

Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33B, Chandigarh
Class VIII

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 13
India's Struggle for Freedom

We will continue our discussion from the previous lesson and study about the main aims of the Indian National Congress. This political organization wanted to bring together leaders from all parts of the country to discuss problems related to India. The leaders of the Indian National Congress wanted to form an action plan to get concessions from the British.

During the first twenty years of the Congress, the early nationalists or the moderates dominated the party. These leaders were modest in their objectives and methods. They believed in peaceful and constitutional methods and in methods of persuasion. They regularly sent petitions and resolutions to the government asking for

- a) freedom of speech and expression.
- b) a cut in the military expenditure
- c) more powers for the Legislative Councils
- d) recruitment of Indians to higher posts in administration
- e) holding civil services examination in India also.

The British were favourably inclined towards the Congress during the early years of its formation. Later they turned hostile towards it as they realized that Congress was becoming the centre of Indian nationalism.

The failure of the early nationalists to achieve political reforms brought new trends in Congress which were led by leaders Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal. These radicals were in favour of more strong methods and objectives. Like strikes, boycott and mass demonstrations to spread awakening among the people to achieve political reforms.

Partition of Bengal - On 19 July, 1905, Viceroy Lord Curzon issued an order dividing the province of Bengal into two parts. The official reason for partition was that since Bengal was too big, it was important to divide it so that it could be administered efficiently. The real reason for the partition was, however different. The national movement was strong in Bengal. The partition was a deliberate attempt to weaken it by sowing seeds to disunite the Hindus and the Muslims.

All sections of people rose in opposition. Demonstrations and public meetings were held throughout Bengal. It also gave rise to two new methods of struggle - swadeshi and boycott. The former aimed at popularizing the goods manufactured in India. The method of boycott focused on people to boycott goods manufactured in Britain.

Surat Split - The differences between the Moderates and the radicals were difficult to reconcile. At the Congress session in 1907 in Surat there was a split between the two groups. The moderates began to control the Congress and the radicals decided to function from outside.

MCCQ

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|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. W.C. Bonnerjee | 5. Lord Curzon |
| 2. Mumbai | 6. Riskey |
| 3. G.K. Gokhale | 7. Both A and B. |
| 4. Punjab | 8. All of these |
| | 9. 1907 |
| | 10. (c) |

State True or False

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. True | 4. False |
| 2. False | 5. False |
| 3. True | |

Fill in the blanks

1. peasants
2. nationalism
3. 1883
4. W.C. Bonnerjee
5. Kadambini Ganguly