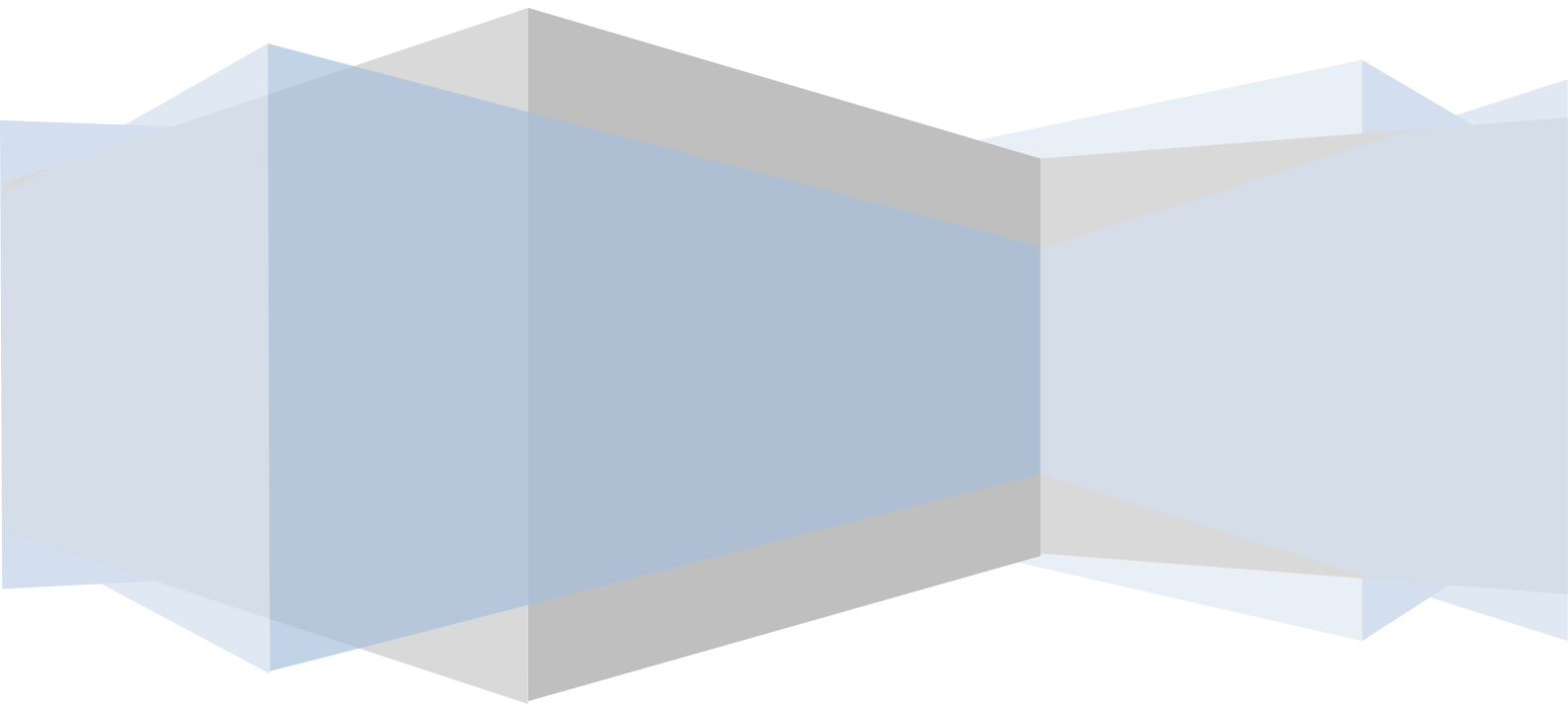


Chapter 5: Moderates and Extremists

Short Answers

CSM 02: History of India and Indian National Movement

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This chapter contains:

- Indian Nationalism
- Experiment with Truth in South Africa
- Gandhi in South Africa
- Natal Indian Congress
- Tribal Revolts
- Anti -Partition Campaign
- Militant Nationalism
- True Nature Of British Rule
- Partition of Bengal

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1. Indian Nationalism - The Moderate Phase

There were different reasons behind the emergence of nationalism among the people of India due to which people wanted to free their country from the British. British were capturing and controlling different kingdoms across India. They introduced various new laws and constructed administrative institutions. Creating troubles and controlling the lives of peasants and tribals.

Changes occurred in the education system during the nineteenth century. Huge declination of crafts and increase in the number of industries. Social and religious reforms and The Revolt of 1857 occurred.

This consciousness among people leads to begin some political associations -

1.1 Association of Landholders

- Landholders Society formed in 1837 and Bengal British India society in 1843 merged together and formed the British Indian Association.
- Bengal Association and Madras Native Association established in 1852 sent some petitions to end the Company's monopoly of salt and indigo.
- To promote reforms and political consciousness among people, associations like Poona Sarvajanik Sabha were established.
- In 1884, Madras Mahajan Sabha and Bombay Presidency Association were established.
- National Conference (1883) and Indian National(1884) merged to form the Indian National Congress.

1.2 Indian National Congress

- This was formed in the year 1885.
- Their first meeting in Bombay was set up by A.O. Hume at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College on 28 December 1885.
- The first president of the Indian National Congress was W.C. Banerjee.
- The main purpose of A.O. Hume to establish and encouraging this association was probably to provide a "safety valve" to the growing discontent among the educated Indians.

1.3 Aims of Indian National Congress

- Contribution and willingly participation of countrymen in the struggle.
- To create a feeling of unity among the people of India irrespective of their caste, race, religion, or provinces.
- Presenting demands against the Government through petitions.
- To organize public opinion and training.
- Making the sentiments of national unity together.
- Listening and making records of the people with problems and their opinions.
- Formation of future plans in the public interest.

1.4 Methods of Moderate Phase

- Early congressmen wanted to work peacefully and constitutional agitation was their motto.
- Their instruments were petitions and prayers.
- Their sessions lasted only for three days a year.
- They believed that there is some good in the British nation and all things would go easy on us if the British started taking into consideration public affairs in India.
- Also, a British Committee of INC was founded in 1889.

1.5 Important sessions of the INC

Year	Presidents	Venue
1885	W.C. Bonnerjee	Bombay
1886	Dadabhai Naoroji	Calcutta
1887	Badruddin Tyabji	Madras
1889	Sir William Wedderburn	Bombay
1890	Pherozshah Mehta	Calcutta
1891	P. Anand Charlu	Nagpur
1892	W.C. Bonnerjee	Allahabad
1893	Dadabhai Naoroji	Lahore
1905	G.K. Gokhale	Banaras
1906	Dadabhai Naoroji	Calcutta
1907	Rash Behari Ghosh	Surat
1917	Annie Besant	Calcutta
1924	Mahatma Gandhi	Belgaun
1925	Sarojini Naidu	Kanpur
1931	Vallabhbhai Patel	Karachi
1934	Rajendra Prasad	Bombay
1936	Jawaharlal Nehru	Lucknow
1947	Acharya J.B. Kripalani	Meerut
1948	B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya	Jaipur

The repressive measures adopted by The British Government gave rise to extremists within Congress like Bipin Chandra Pal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Lala Lajpat Rai (Lal, Bal, Pal).

