowd for ten minutes.
- On 13 March 1940, at Caxton Hall in London, Udham Singh killed Michael O'Dwyer
- Khilafat movement force that arose in India in the early 20th century as a result of Muslim fears for the integrity of Islam.
- These fears were aroused by Italian (1911) and Balkan (1912-13) attacks on Turkey— whose sultan, as Caliph, was the religious head of the worldwide Muslim community— and by Turkish defeats in World War.
- A campaign in defence of the caliph was launched, led in India by the brothers Shaukat and Muhammad Alt and by Abul Kalam Azad.
- The non-co-operation movement was led by Mahatma Gandhi.
- After the Jallianwala Bagh incident, Gandhi started the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- Protestors would refuse to buy British goods, adopt the use of local handicrafts, picket liquor shops.
- On February 5, 1922, in the Chauri Chaura the police chowki was set on fire by the mob, killing 22 of the police occupants.
- The non-cooperation movement was withdrawn because of the Chauri Chaura incident.
- Swaraj Party, Indian political party established in late 1922-early 1923 by members of the Indian National Congress (Congress Party), notably, Motilal Nehru, one of the

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most prominent lawyers in northern India (and the father of political leader Jawaharlal Nehru), and Chittaranjan Das, a nationalist politician from Bengal.

- Simon Commission was appointed in November 1927 to report on the Working of the Indian Constitution established by the Government of India Act of 1919.
- The Commission consisted of seven members; Sir John Simon, and Clement Attlee were Joint chairman.
- On February 3, 1928, the Simon Commission was confronted by throngs of protesters,
- The Lahore protest was led by Indian nationalist Lala Lajpat Rai, was severely beaten by local police. He died on November 17, 1928.
- The Nehru Report in August 1928 was a memorandum outlining a proposed new dominion status constitution for India.
- It was prepared by a committee of the All Parties Conference chaired by Motilal Nehru with his son Jawaharlal acting as secretary.
- The Dandi March, also known as the Salt Satyagraha, began on 12 March 1930 and was an important part of the Indian independence movement.
- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi [commonly known as Mahatma Gandhi] led the Dandi March from his base, Sabarmati Ashram to the coastal village of Dandi.
- Gandhi broke the salt laws at 6:30 am on 6 April 1930.
- The three Round Table Conferences of 1930-32 were a series of conferences organized by the British Government to discuss constitutional reforms in India.

First Round Table Conference  
(November 1930 - January 1931).

Second Round Table Conference  
(September - December 1931)

Third Round Table Conference  
(November - December 1932)

- The Round Table Conference was opened officially by Lord Irwin on November 12, 1930 at London and chaired by the British Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald.
- The second session opened on September 7, 1931.
- Mahatma Gandhi attended the second session.
- In the third Conference only forty six delegates attended since most of the main political figures of India were not present.
- The Gandhi-Irwin Pact was a political agreement signed by Mahatma Gandhi and the then Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin on 5 March 1931,
- It was signed before the Second Round Table Conference in London.
- The British Government agreed to withdraw all ordinances and end prosecutions and release all political prisoners.







- The Communal Award was made by the British Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald on 16 August 1932.
- According to it, separate representation was to be provided for the Forward Caste, Lower Caste, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Europeans and Dalits.
- The Poona Pact refers to an agreement between Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi signed on 24 September 1932 at Yerwada Central Jail in Pune [now in Maharashtra), India.
- The concept of separate electorates for the Untouchables was raised by Dr. Ambedkar.
- The British government agreed with Ambedkar's contention, and British Prime Minister Ramsay. MacDonald's Communal Award to the depressed classes was to be incorporated into the Constitution in the governance of British India.
- Gandhi strongly opposed the Communal Award on the grounds that it would disintegrate Hindu society.
- He began an indefinite hunger strike at Yerwada Central jail. A compromise was reached on September 24, 1932 between Gandhiji and Ambedkar.
- In March 1940, Congress passed a resolution offering the British Government support in war, if a provisional National Government is set up at Centre.
- The Congress did not approve the August Offer.
- The name "Pakistan" had been proposed by Choudhary Rahmat Ali in his Pakistan Declaration. In 1940 at the Lahore Session of the Muslim League, the demand for a separate state of Pakistan was made.
- It was based on the two-nation theory.
- Abul Kalam Azad opposed the demand for a separate state and fought against communal tendencies and for the freedom of the Indian people.
- The Cripps Mission was an attempt in late March 1942 by the British government to secure full Indian cooperation and support for their efforts in World War II.
- The Mission was headed by Sir Stafford Cripps.
- Cripps promised to give dominion status after the war as well as elections to be held after the war.
- Both the major parties, the Congress and the League rejected his proposals and the Mission proved a failure.
- Quit India Movement was a civil disobedience movement launched in India on 8 August 1942 by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
- Gandhiji gave the slogan "Do or Die".
- One of the greatest achievements of the Quit India Movement was that it kept the Congress Party united all through these challenging times.
- The movement was crushed by the British Government.
- The Indian National Army was an armed force formed by Indian nationalists in 1942 in Southeast Asia during World War II.
- The aim of the army was to secure Indian independence with Japanese assistance.





