

Home Rule League Movement, Lucknow Pact, and the Advent of Mahatma Gandhi

(1915 – 1918 CE)



Home Rule
League Movement



Lucknow
Pact



The Advent of
Mahatma Gandhi



Annie Besant

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Mahatma Gandhi



Introduction

Historical Background

- Partition of Bengal (1905) and its opposition led to the rise of militant nationalism.
- The Swadeshi Movement (1905–1908) created new political consciousness.
- After the decline of the Swadeshi wave, there was a phase of relative political lull (1909–1914).
- The outbreak of World War I (1914) created new opportunities for Indian political activity.



Period Covered

- This phase covers the years 1915 to 1918.
- It is an important transitional period in the Indian freedom struggle.
- It saw the revival of mass politics through the Home Rule Movement, the Hindu–Muslim rapprochement through the Lucknow Pact, and the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi as a major national leader.



Key Developments

- Establishment of Home Rule Leagues by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant (1916).
- Lucknow Pact (1916) between the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League.
- Return of Mahatma Gandhi to India (1915) and his early political activities (1915–1918).

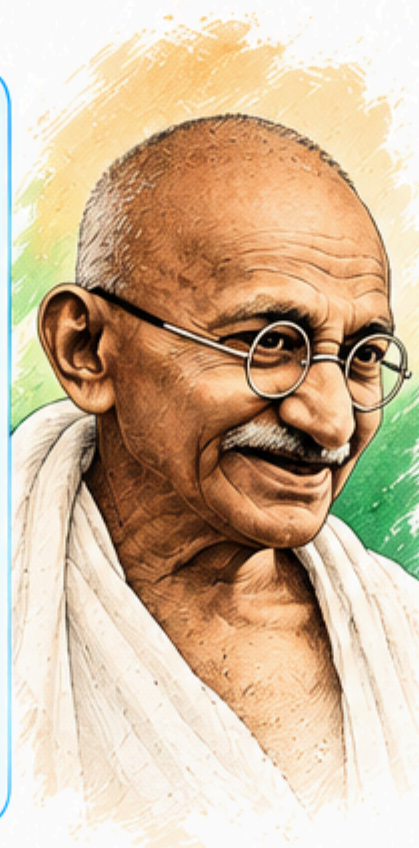
Home Rule League Movement, Lucknow Pact, and the Advent of Mahatma Gandhi (1915 – 1918 CE)

Major Personalities

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- Annie Besant
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- Muhammad Ali Jinnah
- Leaders of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League

Significance

- Revived the spirit of nationalism after a period of political stagnation.
- Brought new sections of people into the national movement.
- Promoted Hindu–Muslim unity (through Lucknow Pact).
- Marked the beginning of Gandhian leadership in Indian politics.
- Prepared the ground for the mass movements in the post-World War I period.



Themes and Linkages

- Demand for self-government (Home Rule).
- Unity and cooperation between the Congress and the Muslim League.
- Growing dissatisfaction with British policies during World War I.
- Arrival of Gandhi introduced new methods of mass mobilisation based on truth and non-violence.
- This period laid the foundation for the next phase of the freedom struggle (Non-Cooperation Movement, 1920).

1. The Home Rule League Movement (1916 – 1918 CE)

Background

- Launched during **World War I** when Britain was engaged in a major war.
- Indian leaders demanded **greater political rights** and **self-government**.
- Inspired by the **rise of nationalism** and earlier movements like the Swadeshi Movement.



Key Leaders and Establishment



Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- Established the Home Rule League in **April 1916** (at Poona).
- Main base: **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Central Provinces and Berar.**



Annie Besant

- Established the Home Rule League in **September 1916** (at Madras).
- Main base: **Madras, United Provinces, Bihar, Orissa and other parts of India.**

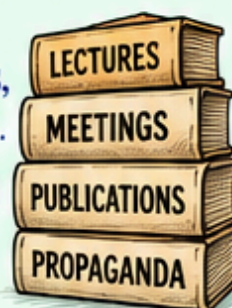
Objectives



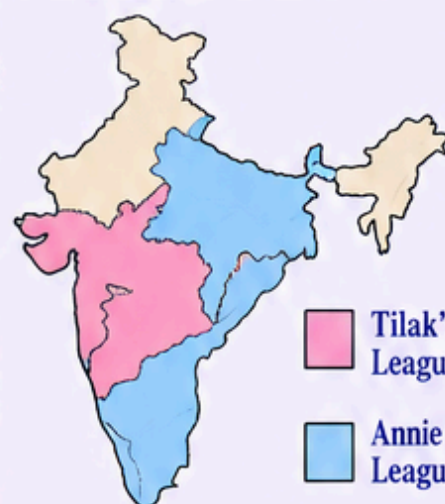
- To obtain **self-government** (Home Rule) for India within the British Empire.
- To create **political awareness** among the people.
- To **unite different sections** of Indian society.
- To pressurise the British government to introduce **constitutional reforms**.

Main Activities

- Organised **public meetings, lectures** and political tours.
- Published **newspapers and pamphlets** (e.g., *New India* by Annie Besant).
- Spread the idea of Home Rule throughout the country.
- **Mobilised students, middle class and women** in large numbers.



Areas of Influence



British Government's Response



- Initially, the government ignored the movement.
- Later, it became **suspicious** due to its growing popularity.
- **Annie Besant was interned in June 1917**, which led to widespread protests.
- The government realised that the demand for self-government could not be suppressed easily.

Significance

- Revived the spirit of nationalism after a period of political stagnation.
- Brought new leaders and sections (students, women, middle class) into the national movement.
- Created a strong demand for self-government.
- Paved the way for the Lucknow Pact (1916) and the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi as a national leader (1915).
- Prepared the ground for the mass movements in the post-World War I period.



1. The Home Rule League Movement (1916 – 1918 CE)

A. Factors Leading to the Movement

1 Impact of World War I (1914 – 1918)

- Britain was fully engaged in the war and needed Indian support.
- Indians expected political concessions in return for their loyalty and contributions (war funds, soldiers, resources).
- The war weakened British control and created a more favourable environment to demand self-government.



2 Growing Nationalist Awareness

- The Swadeshi Movement (1905–1908) had already created a spirit of political awakening.
- The demand for self-government had gained wider support among the educated middle class.
- There was increasing dissatisfaction with the slow pace of constitutional reforms.



3 Disappointment with British Policies

- The Morley–Minto Reforms (1909) were inadequate and did not satisfy Indian aspirations.
- Repressive measures like the Defence of India Act (1915) increased resentment.

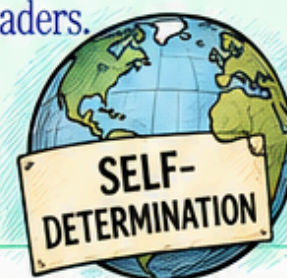


- British reluctance to grant meaningful political rights further alienated Indians.

Factors Leading to the Home Rule League Movement (1916 – 1918 CE)

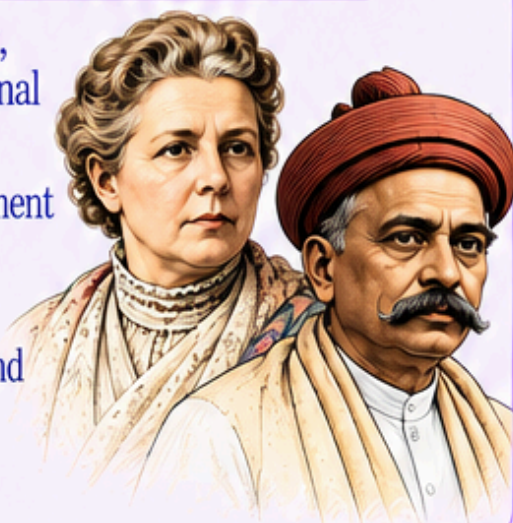
4 Influence of International Developments

- Rise of the ideas of nationalism, democracy and self-determination after the war.
- Success of national movements in other countries (e.g., Ireland).
- US President Woodrow Wilson's principle of self-determination inspired Indian leaders.



5 Active Leadership of Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- Annie Besant brought new energy, organisational skills and international attention to the cause.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak gave the movement a strong nationalist base, especially in western India.
- Their leadership united moderates and extremists on the common demand for self-government.



6 Need for Unity in Indian Politics

- There was a need to bridge the gap between the moderates and extremists.
- A common platform was required to mobilise the people on a national level.
- The Home Rule movement helped in preparing the ground for the Lucknow Pact (1916) and a united national struggle.

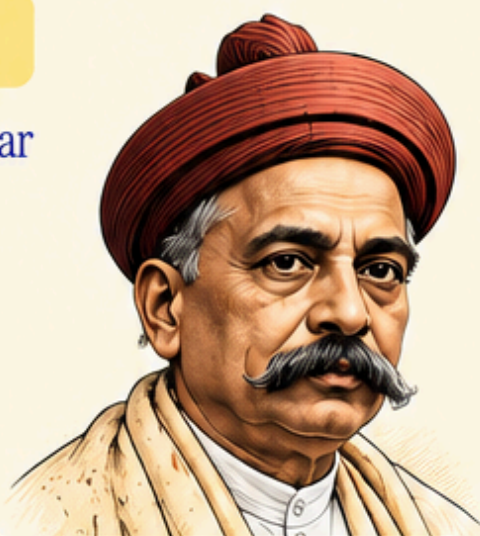


1. The Home Rule League Movement (1916 – 1918 CE)

B. Tilak's Home Rule League

1 Establishment

- Founded by Bal Gangadhar Tilak in **April 1916** (at Poona).
- Started after his release from prison (1914).
- Aimed to demand **self-government** for India within the British Empire.



Bal Gangadhar Tilak

2 Area of Operation

- Operated mainly in **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Central Provinces and Berar**.
- Did not have branches in Madras, Bengal and Punjab to avoid a clash with Annie Besant's League.



3 Objectives

- To secure **self-government** for India within the British Empire.
- To create **political awareness** among the people.
- To **unite different sections** of Indian society.
- To prepare the people for **responsible government** through political education and organisation.