The Indian National Congress split into Extremist and Moderates. Moderates are those who confided in British justice and generosity.

Due to the following events, the Indian National Congress was divided into moderates and extremists, and the event is known as the Surat split.

1.6 Swadeshi Movement Impacts

- Swadeshi Movement is a stepping stone of the Nationalist Movement. It led to the beginning of the organized political movement in India.
- There is a rise in the Neo-Nationalist Movement.
- Boycott of Foreign Goods.
- The split of Indian National Congress in Surat session.
- There arises a concept of National Education.
- The emergence of Indian literature and art.

1.7 Conflict and Split in the INC

- Among the Moderates of Bombay, Bal Ganghadhar Tilak was unpopular due to his revolutionary actions and ideas.
- In the Calcutta session of Congress in 1906, Bipin Chandra Pal and Aurobindo Ghosh wanted Tilak to become the President of the Congress. But the others were not ready for this.
- Other members think that Tilak's thinking was different. He has different thoughts about the British.
- So, the Moderates were in no mood of accepting him.
- Ultimately there is a decision made hurriedly and taking considerations of partitions of Bengal, Swadeshi, and Boycott they made a clear path out of the open session.
- With the foundation of Deccan Sabha, there occurs a division of Extremists and the Moderates in Maharashtra.

In the first two decades (1885-1905) the Indian National Congress was quite moderate.

1.8 The Other Important Demands

- There should be an organization of the provincial councils.
- Simultaneous Holding of Examinations for the I.C.S. in India and England.
- Demand for the reconstitution of the Indian Council, 1892.
- There should be appointments of Indians in the commissioned ranks of the army.
- More Indians should be appointed in the higher posts of officer ranks as on economic, political and moral grounds.
- The moderates were cautious during the demands. They don't want to annoy the government and risk their suppression.

2. Experiment with truth in South Africa

Gandhi travelled to South Africa in 1893 in connection with a case involving his client, **Dada Abdullah**. In South Africa, he witnessed the ugly face of **white racism**, as well as the humiliation and contempt shown to Asians who had come to South Africa as labourers. He chose to remain in South Africa in order to organise the Indian workers and enable them to fight for their rights. **Gandhi spent 20 years** of his life (1893 - 1914) in South Africa working as an **attorney and a public worker**. There he developed the idea of **Satyagraha** and used it against the Asiatic Registration Law. It also resulted in the first jail sentence in Mahatma Gandhi's life. In this article, we will discuss the instances of Gandhi's experiment with truth in South Africa which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

2.1 Status of Indians in South Africa

- The Indians in South Africa were divided into three groups:
 1. **Indentured Indian labourers**, primarily from South India, who had migrated to South Africa after 1890 to work on sugar plantations;
 2. **Merchants**—mostly Meman Muslims who had followed the labourers; and
 3. **Ex-indentured labourers** who had settled down with their children in South Africa after their contracts expired.
- These Indians were mostly illiterate and spoke little or no English. They accepted racial discrimination as a normal part of life.
- These Indian immigrants had to deal with a slew of handicaps.
- They were not allowed to vote.
- They could only live in designated areas that were unsanitary and congested.
- Asians and Africans in some colonies were unable to leave their homes after dark and nor were they allowed to use public footpaths.

2.2 Phases of Struggle in South Africa

Moderate Phase of Struggle (1894-1906)

- During this period, Gandhi relied on **petitions and memorials** to South African and British authorities.
- He hoped that once the authorities were made aware of the plight of Indians, they would take genuine steps to address their grievances, as Indians were, after all, British subjects.
- To unite various sections of Indians, he founded the **Natal Indian Congress** and launched the newspaper **Indian Opinion**.

Phase of Passive Resistance or Satyagraha (1906-1914)

- The second phase, which began in 1906, was distinguished by Gandhi's use of the method of passive resistance or **civil disobedience known as satyagraha**.

- After a series of negotiations involving Gandhi, Lord Hardinge, C.F. Andrews, and General Smuts, an agreement was reached.
- The South African government conceded the major Indian demands relating to the poll tax, registration certificates, and marriages solemnised according to Indian rites, and promised to treat the issue of Indian immigration sympathetically.

Satyagraha	Description
Satyagraha against Registration Certificates (1906)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In South Africa, new legislation requires Indians to carry registration certificates with their fingerprints at all times. • The Indians, led by Gandhi, decided not to submit to this discriminatory measure. • Gandhi established the Passive Resistance Association to carry out a campaign of defying the law and suffering the consequences of such defiance. • Thus, was born satyagraha, or devotion to truth, the technique of resisting opponents without resorting to violence. • Gandhi and others who refused to register were imprisoned by the government.
Campaign against restrictions on Indian migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The previous campaign was expanded to include opposition to new legislation restricting Indian migration. • The Indians defied the law by crossing from one province to the next and refusing to produce licences. • Many of these Native Americans were imprisoned.
Campaign against Poll Tax and Invalidation of Indian Marriages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ex-indentured Indians were subjected to a three-pound poll tax. • The demand for the abolition of the poll tax broadened the campaign's base. • Then, in response to a Supreme Court order that invalidated all marriages not conducted according to Christian rites and registered by the registrar of marriages, Indians and others who were not Christians were outraged. • By extension, Hindu, Muslim, and Parsi marriages were illegal, and children born from such unions were illegitimate. • The Indians saw this decision as an insult to women's honour, and many women were drawn into the movement as a result of this humiliation.
Protest against Transvaal Immigration Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indians illegally migrated from Natal to Transvaal in protest of the Transvaal Immigration Act. • These Indians were imprisoned by the government. • Miners and plantation workers were struck by lightning. • Gokhale toured the entire country of India, rallying public support for Indians in South Africa.

- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Even the viceroy, Lord Hardinge, condemned the repression and demanded an impartial investigation. |
|--|--|

2.3 Gandhi's Experience in South Africa

- Gandhi discovered that the masses have an enormous capacity to participate in and sacrifice for a cause that moves them.
- Under his leadership, he was able to bring together Indians of various religions and classes, as well as men and women.
- He also realised that leaders must sometimes make decisions that are unpopular with their ardent supporters.
- He was able to develop his own leadership and political style, as well as new techniques of struggle on a small scale, unhindered by the opposition of competing political currents.

2.4 Conclusion

During his time in South Africa, Gandhi developed the Satyagraha technique. It was founded on the truth and nonviolence. He combined elements of Indian tradition with the Christian requirement of turning the other cheek and Tolstoy's philosophy, which stated that nonviolent resistance was the best way to combat evil.