- Initially INA was formed in 1942. It was revived under the leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose in 1943.
- Gandhi Brigade, Azad Brigade and Nehru Brigade are three brigades of INA.
- The Rani of Jhansi Regiment was under Lakshmi Sahgal, comprised female volunteers from Malaya and Burma.
- Cabinet Mission was composed of three Cabinet Ministers of England: Sir Pethick Lawrence, Sir Stafford Cripps, and Alexander.
- The Mission arrived on March 24, 1946.
- The objective of this Mission was to devise a machinery to draw up the Constitution of Independent India.
- Muslim League rejected the idea of the Interim Government.
- On July 27, the Muslim League Council met at Bombay where Jinnah reiterated the demand for Pakistan.
- On July 29, it rejected the plan and called the Muslims to resort to "Direct Action" to achieve the land of their dream "Pakistan".

#### Summary of Freedom Movement

- August 16, 1946 was fixed as "Direct Action Day".
- The Interim Government of India formed on 2 September 1946 from the newly elected Constituent Assembly of India.  
It existed till 15 August 1947.

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S.No.	Event	Year	Significance
1.	Sepoy Mutiny	1857	First War of Independence due to dissatisfaction of the Indian soldiers
2.	Indian National Congress	1880	Initiated by A. O. Hume; first president, W. C Bannerjee
3.	Swadeshi Movement	1905	Boycott of foreign goods
4.	Home Rule Movement	1916	Led by Dr (Mrs) Annie Besant
5.	Lucknow Pact	1916	Hindu-Muslim unity which weakened the British
6.	Khilafat Movement	1920	Mohd Alt and Shaukat Ah led the movement for restoration of Khilafat, alienating Muslims from the British
7.	Chauri-Chaura incident	1922	Mob clashed with police, killing 22 policemen. Gandhiji called off the civil disobedience movement.
8.	Non-cooperation Movement	1920- 1922	With Gandhiji's support of the Khilafat movement, Hindus and Muslims launched the non-cooperation movement
9.	Swaraj party	1922	Ghandhiji's decision to call off the civil disobedience movement, led to the formation of the Swaraj party Initiated by Motilal Nehru.
10.	Dandi March	1930	Gandhiji launched the movement to break the salt law
11.	Civil Disobedience	1930	Non-violent non-cooperation movement led by Gandhiji
12.	Quit India Movement	1942	Led by Gandhiji; asking the British to leave India
13.	Direct Action Campaign	1946	Launched by Muslim league, resulted in heavy riots.

### Interim Government

External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations	-	Jawaharlal Nehru
Defence	-	Baldev Singh
Home (including Information and Broadcasting)	-	Vallabhbhai Patel
Finance	-	Liaquat Ali Khan
Posts and Air	-	Abdur Rab Nishtar
Food and Agriculture	-	Rajendra Parsad
Labour	-	Jagjivan Ram
Transport and Railways	-	M. Asaf Ali
Industries and Supplies	-	John Matthai
Education and Arts	-	C. Rajgopalacharia
Works, Mines and Power	-	C.H. Babha
Commerce	-	I.I. Chundrigar
Law	-	Jogindar Nath Mandal
Health	-	Ghazanfar Ali Khan





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