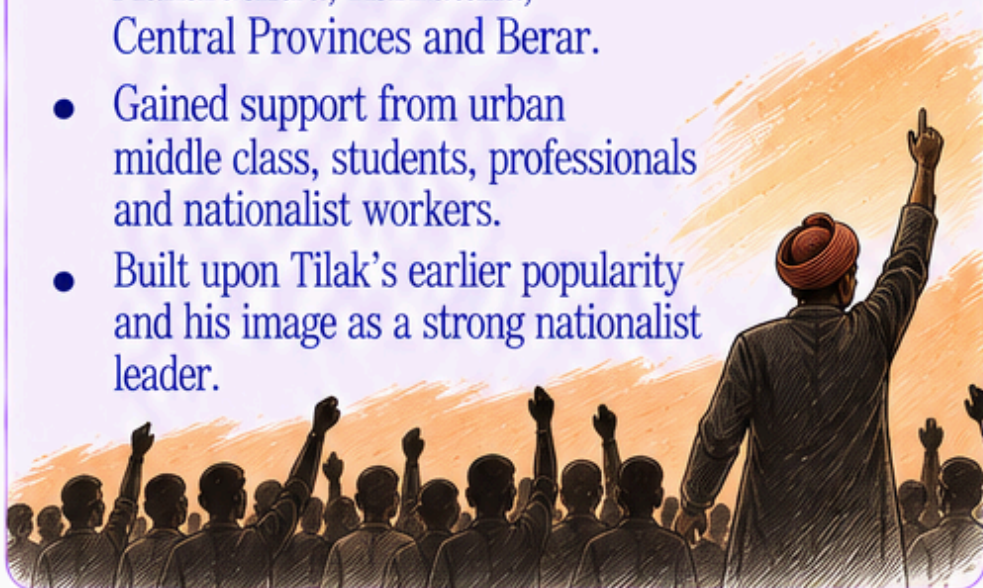
4 Methods and Activities

- Organised **public meetings**, lectures and political tours.
- Used **newspapers** (e.g., *Kesari*, *Mahratta*) to spread the message of Home Rule.
- Mobilised students, youth and the middle class.
- Criticised the repressive policies of the British government.



5 Support Base

- Received strong support in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Central Provinces and Berar.
- Gained support from urban middle class, students, professionals and nationalist workers.
- Built upon Tilak's earlier popularity and his image as a strong nationalist leader.



6 Significance

- Revived the spirit of assertive nationalism after a period of decline.
- Brought the demand for self-government to the centre of political discussions.
- Prepared the ground for the Lucknow Pact (1916) and the wider national movement.
- Helped in uniting moderates and extremists on a common platform.



1. The Home Rule League Movement (1916 – 1918 CE)

C. Annie Besant's Home Rule League

1 Establishment

- Founded by Annie Besant in **September 1916** (at Madras).
- Worked in close association with the Theosophical Society.
- Aimed to spread the demand for Home Rule throughout India.



Annie Besant

2 Area of Operation

- Operated mainly in Madras, United Provinces, Bihar, Orissa and other parts of India.
- Did not work in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Central Provinces and Berar (to avoid overlap with Tilak's League).



3 Objectives

- To secure **self-government** (Home Rule) for India within the British Empire.
- To create **political awareness** among the people.
- To **unite different sections** of Indian society.
- To promote **constitutional reforms** and responsible government.



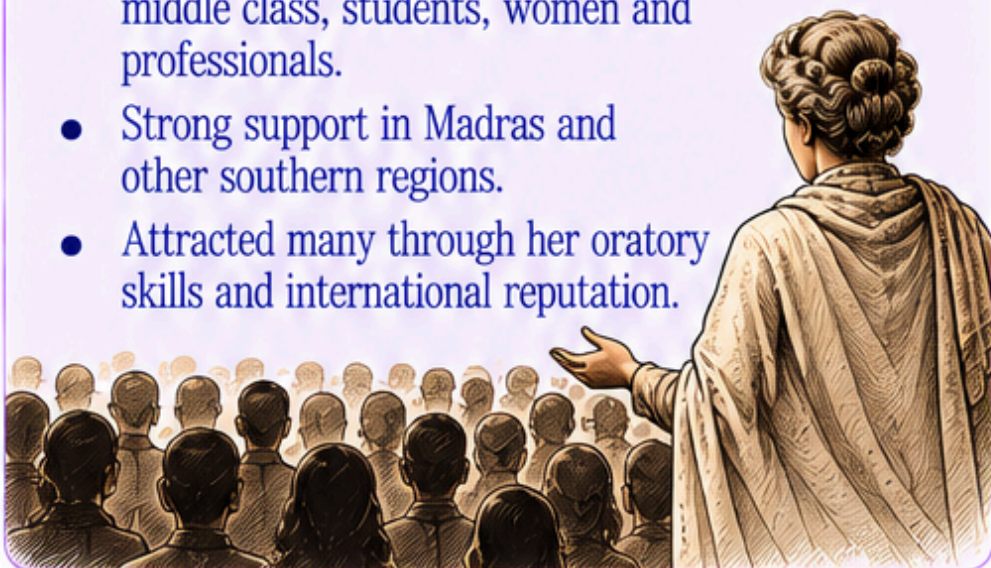
4 Methods and Activities

- Organised **public meetings, lectures** and political tours across different regions.
- Published **newspapers and pamphlets**, especially *New India* (English) and *Commonweal*.
- Mobilised **students, women** and the middle class.
- Used the networks of the Theosophical Society to spread the message of Home Rule.



5 Support Base

- Received support from the educated middle class, students, women and professionals.
- Strong support in Madras and other southern regions.
- Attracted many through her oratory skills and international reputation.



6 Significance

- Gave a new impetus to the national movement after a period of decline.
- Popularised the demand for Home Rule at the All-India level.
- Helped in uniting the moderates and extremists on a common platform.
- Prepared the ground for the Lucknow Pact (1916) and the wider national movement.



1. The Home Rule League Movement (1916 – 1918 CE)

D. Government Repression and Decline

1 Growing British Anxiety

- The increasing popularity of the Home Rule movement worried the British government.
- It was seen as a serious challenge to British authority during World War I.
- The spread of political awareness and mass support alarmed the government.



2 Repressive Measures

- The government used surveillance, censorship and restrictions on public meetings.
- Leaders and workers were closely monitored.
- Publications supporting Home Rule were banned or suppressed.



3 Internment of Annie Besant (1917)

- Annie Besant was **arrested** and interned in **June 1917** by the British government.
- Her internment led to widespread protests across India.
- Public opinion forced the government to release her in September 1917.



4 Restrictions on Activities

- Meetings, processions and tours were obstructed.
- Many leaders were prevented from travelling to certain regions.
- The government tried to divide and weaken the movement by denying permissions and imposing local restrictions.



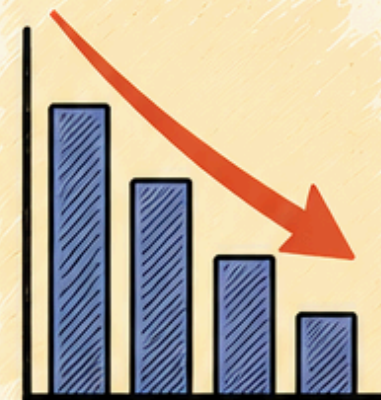
5 Impact of War and Changing Circumstances

- The prolonged World War I (1914–1918) created difficulties for the movement.
- Many leaders and workers were occupied with war-related activities.
- The government made some concessions (e.g., Montagu Declaration, 1917) to reduce the intensity of the movement.



6 Decline of the Movement

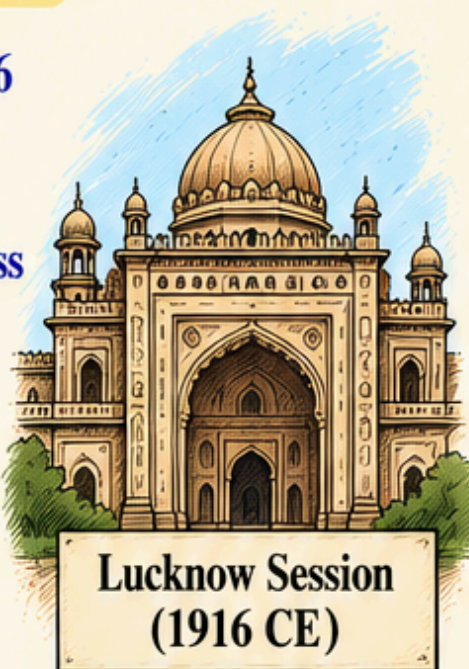
- By 1918, the movement lost its earlier momentum.
- Government repression, war conditions and partial concessions led to a decline in its activities.
- However, it had already achieved its main objective of reviving the spirit of nationalism in India.



2. The Historic Lucknow Session and the Lucknow Pact (1916 CE)

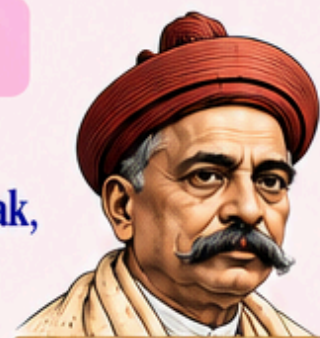
1 Session Details

- Held in **December 1916** at Lucknow.
- Joint session of the **Indian National Congress** and the **All-India Muslim League**.
- Marked a new phase of unity in the national movement.

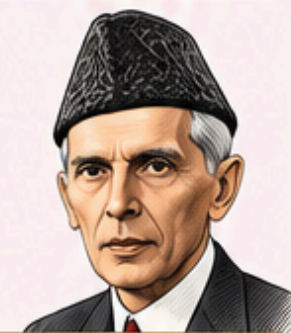


2 Leaders Involved

- **Indian National Congress:** Leaders like **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, **Annie Besant**, and other moderates and extremists.
- **All-India Muslim League:** Led by **Muhammad Ali Jinnah** and other prominent leaders.
- Both sides showed a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding.