3. Gandhi in South Africa

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi worked as an **attorney and public servant** from **1893 to 1914 in South Africa** before leading the Indian freedom movement to fight injustice and class division. Within ten years, Gandhi had spread the **Satyagraha philosophy** throughout the country, propelling the country toward a society free of class and ethnic discrimination. In 1893, Gandhi arrived in Durban aboard the SS Safari. Gandhi quickly rose to prominence as the leader of the South African Indian community. His involvement in the nonviolent movement in South Africa had such an impact that he is still regarded as a leader there. Gandhi stated at a meeting in New Delhi that he was born in India but raised in South Africa. In this article, we will discuss the **contributions of Gandhi** while he was in South Africa which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

3.1 Gandhi's association with South Africa

- As Gandhi himself stated, South Africa was critical to his personal success.
- This timid young man who had just passed the bar examination became the man who would lead India to independence and instigate the global decolonization movement during the 21 years he spent in South Africa, from 1893 to 1914, interrupted by a few visits to India and England.
- Gandhi's arrest for defending his right to travel in the whites-only waggon at the **Pietermaritzburg train station** – a routine procedure at the time – would later change the world.
- This event sparked Gandhi's interest in **racial discrimination** and marked the beginning of his philosophy of **nonviolent protest** and numerous arrests in defence of the Indian people.

3.2 Gandhi's Contribution to South Africa

- Despite having a first-class ticket, Gandhi was thrown off a train to Pretoria by authorities because a white man complained about an Indian sharing the space with him.
 - It was this incident that marked the beginning of active non-violence by Gandhi.
- It is fair to say that at the time, Indians in South Africa were primarily concerned with their status as traders, and many lacked not only education but also political sophistication.
 - Gandhi raised political awareness through regular comments in **Indian Opinion (his newspaper)** and petitions to the governments of Natal, India, and Britain.
- Gandhi formed the **Natal Indian Congress in response in 1894**. This organisation led **nonviolent protests against white people's oppressive treatment** of native Africans and Indians.
- In 1896, he visited India briefly and gathered 800 Indians to serve alongside him in South Africa. An enraged mob greeted them, and Gandhi was injured in the attack.

- During the outbreak of the **Boer War in 1899**, Gandhi gathered approximately 1,100 Indians and organised the Indian Ambulance Corps for the British, but ethnic discrimination and torture against Indians persisted.
- Gandhi was inspired by English artist **John Ruskin's** book **Unto This Last**, and he established **Phoenix Farm near Durban**.
 - Gandhi would come here to train his cadres in nonviolent Satyagraha, or peaceful restraint. Satyagraha is said to have begun at Phoenix Farm.
- Satyagraha, on the other hand, was shaped into a weapon of protest at the **Tolstoy Farm**, Gandhi's second camp in South Africa.
- Gandhi organised the first Satyagraha campaign in September 1906 to protest the **Transvaal Asiatic ordinance**, which was enacted against the local Indians. In June 1907, he held another Satyagraha against the British.
- He was imprisoned in 1908 for organising nonviolent movements. He was released, however, after meeting with General Smuts, a British Commonwealth statesman.
- However, he was later attacked for this and sentenced to prison again, prompting him to organise Satyagraha once more.
- He was also in long-term negotiations with the **Attorney-General of Transvaal, Jan Smuts**, first on behalf of Indians in that Province, and later, after the Union was established in 1910, on behalf of all South African Indians.
- He was sentenced to three months in prison in **Volkshurst and Pretoria in 1909**. Following his release, Gandhi travelled to England to seek the help of the Indian community there.
- In 1913, he also fought against the **nullification of non-Christian marriages**.
- Gandhi organised yet another peaceful resistance campaign in Transvaal against the oppression of Indian minorities. He led a group of approximately 2,000 Indians across the Transvaal border.
- Gandhi spent a total of 21 years in South Africa. By the end of his stay, the government had passed the **Indian Relief Act**, which granted many of Gandhi's and his colleagues' demands.
- For the first time in the 1950s, all racial groups banded together to protest the apartheid government through the **Defiance Campaign**, which was also the largest nonviolent resistance movement ever seen in South Africa.
- This historic campaign also saw the emergence of a new generation of African National Congress leaders, including Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, and Oliver Tambo.

3.3 Indian Opinion - The Newspaper

- **Mohandas Gandhi ("Mahatma"), M.H. Nazar, and Madanjit Viyavaharik** founded and published Indian Opinion, a weekly newspaper, in Natal Province in 1903.
- The newspaper focused on Indian rights, indentured labourer living conditions, and racial discrimination.
- It served as an important historical record of the social and political lives of the Indian community in South Africa, as well as disseminated information about Indians in the colonies to India.
- Articles in four different languages were included in the paper: English, Hindi, Gujarati, and Tamil.

- The majority of the writing was done by Gandhi, and the **first editor** was **Mansukhlal Hiralal Nazar**.
- Indian Opinion was published at the **Phoenix Settlement's printing press**, which Gandhi established in 1904.
- When Manilal Gandhi (Gandhi's son) took over as editor in the 1950s, the newspaper's focus shifted to human rights in general (rather than just Indian rights).
- Other people who have served as the editor of the Indian Opinion newspaper over the years include:
 - Hebert Kitchin
 - Henry Polak
 - Albert West
 - Manilal Gandhi
 - Sushila Gandhi
- It played an important role in the civil rights movement and evolved into a tool for political activism. Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance, Satyagraha, was encouraged.
- After Manilal's death in 1957, Indian Opinion was **renamed "Opinion"** and was edited by **Sushila Gandhi** (Manilal's wife). This was done to promote nationalism and to symbolise the **"oneness of man."**
- After 58 years of publication, this newspaper published its final issue in August 1961.
- It was revived 39 years later in October 2000. It is now run by a trust and published in **English and Zulu**.

3.4 Conclusion

Satyagraha was born and evolved in South Africa before spreading to India and, eventually, the rest of the world. When Gandhi left the country at the age of 46, he left behind a way of thinking and acting that has found resonance in many of the country's struggles, most notably Nelson Mandela's. Even though Gandhi's journey in South Africa began in Durban, it is in Johannesburg that he faces his most difficult challenges.

4. Natal Indian Congress

The **Natal Indian Congress (NIC)**, founded by **Gandhi** in **1894** in **South Africa**, was the dominant political organisation among Indians throughout the twentieth century. It campaigned against discrimination against Indians. On **August 22, 1894**, a constitution was drafted and later the NIC formed an alliance with the **African National Congress (ANC)**, breaking the mould of racially exclusive mobilizations. In this article, we will discuss the **formation and features of Natal Indian Congress** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

4.1 Background

- The NIC (Natal Indian Congress) was the first Indian Congress to be established. Mahatma Gandhi founded it in 1894 to combat discrimination against Indian traders in Natal.
- Since the 1920s, the organisation has operated under the auspices of the SAIC (South African Indian Congress).
- However, when Dr. G.M. Naicker arrived on the scene in the 1930s-1940s, the NIC experienced more radical leadership.
- **In 1945, Dr. Naicker** was elected to the organization's leadership.
- Because of more **militant protests**, several **NIC leaders were imprisoned** by the 1950s and 1960s.
- **Although the NIC was not outright banned, the harassment of its leaders, combined with the repressive conditions of the time, forced a halt to its operations.**
- The NIC was only resurrected in 1971, with a focus on **civic work**.
- In the **mid-1980s**, the organisation was instrumental in the formation of the **United Democratic Front (UDF)**.

4.2 Formation of Natal Indian Congress

- Mahatma Gandhi founded the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) in 1894 to combat discrimination against Indian traders in Natal.
- The Natal Indian Congress (NIC) was the first of the Indian Congresses, followed by the **Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC)** and the **Cape Indian Congress**, which later merged to form the **South African Indian Congress (SAIC)** in 1919.
- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who would later play a pivotal and decisive role in India's independence struggle, arrived in South Africa as a fledgling lawyer in May 1893.
- Gandhi read about the Natal Legislative Assembly's intentions to **disenfranchise Indians** at a farewell dinner in his honour in 1894, and immediately suggested to the Indians present that they should resist this attack on their rights.
- The Indians agreed and persuaded him to delay his departure in order to lead the struggle.
- He drafted a petition and formed a temporary committee on the night of the farewell party.

- Within a month, a massive petition with 10,000 signatures was presented to **Lord Ripon, Colonial Secretary**, and the ensuing agitation forced the British Government to reject the Bill. However, the Bill was finally passed into law in 1896.
- To address the Imperial Government's concerns, the Act did not mention Indians, instead disqualifying those who were not of European origin and the indigenous population who had previously been denied the right to vote.
- This was the first time that Indians not only participated in, but also organised, an agitational campaign.
- The temporary committee evolved into the Natal Indian Congress (NIC), which Gandhi assisted in establishing in May 1894.

4.3 Features

- The membership in the Congress required a minimum **annual subscription of £3**, it was limited to the trading class.
- According to Gandhi, about **300 Hindus, Muslims, Parsees, and Christians** joined in less than a month. There were **recruitment drives**, and Indians from all over Natal were contacted.
- The NIC met at least once a month to discuss current events, finances, and other issues. Congress also included self-improvement as a component of its programmes.
- In line with this, Congress meetings **discussed and debated issues** ranging from sanitation to the need for richer Indians to live in greater opulence and to differentiate between business and residential uses.
- The **Gandhi campaigns of 1908 and 1913** were two of the most important campaigns organised by the NIC in its early years.
- During these campaigns, a sizable segment of the Indian community demonstrated its willingness to engage in militant struggles.
- In the 1930s and 1940s, the NIC, like the TIC, was influenced by more radical leaders such as **G.M. Naicker**, who believed that the South African Indian Congress could only advance in their struggle if they collaborated with national organisations representing African and Coloured people.
- **Naicker was elected to the NIC leadership in 1945** and led the NIC in the **1946 Indian Passive Resistance Campaign in Durban**.
- As a result of Naicker's leadership, the organisation made agreements to **collaborate with other liberation organisations**, and the majority of the NIC's political involvement at the time was done through their national umbrella organisation, the SAIC.
- **Dr. Naicker** was elected **President of the SAIC** in September 1948, and the organisation was involved in the **Defiance Campaign in 1952**.
- Because of these more militant protests, several NIC leaders were imprisoned by the 1950s and 1960s.
- Although the NIC was not outright banned, the harassment of its leaders, combined with the repressive conditions of the time, forced a halt to its operations.
- The NIC was only resurrected in 1971, with a focus on civic work.
- The most visible campaigns launched by NIC in the 1980s were the **anti-South African Indian Council campaign in 1981** and the **anti-Tricameral Parliament Campaign** against the establishment of the House of Delegates in 1984.

- The NIC was also a **founding member** of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and remained an affiliate until the UDF was disbanded.
- After the ANC was unbanned in 1990, the NIC and TIC met with the ANC on a number of occasions to discuss the roles of the two Indian Congresses.
- Both organisations were later disbanded, and many of their leaders became involved in the newly formed ANC branches as well as its provincial and national organisations.

4.4 Conclusion

The Natal Indian Congress was dedicated to the achievement of South Africa has a democratic society. It believed that only a government that is based on the will of all its citizens will be able to bring about racial harmony and peace.

5. Tribal Revolts

The **tribal revolts and uprisings** by **Indian tribal communities** rose against the British's forcible and disastrous incursions into their lives and territories. Prior to the **entry of colonial forces**, the tribals had been living quietly and in harmony with nature in their own woods for hundreds of years. The British arrived and brought numerous changes to their way of life, as well as strangers into their domain. They went from being masters of their own land to becoming slaves and debts as a result of this. The revolutions were primarily motivated by a desire to reclaim their freedom from this unwelcome incursion. This article will explain to you about the **Tribal Revolts** which will be helpful in Modern Indian History preparation for the UPSC Civil service exam.

5.1 Causes

- **Shifting agriculture, hunting, fishing**, and the usage of forest products were the tribals' mainstays.
- The practice of settled agriculture was established with the inflow of **non-tribals** into the tribals' customary territories.
- The tribal population lost land as a result of this.
- The tribals were confined to working as **agricultural laborers** without land.
- Moneylenders were introduced by the **British into tribal communities**, resulting in serious exploitation of the native tribes. Under the new economic structure, they were forced to work as bonded laborers.
- The concept of **joint ownership of land** was supplanted by the concept of private property in tribal communities.
- **Forest products, changing agriculture, and hunting techniques** were all subject to limitations. For the tribals, this resulted in a loss of livelihood.
- In contrast to mainstream culture, which was characterized by caste and class divisions, tribal life was typically egalitarian. The arrival of non-tribals or outsiders pushed the tribals to the bottom of society's ladder.
- **Police, traders, and moneylenders** (most of whom were 'outsiders') exploited the tribals, exacerbating their plight.
- Some general laws were also despised because they were intrusive, as tribals had their own customs and traditions.
- The government established a Forest Department in 1864, primarily to manage the vast riches of Indian forests.
- The **Government Forest Act of 1865 and the Indian Forest Act of 1878** gave the government total control over wooded territory.
- The **Christian missionaries' activity** also caused social instability in tribal civilization, which the tribes hated.

5.2 Characteristics

- The unity displayed by these organizations was motivated by tribal or ethnic connections.
 - However, **not all 'outsiders' were viewed as enemies**: the poor who supported the community via physical labor or profession were left alone.

- The violence was focused on moneylenders and businessmen who were perceived as extensions of the colonial administration.
- One prevalent motive was **hatred of the 'foreign government'** imposing regulations that were regarded as an attempt to dismantle the tribals' traditional socioeconomic structure.
- Many tribal revolutions were sparked by the **erosion of tribal rights to land and forest** as a result of British-imposed laws.
 - The land was gradually alienated from tribes as non-tribe people gradually took over the land as land became private property and market forces dominated.
 - This was especially true with the construction of roads and trains linking tribal territories.
- Many revolutions were led by messiah-like personalities who pushed their people to revolt and promised that they would be able to eliminate their misery caused by "outsiders."
- Given the antiquated guns they fought with vs the sophisticated weapons and strategies utilized by their opponents, tribal uprisings were doomed from the start.