Bal Gangadhar Tilak



Muhammad Ali Jinnah

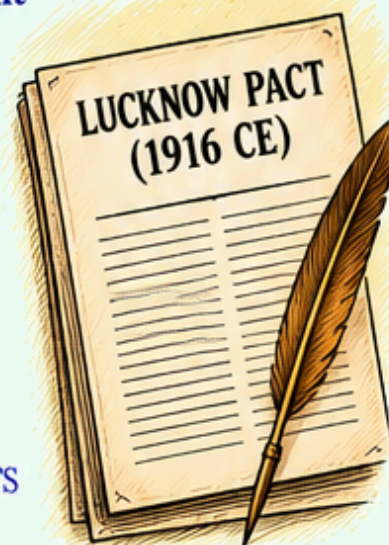
3 Main Objectives

- To promote **Hindu–Muslim unity** for the national cause.
- To present a **common** demand for **greater self-government** in India.
- To strengthen the struggle against British domination through joint efforts.



4 Key Provisions of the Lucknow Pact

- Demand for **self-government** in India.
- Acceptance of **separate electorates** for Muslims.
- Agreement on **adequate representation** of Muslims in provincial and central legislatures.
- Greater devolution of powers to provincial governments.



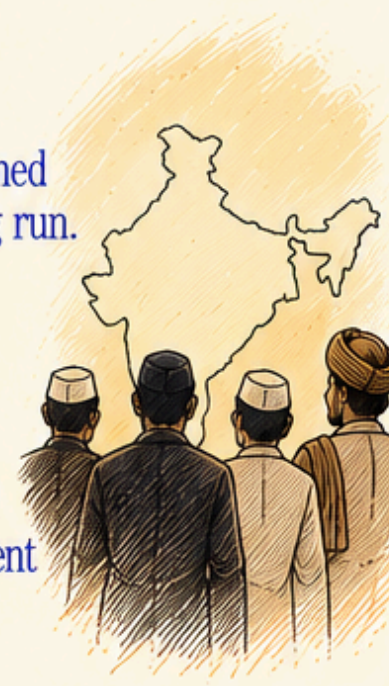
5 Significance

- Marked a high point of **Hindu–Muslim unity** in the freedom struggle.
- Strengthened the demand for **self-government**.
- Gave a new momentum to the national movement.
- Showed the possibility of **united action** by different communities against the British rule.



6 Limitations

- The demand for separate electorates further strengthened communal politics in the long run.
- It could not fully resolve the differences between the two communities.
- The unity was temporary and later weakened due to divergent political interests.



2. The Historic Lucknow Session and the Lucknow Pact (1916 CE)

A. Reunion of Moderates and Extremists

1 Background: A Divided Congress

- Indian National Congress had split into **Moderates** and **Extremists** after the **Surat Session (1907)**.
- Differences over methods, pace and nature of struggle led to a period of division.
- The split weakened the national movement and benefited the British.



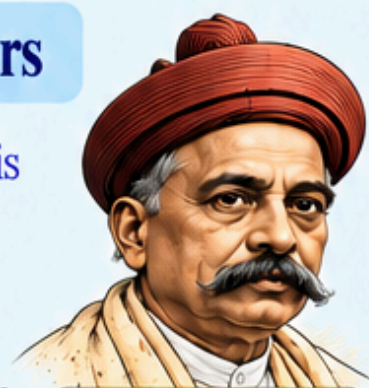
2 Changing Circumstances

- The **First World War (1914–1918)** created a new political situation.
- The need for a united national front became more evident.
- The **Home Rule movement (1916)** by Tilak and Annie Besant helped in bringing the two groups closer.
- Both sides realised that unity was essential to press for the demand of self-government.



3 Role of Key Leaders

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, after his release from prison (1914), adopted a more conciliatory approach.
- Annie Besant** worked for unity and maintained contact with leaders from both sides.
- Other leaders like **Gopal Krishna Gokhale** (earlier) and later **Madan Mohan Malaviya** also favoured unity.



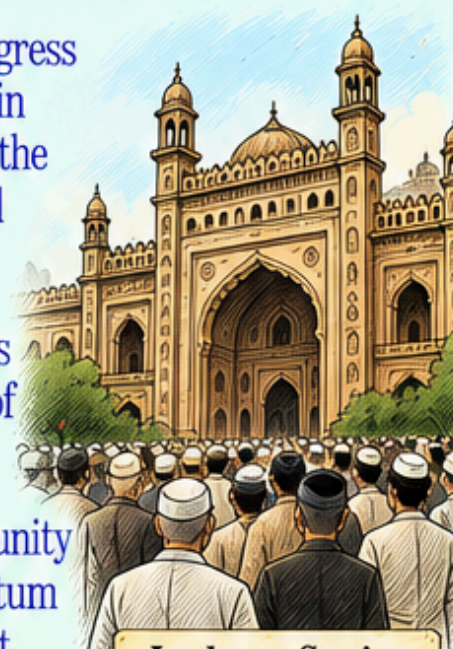
Bal Gangadhar Tilak



Annie Besant

4 The Lucknow Session (December 1916)

- The Indian National Congress session held at Lucknow in **December 1916** marked the reunion of Moderates and Extremists.
- Leaders from both groups joined hands after years of differences.
- It created a new spirit of unity and gave a fresh momentum to the national movement.



Lucknow Session
(December 1916)

5 Significance of the Reunion

- Ended the period of division within the Congress.
- Strengthened the national movement.
- Helped in presenting a united front demanding self-government.
- Created a favourable atmosphere for further cooperation, including with the All-India Muslim League.



2. The Historic Lucknow Session and the Lucknow Pact (1916 CE)

B. The Lucknow Pact (1916 CE) — Congress-League Scheme

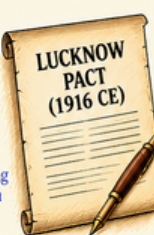
1 Factors Driving Congress-League Rapprochement

- Congress needed **Muslim support** to strengthen the demand for self-government.
- Muslim League wanted **safeguards** for Muslim interests and greater political representation.
- The **Home Rule movement (1916)** by Tilak and Annie Besant created a favourable atmosphere for unity.
- The **First World War (1914–1918)** provided a common platform to press for constitutional reforms.
- Realisation that **cooperation** would increase their **bargaining power** with the British government.



What was the Lucknow Pact?

- An agreement between the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League in 1916.
- Adopted at the Lucknow Session (December 1916).
- Aimed at securing greater self-government and presenting a united demand to the British government.



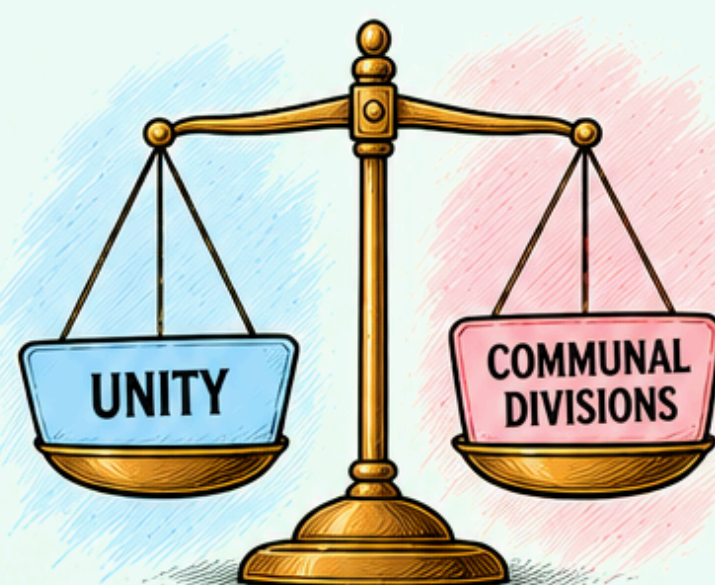
2 Major Provisions of the Lucknow Pact

- Common demand for **self-government** in India.
- Acceptance of **separate electorates** for Muslims.
- **Adequate representation** of Muslims in **provincial legislatures**, even in provinces where they were a minority.
- **One-third representation** for Muslims in the **Central Legislature**.
- Expansion of **legislative councils** at the centre and in the provinces.
- Inclusion of the demand for **fundamental rights**, such as freedom of speech, association and religion.
- Both Congress and the Muslim League agreed to work together for constitutional reforms.



3 Historical Critique of the Pact

- **Strength:** Marked a high point of **Hindu–Muslim unity** in the freedom struggle.
- **Limitation:** Acceptance of **separate electorates** reinforced communal divisions.
- **Criticism:** Gave official recognition to communal representation, which later complicated national politics.
- **Short-term success:** Created a spirit of cooperation and boosted the demand for self-government.
- **Long-term impact:** Unity was temporary and began to weaken after 1918 due to divergent political interests.



3. The Montagu Declaration of 1917 ("August Declaration")

1 What was it?

- A policy declaration made by **Edwin Montagu**, the Secretary of State for India, on **20 August 1917**.
- Also known as the "**August Declaration**".
- Outlined the British government's policy towards the future development of self-government in India.



Edwin Montagu
Secretary of State for India
(1917 – 1922)

2 Context

- **First World War (1914–1918)** was going on.
- India had provided large-scale support to the British war effort in terms of men and resources.
- Growing demand for self-government due to the Home Rule movement and the Lucknow Pact (1916).
- The British government needed to win Indian support for the war.



3 Main Provisions

- The British policy was to promote the **progressive realisation** of **responsible government** in India.
- Self-government was to be developed **gradually**, with due regard to British interests.
- **No specific timeframe** was given for achieving responsible government.
- It emphasised the **association** of Indians in all branches of administration.
- Reforms would be introduced in **stages**, keeping in view the varying conditions in different parts of India.