5.3 Important Tribal Revolts of Mainland

Tribal Revolts	Significance
Paharias Rebellion (1778)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to their geographical isolation, the Paharias had always preserved their independence before the British arrived. • The Paharias invaded the plains populated by settled agriculturists frequently because their means of existence were insufficient, especially during times of famine. • These attacks also served as a means of establishing control over the established populations. • The British launched a savage onslaught on the Pahariyas in the 1770s, with the goal of tracking them out and murdering them. • The Pahariyas uprising, headed by Raja Jagganath in 1778, is noteworthy. The British began a pacification campaign in the 1780s.
Chuar Uprising (1776)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chuar uprising was a series of peasant rebellions against the East India Company that took place between 1771 and 1809 in the area around the West Bengali villages of Midnapore, Bankura, and Manbhum. • Chuar uprising erupted in response to the jungle zamindars' increased earnings. The money was difficult to generate because the forest region produced little. • The East India Company's tax and administrative policies (including the Permanent Settlement) as well as the police restrictions enforced in rural Bengal rendered the practice of employing local paiks obsolete since they were eventually replaced by professional police.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1799, the British violently repressed the insurrection.
Kol Mutiny (1831)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kols were a tribe that lived in the Chotanagpur region. • Moneylenders and merchants arrived alongside the British. • The Kols were forced to sell their holdings to outside farmers and pay exorbitant taxes as a result. As a result, many people became bound laborers. • The Kols were especially irritated by British judicial policies. • In 1831-1832, the Kols organized themselves and revolted against the British and moneylenders, resulting in an insurgency.
Ho and Munda Uprisings (1820–37)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revolt lasted until the Ho tribes were forced to succumb in 1827. • However, in 1831, they staged another insurrection, this time with the help of the Mundas of Chotanagpur, to oppose the newly implemented farming tax policy and the influx of Bengalis into their district. • Despite the fact that the uprising ended in 1832, the Ho activities continued until 1837. • The Mundas were not going to remain silent for long.
The Santhal Rebellions (1833; 1855–56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The landlords exploited the Santhals ruthlessly, charging excessive interest rates (often as high as 500 percent) that insured the tribals would never be able to repay their loans. • They were stripped of their land and forced to work as bonded laborers. • Extortion, forcible deprivation of property, abuse and violence, deceit in business agreements, willful trampling of their crops, and so on were all things they had to cope with. • They assassinated a large number of moneylenders and Company agents. The uprising was ferocious and huge in scope. • The British brutally quashed the insurrection, killing around 20000 Santhals, including the two leaders.
Khond Uprisings (1837–56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 1837 and 1856, the Khonds of the mountainous areas spanning from Odisha to the Andhra Pradesh districts of Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam revolted against Company control. • Chakra Bisoi, a youthful raja, led the Khonds, who were supported by the Ghumsar, Kalahandi, and other tribes, in their opposition to the abolition of human sacrifice, increased taxes, and the arrival of zamindars into their territories. • The insurrection came to an end with Chakra Bisoi's disappearance.
Koya Revolts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Koyas of the eastern Godavari track (now Andhra) revolted in 1803, 1840, 1845, 1858, 1861, and 1862, aided by Khonda Sara leaders.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Tomma Sora, they climbed once again in 1879–80. • Their grievances included police and moneylender persecution, new restrictions, and rejection of their traditional rights to forest regions. • After Tomma Sora's death, Raja Anantayyar organized another revolt in 1886.
Bhil Revolts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bhils of the Western Ghats controlled the mountain routes that connected the north with the Deccan. • They rose against Company control in 1817–19 due to starvation, economic suffering, and misgovernment. • To quell the insurrection, the British utilized both force and conciliatory measures. • The Bhils, however, revolted again in 1825, 1831, and 1846. • Later, a reformer named Govind Guru assisted the Bhils of south Rajasthan (Banswara and Sunth states) in organizing to fight for a Bhil Raj by 1913.
Koli Risings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kolis of Bhils rose up in revolt against the Company's control in 1829, 1839, and again in 1844–48. • They opposed the imposition of the Company's control, which resulted in widespread unemployment and the removal of their fortifications.
Ramosi Risings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ramosis, or Western Ghats hill tribes, had not accepted British control or the British system of administration. • They emerged in 1822 under Chittur Singh and devastated the land around Satara. • There were other eruptions in 1825–26 under Umaji Naik of Poona and his follower Bapu Trimbakji Sawant, and the unrest lasted until 1829. • The commotion flared again in 1839 at the deposition and exile of Raja Pratap Singh of Satara, and it exploded again in 1840–41. • Finally, a stronger British force was able to restore order in the region.

5.4 Important Tribal Revolts of North East

Revolts	Significance
Khasi Uprising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After occupying the steep terrain between the Garo and Jaintia Hills, the East India Company desired to construct a route connecting the Brahmaputra Valley with Sylhet. • A considerable number of outsiders, including Englishmen, Bengalis,

	<p>and plains laborers, were imported to these regions for this purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Khasis, Garos, Khamptis, and Singphos banded together under Tirath Singh to drive the outsiders out of the plains. • The movement grew into a widespread revolt against the British administration in the region. • By 1833, the overwhelming English armed force had put down the rebellion.
Singphos Rebellion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Singphos movement in Assam in early 1830 was quickly put down, but they continued to organize revolts. • The British political agent was killed in an insurrection in 1839. • In 1843, Chief Nirang Phidu organized a rebellion that resulted in an attack on the British garrison and the deaths of numerous troops.

Smaller movements included the **Mishmis (in 1836)**, the **Khampti insurrection** in Assam between 1839 and 1842, and the **Lushais' revolt in Manipur in 1842 and 1844** when they assaulted villages.

5.5 Conclusion

The Colonial invasion, as well as the trio of a merchant, moneylender, and revenue farmer, all damaged tribal identity to varying degrees. In reality, ethnic links were a fundamental aspect of tribal rebellions. The insurgents considered themselves not as a distinct class, but as possessing a tribal identity. The amount of solidarity displayed was of the highest kind. Unless they had colluded with the enemy, fellow tribals were never attacked.

6. Anti Partition Campaign under Moderates

The **Anti-Partition Movement under Moderates** was led by men like **Surendranath Banerjea, K.K.Mitra and Prithwishchandra Ray**. The decision to **Partition Bengal** was made public by the government in December 1903. The official reason given for the decision was that Bengal, with a population of 78 million (roughly a quarter of British India's population), had grown too large to be administered. To some extent, this was correct, but the real reason for the partition plan was the British desire to weaken Bengal, the nerve center of Indian nationalism. In this article, we will discuss the **Anti Partition Campaign under Moderates (1903-05)** which will be useful for UPSC exam preparation.

6.1 Background

- The movement arose from the anti-partition movement, which was formed in response to **Lord Curzon's** decision to **divide the province of Bengal**.
- Moderates launched the **Anti-Partition Campaign** to put pressure on the government to prevent the unjust partition of Bengal from taking place.
- Petitions were sent to the government, public meetings were held, and ideas were disseminated through newspapers such as **Hitabadi, Sanjibani, and Bengalee**.
- The partition sparked protests in Bengal, where they pledge to boycott foreign goods was first made.

6.2 Features

- The formal proclamation of the Swadeshi Movement was made on **August 7, 1905, with the passage of the Boycott Resolution** in a massive meeting held in the **Calcutta Townhall**.
- After this, the leaders dispersed to other parts of Bengal to propagate the message of a boycott of Manchester cloth and Liverpool salt.
- The day the partition was formally implemented, **October 16, 1905**, was **observed as a day of mourning throughout Bengal**.
- People fasted, bathed in the Ganga, and marched in processions barefoot while singing Vande Mataram (which almost spontaneously became the theme song of the movement).
- **Rabindranath Tagore** composed the national anthem of modern-day Bangladesh, '**Amar Sonar Bangla**,' which was sung by huge crowds marching in the streets.
- Rakhis were tied to each other's hands as a symbol of Bengal's two halves' unity.
- Later in the day, **Surendranath Banerjee and Ananda Mohan Bose** delivered speeches to large crowds. Within a few hours of the meeting, 50,000 rupees had been raised for the movement.
- Soon after, the movement spread to other parts of the country, with **Tilak leading in Poona and Bombay, Lala Lajpat Rai, and Ajit Singh leading in Punjab, Syed Haider Raza leading in Delhi, and Chidambaram Pillai leading in Madras**.

6.3 Congress's Position

- In 1905, the Indian National Congress **presided over by Gokhale**, resolved to
 - condemn the partition of Bengal and Curzon's reactionary policies, and
 - support the anti-partition and Swadeshi Movement of Bengal.
- The militant nationalists led by Tilak, Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal, and Aurobindo Ghosh **wanted the movement to spread beyond Bengal** and go beyond a boycott of foreign goods to become a full-fledged political mass struggle with the goal of achieving swaraj.
- However, the Moderates, who dominated Congress at the time, were unwilling to go that far.
- However, a significant step forward was made at the **Calcutta Congress session (1906)**, presided over by **Dadabhai Naoroji**, when it was declared that the goal of the Indian National Congress was "**self-government or swaraj like the United Kingdom or the colonies**" of Australia or Canada.
- The Moderate-Extremist schism over the pace of the movement and tactics of struggle reached a stalemate at the **INC's Surat session (1907)**, when the party split, with serious consequences for the Swadeshi Movement.

6.4 Conclusion

The Boycott and Swadeshi movement arose from the anti-partition movement, which was formed in response to the British decision to divide Bengal. The Indian National Movement took a significant step forward with the launch of the Swadeshi movement at the turn of the century. In the Benaras Session of 1905, presided over by G.K. Gokhle, the INC took up the Swadeshi call and supported the Bengal Swadeshi and Boycott Movement. At a meeting of the INC in Calcutta on August 7, 1905, a resolution to boycott British goods was adopted. It began as a purely economic measure to aid in the development of Indian industry.

7. Growth of Militant Nationalism

The **growth of militant nationalism** ushered in a new era in the **national movement** by employing more radical methods of agitation than the earlier moderates. **Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Aurobindo Ghosh, Bipan Chandra Pal, and Lala Lajpat Rai** were among the prominent leaders of this phase of the national movement. **Militant nationalism** represented a distinct phase in the **anti-colonial struggle**. It introduced new methods of political agitation, used popular symbols for mobilization, and thus attempted to broaden the movement's base. In this article, we will discuss the **Growth of Militant Nationalism** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

7.1 Background

- **Militant nationalism (also known as extremism)** has gradually grown in the country over the years. It manifested itself in the **Bengal anti-partition movement of 1905**.
- Even in its early days, the Indian national movement had made a large number of people aware of the dangers of foreign dominance and the importance of cultivating patriotism.
- It had provided educated Indians with the necessary political training. It had, in fact, changed the mood of the people and given birth to a new way of life in the country.
- Simultaneously, the British government's refusal to accept any of the major demands of the nationalists led to disillusionment among the politically conscious with the principles and methods of the dominant moderate leadership.
- Instead of appeasing moderate nationalists, the British rulers denigrated and mocked them.
- As a result, there was a strong demand for more aggressive political action and methods than meetings, petitions, memorials, and speeches in legislative councils.

7.2 Factors Responsible for the Rise of Militant Nationalism

Recognition of the True Nature of the British

- Recognition that the **true nature of British rule was exploitative**, and that the British India government, rather than conceding more, was taking away even what was already there.
- The moderate nationalists' politics were based on the belief that British rule could be reformed from within. However, the spread of knowledge about political and economic issues gradually undermined this belief.
 - To a large extent, this was caused by the moderates' political agitation.
- Nationalist writers and agitators blamed British rule for the people's poverty.
- Politically aware Indians were convinced that the purpose of British rule was to economically exploit India, that is, to enrich England at the expense of India.
- They realized that unless British imperialism was replaced by a government controlled and run by the Indian people, India would make little economic progress.
- Nationalists, in particular, came to realize that Indian industries could not thrive without an Indian government to protect and promote them.

- The disastrous famines that ravaged India from 1896 to 1900, killing over 90 lakh people, symbolized the evil economic consequences of foreign rule in the eyes of the people.
- The political events of 1892—1905 also disappointed nationalists and prompted them to consider more radical politics. On the other hand, even the people's existing political rights were under attack.
- In 1898, a law was passed making it a crime to incite "**disaffection**" toward a foreign government.

Growth of Confidence and Self Respect

- There was a growing belief in one's own ability.
- **Tilak, Aurobindo, and Bipin Chandra Pal** urged nationalists to rely on the character and capabilities of the Indian people.
- Indian nationalists had gained self-esteem and confidence by the end of the nineteenth century.
- They had gained confidence in their ability to govern themselves as well as in the future development of their country.
- They taught the people that the solution to their plight lay in their own hands, and that as a result, they should become fearless and strong.
- Swami Vivekananda, despite not being a political leader, repeatedly emphasized this point.

Growth of Education

- The impact of educational growth, increased awareness and unemployment among the educated drew attention to the poverty and the underdeveloped state of the country.
- The number of educated Indians had increased noticeably by the end of the nineteenth century.
- Many of them worked in the administration for extremely low pay, while many others faced increasing unemployment.
- Their economic plight compelled them to question the nature of British rule. Many were drawn in by radical nationalist politics.
- Even more significant was the ideological aspect of education's spread.
- The greater the number of educated Indians, the greater the influence of western ideas of democracy, nationalism, and radicalism.
- Because they were low-paid or unemployed, and because they were educated in modern thought and politics, as well as European and world history, educated Indians became the best propagators and followers of militant nationalism.

International Influences

- Several events in the world during this time period aided the growth of militant nationalism in India.
- After 1868, the **rise of modern Japan** demonstrated that a backward Asian country could develop independently of Western influence.