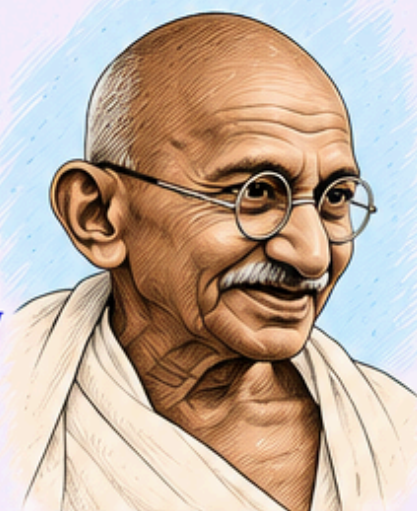
4 Key Features

- Accepted the principle of **responsible government** in India.
- Used the term "**progressive realisation**" (not immediate grant of self-government).
- Maintained British control over defence, external affairs and other vital interests.
- Recognised the need to increase Indian participation in governance.



5 Indian Reaction

- **Moderates** welcomed it as a step in the right direction.
- **Extremists** found it inadequate as it did not promise immediate self-government.
- **Mahatma Gandhi**, who had recently returned to India (1915), saw it as an opportunity but emphasised further struggle.
- Overall, it created expectations but also disappointment due to the lack of a clear timeline.



Mahatma Gandhi
(Returned to India in 1915)

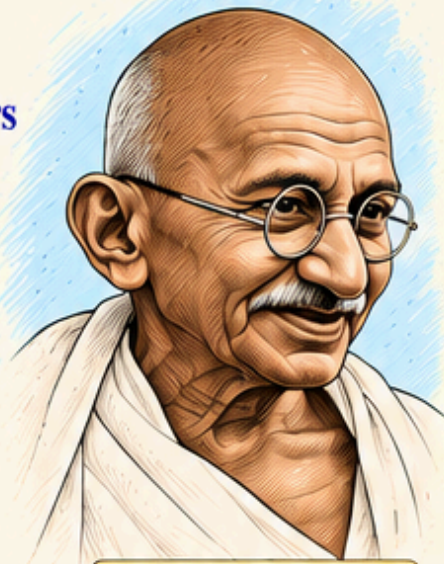
6 Significance

- For the first time, the British government officially accepted the goal of responsible government in India.
- It marked a shift from the policy of outright rejection to limited acceptance of Indian aspirations.
- Laid the foundation for the **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms** (Government of India Act, 1919).
- Strengthened the demand for further reforms and intensified the national movement.

4. The Advent of Mahatma Gandhi (1915 – 1918 CE)

1 Return to India (1915)

- Mahatma Gandhi returned to India on **9 January 1915** after spending about **21 years** in **South Africa**.
- Received a warm welcome across the country.
- Regarded as a **new** and **inspiring leader** with a different style of politics.
- Initially, he did not directly participate in national agitation, choosing to understand Indian conditions first.



Mahatma Gandhi
(1869 – 1948)

2 Early Activities (1915 – 1916)

- Met prominent leaders like **Gopal Krishna Gokhale**, **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, **Annie Besant** and others.
- Travelled across India to observe the political, social and economic situation.
- Focused on understanding the problems of the **common people**, especially peasants and workers.
- Was influenced by **Gokhale's** advice to study India before getting actively involved in politics.



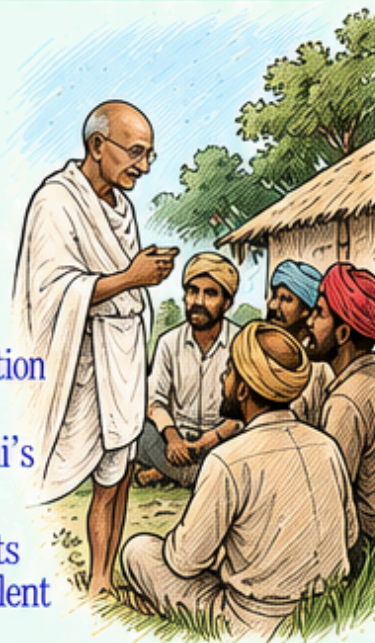
3 Influence of South African Experience

- Gained firsthand experience in fighting **racial** discrimination in South Africa.
- Developed the philosophy of **Satyagraha** (truth and non-violence).
- Learned the importance of **mass mobilisation**, disciplined struggle and **moral force**.
- These experiences shaped his future methods of political struggle in India.



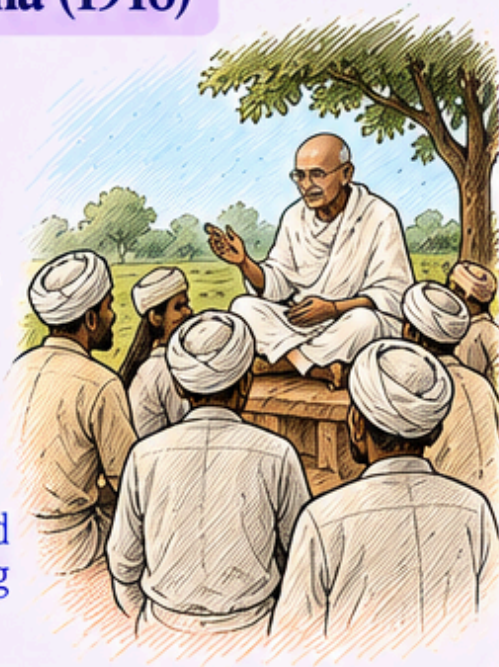
4 Champaran Satyagraha (1917)

- His first major movement in India.
- Was invited by **Raj Kumar Shukla** to visit Champaran (Bihar) to address the problems of indigo farmers.
- Fought against the **Tinkathia system** and forced indigo cultivation imposed by the British.
- Marked the beginning of Gandhi's **mass movements** in India.
- Showed his concern for peasants and his commitment to non-violent methods.



5 Kheda Satyagraha (1918)

- Famine and crop failure in Kheda (Gujarat) led to demand for remission of land revenue.
- Under Gandhi's leadership, peasants refused to pay revenue.
- British government was forced to accept a partial remission.
- Strengthened Gandhi's position as a mass leader.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** emerged as an important associate during this movement.



6 Significance (1915 – 1918)

- Introduced a new style of politics based on **truth**, **non-violence** and **mass participation**.
- Connected the national movement with the problems of common people (especially peasants).
- Brought moral values and simplicity into politics.
- His early movements prepared the ground for larger mass movements in the coming years.
- Established himself as a major leader of the Indian National Movement.



4. The Advent of Mahatma Gandhi (1915 – 1918 CE)

A. The South African Crucible (1893 – 1914 CE)

1 Arrival in South Africa

- Mahatma Gandhi arrived in South Africa in 1893 as a legal representative of an Indian merchant, Dada Abdulla.
- Initially, he planned to stay for a short period, but his life took a historic turn.
- This experience became the foundation of his political and moral leadership.



2 Racial Discrimination

- Gandhi faced harsh racial discrimination in South Africa.
- He was thrown out of a first-class compartment despite having a valid ticket (1893).
- He also experienced humiliation in hotels, public places and in the legal system.



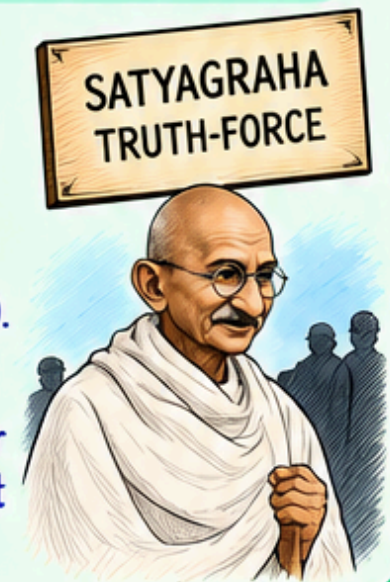
3 Organization of the Indian Community

- Gandhi organized the Indian community to fight against discriminatory laws.
- In 1894, he founded the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) to voice the grievances of Indians.
- He worked for unity among the Indian community, irrespective of religion, region or language.



4 Satyagraha and Civil Resistance

- Gandhi developed the philosophy of Satyagraha (truth-force) in South Africa.
- He organized the first Satyagraha against the Asiatic Registration Act (1906).
- This movement marked the beginning of his campaign for civil rights through non-violent resistance.



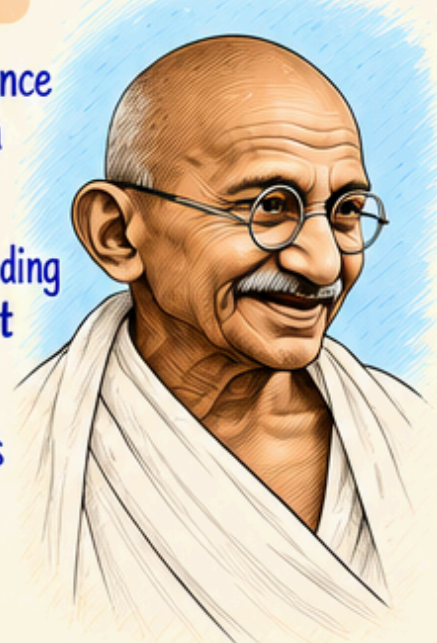
5 Key Achievements

- The Indian community gained greater unity and political awareness.
- Gandhi successfully negotiated the Indian Relief Act (1914), which provided some relief to Indians (e.g., right to carry passes, recognition of marriages).
- He returned to India in 1915, with a rich experience of struggle and leadership.



6 Significance

- The South African experience transformed Gandhi into a mass leader.
- It gave him a clear understanding of the power of non-violent resistance.
- It laid the foundation for his future role in the Indian freedom struggle.