- In just a few decades, Japanese leaders transformed their country into a world-class industrial and military power, implemented universal primary education, and established an efficient, modern administration.
- The **defeat of the Italian army by the Ethiopians** in 1896 and the **defeat of Russia by Japan** in 1905 shattered the myth of European superiority.
- People all over Asia rejoiced at the news of a small Asian country's victory over one of Europe's most powerful military powers.
- International influences and events that shattered the myth of white/European supremacy include:
 - Rise of Japan as an industrial power
 - Abyssinia's (Ethiopia) victory over Italy
 - The British suffered setbacks during the Boer Wars (1899-1902)
 - Japan's victory over Russia (1905)
 - Nationalist movements exist all over the world

Response to Growing Westernization

- The new leadership sensed colonial designs to submerge Indian national identity in the British Empire and felt the stranglehold of excessive westernization.
- The new leadership's intellectual and moral inspiration was Indian.
- Intellectuals such as **Swami Vivekananda, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, and Swami Dayananda Saraswati** inspired many young nationalists with their forceful and articulate arguments, painting India's past in more vivid colors than British ideologues.
- By referring to the richness of Indian civilization in the past, these thinkers debunked the myth of western superiority.
- **'India for the Indians,'** was Dayananda's political message.

Dissatisfaction with Achievements and Methods of Moderates

- The younger members of Congress were dissatisfied with the Moderates' achievements during the first 15–20 years in office.
- They were harshly critical of the peaceful and constitutional agitation methods popularly known as the **"Three 'P's"—prayer, petition, and protest**—and referred to them as **"political mendicancy."**

Curzon's Reactionary Policies

- Curzon's seven-year rule in India, which was full of **missions, commissions, and omissions**, elicited a strong reaction in the Indian mind.
- He refused to recognize India as a country and insulted Indian nationalists and intellectuals by referring to their activities as **"letting off gas."**
- He made disparaging remarks about Indians in general.
- Administrative measures adopted during his rule include:
 - Calcutta Corporation Act (1899)
 - Official Secrets Act (1904)
 - Indian Universities Act (1904)

- Partition of Bengal (1905)

Existence of Militant School of Thought

- By the dawn of the 20th century, a band of nationalist thinkers had emerged who advocated a more militant approach to political work.
- **In Bengal**, these included Raj Narain Bose, Ashwini Kumar Datta, Aurobindo Ghosh, and Bipin Chandra Pal; **in Maharashtra**, Vishnu Shastri Chiplunkar and Tilak; and **in Punjab**, Lala Lajpat Rai.
- Tilak rose to prominence as the most outstanding representative of this school of thought.
- **This school of thought's fundamental tenets were:**
 - Hatred for foreign rule; since no hope can be derived from it, Indians must work out their own salvation;
 - Swaraj to be the goal of the national movement;
 - Direct political action is required;
 - Belief in the ability of the masses to challenge authority;
 - Personal sacrifices are required, and a true nationalist must always be prepared to make them.

The emergence of a Skilled Leader

- This leadership could provide a proper channel for the enormous potential for the political struggle that the masses possessed and, as militant nationalists believed, were ready to express.
- This popular energy was channeled during the movement against Bengal's partition, which took the form of the **Swadeshi agitation**.

7.3 Prominent Extremists

- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak:** He is also known as '**Lokamanya**.' In 1916, he founded the **Poona Home Rule League** and gave the slogan, "**Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it.**"
- **Lala Lajpat Rai:** He is also known as the '**Lion of Punjab**.' He was a pivotal figure in the Swadeshi Movement. '**Go back, Simon,**' was his well-known catchphrase.
- **Bipan Chandra Pal:** He went from being moderate to becoming an extremist. He was a pivotal figure in the **Swadeshi Movement**. Through his powerful speeches and writings, he spread his nationalism ideas throughout India.
- **Aurobindo Ghosh:** He was another extremist leader who actively participated in the Swadeshi Movement. "**Political freedom is the lifebreath of a nation**", was declared by Aurobindo Ghosh.

7.4 Conclusion

The moderate leaders' inability to obtain meaningful results from British authorities was the main cause of the rise of extremism. The partition of Bengal in 1905 revealed the true colors of the British rulers to the Indians. Some leaders were concerned that the moderates, with

their westernized ideas, we're attempting to create an India in the image of the West. At the time, there was a resurgence of national pride. The rise of spiritual nationalism at the time also had an impact on extremist leaders. The extremists believed that independence was to be achieved through self-sacrifice.

8. Recognition of True Nature of British Rule

The 1890s saw the emergence of a **militant nationalist approach** to political activity, which was visible by **1905**. In addition to this trend, a **revolutionary wing emerged**. The politically conscious Indians were now able to **see and recognize the true nature of British rule** and were convinced that its main purpose was to exploit India economically and to enrich England at the cost of India. They were now able to see that the Indian economy and industry could progress only under an Indian government which would protect and promote it. In this article, we will discuss the **Recognition of True Nature of British Rule** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

8.1 Militant Nationalism - An Overview

- **Militant nationalism (also known as extremism)** has gradually grown in the country over the years. It manifested itself in the **Bengal anti-partition movement** of 1905.
- Even in its early days, the Indian national movement had made a large number of people aware of the dangers of foreign dominance and the importance of **cultivating patriotism**.
- It had provided educated Indians with the necessary political training. It had, in fact, changed the mood of the people and given birth to a new way of life in the country.
- Simultaneously, the British government's refusal to accept any of the major demands of the nationalists led to **disillusionment among the politically conscious** with the principles and methods of the dominant moderate leadership.
- Instead of appeasing moderate nationalists, the British rulers denigrated and mocked them.
- As a result, there was a strong demand for more **aggressive political action** and methods than meetings, petitions, memorials, and speeches in legislative councils.

8.2 Factors which led to Recognition of True Nature of British Rule

- The moderate nationalists' politics were based on the belief that British rule could be reformed from within.
- However, the spread of knowledge about political and economic issues gradually undermined this belief. To a large extent, this was caused by the moderates' political agitation.
- Nationalist writers and agitators blamed British rule for the people's poverty.
- Politically aware Indians were convinced that the purpose of British rule was to **economically exploit India**, that is, to enrich England at the expense of India.
- They realized that unless British imperialism was replaced by a government controlled and run by the Indian people, India would make little economic progress.
- Nationalists, in particular, came to realize that Indian industries could not thrive without an Indian government to protect and promote them.
- The **disastrous famines that ravaged India** from 1896 to 1900, killing over 90 lakh people, symbolized the evil economic consequences of foreign rule in the eyes of the people.

- The **political events of 1892-1905** also disappointed nationalists, prompting them to consider more radical politics. Even the existing political rights of the people were attacked.
- In 1898, a **law was passed** making it a crime to incite "**disaffection**" toward a foreign government.
- The number of Indian members in the **Calcutta Corporation** was reduced in 1899.
- The **Indian Official Secrets Act**, which **limited press freedom**, was passed in **1904**.
- The **Natu brothers** were deported without being tried in 1897, and the charges against them were never made public.
- The same year, **Lokamanya Tilak** and other newspaper editors were **sentenced to long prison terms** for inciting people to oppose the foreign government.
- As a result, the people discovered that, rather than expanding their political rights, the rulers were removing even their few existing ones.
- Thus, an increasing number of Indians were persuaded that self-government was necessary for the country's economic, political, and cultural progress, and that political enslavement meant stunting the Indian people's growth.