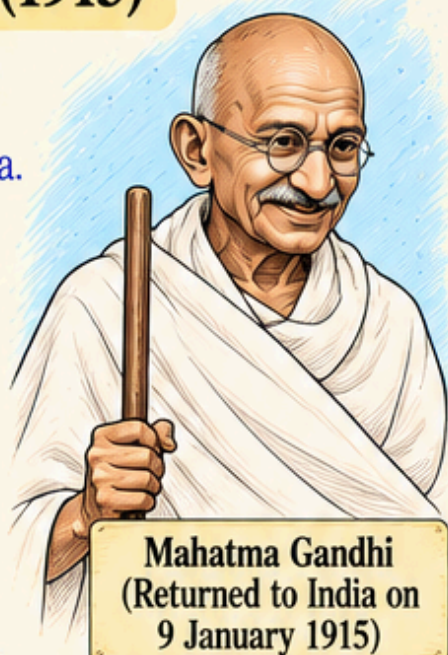


4. The Advent of Mahatma Gandhi (1915 – 1918 CE)

B. Return to India and the Preparation Phase (1915 – 1916 CE)

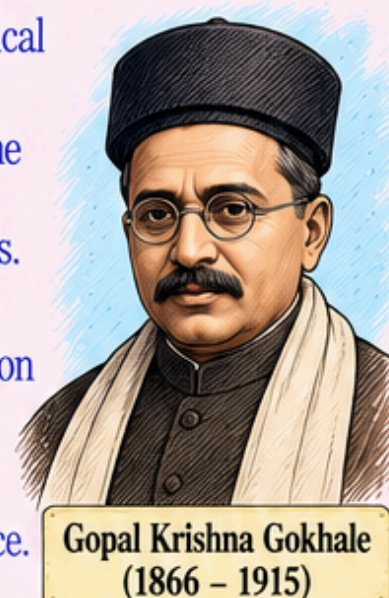
1 Return to India (1915)

- Mahatma Gandhi returned to India on **9 January 1915** after **21 years** in South Africa.
- He was given a warm and **enthusiastic welcome** across the country.
- Leaders like **Gopal Krishna Gokhale** considered him a great asset to the national movement.
- He **wanted** to understand **Indian conditions** before participating in active politics.



2 Influence of Gopal Krishna Gokhale

- **Gokhale** was Gandhi's political **guide** and mentor.
- Advised Gandhi to spend time travelling across India to understand its real conditions.
- Suggested that he should **not join** the national agitation immediately.
- Gandhi deeply respected Gokhale and followed his advice.



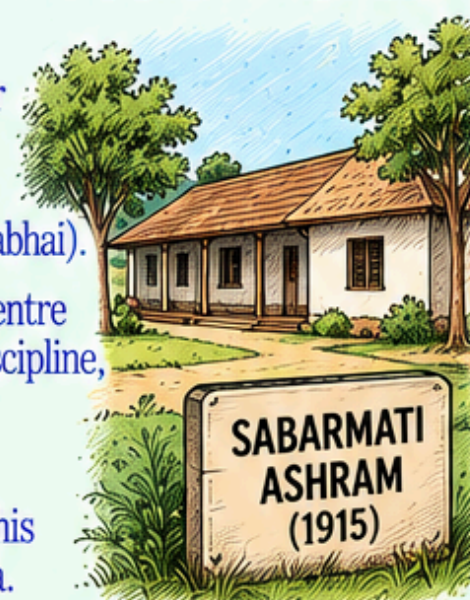
3 Travels Across India (1915 – 1916)

- **Gandhi** undertook extensive travels across different parts of India.
- Met people from various sections of society — peasants, workers, students, and political leaders.
- Observed the social, economic and political conditions of the country.
- This helped him understand India's diverse problems and the aspirations of its people.



4 Stay at Sabarmati Ashram (1915)

- Established the **Sabarmati Ashram** near Ahmedabad in 1915 (with the support of industrialist Ambalal Sarabhai).
- The ashram became a centre for simple living, self-discipline, truth, non-violence and service to the people.
- It served as a base for his future activities in India.



5 Approach and Preparation

- Gandhi focused on **self-purification** and understanding the country before launching any movement.
- He emphasised the upliftment of the masses, especially peasants and the poor.
- Believed in working among the people and addressing their real problems.
- Developed his methods of mass mobilisation, based on truth (satya) and non-violence (ahimsa).



6 Significance (1915 – 1916)

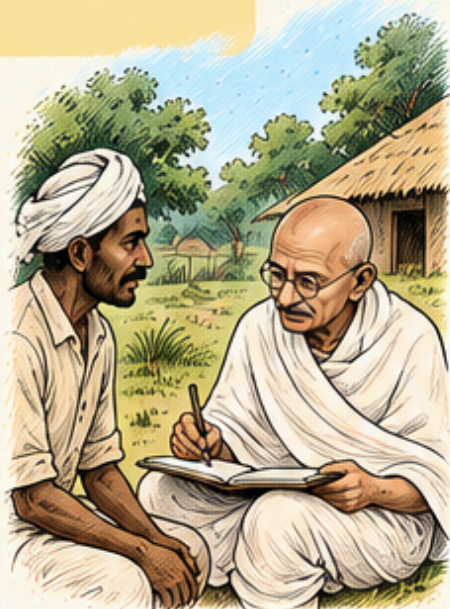
- Gave **Gandhi** first-hand knowledge of Indian conditions.
- Helped him build close contact with the people.
- Strengthened his belief in non-violent mass struggle as an effective method.
- Prepared him for his first major movements in India (Champaran Satyagraha, 1917).
- Marked the beginning of a **new** phase in the Indian national movement under his leadership.



5. Gandhi's Early Regional Experiments (1917 – 1918 CE)

1 Champaran Satyagraha (1917)

- Triggered by the problems of **indigo farmers** in Champaran (Bihar) under the **Tinkathia system** (forced to cultivate indigo on 3/20th of their land).
- Raj Kumar Shukla** invited Gandhi to Champaran.
- Gandhi conducted a detailed **enquiry** into the grievances of the peasants.
- Used the method of **Satyagraha** (non-violent resistance) for the first time in India.
- Resulted in the **Champaran Agrarian Committee**, which recommended the abolition of the Tinkathia system and relief to the peasants.

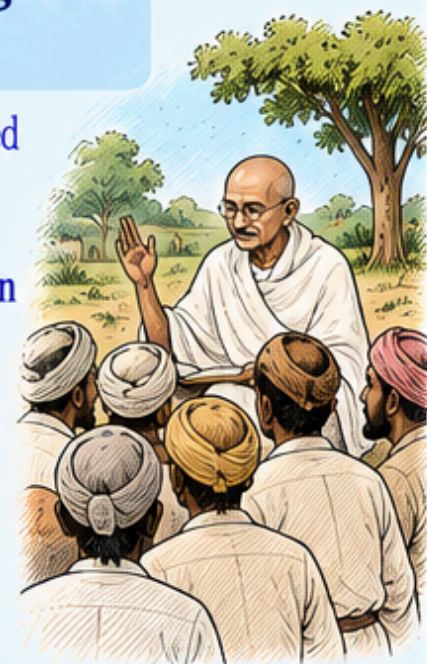


Key Outcomes

- Abolition of Tinkathia system.
- Relief to peasants.
- Established Gandhi's reputation as a leader of the masses.

2 Kheda Satyagraha (1918)

- Kheda district (Gujarat) faced severe **crop failure** due to famine conditions.
- Peasants demanded **remission of land revenue**.
- Under Gandhi's leadership, peasants decided **not to pay** revenue until their demand was accepted.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** emerged as an important associate during this movement.
- Eventually, the British government agreed to **suspend revenue** collection and provide relief to the affected peasants.



Key Outcomes

- Suspension of land revenue collection.
- Strengthened peasant confidence.
- Enhanced Gandhi's position as a mass leader.

Gandhi's Early Regional Experiments (1917 – 1918 CE)

3 Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)

- Cotton mill workers in Ahmedabad demanded a 35% increase in wages due to rising prices.
- Mill owners were unwilling to concede the demand.
- Gandhi supported the workers and advised them to remain peaceful and disciplined.
- He undertook a **fast unto death** to persuade both sides to reach a settlement.
- The dispute was resolved with a compromise, granting a 35% wage increase to the workers.



Key Outcomes

- Wage increase of 35% for workers.
- Demonstrated the effectiveness of non-violent methods in labour disputes.
- Highlighted Gandhi's commitment to the welfare of workers and the poor.

4 Overall Significance

- These movements marked **Gandhi's first major political experiments** in India.
- Demonstrated the power of **Satyagraha**, truth and non-violence in addressing people's problems.
- Helped Gandhi build a strong connect with peasants, workers and common people.
- Established him as a national leader for future mass movements.

- ✓ Truth (Satya)
- ✓ Non-violence (Ahimsa)
- ✓ People's Participation
- ✓ Justice for the Oppressed

5. Gandhi's Early Regional Experiments (1917 – 1918 CE)

A. Champaran Satyagraha (1917 CE) – First Civil Disobedience

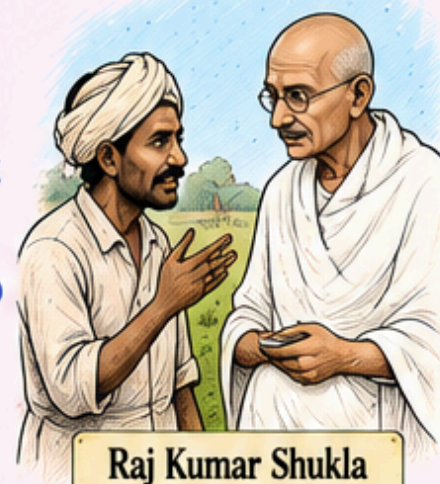
1 Background: Tinkathia System

- Indigo planters in Champaran (Bihar) forced farmers to **grow** indigo on **3/20th (tinkathia)** of their land.
- Farmers had to sell indigo at low prices and faced many oppressions.
- Even **after** demand reduced, planters continued the system and imposed various unfair dues and penalties.



2 Invitation to Gandhi

- Raj Kumar Shukla**, a persistent peasant from Champaran, met Gandhi and requested him to visit the region.
- Shukla followed Gandhi to different places until he finally agreed to go to Champaran in 1917.



Raj Kumar Shukla
(1860s – 1929)

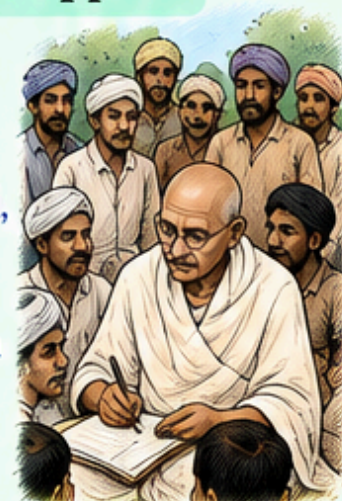
3 Gandhi's Visit and Defiance

- Gandhi reached Champaran in **April 1917**.
- He was ordered by the British authorities to leave the district.
- Gandhi refused to obey the order, stating that he could not abandon the suffering peasants.
- This was his **first act of civil disobedience** in India.



4 Enquiry and Mass Support

- Gandhi conducted a detailed enquiry into the grievances of the peasants with the help of volunteers (e.g., J. B. Kripalani, Rajendra Prasad, etc.).
- Thousands of peasants gave statements about the exploitation they faced.
- This created immense public support for Gandhi.



5 Government Response

- The British government set up a **Champaran Agrarian Committee (1917)** with Gandhi as a member.
- After examining the evidence, the committee recommended the abolition of the Tinkathia system and relief to the peasants.
- The planters were forced to accept the recommendations.



6 Outcomes

- Abolition of the Tinkathia system.
- Relief to peasants and reduction in illegal dues.
- Boosted the confidence of the common people.
- Established Gandhi's reputation as a leader of the masses.
- Marked the beginning of Gandhi's mass movements in India.

KEY OUTCOMES

- End of Tinkathia system
- Relief to peasants
- Rise in people's confidence
- Gandhi emerged as a mass leader

7 Significance

- First major successful application of **Satyagraha** in India.
- Demonstrated the power of non-violent resistance and **moral force**.
- Brought national attention to the problems of Indian peasants.
- Laid the foundation for larger mass movements in the future (Kheda, Non-Cooperation, etc.).

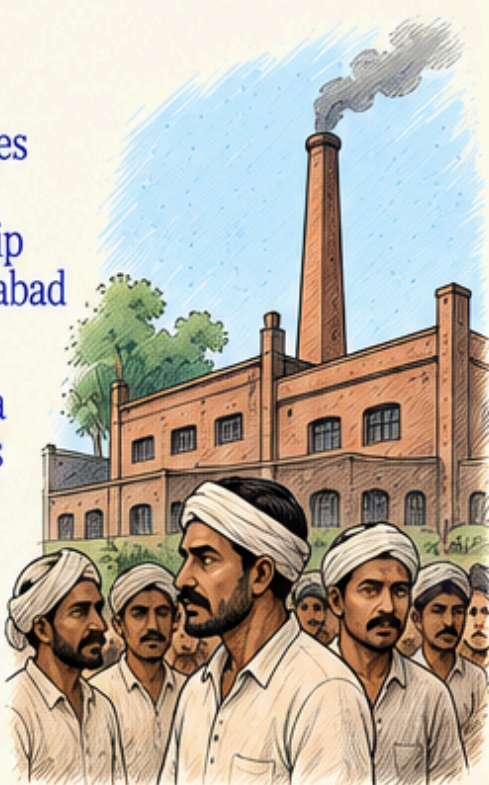


5. Gandhi's Early Regional Experiments (1917 – 1918 CE)

B. Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918 CE) – First Hunger Strike

1 Background

- During World War I, prices of essential commodities increased, causing hardship to mill workers in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
- Mill owners had granted a 'plague bonus' to workers earlier, which they later withdrew.
- Workers demanded a **35% wage increase** to compensate for the rising cost of living.



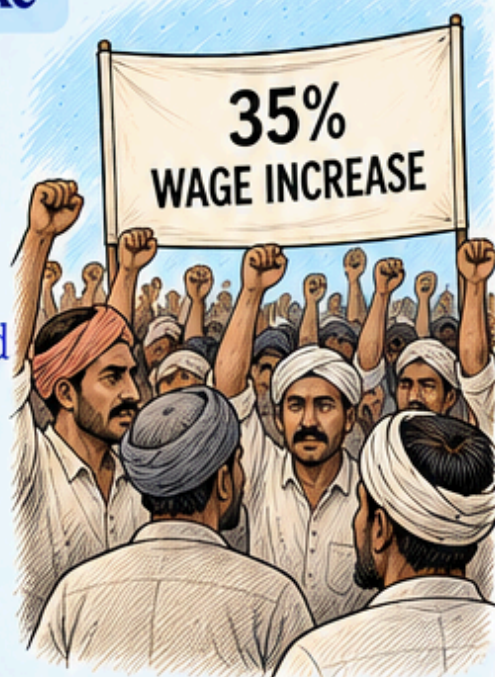
2 Role of Gandhi

- Gandhi supported the workers and advised them to remain peaceful and disciplined.
- He helped organise the workers and explained the strength of unity, truth and non-violence (Satyagraha).
- He acted as a mediator between the workers and the mill owners.



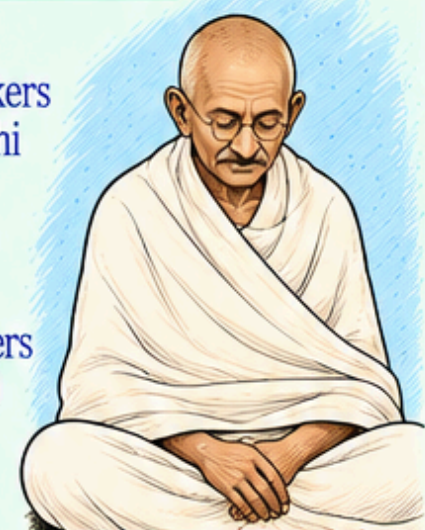
3 Workers' Strike

- The mill workers went on strike in **early 1918** demanding a 35% wage increase.
- The strike was largely peaceful and well-organised under Gandhi's guidance.
- Workers took a pledge not to return to work until their demand was accepted.



4 First Hunger Strike

- When the strike started weakening and some workers were losing morale, Gandhi undertook a **fast unto death (hunger strike)** on **15 March 1918**.
- His fast inspired the workers to remain firm and united in their demand.
- The hunger strike lasted for **3 days** and created immense pressure on the mill owners.



First Hunger Strike
(15 March 1918)

5 Resolution

- With the intervention of **Anasuya Sarabhai** (a close associate of Gandhi) and other well-wishers, negotiations were held.
- A compromise was reached, where the mill owners agreed to a **35% wage increase** for the workers.
- The strike ended successfully, marking a victory for the workers.



Agreement:
35% Wage Increase

6 Significance

- Demonstrated the effectiveness of **Satyagraha** in industrial disputes.
- Gandhi emerged as a leader of the working class in India.
- Showed the power of non-violent resistance and moral force.
- Strengthened Gandhi's image as a leader committed to the welfare of common people.
- It was his **first hunger strike** in India.

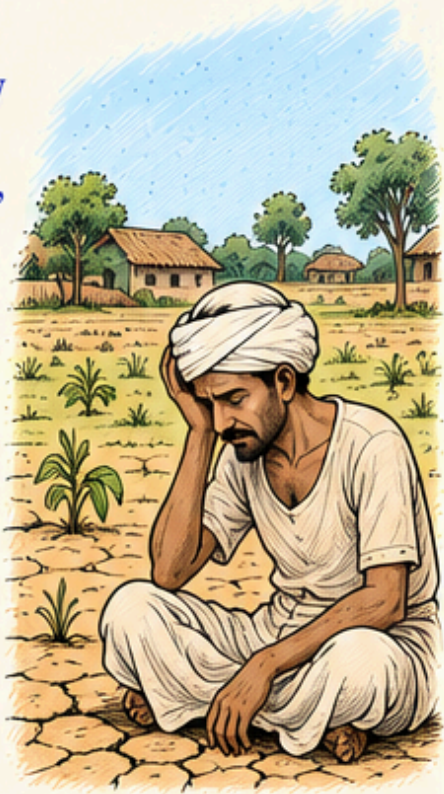


5. Gandhi's Early Regional Experiments (1917 – 1918 CE)

C. Kheda Satyagraha (1918 CE) – First Non-Cooperation

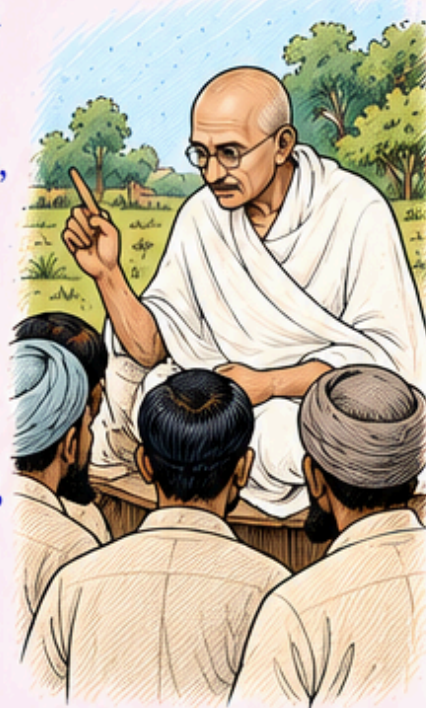
1 Background

- Kheda district (in present-day Gujarat) faced severe **crop failure** in 1918 due to famine, heavy rains and a plague epidemic.
- Despite the poor harvest, the British government demanded full land revenue from the peasants.
- According to revenue rules, remission or suspension was granted if the crop yield was less than **25%**, but the government refused to give any relief.



2 Leadership and Organisation

- Gandhi led the movement with the support of local leaders such as **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Indulal Yagnik and Shankarlal Banker.**
- A Kheda Satyagraha **Committee** was formed to organise the movement.
- Volunteers visited villages, mobilised peasants and explained the strategy of non-violent resistance.



3 Method: Non-Cooperation

- Peasants were advised not to pay land revenue until their demand for remission was accepted.
- They maintained strict **non-violence** and discipline.
- The movement was organised on a large scale with unity among the peasants.