8.3 Conclusion

The extremists appeared out of nowhere in the first decade of the twentieth century. The extremist ideology had been simmering since the Revolt of 1857, and it finally surfaced in 1905 during the Bengal partition. Moderate politics had already trained educated Indians in political agitation. Some of them were becoming disillusioned with the moderates' methods, which had yielded little and elicited a cold and contemptuous response from the British. As a result, there was a strong demand for more vigorous political action than just prayers, petitions, and protests.

9. Partition of Bengal

The **Partition of Bengal (1905)** was a territorial reorganization of the Bengal Presidency carried out by **British Raj** authorities. The reorganisation divided the predominantly Muslim eastern areas from the predominantly Hindu western areas. **Lord Curzon, the then-Viceroy of India**, announced it on **20 July 1905**, and it went into **effect on 16 October 1905**, only to be reversed six years later. The Hindus of West Bengal objected to the division, claiming that it would make them a minority in a province that would include Bihar and Orissa. Hindus were outraged by what they saw as a "**divide and rule**" **policy**, despite Curzon's assurances that it would result in administrative efficiency. In this article, we will discuss the **Partition of Bengal** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

9.1 Background

- The Bengal Presidency included the states of Bengal, Bihar, and parts of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, and Assam. It was British India's largest province, with a population of **78.5 million people**.
- For decades, British officials claimed that the **massive size made effective management difficult** and resulted in neglect of the poorer eastern region. The partition had been proposed solely for **administrative purposes**.
- As a result, Curzon intended to divide Orissa and Bihar and unite fifteen eastern districts of Bengal with Assam.
- The eastern province had a population of 31 million people, the majority of whom were Muslims, and its capital was Dhaka. Curzon stated after the Partition that he considered the new province to be Muslim.
- Lord Curzon's intention was not to separate Hindus and Muslims, but rather to separate Bengalis.
- The Western districts, along with Orissa and Bihar, formed the other province.
- The union of western Bengal with Orissa and Bihar reduced Bengali speakers to a minority.
- Muslims, led by Dhaka's Nawab Sallimullah, supported partition, while Hindus opposed it.

9.2 Features

- The British Government decided to partition Bengal in December 1903. Lord Curzon was the viceroy of India at that time who made this decision.
- **Bengal was divided into two provinces:**
 - First was Bengal comprising of Western Bengal as well as the provinces of Bihar and Orissa.
 - The second was Eastern Bengal and Assam.
- Bengal retained Calcutta as its capital while Dacca was chosen as the capital for Eastern Bengal.
- The **real motive of partition was the desire to weaken Bengal** which was at the center of Indian Nationalism in the early 20th century.
- The official reason given for the decision of partition was that Bengal with a population of 78 million had become difficult to administer.

- The administrative division was on the basis of:
 - **Linguistic Basis:** Reducing the Bengalis to a minority in Bengal itself. The new proposal of Bengal was provisioned to have 17 million Bengalis and 37 million Hindi and Oriya speakers.
 - **Religion Basis:** The western Bengal was to be a Hindu majority area and the Eastern Bengal was to be a Muslim majority area.
- Lord Curzon was trying to woo Muslims. He argues that Dacca could become the capital of the new Muslim majority province which would provide them with unity.
- Thus, the British wanted to create Muslim communalists to counter the Congress and national movement.

9.3 Impact

- After Curzon announced the partition, there was widespread political unrest in the province. Many Bengalis saw the partition as an insult to their motherland. There was a huge outpouring of support for Bengal's unity.
- Rabindranath Tagore wrote the famous song 'Amar Sonar Bangla,' which later became Bangladesh's national anthem.
- The Indian National Congress objected to the move to divide the province along communal lines.
- The majority of Bengalis in the western part of the province protested this move, which would also make them a linguistic minority in their own province. There would be more people speaking Odia and Hindi than Bengalis.
- Many Muslims in the Bengali Muslim community welcomed the move, believing that becoming the majority in the new province would advance their educational, economic, and political interests.
- The rest of the country was united in its opposition to this partition. The British authorities' '**divide and rule**' policy was exposed by the people.
- The main goal of such a partition was to create a schism between the two communities, thereby undermining the country's unity and nationalism.
- The agitation had begun long before the date of the partition. People observed a day of mourning on the anniversary of the partition. Tagore asked Hindus and Muslims to protest by tying rakhis to each other.
- As a result of the partition, the Swadeshi and Boycott movements in the national struggle began.
- People began boycotting British goods, which had flooded the Indian market and harmed indigenous industry.
- The partition succeeded in causing a communal schism in the country and even aided in the formation of the **Muslim League in 1906**.

9.4 Annulment

- The partition was **declared unconstitutional in 1911** as a result of widespread political protests.
- New provinces were established along linguistic rather than religious lines. Bengal was divided into the provinces of Bihar and Orissa. Assam was separated into its own province.

- The authorities, unable to put an end to the protests, agreed to reverse the partition.
- **On December 12, 1911, King George V** announced at the **Delhi Durbar** that eastern Bengal would be absorbed into the Bengal Presidency.
- Districts where Bengali was spoken were reunited, while Assam, Bihar, and Orissa were divided.
- **Lord Hardinge** annulled the partition of Bengal in 1911. It was done in response to the Swadeshi movement's riots against the policy.
- The capital was moved to New Delhi, clearly to provide a stronger base for the British colonial government.
- Bengal's Muslims were shocked because they had seen the Muslim majority East Bengal as a sign of the government's eagerness to protect Muslim interests.
- They saw this as the government sacrificing Muslim interests in order to appease Hindus and make administrative life easier.
- Muslim leaders were initially opposed to the partition. After the creation of the Muslim-majority provinces of Eastern Bengal and Assam, prominent Muslims began to see it as advantageous.
- During the United Bengal period, Muslims, particularly in Eastern Bengal, were backward. The Hindu protest against partition was interpreted as meddling in a Muslim province.
- The British attempted to appease Bengali Muslims who were dissatisfied with the loss of eastern Bengal by relocating the capital to a Mughal site.
- Despite the annulment, the partition did not create a communal divide between Bengal's Hindus and Muslims.

9.5 Conclusion

The uproar caused by Curzon's controversial decision to split Bengal, as well as the emergence of the 'Extremist' faction in the Congress, became the final impetus for separatist Muslim politics. Separate elections for Muslims and Hindus were established in 1909. Previously, many members of both communities had advocated for national unity among all Bengalis. With separate electorates, distinct political communities emerged, each with its own set of political goals. Muslims, too, dominated the Legislature, owing to their overall population of approximately 22 to 28 million people. Muslims began to demand the establishment of independent Muslim states in which their interests would be protected.