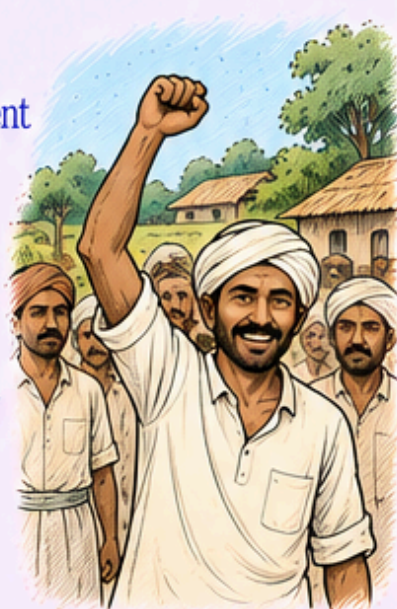
4 Government Response

- The government tried to intimidate peasants by threatening attachment of land and property.
- Many peasants' lands and cattle were confiscated.
- However, the peasants remained united and continued their non-cooperation.



5 Outcome

- After several months, the government agreed to **suspend** the collection of land revenue from the affected areas.
- Confiscated lands were to be restored to the peasants.
- The movement was a major victory and boosted the confidence of the people in Gandhi's leadership.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** emerged as an important leader.



6 Significance

- First major example of **non-cooperation** in India.
- Demonstrated the effectiveness of **Satyagraha** and non-violent resistance in resolving economic issues.
- Strengthened Gandhi's image as a leader of the peasants and the masses.
- Helped build a strong organisation for future national movements.



Home Rule League Movement, Lucknow Pact, and the Advent of Mahatma Gandhi (1915 – 1918 CE)

1 Mahatma Gandhi returned to India on **9 January 1915**.



2 Gandhi spent **21 years** in South Africa (1893 – 1914).



3 Gopal Krishna Gokhale was Gandhi's political mentor.



4 Gandhi stayed at **Sabarmati Ashram** in Ahmedabad from 1915.



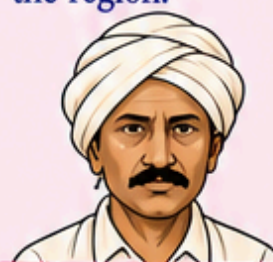
5 Champaran Satyagraha took place in **1917** in Champaran (Bihar).



6 The **Tinkathia system** required indigo planters to cultivate **3/20th** (three kathas out of twenty) of their land.



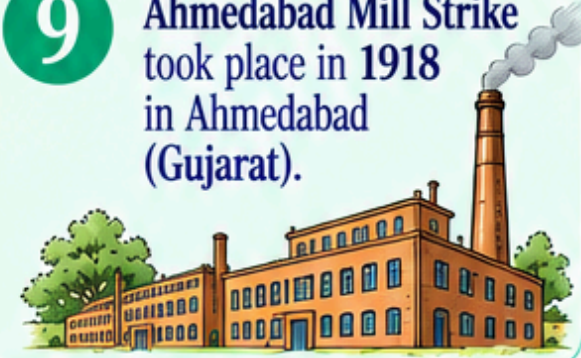
7 **Raj Kumar Shukla**, a peasant from Champaran, invited Gandhi to visit the region.



8 The Champaran Agrarian Committee was set up in **1917** to enquire into the grievances of indigo planters.



9 Ahmedabad Mill Strike took place in **1918** in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).

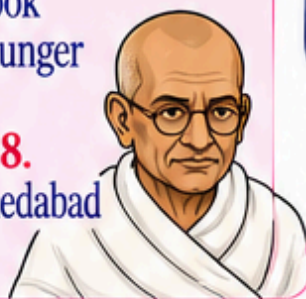


QUICK EXAMINATION FACTS

10 The mill workers in Ahmedabad demanded a **35% wage increase** in 1918.



11 Gandhi undertook his **first fast** (hunger strike) on **15 March 1918** during the Ahmedabad Mill Strike.



12 Kheda Satyagraha took place in **1918** in Kheda district (Gujarat).



13 Kheda was affected by severe **crop failure**, heavy rains and an **epidemic** (plague) in 1918.



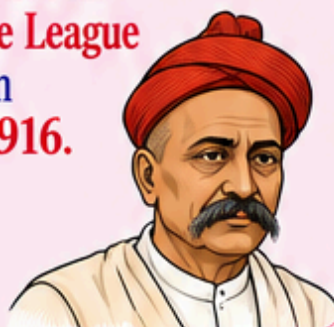
14 As per the revenue rules, if the **crop yield** was **less than four annas** (one-quarter) of the normal yield, revenue could be suspended.



15 Peasants in Kheda refused to pay land revenue demanding its suspension due to crop failure in 1918.



16 **Tilak** launched his **Home Rule League** at Belgaum in **April 1916**.



17 **Annie Besant** launched her **All-India Home Rule League** in **September 1916**.



18 The **Lucknow Pact (1916)** was an agreement between the Indian National Congress and the **All-India Muslim League**.



Home Rule League Movement, Lucknow Pact, and the Advent of Mahatma Gandhi (1915 – 1918 CE)

MCQs

1 Which of the following was the main objective of the Home Rule League Movement?

- A Abolition of the salt tax
- B Establishment of self-government within the British Empire
- C Complete independence from British rule
- D Formation of a separate electorate for Muslims



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Home Rule League Movement aimed at securing self-government (Swarajya) within the British Empire, similar to the dominion status enjoyed by countries like Canada and Australia.

2 Who started the Home Rule League at Belgaum in April 1916?

- A Annie Besant
- B Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- C Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- D Muhammad Ali Jinnah



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Bal Gangadhar Tilak started his Home Rule League at Belgaum in April 1916. It mainly worked in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Central Provinces and Berar.

3 Annie Besant started her Home Rule League in which of the following years?

- A 1914
- B 1915
- C 1916
- D 1917



Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Annie Besant started her All-India Home Rule League in September 1916. Her League worked in most parts of India except Maharashtra, Karnataka, Central Provinces and Berar.

4 The Lucknow Pact was an agreement between which of the following?

- A Indian National Congress and British Government
- B Indian National Congress and All-India Muslim League
- C Indian National Congress and Home Rule League
- D All-India Muslim League and the princely states



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Lucknow Pact was signed in 1916 between the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League. It marked a temporary unity between the two organisations.

5 Which of the following was NOT one of Mahatma Gandhi's early regional experiments during 1917–1918?

- A Champaran Satyagraha
- B Kheda Satyagraha
- C Ahmedabad Mill Strike
- D Non-Cooperation Movement



Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Mahatma Gandhi's early regional experiments included Champaran Satyagraha (1917), Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918) and Kheda Satyagraha (1918). The Non-Cooperation Movement was launched later in 1920.

Home Rule League Movement, Lucknow Pact, and the Advent of Mahatma Gandhi (1915 – 1918 CE)

6

Which of the following journals was associated with Bal Gangadhar Tilak?

- A Young India
- B Kesari
- C The Hindu
- D Al-Hilal



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was associated with the Marathi journal 'Kesari' and the English journal 'Mahratta'. These journals were used to spread nationalist ideas and mobilize public opinion.

7

Which city hosted the Congress session where the Lucknow Pact was signed in 1916?

- A Calcutta
- B Lucknow
- C Bombay
- D Madras



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Lucknow Pact was signed in 1916 during the Indian National Congress session held at Lucknow. It was an important step towards Hindu-Muslim unity in the freedom struggle.

8

Which of the following was a feature of the Lucknow Pact regarding representation of Muslims?

- A Separate electorates were abolished
- B Muslims were given reserved seats
- C Joint electorates were introduced
- D Muslims were denied representation



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Lucknow Pact accepted the demand of the Muslim League for separate electorates and provided for reserved seats for Muslims in the provincial legislatures.

9

Who among the following was known as a political mentor and guide to Mahatma Gandhi during his early years in India?

- A Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- B Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- C Lala Lajpat Rai
- D Bipin Chandra Pal



Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Gopal Krishna Gokhale was considered Mahatma Gandhi's political mentor. Gandhi greatly admired his moderate approach, and Gokhale guided him during his early years in India.

10

What was the main issue raised by Mahatma Gandhi during the Champaran Satyagraha (1917)?

- A Plantation of indigo under the Tinkathia system
- B High land revenue demand
- C Rowlatt Act
- D Jallianwala Bagh massacre



Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Champaran Satyagraha (1917) was against the exploitation of indigo planters under the Tinkathia system, where peasants were forced to cultivate indigo on 3/20th of their land.

Home Rule League Movement, Lucknow Pact, and the Advent of Mahatma Gandhi (1915 – 1918 CE)

11 Which of the following best describes the Tinkathia system, against which Gandhiji led the Champaran Satyagraha in 1917?

- A A tax on salt production
- B A system of cultivating indigo on 3/20th of the land
- C A forced labour system in tea plantations
- D A land revenue settlement system



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Tinkathia system required peasants in Champaran to cultivate indigo on 3/20th (15%) of their land and sell it to European planters at a low price. Gandhiji led the Champaran Satyagraha in 1917 against this exploitative system.

12 Which commission was appointed to investigate the grievances of indigo planters and peasants in Champaran in 1917?

- A Hunter Commission
- B Champaran Agrarian Committee
- C Montagu–Chelmsford Commission
- D Rowlatt Committee



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Champaran Agrarian Committee was appointed in 1917 to investigate the grievances of indigo planters and peasants. Gandhiji was also a member of this committee, and its recommendations led to the abolition of the Tinkathia system.

13 Which of the following movements did Mahatma Gandhi lead immediately after the Champaran Satyagraha?

- A Kheda Satyagraha
- B Ahmedabad Mill Strike
- C Non-Cooperation Movement
- D Civil Disobedience Movement



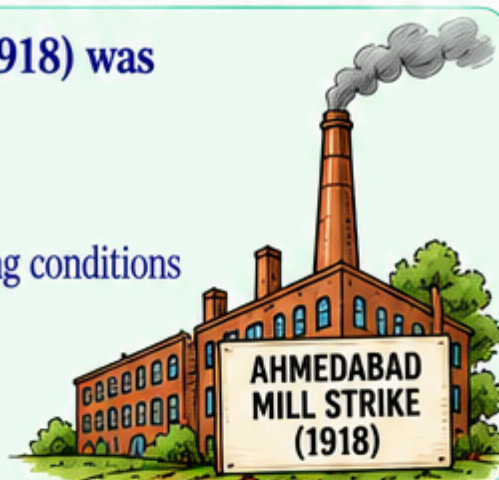
Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

After the success of the Champaran Satyagraha (1917), Gandhiji led the Kheda Satyagraha (1918) in Gujarat, where peasants demanded remission of land revenue due to crop failure caused by drought and plague.

14 The Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918) was related to the demand for:

- A Reduction in land revenue
- B Increase in wages and better working conditions
- C Abolition of the Tinkathia system
- D Withdrawal of the Rowlatt Act



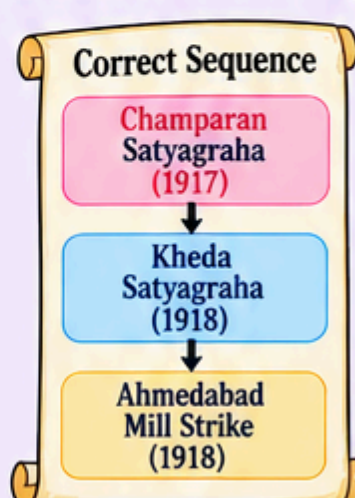
Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918) was led by Gandhiji in support of textile mill workers who demanded a 35% wage increase and better working conditions. This was one of the early examples of Gandhiji's use of Satyagraha in labour disputes.

15 Which of the following correctly reflects the sequence of events?

- A Lucknow Pact → Kolkata Session → Champaran Satyagraha
- B Champaran Satyagraha → Kheda Satyagraha → Ahmedabad Mill Strike
- C Kheda Satyagraha → Lucknow Pact → Home Rule League
- D Ahmedabad Mill Strike → Lucknow Pact → Non-Cooperation Movement



Correct Answer: B

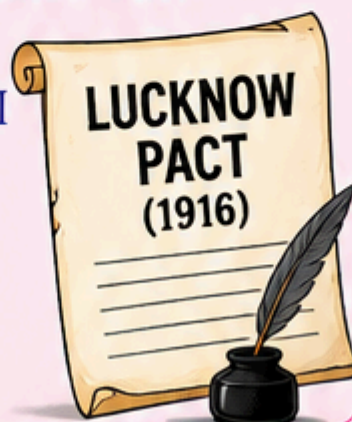
Explanation:

The correct chronological order of events is: Champaran Satyagraha (1917) → Kheda Satyagraha (1918) → Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918). These were Gandhiji's early experiments with Satyagraha in India.

Home Rule League Movement, Lucknow Pact, and the Advent of Mahatma Gandhi (1915 – 1918 CE)

16 Why did the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League sign the Lucknow Pact in 1916?

- A** To support the British war effort in World War I
- B** To demand self-government and present a united front
- C** To oppose the Home Rule League Movement
- D** To accept separate dominion status for India



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Lucknow Pact (1916) was signed to demand self-government in India and to present a united front between the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League. It marked a significant step towards Hindu-Muslim unity in the freedom struggle.

17 Which of the following was NOT a key feature of the Home Rule League Movement?

- A** Demand for self-government
- B** Wider political awakening among Indians
- C** Armed revolution against the British
- D** Use of public meetings and propaganda



Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Home Rule League Movement was a constitutional and peaceful movement. It aimed at self-government through political awakening, public meetings, and propaganda, not through armed revolution.

18 Which of the following statements about Gopal Krishna Gokhale is correct?

- A** He founded the Home Rule League.
- B** He was a mentor to Mahatma Gandhi.
- C** He started the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- D** He was the first President of the Indian National Congress.



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a moderate leader of the Indian National Congress and a strong advocate of social reforms. He was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and acted as his political mentor during Gandhi's early years in India.

19 The Kheda Satyagraha (1918) was launched due to which of the following reasons?

- A** Imposition of the Rowlatt Act
- B** Revolt of Indian soldiers
- C** Crop failure, famine and heavy taxation
- D** Demand for complete independence



Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Kheda Satyagraha (1918) was launched due to crop failure, famine and heavy rains, which led to a severe agrarian crisis. Peasants demanded remission or suspension of land revenue, and Gandhi led the movement in support of them.

20 Which of the following was a direct impact of the Home Rule League Movement?

- A** Immediate grant of complete independence
- B** Strengthening of extremist-moderate unity
- C** Establishment of the Government of India Act, 1935
- D** End of British control over India



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Home Rule League Movement helped in bridging the gap between the moderates and extremists in the Indian National Congress. It revived political activity and created a wider national awakening, though it did not lead to immediate independence.

Home Rule League Movement, Lucknow Pact, and the Advent of Mahatma Gandhi (1915 – 1918 CE)

21 Which of the following was one of the immediate outcomes of the Lucknow Pact (1916)?

- A Revival of extremist-moderate unity in the Indian National Congress
- B End of the Muslim League
- C Abolition of separate electorates
- D Immediate grant of complete independence



Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Lucknow Pact (1916) led to the revival of unity between the moderate and extremist factions within the Indian National Congress. It also brought the Congress and the Muslim League closer, marking a significant step towards Hindu-Muslim unity.

22 Which of the following statements about Annie Besant is/are correct?

- A She was the first woman to become President of the Indian National Congress.
- B She started the Home Rule League in 1916.
- C She was associated with the Theosophical Society.
- D All of the above.



Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Annie Besant was the first woman to become President of the Indian National Congress (1917), started the Home Rule League in 1916, and was closely associated with the Theosophical Society.

23 Which of the following statements about Mahatma Gandhi's return to India in 1915 is correct?

- A He came to India as a representative of the British Government.
- B He directly launched the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- C He initially travelled extensively across India to understand the country's conditions.
- D He became the President of the Indian National Congress in 1915.



Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

After returning to India in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi did not immediately launch a nationwide movement. He first travelled widely across the country to understand its political, social and economic conditions before initiating mass movements.

24 Who among the following were associated with the Home Rule League Movement?

- A Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- B Annie Besant
- C Both A and B
- D Muhammad Ali Jinnah



Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Home Rule League Movement was led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak in Maharashtra and Annie Besant in other parts of India. Both played a key role in spreading the demand for self-government in India.

25 Which of the following correctly describes the significance of the Home Rule League Movement in the freedom struggle?

- A It marked the beginning of the revolutionary phase.
- B It popularised the demand for self-government among the masses.
- C It ended the British policy of divide and rule.
- D It led to the immediate withdrawal of the Rowlatt Act.



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Home Rule League Movement (1916–1918) created widespread political awareness and popularised the demand for self-government among different sections of Indian society. It strengthened the national movement, though it did not lead to immediate independence.

Home Rule League Movement, Lucknow Pact, and the Advent of Mahatma Gandhi (1915 – 1918 CE)

26 Which of the following best describes the Montagu Declaration of 20 August 1917?

- A Promise of complete independence to India
- B Introduction of dyarchy in provinces
- C Gradual development of self-government in India
- D Annexation of Indian princely states



Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Montagu Declaration of 20 August 1917 stated the British government's policy of "gradual development of self-government in India" as the ultimate goal. It did not promise complete independence but marked an important shift in British policy.

27 Which of the following was a key demand of the Indian National Congress at the Lucknow Session (1916)?

- A Immediate Purna Swaraj
- B Separate electorates for Muslims
- C Greater share for Indians in legislative councils
- D Abolition of the salt tax



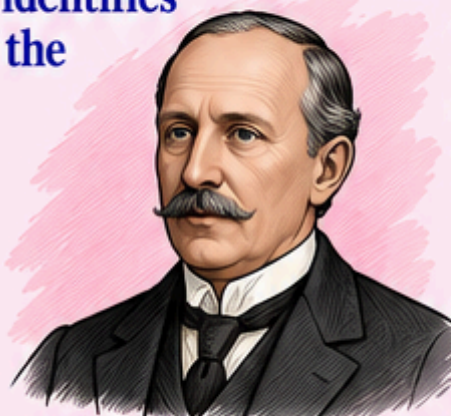
Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

At the Lucknow Session (1916), the Indian National Congress demanded a greater share for Indians in legislative councils, along with other political reforms. The demand for separate electorates was put forward by the Muslim League.

28 Which of the following correctly identifies the viceroy during the signing of the Lucknow Pact (1916)?

- A Lord Minto
- B Lord Hardinge
- C Lord Chelmsford
- D Lord Curzon



Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Lucknow Pact was signed in 1916 during the viceroyalty of Lord Hardinge (1910–1916). His tenure witnessed important political developments, including the rapprochement between the Congress and the Muslim League.

29 Which of the following was NOT one of the main objectives of the Lucknow Pact?

- A Promoting Hindu-Muslim unity
- B Joint struggle for constitutional reforms
- C Establishment of a theocratic state
- D Presenting a common political front to the British



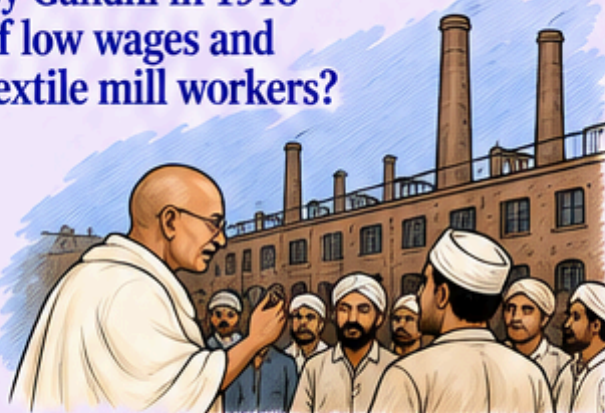
Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Lucknow Pact aimed at promoting Hindu-Muslim unity, presenting a common political front and jointly demanding constitutional reforms. It did not aim at establishing a theocratic state.

30 Which movement initiated by Gandhi in 1918 was related to the problem of low wages and poor working conditions of textile mill workers?

- A Champaran Satyagraha
- B Kheda Satyagraha
- C Ahmedabad Mill Strike
- D Rowlatt Satyagraha



Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918) was led by Mahatma Gandhi in support of textile mill workers who were demanding higher wages and better working conditions. It was one of Gandhi's early experiments with Satyagraha in India.



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